Vol. 8 No. 11

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

January 2021

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



Sister Dorothy **MacINTYRE**



Sister Mary Elva **WIESNER**



Sister Joan Emily **KAUL**



Sister Mary Lillia **LANGRECK**



Sister Michael Marie



Sister Mary Alexius **PORTZ**



Sister Ellen **LORENZ**



Sister Cynthia



9 Members of the SSND Community Die from COVID-19 By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

They were all safe and well for most of 2020, taking every precaution: wearing masks, washing hands, social distancing, remaining in isolation. That peace was to be shattered on Thanksgiving morning with the discovery that one of the more than 90 School Sisters of Notre Dame residing at the Elm Grove convent along Watertown Plank Road had tested positive for COVID-19. The facility's first two deaths from COVID-19 occurred on December 9, another on December 11, another on December 13 and four more on December 14. A ninth sister died on December 22.

"All of the sisters who passed away from COVID-19 related complications at Notre Dame of Elm Grove were wisdom figures for me, for their sisters in community, and for so many others in the many places where they served throughout their lives," said Sister Debra M. Sciano, Provincial Leader,

School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province. "Each of them were educators, leaders, role models and powerhouses of prayer. Their faithful commitment as vowed women religious to be a source of love, unity and healing to our world community is an example for us all."

An individual's entire life experience certainly cannot be condensed into a mere few sentences, but Sister Sciano chose the following words of remembrance to thoughtfully honor the sisters who recently passed:

Sister Mary Elva Wiesner, 94, had a special love for teaching children the sacraments. She would sing with them and bring a bright, cheery attitude.

(See SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME - Page 4)



Sister Rose M. **FEESS**



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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth

To a Better Year Ahead...

"2020" - A difficult, often heart-wrenching year that ended just days ago has brought us to the first month of 2021. Our best hope now is for a time when we can gather socially together, rather than socially distanced; un-masked, rather than masked; with a large degree of confidence that fewer of our citizens will suffer or die from COVID-19 and that the world-wide pandemic will soon cease to exist.

It was my great privilege to compose the Page 1 story to remember and honor the lives of 9 beloved members of our community who were lost in December due to the virus. During my work on the *News-Independent* and in the years prior to that as a local reporter, I have been in contact with many sisters and administrators at SSND. At the beginning of each month, I routinely make a personal visit to the facility to deliver copies of the newspaper, with some copies tagged for specific individuals. Please join me in wishing those at SSND all the best in 2021.

Those who love our *Past Times* section will discover that long-time contributor **Stephen K. Hauser** has posted his final (monthly) column (Page 4). A public **THANK YOU!** for his decade of remembrances. Stephen has been invited to submit occasional items whenever he chooses. Readers are now welcome to write *Past Times* articles and submit old photos as well. Take care. Stay well.



Steve Wettstein (aka "Steve the Barber") at Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove in mid-December 2020 with long-time customer, Village resident **Don Ralfs**.

"My Favorite Barber" Announces Retirement

What can I <u>say</u> about a guy who years ago presented me with a large, plush <u>pink</u> flamingo purchased during his visit to Las Vegas because he knew that I display vintage-designed pink flamingoes in my front-yard gardens along Watertown Plank for all the world to see? (I named Steve's gift "Stevie".) And, what can I <u>do</u> for a guy who wishes for (and insists he deserves) several pages of "Steve" coverage (per issue)?

Well, in two words: a lot. Wettstein lives in Menomonee Falls with his lovely wife, Marilyn (61 years of marriage, 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren) --- a story in itself. But, my long-time friend, barber to the stars and to members of my family, who I met when we were classmates in the 1999 Elm Grove Citizens Police Academy, packed up his clippers, swept the floor around his barber chair and officially retired on December 30, 2020 after 60 years in the business. Oh my, oh my, whatever shall I do? Whatever shall I fill these pages with now that Steve has left the building? (I'll think about that, tomorrow.)

Marilyn wrote this excellent summary of Steve's career: "He started out attending MATC in Milwaukee, at barber school full time, the first year. The next two years were part time. He started out as an apprentice for 3 years. He was a journeyman for 1 year. After that he obtained his master license from the State of Wisconsin. Then he applied for his Manager's License after 3 months.

His first job was at the Milwaukee Inn, downtown. Then he went to Center Street Barbers, on 72nd and Center St. Next, he went to the Barber Shop in Mayfair Mall for 25 years. He managed the shop for 10 years. He then decided to strike out on his own and found a nice spot in the Park and Shop center. This became "Steve's Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove." At one

time the shop operated with 6 barbers in 5 chairs. Many of his customers have been with him for over 50 years, going into third and fourth generations. The shop was sold 11 years ago to **Jane Peck**, where **Steve** continued to work two days per week.

Steve also was involved in many activities around Elm Grove. (In addition to the Citizens Police Academy) he was a member of the Elm Grove Business Association, of which he was president for several years. He was involved with the Memorial Day parade and he was one of the first sponsors of the children's Safety Village, because there was a barber shop included there. He helped sponsor Friends of the Elm Grove Library, sponsored the Calendar of Events in the Elm Grove News-Independent, and patronized many of the fine businesses in Elm Grove."

Steve says: "Thanks to the many friendly, loyal customers over the years. I will miss working and seeing the customers very much --- the shop will continue to be open with 3 barbers who will gladly welcome my customers. Thanks for the memories.

Sincerely,
Steve Wettstein "The Barber"

Dear **Steve**, Thanks for your long-time support of this newspaper, your friendship and help in filling these pages with your stories and other peoples' stories and your stories and your stories, etc.. **Have a Happy, Happy Retirement** and please let me know **how many hundreds of copies** of this edition I should ship to you --- "my favorite barber". And, always remember I know where you live and I've got your number. All the best to you and Marilyn.

Sincerely, **Lisabeth**,
your favorite newspaper person

NEW YEAR, NEW LEASE SPECIALS!



