



# Elm Grove NEWS-

# INDEPENDENT



Vol. 16 No. 8

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

April 2026

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

## Elm Grove Dispatchers Dedicated to Community's Public Safety

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / EGNI

In an emergency when time is of the essence, as well as in non-emergency situations where someone is seeking assistance or reporting a concern, Village residents can be confident that a simple call to 9-1-1 from a cell phone or landline or an in-person visit will be responded to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from a dispatch center located just inside the front doors of the Elm Grove Police Department.

During **Public Safety Telecommunicators Week: April 12 – April 18, 2026**, please take a moment to thank Elm Grove's current team of dispatchers for their commitment to our health and welfare.

- \*Dispatcher **Carolyn Gasse** – 36 years
- \*Dispatcher **Wendy Priest** – 26 years
- \*Dispatcher **Marisa Hockett** – 7 years
- \*Dispatcher **Jeff Homes** – 2 years
- \*Dispatcher **Heather Hamilton** – 8 months

(See Public Safety Reports – Page 3)



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Police Department  
Dispatcher **Marisa Hockett** at work on the afternoon of March 24, 2026.

### INSIDE

- PAGE 2:** I Know Where You Live!  
---An Editorial  
Friends of *The News* sponsors
- PAGE 3:** Village Update  
Public Safety Reports  
Business & Club Directories
- PAGE 4:** Village Volunteers  
Our History / Old(er) Writer
- PAGE 5:** Calendar of Events
- PAGE 6:** Report from The Capitol
- PAGE 8:** Elm Grove Library Programs  
Young Writers
- PAGE 9:** Young Writers & Reporters
- PAGE 10:** Letters to the Editor  
Mr. Hugh's History
- PAGE 11:** News' Hounds – pet adoption  
**Green is Good!**

### On the Ballot Election



**April 7, 2026**

Elm Grove residents can cast their ballots at Village Hall from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the following:

- Justice of The Wisconsin Supreme Court
- Court of Appeals Judge District 2
- Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Branch 5
- Waukesha County Supervisor District 8
- Elm Grove Village Trustee (3 seats up for election)
- Elmbrook School Board (Area 1 seat, Area 3 seat & At-Large seat)

### More Voting Information

- \***APRIL 2 (5 p.m.)** – Absentee request deadline for regular voters
- \***APRIL 3 (5 p.m.)** - Last day to register At Clerk's Office & Absentee request deadline (military & indefinitely confined)
- \***APRIL 7** – Register at polls on Election Day / Absentee ballots must be received by 8 p.m.

\*\*\* Proof of residence is required to register.  
\*\*\* Photo ID is required for absentee voting

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**Lisabeth Passalis-Bain**

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Published monthly.  
Distributed via the U.S. Postal Service to every Residence & Business in Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122. Additional copies available at select locations within Elm Grove & neighboring communities. Online @ [www.elmgrove.news](http://www.elmgrove.news)

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14420 Watertown Plank Rd.  
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# "I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

We **THANK** all of our **ADVERTISERS & these Friends of The News**

- \*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club-Golden K
- \*Margaret Kelley
- \*The Lange Family
- \*Mary Ann Rachow
- \*Bruce & Susan Davidson
- \*Leanne Wied
- \*Nancy Ferguson
- \*Geri Fotsch
- \*Pat Rierson
- \*Gary Morris
- \*Denise Merino
- \*Anne Du Puy
- \*John Kuenzle & Kate Kuenzle
- \*Jen Studebaker
- \*A Faithful Reader
- \*Anonymous Readers

for helping to **Sponsor** this edition.

If **YOU** appreciate the local news, features, and information that **The News-Independent** provides... please complete and submit the **"Friends"** form on the Back Page.

## Why Accuracy & Ethics Matter: An Editorial

Politics is definitely not for the faint of heart. Neither, I can personally assure you, is the news business. A recent experience illustrates that point.

A statement referencing *The Elm Grove News-Independent* was posted on the campaign website of Sam Hughes, an Elm Grove resident and current member of the Elmbrook School Board, who is running for re-election to his At-Large seat.

His statement, dated March 9, 2026, read as follows:

### "Elm Grove News Independent: One Community, Two Sets of Rates?"

"A separate concern has emerged regarding the *Elm Grove News Independent*, a local publication that many in our community rely on for coverage of school board and municipal affairs.

Multiple sources have indicated that candidates affiliated with the local progressive organization *Blue Sky* appear to receive discounted or complimentary advertising rates in the publication, while candidates without that affiliation --- including my campaign --- are charged full market rate for equivalent placement.

If accurate, this represents a meaningful and undisclosed subsidy to one side of a contested local election. It raises the question of whether the publication's advertising practices align with the basic journalistic standard of treating all candidates and viewpoints equally.

Local media plays an important role in informing voters, particularly in school board races where name recognition and information access can be decisive. When a publication with that kind of influence applies different rules to different candidates based on their political alignment, the community deserves to know."

(\*\*NOTE: On the same day, prior to the statement shown above, Hughes commented negatively about an election-related article published by *The Waukesha Freeman*.)

Mr. Hughes's comments are quite vague (using terms like "appear to" and "if accurate"), undocumented (lacking any proof of unfairness or diminished journalistic standards), yet **serious allegations**, referencing undisclosed "multiple sources" (who?). Whether meant to be malicious or if just embarrassingly careless --- his words are unacceptable, offensive, and certainly not what should be expected from a candidate for school board or any other public position. Rather than post these statements for all to see, he could simply have contacted the newspaper to discuss the matter.

Here are **The Facts**: Mr. Hughes's statements have no basis in reality. There is simply **no truth** to the contention that any candidates "received discounted or complimentary advertising rates" based on their political affiliations. **This newspaper has never and will never offer discounted rates to any candidates.** A candidate's political leaning or affiliation has nothing to do with what they are charged. (In fact, it would be counter-productive to charge any less than the costs stated on the Rate Sheet, since newspapers --- including *The News-Independent* --- need as much AD revenue as we can obtain to keep our papers going and continue to serve our communities.)

### In the March 2026 edition, there were 3 ADs for school board candidates:

- Front Page AD (7 1/2" w x 4" h) for candidate **Elizabeth Theis**.
- Front Page AD (7 1/2" w x 4" h) for candidate **Jennifer Roskopf**.
- A 1/2-page inside AD (10" wide x 8" high) on Page 2 (for candidates **Sam Hughes, Kevin Klandrud, and Bob Burlage**).

(By the time Mr. Hughes's campaign representative contacted the newspaper, all Page 1 - AD space had already been reserved. There was only one 1/4-page space left on the Back Page + two side-by-side 1/4-page spaces left on Page 2. The campaign chose to run a 1/2-page AD on Page 2.)

**These were all charged exactly per the costs listed on the newspaper's current Rate Sheet.** Proof of this exists within the newspaper's files: emails to and from the candidates, paid invoices, photocopies of checks received, and, of course, would be clearly shown on candidates' financial statements as expenditures for EGNI advertising. **There is only ONE Rate Sheet --- ONE set of rules for all.**

The statement posted on Mr. Hughes's website is blatantly wrong and misleading. It questions the overall fairness of this news organization and (although it did not name me directly) attacks my reputation as a journalist, as I oversee the entire production of *The News-Independent*, including all news content and advertising. Statements such as this can be damaging to individuals, businesses, and communities, and should not be taken lightly.

### RECENT EXAMPLES of this newspaper's policy of fairness to all:

A **Candidates' Questions & Answers** section was published in the **MARCH 2026** edition. All 6 School Board candidates (**Wheeler, Theis, Roskopf, Klandrud, Burlage, and Hughes**) were given **equal opportunity** (with the same maximum word count) to answer the 7 questions posed. All candidates responded and all of their responses were published, as written. (A separate Q & A section for Elm Grove Trustee candidates also ran.)

Past pre-election editions' Letters to the Editor sections have included as many as 20+ letters in support of numerous candidates and issues. Only 5 Letters to the Editor were received for the **MARCH 2026** edition. All 5 were published. If any letters in support of candidates Hughes, Klandrud, and/or Burlage had been submitted, they would also have been published --- but none were received.

Additionally, I make a point to never express my personal opinions about candidates within the paper. The newspaper has never endorsed any candidates. Political signs are never posted at my home. And, I am not a member of any political party. All this, in an on-going effort to remain as neutral as possible and let all voices have the opportunity to be heard.

**TRUTH matters. INTEGRITY matters** --- in journalism, in politics, and in life. An established Code of Ethics provided by The Society for Professional Journalists clearly states: **"Be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable. Deny favored treatment to advertisers, donors, or other special interests."**

Accuracy and fairness in journalism is everything, and I have adhered to a **professional and personal Code of Ethics** to the highest degree possible during my many years as a newspaper reporter, editor, columnist, photographer, owner, and publisher.

*The Elm Grove News-Independent* has served Elm Grove and neighboring communities for more than 15 years --- 187 editions published to date. Questions and comments are always welcome. E-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com). Posting unsubstantiated remarks or claims on a website / social media is not the way to go.

