



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Volume 4, Number 11

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin

JANUARY 2017



Photo by James L. W. Bain / EGNi

ELM GROVE VILLAGE HALL and the ELM GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY are reflected in a gazing ball following a light snow on Christmas Eve 2016.

Happy 62nd Anniversary

Village of Elm Grove!

Incorporated January 14, 1955

Happy New Year to All!

Again, we present this Annual Pledge for those so inclined to participate:

Dear Friend of The Grove,

Wherever you may be, please pause for a moment, stand & face in the direction of Village Hall & repeat the following:

"I Pledge Allegiance...to Our Village of the County of the Land of Waukesha & to every inch of ground where Deer & Snow Geese stand.

One Community... unique & un-ex-pand-able, with Elm Trees & Black-eyed Susans for all."

(You may now go & HUG a TREE!)

Lisabeth Passalis-Bain
Owner/ Publisher
Elm Grove News-Independent LLC

Elm Grove's 19th Century Roots & How It Got Its Name

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain, elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Our Village, once part of the 36-square mile Town of Brookfield, has retained not only its footprint since its incorporation in January of 1955, but much of its small-town charm as well.

Early settlers, including members of the **Reusch, Reinders, Sanders, and Ramstack** families, were first drawn to this fertile agricultural area during the mid-1830s. In 1848, the year of Wisconsin's statehood, some industrious people decided to start laying more than 650,000 white oak timbers and planks to make it easier to travel the 58 miles from Milwaukee to Watertown. That is how our Village's main thoroughfare, Watertown Plank Road, began.

In 1856, the railroad, later to be known as the Milwaukee Road, laid a track line which intersected the plank road, thus giving rise to even greater community development. Railroad officials charged with choosing a name to designate the stop apparently took one look at the vast growth of trees and reportedly said, "We'll call it Elm Grove." Before long, a U.S. Post Office, inn, train depot, general store, mill and tavern were in operation.

An often-repeated tale describes the late-1850s journey of a group of nuns led by **Mother Caroline Friess**. These members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame happened to be traveling west on Watertown Plank Road when the horse that was pulling their

wagon refused to budge from his spot near Juneau Blvd. Considering it to be a divine sign, the sisters soon after purchased twenty acres from a local farmer and set about fulfilling their mission to build a convent, school, and orphanage. And SSND remains a valuable part of our community to this day.

For those interested in learning more about Village history, I recommend "*Elm Grove - A Pictorial History for the Celebration of 50th Year of Incorporation*" produced in 2005 by long-time resident and former Village Trustee **Jan Schoenecker**. It's available on DVD for check out at the Elm Grove Public Library.

I re-watched it recently... Take a look!

Announcing Our
NEW Website
See Page 2

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

"It's All About Community!"

That phrase is the reason why hyper-local newspapers like the *News-Independent* exist — to report about and celebrate the people, places and things that make a town or city or, in our case, a Village, unique — and to bring to the public's attention issues that must be faced and, with collaboration, hopefully addressed.

Every new year offers a fresh opportunity to take a closer look at your Community and its needs.

I recently invited a wide range of local groups to submit statements for the EGNI's annual "COMMUNITY WISH LISTS" section — always one of my favorites.

The late newspaperman **Will Rogers** believed in "civic journalism that makes a difference." I whole-heartedly agree!

So, please take a look at the Wish Lists featured on Pages 6 & 7 — and lend your support to one or more of these great organizations whose members do so much for so many.

Thanks & Happy New Year!



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / EGNI

A screen shot showing the "Archives" section of our website.

Announcing: A New Website for the *Elm Grove News-Independent!* Visit: www.elmgrove.news

Beginning in January 2017, in addition to perusing one of the 5,000 printed copies of the News-Independent which are distributed each month, our Readers will have the opportunity to view current & past issues of the newspaper

online. This development will "start spreading the News" farther & wider than ever before. That makes it a Great Time to **ADVERTISE** & help make this community-focused paper possible! Contact us today!

Good Neighbors

ELM GROVE RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE THEIR "GOOD NEIGHBORS" FOR THIS NEW FEATURE.

Do you have a special neighbor who steps up in case of emergency; brings food and comfort during a time of illness; helps with lawn work / snow shoveling; watches your property when you are out of town, etc.?

Submit your story to elmgrovenews@yahoo.com or mail it to: EGNI – "Good Neighbors", P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.

Honor their efforts by telling us about him/her/them in 300 words or less.

If published, you AND your "Good Neighbor" will each receive tickets for an upcoming performance at Sunset Playhouse.

Submit your story to elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Questions? Send an e-mail or call Lisabeth at (262) 782-6193

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Waukesha County News

An Inside Look at Waukesha County Government

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

Every homeowner in Wisconsin pays taxes based on the value of their property. Each unit of government (Village/City, County, K-12 School, and WCTC) is listed separately on your tax bill. I always take a good long hard look at my property tax bill, I suspect you do too. This year Waukesha County is taking about \$2.06 per \$1000 of assessed value. How does Waukesha County determine its tax rate?

One of the major responsibilities of the County Board of Supervisors is to adopt the annual county budget. As a member of the Finance Committee I review the entire budget in the committee. Throughout the year, the heads of each Department meet with the Finance Committee to discuss their challenges and opportunities.

The County's overriding goal is to keep county's spending low and in balance with the homeowner's ability to pay. The County Board uses the following budget philosophy as a guide in its review:

- Incorporate citizen and stakeholder involvement.
- Establish links to strategic planning.
- Base decisions on measurable objectives.
- Maintain best budgeting practices for stable future budgets.
- Protect the County's Aaa/AAA bond ratings.

The County Board works on the budget year-round, with departmental reviews of the current budget at six months and year end.

The County's Budget is made up by two separate budgets. The Capital Budget

and the Operating Budget. While the two budgets are separate, they cannot be developed without an understanding and recognition of how they impact each other.

The Capital Budget is reviewed in September. The capital budget funds non-recurring expenditures that exceed \$100,000 for improvements in the county's infrastructure, such as roads, buildings and technology. The Capital Budget (often referred to as the 5-year Plan) emphasizes long term planning. Capital projects are funded at a minimum with a 20% down, the remainder paid for with a 10 year Bond.

During the review, new projects are added and funding is allocated. Over the next 5 years the projects in the list are reviewed for need and relevancy, and funding is accumulated. You can review the more than 50 projects online at <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/capitalplan>

Some of the capital projects that may be of interest are:

- The 3-mile expansion of County Highway M, North Avenue. Construction in 2020-21
- County Highway O, Moorland Road, reconstruction between I-94 to Bluemound, with construction in 2021.
- A two-phased plan to modernize and expand the County Courthouse. The first phase (beginning in 2018) is to construct a new secure courtroom facility that will be located adjacent to the jail. This will improve the safety and security of staff, citizens and inmates. The second phase will renovate the courthouse and replace the aging mechanical systems and

improve public access. Competition of both phases in 2025

The Operating Budget (after being worked on most of the year) is formally put forward by County Executive Farrow to the County Board in September. The Finance Committee, working with the Department Heads, review the Operating Budget in detail. The Budget is a 600 page document that directs spending of approximately \$285 million; \$105 million coming from our property tax levy, the remaining \$180 million comes from federal, state and other sources. The hours spent in this review process is considerable. When the review is completed, the Finance Committee presents the full budget to the 25 member County Board for approval. This year the budget was unanimously passed by the County Board in early November. In more than 25 years of county executive government, this is the first budget to be adopted by a unanimous vote.

