Vol. 7 No. 12

Serving Elm Grove, WI & Neighboring Communities

February 2020

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

"Let It Snow...Let It Snow...Let It Snow!!!"







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

This trio of uniquely built and decorated snowmen were among several spotted in the front yards of Elm Grove residences along Watertown Plank Road and Circle Drive on January 26, 2020.

Elmbrook School Board Candidate Forum — February 10
Elm Grove Downtown Master Plan Open House — February 11
Spring Primary Election — February 18

(Details on Page 3)

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Village Update

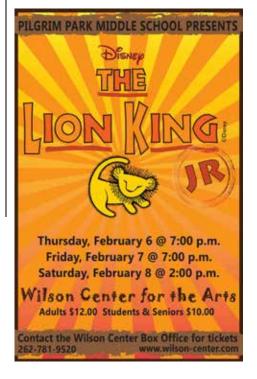
By Neil Palmer,

President – Village of Elm Grove npalmer@elmgrovewi.org

I am still having a little **trouble writing the year 2020**. The difficulty may be linked to the fact that when the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" was released I thought it was way into the future.

As I write this column, we are waiting to find out if we going to have rain or 5 plus inches of more snow. It has been a warm and wet period with lots of ice. Village crews have done a great job keeping our streets drivable, but everyone needs to slow down and drive carefully.

(See VILLAGE UPDATE – Page 3)



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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

A Song of Ice & Snow

I hope that you enjoy the 'trio of snowmen' photos that grace our front cover this month. My husband /photographer James L.W. Bain drove throughout the Village on a cold winter day, camera in hand and returned to the office with images that represent fun, creativity, and what can be considered a truly positive use for snow.

Freezing: Not good. Freezing for a Reason: Has merit. For nearly 15 years Elm Grove resident and Special Olympian Doug Pommerening, has participated in a Special Olympics Polar Plunge to raise funds in support of those with disabilities. Please consider supporting his team, DOUGIE'S DUNKERS, by contributing online at specialolympicswisconsin, Locations, MKE Zoo, February 15, Support a Plunger, one time Gift. Credit your donation to Team Dougie's Dunkers OR send a check (payable to Special Olympics) to Sandy Pommerening, 12845 Gremoor Dr., Elm Grove, WI 53122.

"Last year Doug's team brought in over \$10,000... the most money donated at the Milwaukee Zoo. We hope to top that," noted Doug's mother, Sandy.



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

Fancy Valentine's candy box.

A Valentine to the Grove

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain (with Thanks to Dr. Seuss)

IT SHOULD BE SAID FOR IT IS TRUE, THIS WAS NOT WRITTEN AT THE ZOO. THIS WAS NOT WRITTEN IN A CAR, OR --- AT VILLAGE PARK, OR --- AT O'DONOGHUE'S BAR.

THESE GREETINGS COME TO LET YOU KNOW THAT DESPITE "ALL THE PLACES YOU WILL GO" YOU'RE NEVER VERY FAR FROM THOSE WHO LOVE YOU WHEN YOUR **HOME – SWEET – HOME** IS 5-3-1-2-2.

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"Green" is Good!

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

Cut down on your consumption of animal products this week!

Animal products, such as meat and dairy, are highly water intensive to produce. On average, a vegan, a person who doesn't eat meat or dairy, indirectly consumes nearly 600 gallons of water per day less than a person who eats the average American diet. Cutting back on meat even a few meals a week can add up to huge water savings.

Turn off lights, even for just a few minutes, when you leave the area.

Myth: Lights use extra electricity to start up. You'll save cost every time you turn the lights off. Cycling your lights on and off adds very little wear to the bulb.

Unplug countertop appliances and electronics.

Make it a habit to unplug small appliances and electronics. Walk around the house at night and look for small glowing lights. A small change in behavior, mere seconds a day, makes a huge difference.

Stop getting phone books!

In today's technological age, when was the last time you actually used a phone book? If you no longer need one, simply go to www.yellowpagesoptout. com, enter your zip code, and opt out of phone book delivery.

Environmental Activists to Meet

(ELM GROVE) The Elm Grove Green Team (an offshoot of the Waukesha County Green Team) is off and running! The group, whose mission is "to build community through projects that bring us together to keep Elm Grove healthy and beautiful" continues to grow and explore a variety of projects, ranging from protecting pollinators and reducing pesticides to fostering composting opportunities at various locations.

Those interested in these and other environmental issues are invited to attend a Green Team meeting on Thursday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elm Grove Public Library, 13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove.

For more information, e-mail Deb at info@waukeshacountygreenteam.org.

Police Reports

Compiled from the files of the Elm Grove, Wisconsin Police Department.

January 21, 2020 *Vehicular Accident



Photo courtesy of the EGPD

Juneau Blvd. (at Elm Grove Rd.) was closed to traffic for part of the day because of a single vehicle collision with a power pole. The road was reopened as soon as We Energies repaired the power pole.

The EGPD noted, that this is "a good reminder to be attentive while operating your vehicle."

*Stolen Vehicles

A 2004 Ford F150 was stolen at approximately 3:30 a.m. from a driveway in the 800 block of Terrace Drive in Elm Grove. The vehicle was left unlocked with the ignition keys inside. Six additional unlocked vehicles were also entered on Verdant Drive., Terrace Drive, Woodland Avenue., and Lata Vista Drive.

Residents are urged to always doublecheck that their car doors are locked, keys and valuables not left in vehicles, and homes are secured. Thefts and burglaries occur at all times of the day regardless of where you live.

Please contact the police department at (262) 786-4141, if you see suspicious activity.

Public Invited to Attend Elmbrook School Board Candidate Forum

A community forum for candidates running for the Elmbrook Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 10 at 6 p.m. at the District Central Administrative Offices (CAO), 13780 Hope St., Brookfield.

