



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 7 No. 10

Serving Elm Grove, WI & Neighboring Communities

December 2019

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

News' Flash!

A Dispatch from the NORTH POLE!

"HO! HO! HO! Good Children of Elm Grove and vicinity! Someone may say that they 'Know Where You Live!' but, I am **Santa Claus**, so I Know Where All of You Live AND I'll be making my annual visit to your quaint little Village in Wisconsin on Wednesday, December 25.

But, before I set out on my sleigh with Rudolf and the other reindeer, you're welcome to write a letter to me and I promise to answer. Put it in a **stamped envelope addressed to "Santa"** and give it to one of the workers (elves) at the Elm Grove Post Office by December 15.

In the meantime, Dear Children of All Ages: Please! **BE GOOD. BE KIND.**"

Merry Christmas! Love, SANTA
P.S. Don't forget the cookies & milk!

WOW! With all the excitement, Elm Grove Postmaster (and one of Santa's high-ranking elves) **Jill Lipovsek** has announced that: "The Post Office will have extended Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 7 and December 14 and will also be open on Sunday, December 8 and Sunday, December 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for your shipping needs... and to collect your Letters to Santa!"

Visit the Post Office, 13425 Watertown Plank Rd. Questions? Call 262-782-2370.



Photo by James L. W. Bain / News-Independent

Children from local schools created ornaments and other decorations for this tree which has a year-'round position in the lobby of the Elm Grove Post Office.

Village Update

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

Yes, it is already December, another year flies past us. Did you ever try to remember everything that has happened in the last year? It is hard.

FINALLY, the pavement work is completed on the new Watertown Plank Road pathway. Sod replacement is still needed, but the pathway is usable. Thank you to all the landowners and neighbors who put up with the extended project.

Speaking of building, construction is continuing on the new Splash Pad area at the Village swimming pool for a planned summer 2020 opening.

(See VILLAGE UPDATE – Page 3)

*The Elm Grove
News-Independent*

--- IN PRINT & ONLINE ---

Visit: www.elmgrove.news

A New Year is coming!

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in our January 2020 issue.

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“I Know Where You Live!”



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

Village Board Meetings
Now Live Streamed!

While there is a definite advantage to attending a Village of Elm Grove Board of Trustees meeting — including the opportunity to make or hear public comments, see and hear everything discussed and, later, maybe speak about an issue personally with a Board member or others in attendance — if you cannot personally attend a meeting, you can now watch it elsewhere via live streaming.

Produced through the Village’s webpage provider, CivicPlus, as an additional service, it carries an annual cost of \$3,000, according to Village Manager **David DeAngelis**.

“This project was undertaken at the request of the Village Board in an effort to give people access to our live meetings. This is especially important as more and more people move away from traditional cable television and move to an internet- based video streaming platform. By having this available on the Village’s webpage, now anyone can have access to our live meetings from their computer, television or mobile device from anywhere,” DeAngelis noted.

Live Stream



Photo by James L. W. Bain / News-Independent

An online view of the October 28, 2019 Village of Elm Grove Board of Trustees meeting as it was live streamed.

Filming of the Trustee meetings is currently being done by Village employee and resident **Brian Naylor**. Other meetings will be filmed via static camera.

The Village’s future goal is to have all meetings televised. And when, I asked, might that happen?

“Right now I am in the process of training staff for the operation of the equipment. It is available for all meetings currently but as we are still learning how to use it, there may be times when committees may not be televised due to ‘technical difficulties’. That said, they should all be televised moving forward

with that caveat,” DeAngelis explained.

As for the possibility of producing dvds of meetings for later viewing as was done in years past, DeAngelis said that he is “hopeful that will be back up and running by the December meeting.”

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 16, at the Village Hall Court Room, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Attend it in person or live stream it: <https://elmgrovewi.org/656/live-stream>.

Call (262) 782-6700 for more information.

Wishing you a safe and joyous Holiday Season...
from the Elm Grove Volunteer Fire Department

WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY
Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But, that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING
*Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
*Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
*Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
*Replace any string of lights with worn or

broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
*Use clips, not nails to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
*Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING
*Test your smoke alarms and tell guest about you home fire escape plan.
*Keep children & pets away from lit candles.
*Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
*Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.

BEFORE HEADING OUT OR TO BED
*Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS
*More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
*More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



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(414) 422-9344

PEWAUKEE
1268 Capitol Dr.
(262) 695-8990

Village Update

(Continued from Page 1)

The consultants at SEH are completing what we hope will be the final draft of the Downtown Master Plan to include input from the Public Open House, written comments and Village Board members on the previous version. We hope to see the final draft soon and schedule public comment opportunities after the New Year.

Village Board meetings and some committee meetings are now being “Live Streamed” for all to watch. The old cable TV broadcast was not reaching as many residents and businesses. We are still working out some bugs including archiving past meetings. (See story – Page 2)

Village staff and the Finance Committee have completed a proposed budget and moved it to the full Village Board. The proposed 2020 Operating budget is \$6,447,240, a 0.97% increase over the \$6,385,475 2019 budget. As mentioned in a previous Update column the Village is facing real challenges in how to pay for necessary future road maintenance under the state law restrictions.

One of my favorite annual events, “The Lights of Love” annual Friends of Elm Grove Library fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, December 8, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There are activities for children and treats after the tree lighting and singing. Please consider donating to FOEGL to support our outstanding library. (See story – Page 6)

Richard (Dick) Reinders passed away in early November. Dick was born in the Village where his family has operated businesses for more than 150 years. He served on the Village Board and was a member of the Fire Department. His public service was appreciated, and he will be missed.

The new “IGLOO” installations on the Zisters Restaurant outdoor dining area has generated buzz and added a fun look to wintery downtown.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

PHOTO shown below:

“It’s a Wonderful Village”
Elm Grove, November 2016

A mystical scene one evening at twilight, looking to the east along Watertown Plank Road, near Elm Grove Road.

Photo: James L. W. Bain / *News-Independent*

Waukesha County News

An Inside Look at Waukesha County Government

By **Thomas Michalski**, Waukesha County Supervisor – District 8
tmichalski@waukeshacounty.gov

Waukesha County’s budget is completed and signed. The bottom line for taxpayers is a 3.7% decrease in the County’s tax rate to \$1.82 per \$1000 of assessed property value. The owner of a \$300,000 home will pay \$546 in Waukesha County tax. Where last year, the same \$300,000 home paid \$567 in County taxes. The tax rate has declined in each of the four years I have represented you at the County.

The above paragraph summarizes nearly 600 pages of the budget in four sentences. It doesn’t give you a sense of what we accomplished in the budget process. Waukesha County is fortunate to have a strong and growing economy, along with well-educated and engaged citizenship. At the same time, the County has issues that it needs to address. The County’s growth has created some of the problems. Our business community is growing faster than our population can supply workers. It is also straining our infrastructure; our transportation system needs to be improved; and our court system has outgrown a building built in the ‘50s. While our citizens are predominantly in a good place, we do have a large and growing elderly population that has needs we cannot disregard; and the problems associated with Opioids is much larger than the addicted individuals.