The 2017 budget keeps taxes flat – a County homeowner with a median-valued home (estimated to be \$256,650) will see no change from last year on the county portion of their property tax bill. Almost 65% of the budget is spent in the areas of Public Safety, Health and Human Services. Parks and Public Works combined get under 20% of the budget. With debt service claiming about 13% of the budget.

You can review the complete budget at <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/Budget/>. As always, please contact me with questions, comments or concerns.

Wishing you all the best in the New Year.



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* Community Organizations

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jim.lemmenes@edwardjones.com

* Home Improvement

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 Yelena Dorshak **(262) 641-5182**
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NEW HOURS: Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.;
 Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Closed Sunday & Monday

News Briefs

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Weather permitting, the Village of Elm Grove Department of Public Works will pick up discarded Christmas trees beginning the week of January 9 through January 27. Please place trees at the end of your driveway no later than January 23.

Note: trees in bags and trees with lights on them will not be picked up. Wreaths should be placed with your garbage. Call Village Hall at (262) 782-6700 for further information / questions.

Teen Volunteers Needed at Elm Grove Library

Shelf Reading
(keeping the shelves in order)

- Come try it out during the months of January – May.
- Time commitment is flexible, but a minimum of 6 weeks (one time per week) is recommended. Training is provided.
- Choose a day and time each week that works best for you (about 30 minutes to 1 hour per week).

Program Assistants

(help run special events for kids)

- Set up, clean up and help kids build with Legos on January 25 (no school for Elmbrook district).
- Check for additional Library events online at www.elmgrovelibrary.org.

Visit the Library or call (262) 782-6717 for more information.

Past Times: I REMEMBER...

Those I Will Miss in 2017

By Stephen K. Hauser

Every New Year is bittersweet. It is a time of new beginnings and infinite possibilities. 2017 is no exception. There is the anticipation of new challenges, new experiences and the memories that we will create in the months ahead. This is all tempered, however, by the fact that there are those who will not share the joys of the new year with us. Every one reading this column could probably compose a list of friends, neighbors and family members who will be missed in 2017.

The ancient Romans named the month of January in honor of Janus, "keeper of the Gates", a two-faced god in their mythological pantheon who could look both forward and backward at the same time, viewing both the past and the future. Thus, Janus was a fitting deity for the first month of the year. In deference to that tradition, I wish to use my first column of 2017 to offer a last salute to six people who were important in my life, who were all well worth knowing and who, I believe, will certainly be missed this year.

Robert G. Hobson

My dear friend **Robert G. Hobson** passed away on February 18, 2016 at age 87. He was instrumental in the remarkable growth of Elmbrook Church in Brookfield. What is now considered a "megachurch", one of the largest in southeastern Wisconsin, began as Elm Grove Baptist Church, meeting in classrooms at Leland school on Sunny Slope Road. Bob was a preacher in Texas when the tiny congregation extended a unanimous call to him to become their new pastor. He later told me, "Any time you can get a room full of Baptists to agree to anything unanimously, it's a miracle."

Accordingly, Bob arrived in early 1963 with his wife **Nina** and children **Ruth** and **David**. The church saw an amazing increase in weekly attendance, which resulted in a new sanctuary built at 3675 N. Calhoun Road in Brookfield in 1965. Only a year later, in 1966, that building had grown too small and was expanded, more than doubling its original size. It was in that same year that I first met Bob Hobson, and I reflect now that he became one of the most influential persons in my life. I learned much from him.

Bob resigned his pastorate in 1970 to enter full time evangelistic work, preaching throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia and New Zealand. As the founder of Life Unlimited Ministries, he authored three books: *Life Revived*, *Joy Restored*; *Life Unlimited*; and *Rag Dolls & Plastic Horses*. I believe his best written work was a short but brilliant meditation on the 23rd Psalm, *All the Days of My Life*, a wonderful summary of Christian living. When his wife Nina told me of his passing, it occurred to me that his message still goes forth through his writings (all of which I recommend).

Willard Brandau

Former Brookfield resident **Willard Brandau** left us on March 19, age 89. I knew Will and his wife **Marion** and their son, **Mark**, for many years. Will had served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines during World War II and was part of the American Occupation force in Japan from 1945 to 1946. After the war, he made a career of commercial art and advertising. He was active at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee where he sang in the choir. His true passion was sports and athletic competition, including baseball and softball, basketball and bowling. Mark Brandau remembers that his Dad had a house full of bowling trophies accumulated over the



Robert Hobson

years. He played in many area softball leagues and participated in Senior Olympics competition until age 85.

Will was also a history buff, and enjoyed reading historical journals and talking history. I made a point of gifting him with Civil War commemorative calendars for several years, and his wife, Marion, informed me recently that he liked referring to each day's past happenings in them. Will was especially honored when he was chosen to participate in one of the Milwaukee Honor Flights to see the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. I hope it reminded him of the role he had played in history as well.

Eugene Thomas III

I had the privilege of knowing **Eugene Thomas III** when I was working for the Milwaukee Social Development Commission helping to set up a G.E.D. program in the central city in the late 1980s. Gene was a teacher in that program and also coached and taught in Milwaukee's public schools. He had a heart for helping at-risk youth, and believed strongly in the value of athletic competition in building character. He touted the positive values that are taught through sports, and would have agreed with **Teddy Roosevelt** that efforts expended on the gridiron mirror the challenges of life.

In 1987, Gene had worked with former Arizona State and Philadelphia Eagles halfback "**Lightning**" **Mitchell** in coaching the Wisconsin Express, a minor league pro-football team which was to have played at Carroll College's Pioneer Field in Waukesha, but ended up as the Milwaukee Express, playing on that city's north side instead. They tried unsuccessfully to turn their national Triple A Pro Football League into a farm system for the NFL. Reportedly, NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle showed some interest, but to no avail.

I was saddened to learn of Gene Thomas' death at age 67 on July 8, gone too soon. As a Navy veteran who had served in Vietnam and a man of high ethics and strong Christian character, Gene was a mentor and a role model to troubled youth, encouraging athletics as a path to success and offering good old-fashioned advice along the way. Milwaukee needs more men like him.

Jean Rex

My friend **Jean Rex** of Brookfield passed away on July 10 at age 83 after a valiant struggle against cancer. She faced her circumstances with her strong faith and a steadfast belief in the love and mercy of her Lord. Visiting her in her final weeks, I saw firsthand her positive attitude and her gentle spirit which was an inspiration to all who came to see her.