The candidates include: **Jian Sun** (Area III Seat – in District's northeast quadrant); **Scott Wheeler** (Area I Seat – in District's southwest quadrant); **Leanne Wied**, **Jennifer Roskopf** and **Ghazala Sajjad** (At-Large Seat). The winners of these seats will serve three-year terms beginning April 27, 2020, through April 23, 2023.

Elmbrook Parent Network will host the event to provide an opportunity for community members to learn about each candidate and listen to candidate responses from questions presented by the forum moderator.

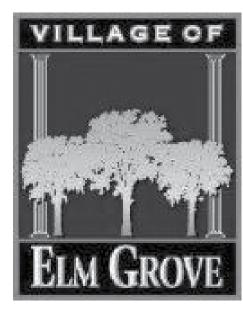
Visit: www.elmbrookschools.com or call (262) 781-3030 for more information.

Village Update Continued from Page 1)

Post holidays, with difficult travel conditions, is an important time to check on our neighbors and friends who may have difficulty travelling.

The **Downtown Master Plan** document final draft has been delivered and an Open House to continue the community discussion is scheduled for **Tuesday**, **February 11 from 4 p.m. until 7 pm at the Elm Grove Woman's Club**. This will be organized as an "open format" with <u>no formal presentations</u>.

This plan update reflects suggestions from residents at previous meetings and conversations. Building heights and visualizations, new graphs in the economic analysis section have been included. There will be a variety of exhibit boards, and copies of the plan document for review. Village staff and the consultants from SEH will be available to answer questions and to discuss the Master Plan. The Master Plan will be going to the Village Board in either March



or April for consideration of adoption.

February is Valentine month and Elm Grove is lucky to have great flower shops and a unique chocolatier. Remember to shop local.

Primary Election — February 18, 2020

(ELM GROVE) Absentee ballots will be available for voting in person starting on Monday, February 3, 2020 and ending Friday, February 14, 2020. (State law does not allow absentee voting in the office on the Monday before an Election.) To vote by absentee ballot in person, at Elm Grove Village Hall, you must be registered and provide photo ID. Office voting hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To register to vote, a qualified resident must provide proof of residency.

You can request to have an absentee ballot mailed to you, by completing the form found on the Election page, complete the information at www. myvote.wi.gov, e-mail a request, or come to Elm Grove Village Hall, 13600 Juneau Blvd., and complete a form. You must

be registered to vote, provide your Elm Grove address and where you would like your ballot mailed to. Each voter must request that an absentee ballot be mailed. You cannot request an absentee ballot for another voter.

If you are a first-time absentee voter by mail, you must first provide a copy of your photo ID.

All Elm Grove residents vote at Village Hall in the Community Rooms below the Library. Election day hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are not registered, you can register by completing the voter registration application and provide proof of residency.

For additional information, contact Village Hall at (262) 782-6700.

Official Primary Ballot Nonpartisan Office February 18, 2020 Notice to voters: if you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initiated by two election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initiated by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials. (See end of ballot for initials.) Judicial Justice of the Supreme Court Vote for 1 Daniel Kelly O Jill J. Karofsky Ed Fallone School District Elmbrook School District School Board Member, At-Large Seat Leanne Wied Jennifer Roskoof Ghazala Sajjad

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.

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Past Times: I REMEMBER...

When the Groundhog Became a Weather Prognosticator

By Stephen K. Hauser

By the time most readers see this column, area residents will supposedly know whether Wisconsin will be subjected to six more weeks of winter or whether our state can expect the imminent arrival of an early spring. This will be learned by way of a furry forecaster known as the groundhog, or woodchuck. Here in southwestern Wisconsin, credulous folks can choose between the advice tendered by Jimmy, the official groundhog in Sun Prairie, or the prediction made by Gordy, the Milwaukee County Zoo's weathercaster. Meanwhile, America's most famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil of Pennsylvania, will grab most of the national headlines and even snag a spot on the nightly network newscasts, while citizens of Woodstock, Illinois (where the 1993 movie "Groundhog Day" was filmed) will attend to the advice offered by their own local woodchuck.

To determine whether or not any of these predictions can be taken seriously, it would be well to look into the long history of this rather unusual annual commemoration. Long ago, the animal antics of various creatures at this time of year may have been a more legitimate indication of the arrival of milder spring weather, and our own forebears may have known so.

The custom of Groundhog Day originated in Europe as a derivative of Candlemas Day, celebrated on February 2 on the Church calendar. Candlemas Day is a Christian festival in remembrance of the purification of the **Virgin Mary** and the presentation of the infant **Jesus** in the Jewish Temple in accord with Hebrew tradition. It was at this time when farmers in Germany, England, France, and Scotland began to look ahead to spring planting and make their plans as to when to begin placing seeds into the soil.

t was also at this time of year that some hibernating animals began to appear again, and farmers saw this as a sign that spring was surely on its way. The animals in question did not include groundhogs. The woodchuck was unknown in Europe, but activity by marmots, badgers, and hedgehogs was duly noted. Their sightings early in the new year encouraged those folks weary of winter weather. A German verse of the time promised "...when badgers rise and marmots play, Spring arrives with Candlemas Day", yet warned also "But if the sun shines on Candlemas Day, so far will the snow fly into May". In Scotland, meanwhile, it was said that a farmer would rather spy a fox in his henhouse than see the sun on Candlemas Day. A bad omen indeed.

Exactly how much critters' fear their own shadows would presage forty more days of harsh weather is not entirely clear, and this folktale's origins are murky. The legend had spread throughout New England by the 1840s, however, and probably arrived in America with the European immigrants of that era. Since groundhogs were common in that region, they seem to have become the local weathercasters by default. So it was that Groundhog Day began to be observed in the United States and Canada.