Mr. Hughes did get one thing right. The last few words in his posting state: "...the community deserves to know." **And now it does.**



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# Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President – [jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org)

Welcome to Spring. It is always a great sign of Spring to see the first Robin hopping around the back yard.



While there are still some chilly mornings, we have turned the corner and it's time to transition to outside activities and enjoy walks or bike rides throughout the Village and begin the Spring yard clean-up rituals. Overall, a great time to be in Wisconsin!

### Pedestrian Safety

I'm sure many readers wonder why I keep stressing pedestrian safety. The simple answer is observation of the distracted or inattentive drivers that I have witnessed walking around our great Village. Just last Saturday, a pedestrian was almost hit on the corner of Elm Grove Road and Watertown Plank crossing the street while the walk sign was activated. I would like to re-emphasize to drivers to yield to pedestrians, as they have the right of way. Also, **if you see something, say something!** In the example above an incident report was filed with the Elm Grove PD and a citation was issued to the offending driver. If you see something, our police team would prefer that dispatch get notified and follow-up can occur. I appreciate everyone's help making our streets safer for our children and pedestrians.

### Public Works Update

The Public Works Team will have a very busy year in 2026! The Highland Pathway went out to bid in March with Bid responses due back on April 9th. The KL Engineering team and Public Works Committee worked very hard to address resident concerns along the Pathway, however some hard choices had to be made to ensure safety along the route. Thank you to the impacted residents for their understanding. We have our fingers crossed that the rise in oil prices will not impact this

project significantly.

The Public Works team is finalizing the bid package for the street repaving planned for 2026. As a reminder, the Village invests about \$550,000 annually to update our roads and 2026 is no exception. Priority is given to roads with the lowest inspection rating. Those interested in the 5-year plan can find it on our website: [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)

The Daylighting of Underwood Creek moved a step closer as the Village Board unanimously voted to award the construction contract to **C. W. Purpero** on March 24th. The contract award allows the Village to lock in use of Tax Increment Funds from TID #2 (originally created for the Village Park - Flood Mitigation project in 2004), resulting in no increase in taxes to Village residents. While delaying the availability of tax revenue to fund general operating expenses to 2034, this is a required investment for the downtown as the existing underground box culvert infrastructure is failing with no ability to repair. The Board continues to work with Soo Line railroad to finalize the purchase of the needed parcel for the project and with business owners on easements required. Construction is expected to commence in 2026, once Soo Line parcel acquisition is finalized.

Finally, a reminder that brush pick-up will begin in April. Guidelines for placement of brush at the road edge and the pick-up schedule is available on the Village website. As a reminder the Recycling Center hours expand in April to include Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. This is in addition to Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Recreation News

Enrollment in recreation programs offered by the Village is now open. Please visit the Village website to register online. Additionally, thanks to the efforts of **Isabella Naughton**, our recreation director, additional programs are being offered in collaboration with New Berlin. This collaboration fizzled out a few years back and we are pleased to offer it again for a limited number of programs. Finally, hiring for the seasonal

positions for the recreation programs is moving along smoothly. The Village pool will open on June 12th and closes on August 16th. The closing date is a bit earlier than usual due the pool liner being replaced in the fall to provide for many more years of enjoyment.

### Welcome

Please join me in welcoming **Michael Kubiak** as our new patrol officer. A swearing-in ceremony took place in the Elm Grove Courtroom on Monday, March 23, at 8:30 AM. Michael has been involved in public safety since 1997, when he began working with the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, where he served for 5 years as a Corrections Officer and 16 years as a Deputy Sheriff. In 2018, he joined the Williams Bay Police Department for one year before moving to the Village of Mukwonago Police Department later that year, where he has served as a Police Officer to the present. Welcome Michael.

### Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan

Staff and the project team from Vandewalle held a kick-off meeting at the end of March to pre-plan the first public meeting which will entail a joint meeting of the Plan Commission and Village Board. This is anticipated to be held sometime in May of this year. We are lucky to be engaged with such a qualified planning firm that has recently worked with Elm Grove on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. We are looking forward to diving into this project! A dedicated project webpage will be hosted on the Village website and updates will be included in the monthly Village Newsletter.

### Volunteer Opportunity

There will be a vacancy on the Library Board come April, 2026. Any resident interested in volunteering may submit their application form on the Village website, under the Village Committees, Commission and Boards webpage.

Wishing everyone a great transition to Spring!

# Public Safety Reports

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

**IN AN EMERGENCY... CALL 9-1-1 from your landline or cell phone.**

## National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week: April 12 - 18, 2026

(Continued from Front Page)

"Public safety dispatchers serve as the critical first point of contact between the community and emergency services. In communities such as Elm Grove, dispatchers are responsible for receiving emergency and non-emergency calls, rapidly gathering essential information, prioritizing incidents, and coordinating the appropriate police, fire, and emergency medical response. Their ability to remain calm, professional, and detail-oriented during high-stress situations is essential to ensuring that first responders receive accurate information as quickly as possible." said **Elm Grove Assistant Chief of Police Ryan Unger**.

Unger continued, "In addition to answering emergency calls, Elm Grove dispatchers are often the first point of contact for citizens who walk into the police department seeking assistance or wishing to report a concern. Dispatchers greet members of the public, assess the nature of their request, and determine the appropriate response, whether that involves dispatching an officer, providing guidance, or connecting the individual with

the appropriate service or resource. This role requires strong communication skills, sound judgment, and the ability to interact professionally with individuals who may be experiencing stressful or urgent situations.

Dispatchers undergo specialized training in emergency communications, call-taking procedures, computer-aided dispatch systems, radio communications, and incident prioritization. Many are also trained in Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), which allows them to provide life-saving instructions such as CPR guidance to callers before emergency personnel arrive. In addition, dispatchers must maintain a thorough working knowledge of local geography, departmental policies, and interagency communication protocols to effectively coordinate responses with neighboring law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies.

The duties of a dispatcher extend far beyond simply answering phones. Dispatchers manage multiple radio channels, track officer activity for safety purposes, run criminal

history and driver record information, monitor alarms, and ensure that emergency resources are deployed efficiently. Their work directly supports the safety of officers, firefighters, paramedics, and the public they serve.

For communities like Elm Grove and surrounding jurisdictions, dispatchers provide an essential public safety service that often goes unseen but is vital to effective emergency response. Their professionalism, training, and dedication ensure that when residents call for help or walk into the department seeking assistance, the right resources are deployed quickly and accurately. The role they play in coordinating emergency services is fundamental to protecting life, property, and the overall safety of the community."

### By the Numbers ...

"Last year (2025) our dispatch center handled a total of 10,657 telephone calls. That includes both 911 and administrative calls," **Police Lt. Natalie Riley** notes.

# Business Directory

### \* Insurance

**Woller-Anger, a Relation Company**  
930 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122  
**(262) 789-2500**  
"Relationships Matter"

### \* Community Theatre

**Sunset Playhouse, Inc.**  
700 Wall St., Elm Grove  
**(262) 782-4430**  
**SunsetPlayhouse.com**  
"Entertainment Begins at Sunset!"

### \* Real Estate



**m3 realty**  
890 Elm Grove Rd. #107  
**(262) 787-8995**  
**info@m3realty.com**  
Local, Family-Owned  
Real Estate Boutique

# Clubs & Organizations Directory



**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)

**100+ Women Who Care  
MKE Metro West**  
is celebrating 10 years of giving on May 5 at O'Donoghue's Pub - 6:00 p.m. Come and learn more about us.  
[www.100wcmkemetrowest.org](http://www.100wcmkemetrowest.org)

## Classifieds

**INCLUDE  
YOUR AD  
HERE!**

### Directories & Classifieds

Listings are **\$25 per issue (for up to 20 words)**  
+ 50 cents for each additional word.  
/ + \$20 extra per photo or logo.



# The Elm Grove News-Independent

has been a Chronicler of Elm Grove / Brookfield / Waukesha County for more than 15 years!

E-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) OR Call (262) 782-6193 to Request an ADVERTISING Rate Sheet.



# Village Volunteers

By Jim Koleski, Village President – [jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org)

## Volunteer Recognition: The Elm Grove Library Board

The Library Board serve as stewards of one of the most accessible and valued public institutions in the Village: the public library. Tasked with overseeing policy, supporting operations, and guiding long-term vision, Library Boards help ensure that library services remain responsive, relevant, and rooted in the needs of residents. While libraries are often associated with books and quiet spaces, the work behind them is dynamic, evolving, and not without its challenges.

### The Library Board Trustees include:

- Jennifer Morris, Chair
- Tom Castile, Trustee
- Karen Steen
- John Alexander
- Kristin Olson, School Representative
- Patty Kujawa
- Laurie Leahy

Some of the distinct challenges that the Library Board faces on a regular basis include:

- **Navigating the rapidly changing role of libraries in modern society.** Today's libraries are no longer solely repositories of physical materials; they are community hubs offering digital resources, educational programming, technology access, and public gathering space. The Board must continually evaluate how best to allocate limited resources to meet these expanding expectations while preserving the core services that patrons rely on.
- **Financial stewardship.** The Board oversees a budget that must balance staffing, collections, programming, facility maintenance, and technology investments. With rising costs and competing municipal priorities, the Board must make thoughtful decisions about funding levels, capital improvements, and long-term sustainability. This often includes advocating for the library's value within the broader context of local government budgeting.