Jean was well known in Milwaukee's



Willard Brandau

German community, playing the accordion for many years at Dietze's Alpine, Chef Norbert's Bavarian Wurst Haus and at the Bavarian Inn in Glendale. She also played at gatherings of the Austrian Club at the Schwabenhof, and at meetings of the various German ethnic societies. She appeared annually at Germanfest, playing duets with local Zithermeister Kurt von Eckroth at the Austrian café. For nearly a decade, she volunteered as the pianist for morning worship services at Servant of the Savior Church which met at Wisconsin Memorial Park in Brookfield. She received no reimbursement, except, as she said, "the best seat in the house."

At Jean's funeral last summer, her husband, **Orville**, wrote a tribute which I was privileged to read. I was astounded to learn from it that her gift of musicianship was rather suddenly evident as a five-year-old girl in Milwaukee when she borrowed a neighbor's squeeze box and began to work out a song for her father without having taken a single lesson. He soon saw to it that she had some, and the joy of her music would spread happiness for the rest of her life, leaving many warm memories in the hearts of those who heard it.

Dr. John T. Hotter

My old Elm Grove neighbor **Dr. John T. Hotter** also passed on July 10 at age 88. He and his family moved to Elm Grove in 1964, building a home on Gremoor Drive, but soon moving down the road from my family on Fairhaven Blvd. There they remained for years, with Dr. Hotter gaining a reputation as a good neighbor to all. A lifelong Wisconsinite who grew up in West Allis and graduated from Marquette University Medical School in 1946, he subsequently served on staff as a surgeon at St. Luke's, St. Joseph's Elmbrook and West Allis Memorial hospitals. His daughter, **Mary Reina** of Brookfield, told me that one of the greatest compliments that her father had ever received was the fact that his fellow physicians often recommended him to their own family members.

I visited Dr. Hotter when he was in hospice care in Wauwatosa, suffering from cancer. With only weeks to live, I imagined that he would only wish to speak with me for a few minutes, but I was wrong. We enjoyed a free-wheeling and wide-ranging discussion for over two hours, touching on everything from his medical career to his love of family to his beloved hobbies of beekeeping, composting and organic gardening. As I used the last of Dr. John Hotter's honey on some dinner rolls the other night, I reflected that I had never seen anyone greet the end of days with such unflappable good cheer. Death held neither mystery nor sorrow for him, as his strong faith had taught him what to expect, and not to fear it. The pain of this life was coming to an end, but the life to come stretched out ahead, and



Hunt Reusch

John Hotter, physician and man of science, embraced it with certainty. His memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Visitation Parish in the village, and was attended by family, neighbors, friends, colleagues and former patients, all gathered to pray and to honor a life well lived in the village, and was attended by family, neighbors, friends, colleagues and former patients, all gathered to pray and to honor a life well lived.

Duane "Hunz" Reusch

Few Elm Grove residents were better known or more easily recognizable than **Duane "Hunz" Reusch**, who passed away on August 13 at age 82. A true local hero, Hunz was a charter member of the Elm Grove Volunteer Fire Department in 1956 and could still recall battling his first blaze, a barn fire that summer at what would now be the intersection of Dunwoody Drive and Arrowhead Court. There were many more fires to follow, fought by Hunz and his fellow volunteers over the next six decades. Village residents, as well as those in the communities of Wauwatosa, Brookfield, Butler and New Berlin, owe a debt to Hunz and his comrades for lives saved, property salvaged and disasters averted.

Of course, Hunz Reusch's "day job" was as proprietor of Ray's Auto Service at 13230 Watertown Plank Road. Many Elmbrook residents can count multiple automobiles that they brought to him for service over several decades, and also can recall filling up their tanks when the garage was also a Mobil Oil station. Fewer will likely remember when Ray's (founded by Hunz's father, **Ray Reusch**) was also Elm Grove's only Ford dealership. Hunz liked to tell the story about the contract Ray had received making him a Ford dealer in 1932, signed by **Henry Ford** himself.

The funeral for Hunz was conducted at the Elm Grove Fire Department at the Village Hall and was one of the more moving and appropriate tributes to a lifelong resident and local hero that I have been privileged to attend. It should be noted here that Hunz had occasionally assisted me with stories and recollections that were helpful in writing my local history columns, and I will certainly miss being able to get his input and insights.

The above list of folks I have been blessed to know only touches on some of those who left this world in 2016. It is not meant to be complete, and readers no doubt can add names of their own. If I have managed to cause anyone else to pause and reflect on those whom they will miss in the new year, that is a good result of this remembrance.

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

Calendar of Events for January 2017

Sunday – JANUARY 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Monday – JANUARY 2

VILLAGE HALL CLOSED

Tuesday – JANUARY 3

- * **Elm Grove Woman's Club**
Meeting – 11 a.m. (social); 11:30 a.m. (business); Noon (lunch); followed by presentation:
- * **Village of Elm Grove Building Board**
Meeting – 5:30 p.m. @ Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org.

Friday – JANUARY 6

- * **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center
13000 Juneau Blvd. Guests / new members welcome.
Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

Monday – JANUARY 9

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

Tuesday – JANUARY 10

- * **School District of Elmbrook Board of Education**
Meeting – 6 p.m. @ Central Administration offices,
13780 Hope St., Brookfield. Open to the Public.
(262) 781-3030.

Thursday – JANUARY 12

- * **Village of Elm Grove Public Safety Committee**
Meeting – 6 p.m. @ Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org.

Friday – JANUARY 13

- * **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center
13000 Juneau Blvd. Guests / new members welcome.
Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

Saturday – JANUARY 14

- * **American Association of University Women**
West Suburban – Milwaukee Wisconsin Branch
Breakfast Meeting – 9 a.m. @ Panos Banquet Hall,
Brookfield. Program: "The Implications of Legalizing
Physician Assisted Suicide – The West Coast and
More". Speaker: Cindi Morganweck, Medical College
of Wisconsin. Reservations are required by Friday,
January 6. Call Linda Polulach @ (414) 476-6919, or
e-mail: aauw.wsm.membership@gmail.com for details.

Monday – JANUARY 16

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

- * **Village of Elm Grove Library Board**
Meeting – 4:30 p.m. @ Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org.
- * **Village of Elm Grove Public Works / Utility Committee**
Meeting – 6:30 p.m. @ Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org.

Tuesday – JANUARY 17

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

Thursday – JANUARY 19

- * **OWLS (Older – Wiser – Livelier – Seniors)**
Sponsored by Community United Methodist Church,
14700 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. 11:30 a.m.
Program: "What is the Future of Newspapers and
News Companies?" presented by George Stanley,
editor, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.
Carolyn (262) 628-7761.
- * **Village of Elm Grove Recreation Committee**
Meeting – 5:30 p.m. @ Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org.

Friday – JANUARY 20

- * **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center
13000 Juneau Blvd. Guests / new members welcome.
Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

Monday – JANUARY 23

- * **Village of Elm Grove Finance & Licensing**
Committee: Meeting – 7 p.m. @ Village Hall.
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org.
- * **Village of Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
Meeting – 7:30 p.m. @ Village Hall Court Room.
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org.

Tuesday – JANUARY 24

- * **School District of Elmbrook Board of Education**
Meeting – 6 p.m. @ Central Administration offices,
13780 Hope St., Brookfield. Open to the Public.
(262) 781-3030.