The groundhog lore made its way to the Wisconsin territory around the same time. German immigrants to the Badger state brought their own tales of badgers and weather prognostications and affixed them to the groundhog. At one time, the truth of

the spring/winter predictions was readily accepted by wise rural settlers. After all, animals have a sixth sense about many things and are more attuned to natural phenomena than are supposedly more sophisticated humans. When hibernating animals were seen earlier in the year than would often be the case, it might well have been because they knew something their two-footed neighbors did not. Of course, this only held true as long as the creatures came from their dens and burrows of their own accord and were not poked with sticks or forced out to please attendees at some contrived ceremony. The animals got to decide for themselves back then. Nowadays, the celebration of Groundhog Day is quite different.

Wisconsin's official state groundhog, as proclaimed by Attorney General **Bronson** La Follette back in the 1960s, is the aforementioned Jimmy of Sun Prairie. La Follette went so far as to certify that, in addition, Jimmy was "more than that. He is the official groundhog of the U.S.A." For good measure, he referred to Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil as "a Johnny come lately" in the realm of groundhogs. Pennsylvanians were not amused.

In actuality, the Sun Prairie Groundhog Club was founded in 1948 and has been holding their annual forecasting event with Jimmy (Jimmy XVII?) ever since. Some local readers may still remember when Waukesha County once boasted of its own celebrity groundhog. For several years the Waukesha Elks Club on Springdale Road hosted Waldo, an "animal educator" from the Wildlife In Need facility in Oconomowoc. Waldo offered his predictions each February 2 with the able assistance of Elks Club member Richard Perschon of Pewaukee, "the Keeper of the Burrow". Dick Perschon was so "into" his role that his fellow Elks nicknamed him "Woodchuck". Sadly, Waldo passed away a couple of years ago and the annual commemoration has ceased. A phone call placed to the Wildlife In Need center this year revealed that the only groundhog now in residence there is a grumpy older male who cares nothing for predicting the weather.

The Milwaukee County Zoo, on the other hand, will hold a Groundhog Day event featuring Gordy, a two-year-old practitioner of groundhog weathercasting arts. In keeping with tradition, he will herald an early spring unless he sees his shadow and returns to his burrow, thus inflicting upon us six more weeks or so of winter. His work at the zoo keeps the groundhog's yearly legacy alive in our local area.

The 'Groundhog Pledge', once solemnly intoned by Richard Perschon each year at the Waukesha Elks Club, can therefore still be recited in our neck of the woods:

"We believe in the wisdom of the groundhog.

We declare his intelligence.

We rejoice that he can, and does, foretell with absolute accuracy the exact weather conditions for the six weeks following each February 2."

(Amens are optional.)

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



Photo courtesy of Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce

"Autographed" photo of Jimmy, Sun Prairie's groundhog forecaster, circa 1993.

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- 2rd 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.
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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 & Packer Games.

February 5 – Blood Drive at Post In Hall 1:30pm-6:00pm
February 8 – Past Presidents Annual Lunch, 11:30am and Raffle, 2:15pm
February 23 – Mardi Gras Dance, Montage 2:00pm – 5:00pm, doors open at 1:00pm

February 26 – Newsletter Assembly 10am March 25 – Newsletter Assembly 10am March 28 – Auxiliary Lunch, 11:30am & Raffle, 2:15pm

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Calendar of Events for February 2020

Saturday – FEBRUARY 1

*Elm Grove Winterfest @Village Park 2 p.m.: Candy Cane Hunt, Frosty Medallion Hunt, Fishing Derby; sledding & skating all day; crafts; candlelight hike, 5 to 8 p.m. Hosted by Elm Grove Recreation Dept. (262) 782-6700 | www.elmgrovewi.org.

Sunday – FEBRUARY 2

Groundhog Day

Tuesday – FEBRUARY 4

*Elm Grove Women's Club Meeting: 11 a.m. (social); 11:30 a.m. (Business); followed by Lunch & Program. www.egwc.org.

Friday – FEBRUARY 7

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

*Elm Grove Kiwanis - Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center.

Club. www.elmbrookrotary.org.

Tuesday – FEBRUARY 11

*School District of Elmbrook Board of Education meeting: 6 p.m. www.elmbrookschools.org (262) 781-3030

*100 Women Who Care — Milwaukee Metro West

Meeting: 6 to 7 p.m. @ O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, 13225 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove. (See story – Page 6)

Thursday – FEBRUARY 13

*Elm Grove Green Team Meeting to explore environmental issues & projects: 6:30 p.m. @ Elm Grove Public Library. For details, contact Deb: info@

waukeshacountygreenteam.org.

Friday – FEBRUARY 14

Valentine's Day!



- *21st Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. www.birdcount.org.
- *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.

Saturday – FEBRUARY 15

*American Association of University Women / West Suburban – Milwaukee Branch – Breakfast meeting: 9 a.m. @ Alioto's. Program: "Navigating through Life" presented by Joanne Williams, host, "Black Nouveau" on Milwaukee Public TV.

Membership details: (414) 476-6919 aauw.wsm.membership@gmail.com

Monday – FEBRUARY 17

Presidents' Day

Tuesday – FEBRUARY 18

Spring Primary Election (See details: Page 3) **VOTE!**

Thursday – FEBRUARY 20

*OWLS (Older Wiser, Livelier Seniors) Sponsored by Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove. Meeting: 11 a.m.; Program: "Franklin's Inventions" presented by Terry Kutz, historic portrayal.

Friday – FEBRUARY 21

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

(262) 782-4060 | www.cumceg.org.

*Elm Grove Kiwanis - Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center.

Monday – FEBRUARY 24

*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 – FEBRUARY 25

*School District of Elmbrook Board of Education meeting: 6 p.m. www.elmbrookschools.org (262) 781-3030

Friday – FEBRUARY 28

*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.

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Women's Leadership Luncheon

"Setting the World on Fire: Our Diversity is Our Strength"

In 2020, the Women's Leadership Luncheon will focus on diversity and how it plays into our everyday lives. Join us to learn more about diversity and ways to promote acceptance in your community.