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Village Update

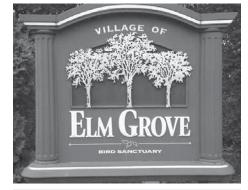
By Neil Palmer, President – Village of Elm Grove npalmer@elmgrovewi.org

I was saddened by the recent news that eight Sisters enjoying retirement on the Elm Grove campus of the School Sisters of **Notre Dame** had passed away from Covid. Other sisters are also ill with the virus. All these sisters have been an important part of Elm Grove and have spent their lives in service to others.

Thanks to the Elm Grove Junior Guild, the new Village Park skating rink is in place and should provide opportunity for fun and exercise if we can get some sustained cold weather. The rink is located on the tennis courts inside the fence and is lit for night skating. The Recreation Facebook page will be updated daily to inform you whether the rink is open or closed.

Spring will bring elections for three Village Board trustees and the Village **President**. There seems to be lots of interest among residents to seek election for the Board. All Village Board positions are unpaid and nonpartisan. Board service covers numerous issues and matters to help guide the Village. Each Trustee serves on three or four committees and Chairs at least one of those committees. The Board and committees all typically meet monthly at night.

Most Village Board committees and commissions include citizen members, and the Spring election will also bring the opportunity for residents to volunteer to serve. New committee volunteer members are nominated and considered following the April election. If you would like to volunteer, please complete the volunteer application form on the Village web page. The link at the bottom on the left side of the homepage: https://elmgrovewi.org/



The Mandel Development Group has submitted a formal application for redevelopment of the School Sisters of Notre Dame campus property. After months of preliminary and conceptual discussions the application is the first step in the formal multi-step Village process to consider redevelopment. The first step is to be considered at the Village Board meeting on January 25 when the Board will determine whether the submitted materials offer enough information to direct that the request to rezone the property and amend the existing Comprehensive Plan be considered by the Planning Commission.

When a project is referred to the Plan Commission by the Village Board, consideration of other aspects of the project will also begin. The Public Works Committee, with assistance of consultants, will begin review of the infrastructure issues, and Village staff and consultants will begin negotiation on the "Development Agreement." This is a legal agreement that describes what is to be built, how the Village and developer work together, commitments for the developer to reimburse the Village for all expenses to review and consider the application, and

establishment of a project schedule.

All documents concerning the proposed project are available for public review on the Village website. All Village meetings to consider the redevelopment proposal will be noticed on the Village website and opportunities for public input will be available.

The multi-step review process considers whether to allow a change of zoning from Institutional use to other, different type of use; what and how much of the proposed types of new uses and myriad of issues that the change in use would entail. The application describes preservation of the two oldest buildings on the site: The Castle and Maria Hall, and construction of singlefamily homes and multifamily apartment homes with underground parking. Various Village bodies will evaluate issues of building design and location, traffic, stormwater management, site layout and provision of municipal water. The entire development is estimated to cost \$130 million and generate approximately \$1 million annually in Village revenue.

The application materials provide a great deal of information about the proposed project and I encourage interested residents to review the materials and follow the Village review process through meeting attendance or online. All Village meetings are streamed online. You can also provide comments or ask questions by email to me at: npalmer@elmgrovewi.org.

All correspondence will be provided to the other Village Board members and will be posted to the public document file.

Business Directory

Community Organizations



Kiwanis – Golden K of Elm Grove Wisconsin

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

kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com www.kiwaniselmgrove.org





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News **Briefs**

COVID-19 CASES in Waukesha County

*Source: www.waukeshacounty.gov

(COVID-19 Dashboard)

As of the morning of Tuesday, December 29, 2020, WAUKESHA COUNTY, Wisconsin had recorded a total of 33.881 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 335

Statistics for some municipalities:

- ELM GROVE -
- 429 confirmed cases
- CITY OF BROOKFIELD 2,843 confirmed cases
- TOWN OF BROOKFIELD -444 confirmed cases
- CITY OF NEW BERLIN –
- 3,139 confirmed cases VILLAGE OF MENOMONEE
- **FALLS** 3,088 confirmed cases CITY OF WAUKESHA -
- 6,692 confirmed cases VILLAGE OF WAUKESHA –
- 688 confirmed cases CITY OF PEWAUKEE -

1,301 confirmed cases

 CITY OF OCONOMOWOC – 1,397 confirmed cases

Waukesha County News

An Inside Look at Waukesha County Government

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

COVID-19 vaccine shots are being delivered. I thought it would be an excellent time to review Waukesha County's response to the pandemic.

In total, Waukesha County has spent about \$10 Million in its effort to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. About \$5 million of that money covered payroll for contact tracers. The contact tracers also needed software, equipment, and training, which cost an additional \$400,000. Before the pandemic, Waukesha County had two individuals that acted as contact tracers for the Health Department. During this crisis, their ranks swelled to over 280 individuals. These individuals were hired as temporary help and filled the equivalent of 230 fulltime positions. In a short time, Public Health geared up its response. They were contacting over 80% of positive cases within 24 hours after the first report of infection. Within 48 hours, contact tracers made a minimum of three phone calls. If they failed to make personal contact by phone, they sent a letter asking them to contact the Public Health Department. In this manner, over 174,800 people were contacted. These people tested positive for COVID-19, or were in close contact with someone who had a positive test.

Early on, during the two weeks of a complete shutdown, \$1.7 million was spent. During this time, the County was preparing for a reopening under very different working conditions. The County needed to define the criteria and develop

While I am writing this, the first a plan of action to create a safe working environment. The task to develop this roadmap needed to be both comprehensive detailed. Emergency Services coordinated the remote planning operation that involved almost every Waukesha County department.

> Transitioning to a remote working environment was a monumental undertaking for Information Technology Services. The County needed to purchase over \$900,000 in services, software, and equipment to allow Waukesha County employees to work from home. Most county departments have been operating with less than half of their staff in the office, the rest working remotely. I can't stress enough how critical this was in allowing Waukesha County to continue to conduct its business successfully during the early stages of the pandemic.