Friday – JANUARY 27

- * **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center
13000 Juneau Blvd. Guests / new members welcome.
Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

Saturday – JANUARY 28

Elm Grove Winter Festival

This Second Annual community event is hosted by the Elm Grove Recreation Department.

- **CANDY CANE HUNT**
For ages 2 – 10 years.
11 a.m. to Noon
@ Village Park near gazebo
- **FROSTY MEDALLION HUNT**
Family event.
10 a.m. until found @ Village Park
- **FISHING DERBY**
Family event
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. @ Village Pond
- **SLEDDING**
For ALL AGES.
ALL DAY! @ Sledding Hill
- **OPEN SKATING**
For ALL AGES
ALL DAY! @ Village Pond
- **HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIES**
Everyone Welcome!
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
@ Courtroom of Village Hall.

Sunday – JANUARY 29

- * **St. Mary's Visitation School**
Open House: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the school,
13000 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove. Prospective families
with children in K3-8th grade are invited to enjoy a
complimentary pancake breakfast followed by a tour
and an opportunity to meet St. Mary's teachers and
principal Mary Tretow. To sign up for the pancake
breakfast and a school tour, or for more information,
call St. Mary's Visitation at (262) 782-7057,
or visit: stmaryeg.org.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Celebrate 2017 by saving big on all our name brand and unique merchandise, including top name, gently used or new athletic wear for your New Year's resolution!

- * **FEAST DAY SPECIAL – January 3: SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD***
Enjoy **50% OFF EVERYTHING in the store!**
• Actual Feast Day is January 1. (No other discounts apply.)
- * **Enjoy 20-50% off BLUE priced items all month long!**
Plus check out our website for FLASH SALE SPECIALS!
stmaryeg.org/thrift-shop

Senior Citizen Discount:
20% off entire purchase
EVERY TUESDAY!

CLOSED Monday, January 2, 2017

OPEN: Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thursday: 9 a.m.–7 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.–Noon
Visa & Mastercard accepted.

Community Wish Lists

EDITOR'S NOTE: Local Clubs, Organizations, Schools & Non-Profit Groups were invited to submit lists of needed items, funding, volunteer opportunities, etc. for this special section. Please consider offering your support!

Elm Grove Woman's Club

By Susan Falci

The purpose of the Elm Grove Woman's Club is to unite the women of Elm Grove in social, civic and charitable enterprises and to cooperate with other organizations for the welfare of the community. We meet monthly for lunch and an interesting program and devote time and energies to give back to the community and support

our charming clubhouse (at 13885 Watertown Plank Road).

For information, go to www.egwc.org or contact **Suzanne Perry** or **Susan Freedy**, membership chairs. Our unique clubhouse is also available for rental! Come check us out!

Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K

By Jerry McCormick

Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove meetings are at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Church Senior Center, 13000 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove. www.kiwaniselmgrove.org or E-mail: kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

WISH LIST:

* **Books for Kids:** Donated books are distributed to young children to encourage reading and learning.

* **Pill Bottles:** Donations of empty pill bottles for recycling by the Bread of Healing Clinic and other medical care facilities which serve uninsured, low income patients through volunteers. This allows the clinic to purchase pharmaceuticals in bulk at greatly reduced cost and formulate them into individual prescriptions for patients.

* **Aluminum Tabs and Cans:** One of the ways of fundraising for providing annual camping scholarships for campers with special needs at Camp Wawbeek near the Dells.

* **Cereal for Food Bank:** Cereal is the most requested item at food banks. Elm Grove Kiwanis collected about 500 boxes of cereal (in 2016) and would like your help to double that to 1,000 boxes for 2017.

* **iPads for children on the autism spectrum in area schools:** We have granted 45 applications but there are still open requests at area schools. These iPads greatly assist special needs students with communication and learning. The cost is about \$400 per iPad with special apps.

Friends of Elm Grove Library (FOEGL)

By Janet Wintersberger

Our WISH LIST:

* A 4-foot high collapsible Christmas tree (for 2017 Lights of Love).

* Donations of books, CDs and DVDs (for children and adults) for our March Book Sale.

* Volunteers to help promote the Friends' activities.

* Volunteers to help with the "Bookie Cookie sale" at Elm Grove's Memorial Day parade in May.

* Additional people joining the Friends of Elm Grove Library.

Stop by or contact the Elm Grove Public Library at (262) 782-6717 for more information.

CUDWORTH-STENZ-GRIESELL-SMITH

AMERICAN LEGION POST #449

3245 North 124th Street, Brookfield (262) 781-0488

Retire your worn and tattered flags with dignity. Bring to Post 449

EVERYONE is welcome to attend our upcoming events:
No drink or food carry in's allowed.

- * **NEW:** Free phone & charging station in bar area.
- * **We're collecting items for Homeless Vets.**
- * **Monday only:** Post opens at 1 p.m.,
- * **Lunch:** 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday–Thursday
Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- * **Mondays:**.....Taco Night Buffet, 5 to 8 p.m., Chef Mick
- * **2nd Monday:**...One More Time Band (Big Band Music & Dancing), 1:30 to 3 p.m., \$3
- * **Wednesdays** . Chair Volleyball, 5 to 6 p.m. FREE. Call Sam Catura (414) 418-0289.
- * **Wednesdays** . Dart-ball League, 7 p.m.
- * **Thursdays:**...Cook-In, 5 to 8:30 p.m., Chef Tom
- * **Fridays:**.....**FISH FRY, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE**
Joyce Bevan, piano - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m
Various live bands, 6:30 to 10 p.m. (no cover charge)
- * **Saturdays:**....Food & Raffles, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
Various live bands, 7:30 to 11 p.m. \$5 cover / \$4 members
- * **Sundays:** Open 11:30 a.m. to closing, multi-sport TV coverage w/ Legion family

HALL RENTAL
Available for All Occasions
Call Pete Schiller
(262) 781-0488, Ext. 2

Variety – the Children's Charity of Wisconsin

By Dua Vang-Ramirez

Variety — the Children's Charity of Wisconsin is a non-profit organization located in Elm Grove. Our mission is to provide life-enriching assistance to Wisconsin children challenged by physical disabilities. Our vision is that all children, regardless of ability, are able to participate in their communities and experience all of the joys that come with being a kid. We fulfill our mission by providing the necessary medical equipment and experiences a child with a physical disability needs to succeed.

Our "Wish" is to be able to provide assistance to every child who seeks our help in 2017. YOU can help make this wish come true!

* **Donate to Variety:** www.varietywi.org.

* **Sponsor a child to attend Chatter Matters Communication Camp,** an overnight camp that helps non-verbal children, who use speech-generating devices such as an iPad or

laptop to communicate, become better communicators (\$250/child).

* **Sponsor a Future Kids Program event** so children can explore, play, and learn.

* **Donate books**

* **Donate arts & crafts supplies** (paint, markers, glitter, beads, bracelet/necklace kits, etc.)

* **Donate outdoor games** (bean bag toss, ladder ball, horse shoes, etc.)

