



Elm Grove NEWS- INDEPENDENT



Vol. 16 No. 12

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

August 2026

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / The News-Independent

HIGHLAND DRIVE PATHWAY PROJECT signage. See story in Village Update – Page 3.

On the Ballot...

Election – August 11th

This is a Partisan Primary election (Republican, Democratic, Constitution, Libertarian, and Wisconsin Green parties). You may only vote within one political party.

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Elm Grove residents vote at Village Hall, 13600 Juneau Blvd. in the lower level. The building is ADA compliant. Bring your photo ID.



Additional Voting opportunities in August, prior to Election Day

****In-person absentee voting at Village Hall on Monday – Thursday - August 3, 4, 5, and 6 (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and Friday, August 7 (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)** ****Dates will be updated closer to the election. Call the Village at (262) 782-6700 for the latest information.**

Candidates on the Elm Grove ballot include those for Wisconsin Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Representative in Congress – District 5; State Senator – District 5; State Representative to Assembly – District 13; Waukesha County Sheriff, and Waukesha County Clerk of Circuit Court.

Visit: <https://MyVote.wi.gov>.

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in the Park!*

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VOTE AMY ZIMMERMAN

DEMOCRAT FOR WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 13

A community leader, mom, project manager, and small business owner, with more than 15 years experience solving complex problems. Amy has a plan for:

- Funding schools and supporting working families
- Tackling the healthcare crisis and improving quality of life
- Making Wisconsin friendly to small businesses

**AMY
ZIMMERMAN**

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BY AUG 11, 2026**
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"I Know Where You Live!"



Elisabeth
Passalis-Bain

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Bear With members **Brian Smith** (at left), **Sarah Wynia-Smith** and **David Melby-Gibbons**.

PROFILE: *Bear With*, a local band with an Elm Grove connection Our Story...

By Sarah Wynia-Smith

We’re an indie-folk-rock trio (2/3 of whom are EG residents). All of us are multi-instrumentalists and vocalists and often switch instruments through the course of a song (**David Melby-Gibbons** juggling the guitar, electric guitar, ukulele, and singing; **Sarah Wynia-Smith** with keyboard, horns, hand percussion, and vocals; and **Brian Smith** on bass, guitar, cello, and vocals). We perform whimsical covers of feel-good classics and pop songs with deep vocal harmonies, and we also write our own songs.

Elm Grove’s Got a Song

I’m quite excited about one of the newest songs that I wrote, which we debuted in Elm Grove this summer.

The song is called *In the Magic Grove*. It’s about - you guessed it - our magical Elm Grove. Long ago, I noticed that the names of many Elm Grove streets sound like they belong in a fairytale land. So, I fashioned a mystical tale using those names as a jumping-off point. In total, the lyrics weave in 43 references to Elm Grove streets, schools, and other Elm Grove landmarks, Sarah explained.

We’ve already recorded and released another locally inspired song (available on all major streaming platforms) called *Mama Rosa (In Wauwatosa)*. I wrote that song about the giant troll sculpture (“Mama Rosa”) over in Wauwatosa’s new Firefly Grove Park. We debuted *Mama Rosa (In Wauwatosa)* at Firefly Grove during our August 2025 performance at their Food Truck Friday series.

Upcoming Performance

Friday, August 14, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Elm Grove Beer Garden at Village Park.



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* **I/We want to help sponsor *The News-Independent*:**

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* Additional contribution = \$ _____

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





September 10 - 27, 2026



September 21 - 22, 2026



October 16 - 18, 2026

Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President – jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org

As the calendar turns to August, what a great time to enjoy the outdoors, hopefully with some moderating temperatures. As a reminder, the library has a limited supply of guest passes to the Milwaukee Zoo, day passes to state parks and other activities. Also, in the event of mechanical issues at home with an air conditioning breakdown or other situations, be aware the library may be a great place to explore and stay cool while repairs are made. Many thanks to Village Staff, the Elm Grove Community Foundation and community members for volunteering and making the 250TH 4th of July celebration a special event. The fireworks were amazing and the event sets the stage for another 250 years for our great nation.

Pedestrian Safety

As we remain vigilant to improve the safety for all residents walking, biking or using electric forms of transportation, I have been asked how residents should communicate “close call” events for follow-up and possible action. The Public Safety Committee needs facts and data to formulate next steps and action. As any unsafe conditions or events are observed, please report these events to dispatch at the Police department number at 262-786-4141. I have asked for a monthly update to the Board on events reported to monitor any trends or safety concerns to help define next steps.

Outreach Event

The Elm Grove Police Department will be hosting the inaugural “Cops and Bobbers” event on August 5th. The event will host 31 youth participants who will spend the



morning fishing and building positive relationships with our officers. Fishing is followed by lunch and sharing fish stories. Special thanks to the nine officers and staff members for volunteering their time to make this event possible. Many thanks to numerous businesses and community organizations for sponsoring this event, which we hope to make an annual tradition.

Fire Department Investment

The Village has placed a purchase order for a new 3,600-gallon water tender truck to maintain the service capability of the Fire Department. The new unit, with a 2026 engine emission package, replaces a 30-year-old piece of equipment which I had the opportunity to drive last fall. The importance of the emission package is that this package has been in service and tested for many years. Subsequent to 2026, all new large diesel trucks will require new designed engines with limited road testing to meet emission standards. Your Village also over the past 2 years has purchased plow trucks with this same engine package.

Public Works Update

*Daylighting of Underwood Creek

Progress continues to grind forward. The first issue to be addressed is concerns from the Operations team at Soo Line regarding the impact of the Project on the Railroad. In an encouraging sign of progress, Soo Line engineers and the Village, with its Design Engineers, met on-site towards the end of July. The objective is to address all concerns from an operations perspective at this time and develop any required corrective design actions. We can then move on to any Easements needed by Soo Line to support their operations and finally the price of the land acquisition. I view this as very positive step to get everyone on-site to truly see the project scope in person rather than via zoom calls and google maps.

***Highland Pathway.** Construction on the Highland Pathway has commenced. Observers may comment that the contractors are bouncing around the project corridor and not completing work as logically as one would expect. The Project is requiring much more coordination with utility and service providers than expected. Committed dates from We Energies and cable and fiber providers have not been met. Various other “emergency” projects have been prioritized in front of their work on Highland. This has caused our contractors to be creative and work in areas where utility work has been completed. The good news is that by the end of July all the utility work should be completed, and the project can increase in speed towards completion in September. Please adhere to the road closed and detour routes posted as these actions improve the safety of the area during construction and significantly reduces the overall project timelines. In addition, additional enforcement in the area has increased to help monitor and enforce these restrictions, including data gathering from the speed trailer deployed.

Travis Brush, our project manager from KL Engineering, and Village Staff have been working with residents to listen, and where possible, work with residents along the pathway to answer questions related to the impact of the Pathway. The Public Works Committee has made small adjustments when possible that are not cost prohibitive to address resident concerns.

