

Elm Grove NEWS-INDEPENDENT

FREE

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Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

December 2020

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



Vintage cards with Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year. *Happy Holidays!*

2020 General Election Results, Spring Election Preview

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

On Election Day, November 3, 2020 ---of the 5,036 registered voters in Elm Grove --- 4,624 ballots were cast for an impressively high voter turnout of 92%. New day-of-election registrations numbered 94, and 3,545 absentee ballots were returned, accounting for 70% of the total vote, according to statistics compiled by Elm Grove Village Clerk **Michelle Luedtke**.

Fifty-five Poll Workers assisted on Election Day and several National Guard members assigned to our community were present the evening before.

While a majority of U.S. and Wisconsin voters chose Democratic candidates, President-Elect **Joe Biden** and Vice President-Elect **Kamala Harris**, to lead

the nation --- Wisconsin voters elected GOP candidate **Scott Fitzgerald** (262,434 votes – 60.14%) over two-time Democratic candidate **Tom Palzewicz** (175,902 votes – 39.86%) to fill the U.S. Senate 5th District seat of retiring, longtime office holder **F. James Sensenbrenner**.

Another local competition resulted in the election of Brookfield Democrat **Sara Rodrigues** (19,318 votes - 50.73%) to the Wisconsin State Assembly District 13, over Republican incumbent **Rob Hutton** of Brookfield (18,763 votes - 49.27%).

Local residents interested in taking active leadership roles regarding current and future issues of importance to our community may wish to consider running for a seat on the Village of Elm Grove Board of Trustees next year.

A Primary Election, if needed, will be held on February 16, 2021 with the Spring Election set for April 6, 2021.

The Village Board seats up for election include those of **Village President Neil Palmer**, and **Trustees Kim Irwin, Tom Michalski, and Katy Cornell**, whose terms all expire on April 20, 2021. These are two-year terms.

(See ELECTION – PAGE 2)

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

**Take CARE.
 Stay WELL.
 Seasons Greetings.
 All the Best from My Family to Yours!**



Passalis Family Photo

This photo was taken at Sacramento, California in 1918. My paternal grandmother **Clara (Weinbach) Passalis** and my paternal grandfather **James (Demetrios) Passalis** stand at left. My father, **Theodore Passalis** (age 7) is seated second child from the left, holding a bunch of grapes (very Greek!) and is surrounded by his young cousins (**Tommy and Billy LeMasters** and their two other siblings). His sister, **Marie Passalis**, (age 9), sits at far right.

ELECTION (Cont. from Page 1)

To qualify as a candidate, you must be a citizen of the Village of Elm Grove, age 18 or older, have resided in the Village for at least 10 days before any election, and be an eligible elector.

The first day for circulating nomination papers is December 1, 2020. The last day for filing nomination papers, declaration of candidacy, and campaign registration statements with the Village Clerk is not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. For more information, contact **Michelle Luedke**, Village Clerk at (262) 782-6700.

Discover Your Heritage...

I have always been fascinated with history. Libraries are like a second home. Combine the two, and an outstanding opportunity emerges to trace a family tree ... find your roots...learn about many of those who came before you. For many years I have been compiling my ancestry / genealogy. Three of my grandparents immigrated from Europe: **Jim Passalis** arrived in 1907 from the small Aegean village of Moria, Lesbos (Lesbos) Island, Greece. My mother's mother, **Marie Hottua**, came to the U.S. in the late 1880s from the beautiful country of Luxembourg and married (in Chicago) my mother's father, **Nicholaos Berlingen** who had arrived here from Cologne, Germany. My only American-born grandmother, **Clara**, from Evansville, Indiana (where Weinbach Avenue is a prominent street), met Jim Passalis in Nevada while he was working for the Southern Pacific Railroad and together moved, just before my father Theodore's birth, to a home on "P" Street

in Sacramento, California. My parents met because my mother, **Elsie**, and her brother **Walter** thought that goat's milk was quite healthy and who just happened to live across the road from them? The Greeks with goats. Of course. And the rest is history (actually my story, and only a small portion of that).

If you, too, want to know more about the men and women and adventures and surprises that make up your family saga, a great resource is our local 26-member library system (Elm Grove, Brookfield, etc.). Through the end of December 2020, those with library cards can access the Ancestry Library by going to: www.elmgrovelibrary.org, (or the website of your local member library) then clicking on "research – databases" and then "access from home". There you will find census information, military records, city directories, even school yearbooks. A great project for all ages.



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News Briefs

Kiwanis Club to Hold Meetings Via Zoom

(ELM GROVE) The Elm Grove Kiwanis Club - Golden K has announced the following virtual meetings: (See Business Directory - Page 3 for contact information.)

- **Friday, December 4th** - Speaker: **Nicky Barr**, The Kettle Range Meat Company on "Full flavored, grass fed, pork products".
- **Friday, December 11th** - Speaker: **Karen Johnson**, Senior V-P, Universal Health Services on "Suicide During a Pandemic and Granite Hills Hospital".
- **Friday, December 18th** - Speaker & Topic to be announced later.



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Elm Grove

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Village Update

By Neil Palmer, President – Village of Elm Grove npalmer@elmgrove.wi.org

The 2020 election in Elm Grove went very well. Turnout was 92% of our 5,036 registered voters. Many thanks to all our election volunteer workers.

The Village Board approved the 2021 Budget at the November 23rd meeting. The Finance Committee and Village staff had a difficult job this year preparing a budget that complies with tax levy limits set by state law. State law restricts the community tax levy increase to an amount based on the amount of new property value added the previous year. As a community with little new development Elm Grove was limited to a 1.69% increase for the 2021 budget. Our employee salaries for 2021 are scheduled to increase by 2%, health insurance costs are increasing 7%, regional sewerage treatment fees are increasing, road maintenance costs and capital equipment costs are all increasing.

The approved budget includes a \$7,303,411 tax levy, which is \$121,313 (1.69%) greater than last year. The tax rate per thousand dollars of assessed value declined from \$6.37 to \$5.99. Sewer, stormwater and solid waste fees will increase 4.12% or \$29.98.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Elm Grove Junior Guild a skating rink will soon be installed for the winter season. The new rink will be located on the existing tennis courts which provide a flat surface with lighting, is fenced and has seating for spectators. The tennis court surface is covered to protect the playing surface. All we need now is prolonged cold weather.

I received a couple of inquiries this fall asking why the Village does not provide fall

leaf collection. The simple answer is cost. One party suggested we just rent leaf removal equipment from larger communities. The problem with that proposal is that public and private equipment to remove leaves are being used at the time we would need it. We have neither the equipment or the manpower to provide such a service. Homeowners can arrange removal of leaves by private contractors, place leaves in approved bags for pickup by our waste contractor, or take leaves to the Village recycling facility at no cost.