* **Donate office supplies** (copy paper, color paper, card stock, mailing labels, etc.)

Please send all donations to Variety — the Children's Charity of Wisconsin, 12425 Knoll Road, Suite 110, Elm Grove, WI 53122 or contact the office for a pick up. For more information on how you can help, please call (262) 777-2090, or e-mail: contact@varietywi.org, or visit www.varietywi.org.

Sunset Playhouse

By Nancy Visintainer-Armstrong

Our WISH LIST:

* **FUNDING** for HVAC unit replacement and Scholarships for School of the Arts Students.

* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Carpenters & Painters (Back Stage); Ushers; Office Support; Costume Construction; Stage Managers; Back Stage Helpers during performances.

* **NEEDED ITEMS:** Laptop; Office Supplies (tape, pens, staplers, copy paper; Paper Products; Laundry Detergent; Gift Cards (Visa, Ace Hardware, Menards, etc.)

Sunset Playhouse is located at 800 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove (just off Wall St.). Call (262) 782-4430 or visit for more information.

American Association of University Women – West Suburban Milwaukee branch

By Kerstin Lanser

Wish List: Donations of gift certificates from local businesses to be used at a silent auction which raises money for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund and Educational Opportunities Fund.

New members also welcome. Contact **Linda Polulach** at (414) 476-6919 or aauwsmembership@gmail.com. Go to AAUW.org for more information on the funds and membership requirements.

Elmbrook Humane Society (EBHS)

By Heather Gehrke

Looking for ways to share your time, talent, and treasure by giving back to your community? Elmbrook Humane Society has several opportunities and appreciates your consideration.

* **Foster Parents** – EBHS is always in need of foster parents! Foster commitments range in need from bottle feeding young kittens, to working with an animal on behavioral modification, to a little TLC after surgery, and more!

To learn additional details about this volunteer opportunity as well as how to begin the process, visit <http://www.ebhs.org/index.php/how-to-help-2/foster>.

* **Volunteering at EBHS** – Many opportunities exist! Currently, they are in most need of daytime cat socializers, birthday party leaders, housekeepers, transporters, graphic designers, and brand ambassadors. To learn more about volunteering, visit: <http://www.ebhs.org/index.php/how-to-help-2/volunteer>.

* **Urgently needed supplies** – You can imagine the amount of food and cleaning supplies used to care for nearly 2,000 animals annually or approximately 80 animals each and every day! Not in a position to volunteer your time? Please consider helping EBHS with an item or two from the following list of their most urgently needed items: Bleach; Large, heavy-duty trash bags (33 gallon or larger); Canned cat food; Canned dog food; Grain-free dry cat food.

* **Adopting** – If you or someone you know is looking to add a furry or feathered family member to their life, please remember to visit www.ebhs.org, or visit the EBHS to learn about the many animals up for adoption, in need of a loving and caring home. To learn more about EBHS, visit www.ebhs.org, call (262) 782-9261, or stop in to visit them at 20950 Enterprise Avenue in Brookfield.

(Also see "News Hounds" – Page 11)

Support Our Veterans!

Community Wish Lists

EDITOR'S NOTE: Local Clubs, Organizations, Schools & Non-Profit Groups were invited to submit lists of needed items, funding, volunteer opportunities, etc. for this special section. Please consider offering your support!

Elmbrook Senior Taxi, Inc.

By Sandy Wolff

Elmbrook Senior Taxi, Inc. is starting our 24th year of transporting Seniors and Disabled Adults in the Villages of Elm Grove and Butler and the City and Town of Brookfield. Our passengers go to medical appointments, grocery shopping, hair salons, visiting friends, etc.

It is our mission to help them remain independent and to maintain a good quality of life by providing affordable and reliable transportation.

Since we added our third car about 1 ½ years ago, our ridership has almost doubled, and we anticipate the need to add

a fourth car sometime during 2017 to keep up with demand for rides.

We provided more than 8,000 rides (in 2016), and our wish is to obtain funds that will help us to add another car so that we can continue to serve the elderly and disabled adults within our communities.

Another wish is to have more drivers apply to help provide these rides.

We at the "TAXI" really appreciate this opportunity to make our "Wish List" known to the caring people in our service area.

Brookfield Central Junior Lancer Cheerleading

By Michelle Kiese

Brookfield Central Junior Lancer Cheerleading is going back to NATIONALS and we need your help! Our middle school competitive cheer squad will be representing the State of Wisconsin at the Universal Cheerleading Association's National High School Cheerleading Championships (UCA NHSCC) in Orlando, Florida on February 12th, 2017. We are returning to defend our Top 10 National Ranking, and to earn a bid to the 2018 International Cheer Union's School World Cheerleading Championships. We are the only recreational cheerleading program in Wisconsin to have earned the honor of competing the UCA NHSCC (2014 & 2015) and the International Cheer Union's World School Cheerleading Championships (2015), and are currently ranked 7th in the Nation, and 4th in the World. We are very humbled by this honor and will do all we can to make (our local area) and Wisconsin proud!

We are seeking businesses and individuals to participate as sponsors of our journey to the UCA NSHCC and ICU SWCC, considered the pinnacle Worlds and

Nationals event for school and recreational cheerleaders across the world. Proceeds of our fundraising efforts will support our team members with travel and competition associated costs. Sponsorships of any size will be greatly appreciated.

Our 2016-2017 program serves students attending Tonawanda, Brookfield, Dixon and Swanson Elementary Schools; Wisconsin Hills Middle School; St. John Vianney School; and St. Mary's Visitation School.

While Junior Lancer Cheer is considered the feeder program to Brookfield Central High School Cheer, we are an independent program that is not supported by school fees or property taxes. We run independently from BC Cheer, and are a 100% volunteer run organization.

Donations can be made online at www.squareup.com/store/juniorlancercheer. Please email Administrator and Head Coach Michelle Kiese at juniorlancercheer@gmail.com for more details. Thank you for your support!

Elm Grove Junior Guild

By Molly Eldridge

The Elm Grove Junior Guild is a community of women committed to the education, wellness and protection of women and children within and beyond our community. Our commitment takes the form of service, awareness and financial support. The Junior Guild hosts an auction in April which is the primary fundraising event of the year — the Tree of Giving Gala. Our goal is to continue to provide ample funds to organizations that seek our assistance. This exclusive event is possible through sponsorship opportunities, event ticket sales and an assortment of live and silent auction packages from renowned companies and destinations.

WISH LIST:

- * Monetary donations to the Junior Guild Tree of Giving Gala.
- * Item donations to the auction (Helicopter ride; Hot Air Balloon ride; Vacation getaways (Door County, Florida, etc.); Orthodontics packages; Sporting Event tickets; Music or Sports memorabilia.
- * Event sponsorship

Visit: www.elmgrovejuniorguild.org for more information.

Elm Grove Community Foundation

By Kim Irwin

WISH LIST:

- * Oktoberfest 2017 **Volunteers** to help pour beer and work concessions!

Oktoberfest 2017 will take place on Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 4 to 10 p.m.

- * **General Funds** to support community beautification improvement projects.