It is Health and Human Services job to assist our population in need, and at 24% of the budget, they get the second-largest slice of your tax dollars. Within HHS, there is a continuing and concerted effort to organize its personnel to maximize grants and other revenue. A \$60,000 increase in County tax dollars was leveraged to create a \$5.4 million increase in grants and other revenue. That works out to a 7% increase in funds to an agency that helps Seniors, Children, Adolescents, Families, Veterans, Disabled, and people with substance abuse.

With 10% of tax dollars, Public Works manages \$21 million in infrastructure projects. Like HHS, they attempt to maximize federal and state aid for our projects. At the

same time, projects are planned to reduce on-going expenses, increase safety, and take advantage of the latest technologies. The biggest current project is the renovation of the County Courthouse and possibly the best example of their work. This project is for Justice and Safety, which receives 40% of the budget. Safety at the Courthouse will enhance by separating three groups of people from each other, the public, the inmate population, and justice personnel. At the same time, the project will improve energy efficiency, and electronic communications. When complete, we will have a safer, more efficient courthouse, that will allow for an increased caseload, with less time involved with inmate handling.

The remaining 25% of the budget is divided among Parks 8%, Administration 3%, and Debt Service 13%.

There are two additional items in this year’s budget that caused debate. The proposed closing of Wanaki golf course; and the termination of a bus route from Mukwonago to downtown Milwaukee. The common thread in these two otherwise separate items was the short time the users had between announcement and closing. Financially, the decision to stop service was sound for both Wanaki and Bus Route 906. We need to balance fiscal responsibility with respect for our citizens. When programs end, we need to allow for a transition time; in this case, to find alternative transportation and alternative funding/management for the golf course. The County Board added funding to allow for a transition period before closing.

A priority for next year is the County’s transportation needs. Transportation is a problem that needs to be studied to develop a comprehensive plan addressing: getting workers from Milwaukee to businesses in Waukesha; transporting Seniors to stores and health facilities; transporting the needy and disabled to community services.

As always, I welcome your comments.

Mobile Office Hours with Senator Ron Johnson’s Representative Set

(ELM GROVE) Area residents will have the opportunity to meet with a representative from **Senator Ron Johnson’s** (R-WI) office on Wednesday, December 4 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Park View Room at Village Hall, 13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove.

The purpose of the scheduled event will be to allow residents to receive assistance with any Federal issue such as Veterans, Medicare, Social Security, Taxes, or Immigration.

Business Directory

* Community Organizations



Kiwanis – Golden K of Elm Grove Wisconsin

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

kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
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Past Times: I REMEMBER...

Holiday Cheer at the Phoenix House on Blue Mound Road

By Stephen K. Hauser

The arrival of Christmas and the Holiday season brings to mind sumptuous feasts and joyful candlelit dinners, and hungry travelers on their way to family gatherings with loved ones at a cold and snowy time of the year. At least it would bring such thoughts to mind if one was thinking of the Phoenix House, an inn once located at 17820 Blue Mound Road in what was then the Town of Brookfield. (The Phoenix House stood on the north side of the road where Casablanca restaurant is now located.)

The venerable hostelry was built in 1850 by a would-be innkeeper whose name has long been forgotten. Whoever he was, he didn’t remain in business very long, for by 1853 the property had been purchased by **John Hoffman** and his wife, **Anna Wellauer Hoffman**. Of German/Swiss parents, Anna had been carefully instructed in the cooking and baking of treasured family recipes from the old country. Apparently, she had learned her lessons well, as her expertise in the kitchen soon became the stuff of local legend. She proudly presided over her own vegetable garden, growing cabbage, onions, turnips, rhubarb, carrots, beets, and of course, tomatoes, which seemed to grow best of all in the heavy clay soil of Brookfield township. Her husband John planted and tended a small orchard, and Anna made fruit preserves, which she stored in the root cellar under the hotel, kept on shelves along with dill pickles and honey. Also kept for use throughout the year was maple syrup, tapped from trees on nearby farms.

Since the Hoffmans ran an inn that catered to travelers who had stopped to spend the night in the midst of a journey, the accommodations had to be inviting, but the food offered to diners at the supper table was of primary importance. Many guests were en route to Waukesha, Watertown or Beaver Dam from Milwaukee or Madison. The journey, considered quite brief and easy today, was arduous and fraught with unexpected delays and difficulties back in the 19th century.

Longtime Waukesha Freeman columnist **G.H. “Gib” Koenig** (in my opinion, an excellent local historian) wrote in his

October 3, 1981 column of the “bumpy road to Waukesha” in those days, quoting hapless traveler **Frederika Bremer**: “I was shaken, or rather hurled, unmercifully hither and thither upon the newborn roads, which are not roads at all but a succession of hills, holes, and water pools in which first one wheel sank and then the other, while the opposite one stood high up in the air. Sometimes the carriage came to a sudden standstill, half overturned, and it was some time before it could be dragged out of the hole, only to be thrown into the same position on the other side...”

After a harrowing experience like that, a frustrated traveler could be quite short-tempered and demanding, requiring the best in food and lodging to at least make an otherwise miserable trip more bearable. The proprietors of the Phoenix House had their work cut out for them in trying to lift the spirits of such bedraggled guests. Fortunately, John Hoffman was skilled as a gracious host and, as noted earlier, wife Anna’s culinary skills were second to none. Assisted by their six daughters and three sons, the Hoffmans were able to provide comfortable rooms and generous meals that invoked extravagant praise from former guests, even months after their miserable excursion through the wilderness of Wisconsin had been had been forgotten.

A former U.S. military highway completed in 1839, Blue Mound Road (named for Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, the tiny hamlet west of Madison where it had dead-ended) had evolved into a rather unprofitable toll road. It would not be paved until the second decade of the twentieth century, and, even then, the job was botched and had to be redone several years later.

