



# Elm Grove NEWS-

# INDEPENDENT



Vol. 14 No. 8

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

April 2024

*Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.*

## Green is Good!

### Celebrate Earth, Arbor Day - April 27<sup>th</sup> at Elm Grove Village Park

By Jennifer Studebaker

Your Elm Grove Beautification Committee and Elm Grove Green Team are teaming up for two exciting events on Saturday, April 27, 2024 to celebrate Earth and Arbor Days!

First, take care of your spring cleanout all in one day with our Drive-Through Recycling Event in the Tonawanda School north parking lot, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Pack your car (or walk over) with items you're ready to discard, and we'll have 6 stations accepting everything from books to bikes to household items. Our 6 partners are Friends of Elm Grove Library (books, CDs, DVDs), Goodwill (household items, clothing); WI Bike Federation (bicycles, bike parts); Habitat for Humanity (home improvement items); Midwest Textiles

(clothing, fabrics) and Midwest Computer Recycling (computers, electronics). These organizations will make sure your items are recycled, reused, or disposed of properly.

Then, head to Elm Grove Village Park for the Earth Care Fair & Community Get-Together, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit 31 kiosks and booths, talk with leaders in sustainability, snack at the food trucks and beer garden, and learn more about how you can live a healthier, more sustainable life. Also at this family-friendly event: a free Kids Tree Climb 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and Hula Hoop Elation at 1 p.m.. Bring your friends and meet us in the Park!

\*\*\* See PAGE 5 for detailed information about all of these activities.



We also want to shout out to this month's Waste Warriors – neighbors identified by our own JOHNS G-men as doing an outstanding job of recycling the right items in our blue bins. Kudos to Elm Grove residents at 1500 Blue Ridge Blvd., 13000 Wrayburn Drive, and 14655 Hillside Drive!

Spring Election Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>



See what's on your Ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov>

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**AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR FAMILIES & FRIENDS!**

BROOKFIELD NATIVE, NOW NASHVILLE AWARD-WINNING COUNTRY MUSIC SINGER & SONGWRITER GRACES US WITH A FUN, FLIRTY, RELATABLE PERFORMANCE. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS TALENT!

FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON SITE

Tickets @ [egwc.org](http://egwc.org), Adults \$22, Students \$12, Under 6 Free

**MUSIC IN THE GROVE | NORA COLLINS**  
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024 - AT 6:00 PM  
13885 WATERTOWN PLANK ROAD

Join us for the third annual

## Shake the Chandelier

### SPRING FLING

April 20, 2024, 6:00-11:00 p.m.

Elm Grove Woman's Club  
13885 Watertown Plank Road

Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner, Cash Bar  
Music by The 5 Card Studs  
\$125/person, Cocktail Attire

Gather a table of 8 or come solo, and get ready to SHAKE into springtime at this signature event!

To purchase tickets scan the QR code or go to [EGWC.org](http://EGWC.org)

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# "I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

## "Little Things" Matter!

**APRIL 4**  
"National Hug a Newsperson Day"  
**APRIL 18**

"National Columnists Day"  
I have no idea who created or proclaimed April 4th as the day to officially HUG A NEWSPERSON. (It wasn't me, but I'm definitely o.k. with it!)

I do know, however, that we journalists mark April 18<sup>th</sup> each year in honor of the late Ernie Pyle, the great newsman and World War II correspondent who wrote countless first-person dispatches from Europe and later (because he believed that there were many more "G.I. Joe" stories that needed to be told) from the Pacific. He wrote 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 Ie Shima, west of Okinawa. (My late father, **Theodore Passalis**, was serving with the Army's 7<sup>th</sup> "Hour Glass" Division, 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company C, on Okinawa at that time.)

Throughout his career many of Pyle's stories were based on his belief that "It's the little things that count," as he once told 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.

**SAVE THE WORLD!**  
It's in Your Hands.



We Thank all of our Advertisers and these **Friends of The News**

- \*Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove-Golden K \*Geri Fotsch
- \* Elm Grove Beautification Committee \*Elizabeth & James Lange
- \*Lacey, Herbie, Gus Gus & Toby
- \*Bruce & Susan Davidson
- \*Anonymous supporter

for helping to **Sponsor** this edition.

Want to become a **Friends of The News** member and support local journalism? Please complete the form on Page 12.

## Updated Elm Grove Village Directory is on the Way

By Alice Hirt

Spring brings flowers, gentle breezes, and the newest edition of the *Elm Grove Village Directory*. Produced and brought to you by the women of the Elm Grove Woman's Club, the publication is a cooperative effort by members of the Woman's Club, villagers' survey responses, and valued local and surrounding area businesses.

There have been no changes in the printed version of the Village map since 2013. Maps are available at the Village Hall for pick up by Elm Grove residents.

Long-time residents may also continue to refer to the map included in the 2019-2021 edition of the Directory.

This 41st edition of the Directory is a biennial offering to connect neighbors and promote community.





## JW'S

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## Library News and Programs

### April 2024

13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122  
262-782-6717 / [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org)



**Youth Program with Musician David Landau**  
Friday, April 5, 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. Come celebrate National Library Week!

**Old Family Photos in the Digital Age / Wednesday, April 17, 1:00 p.m.**

Learn options for scanning photo prints and slides into digital picture files for sharing and other uses. Topics include workflow, how to get and stay organized, and how to back up your pictures onto other storage devices, whether you have a computer or not. Information on computer use is for Windows PC computers. Presented by C.T. Kruger.



**Death Defying Acts: The History of the Circus / Monday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.**



Barnum may be the biggest name, but he was only a small part of the story. Join storyteller William Pack on a fantastical journey through the history of the circus, from Phil Astley's creation of the modern circus in 1768 to Dan Rice, "the most famous man you've never heard of" to the incredible feud between Barnum and the Ringling Brothers. You'll hear stories of triumph, disaster, and the grand adventure of the traveling. Experience the story of those who gave their lives to show and became legends in the process.

**Discover Black Life in America, A Digital Newspaper Collection**



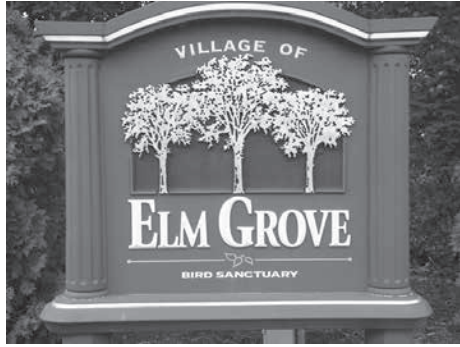
Need help with your research project? Want to understand more about social justice? Love learning about history? Then check out the library's *Black Life in America* research database from NewsBank. *Black Life in America* offers a window into the earliest recorded events and comprehensive coverage of the people issues and events that shape and influence current conversations. It's easy to use and updated daily, with more than 800 suggested searches, organized by historical eras, themes, topical areas and events, to provide direct links to useful content. You only need your Elm Grove library card to get started. Visit [elmgrovelibrary.org/497/Research-Databases](http://elmgrovelibrary.org/497/Research-Databases).



# Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President / [jikoleski@elmgrove.wi.org](mailto:jikoleski@elmgrove.wi.org)

April is here. The recent snow and cold will give way to warmer spring weather soon! Please be extra careful of pedestrians and bicyclists as everyone begins to enjoy outdoor activities.



**\*Meetings with We Energies.** Village staff and the Board have been meeting with We Energies to review the impact and steps forward resulting from the January snow event. Thank you to residents who took the time to express their concerns to Trustees and in writing. Representatives of We Energies attended the March Committee of the Whole ("COW") meeting and reviewed projects being launched over the next two years to improve the performance and redundancy of the electrical grid and tree trimming within the Village. The Board expressed the frustration residents experienced during the January outage and more recent outages and the need for improved and accurate communication and updates related to outages. Key takeaways from the meeting include:

\* We Energies will provide an update to the Board every six months, at a minimum, on the overall progress on projects and tree trimming activities.

\* We Energies will provide an assessment of the electrical equipment age versus expected useful life and review impact.