(Specific initiatives to be determined and pending vote of the Board.)

Visit www.elmgrovefoundation.com for more information.

Resolution #1: See the WORLD!



SAVE \$125 per person!
Use code **ADV13LH** by 1/31

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ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCE RECYCLING EVENT

HOSTED BY
The City of Brookfield
Event Located at 19700 Riverview Drive

Open to all Waukesha County residents!

Saturday, January 14 • 9 am-Noon

Electronics
(Legacy Recycling LLC)

Items collected for a fee (cash only):

- Television Sets (\$25 each)
- CRT Computer Monitor (\$10 each)

Items collected at no fee:

- Other Computer Monitors & LCDs
- Computers
- Keyboards
- Laptops
- Printers
- Scanners
- Cell Phones
- Telephones
- DVD Players, VCRs, & Stereos

Appliances
(Refrigerant Depot)

Items collected at no fee:

- Air Conditioners
- Dehumidifiers
- Refrigerators
- Microwaves
- Water Coolers
- Freezers
- Water Heaters
- Washer/Dryers
- Stoves
- Oven/Ranges
- Dishwashers

262.896.8300

Upcoming Events Hosted By

City of Oconomowoc
on Sat. February 11 (9am-Noon)

City of New Berlin
on Sat. March 11 (9am-Noon)

New Year's Resolution...

Be a Hero. Give Blood. Save a Life!

Blood Center of Wisconsin is a not-for-profit organization that specializes in blood services, organ, tissue and marrow donation, diagnostic testing, medical services and leading-edge research.

Donations of all blood types are needed. Anyone 17 or older, who is in generally good health and meets eligibility requirements, is encouraged to donate blood. Parental consent is required for 16-year-olds to donate. The entire process takes about an hour. Donors should bring a photo ID that includes birth date.

To schedule an appointment,
call 1-877-BE-A-HERO (1-877-232-4376)
or visit www.bcw.edu
or m.bcw.edu on a mobile device.

Clubs & Organizations



Photo by Jennifer Morris

Linda Gildea (at left) and Sue Falci were co-chairs of the Elm Grove Woman's Club's "Chandelier Christmas" gala.

Holiday Event Held at EGWC

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain, elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

More than 100 members and guests gathered on the evening of Saturday, December 3 for the Elm Grove Woman's Club's annual Holiday fundraiser and gala, "Chandelier Christmas".

"(It) has been an annual event since 1959 when the first 'ball' was held to raise money to pay for the exquisite chandelier which is the centerpiece of the

clubhouse. The fixture was paid for that very night," said Club president Sue Falci.

This year's event, catered by Western Racquet Club, included a silent auction and Giving Tree raffle. The funds raised will be used to purchase an ease-of-access door, leading into the Elm Grove Public Library.

Calling all Elm Grove Residents!

By Alice Hirt

If you are a new resident OR have a new phone number OR want to edit your current listing in the Elm Grove Village Directory, the time is NOW!

The planning for the 2017-2018 edition of the directory by the Elm Grove Woman's Club is underway. Produced every two years by the Elm Grove Woman's Club, the directory is distributed to all residents and businesses of the village.

We appreciate the many responses we have had thus far from the community but to ensure the greatest accuracy we need to hear from all who have experienced changes. Many residents have been contacted by our member surveyors but the change from land line to cell phone number has made it more

challenging to reach everyone. Please contact the Elm Grove Woman's Club on line at www.egwc.org or PO Box 203, Elm Grove, 53122, to indicate a changed or new listing, decline representation in the directory, or to request additional information about the directory or about club membership.

The *Elm Grove Village Directory* is distributed free of charge to over 2800 households as well as 400 area businesses. It is an indispensable guide for locating, identifying, and patronizing our local businesses, many of whom help support this endeavor by placing an advertisement in the publication. We welcome inquiry from businesses wishing information on advertising in our publication.



Photo by Steve Fraenzl

American Legion Post 449 Commander Mike Daigle speaks during the organization's 70th Anniversary dinner celebration on December 4. (Look for a story about the Post's history and current status in an upcoming issue of the *News-Independent*.)



Photo by Joe SAYS

Tonawanda Elementary School Third Grade students entertain members of the **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove** – Golden K during the club's annual Christmas Luncheon, December 9, at the Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove. Recently elected club President Dick Boulay is at the podium. The chorus members later circulated among club members and spouses to assist in the singing of Christmas carols and other songs of the season.

OWLS Elects New Board of Directors

By Carolyn Korona

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors) was founded in 2005 at Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove. The organization is dedicated to members and friends of CUMC who are semi-retired or retired. Its purpose is to provide fellowship and friendship to all of its members through entertainment, fun, inspiration, adventure, and service. Meetings are the third Thursday of every month. Call Carolyn at

(262) 628-7761 for more information.

The Board of Directors for 2017:

President: **Marlene Salek** and **Don Bardonner**
 Secretary: **Anne Harberg**
 President-Elect: **Kathleen Fuhr** and **Judy Down**
 Treasurer: **Bob Mitchell**

Elm Grove Clubs & Organizations, Schools & Churches
 are always welcome to submit
 "News Briefs" / photos & story ideas for consideration.

Contact elmgrovenews@yahoo.com or call (262) 782-6193.

Young Writers & Cub Reporters

What's New to You in the New Year?

By First Grade Students at St. Mary's Visitation

"I just got a NEW dog. I will teach him how to hi five."

~ JAKE

"I'm doing a NEW sport this year. I am doing basketball."

~ GRACE

"I am NEW to the school. I like my teacher. I like the iPads. I like math."

~ THOMAS

"I have a NEW gymnastics teacher. She is nice to me and fun. I will learn how to do a back handspring."

~ HOLLY

"I just got a NEW baby sister. I will teach her to walk, jump, push, pull, march, kick, skip and stretch. I love her."

~ JOSIE

Young Writers / Reporters Wanted!

Students in Kindergarten – Grade 12 are invited to submit the following types of items for this section:

- **ARTICLES** – Reporting about School, Club, Neighborhood, Church, Scouting and Athletic activities. (400 words maximum)
- **CREATIVE WRITING** – Short Stories (600 words maximum)
- **POETRY**

All contributions will be reviewed. Selected items will be published based on quality of writing and space availability.

Submissions (noting the writer's name, school/home-school, & grade) should be sent to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: Young Writers) OR Elm Grove News-Independent, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.

Questions: Call (262) 782-6193.

Poetry

Friend

By Marie LeClerc Laux, SSND

(From her book "Reflections")

*Wrap me warm in friendship.
Sit with me and tell me of your days.*

*Tell me of the threads of joy
or strains of pain
that weave your days
of homespun tapestry.*

*Tell me of your singing times,
and if the song turns somber,
let me softly sing a descant
to harmonize the melody.*

*Tell me of your heart-held space
where quickened hopes
flutter like baby wrens,
or of your pebbles of regret
that choke the telling.*

*Share your life with me, my friend.
I'll keep it safe each time.
Wrapped warm in friendship
such as yours
I'll wrap you warm in mine.*

A Mug of Coffee

By Patricia A. Obremski, SSND

(From the SSND book: "COOKING A Celebration of Earth's Gifts")

Warm
and welcoming...
I hold you reverently
between my eager palms...
mist curling outward in
the chill of dawn.