Residents can now obtain a permit to raise chickens at home. Village staff and board committees did a lot of work to craft a set of rules that allows the keeping of chickens in a safe and acceptable manner. Interested residents can review the rule on the Village website and discuss the issue with the zoning office.

The updated Elm Grove Stormwater Management Plan is expected to be approved by the Department of Natural Resources on 12/31/20. The plan is a key component of state efforts to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act. Elm Grove is part of the 10 member Menomonee Group which operate under a MS4 (Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System) permit. The MS4 permit and new Milwaukee River TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) regulations are designed to Milwaukee River Watershed. The TMDL rules establish the amount of pollutants that water bodies can handle without detriment to the designated uses of recreation, supporting aquatic life and providing drinking water. Our region has made great progress in improving area water quality. If any local group is



interested in learning more about these efforts please contact me to arrange a discussion or presentation; npalmer@elmgrove.wi.org or by calling Village Hall.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame have filed a “notice of business closing” letter with the Village and the State of Wisconsin pursuant to State Law. The existing 66 employees will be terminated effective 12/31/20. This notice is filed in anticipation of the permanent closing of the SSND campus in mid-2021. In the interim period before final closure most of the employees will be hired by Milwaukee Catholic Home to provide service at the Elm Grove SSND campus.

Village residents interested in serving on any Village Board committees are encouraged to complete a Community Service Application form available from Village Hall or online at: <https://elmgrove.wi.org/forms.aspx?FID=69>

Elm Grove Village Finances in a Nutshell

By George Haas, Trustee – Village of Elm Grove ghaas@elmgrove.wi.org

The Village of Elm Grove has just completed preparing the budget for 2021. Next year’s budget contains a \$7,303,411 total property tax levy and \$757.66 in user fees per household for things such as sanitary sewer and solid waste disposal.

Developing the budget was an arduous task due to a state mandated tax levy increase limit of 1.69% and rising costs outside our control, such as an initial proposed 15% premium increase for employee health insurance. Nevertheless, with outstanding cooperation from Village staff and some tough decisions by the Village Board, a conforming budget has been approved.

The Village actually has two budgets: an annual operating budget and a capital budget. The operating budget covers expenditures for items that reoccur annually, such as employee salaries and benefits, office supplies, recreation programs, small pieces of equipment and legal and engineering services. All the operating budget expenses are paid for in the given year from the property tax revenue. The capital budget covers less frequently occurring expenses of \$5,000 or more. This includes various kinds of vehicles, communication equipment, and large public works projects, such as bridge replacement and the park splash pad. Because of their large cost, capital budget items are usually funded over a five-year period in advance of the purchase or construction. Each year of that period, 20% of the anticipated cost is contributed toward the item so that at the end of five years the capital acquisition is fully funded.

Most of the village operations are funded through property taxes. Some

activities, such as recreation programs, are partly funded with fees paid by people participating in those activities. The village staff also has been very diligent at seeking grants for certain acquisitions and public works projects. We also have been blessed over the years by generous citizens, who directly or through the Friends of the Elm Grove Library, the Junior Guild, the Woman’s Club and the Elm Grove Community Foundation, have given donations to support village activities. For example, a significant portion of the new splash pad was funded through donations.

We also receive about \$600,000 annually from the State of Wisconsin, an amount that varies depending upon the particular projects undertaken in a given year. However, in order to qualify for some of that state money, the village’s property tax levy, excluding money for debt payments, cannot increase over the prior year by greater than the net value of new construction in the Village. In other words, if there is no new construction, the majority of operating and capital budgets that are supported by property taxes cannot increase, regardless of inflation. Sometimes there is no sense to state law. Elm Grove experiences relatively little new construction and thus the 2021 tax levy may only increase by 1.69% above the 2020 levy. Exceeding that percentage will result in a dollar for dollar loss of state shared revenue. Thus, the Village works hard to budget under the levy limit. However, with rising costs from inflation, escalating capital charges from the Metro Milwaukee Sewerage District, and at times 10-20 percent health insurance increases, compliance with the state mandate is an annual challenge for Elm Grove.

Certain village services, such as trash collection, MMSD sewage processing charges, and storm sewer maintenance, are not included in the property tax levy, but are allocated among property owners as special user fees on the tax bills.

Large capital items often cannot be funded solely over a five-year period in the capital budget. Money set aside in that budget has to be supplemented by borrowing. In the past, a few things like a new fire truck or the splash pad in the park, have been financed by short term loans obtained from the Wisconsin State Trust Fund. Very large public works projects, such as the \$13.1 million stormwater management project in 2004, were financed by 20- to 30-year bonds issued by the Village. Currently our total debt is slightly less than \$7.1 million, although we possess a \$64 million dollar borrowing capability under state law. The Village has an Aa1 bond rating from Moody’s in recognition of our fiscal responsibility and good financial standing. We have a history of using debt wisely and sparingly.

The 2004 stormwater project is employing Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) to pay off the bonds. TIF is meaningful tool to finance larger infrastructure projects and to incentivize private development activity. We also used that financing method to assist the Heritage Senior Living Community in redeveloping an abandoned manufacturing site on Wall Street.

With a TIF, the bonds are paid off through the increased property taxes on land in the development area and not by other property owners in the Village. Nor, are anyone’s property taxes increased due

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
www.kiwaniselmgrove.org

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to the TIF or the underlying debt.

At the TIF’s inception, a Tax Incremental District (TID) is defined, projects that benefit development in the district are identified, and a financing period for the debt is specified. The base equalized value of the property within the district at the TIF inception is determined from the property tax rolls. Thereafter, any additional property taxes generated by increase in the property values in the TID are used to pay off the debt that financed the identified projects. That increased property tax amount is not paid to taxing entities, i.e. the Village, Elmbrook School District and Waukesha County, until the debt is paid or the TIF period ends, which ever occurs first. For the proposed development of the School Sisters of Notre Dame property, which now is exempt from property taxes, one million dollars of property taxes generated annually by that development is projected to be available to pay off any TIF financing.

Contrary to stories circulating in the Village, the Trustees have been very financially responsible. Often public works projects have not been implemented because it was determined that the benefits did not justify the large expenditure or incurring significant new debt.

The Village Board has a long history of conservative fiscal management and the current Board takes the responsibility for prudent management seriously.

Community Wish Lists

Blood Donations

***American Red Cross of Wisconsin**
Visit www.redcrossblood.org
or call (800) 733-2767
to schedule an appointment or locate a nearby blood drive.

***Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin**
Donor Centers:
8733 Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa
638 N. 18th St., Milwaukee
2111 Springdale Rd., Waukesha
Call 1-877-BE-A-HERO
1 (877) 232-4376
or visit: versiti.org/Wisconsin.