The Village’s annual road improvement paving will commence at the end of August and into September. The Public Works team is currently working on culvert upgrades or other improvements along the roads to be impacted.

(See Village Update – Page 9)

Report from The Capitol

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

The Future of Wisconsin Childcare

We are facing a childcare crisis. Families across Brookfield and Elm Grove know the concerns around childcare, as do the owners and operators of our local childcare centers, the staff, and the early childhood educators who care for our community’s children every week.



We know there’s a crisis–what we don’t know is if that crisis will be solved, and if so, when.

I attended a childcare roundtable in Brookfield in July. Participating were parents, educators, owners and operators of childcare centers, early childhood educators and childcare workers, candidates for state office, and myself. We discussed the challenges they’re facing, as well as the successes of past programs like Child Care Counts funding, and the more recent “Bridge” payment program.

Child Care Counts is a Covid-era program that kept many childcare centers afloat in recent years. The funding allowed for paying staff more livable wages, and kept (already high) prices from rising further. When Child Care Counts funding expired, the state budget (last July) provided a year of “Bridge” funding. Since that initiative’s expiration on June 30th, childcare centers and families across the state are bracing for impact. Without Child Care Counts or “bridge” funding, a quarter of childcare centers have said they might close, and many others will have to increase their rates.

At the roundtable I spoke with one childcare provider who said she used the Bridge payment to provide healthcare for her staff, and may have to end that practice. I spoke with another provider who said she recently lost a valuable member of her childcare team due to her inability to provide healthcare. Providers were concerned they’d need to raise rates, knowing that families are already stretched too thin—one speaker noted that in Waukesha County some families are spending about a quarter of their income on childcare.

Childcare is critical to the lives of Wisconsinites.

Child Development. Ninety percent of the brain development of children occurs during the first five years of a child’s life, so we know how valuable our early childhood educators are in the development of our youngest neighbors. We should ensure every family has access to safe, quality childcare.

Economic impact. People need childcare so they can work and support their families, and childcare access can influence whether or not Wisconsin can attract top talent. Wisconsin needs workers, and access to childcare can affect the ability to work. We should ensure Wisconsin is attracting top talent, that every Wisconsinite who wants to work can work, and that every Wisconsin family can *afford to work*.

The Workforce Behind The Workforce. Early childhood educators are involved in one of the most critical time periods of human development, they’re key to Wisconsin’s economy, and they deserve to be paid a dignified wage. I’ve spoken with childcare professionals who love their jobs, care deeply for the families they work with,

and aren’t sure if they can afford to continue the work. If they do not continue, childcare centers lose workers, classrooms close, and sometimes—the entire childcare center closes. We should ensure every early childcare educator is paid a dignified wage.

Life is really hard right now for many Wisconsinites. We are in an affordability crisis, and with childcare costs rising and centers closing, it’s becoming harder—and more expensive—for people to afford to work. As legislators, we must support childcare infrastructure in Wisconsin. We must meet this moment as families, childcare center owners and operators, early childhood educators, organizations attempting to attract top talent, employers, and more are watching, and hoping, that *it’s not a matter of if we will help, but how, and when*.

I welcome your feedback for the best solutions. I believe we must act to support childcare infrastructure in Wisconsin. Surely, we can find the common ground that serves the common good.

Forward together,
Rep. Robyn Vining
13th Assembly District

NOTE ABOUT THE RULE OF 49

Beginning June 1st, and through the November election, state legislators are prohibited from sending more than 49 identical items, so this means that we may not use state resources for items like op-eds, e-updates, newspaper columns that are printed more than 50 times, etc. So, this column, and any columns written between now and November, will be written without the use of state resources.

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



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
www.kiwaniselmgrove.org

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+ \$25 extra per photo or logo.



News Briefs

\$100 Million School Facility Referendum to be on November 3rd Election Ballot

(BROOKFIELD) – School District of Elmbrook Superintendent **Mark Hansen** recently issued the following statements to media and on the district’s website: www.elmbrookschoools.org

At its meeting on Tuesday, July 14, the Elmbrook Board of Education voted to place a \$100 million school facility (capital) referendum resolution question on the November 3 ballot. This decision will allow the Elmbrook Community to communicate its level of support for a four-school renovation, the cornerstone of our board-approved [20-Year Facilities Plan \(2026–2045\)](#).

The proposed \$100 million referendum would address the District’s most critical facility needs, determined following a months-long evaluation process:

How We Built the 20-Year Plan (August 2025 - June 2026)

- Assessed Our Buildings:**
Independent experts inspected every school, focusing on safety, maintenance, and learning spaces.
- Flagged Major Needs:**
We separated regular maintenance and improvement projects from major, high-cost projects that are too large for our annual budget.
- Applied District Standards:**
We measured every school against Elmbrook’s standard guidelines for safety, security, and classroom size, as well as analyzed short- and long-term enrollment trends to affirm the need for nine schools.
- Evaluated Possible Solutions:**
We selected industry experts to help develop concept plans, associated costs, and financing options, factoring inflation and other financial and construction risks into project estimates.
- Filtered Priorities:**
To keep costs down, we delayed lower-impact projects, prioritized renovation over new construction, and affirmed our commitment to shifting enrollments and leasing spaces for specialized programs, when possible.



- Community Feedback:**
The \$100 million, four-school renovation plan was placed on the November 3 ballot following strong community feedback from an April 2026 survey. Out of 2,941 respondents who evaluated two potential options, 67% of likely voters supported this chosen path.

By timing this investment to coincide with the retirement of debt from our 2008 high school projects, these renovations can be completed with an **estimated tax impact of \$11 per \$100,000 of property value**. Additionally, this referendum will benefit our entire district by unlocking **\$90 million in our annual operating budget and savings** over the next 15 years to help us avoid deferred maintenance and address school improvement needs across all District facilities.

Over the next three months we will invite all Elmbrook stakeholders to learn more about the facility needs, tax impact, and renovation timeline through tours, presentations, and the distribution of print and digital materials. Expect regular communication from the District as we seek to engage our entire community in this information campaign. While state law prohibits the District from advocating for or against the referendum, we are committed to providing the factual information you need to make an informed decision on November 3.



Elm Grove Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste Facility

900 Wall St. (off Elm Grove Road, between Watertown Plank & Bluemound Road)

===== **OPEN** =====

AUGUST 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.

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

In Memoriam

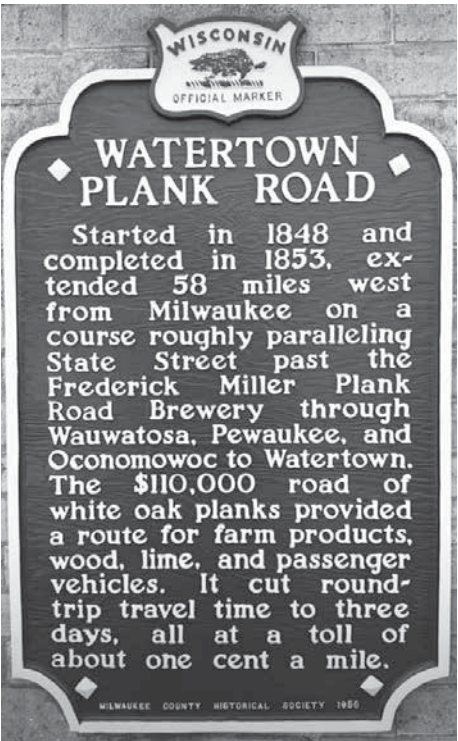
*Honor the Life
of a beloved
family member or friend.*

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Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



THE BOYS OF SUMMER: Elm Grove baseball team in 1911.



Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove

13425
Watertown Plank Road
in the
Elm Grove
Park & Shop

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784-4241**

53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Win Packers Tickets at Oktoberfest's 10th Anniversary Kickoff!

Elm Grove Oktoberfest is celebrating its tenth anniversary with an expanded three-day event from Thursday, Sept. 17 to Saturday, Sept. 19 at Elm Grove Park. The milestone celebration kicks off Thursday with two exciting new events you won't want to miss.

Compete in the Thursday Bags Tournament presented by First and Bowl for your chance to win the grand prize—a set of Green Bay Packers game tickets. Then put your knowledge to the test at Trivia Night, hosted by Jeopardy! champion Michael Falk, where teams will battle for prizes and bragging rights.

On Saturday, the popular 0.5K Fun Run returns with a race shirt, pre-race celebration, midpoint refreshment, and post-race party included with registration.

For 10 years, Oktoberfest has brought the community together with great beer, live music, delicious food, and unforgettable fun. Celebrate this milestone by registering your Bags Tournament team (2 players) and reserving your Trivia Night table (up to 6 players) using the QR code.



BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 17, 18, & 19, 2026

Calendar of Events – August 2026

Saturday – AUGUST 1

- Wauwatosa Historical Society presents the 40th Annual Firefly Art Fair at the Kneeland-Walker House, 7406 Hillcrest Drive, Wauwatosa, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<https://wauwatosahistoricalociety.org>

Sunday – AUGUST 2

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers welcome.
beautification@elmgrove.wi.us
- Wauwatosa Historical Society presents the 40th Annual Firefly Art Fair at the Kneeland-Walker House, 7406 Hillcrest Drive, Wauwatosa, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
<https://wauwatosahistoricalociety.org>

Friday – AUGUST 7

- Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Guests welcome.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
- Friday Flicks at Elm Grove Village Park 8:30 p.m., featuring “Zootopia 2”. FREE. All welcome.

Sunday – AUGUST 9

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers welcome.
beautification@elmgrove.wi.us

Monday – AUGUST 10

- Blood Drive, coordinated by Elm Grove Junior Guild / Versiti, 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Park Middle School, 1500 Pilgrim Parkway, Elm Grove. Schedule an appointment at: https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11639677
- Cruisin’ The Spur – vintage and classic car, truck and cycle show, 5 p.m. until dark in parking lot behind The Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. FREE to exhibit and attend.

Tuesday – AUGUST 11
PARTISAN PRIMARY
ELECTION

(Vote: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.)



- Tunes on Tuesday at Elm Grove Village Park, near pool; 6:30 p.m., featuring Hungry Williams Band. FREE. All welcome.

Wednesday – AUGUST 12

- Versiti Blood Drive at Elm Grove Lutheran Church, 945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. Schedule an appointment at: <https://sl1nk.com/jx8e6lf> or BloodDrive@egl.org

Thursday – AUGUST 13

- Elm Grove Sustainability Committee Meeting - 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Village Hall, Reinders Room.

Friday – AUGUST 14

- Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Charlie Koenen, BEE Evangelist. Guests welcome.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – AUGUST 16

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers welcome.
beautification@elmgrove.wi.us

Friday – AUGUST 21

- Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Guests welcome.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com



Tony Sturino: Singing Bowls Sound Bath
\$15/1 hr | Sat. Aug 22 10:30 am
Community UMC Elm Grove
www.cumceg.com/wellbeing
Register: Call (262) 782-4060
Bring mat or reclining chair, pillow, blanket

Sunday – AUGUST 23

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers needed.
beautification@elmgrove.wi.us

Tuesday – AUGUST 25

- Elm Grove Board of Trustees Public meeting: 7 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom (262) 782-6700
Agenda & Live Stream at: www.elmgrove.wi.us

Friday – AUGUST 28

- Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Pat McDevitt, Topic: Saint Mary’s Church. Guests welcome.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – AUGUST 30

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers needed.
beautification@elmgrove.wi.us



HOME GROWN
NATIONAL PARK

THE EXTRAORDINARY
CATERPILLAR

Wednesday, August 12th at 2:30pm
Elm Grove Library O’Neill Room

A FILM BY JEFF MCKAY

A peek into the dazzling world of nature’s tiniest and mightiest superheroes!

FEATURING DOUG TALLAMY, SAM JAFFEE AND DAVID WAGNER

Elmbrook Schools
Food Show

Your Voice. Your Menu. Your Future.

The Elmbrook Food & Nutrition team is going “Beta.” We are reimagining the school dining experience for the 2026-27 school year, and we need the district’s toughest critics - the students - to help us build the menu.

Join us for an exclusive, high-energy food show where you get to taste the future.

The Details:

WHEN: August 25th, 2026 | 2:00-5:00pm

WHERE: Brookfield East High School (Open to ALL District Students & Families)

WHAT: A tasting event featuring school menu favorite and new food items

What’s in it for you?

FREE SAMPLES: Be the first to try dozens of potential new menu items.

LIVE VOTING: Provide us feedback to “Buy or Bye” each item. The top-rated foods will officially join our 2026-27 rotation!

MEET THE CHEFS: Connect with the Kitchen teams who are serving students every day.

Why it matters:

In Elmbrook Food & Nutrition, we believe that academic excellence starts with what’s on your plate. This isn’t just a school meal program; it’s a culinary movement. Come help us decide what “The Future of Flavor” looks like in our district.

2ND ANNUAL
FREE
E-WASTE
RECYCLING DRIVE

Saturday, August 15th
10 AM – 2 PM
Elm Grove Park
13600 Juneau Blvd

☒ Open to Elm Grove residents, neighboring communities and businesses

☒ Moon Dog Coffee and donuts while supplies last

☒ Corded Electronics and Small Appliances

☒ CRT TVs will be accepted for a \$25 fee

Community Partners

KRUEGER COMMUNICATIONS INC. | A: 12515 KNOLL RD, ELM GROVE WI | P: 262.786.9297

News Briefs

New Life at Veterans Park: A Restoration Update

By Tyler Beckley

Restoration efforts at Veterans Park continue to move along at a steady pace as crews monitor the establishment of native vegetation.

Site visits conducted in May and June of this year have evaluated invasive species control and the success of native seed germination. The restoration followed a fall 2025 herbicide treatment and the over-seeding of native plants during the winter. The project is going to create a healthier ecosystem and improve habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

Conditions during the May inspection were quite challenging because of drought and unusually hot temperatures. As a result, few native seedlings had emerged, although established native plants such as Cup Plant began growing.