Event is free. Registration is required.

Thursday, March 5, 2020 Networking: 11 - 11:30 a.m. Program: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mount Mary University 2900 N Menomonee River Parkway

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Featured Speaker: Annemarie Scobey-Polacheck Director of Corporate Philanthropy at Johnson Controls

nnemarie Scobey-Polacheck is director of Corporate Philanthropy at Johnson Controls, Annemarie Scobey-Polaciteck is unector of corporate in managery.

Where she works with the Johnson Controls Foundation. She is responsible for strategy

Where she works with the Johnson Controls Foundation. She is responsible for strategy and execution of community-facing initiatives. She is also a regular contributor to U.S. Catholic and the Milwaukee Catholic Herald where she writes on issues of faith and family life. Her book, "Discovering Motherhood: An Extraordinary Journey through Everyday Life," chronicles

her family's experience with foster care and adoption. She was named a Woman of Influence by the Milwaukee ournal in 2019, and she and her husband Bill were named outstanding adoptive parents of the year by the state of Wisconsin in 2017. She and Bill have been married 26 years and have four children who are now young



RSVP by February 28 www.ssndcp.org/wll-milw tliu@ssndcp.org 262-787-1036

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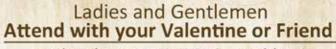












As the Elm Grove Kiwanis - Golden K Presents

"The Heart and Soul of a Marathon Racer"

Plan to attend the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club Friday meeting on Feb. 14th at 9:30 AM to learn about a Marathon running journey. Megan De Longe, race finisher of 21 marathons, (That's 26.2 miles times 21 marathons or 550 miles), will present the history of the sport and her adventures in racing. She also will highlight the marathon races in Tokyo, Berlin, London, New York, Chicago and the prestigious and oldest, the Boston Marathon.

Please join the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club members and guests for this interesting presentation!!! You are encouraged to bring a friend and your "Valentine".

> Meetings are held at St. Mary's Senior Center 13150 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove Adjacent to the St. Mary's Thrift Store

All Men and women are encouraged to attend any Friday morning meeting and presentation at 9:30 AM.

Future Golden K Presentations and Speakers

Feb 7: Joe Eichers, Award winning Photographer, discusses an Adventure in St. Petersburg, Russia, the Russian Apartment and the Self-Guided Tour taken by Him and his Wife to Palaces, Art and Architecture

Feb 21: Mark Nicholson, How Water Supports Oil & Gas Extraction in the USA, North America and World

Feb 28: Adam Schlict, From Schooners to Cruise Ships: The Grand History and Exciting Future of the Port of Milwaukee

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Clubs & Organizations



Members of Questers, Inc., (left to right) Carolyn Korona and Mary Weller display Antique Cameos, the subject of their January meeting. The Questers is an international organization that promotes "preserving and restoring the past, socializing with like-minded people, and educating our future preservationist." For additional information, visit: http://www.questers1944.org.

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Annual Book Sale to be Held at Library

By Janet Wintersberger

It's around the corner at the Elm Grove Public Library on March 6 - 8, 2020. This 3½ day Book Sale is possible through strong community support. Residents donate items to the sale, volunteer to staff it, and often find other items to enjoy.

Hosted by the Friends of Elm Grove Library (FOEGL), proceeds help the library expand its collections available to all library-users in Waukesha and Jefferson counties.

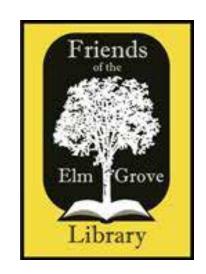
The goal is to find new homes for 20,000 books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl, games and puppets. Except for items on the "Special Table" (with rare and unique items), most items are \$1–\$2.

Find the best selection on Friday, Halfprice on Saturday and \$6 a bag on Sunday. A Preview Sale on Thursday night is for Friends of the Elm Grove Library members or those joining at the door (\$10).

New this year, the **doors open at 10 a.m.** Friday and Saturday. Elm Grove Library, 13600 W. Juneau Blvd; two huge rooms in the lower level.

For more information about the Book Sale or FOEGL membership and programs, call (262) 782-6717, or visit: www.friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org

(See AD – Page 8.)



'100 Women Who Care' to Celebrate 4th Anniversary

By Kathy Olsen

A special meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 to mark the 4th Anniversary of helping members of our communities through 100 Women Who Care—MKE Metro West.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, 13225 Watertown Plank Rd, Elm Grove, with an end-time of 7 p.m. Please come early at 5:30 p.m. to kick-off the celebration with food and snacks provided by O'Donoghue's. Please register your plans for attendance through our website: www.100wwcmkemetrowest.org/contact-us, so we can plan for these treats

and to learn more about the organization..

At our last meeting in October, we selected the Women's Center in Waukesha as the charity we supported. On February 11, **Angela Mancuso**, the Women's Center's Executive Director, will share with us the impact these funds have had on those served by the facility.

We, as members of 100 Women Who Care--Milwaukee Metro West, have already supported twelve wonderful charities that help families affected by illness or drug affliction or disability or needs for health care, transportation, or shelter. We have given

hope to hundreds in our local community, but we know there is a great deal more we can do to help those in our communities.

Members of 100WWC-MKE Metro West can nominate local charities to support. At our hour-long meeting, three of the charities nominated will be drawn and the nominating members will then give 5-minute speeches about their charities before our vote to select a charity to support.

Direct questions to: **Kathy** at kathy. olsen@gmail.com; **Jane Condon** at jacondon@yahoo.com; or **Karen Loeb** at aloeb@wi.rr.com.





Photo courtesy of Community United Methodist Church

John Gurda, writer and historian, presented his program "How the Dells Became the Dells" at the OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors) January meeting. Among those in attendance were (left to right) **Connie Fliege**, Gurda, **Harry Thiede**, **Bob Mitchell**, **Roy Uelner**, **Thelma James**, and **Barry James**. OWLS is an outreach program of Community United Methodist Church of Elm Grove.