Rich
and brown and holy...
your aroma tempts me
to sip, to
risk my lips,
my tongue in eagerness to
gratify my longing.

Deep
and still and waiting...
spirit, cupped and working
in the mystery of beans,
sacrificed
and steeped,
you energize to transformation.

With abandon,
I savor every sip!



Excerpts from...

A Prayer for a Better World

By Lillia Langreck, SSND

(From her book "Sparks from the Sacred Fire")



Yahweh, compassionate God, help us to envision a better world. Help us to envision an unarmed nation that is strong.

Help us to envision a people reaching out to each other with handclaps of love.

Help us to envision a generous nation; a rich, powerful nation, sharing its riches with the poor.

Help us to envision rich corporations again discovering a human heart, no longer concerned about great profits which make the rich richer but really concerned about alleviating the needs of the poor.

Help us to envision an educational system which is not as concerned with teaching children how to get rich as teaching them an appreciation for literature, the arts and music, stretching persons to realize their human potential. Help us to envision a system of education that produces artists, writers, and musicians who use their creative abilities to elevate the human person.

Help us, help our country, to envision the creation of a DEPARTMENT OF PEACE which would have dreamers and visionaries who would show us the way to peace.

Help us to envision a world without weapons, a world where civilization is so advanced that conflicts are dealt with in dialogue, where compassion is the rule of the day, where trust is so strong that the

barbaric means of torture and destruction (nuclear weapons, landmines, and star wars) become ancient history.

Help us to envision cutting back funds for the military and using that money to befriend our enemies by building hospitals and schools and providing gainful employment for all.

Help us to envision if we can, and we hope we can, listening to the wisdom of the great peacemakers and to the voices of those who lead us to stand in solidarity with the poor.

Yahweh, we are realistic enough to know that the process would be slow. The rich who depend on military investments would lose money, but then terrorism would gradually diminish as the needs of the impoverished and powerless are met.

Yahweh, God of peace and love, we believe your creative power is still alive and people throughout the world will discover again their capacity to be caring, human persons and will reject the dehumanizing qualities of violence, cruelty, dishonesty, and greed.

O God, help us to dream, for our future depends on our dreams — dreams that can and must be accomplished without armed warfare, nuclear weapons, secret service, and the militarization of space. Give us the strength and courage to bring these dreams to reality.

FLAVOR OF THE DAY JANUARY 2017

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Chocolate Covered Strawberry 2 Caramel Turtle 3 Kit Kat Swirl 4 Raspberry Cordial 5 Mint Brownie 6 Cookies & Cream 7 Really Reese's 8 Turtle Dove 9 Cherry Cheesecake 10 Caramel Fudge Cookie Dough 11 Caramel Cashew 12 Strawberry Bon-Bon 13 Salted Double Caramel Pecan 14 Bonfire S'mores 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Peanut Butter Cup 16 Chocolate Oreo Volcano 17 Butter Pecan 18 Crazy for Cookie Dough 19 Red Raspberry 20 Turtle 21 Oreo Overload 22 Chocolate Caramel Twist 23 Mint Oreo 24 Caramel Peanut Buttercup 25 Strawberry Cheesecake 26 Brownie Batter Overload 27 Cookie Dough Craving 28 Cherry Chocolate Chip 29 Snickers Swirl 30 Andes Mint Avalanche 31 Double Marshmallow Oreo
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Elm Grove
14855 W. Bluemound Road
(262)784-4470

Home Improvement

Home Repair and Maintenance Services

By Scot Stark of Integrity Services

As we enter the winter season homeowners spend more time indoors, often contemplating what can be done to improve decoration of their residence. One of the most frequent issues is painting. What can we do to make that room more interesting or maybe just different, after all it has been the same for 10 years or more. Look at all the cracks and unsightly gaps around the baseboard and crown molding. Does the wall finish resemble the surface of the moon with all those old, damaged areas so poorly repaired. There are many deferred maintenance and repair issues that can make your home look tired and worn beyond its years. To adequately address the problem you need to go beyond "just a fresh coat of paint". However, you do not necessarily have to face a complete remodel and all the cost and inconvenience that go with it.

One of the most frequent situations I encounter is an incorrect paint finish in a particular room or area. Usually this has resulted in the area having been painted using a satin or even a semi-gloss. These are often poor finish choices for interior living spaces. They produce a glossy finish which not only lets even minor imperfections stand out but also results in a less restful and uncomfortable feeling for the room. Better choices are low luster flat and eggshell finishes. These finishes provide excellent hiding ability and a more comfortable feeling to the interior area. Ceiling areas should be painted using a flat or ultra flat finish. This often results in making the room feel larger and less "cave like". Surface repairs must be primed

before finish coats or the result will be areas of "flashing" which will stand out like a sore thumb.

To address those damaged areas mentioned earlier can involve a minor patch, to replacing an area with new wallboard. It is important that the replacement material be carefully fitted, patched and sanded to insure that the area blends in to the surrounding area. The texture finish of the area must also be close to identical or the repair will be obvious. Cracks developing over time along moldings and interior trim are inevitable, unsightly and give the room a worn look. This is especially true in older homes with years of painting history. These areas can be brought back to life using a variety of caulking products and proper finishing technique. I am often impressed by the overall improvement this somewhat simple restoration process makes.

Is it really important to use the highest quality paints? Simply put, yes. The cost savings of using a lesser quality paint will not stand up for the additional years you will gain by using top quality paint. There are good reasons for this. Higher levels of pigments, base and preservative chemicals all work in your favor. Quality paint work should apply a good, solid coat(s) of paint that results in increased durability. Finally, cleanliness and attention to detail round out the job!

**Goodbye for now. It's been a great time!
Thanks for all the positive comments and feedback through the years!**

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"I can fix that!"

Scot Stark – Elm Grove resident
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Classifieds

Listings are \$15.00 per issue (for up to 20 words) + 25 cents for each additional word. Call (262) 782-6193 or E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Kiwanis Golden K of Elm Grove, Wisconsin

COME JOIN US, men and women to serve the children of our community. We meet each Friday morning 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. For membership details, talk to one of the 80 Kiwanis members, e-mail Mike Ullrich: michaelullrich@yahoo.com, or call (262) 786-1677.



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Legal Issues

Estate Planning and Beneficiaries with Special Needs

By Attorney Isabell M. Mueller

If you want make a gift or leave an inheritance to someone with a physical or mental disability, you must plan carefully. Many individuals with special needs receive government benefits which place severe financial restrictions on eligibility. If a gift or inheritance causes the individual to exceed those limits, the benefits will be interrupted. There is, however, a solution to this problem.

Instead of leaving the inheritance directly to the individual, you could instead leave it to a Special Needs Trust. Assets held in this type of trust are not considered as belonging to the individual, or "countable," in determining financial eligibility.