- **Technology.** The demand for digital collections, online services, and public access to computers and internet connectivity continues to grow. The Board must consider investments in software, equipment, and infrastructure, while also addressing issues of digital equity—ensuring that all residents, regardless of income or background, have access to the tools and resources they need.

- **Diverse and evolving community needs.** Libraries serve residents of all ages, backgrounds, and interests, from early literacy programs for children to lifelong learning opportunities for adults. The Board must help guide programming and services that are inclusive, equitable, and reflective of the community, while also being mindful of differing perspectives on what the library's role should be.

Like Village advisory committees, the Library Board is composed of volunteers who dedicate significant time and effort to their roles. Members review reports, attend meetings, engage with staff, and participate in strategic planning—all while bringing a range of perspectives and expertise to the table. This commitment is essential to ensuring that the library remains well-governed and forward-looking.

On behalf of the Village Board, staff, and residents of Elm Grove, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of the Library Board for their service. Your willingness to volunteer your time and expertise makes a meaningful difference in our community. Elm Grove is stronger, more accessible, and more educated because of your commitment, and we are deeply grateful for the role you play in shaping and protecting our Village.

Thank you.

### Elm Grove

#### Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste Facility

900 Wall St.

(off Elm Grove Road, between Watertown Plank & Bluemound Road)

===== OPEN =====

**APRIL 1 – October 14, 2026**

**Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \*Closed July 4**

\*NOTE: The facility is for Village residents only; no contractors, contractor equipment, or contractor vehicles are permitted. Please bring your driver's license showing your current Elm Grove address.

\* Metal items are now accepted for recycling. They cannot contain any flammable liquids, freon, or pressurized tanks.

Contact Village Hall at (262) 782-6700 for more information / questions.

## In Memoriam

*Honor the Life  
of a beloved  
family member or friend.*

To place an Obituary Notice in this newspaper,  
e-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)  
or call: (262) 782-6193  
for Rate information.


# Our History:

## Remembrances of Things Past

The following news item was published in the *Waukesha Freeman* on March 9, 1903.

### ELM GROVE

John Dwyer's chimney was found stuffed with a bag of hay one day last week. — Theodore Reusch has resigned from the band and Chris Galobinskie fills his place. — Joseph Dechant and William Scheets did good work scraping the roads last week. — A meeting in the interest of the sugar beet growers was fixed for last Saturday at Ruesch's but only two farmers came to attend so no meeting was held. — Steam-fitters are busy putting in machinery at the convent. — Some lead nickels were in circulation in this burg last week, being used to work the slot machines.



## Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove

13425  
Watertown Plank Road  
in the  
Elm Grove  
Park & Shop

(262)  
784-4241

# Old(er) Writers

\*Readers (age 18+) may submit poetry, short fiction, life stories / reminiscences (200 words maximum) to: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) or EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Rd. Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423

### A Crime of Men

By Gary Kerlake

War is such a useless thing,  
It ruins lives while mongers sing.  
To keep depression from our door,  
We'd give a life, worth so much more.

### Humor

(c.) By Dean B. Kaner

(Former Wisconsin resident; current "Minnesota Nice" columnist for *Humor Times*)

- My chiropractor asked me how flexible I was. I said, "Can't make it on Tuesdays and Thursdays."
- My teacher told the class to follow our dreams. If that was true, then why didn't she let us fall asleep in class?



# 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 band shell in Elm Grove Village Park. All concerts start at 6:30 pm.

- Tuesday, June 16th - Bear With
- Tuesday, June 30th - After Hours
- Tuesday, July 14th - Saturday June Band
- Tuesday, July 28th - Kaleidoscope
- Tuesday, August 11th - The Hungry Williams

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 17, 18, & 19, 2026**

# Calendar of Events – April 2026

**Friday – APRIL 3**

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Board Meeting at St. Mary’s Senior Center. [kiwaniselmgrove.org](http://kiwaniselmgrove.org)  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – APRIL 5  
EASTER**

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
Contact: [beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org)

**Tuesday – APRIL 7**

**SPRING  
ELECTION**

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
at Elm Grove Village Hall.



**Friday – APRIL 10**

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Dan Michaels**; Topic: “The Benefits of Laughter”.  
[kiwaniselmgrove.org](http://kiwaniselmgrove.org)  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – APRIL 12**

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
Contact: [beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org)

**Tuesday – APRIL 14**

- Elmbrook School Board  
Public meeting: 6 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield [www.elmbrookschools.org](http://www.elmbrookschools.org)

**Wednesday – APRIL 15**

**TAX DAY -**

**Thursday – APRIL 16**

- Friends of the Elm Grove Library (FOEGL) Board – meeting: 9 a.m. at Village Hall – Parkview Room.

**Friday – APRIL 17**

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Michael Sullivan**; Topic: “Civil War Brothers”.  
[kiwaniselmgrove.org](http://kiwaniselmgrove.org)  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – APRIL 19**

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
Contact: [beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org)

**Wednesday – APRIL 22  
EARTH DAY**

**Friday – APRIL 24**

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Larry Wiemer**; Topic: “El Camino Trail”.  
[kiwaniselmgrove.org](http://kiwaniselmgrove.org)  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Saturday – APRIL 25**

- Recycling Day event – 9 a.m. to Noon at Pilgrim Park Middle School. (See story – Page 11; AD – Page 12)

**Sunday – APRIL 26**

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
Contact: [beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org)

**Tuesday – APRIL 28**

- Elm Grove Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom. Open to the Public. (262) 782-6700  
Agenda & Live Stream at [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)



EGNI Staff Photo

**Greetings from HARVEY**

Elm Grove News-Independent Editorial Assistant and friend of the Easter Bunny.



**OWLS  
OLDER/WISER/LIVELIER/SENIORS**

**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

**Rosie the Riveter** presented by Judy Pelt  
Doors open at 11:30, Lunch at Noon,  
Program at 1:00 PM at  
**COMMUNITY United Methodist Church**

Cost: Members \$19, Guests \$24,  
Program only \$10.00

**Reservation Deadline** including program only Monday, April 6th  
Reservation forms available at the church office - 14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove OR [www.cumceg.org](http://www.cumceg.org)

**Thursday, May 21, 2026**

**Bus Trip - Heartbreak Hotel at the  
Lincolnshire Marriot Theatre**

Musical celebration of the life & legacy of Elvis Presley set to 40 of his iconic songs  
Family style 3 course luncheon served at the Wildfire Restaurant  
Cost: Members \$145.00, Guests \$150

Arrive at COMMUNITY UMC parking lot at 9:00 am. Expected return at 6:00 pm  
**Reservation Deadline:** Monday, April 6th  
Reservations forms available at the church office - 14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove Or [www.cumceg.org](http://www.cumceg.org)

**Want to help Kids?**  
Join us : **April 21st, 6:00 - 8:00PM**  
at St. Mary’s Visitation Senior Center.  
Learn how our Kiwanis members help kids’ dreams come true.

Come and join our Elm Grove Kiwanis Club.  
Interested? Contact us at [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Kiwanis**  
ELM GROVE

ELMBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Abigail Adams** portrayed by **Jessica Michna**

John Adams has lost the Presidential race to Thomas Jefferson and John and Abigail have returned to their farm in Massachusetts. After forty years of marriage, Abigail looks back to the days of her early marriage as the young wife and mother. Referring to the many letters written between the Adams, she recalls the days of revolution and uncertainty. She reminisces about the friendships forged in France and England as a diplomat’s wife.

**MONDAY, April 27 — 7pm**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY Community Room  
1900 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield, WI

Sponsored by the Elmbrook Historical Society  
<http://www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org>

**ALL SHOOK UP**

April 23 - May 10, 2026

**SUNSET PLAYHOUSE**  
SunsetPlayhouse.com  
262-782-4430

**WOODSTOCK & BEYOND**  
April 27 - 28, 2026

**DOUBLE DYNAMITE: From '60s to '80s**  
May 7 - 10, 2026

**NATURAL LANDSCAPING FOR BIRDS**

This event connects native habitat, birds, and community while empowering participants with simple actions they can take at home. Together, these efforts help strengthen Community Wildlife Habitat Certifications and build more connected wildlife corridors across Waukesha County.

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

**Bird-Friendly Gardening:**  
How to Make Your Garden Attractive to Birds by keynote speaker, **Jen McGuinness**

Join Jen McGuinness for a hopeful, practical look at how home gardens can support birds through native plants, organic practices, and thoughtful design that benefits both wildlife and people.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Native Plants: From Turf to Habitat**  
Danielle Bell shares simple, approachable steps for incorporating native plants into home landscapes, including how keystone species can dramatically increase the value of your yard for wildlife.