\* We Energies is reviewing their outage reporting and communication across their service region to make improvements.

\* Increased awareness of the need to follow through on resident requests for tree trimming.

\* Village staff will report to the Board all outages monthly, including reasons and corrective actions taken.

To facilitate this process, I ask residents to review the electrical lines and power poles on their property and send pictures via e-mail to the Village. The Board is seeking to document and expedite actions, as well as provide visual documentation to the Public Service Commission, to increase the pace of improvements.

Finally, residents can help facilitate We Energies projects by allowing contractors timely access to their property. Additionally, as construction projects commence, there may be a need for new or modified easements on your property as power lines are buried. Please work with the We Energies outsourced service provider to complete this process timely.

**\*Volunteer Opportunities.** Please express your interest to serve as a volunteer committee member using the on-line form available on the Village's website to participate in guiding the direction of the Village. [www.elmgrove.wi.org](http://www.elmgrove.wi.org)

**\*Public Works and Utilities Committee.**  
**Highland Road Pathway.** The Committee reviewed the bids received from contractors for the pathway project. After thoughtful discussion, the committee is recommending to the Board approval of C. W. Purpero, Inc. for this project. Village staff and engineers continue to work with the railroad and other regulators to finalize the permits and design documents. Design work continues on storm sewer culvert with a request for proposal recently released. The Board is aware of the need to limit the disruption to local traffic as these projects commence.

**\*Brush Pick-up.** The Public Works team will commence brush pick-up the first week in April. Initial efforts will be to collect limbs from the January snow event.

**\*Sustainability Committee.**  
The Sustainability Committee is bringing focus to outdoor lighting and will be sharing best practices over the coming months. As a reminder, responsible outdoor lighting encompasses lighting that is useful, targeted, low level, controlled and warm colored.

Separately, the Birders of the Grove are keen to help our feathered friends during the spring migration. One way residents can help is to participate in Elm Grove's "Lights Out" initiative. This voluntary program encourages residents to dim or turn off non-essential outdoor lighting during the peak migration period of April 15-May 15 (and again in the Fall). See our [Birds & Lights | Elm Grove, WI - Official Website \(elmgrove.wi.org\)](http://Birds & Lights | Elm Grove, WI - Official Website (elmgrove.wi.org)) for more ideas. Dark skies are an important part of a healthy ecosystem and migration patterns.

**\*Village Park Beer Garden.** Third Space Brewing presented a proposal to extend the partnership for the beer garden in the Park at the March (COW) meeting. There is mutual interest to continue the partnership and discussions will continue.

**\*Caroline Heights /Mandel Construction.** Water main construction will commence in April on the water loop connecting the existing water main back to Wauwatosa. After completion of the water loop, lateral installation will commence. For weekly updates, please refer to the Village website for updated information on the project.

Let's welcome spring and get outdoors to enjoy the warmer weather!

# Business & Club Directory

## \* Community Organizations



**Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club**

Come Join with 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 stimulating speakers each week and offer socializing among all present.

See us on Facebook  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)  
[www.kiwaniselmgrove.org](http://www.kiwaniselmgrove.org)

## \* Insurance

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# Classifieds

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Listings are \$25 per issue (for up to 20 words)

+ 50 cents for each additional word.

+ \$20 extra per photo or logo.

To place an AD...

Email: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)  
or Call: (262) 782-6193

## Elm Grove Recycling Center Hours

The Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste facility, 900 Wall St. (off Elm Grove Road, between Watertown Plank & Bluemound)

APRIL 2024

OPEN: Tuesdays & Thursdays - 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Saturdays - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[www.elmgrove.wi.org](http://www.elmgrove.wi.org) / (262) 782-6700.

## Help with Clean-up of Underwood Creek & Village Park – April 20<sup>th</sup>

By John Schindler

Would you or your children like to get involved in keeping Elm Grove a beautiful place? We could use your help with our annual clean-up of Underwood Creek and the Village Park on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to Noon. This effort is part of the Milwaukee Riverkeeper ([milwaukeekeeper.org](http://milwaukeekeeper.org)) Adopt a River Program, in conjunction with the Elm Grove Beautification Committee.

The small creek that runs through the Village is part of the Milwaukee River basin. The entire basin is being restored to a natural state and Salmon have already been spotted just south of Sendik's. If we can do our part by removing liter and plastic debris, it will greatly contribute to a healthy, thriving ecosystem not only in the park, but in the entire Village.

Everyone is welcome, and no experience is needed. Most of the cleanup will be along the shore of the creek and in the Park. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Register early to get a free T-shirt. Anyone who owns waders and is comfortable entering the stream is encouraged to do so, but entering the stream is not required.

Come and join us and see the Village from a whole new perspective. At 11:45 a.m. we will take a group photo of everyone at the Park entrance.

When signing up, please be sure to choose your T-shirt size on page two of the web form. Anyone younger than 18 will have to have a parent or guardian sign up for them. Sign up at <https://shorturl.at/fmu08> or contact John Schindler at (414) 630-3230 for more information.



## MR. HUGH'S HISTORY by Drew Sternitzky [asternitzky@wi.rr.com](mailto:asternitzky@wi.rr.com)





# Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

**POLITICAL BUTTONS** from the collection of Stephen K. Hauser.

In 1964, major Democratic and Republican party contenders skipped Wisconsin's April presidential primary. (Gov. John Reynolds didn't even bother with a campaign button... his supporters were left to cover the bottom of his 1962 gubernatorial pins with black electrical tape, instead.)

## Sixty Years Ago:

### They Gave a Primary, and (Almost) Nobody Came

By Stephen K. Hauser

This year, Wisconsin's quadrennial April presidential primary seems to be a proverbial afterthought. The leading Democratic and Republican contenders have likely already captured their respective party nominations. This alone removes much of the drama that would ordinarily surround a race for the White House in the Badger state. Sixty years ago, the situation was pretty much the same, but for very different reasons. The outcome in both parties was never really in doubt. Surprisingly, however, none of the leading aspirants for their parties' highest prize had their names listed on the primary ballot, and since write-in votes were not allowed in Wisconsin's presidential primaries back then, they could not even hope for a populist ground-swell of "grass roots" support.

The reasons for this bipartisan neglect of Wisconsin's voters differed, as both parties and their candidates all had their own reasons for not wishing to campaign in Dairyland in 1964. Strategy, a desire for future harmony and outright fear of other potential candidates (with accompanying risk of personal embarrassment) all played a role.

The presumptive Democratic Party nominee was **President Lyndon B. Johnson**, occupant of the White House for less than five months. Having assumed the office following the tragic assassination of **John F. Kennedy** on November 22, 1963, Johnson was haunted by the thought that he could be replaced on the ticket by the late President's younger brother, **Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy**. Sympathy for the grieving Kennedy family ran high among both Democrats and Republicans, and Johnson knew only too well that he was far different in both style and personality from the late Commander in Chief. He devised an interesting strategy to avoid being embarrassed in the primaries by a groundswell of popular support for the younger, charismatic Kennedy: He simply would not enter the primary fray at all, but would approve "favorite son" surrogate candidates to capture the victory in the primary states who would turn their state delegations over to Johnson at the Democratic Party national convention that summer. (He wouldn't even bother with New Hampshire!)

Three state surrogates were chosen for Johnson loyalists: **Sen. Daniel B. Brewster** of Maryland, **Gov. Matthew Welsh** of Indiana, and **Gov. John W. Reynolds** of Wisconsin. Therefore, Reynolds would carry the flag for LBJ in the Badger state. No other names of potential Democratic choices would appear on the primary ballot. The Republicans, meanwhile, had decided upon a similar state strategy in Wisconsin, but for entirely different reasons.

In 1964, the race for the Republican presidential nomination had split badly between conservative and liberal G.O.P. activists. Conservatives were solidly united behind **Sen. Barry Goldwater** of Arizona, a national spokesman for their cause and the

author of the bestselling book *Conscience of a Conservative*. Liberal Republicans, meanwhile, had rallied behind the multi-millionaire Governor of New York, **Nelson A. Rockefeller**. His big government-oriented reforms in the Empire state had made him popular with Democratic voters, as well as northeastern Republicans. (It should be noted here that, back in the 1950s and 1960s, the two major political parties were both far less ideological, and harbored both liberal and conservative adherents.)