The problems with travel on the road were worse in the winter. Heavy snowfalls and vast open spaces between Milwaukee and Waukesha created massive snowdrifts that closed down entire sections of the road for days or weeks at a time. Sometimes, travelers stopping for the night at the Phoenix House found themselves marooned there for an indefinite stay. It was then that the hospitality of the Hoffmans was truly



Photo from the Jean and Charles Stackpole collection

The Phoenix House on Blue Mound Road, looking none too festive as an abandoned building in the 1950s, not long before it was razed. This is the Phoenix House as Professor Hauser remembers it.

put to the test. Anna Hoffman’s special Christmas dinners would need to feed a larger number of unexpected guests. Geese from the farm and wild ducks shot by John Hoffman would serve well as the heart of the feast. It has been said that German cooks have a way with duck, and Anna was certainly up to the task. Holiday pies and cookies would be baked for snacks and dessert, and the smell of gingerbread would waft onto Blue Mound Road. No doubt area farmers bringing in wood for their stoves would begin to feel a powerful hunger after sniffing the air just west of Calhoun Road. The large dining room of the hotel bustled with activity, and the ballroom at the top floor of the inn was decorated festively and lit with candles and oil lamps. Meat would be brought in from John’s smokehouse near the back of the property and the big black woodburning stove in the kitchen would heat the whole main floor as Anna and her daughters cooked and baked for hours on end. As “Christmas-keeping Germans”, the Hoffmans no doubt placed a Christmas tree in the parlor and offered hard cider at the bar.

Certainly, many of the travelers that the Hoffmans fed and entertained over the Christmas season they never saw or

heard from again. Some, however, would become regular guests: those with family in nearby settlements whom they would occasionally visit, farmers who took their goods from Jefferson or Lake Mills to sell in Milwaukee and peddlers or merchants whose business regularly took them along Blue Mound Road. Among these, the legend of the Phoenix House grew large. Now it is all largely forgotten. I don’t imagine that motorists, trying to navigate the traffic jams of modern Blue Mound Road have time or patience to think much about the past, especially during the busy Holiday season. I am sure, however, that—if they could—John and Anna Hoffman would be only too glad to offer those of us dodging cars on the busiest stretch of road in Wisconsin a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I wish you all the same, and I hope that all Past Times readers will take a moment to raise their glasses and offer a friendly toast to the Hoffman clan, our local ghosts of Christmas Past.

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

News Briefs

Tonawanda Students Serve Community

(ELM GROVE) The Tonawanda community gathered for Tiger Time on Thursday, November 21, and continued learning about service from **Mrs. Dahms** and **Miss Wirtz**. Our definition of service: “a good deed to help a community in need”. Student representatives from several grade levels shared their community service projects that have been completed or are currently taking place.

- Our kindergarten:** Colorcycle! A marker recycling program.
- Our second grade:** Donated student-made fleece-tied blankets for the Ronald McDonald House Charities.
- Our first and third grades:** Student-made cards and dinner placemats for a senior care facility.
- Our fifth grade:** Collecting Wishlist items for Ronald McDonald House Charities through December 6.

Who Will Turn on the ‘Lights of Love’ Tree Lights?

(ELM GROVE) Did you know that young readers can enter a drawing to *Flip the Switch* and be the child to turn on the lights for this year’s Lights of Love Tree?

The rules are simple... Kids just need to check out any materials from the Elm Grove Public Library now through December 2 and fill out an entry form at the circulation desk. The drawing is open to youth ages 3 – 12 and the winner will be chosen via a random drawing on the morning of Tuesday, December 3.

All entrants should be available to attend the tree lighting on the afternoon of Sunday, December 8. One entry per day, please.

CUDWORTH-STENZ-GRIESELL-SMITH

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• 2nd Monday of each month: One More Time Band (Big Band Music & Dancing), 1:30pm to 3:00pm, \$3.00/pp.

• Tuesdays: Post opens at 1:00pm, closes at 10:00pm, lunch=serving hot dogs, brats & Pizza.

• Wednesdays: Post opens at 1:00pm, closes at 10:00pm, lunch=serving hot dogs, brats & Pizza.

• Thursdays: Post opens at 1:00pm, closes at 10:00pm, lunch=serving hot dogs, brats & Pizza. Cook-In, 5:00pm-8:30pm, Best burgers, Brats, Hot Dogs in Town! Karaoke.

• Fridays: Post opens at 1:00pm, lunch=serving hot dogs, brats & Pizza. Fish Fry 4:30pm-8:30pm - continual thru the year! JOYCE BEVANS PLAYS PIANO – 4:30pm to 6:30pm Various Live Bands, 6:30pm to 10:00pm (No cover charge)

• Saturdays: Post opens at 11:30am. Saturday night music will start at 7:30pm, \$6.00 Cover Charge

• Sundays: CLOSED, EXCEPT for Special Occasions.

HALL RENTAL

Available for All Occasions

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December 7 – Children’s Christmas Party at Post, 10:00-1:00pm, in Hall

Sons of the American Legion will serve food 11:30am and Raffle!

December 31 – New Year’s Eve Party

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS!

Calendar of Events for December 2019

Sunday – DECEMBER 1

***First day to circulate nomination** papers for Elm Grove Village Trustee & Elmbrook School Board seats for the Spring 2020 Election. Candidate papers must be filed by Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Details at www.elmgrovewi.org & www.elmbrookschoools.org.

Tuesday – DECEMBER 3

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

Friday – DECEMBER 6

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7 a.m. @ Western Racquet Club. www.elmbrookrotary.org.

***Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: Glenn Allgaier, Elmbrook School Board Trustee. Topic: “Elmbrook School District Budget”. www.kiwaniselmgrove.org. (See AD – Page 3)

Saturday – DECEMBER 7

PEARL HARBOR DAY



***Elm Grove Recycling & Yard Waste** Facility, 900 Wall Street. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Village Hall, (262) 782-6700.

***Elmbrook Historical Society**
“Christmas at the Inn” Arts & Crafts Fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. @ Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum, 1075 Pilgrim Parkway, Brookfield. www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org.

***Elm Grove Woman’s Club**
“Silver Ball”: Celebrating the Club’s 80th Anniversary. www.egwc.org.

Sunday – DECEMBER 8

***Elmbrook Historical Society**
“Christmas at the Inn” Arts & Crafts Fair: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. @ Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum, 1075 Pilgrim Parkway, Brookfield. www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org.

***Friends of the Elm Grove Library**
25th Annual “Lights of Love” Holiday Celebration: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. @ Village Hall & Library. (See details – Page 6.) www.friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org.



Thursday – DECEMBER 12

***OWLS: Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors**
Sponsored by Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove. Annual Holiday Luncheon — 11 a.m. @ Westmoor Country Club. Program: “A Holiday with Members of the Wisconsin Intergenerational Orchestra”. (262) 782-4060, www.cumceg.org.

Friday – DECEMBER 13

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7 a.m. @ Western Racquet Club. www.elmbrookrotary.org.

***Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K**
Members and Guests only Luncheon. www.kiwaniselmgrove.org.

Saturday – DECEMBER 14

***Elm Grove Recycling & Yard Waste** Facility, 900 Wall Street. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Village Hall, (262) 782-6700.

Monday - DECEMBER 16

***Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
Meeting: 7:30 p.m. @ Village Hall Court Room. Open to the Public. Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org. Access the Live Stream feed @ <https://elmgrovewi.org/656/live-stream>

Tuesday – DECEMBER 17

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

Friday – DECEMBER 20

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7 a.m. @ Western Racquet Club. www.elmbrookrotary.org.

***Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speakers: Steve Uelner and Mark Ratay of Country Travel Discoveries. Topic: Group Tour Travel Planning Today. www.kiwaniselmgrove.org.

Saturday – DECEMBER 21

FIRST DAY OF WINTER

***Elm Grove Recycling & Yard Waste** Facility, 900 Wall Street. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Village Hall, (262) 782-6700.

Sunday – DECEMBER 22

HANUKKAH begins

Tuesday – DECEMBER 24

Elm Grove Village Hall Closed

Wednesday – DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS
Elm Grove Village Hall Closed

Friday – DECEMBER 27

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7 a.m. @ Western Racquet Club. www.elmbrookrotary.org.

***Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: Jeff Barta, Manager, Social Security – Waukesha. Topic: “Social Security – The Challenges for the Future”. www.kiwaniselmgrove.org.

Saturday – DECEMBER 28

***Elm Grove Recycling & Yard Waste** Facility, 900 Wall Street. Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Village Hall, (262) 782-6700.

Tuesday – DECEMBER 31

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Mid-week Taize Services
Wednesdays, Dec 4, 11, 18 - 6:30 pm

Mission Gift Festival
(Gifts that support a world in need)
Sunday, Dec 8 - 9 am to noon

Cantata Music Services
Sunday, Dec 15 - 8:30 & 11 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Dec 24 - 4, 7 & 10 pm

Community United Methodist Church
www.cumceg.org
14700 Watertown Plank Rd, Elm Grove, WI
262.782.4060
Pastors Kris Androsky & Changki Kim

Clubs & Organizations

“Lights of Love” Celebrates 25 Years!

By Kayte Parkin

In the fall of 1995, an Elm Grove annual tradition was born! The new event “Lights of Love” was led by **Connie Hauer**, a Friends of Elm Grove Library (FOEGL) board member. It gave residents a chance to light the Village Christmas tree by honoring friends and loved ones by buying a light. The first year’s proceeds benefitted the Library’s remodeling project.

Lights of Love is a **fun** community event for families. It is also a very successful fundraiser for the Library. The **fun** is comprised of entertainment, tree lighting, caroling and refreshments in the courtroom. Through the years, Elm Grove families and their friends have heard tales, enjoyed stories and performances, made crafts, visited with **Santa & Mrs. Claus** and admired **Mr. Conductor’s** model train.

In terms of fundraising, Lights of Love raised nearly \$8,000 in its first year. In recent years, it has consistently raised over \$15,000! The funds raised have been used for countless Library projects and enhancements. Our Elm Grove Library would simply not be the same without Lights of Love. To make a gift for this year’s campaign, please pick up a donor form in the library or visit: <http://www.friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org/lights-of-love/> These donations are tax deductible.

This year the village tree lighting



celebration is on Sunday, December 8 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. This year, Lights of Love features a visit from Santa, stories by Mrs. Claus, and Mr. Conductor and his train table. Plus, guests of all ages will be amused by an entertaining and interactive performance, “How to Be an Elf”.

At 4:45 p.m., a child chosen to flip the switch will light the tree, and caroling begins. Next, join the family-friendly reception in the Village Hall court room.

We hope to see you there!

Elmbrook Education Foundation to Hold Annual Ladies’ Night Event

(ELM GROVE) The Elmbrook Education Foundation’s 16th Annual Ladies’ Night will take place on Thursday, December 5 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Western Racquet Club.

Gather a group of friends and join us for this highly anticipated evening to socialize with ladies from across the community. Enjoy hors d’oeuvres, dessert buffet & holiday signature drink. Shop the auction / raffle Purchase a mystery swag bag. Participate in the nail polish pull, cash purse raffle & gift card tree raffle.

To register for Ladies’ Night, please

visit: <https://LN2019.givesmart.com>.

Funds raised at this event will go towards replacement of musical instruments throughout the district. Elmbrook is the only district in the region that offers band and orchestra at 4th grade, and supports individual student development with small group lessons through 8th grade. While many students rent their equipment each year, an inventory analysis completed as part of the music curriculum review and alignment process identified many large instruments requiring replacement, as well as a need for instruments for students without the means to rent on their own.



Photo by John Troglia

Gathered (left to right) are **Don Ralfs**, Kiwanis Pill Bottle Program chairman; **Tom Wilke**, Bread of Healing Clinic pharmacist; **Cecilia Hawley**, Harwood Place contributor; **Sharon Braun**, chairperson Harwood Place Smart Living Committee; **Phyllis Spencer**, Harwood Place Smart Living Committee member.

Recycled Pills Help Thousands, Save Millions \$ How You Can Contribute!

By Jerry McCormick

Millions of unneeded prescription medications are disposed of each year. Responsible disposal of unused medicines is a problem and many go into the sewer or garbage collection systems. At the same time patients with no insurance cannot afford needed health care. Most have chronic health problems and their prescribed medications are costly and unaffordable.

The Bread of Healing Clinics in Milwaukee serve patients with no insurance and who cannot afford needed health care. The clinics accept unused pills. These donated pills are evaluated and certified by a licensed pharmacist for reissue to fill prescriptions issued by the clinic medical staff. Better health care for patients is the immediate benefit and at the same time thousands of pounds and millions of dollars of unused medications and plastic bottles are kept from landfills.

Bread of Healing Clinics care for about 1,800 patients, amounting to more than 7,600 visits annually. A staff of more than 170 volunteers including physicians, dentists, nurses and other patient-care providers allow 84% of the budget for patient healthcare services. The volunteer

licensed pharmacist handles the receiving, storing and reissue of these donated medications. Any that are not reissued are responsibly discarded.

The Lutheran Home Harwood Place Assisted Living facility in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin is a strong contributor of unused medicine. **Sharon Braun**, Chairperson, Smart Living Committee hosts semi-annual pill donation events where thousands of pills are collected in partnership with the Elm Grove Kiwanis Club.

Sharon said, “We are happy to help Kiwanis and the Bread of Healing Clinics with this great volunteer program.”

The Elm Grove Kiwanis Golden K Club supports the clinics in collecting unused medications. The club of about 65 members committed to community service meets each Friday morning at St. Mary’s Church Senior Center in Elm Grove. Unused medications in their original container with the patient name blacked out may be dropped off from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Fridays.

For more information, e-mail the Club at kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

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"Green" is Good!

Ideas courtesy of The Waukesha County Green Team
www.waukesha-countygreenteam.org

Avoid buying individually wrapped food

Packaging makes up 50% of trash by volume. Visit a school lunchroom and you will see a staggering amount of trash! Individually wrapped items, such as string cheese and applesauce may be convenient, but adds dramatically to our waste footprint. Buy full-sized items and divide them up into reusable containers!

Replace the use of a toxic household product this week!