**Migratory Birds and the Challenges They Face**  
Medhavi Ambardar explores the incredible journeys of migratory birds, the threats they encounter, and meaningful actions we can take to help, from native plantings to safer windows.

**Pollinator Conservation in Your Garden**  
Judy Cardin tells the story of transforming her yard into native habitat and highlights the importance of diverse native plants in supporting bees, butterflies, and other pollinators throughout the seasons.

Email us with questions at:  
[BrookfieldNWFTeam@gmail.com](mailto:BrookfieldNWFTeam@gmail.com)

Or scan here for more information:

**8 AM - 1 PM**  
**18**  
APRIL

**SHERATON HOTEL MILWAUKEE - BROOKFIELD**  
375 S. MOORLAND ROAD, BROOKFIELD, WISCONSIN NORTH ENTRANCE

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Scout Project participants gather at Pilgrim Park Middle School for a group photo in mid-March.

## Another Eagle Scout Project Completed

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

**Teddy Reuchlen**, a senior at Marquette High School, chose ecosystem restoration close to home for his Eagle Scout project. He, along with members of Boy Scout Troop 47, a teacher from Pilgrim Park Middle School, a few Brookfield East High School students, and some community members worked to remove invasive species from the Pilgrim Park Middle School woods on Sunday, March 15. The group primarily focused on buckthorn, an invasive species brought from Europe in the 1800s and first sighted in Wisconsin in the 1880s. The tree threatens the health and wellbeing of our woodlands and wetlands. It does this by creating a dense understory, shading out other plants by leafing out early in spring and holding onto its leaves late into fall. It also secretes an allelopathic compound which impairs the growth of other plants and has even been shown to inhibit amphibians from reproducing.

Without the native trees, shrubs, grasses, spring ephemerals, and perennial plants needed to support a wide variety of caterpillars, insects, birds, and amphibians—we will lose the delicate balance needed for a forest, wetland, and ecosystem to thrive. Something as simple as controlling invasive species on your own property, will benefit the entire community by helping to slow the spread.

If you're interested in learning more about how to identify invasive species or ongoing opportunities to volunteer within our community working to control invasive species, reach out to [beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org). There are quite a few areas of public property that need us to come together as a community in order to control the spread of invasive species.

It is absolutely amazing to see what can be accomplished in a short amount of time when a group of people work together—many hands really do make light work!

# Report from The Capitol

By Robyn Vining, State Representative- Assembly District 13  
\*Serving Elm Grove & sections of Brookfield & Wauwatosa



Governor Tony Evers signs bills into law.

## BIG NEWS, BIG WINS! Postpartum Medicaid Expansion and Gail's Law

We have some exciting news from the State Capitol: Postpartum Medicaid Expansion and Gail's Law *both* were signed into law! Wisconsin women deserve access to quality and affordable healthcare and these two laws will save women's lives. Many of you have contacted me about these bills and why they matter, so this month I want to celebrate these wins, look back on what it took to get here, and talk about what's next.

**Gail's Law (Breast Cancer Screenings)**  
Gail's Law (now 2025 Wisconsin Act 103) was advocated for, and posthumously named after, **Gail Zeamer**—a Wisconsin woman who was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer in 2016. The law requires health insurance to cover certain diagnostic and supplemental breast cancer screenings, allowing Wisconsin women to access these necessary and life-saving screenings without facing additional costs. No one should have to choose between paying for food, rent, childcare, and affording their breast cancer screening, but that's been the reality for too many Wisconsin women—and I heard story after story of women who had put off breast cancer screenings due to cost, only to receive a late-stage cancer diagnosis when finally able to pay for their testing.

**Postpartum Medicaid Expansion**  
Postpartum Medicaid Expansion (2025 Wisconsin Act 102) is now the law of the land, making Wisconsin the 49th state to extend postpartum coverage for new moms on Medicaid from 60 days to a full year. This coverage is vital for new moms and their babies and will save lives, support moms' mental health, reduce racial disparities in maternal healthcare, and improve the lives of Wisconsin families. We know that in 2023 alone, nearly 50 Wisconsin women died due to causes related to childbirth (*and those are the postpartum deaths that we know about*). These deaths are largely preventable, and extending postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 1 year has been shown to improve maternal outcomes.

**We Demanded a Vote, and We Got it!**  
This is the second legislative session that Gail's Law was introduced and the fourth for Postpartum Medicaid Expansion. They both passed the Senate 32-1 this legislative session, but then months went by without a vote in the Assembly despite wide bipartisan support. Through their calls and letters and postcards

and emails to legislators, Wisconsinites made it clear: they wanted a vote on Gail's Law and Postpartum Medicaid Expansion. I received hundreds of emails asking the legislature to get these bills signed into law and I refused to stop fighting for Wisconsin women to get the healthcare we deserve.

Assembly Democrats and Wisconsinites would not take no for an answer. We were not willing to let the legislative session end without a vote on these two bills, so I spoke at a press conference demanding a vote on postpartum Medicaid Expansion, signed a letter urging a vote on Gail's Law, and Assembly Democrats proposed both bills as amendments to every bill on the February 18th floor voting session the day before we were told was the last day the Assembly would hold votes this year. After Assembly Republicans broke for caucus for several hours, they came back late in the evening to announce we had won, and there would be a vote on both bills the next day.

Gail's Law passed unanimously and Postpartum Medicaid Expansion passed 95-1. These laws are deeply personal for so many people and I want to thank the many Wisconsinites who shared their stories and continued to advocate for the healthcare we deserve. If you contacted me, I took your voice to the Assembly floor and hugged your emails tightly (photo below) throughout the debate, throughout the floor speeches, and as I pushed my button to vote YES in the final moment.

### For The Love of Wisconsin Women & Families

Expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to one year is a win for Wisconsin women and our families. Passing Gail's Law to provide coverage for necessary breast cancer screenings is also a win for Wisconsin women and our families. These two newly signed laws represent the common ground that serves the common good, and they are now the law of the land. Moving forward, when we know policies will prevent preventable deaths, I hope we move forward with much more urgency. There is much more important work for us to do ahead, and I am committed to writing and passing policies that serve Wisconsinites.

May we remember we can fight fights worth fighting, *and we can win*.

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Investment products are: Not deposits. Not FDIC Insured. Not guaranteed by the financial institution. Subject to risk. May Lose Value.

### Postpartum Medicaid Expansion & Gail's Law (Breast Cancer Screenings) are Signed into Law!



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<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/13/vining>

# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: State Bar of Wisconsin

Members of the Brookfield Central High School mock trial team celebrate after winning the Wisconsin High School Mock Trial State Championship on March 8 at the Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison.

## Brookfield Central Wins Mock Trial Championship

MADISON, WI — Brookfield Central High School (BCHS) won the 2026 Wisconsin High School Mock Trial State Championship on March 8, besting Madison West High School in the final round.

More than 100 teams from across Wisconsin competed in this year's tournament, beginning with 10 regional competitions and advancing to a 20-team semifinal round. BCHS will now represent Wisconsin at the National High School Mock Trial Championship, scheduled for May 7 - 9 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Team members include **Rageshri Barad, Lucia Brewer, Wyatt Brom, Julia Christian, Tess Pierce, and Josie Seiler**. The team was coached by teachers **Jon Vogt** and **Kate Kotajarv**, along with attorney coaches **Morgan Risseuw** of Grieve Law/Divergent Family Law in Brookfield and **Adam Schleis** of Gimbel Reilly Guerin & Brown LLP in Milwaukee.

"It is impossible to put into words the

dedication, effort and commitment the students had this season," Vogt said. "They not only used their intellect and personality to build their case, but poured their hearts into it as well. To be highly successful in mock trial takes countless hours on weekends, evenings and early mornings."

Vogt said the team worked together to develop both plaintiff and defense arguments while continually refining their strategy throughout the season.

The Wisconsin High School Mock Trial Program, founded in 1983, gives students the opportunity to learn about the legal system through simulated courtroom trials. Students prepare legal arguments, examine witnesses and present their cases before volunteer judges and attorneys.

The program is funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin, supporting law-related education and public service programs statewide.

## 100+ Women Who Care – MKE Metro West Celebrate 10 Years of Giving

(ELM GROVE) - Established in early 2016, 100+ Women Who Care – MKE Metro West is a giving circle that serves the entire region of Milwaukee and the Western Suburban area. The group has donated almost \$300,000 to local charities throughout the past decade.

Part of the 100 Who Care Global Alliance, a broader organization dedicated to giving, the local group gets together 3 times per year to hear presentations by selected charities. Members then vote on which organization they think is most deserving. After the charity is chosen each member contributes money accordingly.

Although only one charity receives money at each meeting, others get the chance to present their cause to the community. This can often lead to donations and resources given from outside the group and is an

important marketing tool resulting in increased visibility.

"We have raised \$298,243 and every penny of that has gone back into our community; 34 donations to 30 different charities" said 100+ Women Who Care founder **Jane Condon**.

Some of the recipients include **Grace Landing of Brookfield, Family Promise of Waukesha County, and FOOD Pantry of Waukesha County**.