Garden Enthusiasts Invited to Join Club

By Pat Boyd

The Elm Grove Garden Club is in the process of putting together a slate of activities for the coming year. The Club has monthly meetings which feature gardenoriented topics as well as tours of various exhibitions. Past tours have included the trial gardens at Boerner Botanical Gardens, an East Troy cutting farm, and Weston Antique Apple Orchards among their many excursions.

Members also organize a July garden walk featuring some half-dozen outstanding local gardens. Meetings are planned to be educational as well as entertaining. An upcoming meeting will feature **Doug Jaeger** demonstrating succulent gardens. For membership information and other details, contact **Pat** at (262) 784-0442.



News Briefs

BEHS Scholastic Art Award Winners Named

(BROOKFIELD) The Brookfield East High School (BEHS) art students have been announced as winners of the 2020 Scholastic Art Awards. This is a prestigious honor for students who compete with students from throughout the state. Silver Key and Gold Key winners will have their artwork on display at the Milwaukee Art Museum, February 8 - March 22, 2020. Gold Key recipients will also now have the opportunity to earn a National Award, to be announced in the coming months.

*Sophia Finn: Gold Key -Drawing & Illustration — "Side Glance"

*Nora Gregory: Gold Key -Photography — "Safehouse"

*Isabella Smerz: Gold Key -Jewelry — "Woman Earrings"

*Joy Zhang: Silver Key - Printmaking -"The Great Tree" & Honorable Mention - Printmaking — "Winter"

*Olivia Berger: Honorable Mention -Printmaking — "Summer Memories".

*Julia Galang: Honorable Mention – Painting — "Self Portrait"

*Emeka Ikem: Honorable Mention – Photography — "Stuck"

*Annika Koval: Honorable Mention – Drawing & Illustration – "Blind Contour Faces"

*Alina Stuleanu: Honorable Mention -Drawing & Illustration — "Self Portrait"



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Brookfield Police Officers Stephanie Zartner and Anthony Kader.

Resource Officers Assigned to Elmbrook High Schools

(BROOKFIELD) On January 2, Elmbrook welcomed School Resource Officers Anthony Kader (Brookfield Central) and Stephanie Zartner (Brookfield East). Located in each of our high schools, these officers will strengthen the connection between our schools and the police department, as we work together to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

"I would like to thank the city of Brookfield and the Brookfield Police Department for their collaboration that has made our School Resource Office initiative a reality," said Superintendent Mark Hansen. "We are thrilled to have these two amazing individuals join our school communities."



Photo courtesy of Brookfield Academy

This year's Scholastic Art Award winners from Brookfield Academy include (Front row – Left to right): Karina Rodriguez, Safa Jan, Yige Gu, McKenna Nagy, Maggie Kosidowski, Mira Santo Tomas, and Serena Richardson; (Middle row - Left to right): Amanda Roessler, Reena Singhal, Emma Osborne, Cormac Malloy, Julia Jensen, Genevieve Kopp, and Bridgette Youso; (Back row, Left to right): Ryan Beckley Justyn Anderson, Katherine Shalyaev, Anneke Zaiser, Christopher Jasinksi, Leonardo Astorga, and Emma Hindle. Not pictured: Hannah Kludt, Neha Kurpad, and Alex Star.

Brookfield Academy Announces Scholastic Art Award Winners

By Marie O'Brien

Brookfield Academy is proud to announce that 24 Upper School art students were recognized for their artistic talents by Scholastic Art Awards-Wisconsin. The following students earned 33 awards in a wide variety of categories:

*Justyn Anderson, Milwaukee, Silver Key (Drawing & Illustration)

*Leonardo Astorga, Milwaukee, Honorable Mention

(Drawing & Illustration) *Ryan Beckley, Elm Grove,

Silver Keys (Drawing & Illustration, Mixed Media)

*Yige Gu, Wauwatosa, Honorable Mention (Drawing & Illustration)

*Emma Hindle, Delafield,

Silver Key (Sculpture) *Safa Jan, Muskego, Gold Key (Sculpture)

*Christopher Jasinski, Pewaukee, Gold Key (Painting)

*Julia Jensen, Brookfield, Gold Key, Honorable Mention (Drawing & Illustration)

*Hannah Kludt, Mequon, Silver Key (Sculpture)

*Genevieve Kopp, Brookfield,

Honorable Mention (Mixed Media)

*Maggie Kosidowski, Menomonee Falls,

Silver Key (Sculpture)

*Neha Kurpad, Brookfield, **Honorable Mentions** (Digital Art, Sculpture)

*Cormac Malloy, Lisbon, Honorable Mention (Drawing & Illustration)

*McKenna Nagy, Pewaukee, Gold Key (Digital Art)

*Emma Osborne, Mequon, two Honorable Mentions (Drawing & Illustration)

*Serena Richardson, Wauwatosa, Honorable Mention (Drawing & Illustration)

*Karina Rodriguez, Milwaukee, Honorable Mention (Design)

*Amanda Roessler, Brookfield, Honorable Mention, Silver Key, Gold Key (Fashion) & Gold Key (Art Portfolio)

*Mira Santo Tomas, Wauwatosa, Honorable Mention (Printmaking)

*Katherine Shalyaev, Brookfield, Silver Key (Painting)

*Reena Singhal, Menomonee Falls, Honorable Mention (Digital Art), Silver Keys (Mixed Media, Fashion)

*Alex Star, Brookfield, Silver Key (Digital Art)

*Bridgette Youso, Elm Grove, Honorable Mention (Drawing & Illustration)

*Anneke Zaiser, Elm Grove, Honorable Mention (Drawing & Illustration)

Five Brookfield Academy students who earned a Gold Key will compete for Silver and Gold Medals at the national level. The Scholastic Art Awards program acknowledges excellence in the visual arts and encourages the artistic endeavors of young people throughout the United States. The annual awards ceremony will be held at the Milwaukee Art Museum, Saturday, February 8.