> Paid leave for Waukesha County Employees who were infected with COVID-19 or those exposed and needed to self-quarantine was another necessity. Employees working for the County's Sheriff Department made up most of those needing paid leave, and cost the County nearly \$750,000.

> Keeping offices and public areas of Waukesha County's facilities safe is a continuing effort. Additional supplies for cleaning, sanitizing, and protective equipment, plus an increase in cleaning services, have all been needed. So far, this effort has cost about \$400,000.

Fortunately, the Federal Government's emergency funding, like the CARES-ACT, covered all expenditures outlined above.

Now that the vaccine is available, Waukesha County is working with the CDC, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and other agencies to develop vaccine distribution procedures. Phase one, with a limited supply of vaccine, will concentrate on critical populations. The first priority will be frontline health care workers and long-term care residents and staff. Essential workers will be vaccinated next, followed by adults over 65 years of age. In phase two, when a larger quantity of vaccine becomes available, the focus will be on those missed in the first phase before expanding to the general population. The focus of phase three will be on the equitable distribution of vaccines across the entire population.

As always, I welcome your comments or



Waukesha County Public Health

Past Times

I Remember... A Decade of *Past Times* Columns

By Stephen K. Hauser

A wise old saying instructs us that time goes by quickly when we are having fun. That has certainly proven true for me in the case of my monthly "I Remember" musings. I have submitted 120 such remembrances for the *Past Times* column over the past ten years. I have truly enjoyed the privilege of sharing my memories of old friends and of Elm Grove and the Elmbrook area. I have also appreciated the opportunity to share my thoughts on what I perceived to be some oft overlooked personalities and events in American history. The columns that bore my byline have been a labor of love for me and I hope that readers have enjoyed a few of them at least half as much as I have enjoyed writing them.

It's also been said that 'all good things come to an end'. That now holds true for my column as well. Ten years of one person's rememberings is certainly more than enough. Besides, after 120 columns I am finally running out of things to remember! Accordingly, this first column of 2021 will be my last. Before riding off into the proverbial sunset, however, I wanted to share a few final thoughts "for the historical record".

Occasionally, readers would attempt to contact me directly through the News-Independent, not realizing that, other than dropping off my finished column once a month, I have had absolutely nothing to do with the day-to-day workings of the newspaper. That task is the responsibility of editor Lisabeth Passalis-Bain. When she first mentioned to me years ago that she wanted to begin publishing a printedition newspaper to serve Elm Grove and the Elmbrook community, I admit that I doubted whether anyone could pull that off in an era of computers and internet web sites. Through hard work, however, she has succeeded in doing so. In that effort, she has been ably assisted by her husband, James L. W. Bain, who has supplied much of the excellent photography that accompanies every issue. They continue to shoulder the responsibilities of putting the paper out each month, and I can take absolutely no credit for that.

In addition to thanking Lisabeth for providing a forum for me to offer my thoughts and observations each month, I must also note that she deserves a special bow of appreciation for undertaking the rather tedious chore of placing them



Elm Grove as seen from the air in the mid-1960s. The ambience of that long-ago village was very special.

in a "computer ready" format. This is something she does not need to do with most other submissions to the newspaper. As an old history professor, I am stubbornly mired in the obsolete ways of the past. All of my columns in the News-Independent have been typed on my 1924 Royal typewriter, the same one I utilized for nearly 40 years to type syllabi, quizzes and exams for my college students. After submitting my finished column, Lisabeth has to 'translate' it onto the computer to make it copy ready for publication in the paper. This is certainly something that few 21st century newspaper editors would be willing to undertake, but she has regularly done so without complaint. For this, she receives my thanks. My remembrances would not have appeared in the pages of the News-Independent otherwise.

Jim Bain also deserves special recognition for using his considerable photographic skills to lighten, darken, doctor or otherwise 'clean up' many of the old photos from my collection that I

utilize as illustrations each month. While I am solely responsible for the content of my columns, they could not have been presented in print for the past decade without the work of Lisabeth and Jim. They even tolerated my many last-minute submissions.

In reviewing past columns this month, I noted that my favorites were often those that gave recognition or expressed appreciation to an area resident of the past that I felt they had not received in their lifetime. I hope that I have succeeded in offering them a humble but well-deserved salute.

As for my occasional forays into American history, I have likewise settled upon historic personalities or events that I thought especially deserving of some very special recollection. Readers could probably deduce my own choice of historical heroes from those I chose (or, conversely, from those I did not).

But now it is time for me to sign off. As I stated at the outset, ten years is enough of anyone's memories and ruminations. Perhaps there are others out there who would like to share with us their own stories and recollections. I, for one, would love to read the remembrances of one of the School Sisters of Notre Dame as they prepare to depart from Elm Grove after 166 years to begin a new chapter in their Order's long history. And certainly, there are many other tales to tell and stories to share as well.

Meanwhile, my old typewriter will continue to get a workout as it is used for correspondence with far-flung friends and relatives, and perhaps for another book project. Writing the *Past Times* column for all of you has indeed been a privilege. Adios!

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

SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME (Continued from Page 4)

- **Sister Mary Alexius Portz**, 96, was a musician. She worked into her 80s giving music lessons.
- Sister Rose Feess, 91, was a staunch advocate for young women. She focused her efforts for many years at the Notre Dame School of Milwaukee, where she empowered at-risk Hispanic girls to succeed.
- Sister Cynthia Borman, 90, was an educator and a handy-woman, serving several years in Alaska. If you needed something fixed, she was the one to turn to for help.
- Sister Dorothy MacIntyre, 88, was more into arts and crafts. She often shared her talent by creating beautiful items and then gifting them to others.
- Sister Joan Emily Kaul, 95, served as a secretary for many parishes in the area, in addition to teaching. She was known

- for her smile, which broke through to people's hearts, bringing joy to many.
- Sister Michael Marie Laux, 90, served as an educator and was a missionary at heart, serving around the world, including Notre Dame High School on Guam, a mission in Alaska and with our African sisters in Kenya.
- Sister Lillia Langreck, 92, was heavily involved in racial and social justice efforts during the Milwaukee marches for fair housing, integrated busing and more. In the weeks before she died, she had written a letter to the editor for a local publication. She was an educator and a poet.
- Sister Ellen Lorenz, 85, was an educator at heart. She loved teaching at the high school level, but is best known for serving at Mount Mary University, a sponsored ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, which included 8 years

as its president. During her time there, she developed a core curriculum that is still in use today.