"Our group's donations provide direct and unrestricted funding which is really important for the non-profit sector," said Condon. "The money from 100+ Women Who Care can be directed to whatever need is most urgent in their organization."

On May 5, 100+ WWC-MMW will celebrate 10 years with a special meeting. The Anniversary meeting is a 10-year review as well as an introduction to the group. It is open to both inquiring and current members. The event will be held at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub in Elm Grove, which has been the venue sponsor and partner since the group was established.

"It's going to be a great opportunity for anyone that would like to come and learn more about 100 Women, more about how to get your charity involved, and just help us celebrate a decade of giving," said Condon.

Those interested in more information about 100+ Women Who Care – MKE Metro West can visit the website at [www.100wvcmetrowest.org](http://www.100wvcmetrowest.org)

## Elm Grove Woman's Club's 56th Annual Art Scholarship Competition, May 7<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>

Public Open House, Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

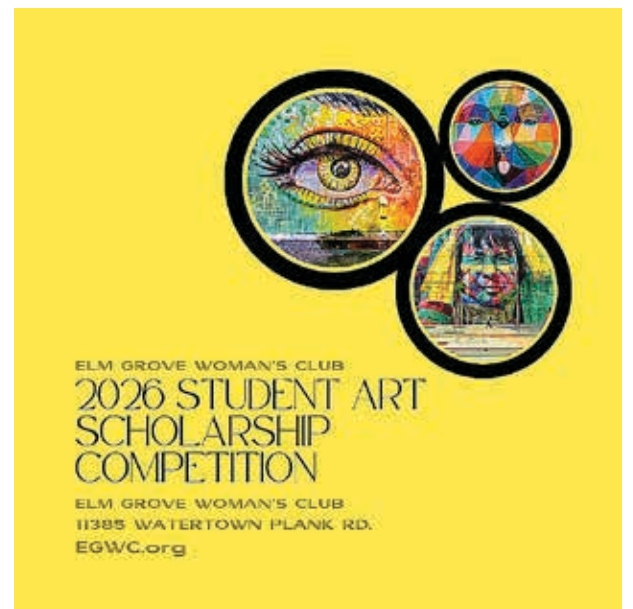
The Elm Grove Woman's Club (EGWC) invites all high school students who reside in Elm Grove OR attend high school in Brookfield to enter the competition.

This year the EGWC will award ONE \$2,000 scholarship to a high school senior artist and ONE \$500 art grant to a winning student artist in grades 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>.

Each participant will submit TWO pieces of original artwork. Artwork can include paintings, drawings, sculpture, and textile art. Each student entrant will receive feedback from credible professional artists.

On Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 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, a \$300 monetary prize to the winning artist. All participants are eligible for the People's Choice Award.

Visit the EGWC's website by May 1<sup>st</sup> to register for this exciting scholarship opportunity. <https://www.egwc.org/events/2026-student-art-scholarship-competition>



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Call: (262) 782-6193



## Library News and Programs

April 2026

13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122

262-782-6717 | [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org)

### First Friday Films: *Hamnet* / Friday, April 10, 1:00 p.m.



First Friday Films will take place on the second Friday of April due to the election on April 7. This month we will be showing *Hamnet* based on the 2020 book by Maggie O'Farrell.

Film description: After losing their son Hamnet to plague, Agnes and William Shakespeare grapple with grief in 16th-century England. A healer, Agnes must find strength to care for her surviving children while processing her devastating loss. Starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. PG-13. 2h5m.

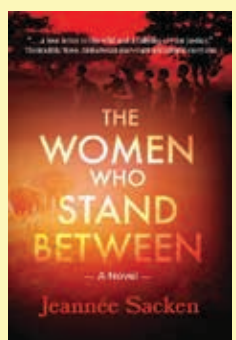
### The Unexpected Terrible Beauty of Dali / Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone Symposium, this wonderful art history program explores the fascinating and dreamlike world of Salvador Dalí, one of the most original artists of the 20th century. The program follows Dalí's life from his early years in Spain to his rise as a leading figure in the Surrealist movement, showing how his interest in dreams, imagination, science, and the mysteries of the mind shaped his art.



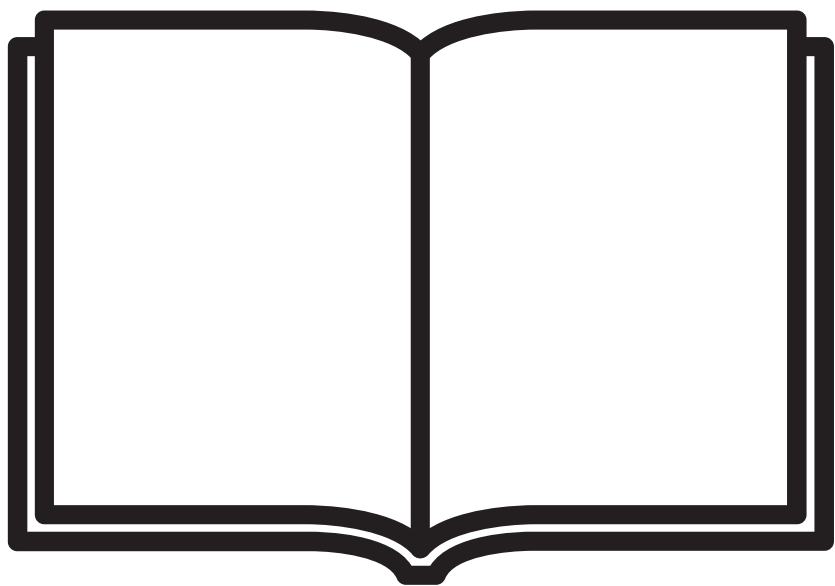
Known for his famous melting clocks and strange, detailed landscapes, Dalí combined realistic painting techniques with surprising and sometimes bizarre images. His work invites viewers to question what is real and what comes from the imagination. Both a brilliant artist and a master of self-promotion, Dalí created unforgettable images that continue to spark curiosity and conversation today. This is the fourth lecture in a five-part series, "The Push and Pull of the Soul." Mark your calendar for the final presentation (5/12: Bosch). Free to attend. No registration required.

### SAFARI! / Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.



Join us for SAFARI!, a captivating 50-minute multimedia presentation with author and photographer Jeannee Sacken. Featuring stunning wildlife photography captured during her recent travels to Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia, this engaging program takes you deep into the heart of Africa. As she shares the stories behind the images, Jeannee reveals how her real-life adventures inspire and shape her fiction. The presentation concludes with time for audience Q&A, offering a chance to dive deeper into her creative process and travels. Copies of her novel *The Women Who Stand Between* will be available for purchase. Free to attend. No registration required.

My **JOY** at the  
Elm Grove Library is...



National Library Week · April 19–25, 2026

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Please fill out/color and return to the Elm Grove Library by April 18<sup>th</sup> for display during National Library Week!

# Young Writers

## My Favorite Color

By Louisa LoCoco

3rd Grade-St. Mary's Visitation Parish School

What's my favorite color?  
I cannot say.  
There are so many colors,  
just one wouldn't be okay.  
I don't have a favorite color, can't you see?  
Not one color is just right for me.



Yellow's too bright.  
Blue is too sad.  
And red make me very mad.  
Black gives me a fright  
in the darkness of the night.  
And pink makes me too glad.

Because rainbow has all the colors:  
red, orange, yellow, and blue—  
all of the beautiful colors,  
I hope you like it too!

Because whenever I see rainbow  
At the end there is a big gold nugget!

"But what about rainbow?"  
I said with a shout.  
Rainbow makes me feel something,  
I just can't figure it out.

Rainbow is a perfect color.  
Everyone should love it.  
Because whenever I see rainbow  
At the end there is a big gold nugget!

The flyer shown below was created by **Elizabeth Black** (7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Pilgrim Park Middle School) from the BUILD 44199 Team.



Watch robotics teams score points at high speeds and compete for a chance at the WORLD championship!



Info here



Brookfield East Apr 18-19, 2026

Check out a Wisconsin-infused FIRST Lego League post season event!



Info here



Brookfield East Apr 18, 2026

## Find Your JOY at the Elm Grove Public Library During National Library Week, April 19–25, 2026

What brings you joy? Whether it's cozying up with a good book, learning a new skill, gathering with community or something else, you can find your joy at the Elm Grove Public Library. National Library Week is a time to celebrate the many ways libraries bring people together, spark imagination, and support lifelong learning. From books and digital resources to job assistance and creative programming, libraries are essential to thriving communities.

The Friends of the Elm Grove Library (FOEGL) would like to invite everyone to join the celebration! Whether you're a longtime patron, a new neighbor, or haven't visited in a while, now is the perfect time to explore all the library has to offer. Our library provides so much more than books; whatever brings you joy, there's a good chance you can find it at the library!