To avoid an angry ideological split that could lead to wounded feelings and divisions in the fall, state Republicans chose to tap **Congressman John W. Byrnes** as their "favorite son" standard-bearer for the April contest. Byrnes, who had served northeastern Wisconsin in the House of Representatives since 1945, was a moderate, given to a mild manner and compromises. Hence, he was acceptable to both G.O.P. factions. (This solution also pleased both Goldwater and Rockefeller, as it saved their campaigns needed money and avoided a primary which neither candidate was sure he could win.)

The only "fly in the ointment" was **Alabama Governor George C. Wallace**. The southern Democrat was eyeing a third-party challenge in the fall on the issues of states' rights and opposition to federal civil rights legislation. He had no intention of truly seeking the Democratic Party nomination (and no realistic chance of actually getting it), but entered three northern state presidential primaries --- Maryland, Indiana and Wisconsin --- in hopes of raising funds and gaining publicity. (He would subsequently shelve his plans for the third-party bid that fall, but would resurrect them in 1968.)

The twin strategies of the Democrats and Republicans in Wisconsin that April may have served their respective partisan interests, but left state voters with no meaningful choice in the primary. On Tuesday, April 7, 1964, Badgers trooped to the polls and voted anyway. Congressman Byrnes, unopposed on the Republican ballot pulled 299,612 votes, including 13,371 in Waukesha County. Gov. John Reynolds, meanwhile, netted 522,405 ballots --- 19,919 in Waukesha County --- with the insurgent Wallace receiving 266,136 votes --- 16,483 of them in Waukesha County.

In November, President Johnson would defeat Sen. Goldwater, but Wisconsin voters had not participated in the selection process that chose either nominee. Although Johnson won in a landslide and carried Wisconsin in the process, Gov. Reynolds went on to lose the governorship that fall to **Warren P. Knowles**, the only Democratic incumbent governor to lose reelection in 1964.

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

## The Little Church on the Triangle of Watertown Plank Road, Juneau Boulevard

By Tom Ramstack

Most area residents only know this building as the (former) "St. Mary's Thrift Shop." But during its days of regular church service, the interior of St. Mary's Catholic Church, 13100 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, (now the site of Warren Barnett Interiors) was quite beautiful and ornate. Services were held there from 1921-1958.

As the congregation grew, the little church was abandoned, with mass being served in the Crescent Drive side of the parish school basement and finally in the present church beginning in 1963.



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

A vintage photo shows the old St. Mary's Church interior.

### Come Join Us!

May 8<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.

at

O'Donoghue's Irish Pub  
13225 Watertown Plank Road  
Elm Grove

Local historian, **Tom Ramstack**, will be providing a special insight into what was then Ramstack's Tavern (now O'Donoghue's Irish Pub) during the 1920s & 1930s.

Listen to accounts of the Great Depression, Prohibition, dangerous gangsters, bootlegging, Federal Agent raids, the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) farm, characters such as **Ole' Yakub**, the **Shwatzscup Brothers** and much, much more.

**FREE and open to the public.**



## Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove

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Elm Grove  
Park & Shop

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# 53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

[www.elmgrovefoundation.org](http://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. All concerts start at 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, June 11th - Andrea & the Mods

Tuesday, June 25th - After Hours

Tuesday, July 16th - Saturday June band

Tuesday, July 30th - Kaleidoscope

Tuesday, August 13th - Hungry Williams Band

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

### Become an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run Sponsor

If you are interested in promoting your business to the Elm Grove community, an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run sponsorship is a great option. Your sponsorship will help us underwrite our biggest fundraiser so we can continue to enhance the quality of life in our village. We encourage you to contact us at [www.elmgrovefoundation.org/contact](http://www.elmgrovefoundation.org/contact) with any questions and to learn more about customizable sponsorship opportunities.

**BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 20 & 21, 2024**



# Calendar of Events – April 2024

**Tuesday – APRIL 2**

**SPRING ELECTION**

Vote 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

See ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov/>



**Friday – APRIL 5**

**Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**

Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Andrew Palen**, Chief External Relations & Marketing Officer, Waukesha County Technical College; Topic: “Hands-on Higher Education”  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – APRIL 7**

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK (through April 13)**

**Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park  
[beautification@elmgrove.wi.gov](mailto:beautification@elmgrove.wi.gov)

**Monday – APRIL 8**

**TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE – moon passes in front of sun**

**Tuesday – APRIL 9**

**EID AL-FITR** begins at Sundown

**School District of Elmbrook Board of Education** meeting – 6 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 N. Calhoun Road, Brookfield.  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/elmbrookschooleducation>  
[www.elmbrookschooleducation.org/board](http://www.elmbrookschooleducation.org/board)

**Friday – APRIL 12**

**Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**

Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Steven Russek**; Topic: “The Holocaust Remembered”  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – APRIL 14**

**NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK (though April 20)**

**Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park  
[beautification@elmgrove.wi.gov](mailto:beautification@elmgrove.wi.gov)

**Monday – APRIL 15**

**I.R.S. / STATE TAXES FILING DEADLINE**

**Wednesday – APRIL 17**

**OWLS – Seniors’ Group**

Lunch and Theater Northlight Theatre, Skokie, IL - “Brooklyn Laundry” Guests are welcome. <http://www.cumceg.org/owl>

**Friday – APRIL 19**

**Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**

Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speakers: **Anna Reinhardt**, Marketing & Public Communications Coordinator, and **Tori Staab**, Park Program Specialist, Waukesha County Department of Parks & Land Use; Topic: “Fostering the County’s Natural Resources and Health of its Citizens”  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – APRIL 21**

**Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park  
[beautification@elmgrove.wi.gov](mailto:beautification@elmgrove.wi.gov)

**Monday – APRIL 22**

**EARTH DAY / PASSOVER** begins at Sundown

**Tuesday – APRIL 23**

**Elm Grove Board of Trustees**

Public Meeting – 7 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room; Agenda & Live Stream: [www.elmgrove.wi.gov](http://www.elmgrove.wi.gov) (262) 782-6700

**Friday – APRIL 26**

**ARBOR DAY**

**Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**

Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Karen Schlindwein**, Vice President of Education and Development, Chosen Inc.; Topic: “A Home for Everyone” [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Saturday – APRIL 27**

**EARTH & ARBOR DAY** events in Elm Grove

(See story – Page 1. Details – this page)

**Sunday – APRIL 28**

**Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park.  
[beautification@elmgrove.wi.gov](mailto:beautification@elmgrove.wi.gov)