For details about each sister visit: https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/news-events/obituaries.

COVID testing at NDEG

Currently 87 sisters at Notre Dame of Elm Grove are tested for COVID-19 twice a week. Direct care staff are being "point of care/quick" tested every time they work a shift. Non-direct care staff (maintenance, etc.) are being tested twice a week. There are approximately 60 staff members at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, according to SSND Director of Communications, **Trudy Hamilton.**

Solidarity with others

"We recognize that so many are suffering from COVID-19. We know we are not

alone in our grief. We appreciate the love, care and concern from the community. It means so much to us," noted **Sister Sciano**. "We encourage everyone to support those who have lost loved ones, those who continue to suffer economic hardship, and those who struggle through this time of separation from loved ones and normal activities."

How to help

E-mail messages of sympathy/support to: https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/contact-us. Mail to: SSND, Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove, WI 53122.

If you would like to contribute to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, please go to: https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/give.

Calendar of Events – January 2021

Friday – JANUARY 1 VILLAGE HALL CLOSED



Wednesday – JANUARY 6

• Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall – Reinders Room

Details: EGBeautification@gmail.com

Friday – JANUARY 8

• Elmbrook Rotary Club

Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. —Zoom Online Program: Craig Burnett, District 6270 Governor Contact: <u>markzalewski8803@gmail.com</u> <u>www.elmbrookrotary.org</u> (See AD – Page 3)

• Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K
Meeting: 9:30 a.m.; Speaker: Bart Adrian, UWM. Topic:
"How weather and meteorologists changed the course of history". Contact: kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
(See AD – Page 3)

Wednesday – JANUARY 13

• Elm Grove Beautification Committee Book Club 6:30 p.m. at Brookfield Public Library - Rotary Club Room; Reading: *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative.*Contact: EGBeautification@gmail.com for more details, Zoom information, or link to the Bookclubz app.

Thursday – JANUARY 14

VILLAGE of ELM GROVE's 66th ANNIVERSARY of INCORPORATION

Friday – JANUARY 15

• Elmbrook Rotary Club

Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. —Zoom Online Program: Sarah Pfeiffle, NAMI Mental Health Awareness / COVID

Contact: markzalewski8803@gmail.com www.elmbrookrotary.org (See AD – Page 3)

• Elm Grove Kiwanis - Golden K

Meeting: 9:30 a.m.; Speaker: Andy Dresang, Froedtert Health Center with Teri Lux, Pres. Menomonee Falls Hospital. Topic: "Froedtert Health and status on COVID operations."

Contact: kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com (See AD – Page 3)

Tuesday – JANUARY 19

• Elm Grove Building Board

Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall;

Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org

Friday – JANUARY 22

Elmbrook Rotary Club

Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. —Zoom Online Contact: <u>markzalewski8803@gmail.com</u> <u>www.elmbrookrotary.org</u>. (See AD – Page 3)

• Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Speaker: Phillip Chard, Psychologist; Topic: "Meeting the challenges of the Pandemic". Contact: Kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com. (See AD – Page 3)

Monday – JANUARY 25

• Elm Grove Board of Trustees

Meeting: 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room. Agenda: http://www.elmgrovewi.org. Live Stream @ https://elmgrovewi.org/656/live-stream

Friday – JANUARY 29

• Elmbrook Rotary Club

Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. —Zoom Online Program: Steve Merritt, Salvation Army Contact: <u>markzalewski8803@gmail.com</u> <u>www.elmbrookrotary.org</u> (See AD – Page 3)

• Elm Grove Kiwanis - Golden K

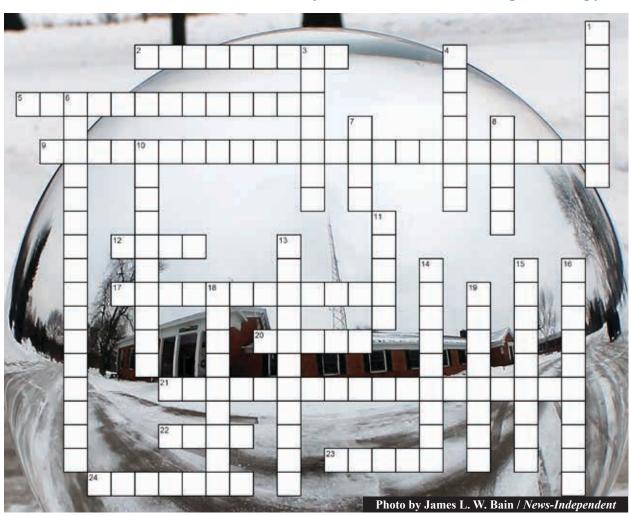
Meeting: 9:30 a.m.; Speaker: Heather Uzowulu; Topic: A discussion about "S.T.O.P." the senior Frauds and Scams Program. Contact: kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com. (See AD – Page 3)





COMMUNITY CROSSWORD #8

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain elmgrovenews@yahoo.com



ACROSS

- **2.** OWLS is a senior program at this Elm Grove church
- 5. Elm Grove's 66th Anniversary of _____ will occur on January 14, 2021
- 9. Abbreviated EGPD (4 words)
- **12.** Depository for money
- 17. Principal of Tonawanda Elementary (2 words)
- **20.** Shop Small, Shop _____ to help nearby businesses
- **21.** Communications on issues of public interest sent to this newspaper by readers, as on Page 3 (4 words)
- **22.** Crystals of ice formed from vapor of water in the air
- 23. Brookfield East High School is on this road
- 24. Elm Grove's first Village President: Kneeland

DOWN

- 1. www.elmgrove.news is one example of this
- **3.** Elm Grove grocery store
- 4. The first month of the year
- **6.** Newspaper feature at the top of Page 5 (3 words)
- 7. We wish you a Happy New _
- **8.** There are 50 of these on the American flag and many more at Sunset Playhouse
- **10.** Food establishment with dine-in or take-out options
- 11. Opposite of old
- 13. Use a camera to take these
- 14. Call 9-1-1 in case of this
- **15.** Serve our community as a member of the Elm Grove Fire Department
- **16.** St. Mary's Visitation school principal (2 words)
- **18.** Number of days in January (2 words)
- **19.** Future adults

Clubs & Organizations



Key Club members display portions of sleeping mats during a Zoom meeting.