By late June, the vegetation in the area had increased substantially throughout the restoration area following a large amount of rainfall. Early native species, particularly blue vervain, showed encouraging signs of successful germination.

Unfortunately, there were several invasive species, including Reed Canary Grass, Canada Thistle, and Purple Loosestrife also noted. Such weed growth is common during the early stages of prairie and wetland restoration projects. The June visit also showed Galerucella beetles feeding on Purple Loosestrife. These beetles are part of a long-standing biological control program that helps reduce the invasive plant’s ability to spread.

Project managers recommend selective mowing throughout the growing season to suppress invasive weeds. This would allow much more sunlight to reach young native seedlings while limiting seed production of weeds and invasive species.

Restoration work and site monitoring will continue throughout the year. Officials say the long-term investment will strengthen native habitat and provide lasting environmental benefits for the Village and the wildlife that inhabit it.



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / The News-Independent

Blue Star Marker at Elm Grove’s Veterans Park on the southwest corner of Juneau Blvd. and Legion Drive.

15 Years of Flight:

Celebrating Elm Grove’s Bird City Legacy

By Tyler Beckley

The Birders of the Grove volunteer group continues to support bird conservation and education in the community. Residents can follow their activities through the Birders of the Grove blog at <https://blog.egbirders.org/>.

This year marked a huge milestone for Elm Grove as it celebrates its 15th year as a Bird City. Bird City Wisconsin recognizes communities that protect birds and create healthier places for both wildlife and people.

The Village has also earned High Flyer recognition for the third consecutive year. This achievement reflects continued dedication to bird conservation and community involvement.

The group once again participated in The Great Wisconsin Birdathon. The annual event raises money to support bird conservation across Wisconsin. **Patricia Donohue** led this year’s Birdathon team with outstanding results. She recorded an impressive total of 258 bird species during the event.

The team also raised \$361 to support bird conservation efforts. Half of the money raised returns to the Village for local conservation projects. These funds help the Birders of the Grove continue protecting birds and their habitats. Residents are encouraged to visit the blog and learn how to get involved. The group’s next meeting is scheduled for September 20th at 9 a.m. in the Park View Room at Village Hall. Come help plan the Fall Birding Festival, complete with a visit from the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center Raptors!



Photo courtesy: Ray Shannon

John Wiedemeier of Elm Grove sits in the driver’s seat of his 1959 Dodge Custom Royale during a past Cruisin’ The Spur event.

Cruisin’ The Spur -Vintage, Classic Vehicles Show to be Held in Elm Grove

The Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, is hosting a series of FREE and informal vintage and classic car, truck and cycle shows that will take place in the parking lot behind The SPUR from 5 p.m. until dark on the following **Mondays: August 10, September 14, and October 12.** There will be plenty of hot food, cold drinks and cool music. So, put that special vehicle of yours on display or just come as a spectator and enjoy the sights and sounds.

Jazz Concert to be Held at Brookfield Church

(BROOKFIELD) - Brookfield Congregational Church, 16350 Gebhardt Rd., and the Gary McWithey Concert Series will welcome renowned Milwaukee-based jazz guitarist, **Ben Dameron**, to perform a concert of jazz music on Sunday, August 23rd at 3:00 p.m. The concert is open to anyone in the community and promises to present a wide array of jazz music for solo guitar in a relaxing, family-friendly setting.



No ticket purchase is required for these concerts. A freewill offering will benefit the Gary McWithey Concert Series and its growth. Contact **James Grzadzinski** at james@brookcc.org or 262-786-4155 for more information about the series.



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Copies are also available at:

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- Elm Grove Public Library
- Brookfield Public Library
- Elm Grove Post Office
- Sendik’s
- Elliott’s Ace Hardware
- The Chocolate Factory
- Sunset Playhouse
- Table in front of Fazio’s
- Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove

+ at other area businesses, clubs, organizations, schools & churches



News Briefs



Elm Grove Woman’s Club members volunteer at Kathy’s House in April, 2026.

Kathy’s House Celebrates 25th Anniversary

By Liz Beaudoin

Kathy’s House, located on the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center Campus, is celebrating 25 years of providing affordable lodging and caring support to patients and caregivers who travel to Milwaukee for critical medical care. Since opening its doors in 2001, Kathy’s House has welcomed thousands of guests from Wisconsin and across the country, helping families stay together during some of life’s most challenging moments.

The facility serves approximately 1,500 guests each year and is the only hospital guest house in southeastern Wisconsin that welcomes guests of all ages receiving care at any area hospital.

Kathy’s House was founded by **Dick and Judy Vogel** in memory of their daughter, **Kathy Vogel Kuettner**, a young mother of three who died of Burkitt’s lymphoma in 2000. While she was in the hospital, Kathy became concerned about another young patient whose family lived too far away to visit regularly. Before she died, she asked her parents to create a place where families could stay together while a loved one received medical care.

“Kathy always thought about other people,” said her sister, **Susan Vogel Foley**, who serves on the Kathy’s House board of directors. “When she learned another patient wasn’t receiving visitors because his family lived so far away, she asked our family to visit him. Before she passed away, she asked our dad to create a place for families to be together during treatment. Twenty-five years later, it’s incredibly moving to see that simple act of compassion continue to touch so many lives.”

Kathy’s House first opened in an 18-room former priests’ residence in Wauwatosa. As demand grew, the house was frequently full, and families were often turned away due to lack of space. In 2019, Kathy’s House announced plans to build a new facility adjacent to Froedtert Hospital, where many guests receive treatment.



An exterior view of Kathy’s House.

The new 38-room Kathy’s House opened in June 2021. At more than 32,000 square feet, the new building doubled the organization’s capacity to serve families. As more medical care has shifted from inpatient to outpatient settings, the need for affordable lodging has continued to grow. At the same time, many patients from rural and underserved communities must travel long distances to access specialized care in Milwaukee.

“Every day we welcome people who never expected they would need a place like Kathy’s House,” said **Patty Metropulos**, Interim President & CEO. “They arrive carrying uncertainty about a diagnosis, surgery or the weeks ahead. We can’t change why they’re here, but we can make sure they don’t have to face it alone. For 25 years, that has been our promise to every family that walks through our doors.”

Kathy’s House relies entirely on community support to make its mission possible. Approximately 75 percent of guests receive financial assistance, and no one is turned away because of an inability to pay. Volunteers prepare meals, welcome guests, maintain the house, support fundraising events and provide countless acts of kindness that help create a caring community for families during medical crises.

To learn more, visit www.kathys-house.org.

Brookfield Academy Names New Athletic Staff

(BROOKFIELD) - Brookfield Academy has announced two new members of the Athletic Department staff. **Vince Sciano** joined the school as Head Football Coach. In addition to leading the football program, Coach Sciano will serve as Assistant Athletic Director and Director of the Fitness Center.