Toxic products get into and contaminate our water supplies. Discarding harmful products correctly is important, but not buying them in the first place is even better. You can ask local stores to carry nontoxic products. Check EPA’s Greener Products website at <http://epa.gov/greenerproducts/> to find non-toxic products.

Don’t use disposable plastic bags

The EPA estimates that between 500 billion and 1 trillion bags are used annually and over 99% of those are landfilled or end up as litter on the way to the landfill. Use reusable bags and containers instead.

Stop the Junk Mail Madness!

Did you know that every person in our country gets about 250 pieces of unsolicited mail every year? This week, go to www.catalogchoice.org and opt out of unwanted and unsolicited mailings.



News Briefs



Photo courtesy of Woller-Anger & Company

Jon Grandelis (Woller-Anger) (at left), **Terry Steiner** (Woller-Anger) and **Bob Burmeister** (Mr. Bob's) at their 2018 “long underwear” collection drive.

Local Blanket and Glove Drive to Benefit Milwaukee’s Homeless

By Brad Anger

Woller-Anger & Company is collecting blankets, insulated gloves and monetary donations to help Mr. Bob’s Under the Bridge provide these much-needed items to Milwaukee’s homeless during the holiday and winter season. Mr. Bob’s Under the Bridge is an outreach in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, serving the homeless community in the City of Milwaukee and surrounding communities.

Every Saturday morning, “**Mr. Bob**”, **Bob Burmeister**, and dozens of volunteers gather at Kosciuszko Park in Milwaukee where they distribute a variety of much-needed items to men, women and children. Mr. Bob’s also provides warm coffee and snacks on Saturday mornings, encouraging fellowship and creating a sense of community.

Mr. Bob’s Under the Bridge started in September 2007 with 6 backpacks and

open hearts for distribution to their friends in the city. In 2012, Mr. Bob’s Under the Bridge became a non-profit to better serve the community. In July 2019, Mr. Bob’s launched a mobile shower trailer to contribute to the health and well-being of the homeless.

The vision of Mr. Bob’s is to create a community in which every person receives basic necessities, guidance and hope.

Please consider donating new or used blankets, insulated gloves or cash!

Our office at 930 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove, Wisconsin is the main drop off location. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (262) 789-2500 for more information. Contributions will be accepted until Wednesday, January 8.



Photo courtesy of Community United Methodist Church

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors) celebrated their 15th anniversary on November 21 with a lunch and program at Community United Methodist Church in Elm Grove. Pictured (left to right are some of the members): **Dick Czeszynski**, **Mitzi Kirchner**, **Ed Kirchner**, **Carolyn Korona**, **Anne Harberg**, **Sandy Uelner**, **Roy Uelner**, **Bonnie Younger**, **Connie Fliege**, and **Kathy Fuhr**. This organization is an outreach of the church to the community, who are semi-retired or retired. Its purpose is to provide friendship and fellowship to all of its members through entertainment, adventure, inspiration, fun, and service. For more information, contact Community United Methodist Church, (262) 782-4060.



Photo courtesy of Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

Art enthusiasts view a series of paintings during a Ploch Art Gallery exhibition.

Wilson Center Issues Call for Artists

(BROOKFIELD) The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 3270 Mitchell Park Drive, Brookfield, continues its recognition of exceptional Wisconsin artists with an invitation to submit proposals for solo and collaborative exhibitions (2 to 4 individuals) for the 2020 / 2021 season of the Ploch Art Gallery.

Exhibitions and receptions bring together artists and visitors from across the region with the goal of increasing appreciation, awareness, and participation in the arts.

There is no fee to submit your proposal. This is open to all artists 18 and older. Artists must currently reside in Wisconsin OR be a native of Wisconsin OR be a graduate of a four-year fine arts college program in the State of Wisconsin. All media will be considered.

To learn more about the Ploch Art Gallery, view past exhibitions, and see details about proposal requirements, visit www.wilson-center.com/ploch-art-gallery.



Photo courtesy of Brookfield Academy

Brookfield Academy’s First Place Novice Division team of Latin scholars (left to right): **Allison Hieb**, **Ayushi Chandel**, **Krish Sharma**, and **Anvesha Guru**, with Coach **Dr. Ronald Roessler** (back row, at left) and Latin teacher **Mr. Terry Laabs**.

Brookfield Academy Latin Teams Earn 1st & 2nd Places at Yale Event

By Marie O’Brien

Brookfield Academy Latin scholar teams earned top awards competing against other school teams at a Certamen event at Yale University. Brookfield Academy’s Middle School students **Allison Hieb**, **Ayushi Chandel**, **Krish Sharma**, and **Anvesha Guru** won first place in the novice division. Sharma was also named MVP of the novice division.

Ronit Gupta, **Kyle Jain**, and **Ali Warraich**, earned second place in the advanced division.

Yale’s Certamen event is an annual quiz-bowl style competition among Latin students from across the country. Students test their knowledge of Roman culture, history and mythology, and the Latin language.

Upper School students **Emma Canga**,

News Briefs



Join the Elm Grove Fire Department!

By William Selzer, Fire Chief

This article is one of a series that will highlight the services provided by the Elm Grove Fire Department and EMS services, our membership and the benefits of volunteering. This month will focus on the Fire Department.

“Volunteerism is the practice of providing time and skills for the benefit of other people and causes rather than for financial benefit. Volunteering is important for many reasons, but new studies make it clear that volunteerism saves resources for the community, meeting critical, local needs, and translates into better physical and mental health for those who give their time.”

Why volunteer and become a member of the Elm Grove Volunteer Fire Department?

We know in this day and age, many families have extremely busy schedules filled with sports, clubs, and various school and family activities. Volunteering on either the Fire or EMS departments is a worthwhile time commitment providing services to our community and others.

Time commitment and compensation

The Elm Grove Volunteer Fire Department welcomes all Village residents 18 years or older who live within our response area to join a great organization serving the residents and business owners of the Village of Elm Grove. Members are required to live within the area bordered by HWY 100, Burleigh, Calhoun and Greenfield.

Training

New members attend a one semester, two nights per week of the Firefighter I course at either WCTC or MATC. Upon successful completion of FF1, they will receive additional Elm Grove operations training, and be assigned to a Duty Company.

Duty Companies

Members serve on one of three Duty Companies every third day, weekdays from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m., and on the weekend days from 7 a.m. to 7 a.m. the following day. During these times, members are available for calls within our response boundaries. You are not required to be at the Station during your Duty Co. shift.

Meetings and Drills

Every Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., meetings and trainings are conducted.

Social and Public Relations Events

Each year the department sponsors a number of family events for the membership. We also attend parades, community events, and conduct an Annual Fire Prevention Open House along with the Survive Alive Program for 3rd and 5th graders.

To learn more about the Dept. or join


Stop by the station any Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to meet the members, receive a tour, and learn about the application process. Leave a message at (262) 782-6700 ext. 251. Email the Chief at: wselzer@elmgrovewi.org

Read All About It!