High School Students Create Sleeping Mats for Homeless Individuals

(BROOKFIELD) Students who are members of the Kiwanis Key Club at Brookfield Central High School, (sponsored by the Elm Grove Kiwanis Club, Golden K), in December crafted sleeping mats that were presented to "The Gathering" for distribution to homeless people. The mats provide much needed cushioning for sleep and warmth for people living in winter elements.

Twenty-four Key Club students collected plastic bags from their families and Kiwanis members. First the bags were braided into a cord. Then those cords were tied together to form 3' x 4' and 4' x 8' mats. The bag colors were positioned to produce specific patterns.

The idea for this activity originated from "The Gathering" personnel. Key Club students volunteer to serve meals at "The Gathering" once per month. The mat concept was introduced to Key Club members during a meal serving session.

"The endeavor was an excellent teacher of project organization. Students learned to investigate a situation, define steps to



Four of the finished sleeping mats.

complete, make work assignments, produce the end product and deliver it to the user. This process is a goal of Kiwanis leadership training for high school age students," said Kiwanis member Larry DeLonge.

The Brookfield Central Key Club has been sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove, Golden K for more than twenty years. Kiwanis Key Clubs are for high school age students and are part of the Kiwanis mission is to support children.

Elm Grove Woman's Club to Hold *FIRE* and *ICE* Winter Festival

(ELM GROVE) Safe social gatherings have been a challenge during the 2020 pandemic. But the Elm Grove Woman's Club has been creative in adapting events to maintain the safety of its members and guests. From the summer Tailgate Trivia contests in the clubhouse parking lot to the outdoor Holidays in the Grove Arts & Crafts fair, EGWC president Laurie Hanson and her dedicated board of directors have worked together to provide fundraising events to maintain the clubhouse and give back to the community.

Friends, mark your calendars for the upcoming **FIRE** and **ICE Winter Festival** to be held outdoors on Saturday, January 30, 2021 (Yes, you read that correctly — outdoors in January — dress appropriately!) from 11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Elm Grove Woman's Club at 13885 Watertown Plank Road in the Village of Elm Grove.

This event will feature live music, food, ice carvers, fire performers, along with signature Fire and Ice libations and beverages. There will be a Fire and Ice raffle and the best part — admission is FREE! The week prior to the event, bid on spectacular items from the online Fire and Ice auction. Visit the events page on the website at www.egwc.org for more details on this outdoor fundraising event. Tara Coakley and Ann Schuelke are the co-chairs for the event which will raise money for a new ramp to make the clubhouse more accessible to all members of the community. If you are interested in becoming an event sponsor or donating to



the online auction please contact Tara or Ann: elmgrovewomansclub@gmail.com.

Since 1939, the Elm Grove Woman's Club has gathered to unite women in benevolent, charitable, educational and civic enterprises for the progress and welfare of our communities. Elm Grove Woman's Club is open to all communities. If you are interested in joining this fine organization, visit our membership page on the website at www.egwc.org.

Elm Grove Woman's Club — putting the FUN back into FUNdraising.

Uptown Motors is the Fire & Ice event's presenting sponsor. Additional sponsors include: ADVENT, Annex Wealth Management, Honest Teeth, Rob Miller Homes, and the Fotsch Family.

(See AD - Page 5)



Community Wish Lists

Food Banks / Pantries

* Food Pantry of Waukesha County 1301 Sentry Dr., Waukesha 53186 www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/donate/ (262) 542-5300

Needs donations of food, volunteer time & money.

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

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

*Hunger Task Force

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

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

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

Blood Donations

*American Red Cross of Wisconsin Visit www.redcrossblood.org

or call (800) 733-2767 to schedule an appointment or locate a nearby blood drive.

*Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin

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

Elmbrook Humane Society

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

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

The Women's Center

Since 1977, The Women's Center has provided adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, abuse, and/or trafficking with safe shelter and empowerment programming.

As Waukesha County's only agency of its kind, they provide a wide range of life-saving and life-changing programs and services that heal and empower survivors on their paths to build a future free from violence.

To support The Women's Center's work, please consider making a monetary donation online at https://twcwaukesha.org/donate or by providing new, unopened items on their Donation Wish List, which is updated weekly with the highest priority items at https://twcwaukesha.org/donation-wish-list.

Call the 24-HOUR HOTLINE with questions or to be connected to services: (262) 542-3828.



News Briefs



Members of a Marine Corps Reserve unit (and a young helper) pose with a selection of toys contributed by Dixon Elementary School families during their pre-Christmas Toys for Tots donation drive.

NEWS & PHOTOS

About Local Community Service Projects

may be e-mailed to:

elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

"Green" is Good!

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

One Simple Act Make an Eco-Resolution!

What's your New Year's Resolution? Commit to healthier living this year and join the Waukesha County Green Team in our One Simple Act Challenges, designed to help us all change one habit at a time! To start, pick one Eco-Resolution to focus on all year, then stop by our facebook page for a new one every few weeks!

- ☐ Buy Fair Trade coffee, chocolate and sugar.
- ☐ Eat more locally grown food.
- Reduce the amount of plastic bags in your life.
- Increase the energy efficiency of your home.

Check us out at www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org

Gardening in the Grove



Seed heads provide food for birds and other wildlife during the winter months.