**Tuesday – APRIL 30**

**PASSOVER** ends at Sundown

Village of Elm Grove  
Saturday, April 27th, 2024  
9am to noon

## Recycle Day in the Grove

Tonawanda school parking lot

<p><b>Midwest Computer Recycling</b></p> <p>computers, microwaves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, stoves, vacuums, radios, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, power tools, heat pumps, grills, lawnmowers, snowblowers, eyeglasses, hearing aids, home PC's and accessories, monitors, phones, stereos, ballasts, tablets, laptops, printers, circuit boards, servers, UPS batteries, modems, scanners, hard drives, electronic test equip, cables/wires, switches, power supplies, keyboards/mice, VCR's/DVD's, cameras, gaming systems, cell and office phones, metal, car batteries, rechargeable batteries.</p> <p><b>Items for which there is a charge:</b> TV's - \$20 each CRT's - \$10 each exercise equip/microwaves - \$5 each</p>	<p><b>Habitat for Humanity</b></p> <p>Coffee tables, Night stands, Dressers, Lighting (no fluorescent), Small appliances, Housewares, knick knacks, Hand tools, power tools, Dining sets (table and chair sets), Vacuum cleaners, Framed mirrors, Books, Artwork, home decor, Sofas, recliners, chairs (no patterned upholstery), Furniture (free of rips, tears, stains, damage)</p> <p><b>What you CANNOT drop off</b></p> <p>Sleeper Sofas, Large Entertainment Centers or Armoires, Hospital Beds, Pool Tables, Pianos, Used cultured marble vanity tops, Mattresses or Box Springs, Hazardous Materials/Chemicals, Paint/Stain, Window Treatments, Guns, Ammunition or other Weapons, Tires, Infant and toddler items or products, Children and adult safety equipment.</p> <p>Granite Commercial Doors, Hollow Core Doors, Unframed glass or mirrors, Used Light Bulbs, Fluorescent Light Bulbs &amp; Fixtures, Storm Windows &amp; Sashes, Items in Poor Condition, Broken, Damaged, Stained or Dirty, Missing Pieces, Ladders, Low Efficiency Toilets, Clothing, Exercise Equipment, Broken Electronics, TV's</p>	<p><b>Goodwill</b></p> <p>home decor, functioning small appliances, housewares, tools, lamps, lawn and garden equipment, games, toys, sports, DVDs, CDs, Vinyl</p> <p><b>What you CANNOT drop off:</b></p> <p>furniture, large exercise equipment, CRT TV's, CRT monitors, plumbing or building materials, Pianos or organs, Household chemical products, Automotive hazardous waste, Large appliances, Personal care items, Fragrance items, Carpet or carpet padding, Weapons, Cribs, car seats, baby walkers or other products that do not meet the current safety standards of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, including recalled items.</p>
<p><b>FOEGL</b></p> <p>Support our Friends of the Elm Grove library by bringing all of your books along with you to this recycling event. Our local library is the ultimate recycling champion—do your part by donating books for their annual book sale</p> <p><b>Wanted:</b> Books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl</p> <p><b>Cannot accept:</b> textbooks, encyclopedias, Nat Geo's magazines</p>	<p><b>Clothing/Textiles</b></p> <p>Everything that can go in the two bins already present can be brought here. Do some spring cleaning and gather all of your textiles that need a new home. Make sure they are clean, dry, bagged, and ready for their next life!</p>	<p><b>Police Department</b></p> <p>In conjunction with National Drug Take Back Day, our police department will be at the Bluemound/Pilgrim Walgreen's accepting pharmaceuticals and prescriptions</p>
<p><b>Wisconsin Bike Federation</b></p> <p>All unwanted bikes and bike parts will be donated, repaired, repurposed, or used. No need to throw any of this away!</p>	<p><b>EGBA Paper Shred</b></p> <p>The Elm Grove Business Association is sponsoring their biannual shred day at the Park-n-Shop from 9am to noon</p>	

ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION AND ELM GROVE GREEN TEAM

# Earth Care Fair

Saturday, April 27th  
11am-2pm  
Elm Grove Village Park

**Live Music**  
Jamis Bruening  
Bill Armstrong  
Monroe Emling

**Hoop Elation**  
1pm  
Hula Hoop Kids Dance Class  
Hosted by FOEGL

**Kiosks and booths**  
31 local businesses, non-profits, and organizations for you to mingle and learn from!

**Kids Tree Climb**  
Hosted by Hoppe Tree Service

**Sustainable Fashion Show**  
Hosted by Pilgrim Park Middle School students

**Face painting**  
Back by popular demand-- free face painting!

**Local Food & Drink**  
Vocado MKE  
Sunrise Acai  
Great Harvest  
Third Space

EGBeautification@gmail.com

This event is proudly supported by:



# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Battle of the Books team members at PPMS gather in the school library.

## Pilgrim Park Middle School Battle of the Books Team Wins State Championship

(ELM GROVE) The Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA) recently hosted the statewide Battle of the Books (BOTB) competition, and Pilgrim Park Middle School tied De Pere for first place, taking home the coveted state championship title. PPMS was one of 166 middle school teams from across Wisconsin to participate and was represented by students **Ellie Grogan, Evelyn Roush, Lilly Meyer, Siddarth Vasudevan, and alternate Akshara Alwala** at the state tournament.

themselves and support each other, and I'm so proud of how far the team has come since we started in October," reflected PPMS Library Lead & BOTB Advisor **Kim Liepert**. "We had over 30 students on the team this season and they all pushed their team to be their best."

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.

"These students continued to push



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Photo by Lorie Shaull

Sandhill cranes take flight at sunset.

## "Lights Out Elm Grove" Will Help Migrating Birds

By Birders of the Grove

Spring signals the welcome return of our feathered friends as they migrate north to their nesting grounds. Elm Grove is both a destination and important waystation for migrating birds. Our woodland neighborhoods and abundant backyard feeders provide food and rest, and the pond at Village Park is an important stop-over for many different species of waterfowl.

Many birds do their migratory flying at night, when the winds are calm and the threat from predators is less. Traveling at night can be hazardous, however. The bright lights of an urban area can cause birds to become easily disoriented, resulting in deadly collisions with buildings and other structures. It is estimated that hundreds of millions of birds are killed each year in North America due to light disorientation.

To help birds navigate safely through our community this spring, Birders of the Grove is introducing "Lights Out Elm Grove". This voluntary program encourages residents and businesses to dim or turn off non-essential outdoor lights during the peak migration period of April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. During this four-week period, homeowners and businesses can minimize outdoor lighting by doing the following:

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish spot and flood-lights
- Turn off interior lighting on higher stories
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and avoid all lighting directed upward
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible
- When converting to new lighting, assess the quality and quantity of light needed. Avoid over-lighting with newer, brighter technology.



"Lights Out" is an Audubon national effort to protect migratory birds. Many communities, particularly those along migratory flyways, have adopted the program.

Please consider participating in this annual "Lights Out" initiative every spring and fall.

Whether Elm Grove is a final destination or a respite stop on a continuing northbound journey, our little friends deserve safe travels.

For more information about "Lights Out" and Birders of the Grove, go to <https://elmgrovewi.org/746/Birds-Lights>.

To see live bird migration maps, go to [BirdCast website](http://BirdCast website). This tool tracks the weather-sensitive biannual migration movement of birds.

(Reference: National Audubon Society)

## Become a Volunteer Driver to Help Others in Your Community!

### Meals on Wheels

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Interested in knowing more?  
Contact Kara Moore at 262-548-7284  
or [kamoore@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:kamoore@waukeshacounty.gov)



# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Brookfield Academy

## SCHOLASTIC ART AWARD-WISCONSIN 2024 winners from Brookfield Academy.

(Top Row: Left to Right) - Declan Richardson, Rachel Simmons, CeCe Elfelt, Kate Bullio, and Matthew Casas  
 (Middle Row: L-R) Anika Taneja, Yifan Wang, Brooke Ihlenfeld, Julianna Innis, Izabella Gomez, Ava Denman, Jeff Huang, and Beau Libbey; (Front Row: (L-R) Natalia Centeno, Evie Maassen, Ariana Parker, Cynthia Yu, Johanna Zaleski, Chloe Manke, Omotola Oladeji, and Eli Plamann Not pictured: Gianna Beine, Kelly Li, and Riya Vijayapal

## Brookfield Academy Students Win Scholastic Art Awards

By Melissa Ericksen

24 Upper School art students from Brookfield Academy were recognized for their artistic talents by Scholastic Art Awards-Wisconsin. The students earned 51 awards in a wide range of categories. Nine BA students earned a total of 12 Gold Key

awards. Their pieces competed at the national level, in March, in New York City.

Pieces that received Silver Key and Gold Key awards will be on view in the Schroeder Galleria at the Milwaukee Art Museum

through April 7. All the pieces will be on display during the Upper School Art Show on Thursday, April 18, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Patriots Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

## 54th Annual Art Scholarship Competition, May 2 - 4

The Elm Grove Woman's Club (EGWC) 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. This year the Woman's Club will award TWO \$2,000 scholarships to high school senior artists and ONE \$500 art grant to a winning student artist in grades 9th - 11<sup>th</sup>. Each applicant will submit TWO pieces of original artwork. Artwork can include paintings, drawings, sculpture, and textile art.