Upcoming Programs at the Library


13600 Juneau Boulevard, Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-782-6717 / elmgrovelibrary.org

Christmas Tree Ship
Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 p.m.


All Aboard! Author Rochelle Pennington presents the true account of Captain Schuenemann and his schooner, considered the most loved story of the Great Lakes. Filled with courage, generosity, and the importance of family, it’s a shipwreck story with heart. The presentation includes original photographs, little-known facts, ghost ship sightings, and omens. Artifacts raised from the sunken ship will also be on display, along with photos of the vessel in its current state at the bottom of Lake Michigan. Free to attend. No registration required.

Holiday Family Event - All Ages Welcome!
Thursday, December 12, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.


This annual event has something for everyone! Start off the evening making holiday crafts. We provide the supplies and instructions, you provide the energy and imagination! Then at 7:00 p.m., there will be an encore performance of “Ebenezer Duke,” an original musical re-telling of “A Christmas Carol” with musician Duke Otherwise. This is an interactive performance with audience members taking on roles as needed. Ask someone who saw it last year how much fun they had! As always, refreshments will be served. Please register for this event in advance at the library.


Adult Winter Reading Program starts December 21
There’s a blizzard coming...a blizzard of books! Back for another year, the Winter Reading Program will run from December 21 – March 19. It’s a great way to share your favorite (or not favorite) reads of the season. Did we mention there are also great prizes to be won? The program is open to anyone ages 16 and up. Full details are available at elmgrovelibrary.org.

Elm Grove Library Offers Digital Newspaper Collection

Did you know that the library subscribes to an enormous digital newspaper collection? Titled *America’s News*, this collection is available to all library patrons and is updated daily. *America’s News* provides Web-based access to current and archived issues of hundreds of full-text newspapers, including the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* and the *Waukesha Freeman*.



America’s News enables library patrons to easily search current and archived news articles, editorials, reviews, birth and marriage announcements and obituaries. In addition to using *America’s News* at workstations in the library, patrons can access the collection from home by visiting elmgrovelibrary.org, and selecting the “America’s News” link.

For more information on this collection, stop by the library or call 262-782-6717.

Good Sports



Photo courtesy of Brookfield Academy

Brookfield Academy seniors **Pablo Dale** (at left) and **Aidan Clarey** signed National Letters of Intent to play collegiate athletics. Dale will play men’s tennis at Marquette University and Clarey will play men’s basketball at Rockhurst University.

The ELM GROVE NEWS-INDEPENDENT

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Young Writers & Cub Reporters

The Smiling Snowman from Last December

By Abdul Alqwasmī, Brookfield Academy – 8th Grade

The snowman outside was just laying there,
Standing by himself in the freezing air.
He had the finest pointy carrot nose,
The one my little sister chose.
His eyes were made of charcoal rocks,
And his icy stick-hands were covered with socks.
His lovely smile was crafted from sticks,
And his feet were made out of cracked bricks.
After a while of him being out in the snow,
He started to melt and go low, low, low.
A whole year has passed and I still remember,
The smiling snowman from last December.



Christmas

By Elise Talatzko,
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Cookies everywhere
Hanging lots of ornaments
Ring goes the Christmas bells
Icicles hanging on the roof
Santa's on his way
Tons of family coming together
Making people happy with lots of love
Acting out the nutcracker
Staying in from the cold

Thank You Santa, Wherever You Are!

By Maeve Green
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Click, goes my brother's light switch. I slowly creep on top of him and his bed. And then, I start jumping wildly until he wakes up. "Come on, let's go," I screech "I'm pretty sure Santa already visited." My brother does a quick stretch and then runs out of his room. "Wait for me!" I yell. I finally catch up with my breath and my brother, almost slipping on the way down the stairs. I skidded to a stop in front of a gigantic bean bag. Under my breath (so my brother won't make fun of me) I whisper, "Thank you Santa, wherever you are."

My Zookeeper Christmas Wish

By Connor Christianson
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Making a Christmas list,
I hope to get a chameleon,
I hope to get a green Iguana
And a bearded dragon,
I want a land turtle and a corn snake
I want them in the same tank together
I can pretend to be the zoo keeper
I hope I get a guinea pig
I need to look up to how to take care of a
guinea pig
But I want one because they are so cute
I hope for Christmas I get the animals of
my dreams

Candy Canes

By Isabella Radomski
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Candy canes are the most important Christmas tradition in my family. If you turn one so it looks like a J, you'll see that J stands for Jesus, who was born on Christmas. Then, if you turn it upside-down, it'll look like a shepherd's staff. That stands for the shepherds who visited Jesus in the manger. Not all candy canes are like this, but the original ones are red and white striped. The red stands for Jesus' blood when he was killed and the white stands for Jesus' spirit which is still with us at all times. Candy canes make every one of my Christmases special. I hope they make yours special too!

The Gift of Life

By Cecelia Hurst
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

On the night before Christmas everyone was sleeping except me. I lay awake because Santa Claus was coming to town. I knew I should go to sleep so I did. And I dream about all the presents I want.

On Christmas Day I jump out of bed and wake up my sister. We tiptoe to the living room and saw all the presents. We sit under the bright tree staring at the gifts we wrapped up for each other. Suddenly Dad came out with the Bible in his hand like he does every year. Together we circle around the couch and Dad reads about Jesus being born. I knew reading the Bible is the best gift of all. After we pray, we pass out the presents to the ones who we love.

Mom and Dad started walking to the kitchen. Dad makes eggs. Mom makes hash browns. And I make pancakes and toast. Bristol and Jax set the table. We help each other carry the food. When I was eating I was thinking really the Bible was truly the best gift of all!

Snowmen

By Olivia Webb
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Standing tall through the night
Glistening in the powdery white
Accessorizing with buttons and hats
Hear the faint sound of their chitchat
Bringing joy to every child's face
Smiling with such grace
Snowmen

Christmas Time

By Sebastian Naimi
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

I love Christmas the one I can't miss.
I love all the presents with all the
wrapping paper.
But the main reason I love Christmas is
the birth of Jesus Christ.
I love the music like Jingle Bells or Have
a Holly Jolly Christmas.
I love all the Christmas movies it always
reminds me of kindness.
Ho Ho Ho- Santa is in town with his
reindeer Rudolph, the red-nosed
reindeer, and Dasher.
All the sweet candy and now at the beach
it's not sandy.
All the white snow out in all the
backyards.
I wonder what will happen if I blow on all
that snow.
Burr it is really cold outside.
I love hot coco
People who don't like it are loco.
Yummy cinnamon buns in the afternoon.
Sitting at night near the fireplace is just
warm
At least I'm not outside in that cold.