Top 10 Things to Do to Enjoy the Winter Garden Compiled by the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

1. Make birdseed ornaments

Feeding hungry songbirds is a great way for people to interact with nature and help birds get through the tough months of winter. Studies show that bird feeding produces significantly earlier egg laying dates, larger clutches of eggs, and higher chick weights across a wide range of bird species.

2. Take time to plan for spring

Now's the time to start dreaming about and planning what you want to plant in the coming season. Start plotting out your garden spaces, and making lists of what you want to add to your garden.

3. Start a garden journal

Keeping a diary that records your successes, failures, and noteworthy events in the garden is the perfect way to learn and grow as a gardener. You will find that if you begin a garden journal this season, it will become an invaluable resource for your garden in coming years.

4. Design a new garden bed

If you have a problem area that bothers you, this is the time to come up with a plan for how to turn it into one of your favorite spots in the yard.

5. Do a little maintenance

When you're in the thick of the growing season, it's hard to stop and organize your garden shed, or sharpen

your mower blades. Take advantage of the downtime winter brings to take on some of those tasks. It's very satisfying to enter spring fully prepared!

6. Prune trees and shrubs

Winter is the best time to prune most trees and shrubs while they're dormant and you can best see their shape.

7. Learn to love seed heads

Many ornamental grasses and other plants have interesting seed heads that will—if you avoid cutting them back—add dimension to a winter landscape. They will also provide food for birds and other wildlife, which will create yet another layer of interest in your yard.

8. Read some garden books

While the weather is cold and crummy, it's the perfect time to curl up inside and do some research. Work on your gardening reading list during the winter months to get inspired for the new planting and growing season ahead.

9. Start (or expand) composting

There are many different composting options available—research which one would work best for you.

10. Make a snowman or snowangel

It's an oldie, but a goodie—a great excuse to get outside and enjoy the winter landscape



News Briefs



Jean Loepfe with Milwaukee Rescue Mission staff

Elmbrook Donates Supplies to Milwaukee Rescue Mission

(BROOKFIELD) On December 8, a total of 405 purses, bags and backpacks were delivered to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission's Joy House for the '1,000 Purses Project' on behalf of those in need in the Milwaukee area this winter. Most of the bags were filled with blankets, health and beauty essentials, warm clothes and other valuable items for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Milwaukee, generously donated by Elmbrook students, staff, and community members.

The project was led by Elmbrook School thanks to all who participated.

District Office's Jean Loepfe. The rescue mission displayed the purses and bags on shelving units so that guests were able to pick choose one for the holiday. Any remaining purses, backpacks or bags will be distributed throughout the cold winter months.

This was Elmbrook's sixth year of contributing to the '1,000 Purses Project'. A school district spokesperson noted that "the donation turnout was incredible despite the pandemic" and expressed

OurVillage





Elm Grove residents displayed these encouraging messages in their yards during 2020.



Read All About It!



ELM GROVE Library Programs and MARPY Services – January 2021 13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122 LIBRARY 262-782-6717 / elmgrovelibrary.org

Winter Reading Program - January 1-31

The Winter Reading Program has gone virtual! Register online at elmgrovelibrary.beanstack.com and log the minutes you read to

earn badges and help the library reach its goal of 6,000 minutes read for the month of January. This year's Winter Reading Program is presented by Beanstack and Simon & Schuster, and is for all ages. If we reach our community reading goals, the library could win a virtual author visit or a collection of books from Simon & Schuster. Set a personal



goal of 10 minutes a day or more to help us get there!





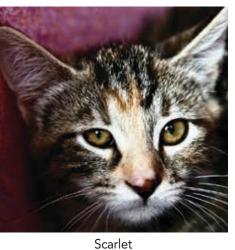
Emmie Mager of Elm Grove smiles for the camera as she crafts a homemade yarn doll.

The doll was part of a "take and make" craft kit distributed for the Elm Grove Public Library's annual Family Holiday Event in December.



News' Hounds

& other beloved creatures





Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Heather Gehrke

Cuteness overload alert! Ed and Scarlett are a bonded pair of kittens who are sure to bring love, laughter, and companionship to your life! This small but mighty duo love to cuddle and play together. They will be loyal companions to you and when you are not able to be with them, bring much friendship and comfort to each other.

If you would like to learn more about Ed and Scarlett, call 262-782-9261 or complete an adoption application here: https://ebhs.org/cats/.

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



Young Writers & Cub Reporters

Winter Fun

By Chloe Kazaks 4th Grade- Tonawanda

Throwing snowballs
Having fun
Not eating hot dogs on a bun
Drinking hot chocolate
With marshmallows too
Animals are sleeping in the zoo
Skating on ice
And snowball fights
Lots and lots of snowflakes
Now we need more picture takes
winter!

January Here it Comes

By Conrad Schmidt 4th Grade - Tonawanda

January January --- Here it comes. January January --- Bang the drums. January January --- Chew some gum. January January --- Fingers numb. January January --- Winter fun!

The Winter Season By Cailin Hagemeier & Cameron Haas

4th Grade – Tonawanda

There are so many things to do this winter season like sledding, playing in the snow, and ice skating too. It's fun to go outside and enjoy the snow. Also celebrating the new year. There are so many other things to see and do for this winter year. It's so fun to bundle up, but get your boots on, we're about to have a lot of fun!

Snowflakes

By Carson DesJarlais

4th Grade - Tonawanda Elementary

Supreme

Nourishing

Open minded

Wonderful

Fantastic

Luxurious

Admirable

Kind

Extreme

Super

The New Year

By Noah Mogren

4th Grade - Tonawanda Elementary

The new land

The new house

The new friends

The new school

The new roads I've never biked on

The new sweet warm feeling

down in my heart

The new parks

The new home for my dog

The new world of Elm Grove





Winter!!!