Abbie Curran



Vince Sciano

Sciano served six seasons as head football coach at Waukesha North High School. Prior to becoming head coach at Waukesha North in 2020, he spent four years as an assistant varsity coach and special teams coordinator for the Northstars. He was a student-athlete at UW-Oshkosh, where he played football from 2008-2012 and began his coaching career at the school as a defensive line coach.

“We are excited to welcome Coach Sciano to Brookfield Academy,” said **Nick Rechlitz**, Athletic Director. “His experience, energy and commitment to helping students develop skills and character on and off the field make him an outstanding fit for our community.”

Brookfield Academy is also honored to announce that **Abbie Curran** ‘17, has been named Assistant Athletic Director, Lower School and Middle School Athletic Coordinator. Abbie was previously a Level A teacher in the Primary School and has held numerous coaching positions including Middle School girls basketball head coach, assistant coach for varsity girls basketball and softball teams in Brookfield Academy’s Upper School.

“Abbie has been a valued part of the athletic program at Brookfield Academy from being a student-athlete herself to coaching. We are very happy to have her play an even bigger role going forward,” said Rechlitz.



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News Briefs

A Tiny World Awaits: Free Nature Documentary

By Tyler Beckley

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee and the Elm Grove Public Library have collaborated and bought the license to *The Extraordinary Caterpillar* to give area residents a special screening of the 60-minute nature documentary on Wednesday, August 12th, at 2:30 p. m, in the library’s lower level O’Neill Room. Admission is completely free, and the film, though it has no official MPAA rating, is widely considered suitable for all audiences. This film will spark your curiosity about the environmental importance of caterpillars.

After the screening, there will be a series of other activities and prize giveaways for children and adults alike.

The Extraordinary Caterpillar explores a fascinating world often overlooked by humans. The film reveals that over 98% of all living creatures on Earth are smaller than a bee. Scientists and community activists guide viewers through the remarkable lives of these little creatures through impressive use of photography and microscopes.

The library and committee leaders encourage residents to attend this educational community event. The program offers an entertaining opportunity to learn, explore, and celebrate nature together.

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you can file a complaint at IC3.gov

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at 608-224-5012 or 1-800-422-7128 or datcp.wi.gov



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
Building Strong Support for Elders

COMMUNITY NEWS ITEMS

(attached as Word documents)

PHOTOS

(attached as jpgs)

may be submitted for consideration to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com



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Learn more at friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org

WHAT WE DO	AS A FRIEND YOU'LL ENJOY
- Sponsor programs for all ages - Help library purchase collections and digital resources - Support Summer Reading and community events - Host the annual Used Book Sale - Advocate for a vibrant public library	- Early access to our Used Book Sale - Invitations to special Friends events and programs - Updates on library news and projects - The satisfaction of strengthening our community library

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Mail completed form and payment (checks payable to FOEGL) to:
**13600 Juneau Boulevard
Elm Grove, WI 53122**

Friends of the Elm Grove Library, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1984.



Library News and Programs

August 2026

13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-782-6717 | elmgrovelibrary.org

TEA-Rex Party / Monday, August 3, 1:00 p.m.

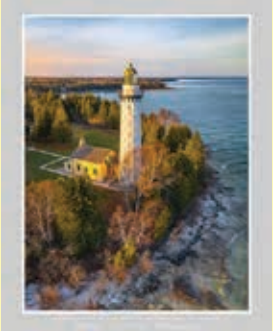


The dinosaurs may be extinct now, but fossil evidence shows us that they knew how to throw a good tea party! Let us take you to the Mesozoic Era to show you how the dinosaurs practiced their very best etiquette and manners while they enjoyed their tea and crumpets.

We'll begin the event with a short story and lesson before letting kids and their grown-up(s) indulge in great conversation over tea or juice and cookies. Registration is required. This event will take place in the O'Neil Room and is recommended for ages 3-6, but all are welcome. Caregiver must remain with child at all times.

Door County Lighthouses / Tuesday, August, 4, 6:30 p.m.

Door County, Wisconsin, boasts one of the highest concentrations of lighthouses of any county in the United States. With its lengthy coastline—much of it rocky and treacherous—mariners of long ago relied heavily on these sentinels for safe passage. This presentation explores all 11 of the county’s lighthouses, with special emphasis on Cana Island, Door County’s most visited lighthouse. Archival and contemporary photography enhance the program. Presented by Barb & Ken Wardius. Free to attend, no registration required.



First Friday Films: White Bird / Friday, August 14, 1:00 p.m.



First Friday Films will take place on the second Friday of August due to the election on August 7. This month we will be showing *White Bird* starring Helen Mirren and Gillian Anderson and written by R.J. Palacio, author of the bestselling children's novel *Wonder*.

Film description: Struggling to fit in at his new school after being expelled for his treatment of Auggie Pullman, Julian is visited by his grandmother and is transformed by the story of her attempts to escape Nazi-occupied France during World War II. Rated Pg-13. 2h1m.

America 250 Trivia Night! / Monday, August 24, 6:30 p.m.

Last month marked the 250th anniversary of America's founding in 1776. Celebrate this historic milestone with a fun and challenging trivia night at the library! Put your knowledge of American history to the test, compete for cool prizes, and earn ultimate bragging rights. Free to attend. No registration required.



Green is Good!

By The Elm Grove Green Team

That’s 8,000 Less Pounds for the Landfill!

Elm Grove residents once again showed their commitment to sustainability at the annual drive-through recycling event in April hosted by your Green Team. Elm Grove residents recycled more than 8,000 pounds of electronics, paper, and household items with the help of Goodwill, Midwest Computer Recycling, Habitat for Humanity, FOEGL, Wisconsin Bike Federation, and Milwaukee Textile Recycling.

“The turnout was incredible and shows how much our community cares about protecting the environment,” said **Kristin Walters**, the event’s director and member of the Elm Grove Green Team.

5 Ways to Reuse an Amazon Mailer

Are blue-and-white Amazon plastic bubble mailers building up at home? They can deliver a few more uses with these ideas:

- * **Protect fragile items** by reusing the padded envelope for mailing gifts or storing breakable holiday decorations.
- * **Create a travel pouch** for chargers, cords, or toiletries.
- * **Fold one/many into a kneeling pad** for gardening, cleaning low cabinets, or working on household projects.
- * **Organize small items** by labeling and storing photos, receipts, sewing supplies, puzzles, or seasonal decorations.
- * **Save it for donations** by using it to package small items headed to a local charity.

When you’re done with any mailer, check the recycling instructions printed on the package. Brown paper padded mailers can go in the curbside recycling bin, while plastic bubble mailers can be recycled in a grocery store or retailer drop-off bin that accepts plastic bags. A little reuse today means less waste tomorrow!



Village Volunteers

Elm Grove Junior Guild, Community Foundation and Woman’s Club

By Jim Koleski, Village President / jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org

After reflecting on the celebrations in Elm Grove this Memorial Day and Independence Day, I am reminded of the outpouring of support we receive from our community’s volunteer organizations. Specifically, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the members of the **Elm Grove Junior Guild** (“The Guild”), the **Elm Grove Community Foundation** (“The Foundation”), and the **Elm Grove Woman’s Club** (“The Woman’s Club”).