### Join us for special National Library Week programming:

- **Color & complete the "Library Joy" flyer in this newspaper** & drop it off at the library for display during National Library Week – now through Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>
- **Check out our Village Hall Display Window** – April 13-25<sup>th</sup>, Library Foyer
- **Adult Painting Craft** – Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:00pm, Village Hall Community Room

Attendees will have the opportunity to paint a landscape paver brick to look like their favorite book! Painted pavers can be taken home or can be given to FOEGL to be displayed in the library garden. All supplies will be provided.

- **FOEGL Information Table** – Take Action for Libraries Day, Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00am-1:00pm, Library Foyer *Meet members of the FOEGL board, learn more about the various ways the Friends of the Elm Grove Library support the Elm Grove Library, and find out how you can become a FOEGL member!*

First celebrated in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country each April. For more information about National Library Week events, visit [www.friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org](http://www.friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org) or follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

# Young Writers & Reporters

## Going Tubing

By Nicholas Dobbe, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

It was a lovely day. I was going to a cabin to go tubing. The drive there was a few hours and when we got there, we put our stuff away for tubing. The Next Day - When we woke up we played till mom said "Let's go tubing." First, we put our swimsuits on and found our life jackets. Then, blew the tube up. Finally, we tied the tube on.

"Let's go" and we were off Jack, me, Brynnd, Charlet and Lidia switched off. I was in the middle, so I most likely did not fall off but I was still scared. There were big bumps, really big. Whenever we flipped, mom laughed.

## How to Make a Lemonade Stand

By Eliza Linn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever wanted to make the most amazing lemonade stand in the universe? Read this if you want to learn how. You will need: lemonade, sugar, water, ice cubes, a pitcher, a stand, spoon and cups.

First, buy a stand from Walmart or Costco. Next, pour water, sugar and squeeze the lemon juice into the pitcher. Add ice cubes and stir well.

Then, set up the stand on the driveway or sidewalk. After that, add the cups and pour the lemonade. Finally, open your hand and make some money. Don't forget to teach others! Have fun.

## How to Grow a Tree

By Holden Phelan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever grown a tree? Growing a tree can be easy! Follow these steps to grow a terrific tree! You will need: a tree, light, water and a watering can. First, get the tree. You can buy them at any plant store. Next, put your tree in a sunny spot or window. Make sure the window doesn't get blocked by anything. Then, water your plant every week if you don't want your plant to die. After that, check on your plan every day to make sure it is healthy. Last, wait until your tree grows big. Then you can move it outside. Congrats! Now you know how to grow a terrific tree! You should show others!



## When I Got My Two Dogs

By Hayden Westgate  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever got to hold a tiny puppy? First, I hopped in the car on a sunny afternoon. The drive was 45 minutes until we got the dog. I was surprised to get our two dogs, but I really wanted to be there. I waited patiently. I was excited to hold him! I hopped out of the car to hold our new puppy. I saw him and he was so cute. Tate was our dog! He was so happy to go home with us. I was prepared to hold him. My dad got the paper to pay for our puppy. We got in the car and my mom was holding him. He was scratching my mom, so I took him to play with him. I was so happy to have our dog.

## Baseball

By Ryan Kelly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Buckets of fun  
Amazing  
Super  
Epic  
Breaking news  
American  
Loads of fun  
Loads of cheers



## Personal Finance: 529 Planning -The Basics

By Future Wealth Foundation\*

\*A registered non-profit, started by a Brookfield East student and his friends, that advocates for personal financial awareness. *Disclaimer:* This is not financial advice. It is meant for educational purposes only.

529 planning refers to the use of a tax-advantaged education savings account designed to help families save for future education expenses. Named after Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, a 529 plan allows money to grow over time and be withdrawn tax-free when used for qualified education expenses such as tuition, fees, books, and certain room and board costs. Rather than relying solely on loans or out-of-pocket payments, 529 plans help families prepare in advance for rising education costs.

One of the most important features of 529 plans is their tax advantage. Contributions are made with after-tax dollars, but the investments grow tax-deferred, and withdrawals for qualified expenses are federally tax-free. Many states also offer state tax deductions or credits for contributions. Like other investments, 529 plans typically offer a range of investment options, including age-based portfolios that automatically become more conservative as the beneficiary approaches college age.

Time horizon plays a critical role in 529 planning. Starting early allows contributions to benefit from compound growth over many years. The longer the money is invested, the more opportunity it has to grow, helping offset the impact of tuition inflation. As the beneficiary gets closer to using the funds, portfolios are often adjusted to reduce risk and preserve savings.

Finally, successful 529 planning requires consistency and clear goals. Making regular contributions, reviewing investment allocations periodically, and understanding qualified expenses are key habits that help maximize the plan's benefits. By planning ahead and maintaining a disciplined approach, a 529 plan can be a powerful tool to reduce the financial burden of higher education and create greater opportunities for future success.

## How to Play Basketball

By Logan Springstead  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

If you want to be the best basketball player in town you should read this! You will need a basketball, a basketball hoop, a friend, and yourself. You can get the ball and hoop at Dick's. First, get a friend, a hoop and a basketball. Then you and your friend can start to dribble around and pass the ball a bit. Next, you and your friend can start to shoot around. When you think you are good at it you can start to play a 1v1 game to 15 points. Then, you will get a piece of chalk and start to draw lines on the court. You will need a three-point line, a free throw line, an out of bounds line and a half court line. After that, get at least five more friends to play a big game. Make sure you have even teams. Make sure you have the same amount of players on each side. Last, these are the rules. You have to play no more than two steps with the ball in your hands. No goaltending, no carries, and try not to foul or else the other team gets to shoot two free throws. Don't forget to have fun!

## Letter to My Family

By Stella, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Dear Mom, Aubrey and Dad,

I think I should get Aubrey's room and bed. First, I will learn how to clean my room more often because I will have a smaller space. My room is really close to the hallway so you do not have to yell at her to come downstairs. My classmate Calvin said that it would be fair because he has an older sibling and his room feels big to him and he's the smallest.

How would you feel if you were Aubrey trapped in that small room and you wanted a bigger room? Plus, Aubrey wants a bigger room. She would have more space and have a big closet. My friend Teddy said that it is fair because he is the youngest and he agrees that we do not need a lot of space.

Let me tell you something an adult may say: the youngest may have more toys. I disagree because they will get rid of them eventually. Another reason why I should get Aubrey's room and bed is because Aubrey would have more room to practice her plays. She does a lot of plays and needs more space. She would also have more space for sleepovers. My friend Arabelle said she agrees because she has a sister and her sister has a bigger room than her.

You may think that my sister can practice her plays in the kitchen. I disagree because what if I don't want to hear her sing? Aubrey, Mom, and Dad after hearing these reasons I hope you agree that I should get Aubrey's small room and bed.

## Friends

By Odette Walker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

FRIENDS  
You can always count on them.  
FRIENDS  
The sort of people that you want to be with.  
FRIENDS  
They are there  
when you need them the most.  
FRIENDS  
The best ones yet!

## Spring

By Henry Rouleau, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Tonawanda

Spring rain drops dropping on the leaves  
wet grass rain pouring hard  
flowers blossom  
When it is over animals come out,  
worms get moist,  
toads and frogs drink with their skin  
  
Birds get worms for their young  
Some animals stay inside so they don't die  
from wet rain everywhere.  
Now it is calm.



## Timothy the Duck

By Max Kuehn  
Brookfield Academy - Level 6

Once there was Timothy the duck  
Who raced his friend, a goose called Chuck  
They raced to the sun  
The duck was number one  
But when he reached it, he ran out of luck

## Limerick

By Taj Sidhu  
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

There was once a kid with a kite,  
Who flew from Morning to Night.  
It zoomed past the trees,  
Did loops in the breeze,  
And sparkled with colors so bright

## When I Broke My Arm

By Felix Ark, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

It hurt really bad after I fell.  
It was after noon when they fell off them.  
I got home  
I snuggled my cat for a long time.  
I watched TV with my cat  
who was sleeping on my lap!  
  
I got a cast  
My family went to the hospital for an x-ray.  
The doctor said  
that I need a cast on my arm to heal.  
Without a doubt they said!