Winter

By Sarah Cobb
Brookfield Academy – 8th Grade

Snow on my cheek,
The wind blowing in my face,
Making my cheeks look like roses.
Just walking down the street,
The kids are laughing and playing in the
snow.
Snowman in the yards,
Rocks, branches, carrots.
All of the basics.
Kids pulling out the sleds, asking to ride.
Parents shoveling the snow so they can
get to work.
Hats, gloves, scarves, big coats.
Snowball fights, and laughing in the snow.
Nothing beats the hot chocolate though.
Nice warm drinks to make you feel warm
inside.
What to do on a snowy night?
Wrap up in blankets, with hot chocolate,
and watch a Christmas movie.
Presents all around, buying them in the
shops.
Christmas trees are coming soon.
The kids playing with their gifts.
What is the joyful time of year we call?
Winter!

Early

By Safiya Khazi-Syed
Brookfield Academy – 8th Grade

the cold powder Early falls.
Visiting
early. Bitterly biting
our nose and ears, leaving them pink as
a peony.
Lovers
of this
so called “season”
have wished
for it to come soon.
It has paid us a visit
early.

Christmas

By Isabella Zosel
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

I can hear the jolly music coming from the living room
I can see the presents under the tree waiting for me
I can feel the blazing fire warming my face
I can smell the amazing ham my grandma brings for dinner
I can taste the peppermint hot cocoa we have as we open presents
I LOVE CHRISTMAS!



FLAVOR OF THE DAY

December 2019

- 1 Butter Pecan
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- 3 Cappuccino Cookie Crumble
- 4 Turtle
- 5 Andes Mint Avalanche
- 6 Cookies & Cream
- 7 Midnight Toffee
- 8 Chocolate Eclair
- 9 Blackberry Cobbler
- 10 Dark Chocolate Decadence
- 11 Chocolate Covered Strawberry
- 12 Dulce De Leche Cheesecake
- 13 Peanut Butter Cup
- 14 Mint Oreo
- 15 Caramel Turtle
- 16 Devils Food Cake
- 17 Butter Brickle
- 18 Bonfire Smores
- 19 Creamy Lemon Crumble
- 20 Really Reese's
- 21 Chocolate Oreo Volcano
- 22 Red Raspberry
- 23 Double Strawberry
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- 26 Mint Chip
- 27 Snickers Swirl
- 28 Oreo Overload
- 29 Caramel Cashew
- 30 Brownie Thunder
- 31 Double Marshmallow Oreo

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Legal Issues

2019 Last Minute Year-End Tax Strategies for Your Stock Portfolio

By **Arthur Lee**, CPA – Alliance Tax & Accounting Service
150 N. Sunny Slope Rd., Ste. 245, Brookfield, WI 53005 (262) 786-4442

When you take advantage of the tax code’s offset game, your stock market portfolio can represent a little gold mine of opportunities to reduce your 2019 income taxes. The tax code contains the basic rules for this game and you can apply the correct strategies.

- Here’s the basic strategy:
- Avoid the high taxes (up to 40.8%) on short-term capital gains and ordinary income.
 - Lower the taxes to zero — or if you can’t do that, then lower them to 23.8% or less by making the profits subject to long-term capital gains.

Think of this: you are paying taxes at a 71.4% higher rate when you pay at 40.8 % rather than the tax-favored 23.8%.

To avoid higher rates, here are five possible tax planning strategies.

Strategy 1

Examine your portfolio for stocks you want to unload, and make sales where you offset *short-term* gains subject to a high tax rate such as 40.8% with *long-term* losses (up to 23.8%).

In other words, make the high taxes disappear by offsetting them with low-taxed losses, and pocket the difference.

Strategy 2

Use *long-term* losses to create the \$3,000 deduction allowed against ordinary income.

Again, you are trying to use the 23.8% tax loss rate to kill a 40.8% tax rate (or a

0% loss to kill a 12% tax, if you are in the income tax bracket of 12% or lower).

Strategy 3

If you have lots of capital losses or capital loss carryovers, sell additional stocks, rental properties, and other assets to create offsetting capital gains. If you sell stocks to purge the capital losses, you can immediately repurchase the stock after you sell it — there’s no wash-sale “gain” rule.

Strategy 4

Do you give money to your parents to assist them with retirement or living expenses? How about children not subject to the kiddie tax? If so, consider giving appreciated stock to your parents and your non-kiddie-tax children. Why? If the parents or children are in lower tax brackets than you are, you get a bigger bang for your buck by:

- Gifting them stock
- Having them sell the stock & then
- Having them pay taxes on the stock sale at their lower tax rates.

Strategy 5

If you are going to make a donation to a charity, consider appreciated stock rather than cash. A donation of appreciated stock gives you more tax benefit.

- **Benefit 1:** You deduct the fair market value of the stock as a charitable donation.
- **Benefit 2:** You don’t pay the taxes you would have had to pay if you sold the stock.

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Greetings

Happy Birthday, Jody!
Happy Birthday, Chris!

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Young Writers

Continued from page 9

Christmas Traditions

By **Cole Fuchs**, Tonawanda – 4th Grade

At my house when December starts, we start making our Christmas wish lists. Then we make some Christmas cookies with our grandma. Usually all our relatives are in town. On Christmas Eve I can’t sleep. I used to wake up in the middle of the night to see Santa’s boots. I actually saw them once! Santa didn’t know I saw his boots. Sometime near Christmas, me and my family go to our friend’s house for brunch and Santa comes to give us all something. On Christmas Day me and my brother annoy our mom and dad until they get up so we can open our presents. I LOVE CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Day!

By **Pietja Dusek**, Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Tiptoe tiptoe tiptoe, peek at the clock.
Look look look, at the snow-covered scenery.
Run run run, wake up mom and dad.
Sprint sprint sprint, get brothers awake.
Fly fly fly, down the stairs.
Wait wait wait, not so patiently for mom dad and brothers.
See see see, that Santa ate the cookies!
Rip rip rip, presents open, candy too.
Drive drive drive, to Grandma’s and Grandpa’s cabin.
Play play play!
With cousins all through Christmas day!

Santa

By **Charlie Dworak**
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Sounds of Christmas
Angel spirits
North pole busy
Time for memories
Americans celebrating

Christmas Spirit

By **Niamh Mayne**
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

“Come on Grandpa!” Flurry insists.

“Bah humbug.” Grandpa replies. Flurry had been up all morning. She was as jumpy as a kangaroo (of course, she was five.)

“Please come to the shops with me?”

“NO!” Grandpa shouts. Flurry starts to cry.

“Bah humbug.” he replies. Flurry tries again later. Finally Grandpa gives in.

“Merry Christmas to you!” The carolers sound loud as an elephant. Everyone tries to get Grandpa in the Christmas spirit.

Finally, Flurry says, “I love you Grandpa.” Then up creeps a small smile to Grandpa’s face.