All three groups are classified as 501(c)3 charitable organizations. The Guild, founded in 1966, contributes approximately 25 percent of money raised each year to support projects within the Village. Some projects the Guild has funded recently include a LIDAR Speed Enforcement Unit, AED life pack

for the pool, infrared camera for the Fire Department and more! Additionally, taking the reins from the American Legion many years ago, the Guild manages the annual Memorial Day Parade.

The Foundation, established in 1999, has improved the Village by contributing over \$120,000 in grants throughout its history to improve our community’s institutions, facilities, and services. Some projects the Foundation has funded recently include the Tunes on Tuesday event series in Village Park, stocking fish in the Village Park pond, and support for the 4th of July fireworks. Additionally, the Foundation manages the annual Oktoberfest event in Village Park; I hear rumor they are even adding a third day this year!

The Woman’s Club, operating since 1939, has been a cornerstone of the Village. Their Clubhouse cannot be missed when driving on Watertown Plank Road, which serves as a beautiful meeting place for community or private events. Just last month, the Woman’s Club opened up its building for the Village to host our Community Visioning Workshop for the Integrated Comprehensive and Downtown Master Plan project. The Woman’s Club also hosts its own well attended events on an annual basis, including Christmas in the Grove, the Music in the Grove series, the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, and more.

These organizations are the heartbeat of our Village. Without their support, we would not be able to offer some of our most popular events, attractions, nor would we be able to



fund certain capital initiatives. On their own, they offer a unique opportunity for residents to engage in their community, meet their neighbors, and make both Elm Grove and surrounding areas a better place.

On behalf of the Village Board, staff, and residents of Elm Grove, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of these organizations.

News Briefs

United We Stitch – *Imagining the Future of Democracy*

This nation-wide community art project is inviting people from all across the country to create unique fabric panels that express their personal hopes and dreams for our collective future.

Individuals and groups are asked to make 3” x 5” panels, the size of a flag. The constructed panels will be attached together for one-day displays in communities throughout the U.S. Limited sewing skills are needed, as panels can be quilted, stitched, painted, or decorated with fabric markers.



The organizers first goal, in honor of the **International Day of Peace**, is to display these panels in public settings, including State House grounds across America, in every state on September 20, 2026. This is a non-partisan event designed to bring communities together in support of Democracy --- creating unity through art.

Information about the project and directions for creating a panel can be found at www.unitedwestitch.com

Help Save Pkakmesh! By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Our beloved village park has a massive bur oak at the northeast edge of the village park pond that measures over 52 inches in diameter, making its estimated age 258-335 years old. Could it have been planted by a squirrel as early as the year 1691?

The Elm Grove Invasive Species Task Force has been working to clear invasive species from under the tree they named **Pkakmesh**, the Potowotomi word for bur oak, over the last two years. A massive effort is needed to make this year the year that buckthorn is cleared from the area. We need YOU!

Through donations from multiple area businesses and organizations, we have the needed equipment to support a large

number of people working in unison to clear out buckthorn from the ½ acre plot where Pkakmesh resides.

All ages can help! Come be a part of transforming our public spaces into a healthy, thriving, beautiful reflection of our community.

The Third Space Brewing Company has partnered with the Elm Grove Beautification Committee’s Invasive Species Task Force in an effort to restore this iconic village tree. All volunteers will earn a token for 25% off their tab at the park beer garden to be used yet this fall. What better way to celebrate our efforts than by convening in the company of friends while overlooking the park!

Village Update (Continued from Page 3)

Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan (Plans)

On July 14th, the Village hosted a Public Visioning Workshop at the Elm Grove Woman’s Club. The workshop informed residents about the purpose and objectives of the Plans and provided an opportunity to listen and receive resident feedback and opinions on key issues and opportunities as they relate to the guidelines for future development in the Village. Approximately 50 people attended the event. This was one of many opportunities residents will have to share their ideas and feedback. In addition, I encourage any resident to email Village Staff with your input and suggestions. The Plan Commissions goal is to have feedback from more than 50% of residents to make this Plan responsive to the community’s long-term future. A key for the Board is to anticipate future trends in shopping and what services residents will need as innovation and technology continues to impact and change our lives. In addition, the Village website includes a QR code that will take you to a dedicated project location to keep updated on ongoing activities. One key focus area of the survey development is to **NOT** make this activity a “wish list”, but a prioritized process to help focus on key needs supported by residents, including our willingness to pay for the improvements.

Recreation News

The planned replacement to the Village Pool liner is expected to be completed in early September, with the objective to open as usual in the Spring. To facilitate the replacement, the pool will close for the season on August 16th.

Other

The **Village Volunteers** column (at the top of this page) is meant to celebrate the team members and organizations that support and fund many community activities within your Village through their volunteerism and donations. If there are other groups or organizations to be recognized, please share them with me in the e-mail above. This Village would not be what it is today without their continued commitment.

Your Village staff has begun the annual process of developing the 2027 budget with the commencement of capital budgeting for larger investments in the community. As a reminder, the Highland pathway was a combination of 2 years of anticipated projects to capture cost savings and reduce the disruptions to traffic on Highland to a single year. It is anticipated that 2027 will not include any pathway projects as we reconvene the Ad-Hoc pathway committee to update the needs of the Village after many years of pathway expansion.

I would like to recognize **Mary Doyne**, the Village’s Court Clerk for the past 46-plus years as she moves onto retirement. What a career starting as an Emergency Services Dispatcher and eventually Court Clerk. Mary’s professionalism, dedication, knowledge and commitment has left a lasting impact on the Village. Best wishes Mary on your retirement journey!

Let’s celebrate August and use the longer days to recharge while enjoying what Wisconsin and your Village has to offer.



Did you know that there is a bur oak tree at the Elm Grove village park pond that is estimated to be 335 years old?

The Elm Grove Invasive Species Task Force has named the tree Pkakmesh, which is Potawatomi for bur oak. The area surrounding the tree is infiltrated with buckthorn and they need your help removing it.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23^{R D}
AT 11AM

Register here!



All participants will receive a token for 25% off your tab at the Elm Grove Beer Garden



Letters to the Editor

Letters (100 words maximum from an individual -- OR -- 150 words maximum from 2 or more 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 (Subject line: Letters / Editor)**
Mail to: EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122

Robyn Vining for State Senate
As a mom and a public school teacher in Senate District 5, I spend a lot of time thinking about the future—and I want it to be bright. That’s one reason I’m excited to vote for Robyn Vining. She believes in investing in our schools, supporting working families, protecting our beautiful Wisconsin, and making health care more affordable. She leads with kindness, common sense, and a genuine desire to help people. That’s the kind of neighbor I want representing us in Madison, and I hope you’ll vote for her, too.