By Hadley Simon

4th Grade – Burleigh Elementary

Winter, oh winter! It is here! The pretty white snow covering the grass, catching snowflakes on your tongue, making snow angels! There are good and bad things about the snow, some of the good things are... having a snowball fight, rolling in the snow, making an igloo, and lots of others! These fun things are fun to do with family, siblings, friends, and even grandparents! But the bad thing is that when it gets icy out, it is hard to drive on the roads because they are slippery. But you do need to wear a lot of gear when you want to go outside and play in the snow! The gear you should wear are snow pants, coat, hat, gloves/ mittens, snow boots and a scarf! That is important because if you do not wear that stuff, you could get frostbite! Ouch!!! But look at the good sides. Winter is here and we should enjoy it! Winter, oh winter! Have fun in the snow!

Young Writers Wanted!

Students in Kindergarten – Grade 12 are invited to submit the following:

REPORTING

about Family, School, Club, Neighborhood, Church, Scouting, Athletic & Community Service activities.

CREATIVE WRITING

Short Stories

POETRY

Free Verse, Rhyming, Haiku, etc. (200 words maximum)

E-mail submissions (note the writer's name, school / home-school & grade) to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: Young Writers)

Winter Season

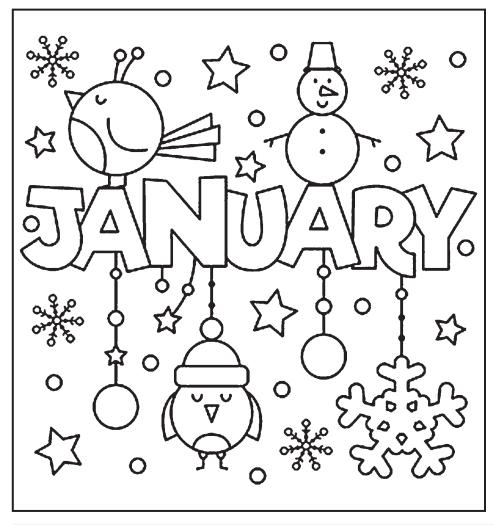
By Claire Anderson

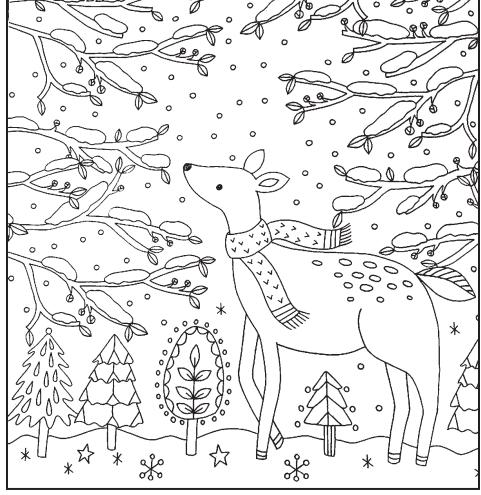
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Wonderland of lights, Icicles hanging from the rooftops, No more leaves and flowers, Totally white like being in a snow globe, Ears are chapped, red and cold, Ready to play in the snow!

Snow falling down everywhere, Each snowflake is unique, Amazing white world, Snowmen are being made, Off school for winter break, Now are you ready to play in the snow?

Coloring for Kids (and Adults)!





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Legal Issues

What Documents Will Your Family Need?

By Attorney Isabell Mueller

After you pass away, your surviving family members will need to gather many of your personal and financial records in order to settle your affairs. Keeping these documents organized and accessible is important for both you and your loved ones. Your filing system doesn't need to be elaborate, just organized. Your family will need the following documents when the time comes:

- List of Funeral Instructions and prepaid funeral contracts
- Last Will and Testament
- Revocable/Living Trust agreements
- Prenuptial/postnuptial agreements
- VA File Number, Military discharge papers
- Birth certificate and Death Certificate
- Marriage license or Divorce Decree
- Medicare Card/Health Insurance Card
- Bank statements, checkbooks, check registers, certificates of deposits
- Safe deposit rental agreement and keys
- Deeds, mortgages, leases, homeowner's insurance information

- Stock and bond certificates and account statement
- Pension, IRA, retirement statements/ current employee benefit information
- Life insurance policies or statements
- Last several years' income tax returns
- Documentation regarding any debts, such as auto loans or credit cards

It is not necessary to give copies of these documents to anyone during your lifetime, but they should be easily accessible in the event of your death. The information should also be kept reasonably current.

Lastly, if you maintain important information on your computer, or have social media accounts, leave instructions regarding username and password information. Not having this information can cost both time and money. Maintaining organized personal and financial records is one of the best gifts you can give your family.

LAW OFFICES OF ISABELL M. MUELLER

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www.muellerlawoffices.com

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Classifieds

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Greetings

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Nicholas *Jody

*Eli *Maya *Jack

&

*Wendell

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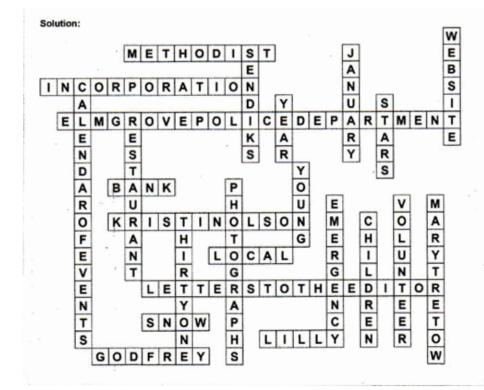
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Maureen Herzog (262) 336-3750



Letters to the Editor

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

SSND Leader Issues Property Update Statement

The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) have been a part of Elm Grove for more than 170 years, when Mother Caroline Friess, our North American SSND foundress, arrived in the Milwaukee area in December 1850. We have been blessed to be a part of the Elm Grove community and to have your support from the very beginning of our history in North America.

Three years ago, the SSND Central Pacific Province (SSNDCP) made the decision to divest of all its major properties, including Notre Dame of Elm Grove. This decision was made after a great amount of reflection, research and planning for our future. Divesting of major properties will allow us to continue our mission and care of our aging sisters.