The trust is a completely separate entity. The individual is the beneficiary, but he or she does not have an actual ownership interest in the trust funds. However, the sole purpose of the trust is to provide the beneficiary with items or care over and above what the government benefits provide. If certain medical treatments or

equipment are not covered by benefits, the trust could pay for them. Moreover, the trust can pay for things which are not medically necessary, but which would enrich the disabled individual's life, such as alternative health care, education expenses, summer camp, travel (including a companion, if necessary), furniture and electronic or computer equipment.

A Special Needs Trust may be created and funded during your lifetime or upon your death. Further, you don't need large sums of money to set one up. There are well respected, non-profit organizations, such as WisPACT, Inc., that will facilitate and manage special needs trusts holding little as a few thousand dollars. Trusts can also be set up during your lifetime to be funded through your estate plan after your passing. Once established and funded, the trust may receive additional funds at a later date from you or from other family members. Used properly, a Special Needs Trust can be a wonderful tool to enrich the life of an individual with special needs.

Isabell M. Mueller Attorney at Law

Estate Planning, Probate, Elder Law, Wills,
Trusts & Powers of Attorney

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Read All About It!

Got Resolutions? We can help at the Elm Grove Public Library!

By Noah Weckwerth

Ah, the annual tradition of the New Year's resolution. The holidays have passed, the slate is clean, and you've announced your resolution to everyone you know. You are determined. No sooner do you get started when... it all falls apart. Fear not, this year it will be different. This year you exercise the power of your library card to guide your resolution to reality. Here are a few ways your card can jump-start your resolve in 2017.

* **Learn a New Language:** Full access to Rosetta Stone online, the world's leading language learning tool, free with your library card.

* **Travel More:** An up-to-date selection of inspirational travel books, guides, and DVDs await you. Explore your dream destinations and start planning (and packing).

* **Get Your Dream Job:** JobNow provides free online career preparation assistance with your library card. Includes live interview coaching, resume assistance, and career guidance.

* **Build Your Family Tree:** With access to Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest, exploring your family story has never been easier. Discover your roots and see what surprises await you.

* **Lose Weight, Start Your Own Business, Become an Artist, Learn Something New:** Gale courses are interactive, online, instructor-led courses. Normally \$99 — they're absolutely free with your library card. From digital photography to human anatomy, there are more than 300 to choose from. Change your life while learning at your own pace, on your own time.

For help accessing these online tools, stop by the library reference desk, or call (262) 782-6717 and ask to speak to a librarian.



Upcoming Programs for Adults

* "Heart Health: Know Your Numbers"

Wednesday, January 11 @ 7 p.m. in the O'Neill Room.

Did you know that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S.? Learn how to protect your heart by knowing your numbers and identifying your personal risk. In this session, you will learn about types of heart disease, risk factors, symptoms, and prevention, as well as setting S.M.A.R.T. goals for healthy changes and measuring success. This Grapevine session is for men and women, and sponsored by the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation. It will be presented by **Christina Ebert**, a nurse with the Grapevine Project. FREE to attend.

* "The Milwaukee Mafia"

Tuesday, January 17 @ 7 p.m. in the O'Neill Room.

Gavin Schmitt, author of two books about the mafia in Milwaukee, spills secrets and dishes dirt on a side of the city largely unknown beyond lore and hearsay. In a city of blood, bullets, and beer, Milwaukee's criminal underworld once ruled with power, brutality, and influence that went to the very top. Get the full, unfiltered story with this FREE program. No registration required.

* "STOP Senior Frauds and Scams"

Wednesday, February 1 @ 1 p.m. in the O'Neill Room.

Learn how to protect yourself from fraud. Join us for this educational program for seniors and their families. Five common fraud schemes will be covered, including telemarketing, online & e-mail, charity, grandparent, and investment scams. Presented by Interfaith Senior Programs. FREE and open to the public. Registration is required, and can be done at the library or by calling (262) 782-6717.

Our Village



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / EGNI

"IT'S THE TRAIN... THE TRAIN!"

Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove, at 13425 Watertown Plank Road, in the Park & Shop, displayed an abundance of festive Holiday decorations in late 2016, including this small, electric train, set up in the shop's window by business owner **Jane Peck**.

business card. A special surprise was the card imprinted with "Elm Grove News-Independent LLC" positioned atop the passenger car.

Keep watch for what will surely be more great window displays in 2017!

Note the green "coal car" with Imperial's

Youth Story Times & Events

* **Bucks Reading Challenge:** Complete a reading challenge and receive a complimentary ticket offer to a select 2017 home game! Pick up reading sheets at the library beginning January 9; challenge ends February 24.

* **Monthly Lego Club:** Thursday, January 19, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., in the Community Room. Join us after school for our Lego Club. The library provides Legos to use (please don't bring any from home), and a theme for the day to guide your creative building. This is a drop-in program (no registration required), but clean-up will start at 4:30 and everyone should plan to pitch in. Recommended for grades K-5.

* **Weekly Thursday & Friday story times at the library:** Resuming January 12. Visit: www.elmgrovelibrary.org for a complete listing of story times, or pick up a schedule at the library.

News' Hounds & other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Heather Gehrke

Meet **Jackson**! When it comes to characteristics, Jackson is a jack-of-all trades. Jackson has the body of an athlete and a mind that is as smart as a whip. He is affectionate and attentive with an independence born from confidence and a strong nose. With a bit of effort on your part, you can channel all that Jackson has into a trained master! Make some time to keep and meet this great boy today!

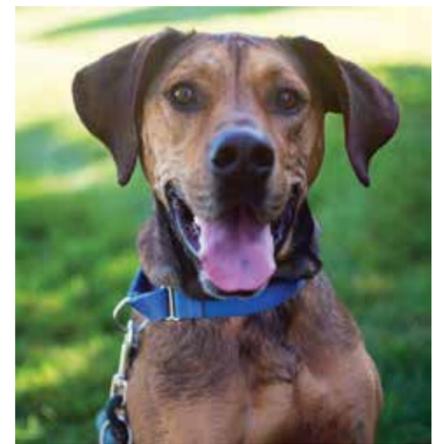


Photo courtesy of Elmbrook Humane Society

Jackson

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.

Letters to the Editor...

* Letters regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook community will be considered for publication on a space available basis. Submissions (400 words maximum) must include the writer's name, address & phone number.

* Mail to: Letters, *Elm Grove News-Independent*, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122

* Email: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com Asimivent, nem aut odia qui ani nihiciendit idit

Dear Reader,

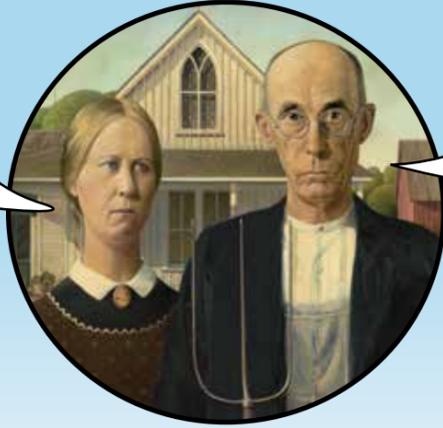
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by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman
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