Katie Whitecotton, Brookfield

Amy Will Serve Community Well
Amy Zimmerman is the best choice for State Assembly this fall. Amy is deeply involved in many aspects of our community. As a member of the Brookfield Parks & Recreation Commission, she played a key role in the recent updates to the Wirth Park playground. Amy draws on her project management skills to mentor Girl Scouts through their service projects. And she is a genuine listener, engaging with residents about the issues that matter most to their families. She will serve Elm Grove well as a state legislator. I urge you to vote for Amy Zimmerman for Assembly District 13.

Amanda Davis, Brookfield

Vote Vining, State Senate District 5
This November 3, I’m voting for Robyn Vining for Senate District 5, covering all of Elm Grove. Robyn has represented Elm Grove in the Assembly since 2024, first elected in 2018 — she knows this community inside and out. She’s a proven leader: bipartisan bills on breast cancer screening, postpartum healthcare, and protecting kids online are real results, not just promises. Her campaign, LOVE WINS, resonates with me. In a moment defined by negativity and division, Robyn stays positive, stays focused, and gets things done. My vote is for Robyn!

Pat Ruttum, Elm Grove

Support Amy Zimmermann for Assembly- District 13
My name is Sofia Walz-Chojnacki. I live in Wauwatosa.

As a person with Down Syndrome, I feel Amy Zimmerman has heard me and given me a voice in her campaign, and so I think she will listen to other people who have not been heard.
I have been putting in work for Amy Zimmerman’s Campaign. I have been supporting her as much as I can, attending events and promoting her to people I meet. I know that she is a fighter to get what she wants and goes for it. I am glad to support Amy Zimmerman’s Campaign for Assembly in the 13th District.

Sofia Walz-Chojnacki

Vining Offers Strong Leadership
As we go to the polls on Tuesday, August 11, let’s make our votes matter for our community. I urge you to vote for Robyn Vining for 5th District State Senate. Robyn Vining has an exemplary record in the State Assembly, being named as one of the top Democratic legislators in both the 2021-22 and 2023-24 sessions. Her focus on our children’s futures includes working for climate, healthcare and cost of living solutions. Now is the time for practical, realistic, strong leadership, the kind that Robyn Vining is the most committed to providing.

Laurel Leahy, Elm Grove



Vote Sanchez for State Assembly
As engaged Elm Grove residents, we care deeply about our community’s future. That’s why we support David Sanchez for the 13th Assembly District. David has the experience to deliver results from day one. He clerked for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Dallet and worked on public health strategy at Google. He understands how state government works, knows how to draft sound legislation and understands that real progress comes from collaboration, not partisan posturing. David will be a pragmatic policymaker, a consensus-builder, and a leader who will advocate for our public schools, lower health care costs, and sound economic growth. On August 11th, please join us in voting for David Sanchez in the Democratic primary for State Assembly.

Emily Schneider
Past President, Elm Grove Junior Guild
Sarah Danforth
Vice President, Tonawanda PTO
Sarah Kass
Vice President Academic Enrichment, Tonawanda PTO

Support Vining for Wisconsin Senate
I will be voting for Robyn Vining for WI Senate District 5 in November because she has done an outstanding job representing her Brookfield / Elm Grove constituents as our Assembly District 13 Representative. Robyn works tirelessly to improve public school funding, essential for maintaining our high quality Elmbrook public schools and our property taxes. From her vantage as a small business creator, she introduced legislation for a one-stop shop for owners to access information needed to start, maintain and grow their business; a small business grants for owners struggling in our tough economic times.

Charlene Gaebler-Uhing, Brookfield

Vining Will Work for Wisconsinites
It’s time for a new direction and new leadership that is ready to work for the people of Wisconsin, and that’s why we need Robyn Vining in the State Senate. She is a state official who deeply cares about her role, her responsibilities, and the people she represents. During her terms in the Assembly, she always showed up to support the community and listen to her constituents. Robyn has the energy, empathy, and experience we need representing us so that a new majority can get to work making real change in the lives of Wisconsin families.

Danielle Scampini Linn, Elm Grove

Vote Amy Zimmerman for Wisconsin State Assembly District 13*
(*District 13 includes Elm Grove and parts of Wauwatosa and Brookfield)

We support Amy Zimmerman for State Assembly in the upcoming August 11 primary, and ask you to, too!
*Amy spent countless hours listening to community members talk about issues important to us. She will use what she’s heard to represent us well!
*As a mom, Amy is passionate about fully funding our schools and ensuring they continue to meet our high standards.
* Amy knows how to collaborate with disparate groups to solve complex problems – she has a career in project management and extensive community service experience.
*As the wife of a small business owner, she understands how difficult it is to find affordable healthcare for business owners and their employees.
Vote for Amy – for a more thriving and caring Wisconsin!
Rebecca Leiviska and Richard Chang
Elm Grove

Old(er) Writers

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

About Time
By Gary Kerslake

If time is a number, what would it be?
One or ten or infinity.
Could it be one’s age or one’s birth?
Or is it about the movement of earth.

Time is precious and not to be wasted,
It should be cherished and not be hated.



Wisconsin Nice
By Dean B. Kaner

I save my money. Keep it in the freezer so, I have cold hard cash.
3 out of 4 voices in my head want to sleep. The other wants to know if penguins have knees.

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Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Elm Grove Legacy Trees

Event Activity

Help us find the oldest trees in Elm Grove!

The Importance of Trees

Trees play a crucial role in our environment, with many keystone species able to live to over 300 years!

Giants Among Us

The age of a tree can be estimated by using a tree age calculator by accurately measuring the tree's circumference (see directions on form)

It Takes a Village

All submissions will be anonymously published at the end of the contest

Submissions

Now until the Celebration of Trees event

Prizes

All valid submissions win a prize. Oldest tree submission wins potted tree

Celebration of Trees

Arbor Day 2027

Submit Today

<https://forms.gle/sTSCaK2xJ9bz5AmS6>



Young Writers & Reporters



Local members of Sewa International serve their community as volunteers at Milwaukee's **The Gathering**.

Volunteering at The Gathering

By Parth Kelkar, 8th Grade - Wisconsin Hills Middle School

On May 16th, my friends and I from Team Good Karma went to a food pantry called The Gathering. I volunteered to help prepare snack packets for the homeless as well as served over 200 homeless people lunch!

I asked **Tiraka Campbell**, a very dedicated volunteer since October, what motivated her to help with The Gathering and devote her Saturdays to this good cause.

She said that when she was growing up, her family lived in a low-income neighborhood where families didn't have food every day. She was the oldest of 5 kids in her family. It was hard for them, yet they always found a way to give back. Every time a child was hungry in her neighborhood, her mom would always find a way to give them some food, so seeing the kind heart of her mom, she always wanted to give back the same way. That's how she started volunteering at The Gathering. She wanted to make sure that no person goes hungry any day. Any time.

Giving food to people is The Gathering's main service. Sometimes they also provide homeless people with a place to take a bath and some essential street supplies, but it is very expensive to get all those materials, so it doesn't happen too often.