“I love you too.” And that was true.

Christmas

By **Sophia Krueger**
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Cheerful people
Hats and mittens
Running in the snow
Ice skating with family
Sliding down big snowy hills
Merry Christmas
As he clunks down the chimney
Santa’s here, Santa’s here **HO HO HO**

My Interview with St. Nick

By **Leah Czervionke**
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Leah: Why do you like being nice to kids?
St. Nick: Well when I was a little kid I loved when people were nice to me!
Leah: Why do you give kids really cool toys?
St. Nick: Well, every kid likes toys, right?
Leah: Yeah, totally. Why do you live in the cold weather?
St. Nick: Well first of all, my reindeer love the weather, and they’re like my kids. Second of all, we have to hide, because we don’t want anybody to see us.
Leah: Oh!? How old are you?
St. Nick: Why that question!? Fine, 73-years-old.
Leah: Wow, and I’m only 9. What’s your favorite cookie and kind of milk?
St. Nick: Sugar cookies. Oooh, those are the best and whole milk please.
Leah: Have I been good this year?
St. Nick: Well, a little here and there, but mostly good.
Leah: How many kids do you have?
St. Nick: My reindeer are my kids.
Leah: Why do you come on the sixth?
St. Nick: One, it’s near Christmas, and two, my favorite number is six.
Leah: Merry Christmas!
St. Nick: Yep, Merry Christmas to you and to all!

Family Fun

By **Will Habich**, Tonawanda – 4th Grade

During the Christmas season, our family has to get ready to host a party, so we have steps. Here they are: First, we set up the tree and decorations. Second, we put ornaments on the tree. Third, we bake cookies and invite people. Fourth, we all get ready for the visitors. Then, we have some fun playing cards, opening presents, playing games and celebrating. Then, the guests leave and we clean up. We set our cookies and milk out for Santa and we go to sleep. In the morning we go to church and when we get back, we open presents and play with them for hours. Then, we go out for a Christmas brunch at our grandma’s house. When we get home, we get ready to watch a movie together. Last year we watched *The Christmas Story* and it was so funny. For dinner we pray and then we eat a delicious turkey dinner. We say what we are thankful for — that we got today and we have a dessert of Santa cookies. We say our prayers before bed while we plan for next Christmas. Thank you God, for the life you’ve given me.

Merry Christmas! HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!!

By **Olivia Litscher**
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Craving Christmas cookies crunch
crunch Really crunchy tasty
Happy cheers all around
Reindeers flying over the sky
I love Christmas
Skiing down snowy hills
Merry Christmasw
Awesome attractions
Special songs

Hockey

By **Andrew Bausch**
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

Hot and cold at the same time
Out of this world
Cold ice
Kicking is illegal
Eat and get bigger
You will all love the sport HOCKEY!

Our Village

In My Opinion: The Case for Preserving Elm Grove’s Downtown Historic Buildings

By Lisa Becker

As our community imagines what changes will bring future benefit and investment into our village through the Downtown Master Planning Process, preservation of our historic buildings should be considered a linchpin in helping to strengthen our community’s identity and to guide future development. The spirit of our village is reflected in our historic heritage and existing cultural resources. The Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Village of Elm Grove in November 2007, recognized that: “Preservation of historic and culturally-defining resources provides an important sense of social and cultural continuity between the past, present and future. Historic and cultural preservation can also provide economic benefits to communities through appreciation and stabilization in property values and long-term residency.” (Chapter 5, Page 49)

The 2007 Comprehensive Plan further identified a number of important landmarks for the Elm Grove community, located in downtown Elm Grove along Watertown Plank Road. These buildings include the Mill Place Shops (built in 1895 as the Reinders Feed Mill), the Old St. Mary’s Church (built in 1921), the School Sisters of Notre Dame Hall (built in 1899) and Marianum convent (built in 1921), O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub (built in 1881 as Ramstack’s tavern), and The Silver Spur restaurant (built in 1855 as The Elm Grove Hotel).

In addition to the historic properties identified in the Comprehensive Plan,

the State Historical Society’s Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (WAHI) contains 108 records of “properties of historic interest” in the Village of Elm Grove.

One such building is located at 13300 Watertown Plank Road (currently Plank Road Shops). The two-story, gabled Greek Revival brick building, built in 1860, is one of the oldest extant buildings in the Village of Elm Grove. The building is an example of the “upright and wing form”, featuring a two-story vertical portion and a single-story perpendicular wing. The façade of the building has stilted segmental arched windows and features a lunette in each of the gables. It once belonged to the Croether family, cousins of the Reusch family, who owned the Elm Grove Hotel across the street. The lunettes in the gables and the gable end facing the street are characteristic of the Greek Revival style the 1830-1860s.

Historic buildings are integral to defining the character of a community and can be the key to expanding economic growth. In 1968, when a developer wanted to tear down the Wittenberg Woolen Mill in Cedarburg and turn it into a gas station and mini-mart, the mayor found a way to stall the prospective buyer and give the community a chance to save the buildings. Local investors stepped in to preserve the buildings, and soon after, a restaurant and winery opened in the mill. Now known as the Cedar Creek Settlement, the rest of the space is rented out to shops, studios and restaurants.



Photo by James L. W. Bain / News-Independent

The Plank Road Shops building at 13300 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, photographed from Elm Grove Street on November 22, 2019.

The latter part of the twentieth century saw tourism boom in Cedarburg. As the city became a quaint and pleasant place to visit, more galleries and studios opened, as well as souvenir shops and other attractions. Business associations started weekend festivals, which attracted even more people to the community.

For the Plank Road Shops of Elm Grove, the twentieth century brought an addition of retail and commercial space along Elm Grove Street. The Plank Road Shops as a commercial property has been a fixture in the community for more than 50 years.

Today, it’s hard to appreciate this historic property — a lack of attention has caused the architectural charm of the building to be overlooked. Trees and unkempt vegetation obscure the lunette and arched windows. A stained, aging roof conveys a tired, not timeless, appearance. Some thoughtful maintenance and capital improvements in this property would go a long way toward restoring the charm of this historic building. And, an investment in this centrally-located property could be a catalytic project for reinvigorating Elm Grove’s Downtown District, much in the way the woolen mill project was a catalyst for Cedarburg.

News’ Hounds & other beloved creatures



Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Heather Gehrke

Bruce and **Murray** are so incredibly sweet and affectionate! These boys love just about everyone they meet. They love cuddle time, petting time, and of course play time! They appreciate cozy beds and soft blankets, having a few litter boxes to share, and of course, a good meal two times a day. They keep each other company when you cannot be with them and will share the

time you spend with them. Come on in and meet this dynamic duo soon!

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

Visit www.ebhs.org; call (262) 782-9261; or stop by for more information.



WHO’S WHO AT VILLAGE HALL

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Village Attorney: HECTOR DE LA MORA

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