Food Banks / Pantries

* **Food Pantry of Waukesha County**
1301 Sentry Dr., Waukesha 53186
www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/donate/
(262) 542-5300
Needs donations of food,
volunteer time & money.

***New Berlin Food Pantry**
14750 W. Cleveland Ave. 53151
(Serves residents of Elm Grove,
Brookfield & New Berlin)
(262) 789-8040

***Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin**
1700 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee
Call (414) 931-7400 for ways to help.
Drop food donations in local store barrels.

***Hunger Task Force**
201 S. Hawley Court, Milwaukee
Call (414) 777-0483. Cash donations
& volunteers are needed to help build
“stockboxes” for seniors and do other
work. E-mail: info@hungertaskforce.org

Area Non-Profit Organizations
may submit a “Wish List” of needed items,
volunteers and/or funding.

E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com / Subject line: Community Wish Lists



Hebron Housing Services

All of our shelters are open during the COVID-19 crisis. If you need shelter, please go to the SHELTERS page of our website for details or call (262) 549-8722. We are actively seeking help from our community: funding to expand our bed space and pay our staff, supplies to keep our guests healthy, and hot meals delivered to the shelters. If you can help, e-mail: vjenkins@hebronhouse.org. Or, visit: <https://hebronhouse.org/donate/>.

Tosa Cares

This organization serves the community by providing assistance to families in need. It is operated by volunteers who collect and distribute non-perishable food, personal care items, and clothing. Visit: <https://www.tosacares.org/donate>.

Elmbrook Humane Society

Our most urgently needed supplies include: Scoopable cat litter, Dry puppy food (grain free), Canned puppy / dog food (grain free), and Kitten Milk Replacer.

In-kind donations can be dropped off any time and left at our front door through we have staff at our facility from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., 7 days a week.

Given the situation with COVID-19, we would especially appreciate financial gifts. Please mail to: **Elmbrook Humane Society, 20950 Enterprise Ave. Brookfield, WI 53045.** Financial gifts, used to directly care for animals, can also be made over the phone via credit card. Call (262) 782-9261.



The Women's Center

Since 1977, The Women's Center has provided adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, abuse, and/or trafficking with safe shelter and empowerment programming. As Waukesha County's only agency of its kind, they provide a wide range of life-saving and life-changing programs and services that heal and empower survivors on their paths to build a future free from violence.

Each and every one of their services are offered confidentially and at no cost to adults and children of all ages, all genders, and all backgrounds. They include: emergency shelter and 24-Hour Hotline; domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse counseling and support groups; legal advocacy; substance abuse and mental health support; family counseling; transitional living, housing assistance, and eviction prevention; community education and violence prevention; rape crisis response; employment counseling and life-skills development; translation / interpretation in any language; and free on-site childcare for clients.

To support The Women's Center's work, please consider making a monetary donation online at <https://twcwaukesha.org/donate> or by providing new, unopened items on their Donation Wish List, which is updated weekly with the highest priority items at <https://twcwaukesha.org/donation-wish-list>. Call the 24-HOUR HOTLINE with questions or to be connected to services: (262) 542-3828.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Citizen's Petition Update

Transformative Projects in the Village Should Have Broad-Based Support

By Lisa Becker, Elm Grove Resident lisabeckeremail@gmail.com

This fall, neighbors connected with the resident-led group Keep Elm Grove Charming circulated a petition to ensure that large, transformative projects undertaken by the Village would have broad-based support among voters. The petition, which garnered nearly 800 signatures from every corner of Elm Grove, proposed that Public Works contracts costing \$1 million or more be subject to a referendum for approval.

For almost a century, Wisconsin has had one form or another of statutory direct democracy. Wisconsin's Direct Legislation Statute §9.20 empowers voters to petition their local government to pass a proposed ordinance without alteration or to have the proposed ordinance be referred to a vote in the next election. This form of direct democracy is protected by law and has been upheld by the Wisconsin Supreme Court against challenges brought forth by other municipalities.

When a petition for direct legislation is filed (as was done by residents of Elm Grove on October 21st), the municipal clerk must determine within 15 days of the filing if the petition is in proper form and has the requisite number of signatures. The petition submitted by residents of Elm Grove was found to be sufficient and in proper form on November 4th.

However, in the time between the petition was filed and the clerk's 15-day examination of the petition, Village Trustees rushed to pass an ordinance circumventing the petition.

On November 5th, the Village decided to decertify the citizen's petition on the grounds that it modified the “existing” ordinance that was passed on October 26th.

Such flawed reasoning would empower village boards to nullify all citizen petitions during the 15-day certification window. If the Wisconsin Legislature intended for a municipality to override the will of its electors by quickly adopting an ordinance in contradiction to the petition being sought, the statute would have so stated. It did not.

In an apparent “end-around” not only of statutory law but also of their own processes and procedures, the Village Trustees voted on the new ordinance without having any review or meeting of the Legislative Committee.

In his column in the November issue of this paper, Village President Neil Palmer stated, “Elm Grove Village government is based on the ‘republic’ form, which means citizens elect Village Board members to represent them in guiding the Village.”

Palmer's response to the citizen's petition suggests he may be too focused on the authority he believes is conferred upon him by elections and not on the task of representing the citizens of this community. Wisconsin's Direct Legislation Statute provides an important check on local government when it fails to represent the public's will, as noted in the decision of the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *Mt. Horeb Community Alert v. Village Board of Mt. Horeb*:

“Direct legislation is a potentially powerful limitation on governmental authority, a remedy available to the people when their representative government has become unresponsive or misrepresentative.”

There is no clearer signal of a government's misrepresentation of the people than its subversion of the protected right of its citizens to bring forth a legal petition.

When a municipality fails to carry out its mandatory legal duty under Wis. Stat. §9.20, mandamus is the proper remedy. To find out more about mandamus and next steps for the petition, visit www.keepelmgrovecharming.org

Calendar of Events for December 2020

Tuesday – DECEMBER 1

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

Friday – DECEMBER 4

- Elmbrook Rotary Club
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Zoom Online
Program: Annual Meeting
Contact: markzalewski8803@gmail.com
for access information.

Sunday – DECEMBER 6

- Friends of the Elm Grove Library
Presents its 26th Annual “Lights of Love” event to benefit the Elm Grove Public Library. Scheduled are outdoor activities --- take home treats, a socially distanced visit from Santa, and the Village tree lighting ceremony. All guests are asked to please wear a mask. For more information, visit the library or go to friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org.

Monday – DECEMBER 7

**PEARL HARBOR
REMEMBRANCE DAY**



- Elm Grove Plan Commission
Meeting – 7 p.m. @ Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org

**Thursday – DECEMBER 10
HANUKKAH BEGINS**



Friday – DECEMBER 11

- Elmbrook Rotary Club
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Zoom Online
Program: Susan Kennedy, “Niagara Escarpment”.
Contact: markzalewski8803@gmail.com
for access information.