(BROOKFIELD) Area residents are invited to attend Family University on Saturday, February 29, 2020 from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Family University, sponsored by the School District of Elmbrook, is a conference for parents and guardians of children age 4 – 18 to learn, connect and share on important topics from community professionals. For more information and to RSVP, visit familyu2020.eventbrite.com.



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News Briefs



Photo by David Michels

Cast members of 'The Lion King Jr.' rehearse a scene.

PPMS Students Present 'The Lion King Jr.'

By David Michel

This month's Pilgrim Park Middle School production of 'The Lion King Jr'. involves more than 100 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Auditions were held in October, and the students have been rehearsing since November on most days Monday – Friday, with set construction on Saturdays. At the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center the middle schoolers will run the entire show, including lights, music, microphones, and set moving.

We tried to model the costumes from the Broadway production with masks on top of the lead characters. This is a great show for fans of the Disney movie adaptations, and it features new songs you might now know.

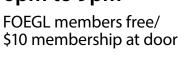
(See AD - Page 1)

Friends of Elm Grove Library

34th Annual Used Book Sale

March 6-8

Preview Night: Thursday, March 5 6pm to 9pm





Thousands of Items!
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Free Admission: 116

Friday, March 8
Saturday, March 9

10am to 7pm

10am to 5pm Half-price sale

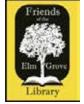
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Noon to 4pm \$6/bag

Elm Grove Library 13600 Juneau Blvd., Lower Level

262-782-6717

www.FriendsofElmGroveLibrary.org



Read All About It!

EM GROVE

Upcoming Programs at the Library

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





Mettle & Honor: Wisconsin Stories from the Battlefield / Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

The Elm Grove Library welcomes Emmy Award-winning journalist and former newscaster Mark Concannon for a presentation of his book *Mettle & Honor*, which shares the firsthand accounts of Wisconsin veterans who were at Normandy, Iwo Jima, Inchon, Khe Sanh, Kabul, and Fallujah. Mark's presentation takes you to the front lines through the

eyes of those who risked their lives, faced live fire, and endured tremendous battlefield hardship. Free to attend. No registration required.

Milwaukee's WWII Combat Correspondents Thursday, Fobruary 20, 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 20, 7:00 PM

Join Milwaukee author, journalist, and Iraq & Afghanistan war correspondent Meg Jones as she shares wartime stories of photographer Dickey Chapelle, radio journalist H.V. Kaltenborn, and Associated Press Berlin office chief Louis Lochner. Jones will compare and contrast the difficulties of getting your stories



out of war-torn countries back to readers during WWII and present time. She will also report on the unique vantage points, and the fascinating lives of these three combat correspondents. Free to attend. No registration required.

Winter Reading Program – Going On Now!



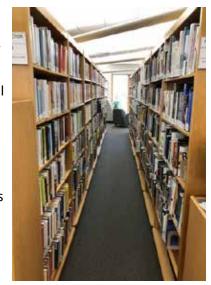
To get started, pick up a reading log at the Elm Grove Public Library. For every hour you read, color in a notch on the log. Ten hours of reading equals one prize entry. Two winners drawn on March 20 will win a winter reading themed gift basket (\$75 value). Gift baskets are on display in the library. Open to ages 16 and up. No entry limit. Good luck!

Spend a Day in the Stacks

February brings an extra day this year, along with snowy days and blustery nights. In other words, perfect times for reading! If there's a good thing to be said about a snow-covered landscape, it provides natural light and a cozy atmosphere to curl up with some good books.

Speaking of good books, one is always on the hunt for more. To that, the Elm Grove Library invites you to consider the pleasures of an afternoon spent in the stacks.

An observation from a librarian's desk is that many visitors peruse only the new releases, select something mildly



interesting, and leave. But that's missing out! Just past the new books are shelves upon shelves of stories to discover, with tried and true favorites that have earned their spot. That feeling where you're completely immersed in a book, realizing it's one of the best you've read in some time? We have a building full of those, ready for discovery.

Our suggestion: clear an afternoon, bring a notepad to make a list, and experience the joy of browsing the stacks. You never know what you'll find when you take your time. Need help? Don't be afraid to ask for a recommendation from our friendly staff. See you at the library!

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Young Writers & Cub Reporters

I Love Love!

By Maeve Green, 4th Grade-Tonawanda

One time my uncle gave me a giant Hello Kitty stuffed animal. Once my grandparents gave me three Valentine's Day shirts. Once my aunt gave me sweetish fish. Once my classmates gave me yummy treats and trinkets. Another time my grandparents gave me stuffed animals, candy, and a card. One time my mom gave me a hug. But the best gift of all was the life that God gave me and the love everyone shares with me.

Heart to Heart

By Cecelia Hurst 4th Grade - Tonawanda

Love one another Open each others' hearts Visit your loved ones Embrace your family

February Is My Favorite Month

By Dino Koukouras 4th Grade - Tonawanda

> One reason February is my favorite month is it's my birthday I'm guessing everybody likes their birthday, right? Another reason is it's my sister's birthday. Another reason is the Super Bowl is in February! February IS THE BEST!

Loving Families

By Jianna Gropp, 4th Grade-Tonawanda

Families love each other every day Parents are laughing happily and talking to each other The kids are playing outside and being grateful for one another The pets are gracefully roaming around the house And the cars are quickly zooming by houses one at a time Families are loved by each other no matter what happens



My February

By Ava Lammers, 4th Grade-Tonawanda

February is a time for love for most people, but for me it's a time for celebration! (also love) My birthday is in February and so is my Mom's, Grandma's, my friends and cousins. I love this season because it's my time to shine. And on Valentine's Day I love giving out cards in school. (and eating candy:)). February is a great time of year for me. I love to play outside in the snow with my friends and my family. But February shouldn't just be great for me... for everybody!