Each student entrant will receive feedback from a credible professional artist. Student art drop off will be from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2nd. The private judging will take place on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On Saturday, May 4, from 10:00 a.m. - 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, a \$300 monetary prize to be award directly to the winning artist. All participants are eligible for the People's Choice Award.

An award ceremony will take place at 3 p.m.

To register for this exciting scholarship opportunity, please visit the EGWC's website: <https://www.egwc.org/events/2024-student-art-scholarship-competition>.



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Rube Goldberg competition winners at Pilgrim Park Middle School: **Kendall Chapman, Makayla Deysach, Natalia Lacombe, Hadley Simon, and Emma Socha**

## PPMS 'Rube Goldberg' Competition Held March 6<sup>th</sup>

\*1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Let it Go" (team photo above). They were most proud of... "our wheel and axle to our pulley! We had to do a lot of problem solving to get this to work!"

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "Rudolf's Ride" - Team members: **Christian Berkec, Luke Enright, Noah Lentz, Noah Mogren, and Ryan Valoe**

\*3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "Snowfall Peak" - Team members: **Ben Celikay, Arjun Khopkar, Sachin Muthupandiyam, and Cole Richlen**

## Fundraisers Held at Tonawanda, Dixon Elementary Schools

A successful first-ever Penny Wars took place at Tonawanda Elementary in Elm Grove, raising \$1469.40 with all proceeds benefiting the Elmbrook Nature Center. Director **Greg Wolfe** will use the funds to purchase trees and bees for the center. The 4th grade was declared the Penny Wars winner.

Students at Dixon Elementary in Brookfield raised \$13,913.52 during the school's recent Kids Heart Challenge /American Heart Challenge program.

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# Young Writers



Photo courtesy: Sewa USA

Local SewaLEADS members (Left to right) **Anjali Guntha, Tisha Naidu, Josie Seiler, Aaryaa Mardikar, and Gargi Kelkar.**

## Fundraiser Benefits Underserved Students

By **Gargi Kelkar**, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Brookfield Central High School

SewaLEADS, a group of teenagers from Sewa Milwaukee, addressed the issue of some students lacking essential hygiene products and facing embarrassment in school. Collaborating with Power of Pawns, the SewaLEADS organized a chess competition for Glen Hills Middle School students, incorporating a food fundraiser called Cafe Annapoorna (Annapoorna in Sanskrit mean the Goddess of Food and Nourishment).

The initiative raised \$836, providing crucial supplies to underserved students. It also offered SewaLEADS an opportunity to explore entrepreneurship as “Sewapreneurs.” They served homemade Indian cuisine, ensuring a healthy alternative to store-bought options, and developed a playbook for future fundraisers.

The event’s success led to plans for replication at other events. With reusable menu boards and meticulous planning, they created a model for impactful fundraisers. Customer testimonials praised the initiative’s cultural exchange and commitment to health.

The profits directly benefited Glen Hills Middle School and Parkway Elementary School, enhancing students’ access to hygiene products. Beyond fundraising, the event aimed to foster community impact, emphasizing the importance of small actions in creating positive change.

SewaLEADS invite others to join SewaUSA in making a difference while learning and enjoying the process.

For more information, visit <https://www.sewausa.org/Milwaukee>

# News’ Hounds

& other beloved creatures

## Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By **Morgan Gourley**

Meet **Hodge**, the ultimate Roly-Poly companion! This furball sensation is all about flopping into your arms, rolling around in your lap, and demanding all the pets in the world. Hodge brings the purr-fect blend of affection and charm, turning your space into a playground of joy. Picture it: a delightful Roly-Poly friend who craves your attention, making every moment a cuddly adventure. Say goodbye to dull days - welcome Hodge, your bundle of happiness. Let the purring, rolling, and endless affection transform your world into a whimsical haven!



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

**Hodge**

EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield. (262) 782-9261.

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# Public Safety Reports

From the files of the Elm Grove Police, Fire, and Emergency Services Depts.



There is a **telephone scam** currently circulating our area claiming that your child or grandchild was involved in an accident and bail money is needed to affect their release. Although not a new scam, it has resurfaced recently. The callers can be very convincing, will place someone on the phone pretending to be your child/grandchild but claim they have a cold, the flu, or recently had COVID. The scammers also claim there is a “gag order” in place prohibiting you from talking to anyone about the call or even discussing the reason for withdrawing the money from your banking institution. IT IS A SCAM!! Do

NOT withdraw large sums of money and give it to a stranger, bail money is posted at jails not at your doorstep or mailbox.

**Please share this** with your elderly friends, neighbors, and relatives. You may just save them from becoming a victim and suffering a significant financial loss.

If something doesn’t seem right, please call your local police department that will have the resources to confirm if the story is true.

EGPD – (262) 786-4141

## Elm Grove Citizen Police Alumni Association Donates Funds to Police Department for Needed Equipment

Elm Grove Police Chief **Jason Hennen** sent Elm Grove’s Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) a letter in March to extend his thanks for financial contributions that were used to upgrade equipment.



Photo courtesy: CPAAA

The items purchased included a handheld LIDAR and a large-screen television for the police training room.

Chief Hennen wrote: “The LIDAR is used regularly by patrol officers to enforce speed limits within the village.

A police officer demonstrates the use of a LIDAR.

The device is handheld and can be used with pinpoint precision at long distances. It can pick a single car speeding out of a group of cars, and can be used to measure distances. Speeding vehicles continues to be an area of concern among our residents and this equipment will be a great tool to use to respond to those complaints with enforcement action.

The television for the training room will be used for officer training, meetings, briefings, and community service events. The timing could not be better given we are starting a new CPA class in April.

The (CPAAA’s) continued support of our department’s mission is greatly appreciated.”

## ‘First on the Scene’ Course Offered Free to Community

Accidents can happen anywhere. Do you know what to do if you happen upon one? What should you do or not do while you wait for EMS to arrive? The Elm Grove Citizen’s Police Academy Alumni, in conjunction with Elm Grove EMS, is hosting a course at Village Hall on Saturday, May 11, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., that will teach you what you need to do. The National Association of EMTs has designed a course for the general public that assumes no prior medical knowledge. The course, called *First on the Scene* (FOTS), is being offered free of charge.



The purpose of the FOTS course is to prepare people, including high school and college students, to help those who are injured and save lives until EMS arrives. Communities across the country and around the world recognize the need to prepare their citizens to respond to the injured until EMS personnel are on the scene.

unexpected emergencies that can happen anywhere.

To save your spot and register for this free class scan the QR code below, or use the following website: [tinyurl.com/yevub77z](http://tinyurl.com/yevub77z).

If you have any questions, please email Paul Callahan at [Paul@PBCTrainingllc.com](mailto:Paul@PBCTrainingllc.com)

During this course you will learn how to properly activate the 911 system, perform “hands-only CPR”, learn how to use an AED, how to use an epinephrine auto injector to treat an anaphylactic reaction, and how to administer Narcan for opioid overdose. You will also learn bleeding control for life-threatening bleeding using tourniquets and wound packing, how to treat for shock, when and how to properly move patients to safety, and how to position sick or injured people while waiting for help to arrive.

The course is hands-on, and you will be taught by active members of Elm Grove EMS. You will receive a certificate upon completion and feel better prepared for





# Young Writers & Reporters

## Yellow

By Lina Fischer, 4th Grade -Tonawanda

Yellow is free like the sun or the day.  
Yellow is nice like a yellow flower.  
Yellow has wings like birds.  
Yellow is the day and the night.  
Yellow is like stars in the sky.  
Yellow goes its own path.  
Yellow is happy and strong like you.  
Be like Yellow, smart and nice.

## Spring

By Willow, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

Spring is here with cheer,  
Spending hours in the flowers,  
Schools are getting crazy  
till spring break starts,  
Kids complain that school is too long.

## April is Appearing

By Abigail Davidson  
Tonawanda - 4th Grade

Everything is starting to grow,  
Say goodbye to all the snow,  
The birds are chirping in delight,  
And the sun is shining very bright,  
People are biking and laughing  
and frequently warm,  
They wake up to find a nice April morn,  
Everybody clap and cheer,  
Because April is finally here.