Tuesday – DECEMBER 15

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

Friday – DECEMBER 18

- Elmbrook Rotary Club
Meeting: 7:00-08:00 a.m.—Zoom
Online Holiday Program (music & entertainment)
Contact: markzalewski8803@gmail.com
for access information.

**Monday – DECEMBER 21
FIRST DAY OF WINTER**

- Elm Grove Board of Trustees
Meeting; 7:30 p.m. @ Village Hall
Court Room.
Agenda: <http://www.elmgrovetwi.org>.
Access Live Stream @
<https://elmgrovetwi.org/656/live-stream>

**Friday – DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS**



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**Thursday – DECEMBER 31
NEW YEAR’S EVE**

UPCOMING EVENT:

Saturday – JANUARY 30

- Elm Grove Woman’s Club
“FIRE and ICE Winter Festival:
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. @ Clubhouse parking lot, 13885 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove. Music, food, ice carvers, fire performers, etc. FREE admission. www.egwc.org.

Community Crossword #7

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain elmgrovenews@yahoo.com



ACROSS

- Annual holiday fund-raising event presented by Friends of the Elm Grove Library (3 words)
- New or experienced reporter; baby bear
- A state of calm & quiet; freedom from hostility. State of hope for our world (3 words)
- Holiday celebrated on December 25th
- World War II event marked on December 7th. (See Calendar of Events) (4 words)
- Name of dog featured in News’ Hounds
- Woman newly elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly – District 13 (2 words)
- An Elm Grove “drive” & community theatre
- Last day of the year celebration (3 words)

DOWN

- Gather crystals of ice formed from the vapor of water in the air... add a nose, eyes, top hat, etc. to build this “jolly old” guy in your yard
- Reference book containing words & their meanings
- An Elm Grove “lane”; type of chandelier
- An Elm Grove address: St. _____ Court
- “Don the Halls with boughs of _____”; a girl’s name.
- 7-member Elm Grove governing body (3 words)
- Make it “a wonderful day in your _____”
- Jewish holiday that begins on December 10
- Protect yourself & others by wearing this face covering during the pandemic
- Styles of this include modern, colonial, salt box, Italianate, French provincial
- The first day of this season is December 21st
- An Elm Grove “boulevard”; U.S. mountain range (2 words)
- The 12th month of the year
- Hold a virtual meeting via this; rhymes with boom
- Animals that pull Santa’s sleigh

SOLUTION – Page 10

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

Past Times

God with Us

“...And his name shall be called Emmanuel, which means ‘God with us’” — Matthew 1:23

By Stephen K Hauser

Most Americans are well aware of the first Thanksgiving celebration, held by the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. (For my take on that famous occasion, please refer to my *Past Times* column of November, 2015.)

Far fewer folks today know when and where the first Christmas was celebrated on America’s colonial shores. The Pilgrim settlers of Plymouth, along with the Puritans of Boston and the Anglicans of Jamestown stoutly abstained from ‘making merry’ on the 25th of December in celebration of Christ’s birth. They believed that to do so was frivolous and led to excess and debauchery. Christmas observances were actually forbidden by law in England in the 1600s, going so far as to outlaw the baking of mince pies! While it was no doubt quite true that some among the citizenry tended to excess in their merrymaking, it was also true that some of the overly pious religious practitioners simply “didn’t get it”.

British Catholics, however, had no misgivings about what they were celebrating. They saw the annual commemoration of the Nativity as a joyful recognition of “God with us” through the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem’s manger. Often persecuted back in England for their glad recognition of the significance of God’s arrival in our midst, it is therefore no surprise that they took advantage of the freedom and isolation of the New World to establish America’s earliest Christmas tradition.

Theologically and politically, Roman Catholics were as unpopular in England as were Pilgrims, Puritans and Quakers. **Lord Baltimore**, a stalwart Catholic aristocrat, negotiated with **King Charles I** in 1632 to establish the proprietary colony of Maryland as a refuge for Britain’s Catholics.

The following year, 130 settlers were dispatched aboard two cargo ships, the Ark and the Dove. Also aboard was **Fr. Andrew White**, a Jesuit priest. Fr. White noted in his journal that the passengers celebrated Christmas on December 25, 1633 while still at sea. The ships dropped anchor on Maryland’s coast on March 25, 1634. The colonists founded St. Mary’s City, Maryland’s first capital, and the first building erected there was a chapel, built under Fr. White’s direction. The following December, they celebrated the first Christmas to be observed in Great Britain’s American colonies. Despite initial skepticism expressed in other colonies toward the Holiday, its observance spread across the young nation to become almost universal by the late nineteenth century.

By the time of my youth in Elm Grove in the 1950s and the early 1960s, Christmas was the most ardently anticipated celebration of the calendar year, for both religious and secular reasons. Of course, youngsters of the “baby boom” era eagerly looked forward to Christmas vacation and the promise of two weeks away from school. Those of us who attended Leland School and our neighbors who were enrolled at St. Mary’s grade school shared a desire to be free of homework through the end of the year. A mere couple of weeks seemed a long time back then. But make no mistake:

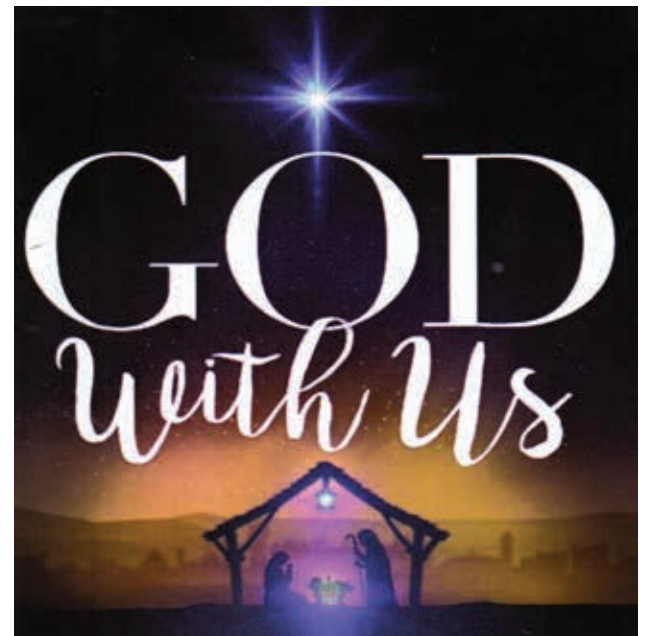
with planned choral recitals and Christmas pageants, much of the Holiday activity revolved around our local churches and our family commitments to them.