"HAPPY FEBRUARY TO ALL"!

Valentine's Day

By Isabella Zosel, 4th Grade-Tonawanda

I can hear the love birds chirping I can see cupid circling in the air I can feel hearts on my cheeks turn red I can smell my sweet perfume I can taste the yummy cupcake from the party I LOVE VALENTINE'S DAY!

My Birthday

By Maya H., 4th Grade - Tonawanda

When I wake up in the morning, on the first Monday of February, my face glows up as I remember it's the day. My favorite day is finally here, "Yes!" I whisper, "Today is the day." My parents and big brother are waiting for me, just me, I jump up and hug my Mom and Dad because today is the day. In the evening I'll wish upon a star, and then blow it away...because it's my BIRTHDAY!

Valentine's Day

By Alice Knachel, 4th Grade-Tonawanda

Love is everywhere Hearts are flying Kind words continue being said Realizing the positive of others Spirits are soaring Reading nice notes Red hearts trimmed with lace **Smiles** Love Valentine's Day

Love

By Olivia Webb, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

It is what cheers you up after a hard day It pulls us together from far, far away It brightens the very darkest hour It is the superest superpower It is what connects the world It is much more than just a word It is love.

Valentine Love

By Rylie Winter, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

I love Valentine's Day because it's the time for love and peace. On Valentine's Day, everybody deserves to spend time with the ones they love even if they have not been the best person they can be, because that is what Valentine's Day is all about, right? Valentine's Day is a time to reflect and remember those we loved who have left us. And deep down we know, we will always have a place in our hearts for those we love. In my perspective, people always need someone to love in their hearts. That is my Valentine Love.

NEWS & PHOTOS

about students' **Academic & Athletic** achievement & Community Service projects may be sent to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

News Briefs

Elmbrook Alumni Invited to Join the Official Alumni Network

(BROOKFIELD) Alumni from both Brookfield Central and Brookfield East high schools are invited to join the new, Elmbrook Schools Alumni Network!

The platform allows graduates to reconnect with their classmates, find information on upcoming reunions, share interests and memories, and much more! Through the Alumni Network platform, we are also able to offer our graduates unique and exclusive give-back opportunities speaking opportunities. Registered alums alumni.elmbrookschools.org.

will also receive exclusive quarterly eNewsletters with District updates, news, and upcoming events!

Alumni can sign up via email or by using the social sync option, allowing you to easily connect through your Facebook or LinkedIn account to keep your profile up-to-date and your contact information private.

Help build a network of Elmbrook such as mentoring students or career Alumni across the globe - sign up now at



FLAVOR OF THE DAY February 2020

- 1 Chocolate Covered Strawberry
- 2 Turtle Cheesecake
- 3 Cappuccino Cookie Crumble
- 4 Crazy for Cooke Dough
- 5 Devil's Food Cake
- 6 Oreo Cheesecake
- 7 Really Reese's
- 8 Mint Oreo
- 9 Butter Pecan
- **10Caramel Pecan**
- 11Creamy Lemon Crumble
- **12Brownie Thunder**
- **13Salted Double Caramel** Pecan
- 14Chocolate Heath Crunch **15Andes Mint Avalance**

- **16Caramel Cashew** 17Midnight Toffee
- 18Dark Chocolate **Decadence**
- 19Turtle Dove
- 20Mint Oreo
- 21Snickers Swirl
- 22Mint Explosion 23Chocolate Oreo Volcano
- 24Caramel Fudge Cookie
- Dough 25Dulce de Leche
- Cheesecake
- **26Caramel Turtle**
- 270reo Cheesecake
- 28Peanut Butter Cup 29Brownie Batter Overload

Brookfield East Announces Class Officers

(BROOKFIELD) The following Spartans were elected as Class Officers for the 2019-20 school year at Brookfield East High School:

*Freshman Class

President: David Jia Vice President: Karishma Santebennur Treasurer: Jackie Neumaier Secretary: Anika Garg

*Sophomore Class

President: Abby Hall Vice President: Chloe Petri Treasurer: Caitlin Balducci Secretary: Sara Multhauf

*Junior Class

President: Mason Kelsey Vice President: Tyler Rhode Treasurer: Zach Yiannis Secretary: Isabelle Peters

*Senior Class

President: Jordynn Balducci Vice President: Bartosz Wodnicki Treasurer: Pyper Scullen













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Legal Issues

Estate Planning: Payable On Death (POD) Accounts

By Attorney Isabell Mueller

A Payable on Death (POD) account allows the account owner to designate one or more beneficiaries to receive the funds held in the account upon the owner's death. The account owner does not lose any ownership or control during his or her lifetime, however, upon death the balance in the account transfers to the beneficiary. While POD accounts have advantages, they are but one tool in the estate planning process, and if not used carefully, could do far more harm than good.

The advantage of a POD account is that upon the death of the owner, the account transfers directly to the beneficiary without going through the probate process. For example, if a father designated all four of his children as POD beneficiaries on all of his accounts, upon his death the children would complete the paperwork to claim the various accounts, the funds would be transferred and the father's accounts would be closed. While this sounds ideal, it fails to address crucial issues, such how are the father's final debts, taxes and funeral expenses going to be paid? It is not the bank or brokerage firm's responsibility to ensure the payment of debts before distributing the funds. The funds now belong to the children, who can simply choose not to pay. It is also not uncommon for a parent to designate one child as the POD beneficiary, in the belief

that this child will settle the debts, taxes and funeral expenses and then divide the balance with his or her siblings. That child, however, can choose to do neither, instead keeping the funds. POD accounts can also fail badly if the family circumstances have changed from the time the owner creates the POD account to the time he or she dies.