## April Fools!

By Sakshi Kodgi, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

April Fools such fun  
Doing very cheesy puns  
Having fun all night long  
Singing funny rhyming songs  
April Fools has just begun  
Time for you to join the fun

## Stranded in the Water

By Emma Hintz

3rd Grade, Tonawanda Elementary

It was the year 1912, Emily held her sister Sarah's hand. Emily asked, "Do we have to go?"  
"Yes, it's best for us," Sarah replied.  
"Is it though?" Emily asked. They both looked up at the Titanic, not knowing what fate lie ahead.  
"This ship is huge!" Emily said to her sister as they went to find their room.  
"Cool, bunk-beds, I call dibs on top bunk!" Emily exclaimed!  
"Don't get too excited!" Sarah said.  
"Too bad, I already am!" Emily replied.  
Every day was like day one - eat, sleep, wake up and repeat, but on night six, Emily was wandering around the ship when she thought she saw land but instead, **BOOM!** Did the ship just crash? Emily thought, and Emily did not like that thought.  
"Ahh! Emily, Emily where are you?" Sarah searched everywhere but could not find her!  
She must be on deck! Sarah thought.  
"Emily!" Sarah yelled from one side of the ship! "Sarah!" Emily yelled from the other side of the ship.  
Soon the sisters found each other and Emily yelled, "It's sinking!" The two sisters got on a lifeboat and Sarah said, "Well it's a long way home." With that the two sisters sailed off into the distance. They made it safety to America. They felt grateful to have survived such a horrible crash. Many people died when the Titanic sank.

## Lamar Jackson

By Preston Bravo, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Lamar Jackson is the best quarterback or QB. He threw a hundred yards in college football. He is still playing to this day. He is currently playing for the Baltimore Ravens. Another reason Lamar Jackson is the best QB is because when players rushed him, he would make a first down. Some people may say that he is overrated. I disagree, because he was so good in college. In conclusion, I think Lamar Jackson is the best QB. If you watch some of his college football highlights, you will see how good he is!

## Saint Patrick

By Odette Walker

1st Grade, Brookfield Christian School

Super	Popular
Awesome	Americans
Interesting	Tradition
Noble	Remembered
Terrific	Irish
	Clover
	Kind
	Special

## April

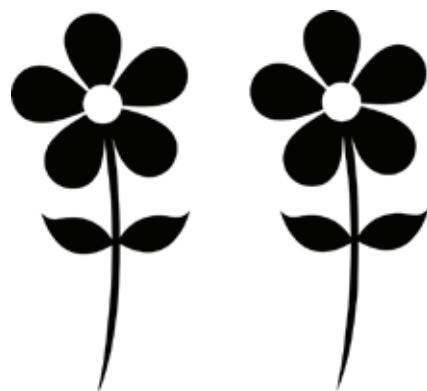
By Kennedy and Natalie

Playing pranks on our family and friends.  
Spring is coming and when it ends,  
Summer fun will begin again!  
When summer fun begins again,  
then the winter snow will melt again!  
This is what April is all about,  
pranks and cheer for April is near.

## Spring

By Mila Webb & Lena Janz  
4th Grade - Tonawanda

We love April showers  
waiting for May flowers.  
Summer is yet to come  
but spring has just begun.  
We play in the green grass.  
It is so fun to play until night has come.



## Singer Spotlight:

### Olivia Rodrigo

By Janavi Wagle

9th Grade, Brookfield East High School

**Olivia Rodrigo** is an American Singer, Songwriter and actress. She is known for her roles in several shows and movies including *An American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success* (2015), *Bizaardvark* (2016), and *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. In 2021, Rodrigo had recorded a song called "Drivers License" which became a popular hit and resulted in three Grammy awards nominations. In the spring of 2021, Rodrigo released a hit album called *SOUR* and went on a world tour in 2022. One year later, Rodrigo came up with another hit song called "Vampire" and released another album called "GUTS" on the 8th of September 2023. On September 13th, Rodrigo announced her second world tour devoted to her new album.

On Saturday, March 16th 2024, Rodrigo had her concert at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee which was attended by over a thousand fans from all over the state. It was an entertaining show for all age groups. As young artists, such as Rodrigo, rise to fame, there will be more world dominating tours and shows like this.

## Football

By Miles Glassman, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

In my opinion football is the best sport! I think it is a great way to practice your throwing because you have to pass the ball. It is also a good way to keep fit. Running for the ball makes you stay in shape.

Some people may disagree and think that there is a high chance of getting hurt. This is true, but I think you can get hurt in many sports. You can play football safely.

To sum it up, I think football is the best sport!

## The Titanic

By Avery Bolger

3rd Grade - Tonawanda Elementary

It was a pretty April day. April 15, 1912 to be exact and I was going to America on the Titanic. Once I got on the boat, I noticed that I lost my Mom! I looked everywhere but could not find her! I was so sad that I could not find her but it was too late.

I had to get on the boat. I was going to find my room when I heard a loud beeping noise. I ran to look out the window and I saw a big iceberg! I could not believe it! We were going to sink! I was very scared. I wish my Mom was here, I yelled. As soon as I was about to scream, I looked at a group of people and I saw my Mom! I ran to her and I hugged her tight. I was so happy.

I looked out the window and the iceberg was getting closer! I was really scared. When I looked at the water, I saw a small boat that could fit us both. We climbed down the ladder off the Titanic and jumped onto the little boat. We rode that boat back to land. When we got to America we warmed up at our cousin's house. They gave us hot chocolate. I was so happy that my Mom and I were safe.

## Perfect Pizza

By Lucy Mangerson

3rd Grade - Tonawanda

In my opinion, pizza is the best food EVER! One reason I think this is because you can get your pizza from multiple different places. For example, one time I got pizza from Dominoes and another time I got it from a different take out place.

Some people may disagree and say grilled cheese sandwiches are better because you can dip them in tomato soup. I disagree because you can't put toppings on grilled cheese.

Another reason pizza is the best is because you can eat it anywhere! One time I ate pizza at my birthday party and one time I ate it at my house.

Finally, you can add many different toppings to pizza. For instance, I once tried a mini pineapple pizza and it was really good!

In conclusion, I think pizza is the best food ever. You should go order a pizza tonight!

## More People Should Donate

By Gus Berkec, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

In my opinion, more people should donate. First, you can help people in need. For example, you could donate your clothes to Goodwill. Another reason you should donate is to get rid of stuff you don't need. For example, one time my mom and I found things around our house that we donated to Goodwill.

Some people may disagree and say I don't want to give stuff to random people. But you are helping people in need when you do that.

Finally, if you have what you need you should donate. Some people don't have clothes, food, houses or water. Donate today!

## Mars is the best!

By Xander Kehr, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Mars is and has been the most habitable planet. One reason is that Mars has clouds and clouds form the atmosphere. This can make gravity. Another example is that NASA has been planning this mission for years. It is known as Mission Mars.

Unlike most planets, Mars has a sandy bottom. That means crops might be able to be planted. Another example is that Mars is not a gas planet so we can make homes on Mars. To sum it up, Mars is the most habitable planet.

## Giannis

By Auggie Anton, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda



In my opinion, Giannis is the best NBA player. One reason is because of how Giannis started out. He started on a free basketball team and now he is one of the best NBA players!