There were five church congregations located in the Village of Elm Grove during those years. By virtue of its heritage as a Catholic community, by far the largest was St. Mary’s Visitation parish, shepherded by **Monsignor Leonard Lieven** (who had replaced longtime pastor, **Fr. Andrew Kunny**). His assistant pastors were **Fr. John Arens** (who doubled as coach of St. Mary’s basketball team) and **Fr. Richard Thomas**. St. Mary’s Visitation was a huge parish, with three weekday Masses scheduled for daily communicants and six celebrations of the Mass on Sunday mornings. (Sorry, no Saturday evening Mass in those days.) During Advent, activities at St. Mary’s increased markedly. St. Mary’s congregation was still meeting in their 1921 sanctuary at the Watertown Plank Road/Juneau Blvd. triangle in those days, hence the need for so many scheduled services, given the rapidly expanding number of parishioners of those years.

My family and I were members of Elm Grove Community Methodist Church on Watertown Plank Road, pastored by **Rev. Marlin Smith**, succeeded in the early 1960’s by **Dr. Dale E. Strong**. Christmas Eve services were a high point of our church year, and I can still recall being a part of the youth choir in 1962, having to learn the words to “We Three Kings of Orient Are” and wondering why the verse “we traverse afar” was not more simply put as “we travel so far”. Dr. Strong would deliver specially written Christmas sermons for us each year, and I looked forward to them. He reminded us one year, “It’s not the things we do at Christmas, it’s the Christmas things we do all the year through”.

St. Edmund’s Episcopal Church was also located on Watertown Plank Road, just to the east of the Methodist Church. It occupied the most inventive and modern of the sanctuaries in the village, designed in 1956 by noted architect **William P. Wenzler**, who envisaged an upward sweep that exemplified the hopefulness of the post World War II era. St. Edmund’s pastor was **Fr. James DeGolier**, an Episcopal priest of the old school who valued the majesty of the liturgy and lifted high the glorious tradition of “God with us”, especially so on Christmas Eve.

Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church (Missouri synod) extended welcome to its parishioners, visitors and guests at its beautiful new sanctuary located on Terrace Drive, just north of Watertown Plank Road. The growing congregation was thriving under the leading of its longtime pastor, **Rev. Victor A. Bartelt**, and they had outgrown the colonial-style church they had occupied since 1942. That previous house of worship was sold to the Elm Grove Woman’s Club, and it still serves as their clubhouse today. Rev. Bartelt was much loved by his parishioners, and he continued as their pastor until retiring in 1986. His sermons were noted for their deep understanding of Scripture, and he was respected in the larger community for his intellect, his faith and his service to his church and his community.



His Christmas Eve sermons were said by some of his congregation to be the best they had ever heard.

The Elmbrook Baptist Church was the fifth congregation to call Elm Grove home in those days. They met in the gymnasium of Leland School on Sunny Slope Road under the direction of **Pastor Robert G. Hobson**. In 1965, they would relocate to their first building on N. Calhoun Road in Brookfield. Pastor Bob Hobson, who would later become a good friend of mine, didn’t believe in Christmas Eve services or special Holiday sermons. He argued instead that “God with us” meant the presence of Christ in our lives every day, thus making the Christmas moment a year-round, all-encompassing reality.



In the early 1990’s, my wife **Janice** and I attended the Christmas Eve services at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Lisbon Avenue in Milwaukee. The pastor was **Rev. Thad Rutter**, former associate pastor of Elm Grove Methodist Church in the 1960’s. I had first met him in 1964 as our youth pastor, and he would go on to lead our Confirmation classes. Thad has remained a valued friend ever since. I will long remember his gentle retelling of the age old Christmas story at those Christmas Eve services at Aldersgate, even though 25 years have passed since then. His own spiritual journey has given him much wisdom to share, and I can remember him telling us at a candlelight service on a chilly Christmas Eve in 1992, “Sometimes, in our own desperate search to find God, God finds us”. Hearing that, I was immediately struck once again by the blessed miracle of Christmas: God has come amongst us. Indeed, the eternal Christmas message is still: “God with us”.

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

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News Briefs



Photo courtesy of the School District of Elmbrook

Members of the Brookfield East High School Girls Swimming & Diving Team

Brookfield East Swimming & Diving Takes Home State Title for Second Straight Year

(BROOKFIELD) On Saturday, November 14, the Brookfield East Girls Swimming and Diving Team, coached by **Mike and Carol Rose**, won their second straight Division 1 state championship while setting three WIAA records in the process.

This year's event was held at Waukesha South where the Spartans won the title with a margin of 17 points over Arrowhead. The girls broke their previously set state record for the 200-yard Medley Relay with a time of 1:38:13, just shy of the national record. Relay swimmers included **Reilly Tiltmann, Abby Wanezek, Lucy Thomas, and Maggie Wanezek**. First place in the 400-yard Free Relay was also claimed by East with a new state record of 3:20:92 set by **Abby Wanezek, Maggie Wanezek, Reese Tiltmann, and Reilly Tiltmann**. The girls also took first in the 200-yard Freestyle Relay with swimmers **Lucy Thomas, Audrey Olen, Callie Gregg, and Reese Tiltmann**.

In addition, individual championships went to junior **Abby Wanezek** who took first place and set a state record of 22:63 in the 50-yard Freestyle and took first in the 100-yard Freestyle, and senior and University of Virginia recruit **Reilly Tiltmann** in the 200-yard Freestyle. Reilly also took first for the third time in the 100-yard backstroke, and **Lucy Thomas** placed first in the 100 Breaststroke.

Additional scores came from the following athletes:

- **Maggie Wanezek:** 2nd Place in the 50-yard Freestyle, 2nd Place in the 100-yard Backstroke
- **Reese Tiltman:** 2nd Place in the 500-yard Freestyle, 3rd Place in the 200-yard Individual Medley
- **Kamryn Dembny:** 9th in 100-yard Butterfly, 12th in the 200-yard freestyle
- **Clara Newman:** 10th place in Diving
- **Callie Gregg:** 10th in the 200-yard Individual Medley, 13th in the 100-yard Breaststroke
- **Kathryn Bingenheimer:** 13th in the 500-yard Freestyle

In all, Brookfield East totaled 340 points, 17 points ahead of Arrowhead who took second.

"Green" is Good!

Ideas courtesy of The Waukesha County Green Team
www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org



One Simple Act:

Enjoy "Meatless" Mondays!

Just one quarter pounder burger is worth more than 30 showers!

One of the best ways to conserve water is to skip that burger and designate one day a week to go meatless. Think of all the possibilities to eat instead - pastas, legumes, veggies, potatoes, soups, breads, salads...the list is endless!

For more fun ideas on achieving a sustainable lifestyle, visit:
www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org

©2018 Waukesha County Green Team

News' Hounds

& other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Heather Gehrke

Meet **Simon** – an incredibly special boy who lost his family due to COVID-19. Simon is 13-years-old and was surrendered after one of his pet parents (mom) passed away due to COVID-19 and the other (dad) had to move to housing that did not allow dogs.