Using the above example, what would happen if one of the four children had died before the father? What happens with that child's share? What if the deceased child had children of their own? Are those grandchildren now disinherited because their parent died? What if, because of a disability, bankruptcy, divorce or addiction, one of the children is no longer in a good position to receive an inheritance? What if the change in circumstances occurs after the father himself has become incapacitated and is no longer able to change the beneficiaries named on the POD account?

Perhaps the greatest disadvantage of a POD account is that it does not allow for any type of contingency planning. When handled correctly, a POD account can be both useful and efficient, but it should never be created without a solid understanding of the effect it will have on your specific family and estate.

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- *Letters regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space available basis.
- *Submissions (250 words max.) must include the writer's name, address & phone #.
- *Mail to: Elm Grove News-Independent, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.
- *E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: Letters to the Editor)

Classifieds

Listings are \$25 per issue (up to 20 words) + 50 cents for each additional word. \$15 extra per photo or logo.

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Greetings

Happy Birthday!
February 19
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WHO'S WHO AT VILLAGE HALL

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Forester: RON HILL forester@elmgrovewi.org
Recreation Director:

JEROD MIKKELSEN .. jmikkelsen@elmgrovewi.org Library Director: SARAH MUENCH muench@elmgrove.lib.wi.us

POLICE – FIRE – MEDICAL EMERGENCY – CALL 9-1-1 Police Department (non-emergency) (262) 786-4141

News Briefs

Law Enforcement Career Academy Welcomes Applicants

The Wisconsin American Legion is proud to offer the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Career Academy to current high school juniors and seniors. The academy is scheduled for June 22 – 26, 2020 at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Ft. McCoy. The academy requires the student to stay at the academy for the week.

The application is now available at: https://wilegion.org/page/content/

programs/wisconsin-american-legion-law-enforcement-career-academy.

This academy is for students who are interested in a career in law enforcement or a law enforcement related field. The application needs to be completed to include all required signatures. Questions can be directed to Sheri@wilegion.org or by calling (608) 745-1090.

'Alice in Dairyland' Candidates Sought

(MADISON) — The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds individuals interested in applying to become the next Alice in Dairyland — the 73rd in the history of the program — that the application deadline is Monday, Feb. 3, 2020. Application materials are available at https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Growing_WI/BecomingAlice.aspx.

Alice in Dairyland is one of the most widely recognized communications professionals in Wisconsin agriculture. Her job is to educate Wisconsin children and adults about the value, economic impact and future of the state's \$104.8 billion agricultural industry. Alice cultivates relationships with television, radio, and print media outlets; writes and delivers speeches at events large and small; and leverages social media to promote Wisconsin agriculture.

Minimum Qualifications

Applicants should have:

*Considerable knowledge or work

experience with Wisconsin agriculture *At least three years of experience, education or training in communications, marketing or public relations

*Public speaking experience, and

*A willingness to attend an extensive number of work-related events on evenings and weekends.

Applicants must be female Wisconsin residents who are at least 21 years old.

Position Information

The one-year, full-time contractual position starts June 1, 2020. The position is headquartered in Madison and travels extensively throughout the state. The salary is \$45,000 annually and includes holiday, vacation, and sick leave as well as use of a vehicle for official business. Reimbursement is provided for health insurance as well as travel expenses for official purposes.

Direct questions to: **Debbie Vine** (**Gegare**) at 608-224-5116 or Debbie. Gegare@wisconsin.gov.

News Briefs



Photo courtesy of School District of Elmbrook

Members of the Brookfield East Debate Team display their awards.

State Championship Debaters Named

(BROOKFIELD) The Brookfield East Debate Team had an outstanding performance at the state tournament. In Public Forum Debate, Vivek Srivastava and Bera Demirbilek won the state championship on a unanimous 5-0 decision. Vivek was named top speaker of the tournament and Bera was named 2nd top speaker.

The teams of **Muthu Sundar/Emily Zhang** and **Thevindu Perrera/Sameer Bhatt** also advanced to elimination rounds.

In Lincoln Douglas Debate. **Xander Ge** was an octofinalist and **Amanjot Kaur** was a quarterfinalist. **Navya Takiere** was named 5th top speaker, and Amanjot and Xander tied for 7th top speaker.

Geography Bee Held at PPMS

(ELM GROVE) Pilgrim Park Middle School recently held its annual National Geographic Geography Bee. Contestants were: 6th graders, Teddy Celikay, Lucy Schick, and Anirudh Sribhasyam. 7th grade contestants were: Sanskar Deshkar, Laasya Ramachandruni, and Emilio Zagorski. 8th graders who particpated were: Micheal Deselnicu, John Tsagalis, Sal Vella and Abi Vinjamuri.

After several rounds of questions it came down to the last 3 qualifiers: 1st place — Teddy Celikay, 2nd place — Anirudh Sribhasyam and 3rd place — Abi Vinjamuri.

Teddy Celikay will now take the written exam to see if he qualifies for the state tournament.

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News' Hounds

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Photo courtesy of Elmbrook Humane Society

Parakeets Bell (at left) and Rose

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Heather Gehrke

Bell and Rose found their way to us when their owner passed away. We are so very happy they are with us and have a safe place but as you can imagine, they would love to have a home to call their own again with an individual or family who loves them.

These beautiful bonded parakeets love to talk with each other and to you when you have time to listen. They enjoy

hearing how your day was, what you have plans to do, the favorite book you are reading, and more! Let's find these sweet girls a home together!

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.

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2020 Elm Grove Junior Guild Scholarship Essay Contest

We would love to hear it! The EGJG annual essay contest is now open for eligible students who will graduate high school by July 2020, reside in the Elmbrook School District or attend Brookfield Central or Brookfield East High School. Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded.

For more details and easy online application, please visit https://elmgrovejuniorguild.org/scholarship. Apply by March 15.

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