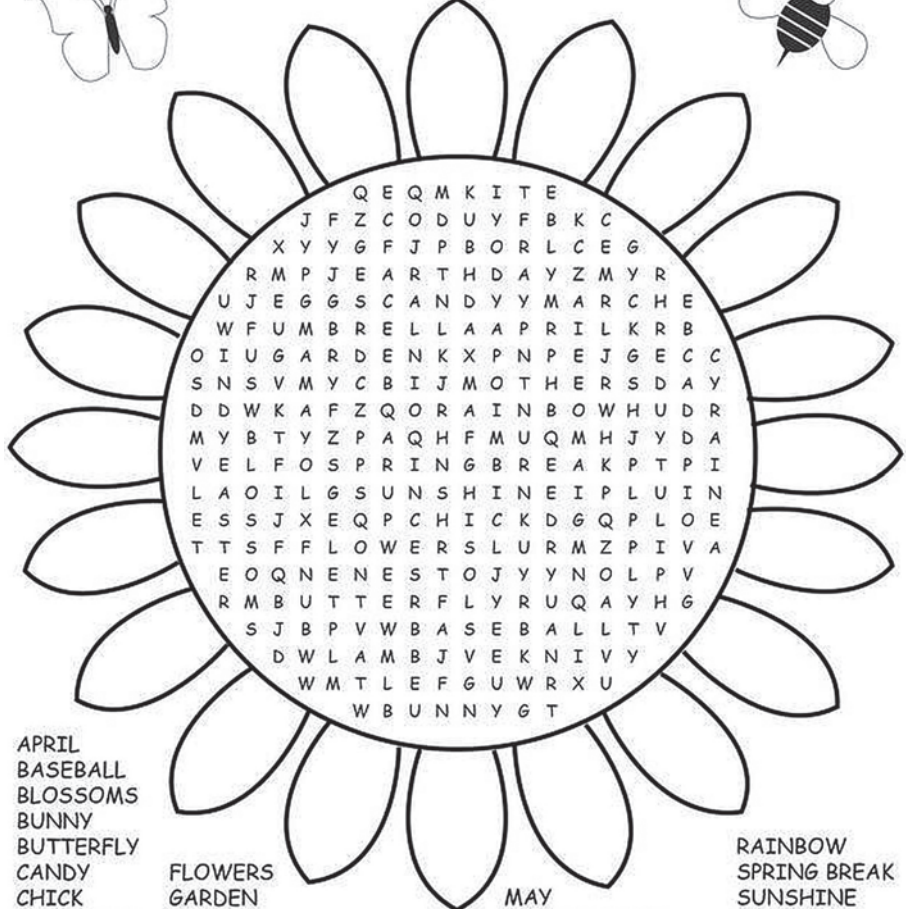
He also cheers on his brother and his other teammates. That proves he has great sportsmanship. Another reason is that he won MVP in 2021 and he won the championship in the same year!

Some people may disagree and say Damian Lillard is the best player because he won the 3-point contest 2 years in a row.

In conclusion, Giannis is a great player for the Bucks! The Bucks would not be the same without him.

## It's Spring Time!





Q E Q M K I T E  
J F Z C O D U Y F B K C  
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R M P J E A R T H D A Y Z M Y R  
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KITE  
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MARCH

MAY  
MOTHERS DAY  
NEST  
RAIN

RAINBOW  
SPRING BREAK  
SUNSHINE  
TULIP  
UMBRELLA  
WINDY



# Letters to the Editor

## Vote Wacker & Lambert for Elmbrook School Board

Recently Elm Grove residents received an Elmbrook School Board election mailer paid for by “1776 PAC” and mailed from Berea, Ohio. This political action committee was established by a man from New York City and its purpose is to politicize nonpartisan school boards across the country. Behavior like this is exactly why school boards were established as nonpartisan.

Using words designed to inflame, the mailer describes school board candidate Mary Wacker and incumbent candidate Jean Lambert as “Radical Democrats” who want to bring “Woke ideology” and “Critical Race Theory” to Elmbrook Schools. All of this is lies. The two Elmbrook candidates supported by the mailer should be ashamed to be endorsed by such a group and should renounce the flyer in the strongest terms.

I have known Mary Wacker and Jean Lambert for more than 25 years, and no one familiar with these women, including me, would ever define them as “Radical Democrats.” Both women are intelligent and hardworking public servants committed to supporting the students of our community and maintaining the excellence of the Elmbrook School District.

## Support Viable Candidates Invested in School District

As a leader of our Elmbrook Burleigh/PPMS Lego Leagues, I am particularly concerned about the outcome of the Elmbrook School Board election. I spend a significant amount of time with our elementary and middle school children in addition to my full-time job. Viable candidates should have children who attend or have attended our schools or at least volunteer or contribute to the benefit of our schools already. Surface

This vile campaign is part of a statewide effort to politicize the non-partisan school board and local government elections.

Let’s remember that our school district has been ranked the Best School District in Wisconsin (#1 for five years in a row) and is one of only three districts in the state with a Triple A Bond rating. We also have an amazing 96% teacher retention rate. Excellent public schools are one of the principal reasons people move to our area. Good schools improve property values and benefit all residents.

Wacker and Lambert have long been part of efforts to establish and maintain our public school system as “Best in Wisconsin.” Wacker’s decades of volunteer involvement and Lambert’s volunteer and elective service demonstrate what they bring to a school board seat. Neither of their opponents have comparable records of service.

Please don’t be confused or misled by lies from out-of-state partisan political hacks. Yes, you can confidently vote for both Mary Wacker and Jean Lambert, and I urge you to do so.

**Neil Palmer**  
Former Elm Grove Village President

level leadership is not going to get the job done in Elmbrook schools. Treating these positions with dignity is a must.

I put my trust in candidates like Jean Lambert and Mary Wacker who have shown the same level of dedication and investment of their time in and for our students.

**Jen Black**  
Brookfield

## Lambert is Positive Influence on School Board

Wow! It is amazing to see that a national organization (1776 Project PAC) has become involved in our local Elmbrook School Board campaign, including postcards that provide misleading information about one of the candidates, Jean Lambert, accusing her of “focusing on Critical Race Theory and bringing Woke Ideology into the classroom.” To the contrary! Four years ago, when many of our neighboring districts adopted mission statements that included major elements of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, despite many vocal voices in favor of it, Jean proposed deferring action pending further refinements. As an alternative the Board has focused efforts, not on lowering the bar, but on increasing resources for success of all students.

During the 13 years that I served beside Jean on the Elmbrook School Board, I found her to be unique in her ability to question various approaches and to work with those of opposing viewpoints to find reasonable solutions. Elmbrook has a well-deserved reputation as a “destination district.” Jean has been a very positive influence on the Board in achieving those results. It would be a significant loss to the community if she does not continue in that service.

**Glen R. Allgaier**  
Former Elmbrook School Board Member  
Brookfield

## Vote “No” on April 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot Referendums

There are two statewide referendum questions on the ballot in April. In my experience, referendums get very little public discussion and often have confusing language that is hard to decipher when you are standing in a voting booth.

These referendums are a vote to change the Wisconsin Constitution and damage the infrastructure that provides free and fair elections. Our state relies on grants to train poll workers, lease space, and purchase voting equipment. Prohibiting the state from accepting those grants doesn’t improve the integrity of the elections — it compromises it. These grants are increasingly important, as the legislature has recently reduced

state funding for election administration. Our clerks rely on a host of volunteers and community members to make sure our elections run smoothly. If we cannot rely on volunteers, election management becomes more expensive and more difficult.

The ACLU and other organizations committed to protecting voters’ rights are encouraging voters to reject these referendum votes and vote NO.

I encourage all voters to research before they get to the polls! You can see a sample ballot by visiting <https://myvote.wi.gov/>.

**Emily McFadden**  
Elm Grove

## Vote for Education, Not Politics

We are a group of alumni, mothers, and active volunteers in Elmbrook schools. We returned to our home school district to give our children the excellent education we received. We believe the high-quality education in this district stems from dedicated teachers, incredible administration, outstanding resources, significant parental engagement, and innovative teaching methods that have led to not only high graduation rates for our students, but continued success after high school.

We pay close attention to the governance of our district, which is why we’re writing to express our grave concern about continued attempts to politicize our School Board with divisive and extreme political agendas. This effort has been orchestrated nationally and has played out locally through WISRED,

a PAC affiliated with the Waukesha County Republicans. Elmbrook remains the *only* school district in Waukesha County that WISRED has failed to “flip.” We have heard from parents in our neighboring districts who have suffered the ramifications of WISRED’s efforts: experienced teachers leaving en masse, strong administrators being forced out, extreme policies endangering vulnerable students, elimination of important curricula, banning of books. One WISRED district suffered 30% teacher turnover! This election will determine Elmbrook’s continued success or devastating failure.