Tiraka and a few other people actually work there, but other kind people usually

come regularly on Saturdays in the winter to volunteer. The time when it gets tricky is the summer. Most people want to spend their Saturdays in the sun playing sports or with family when it's warm out, so fewer people come and help out in the summer, leading to a volunteer shortage.

Many generous people often donate to keep this place running with all the expensive stoves and grilling equipment. The government also gives money. Many stores like Walmart and Pick'n'Save don't throw out food; they donate it to shelters like these, so no food goes to waste.

Tiraka is an extremely selfless person who dedicates her time and effort to help the needy, and I learned about The Gathering and how to be more like Tiraka to come every Saturday to help out the homeless people in any way I can. What we as a community should do is take just 1 hour of our Saturday and go to our local homeless shelter and serve the community like my friends and I did in Team Good Karma. If not, please donate money to these types of shelters to help the needy.

EDITORS NOTE: For more information about volunteering or donating to The Gathering of Southeast Wisconsin, visit: <https://thegatheringwis.org> or call (414) 272-4122.

News' Hounds

& other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Aimee is on a mission to discover all the treats the world has to offer—because let's be honest, she's never met a snack she didn't like. If you're armed with treats, you're already halfway to her heart! But wait, there's more: Aimee has decided that pipe cleaners are the unsung heroes of the cat toy world. Why expensive toys when you can have a fuzzy, twisty little masterpiece? While she's still learning that people can be pretty great too, Aimee is making steady progress. She's the kind of cat who just needs a little patience and love to show her full, wonderful personality. Think of it like a friendship slow-cooker — low, slow, and so pipe cleaner in the other, you'll soon have Aimee yet. Are you ready to meet your snack-loving, meet you—just bring the goodies!



Aimee

Sponsored in memory of Dave.

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

Beyond a Bike Ride

By Janavi Wagle, Brookfield East High School

Through my personal connections to neurodivergence, I had long wanted to help others but did not always know where to begin. During my freshman year, I found a flyer for Autism United of Wisconsin's iCan Bike Camp. I loved biking and wanted to share one of my favorite summer activities with children who might not understand why biking is the best activity: the freedom and joy of riding a bike.



Autism United of Wisconsin works to improve the quality of life for individuals with Autism and their families through advocacy, education, guidance, and acceptance. One of its programs, iCan Bike Camp, teaches individuals with disabilities how to ride a bike while gaining confidence, independence, and improved self-esteem.

My perception of volunteering at this camp as simply teaching kids how to ride a bike safely changed one afternoon when I was supporting a seven-year-old girl. Suddenly, she stopped, covered her ears, began to weep, and sat down on the bench with her arms crossed. Some people might have seen her as unmotivated or overworked, but I realized that she was feeling overwhelmed and needed support. I sat down beside her, handed her a bottle of water, and waited patiently. A few minutes later, she was back on her bike, grinning as she completed another lap.

At that moment, I realized that helping someone begins with understanding them. I learned that helping others begins with understanding those who may not always have the words to express themselves. Perhaps it is simply meeting people where they are, even if that means sitting beside a little girl until she feels ready to try again. At iCan Bike Camp, I realized that communication is far more than words; it can be found in patience, understanding, and small moments of encouragement that help someone move forward.

ADVENTURE
 AMUSEMENT PARK
 AUGUST
 BACK TO SCHOOL
 BACKYARD
 BICYCLE
 CAMPFIRE
 CAMPING
 CORN ON THE COB
 FARMERS MARKET
 FIREFLY
 FLOWERS
 FRUIT
 FUN
 GRILLING
 HOT
 HUMID
 LAKE
 PLAYGROUND
 POPSICLE
 RELAXATION
 ROAD TRIP
 SAILBOAT
 STATE FAIR
 SUMMER
 SUNFLOWER
 SUNNY

WORD SEARCH DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

W	J	C	T	A	M	U	S	E	M	E	N	T	P	A	R	K	S	S
H	B	P	L	S	J	L	Z	I	B	I	C	Y	C	L	E	G	T	D
T	O	G	B	T	U	P	L	A	Y	G	R	O	U	N	D	J	I	R
C	C	A	A	A	E	G	E	Q	N	Y	N	P	B	E	D	D	U	O
S	E	P	C	T	H	K	U	S	F	B	O	I	Q	C	Q	R	N	E
J	H	N	K	E	Z	I	R	A	R	P	C	Y	P	Y	R	A	O	R
Q	T	F	T	F	Y	B	F	A	S	E	L	S	N	M	K	Y	I	O
V	N	H	O	A	J	S	B	I	M	G	W	A	U	R	A	K	T	A
B	O	D	S	I	T	H	C	N	S	S	K	O	K	F	S	C	A	D
T	N	D	C	R	Q	L	B	U	R	M	R	A	L	E	U	A	X	T
E	R	Q	H	Z	E	Y	N	E	V	R	E	E	Z	F	N	B	A	R
R	O	R	O	D	E	F	M	M	S	Y	U	J	M	G	N	A	L	I
U	C	H	O	G	L	M	Y	L	F	E	R	I	F	R	Y	Y	E	P
T	J	L	L	O	U	Y	R	P	T	A	O	B	L	I	A	S	R	T
N	P	T	W	S	O	W	F	I	H	J	V	H	P	H	Z	F	F	I
E	R	E	Q	D	O	V	R	J	D	U	W	E	S	G	K	U	R	P
V	R	G	J	D	K	I	U	T	I	B	M	T	T	G	N	T	D	W
D	S	G	N	I	L	L	I	R	G	E	R	I	F	P	M	A	C	J
A	U	P	K	U	T	X	T	B	Q	S	Z	J	D	G	X	V	V	S

An advertisement for Great Midwest Bank's 'Keep it Local with Simply Checking' program. The background is a solid blue color. At the top, the text 'Keep it Local' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below it, the word 'with' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Underneath 'with', the words 'Simply Checking' are written in a very large, white, sans-serif font. In the center, the address '15900 W Bluemound Rd, Brookfield WI 53005' and the phone number '(888) 485-4400' are written in a white, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for Great Midwest Bank, which consists of a stylized blue and white shield with the letters 'GMB' inside, and the text 'Great Midwest Bank' below it. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for the Equal Housing Lender, which consists of a small house icon with the words 'EQUAL HOUSING LENDER' below it, followed by the text 'FDIC FDIC-Insured - Backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government'.

ELECT DEMOCRAT

David Sanchez

FOR STATE ASSEMBLY

About David:

Local Attorney Focused on Renewable Energy Projects

Former Law Clerk for Justice Rebecca Dallet on the Wisconsin Supreme Court

Former Public Health Lead on Google's Government Team

FIGHTING FOR YOU IN MADISON

David Sanchez will:

✓

Strengthen Public Schools:

Invest in our local schools to ensure every child has access to a high-quality education, without overburdening property taxpayers.

✓

Expand Childcare to Grow Our Workforce:

Address the childcare shortage to help parents return to or stay in the workforce, boosting our local economy and filling critical job openings.

✓

Make Government Work:

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