Simon is such a sweet boy and really needs and deserves a family to call his own! His foster home has shared that he is great with children and other dogs though uncertain around cats (he has not lived with them before). He loves long walks and even though a senior guy, loves to play! Do you have room in your heart and home for loveable Simon? Please visit <http://www.ebhs.org/index.php/adopt-2> to complete an adoption application or call 262-782-9261 to learn more.

The Elmbrook Humane Society is located at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, Brookfield, just off Barker Road. Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.



Photo Courtesy Elmbrook Humane Society

Simon



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News Briefs

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Registration Open until February 1 to Receive Landscape Pesticide Advance Notices

(MADISON) – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection’s (DATCP) landscape pesticide registry is available until February 1 for homeowners and renters to sign up for 2021 growing season notices. Registrants receive advance notice from commercial lawn care companies that apply pesticides to lawns, trees, and shrubs to nearby property. You can submit addresses you want to receive notification for that are located on your block or adjacent blocks. There is no cost to register, and you must re-register every year.

To register, use either of the following methods:

Online: Visit <https://mydatcp.wi.gov> and click on “Registries/Lists” and select “Landscape Registry.”

Paper: Download, fill out, and mail a paper form available at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/LandPestReg.aspx.

The landscape pesticide registry will start March 15, when pesticide applicators are required to notify individuals at least 12 hours in advance when registered addresses are to be treated with pesticides. The registry applies only to commercial landscape applications. The registry does not apply to the following:

- Homeowners or landlords who do their own pesticide applications;
- Pesticide applications to the inside or outside of buildings, including around a workplace, school, or day care center; Pesticide use in agriculture

To learn more about the landscape pesticide registry, visit https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/LandPestReg.aspx. The registry is a service offered by DATCP. For the 2020 growing season, over 4,400 addresses were registered to receive notice. Pesticide is a broad term that can include herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides.

State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Communications Team Advises ‘Protect Yourself and People Around You!’ #MaskUpWisconsin.

(MADISON) Hello neighbors. Due to the surge of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, Governor Evers has extended Executive Order Number One, requiring everyone to wear a mask or face covering when you have to be out in public. For optimal safety, make sure you are wearing your mask the right way, too. Wearing masks and following other safety guidelines will help us stop the spread of the virus. Find out more at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>. Be safe!

A mask worn incorrectly is not safe or effective.
ARE YOU WEARING YOUR MASK CORRECTLY?

Make sure:

- Your nose, mouth, and chin are covered.
- Your straps should hold your mask snugly around your face without any gaps.

#MaskUpWisconsin
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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Read All About It!

Library Programs and Services – 12/2020
13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-782-6717 / elmgrovelibrary.org

Family Holiday Event

The library’s annual Family Holiday Event returns with an at-home edition for 2020, combining homemade crafts with family-friendly entertainment. There are two components to make one fun day: pick up a take-and-make craft kit from the library, and watch the Ebenezer Duke show online. Set your own December date for a Family Holiday Event from home! Call the library at 262-782-6717 or visit elmgrovelibrary.org to register (required) before December 11.

Take-and-Make Craft Pick-up begins December 1.

Craft supplies and instructions will be packaged and ready to pick up at the library beginning December 1 for those who registered. You will receive supplies for several crafts that have been favorites over the years plus some seasonal coloring sheets.



Ebenezer Duke Show December 4-18

This show is a musical retelling of A Christmas Carol, featuring the original music of Duke Otherwise. The show will be recorded ahead of time, but there will still be opportunities for the audience to get involved with the story. You must register so we can send you the link to the show. The show will be available to view for two weeks, December 4-December 18.

Library from home with Libby

Libby is the one-tap reading app from our library where you can borrow eBooks and digital audiobooks without ever leaving home. You can stream books with Wi-Fi or mobile data, or download them for offline use and read anytime, anywhere. All you need to get started is a library card. Install the Libby app on your digital device and follow the login steps to be reading and listening in no time.



26TH ANNUAL
Lights of Love
THE PREMIER FUNDRAISING EVENT
by the Friends of the Elm Grove Library
TO BENEFIT OUR ELM GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
JOIN US OUTDOORS TO LIGHT THE VILLAGE TREE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020
5:00 PM, VILLAGE HALL

Tree Lighting Details

Like so many other things this year, the Lights of Love festivities will look a little different this winter. While there won’t be any indoor activities, this village tradition will continue with outdoor activities, take home treats, a socially distanced visit from Santa, and the village tree lighting.

All guests are asked to please wear a mask.

Young Writers & Cub Reporters

Christmas...

By Sam Zeidler

1st Grade - St. Mary's

At Christmas time I am excited for Lent and making a snowman and putting up the Advent calendar.

By Ben Edwards

1st Grade - St. Mary's

At Christmas time I like baking and decorating cookies with my family.

By Nicholas Kopplin

1st Grade - St. Mary's

At Christmas time I look forward to Saint Nick's day and decorating cookies with my Grandma and Aunt Jane.

By Alice Lococo

1st Grade - St. Mary's

At Christmas time I am excited for my Elf to come to my house, my Grandma and Grandpa to come, St. Nick to come, and bake cookies with my mom, brother and sister.

By Lucy Nelson

1st Grade - St. Mary's

At Christmas time I look forward to baking cookies and decorating cookies with our family. It is my birthday, too.

By Rose P.

1st Grade - St. Mary's

At Christmas time I look forward to going to my grandma and grandpa's house in Michigan with my sister Susie and my brothers Joey and Bobby. We will see our cousins and sing songs, take pictures on the stairs, and play in the snow.

By Joey Keller

1st Grade - St. Mary's

At Christmas time I am excited to build an igloo with my dad.

By Allison Read

1st Grade - St. Mary's

At Christmas time I look forward to going to my grandma and grandpa's house.

My cousins will be there.

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Christmas Wishes

By Charley Moriarty
& Frances Paradis

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Christmas is a time to gather around,
And show that we care,
No matter how big, No matter how small,
The day we remember
when Jesus was born,
Forever and ever we will remember
the day he came,
And the day he left
No matter how big, No matter how small,
He'll be in our hearts, forever and ever,
Let's sing Jingle Bells to the days end,
I love you now, I'll love you then,
Christmas is a time to show that we care,
The day we remember,
When Jesus was born

Christmas

By Nora Schneider

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Christmas is the best!
Jingle bells ringing,
Children singing,
Everybody is happy,
Nobody is snappy,
Presents are getting wrapped,
Not getting trapped,
Candy Canes getting licked,
Nobody getting kicked,
Christmas is the best!