Vote Mary Wacker and Jean Lambert. Vote for education, not politics.

**Elmbrook Coalition of Concerned Moms and Alums**  
Brookfield & Elm Grove

## Partisan Politics Have No Place in Public Education

Over the last couple of weeks, Elmbrook School Board member, Sam Hughes, has published a number of attack pieces against school board candidate Mary Wacker on his school district Facebook page. Hughes has used his platform to label Wacker “dangerous for children” and most recently claimed she’s “a political operative for the far left.” Political fear mongering should have no place in local school board races where candidates run as independent, non-partisan officials.

The real question to ask in this election cycle should shift from vilifying individuals, and instead focus on the rising influence of partisan political parties and their PACs on local school board races. Which candidates for the Elmbrook board have been recruited, funded, or have been endorsed by political

action committees? Increasingly, we see the harm that partisan members bring to boards across the county like Mukwonago, Waukesha, and Menomonee Falls. These political operatives have brought with them civic division, and in some cases like Mukwonago, federal court reprimands for violating students’ rights. Elmbrook deserves better.

Partisan politics have no place in public education and this year we have two candidates who are committed to maintaining political independence and non-partisanship on Elmbrook’s school board. Those candidates are Jean Lambert and Mary Wacker.

**Margaret Nettesheim Hoffmann**  
Brookfield

# Report from Madison

By Tom Michalski, Wisconsin State Assemblyman – District 13 / [Rep.michalski@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.michalski@legis.wisconsin.gov) / (608) 237-9113

The election cycle is on the horizon, and the long-awaited redrawing and approval of the maps have finally taken place. This marks a significant win for Governor Evers and sets the stage for a crucial upcoming election.

State law requires that the election maps be redrawn every ten years after the census to account for population changes and ensure equal representation. Under Wisconsin’s constitution, the legislature draws the maps, and then the Governor can approve or veto them.

There are a few additional requirements, like the districts must be compact and contiguous and, where possible, maintain political boundaries, i.e., keep municipalities whole. The process gives the party in control of the legislature the upper hand, but that’s how it has always been. Both sides drew maps that favored themselves when they were in the majority and complained about gerrymandering while in the minority—until now.

After the most recent census, new maps were drawn, approved by the Supreme Court, and signed into law in 2022. However, the Wisconsin Supreme Court declared them unconstitutional earlier this year. The reason? Some districts were not “contiguous.” This was true; there were situations where an island of one district was placed inside an adjoining district.

You might ask, “Why in the world would this happen?” The answer is reasonably straightforward. Municipalities have a natural progression as they grow, starting from a town to a village to a city. The land from the town slowly gets incorporated into the village or city. The residents of the land have a choice and can vote to become part of the city, or not. When the residents choose not to become part of the city, the city will continue to grow and can ultimately surround the pocket of land where the residents wish to stay part of the town. It happens, and several

islands exist between the City of Brookfield and the Town of Brookfield.

District map drawers now must make a choice. Is the island part of the Town, breaking the “contiguous” rule, or does it become part of the city, breaking the “maintain political boundaries” rule? Following precedents going back, as far as I know, the map makers have always favored maintaining political boundaries. It is a Catch-22 because it is impossible to follow both rules simultaneously.

With the Supreme Court siding with the Governor, the legislature had no choice but to accept his maps (which still included islands) or have the Supreme Court impose maps of their choosing.

But what does that mean for us? District 13 was essentially all of Brookfield and Elm Grove. The district was a compact rectangle of about 59,000 residents, and it maintained Elmbrook’s political boundaries.

Under the Governor’s Map, a significant change has occurred. Brookfield, previously a unified district, has now been divided. Elm Grove, along with the northeast quadrant of Brookfield, is now part of the more significant portion of Wauwatosa north of Bluemound Road. This change, while breaking political boundaries and being less compact, has eliminated the issue of islands. As a result, we are now politically aligned with Wauwatosa.

You can view a detailed map (both old and new) of Assembly District 13 on my website ([repmichalski.com](http://repmichalski.com)). The maps are under the “Important Information” tab.

This will be my last article until after the November election. Because articles can be viewed as free advertising, they are prohibited during the election cycle, which begins on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

As always, feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns.



# News Briefs

## Brookfield East Student Advances to International German Olympiad Competition

By Eric Hagen

Brookfield East High School sophomore, Avery Lauenstein, on March 2, won the second round of the International German Olympiad.



Avery Lauenstein

After advancing to the national round, Avery beat the top 15 German students in the country at a tournament in Chicago.

“Avery is an outstanding student and consistently shows her determination, motivation, and dedication both in the classroom and beyond,” said Kelsie Pattillo-Miller, BEHS World Languages Teacher. “Avery represents the best of Elmbrook school and Academic excellence.”

Avery will represent the United States in the international competition this July in Göttingen, Germany, where she will work with and compete against high school students from 75 countries. Her trip will be fully funded by the Goethe Institute.

## Pilgrim Park, Wisconsin Hills Hold Music Arts Day

On March 18, the Pilgrim Park and Wisconsin Hills Middle School music students came together to perform in their first-ever Collaborative Music Arts Day. During the day, students traveled to the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for music lessons and rehearsals that culminated in performances in the afternoon for students, families, and staff to enjoy.

190 Orchestra, Choir and Band Students from both schools participated as a part of the “Celebration of the Arts” state-wide celebration to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Arts Board. The band, orchestra, and choir all performed variations of Like the Wind by Erika Svano, inspired by the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Dasha Kelly Hamilton. Videos can be viewed at [www.elmbrookschools.org](http://www.elmbrookschools.org).

## FIRE DEPARTMENT AND JUNIOR GUILD COLLABORATION

# STOP, DROP, AND GROW

Fire Chief Brian Naylor along with Elm Grove Junior Guild members and representatives Tara Schmalz, Ruth Flanagan, Holly and Lauren Shepherd, and Sarah Wynia-Smith



Since 1966 the Elm Grove Junior Guild has been raising money and presenting a portion of the funds to the Village to be directed towards projects which fulfill their mission. In 2023, they donated over \$16,000 to the village, which included money towards fire safety and prevention materials. Elm Grove Fire Chief Brian Naylor, came up with a sustainable, eco-friendly idea to provide seed envelopes stamped with a catchy phrase he devised. The packets will include a native seed mix to be planted by residents and families. He purchased envelopes, a custom stamp, and a seed mix and will have the packets available at the village hall, during the community’s Earth and Arbor Day celebration, and as a handout at the annual Memorial Day parade.

### Why native seeds?

Native plants co-evolved with native insects and wildlife; they are deeply dependent on one another. Plants provide food and shelter to insects, birds, and other small animals, which, in turn support larger predators. Native plants are the fundamental stepping stones of a healthy eco-system. This collaboration supports the following Elm Grove designations:

- Bird City Network since 2011 (High Flyer since 2022)
- Bee City USA since 2020
- Mayor’s Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle since 2023
- NWF Community Habitat since 2023
- Tree City since 1990



# Local Sports



Photo courtesy: Anne Daniels

### TONAWANDA’S 4TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

(Front row, Left to Right) Raleigh Pliskie, Natalie Conroy, Jane Karst, and Arie Barian; (Back row L to R) Miriam Smith, Vera Pedriana, Norah Daniels, Evie Hermsen, Stella Witherow, and Anna Peterson

The team went 10-0 this season in the Brookfield Park and Recreational 4th/5th grade Youth Basketball League. They successfully took first in the regular season and the tournament.

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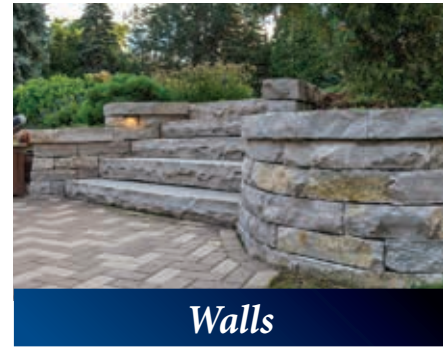



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