## Spring Is Here

By Sasha D'Souza  
Level 7 - Brookfield Academy

I wake up today  
It looks like May  
All the frost on the window  
All the snow on the ground  
Is all brown now  
The sky no longer  
looks like muddy hay bale  
But instead a nice pale blue  
The birds fill the sky with sound  
The trees shine with health  
The sun beats down  
As a slight breeze comes in  
Winter is gone  
And spring is here

## Bird Cry

By Hebela Ayalew  
Level 7 - Brookfield Academy

A bird cries  
I have not heard that in so long  
My heart, like that bird, begins to fly  
I've been given that sweet bird's song

The bleak winter had been testing  
It had me crawl into hibernating  
The snow had been festering  
On a wound of pain, agitating

But after that bird cried  
I felt a release  
The pain in me died  
The darkness has ceased

The spring has crept in  
Chasing away my fears  
And with that cry, that win  
My eyes have become clear

I fly with that bird  
I have been lifted into the sky  
And ever since I've heard  
I have been made anew,  
that sweet bird's cry

## Storms

By Sanvitha Madireddi  
Level 7 - Brookfield Academy

Waves crash against the cold rocks  
More rain clouds head this way  
The rain drops sound like drums beating  
Lightning strikes thunder clasps  
Everything shakes  
The lights go out  
Candles are lit  
As I look out the window,  
small clumps of ice start to fall  
Hail is plummeting everywhere  
Like stones from the sky  
Waves get higher  
Rain and hail pour from the sky  
And more clouds drift by  
Then all of a sudden it stops  
The waves, rain, and hail  
The sea is calm again

## A Letter

By Colin Dugan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda  
Dear Mom and Dad,

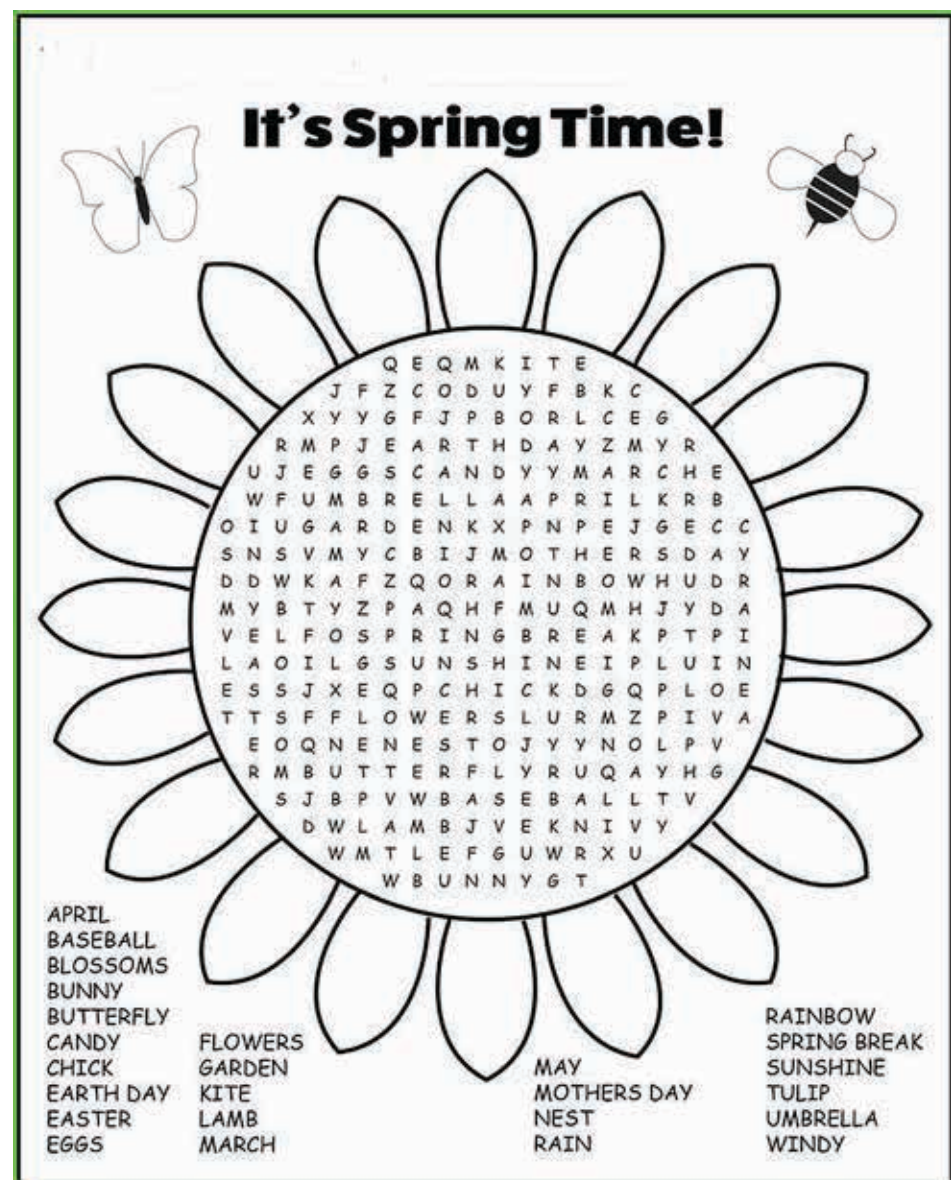
I think we should get a hamster! First, I think it would help me become more responsible and it would teach me a life lesson. I could feed the hamster. My friend Henry said it would be fun to play with the hamster.

How would you like it if there was not a fluffy hamster in your room? Plus, it would be less boring in the summer. For example, getting a hamster will help me because I won't be as lazy. I would be interacting with my hamster. They are fun and entertaining animals. Some people may say, your dog will eat it, but I disagree because it has a cage to keep it nice and safe.

Plus, they are so cute. They have chubby cheeks. They are so small. My friend Emmitt said they are cuddly and snuggly. Some people may say they are messy. I disagree because I will clean the cage. After hearing these reasons Mom and Dad, I hope you agree with me that we should get a hamster.

Your son, Colin

# Coloring for Kids (of ALL ages!)



# Letters to the Editor

Letters (100 words max. from an individual OR 150 words max. from multiple signers) regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space-available basis. Submissions must include each writer's name, community of residence, phone #.

E-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) (Subject line: Letters / Editor)  
OR Mail: EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122

## Vote: Theis, Roskopf & Wheeler for Elmbrook School Board

After watching all six candidates at the recent school board forum (at the Elm Grove Woman's Club, March 11), the strongest choices were unmistakable. I'm excited to vote for Elizabeth Theis (At Large), Jennifer Roskopf (Area 3), and Scott Wheeler (Area 1). They were the most informed, prepared, and committed to the significant work ahead --- especially the major facilities planning facing the next board. Their long-standing volunteer service in the School District of Elmbrook shows they'll be ready to lead from day one. We are fortunate to have such qualified, dedicated candidates on the ballot to serve our school community.

Katie Rasoul - Brookfield

## Natural Resources Are Important

Across Wisconsin, our natural resources make our communities special places to call home. From lakes and rivers to parks and farmland, these spaces bring people together and support local economies.

Families are increasingly concerned about water quality, contamination, and long-term environmental health. Clean water protects public health, supports agriculture, and sustains thriving communities.

Neighbors want safe drinking water, families want to enjoy lakes without worry, and local leaders are tackling challenges like PFAS contamination.

We have an opportunity to invest in water protection, support conservation, and partner with communities. Doing so strengthens our economy, safeguards health, and keeps Wisconsin moving forward.

Amy Zimmermann, Brookfield

## Library Book Sale a Major Success

The Used Book Sale Crew of the Friends of the Elm Grove Library wish to thank all of our wonderful supporters. Whether you traveled a few blocks or many miles it was much appreciated. We had book lovers from all over the area and as far away as La Crosse!

Thanks to such a great turnout and all the volunteers who helped set up and take down, displayed yard signs, or took shifts, **we were able to raise over \$23,000.** These funds will be used by the library to support its programs and material collections. Keep traveling to your library to enjoy all that it has to offer.

We take donations of books, cds, DVDs, puzzles, and vinyl all year long. Drop them off at the library. Our annual Mini sale is on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. At our March 5-7, 2027 sale, we will be celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Come and help us celebrate!

Carla Stensberg and Kathy Tusing

## Elect Elizabeth Theis to School Board At-Large Seat

We have an excellent opportunity to elect a rock-solid candidate to the Elmbrook School Board. I urge you to vote for Elizabeth Theis on April 7.

She is a committed and active Elmbrook parent. Her background as a civil engineer equips her with valuable expertise as the district begins a 20-year facility study.

Most of all, she is a moderate, independent, sensible thinker who will act with integrity for our community.

Our board will flourish with local support of apolitical candidates like Elizabeth Theis who think and speak for her constituents.

Laurel Leahy, Elm Grove

## Enter a Virtual Prayer Room for Peace



SSND Shalom North America offers a virtual prayer space for peace every Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST (9 a.m. to 9 p.m. CST). School Sisters of Notre Dame, their Associates, and friends can enter a peaceful space to unite for the needs of the world by using this link: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/hPdUcdR6Op9>

# MR. HUGH'S HISTORY by Drew Sternitzky @mrhughshistory on Instagram



# News Briefs

## Elmbrook Students Impressive in Literary Competitions

Students across the Elmbrook schools earned statewide recognition for their passion for reading, creativity, and collaboration through two Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA) programs: Battle of the Books and the WEMTA Book Trailer Contest.

A team from Pilgrim Park Middle School (PPMS) achieved an impressive third-place finish at the statewide Battle of the Books competition, competing against 196 teams from across Wisconsin. The team read 20 books throughout the season, beginning preparations in October, and demonstrated exceptional recall during the quiz-style competition—missing only five questions overall out of 40 total questions.

The PPMS team included **Jack Vaidy, Lilly Meyer, Asher Koch, and Pozhilini Kannan**, with **Sifat Bhatia and Elizabeth Black** serving as alternates. Brookfield East's Team placed 4th with members **Evelyn Roush, Eleanor Grogan, Jaydalynn Sutrick, and Jordan Wald**. Additionally, Dixon Elementary's Battle of the Books team The Wordy Lemonheads (**Lilah Gantner,**

**Elliana Bader, Cora Wesley, Cooper Dress**) took 8th out of 235 teams across the state and received an Honors Club designation.