Santa Claus

By Penelope Saidai

4th Grade - Tonawanda

On the night before Christmas
there was no sound
everyone rest in their bed
until Santa Claus comes.
That morning will come
and so will the feeling of joy,
so hush up my darling
said my mother happily

Christmas Spirit

By Samantha Peterson

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Snowflakes falling everywhere
Try to catch one if you dare
Twirling swirling in the air
There is no matching pair
Opening presents
Christmas day
Wish on stars
As night comes fast
Bundle up all snug and cozy
Can you hear the faint bells ringing
Wake up Santa has come
Tip down the stairs in your pj's
Look what's under the tree
Someone's come just for you

Snow

By Samantha Tieu

4th Grade - Tonawanda

All the snow falls,
And we pack it into balls;
We would want to go back in our den,
But we all like to make snowmen!

Christmas In The Air

By Chloe Kazaks and Cam Haas

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Gingerbread houses and stockings
full of toys,
Santa Claus never makes a noise.
Except jingle bells from the rooftop
of joys.

A star at the top of the tree,
and lumps of snow falling
from the great elm trees.

Christmas carols being sung
by the old folks,
maybe this night it will be
very very cold folks.

Jingle bells I hear from my ears,
I hear Rudolph at this time of year.
Christmas is full of holiday cheer.
And add Nicholas to the naughty list
this year.

Christmas is a Wonderful Time of the Year

By Molly Swain

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Christmas is a magical time because it is when Jesus was born! To be honest with you, I love it because Santa comes to town! I also love it because everyone is happy and that makes me happy. Well, my mom loves it because Jesus, our Father, is the greatest person on Earth! The thing is that next year my dad is going to be gone because he has to leave to get deployed for a navy requirement. And he is missing everyone's birthday other than my cousin and my dog! So, this year is extra special for my family because all of us will be together! *Merry Christmas!*

Coin Collecting

By Joseph Perrone

Saint Mary's Visitation, Third Grade

Have you ever seen a unique coin? Interesting coins can be found in your very own room. These coins can be the start of a new hobby. Once you have a handful of coins, you can start sorting them by different categories. Some different categories are age, shape, country, size, color, and material. When you want to add to your collection, you can get coins from your grandparents' house, your room, the coin shop, and online sites like Ebay. When you have a bunch of coins, the best way to store them is in a cabinet or in an album. Just make sure to avoid most plastics because they can cause a reaction on the coin, and the condition of the coin determines its price. Go find some coins and start your collection today!

Among Us

By Nicolas Dahlby

4th Grade - Tonawanda Elementary

What is Among Us some may ask? Well, Among Us is one of the most popular games in the world right now, lots of people play it. Among Us is a game where you are either Crewmate, or Imposter. The objective of the Crewmate is to finish all tasks, and vote out the Imposter. The objective of the Imposter is to eliminate all Crewmates, Sabotage, and to not get voted out. It would be a real gift if you win! Have fun playing!

Coloring for Kids (and Adults)!



Legal Issues

Estate Planning: Moving to a New State

By Attorney Isabell Mueller

Moving to a new state brings with it many challenges and opportunities. What many people neglect to consider when they move, however, is how their new state's laws may affect their current estate plan. Each state has different laws relating to Wills, Trusts and Powers of Attorney, and documents that were properly executed in one state may be problematic in another. While this does not mean that the documents would be considered invalid in the new state, how they are interpreted may be vastly different. Failing to consider estate planning when moving states could have serious repercussions, particularly for married couples.

Every state has its own approach to property ownership by married couples. Some states, known as common law states or separate property states, treat assets as the separate property of the spouse whose name is on the title. Other states, known as

community property states, treat assets as being owned by both spouses regardless of whose name is on the title. Wisconsin has the Marital Property Law, which is an even more comprehensive version of community property. Thus, if a married couple with a Wisconsin estate plan and whose assets were considered marital property, now moves to a common law property state, they will find that ownership of their assets will be significantly different and the interpretation of their estate planning documents may vary as well. The same would be true of a couple which has moved from a common law state to Wisconsin and is now subject to Marital Property Law. The effect of these different approaches could be even more pronounced on couples in second marriages and/or blended families. Thus, having the existing estate plan reviewed by an experienced attorney should be a priority for any couple who has moved or is planning a move to a new state.

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News Briefs

2020 Tax Information for the Village of Elm Grove

This year is coming to a close and tax bills will soon be coming due. Below is some information you can use to help you plan for your tax payment:

2020 Tax Bill Timeline:

- **December 21st** - Deadline to send the bills to the residents – Bills will be available for print online. <http://tax.waukeshacounty.gov>. Lookup by your address, choose the tax bill option. In the upper left, you will see "View Tax Bill". This will be a PDF.
- **January 31st** - Full Payment or First Installment Due for Real Estate Taxes
- **January 31st** - Personal Property Payment in Full Due – visit <http://tax.waukeshacounty.gov> and click "Include Personal Property" to view your information.
- **July 31st** - Second Installment for Real Estate Taxes (if you opted to pay in installments)

There are several options to make your payment listed below. These options to include several ways to make your payment without setting foot inside of a building or coming in contact with others.

Payment Methods:

Town Bank of Elm Grove
13150 Watertown Plank Rd. Elm Grove, WI 53122

- Cash – provides instant receipt
- Check - Checks made payable to: Village of Elm Grove.
- Secure Drop Box available – receipt available 3-5 business days after transaction via <http://tax.waukeshacounty.gov>
- Drive thru available – provides instant receipt
- Open Saturdays – provides instant receipt
- Mailed payment accepted – receipt available 3-5 business days after transaction via <http://tax.waukeshacounty.gov>

Online Payments

- <http://tax.waukeshacounty.gov>
- eCheck for a flat fee
 - Credit Card with a percentage convenience fee
 - Both options provide an instant emailed receipt. The posting of the funds will show on the account 3-5 business days after the transaction via <http://tax.waukeshacounty.gov>

Any overpayments will be sent to the owner and mailing address listed on the tax roll. Please allow 2-3 weeks for processing of tax overpayments.

If you pay via an escrow account, your payment will be sent in accordance with your initial escrow set-up preference. If you are unsure how signed up, contact your mortgage provider.

For more information, call Village Hall at (262) 782-6700.



Young Writers

Winter Comes

By Sarah Walters

7th Grade, St. Mary's Visitation School

The cold winds blow,
bringing ice and snow.
Winter is coming.
The warm sun fades, the wind still plays.
Winter is coming!
The trees are bare, snow in the air.
Is winter coming?
From the North, the cold comes forth
Will winter come?
Christmas cheer brings loved ones near.
Winter is here.



Christmas Fever

By Caroline Raster

7th Grade, St. Mary's Visitation School

I'm so excited for Christmas I cannot wait!
I think I have Christmas fever, it might just be something I ate.
My head hurts and I'm cold all the time.
It's probably just Christmas on my mind.
My mom took me to the doctor and they put a swab up my nose.
I don't know what that has to do with Christmas though.
The doctor said to stay inside all alone.
But there's our annual Christmas party to be thrown.
I better shake this Christmas Ache.
Before December's first white flake.

Christmas

By Henry Bolger

7th Grade, St. Mary's Visitation School

A beautiful time of the cold season
Where snow falls so lazily to the ground
and forms a blanket for a soft reason.
Snow falls lightly and does not make a sound.
The lights are on, bright as ever before.
and Santa's sleigh on the snowy rooftop.
I went down the stairs, the milk freshly poured.
The gold star, still shining on the treetop.
The cookies still looked very delicious.
But one thing was completely different.
A backpack ready for the adventurous.
Spy shoes for, my not so discreet brother.
Then I heard footsteps on the snowy roof.
and a red streak shining through the sunroof.

Christmas Tree



The Christmas Tree,
It really illuminates me.
With its beautiful Ornaments,
It lights up the house with Christmas cheerfulness.
With the Christmas tree, we are glee!

By
Leo Giampietro
7th grade
St. Mary's Visitation School

Classifieds

Listings are **\$25 per issue (up to 20 words)** + 50 cents for each additional word.
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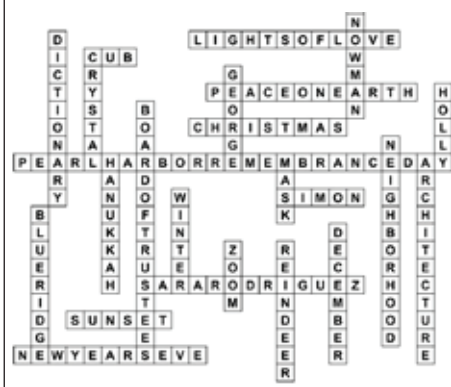
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Greetings

Dear Dr. JODY,
Wishing you a very
Happy Birthday
&
Happy 1st day of Hanukkah
December 10th

Happy Birthday
CHRIS!
December 17th

Crossword (page 5) Solution



News Briefs



Photo by Kristin Olson

Fifth grade students at Tonawanda Elementary with gifts their class collected for donation to a local hospital.

Tonawanda Students Sponsor Holiday Gift Drive

By Kristin Olson, Principal

Every year, our Tonawanda fifth grade class completes a community service project. This year our fifth grade students selected Rogers Behavioral Health Hospital and donated to a holiday gift drive for patients there. Rogers Behavioral Health helps children and teens with mental illnesses. Some patients spend a long time at the hospital so we collected unwrapped gifts to make their holiday a little happier.



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Photo courtesy of Mark Frohna

Brookfield Academy students **Mishaal Omer** (at left) and **Ashley Zhu**.

Brookfield Academy Students Earn Top ACT Scores

By Marie O’Brien

Brookfield Academy is proud to announce that two senior students, **Mishaal Omer** and **Ashley Zhu**, both from Brookfield, each recently earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on their ACT college admission and placement exams.

Currently there are four senior students who have accomplished this remarkable achievement. “Even with a move to remote learning last year, our students kept up their studies. The preparation Brookfield Academy students receive in the classroom is unrivaled as it relates to preparation for college, and four perfect ACT scores in a class of 67 speaks volumes to that notion,” said **Nick Spaeth**, Director of College Counseling at Brookfield Academy.

“The college-preparatory curriculum our students undertake provides them with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed at the college level. A perfect score of a 36 on the ACT is a testament to this preparation, and demonstrates to colleges and universities around the country that these students are ready for the rigors at the next level of their education,” he said.



Gov. Evers Announces “Hope” Theme for 2020 Student Crafted Holiday Ornaments

(MADISON) **Gov. Tony Evers**, in a letter to educators and students, announced “Hope” as the theme for the 2020 holiday ornaments handmade by students this holiday season and distributed across Wisconsin.

“Now more than ever, we all need hope. That’s why this year we are not only asking students to make holiday ornaments that celebrate hope and what it means to them, their families, and their communities, but celebrating that hope across our state,” said Gov. Evers. “I know that if we stay hopeful, celebrate Wisconsinites’ resilience, and continue to practice empathy and compassion, we are going to get through this together.”

Each year, Wisconsin students are invited to create ornaments used to decorate a tree in the State Capitol Rotunda. This year, as Wisconsinites continue to navigate difficult times and the State Capitol remains closed due to the ongoing pandemic and efforts to keep Wisconsinites and visitors safe, the ornaments will be shared with veteran’s homes, hospitals, and nursing homes to celebrate hope and the holiday season across the state.

“Hope” themed ornaments should be sent by Friday, December 4, 2020, to:

Claire Franz, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Facilities Development & Management,

17 West Main Street, Suite 119, Madison, WI 53703

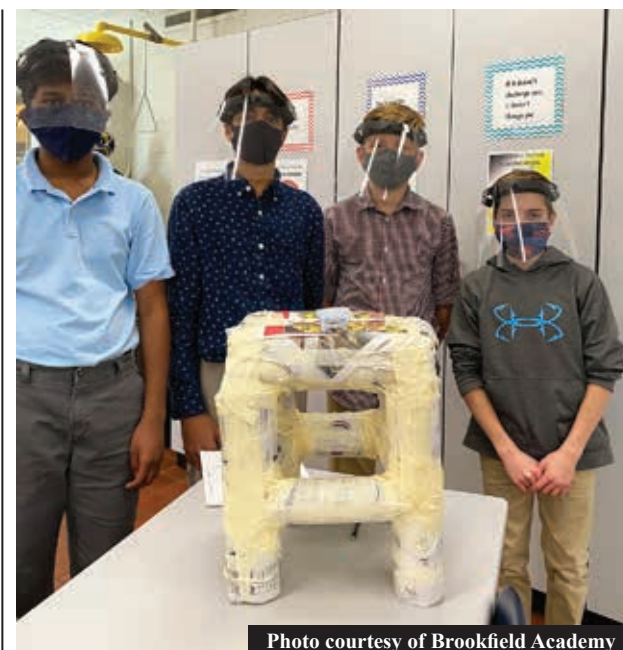


Photo courtesy of Brookfield Academy

Brookfield Academy students (left to right) **Kevin Rajesh**, **Salik Ahmed**, **Declan Richardson**, and **Alexander Kob** with their chair model.

3D Science Inspires Young Engineers

By Marie O’Brien

Brookfield Academy Middle School students apply real-world engineering skills to create a small, 3D-printed chair and also build a working, life-size version out of newspapers and masking tape.

The project is a popular one among students in the 8th grade Applied Physics class. Students are using their math and science skills to create a 3D-printed model and also to physically build a model from their own design.

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