The WEMTA Book Trailer Contest, challenges students to produce short videos designed to promote and celebrate books. In the Elementary (Grades 3–5) category, Swanson Elementary School students **Sawyer DePons and Anahita Varma** earned first place, while **Everly Waitrovich and Zoe Frechette** also represented Swanson with a third-place finish.

Brookfield East High School students **Mason Braley, Evelyn Roush, Kiera Rauch, Akshara Reddy Alwala, Helena Baxter, Jordan Wald, Eleanor Grogan, Leah Lor, and Jaydalynn Sutrick** earned second place, while **Colette Pflanz** of Brookfield Central High School secured third place. The student filmmakers were supported by Elmbrook library educators **Colleen Fenno Ladwig, Megan Theys, and Sara Field**, whose coaching helped guide students through the creative process of adapting stories into engaging visual trailers.

# Green is Good!

By The Elm Grove Green Team

### Simple Steps for Smarter Lighting and Spring Lawns

The return of migrating birds is an early sign of spring. Beginning in March, many species travel at night, guided by the moon and stars as they make their long journeys north. However, outdoor lighting on homes and businesses can increase their likelihood of fatal collisions or exhaustion. Bright outdoor lighting can disorient migrating birds and draw them off course. Light that spills upward and outward also wastes energy and raises electricity bills without improving human safety.

Reducing light pollution cuts energy waste, lowers costs, and helps birds travel safely through our community. Small changes like shielded fixtures, warmer bulbs, and timers or motion sensors direct light where needed and turn it off when not. Want email reminders from Lights Out Wisconsin to turn off nonessential lights during peak migration? Sign up at <https://www.lightsoutwi.org/>.

### Give Pollinators and Waterways a Break

As spring arrives, our lawns need patience, not quick fixes. Remember that spring rains wash excess nutrients and chemicals into storm drains, creeks, and lakes, fueling algae growth and harming fish. Grass roots are still developing, so give them time before adding fertilizer and pesticides—or skip them this year. Leave grass taller and mow less in early spring to let dandelions and clover feed emerging pollinators.

### Get Ready!

**Drive-Through RECYCLING DAY returns to Elm Grove on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon in the Pilgrim Park Middle School parking lot.**

Spring clean smarter by recycling and donating more, tossing less.

(See AD – Page 12)

**★★★★★**

## HELP ELM GROVE

### Defend the trophy!

The 2026 SEWISC Pull-a-thon has begun!

**Garlic Mustard** is an invasive plant that's taking over our woodlands. It crowds out native wildflowers and endangers forests by preventing tree and plant seedlings from growing.

**Dame's Rocket**, another invasive species, can be pulled and bagged along with garlic mustard during the competition, giving each team the extra pounds we call a Rocket Boost!

**Submit your removal efforts here for inclusion on our teams totals**

**None to pull? Consider a donation to our team!**

QUESTIONS? EMAIL [EGBEAUTIFICATION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EGBEAUTIFICATION@GMAIL.COM)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <h4>Midwest Computer Recycling</h4> <p>Computers (and accessories and printers), home appliances (refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, etc.), home electronics, power tools, power supplies, grills, heat pumps, lawnmowers, snowblowers, eyeglasses, hearing aids, phones, car batteries, rechargeable batteries, scanners, cameras, circuit boards and servers.</p> <p>TVs: \$20 charge<br/>CRTs: \$10 charge<br/>Exercise equipment and microwaves: \$5 charge</p>   | <h4>Habitat for Humanity</h4> <p><b>Wish list:</b> end tables, coffee tables, night stands, console tables, lighting (not fluorescent), housewares, knick knacks, small appliances, art work, home décor, hand tools, power tools, vacuums, framed mirrors, books, dressers, dining sets, sofas, recliners, chairs (furniture should be free of rips, stains and sun damage and not have patterned upholstery)</p> <p><b>Cannot accept:</b> sleeper sofas, large entertainment centers, armoires, hospital beds, pool tables, pianos, marble vanity tops, mattresses and box springs, hazardous chemicals, paints and stains, window treatments, guns and ammunition, tires, infant and toddler items, TVs, granite, commercial doors, hollow core doors, unframed glass and mirrors, used light bulbs, fluorescent light bulbs, storm windows, ladders, low efficiency toilets, clothing, exercise equipment, broken electronics.</p> |
| <h4>Goodwill</h4> <p>Home décor, functioning small appliances, housewares, tools, lamps, games, toys, sports equipment, DVDs, CDs, vinyl, clothing, lawn and garden equipment.</p> <p><b>Cannot accept:</b> Furniture, large exercise equipment, CRT TVs, CRT monitors, plumbing or building materials, pianos or organs, household chemical products, automotive hazardous waste, large appliances, personal care items, fragrance items, carpet/carpet padding, weapons, cribs, car seats, walkers or other baby products.</p> | <h4>Wisconsin Bike Federation</h4> <p>All unwanted bikes and bike parts will be donated, repaired, repurposed, or used. Bring it all!</p>  |
| <h4>FOEGL</h4> <p><i>The Elm Grove Library is the ultimate recycler!</i></p> <p><b>Wanted:</b> books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl</p> <p><b>Cannot accept:</b> textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines</p>  | <h4>Milwaukee Textile Recycling</h4> <p>Bring all your textiles that need a new home (old sheets, towels, rags, worn-out clothing, etc.). Make sure they're clean, dry and bagged.</p>   |
| <h2>THANK YOU!</h2>  |  |

## Local Project Benefits Community

By The Elm Grove Beautification Committee

The Pull-a-thon is on...and our community is the defending champions! How did we win the 2025 traveling trophy? It was a combination of engaging with school aged children, raising funds to assist SEWISC (SE WI Invasive Species Consortium) in their 8-county goal of invasive species education and control, and pulling 2179.8 pounds of garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket! Makes it sound as if there must not be any left within the mere 3.28 square miles of our community, right? Unfortunately, there is a reason these two species are targeted for removal efforts--they truly are invasive!

### Top 5 things you can do to help us defend our trophy:

- Pull all of the garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket from your property and report your totals (can be anonymous!) on this form: <https://forms.gle/gU6X98gfNQ6F9hGD9> or by scanning the QR code on the flyer.
- Assist a neighbor, friend, or relative who may not know how to ID garlic mustard or Dame's Rocket--point out the importance of getting it removed. Don't forget to add totals to our spreadsheet.
- Hire someone to remove it for you (reach out if you need a recommendation!) and assure the weight or volume gets recorded on our form.
- Join in one of the Elm Grove Invasive Species Task Force meet ups! We meet for just ONE HOUR each week to get as much removed as we can in a short time! Email us at [Beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:Beautification@elmgrovewi.org).
- Consider a small donation to our team here: <https://sewisc.org/garlic-mustard-pull-a-thon/pull-a-thon-teams/elm-grove> or by scanning the QR code on the flyer.

# News' Hounds

& other beloved animals

## Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Meet **Spot!** Spot is a happy, high-energy puppy with a heart full of love and a tail that never stops wagging! This sweet boy is always ready for fun and would thrive in an active household that can keep up with his playful spirit. He absolutely loves other dogs and would be over the moon to have a canine buddy to romp around with. Because of his enthusiasm and bouncy play style, Spot would do best in a home without small children. He's still learning his manners and may be a bit too much for little ones. Like any puppy, he'll benefit from continued training and structure to help him grow into the best boy he can be. If you're looking for a sweet, energetic pup to join you on life's adventures, Spot is ready to run straight into your heart.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Spot

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



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**BROOKFIELD BIRD BONANZA**

DAY: Saturday, APRIL 25th  
TIME: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
PLACE: WB� Brookfield Parking Lot  
19555 W Bluemound Rd STE 4

Please join **Wild Birds Unlimited of Brookfield** for the **Brookfield Bird Bonanza**, a fun, family-friendly event featuring local and regional organizations that share our passion for conservation.

This is our chance to introduce you to these fantastic groups with a day of education, idea sharing, activities, and community.



Our store is open normal hours on event day  
Plaza parking will be open outside event space



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A check for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Start planning now for the... 

**DRIVE-THRU RECYCLE EVENT**

Saturday, April 25th  
9:00am – 12:00pm  
**Pilgrim Park Middle School**  
1500 Pilgrim Parkway, Elm Grove

Electronics/Computers    Bikes and Parts    Textiles  
Books/CDs/DVDs    Goodwill    Habitat for Humanity

**Save time and reduce emissions by recycling all in one place!**

A full list of acceptable donations can be found in the *Green Is Good* section.  
Information brought to you by your neighbor and real estate expert:



**Debra Baesemann**  
MS, JD, Sales Associate | GREEN certified  
Part of the Dunn & Dunn Jones Real Estate Team  
414.254.9890  
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