After a thorough and competitive proposal process, Mandel Group, Inc. (Mandel Group) was selected to be the purchaser of our property (except the cemetery) at Notre Dame of Elm Grove and a Purchase and Sale Agreement was signed. The cemetery has a special meaning to sisters because many sisters are buried there as is **Mother Caroline Friess**.

We have been very pleased working the Mandel Group to date. They have shown a commitment to honor the SSND legacy, mission and core values as they develop the property in the months and years ahead. As you have seen in recent months, Mandel Group believes its developments improve when they collaborate with the local community. They have, and will

continue, to engage with the Village of Elm Grove and the residents. Residents of Elm Grove have had significant input during the formal submittal phase.

As we announced in December 2019, the SSND will move to Trinity Woods, an intergenerational housing community located at Mount Mary University (MMU) for retired SSND and seniors, with an educational and supportive housing option for single mothers who are students at MMU. This project is a three-way venture between SSNDCP, MMU and the Milwaukee Catholic Home. It is expected to be completed by the end of November 2021.

While change is usually difficult, your prayers, support and trust throughout this process have been invaluable. We appreciate all the input, feedback and love we have received since coming to Elm Grove, and especially during this time.

Please know that we also pray for all of you and the community on a daily basis. Everyone involved in this sale and development are committed to the best for SSND and the Elm Grove community. SSND were in the community before it was a village; we and our partners are committed to keep Elm Grove a great place to live.

Sister Debra Marie Sciano

Provincial Leader School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province

Newspaper's Features Appreciated

I feel blessed with your *Elm Grove News-Independent*. It's full of good info. And we get it free every month!

Especially appreciated information by **Neil Palmer** about the School Sisters property in the July (2020) issue with further details in the latest (December 2020) issue. It's amazingly well explained. It brings us all the current happenings.

"Past Times" by **Stephen Hauser** is always a good read in terms of his many stories about our area over the years. I can just picture his experiences and descriptions!

And I find the "Young Writers" such a great idea --- I'm sure it keeps them writing as their creativity actually comes out in print, giving them confidence to keep going.

Well, I could go on and on --- but just want you to know I appreciate all the good information. Recently I even did the crossword puzzle!

Thanks for all your good work!

Doris Kaun Elm Grove

Community News <u>matters</u>. Help us provide it.

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News Briefs



Katherine Shalyaev (at left) and Annabelle Leh

Two Brookfield Academy students earned 1st place in local patriotic essay competitions sponsored by the Gross-Yaksh VFW Post 6498. Upper School junior **Katherine Shalyaev** won first place in the Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition and Level 8 student **Annabelle Leh** won first place in the Patriots Pen essay competition. Katherine and Annabelle will both advance to the District level competition.



Clothing and food drive volunteers with donated items.

Elmbrook Schools and Partners Provide Food and Winter Clothing for Those in Need

(BROOKFIELD) On Wednesday, December 23, Elmbrook Schools, the Waukesha County Food Pantry, and the Brookfield Elm Grove Interfaith Network (BEGIN) provided free meals, outdoor winter clothing, and baby supplies for families in our community. Families received three fresh Farm to Family meals provided by the Waukesha County Food Pantry, breakfast and lunch meals provided by the Elmbrook Schools Food Service Team, and outdoor winter clothing donated by members of BEGIN and the Elmbrook Schools community.

"It's truly remarkable how the Elmbrook community responds to help each other throughout the year, but especially at this crucial time," said **Dr. Tanya Fredrich**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning - Student Services. "The community service opportunity came together quickly and the flexibility of all those involved in making this a reality is tremendously appreciated."

The effort helped to provide food and winter clothing for more than 375 individuals in the community this holiday season. A spokesperson noted that organizers "wish to thank staff from the Elmbrook Schools and Waukesha County Food Pantry, as well as the leadership and volunteers from the Interfaith Network that helped coordinate this incredible outreach."



Brookfield Central Student Publishes Children's Book

(BROOKFIELD) Brookfield Central freshman, **Shilpa Kuriakose**, recently published a children's picture book that she wrote and illustrated entitled *Ruby and the Case of the Corona Monster*. The book tackles overcoming the fear of the unknown from a child's perspective regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My main goal is to give the kids of my community an answer to their questions and to ease their worry, doubt, and confusion by also teaching them how to help by staying safe and keeping others safe," said Kuriakosa. "We will all get through this and we can all learn something from Ruby; don't give up, and keep trying because everything will be okay in the end."

Inspired by her favorite children's books like Pete the Cat, it took Shilpa around two months to write and illustrate her book, and she was excited to finally see her characters come to life upon completion.



Shilpa Kuriakose displays her book

Tonawanda Community Contributes Winter Items to Milwaukee School

By David Schimpf

3rd Grade Teacher – Tonawanda Elementary

This summer I spoke to a teacher friend who works at Cass Street School (in Milwaukee) and she told me that her class didn't go out for recess because the students didn't have winter gear and it bothered me a lot. Students need to be outside at some point during their school day for physical, social, and mental reasons.

So, this fall I asked families from just my own class to bring in new or gently used items and I ended up taking two carloads down in October. It was so successful, we asked the entire school to bring hats, gloves, coats, snow pants, scarves, and earmuffs. We ended up with a massive amount of gear from our generous and kind Tonawanda Community.

"Coats for Cass" is just the beginning. We hope the schools will foster a partnership and be able to become "Buddy Schools" in the future with some possible virtual and eventually live connections.



The opportunities are endless in creating this relationship with a school that is quite different from ours in many ways. Although our drive is officially done, any donations brought in throughout this winter can be brought to Tonawanda and delivered to Cass Street.

Readers who would like to contribute items may contact Tonawanda Elementary at (262) 785-3950 for more information.

Gov. Evers, DHS Announce Wisconsin to Offer At-Home COVID-19 Testing Option

(MADISON) Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), on December 22 announced a new contract with Vault Medical Services that will immediately add an additional tool to the Wisconsin COVID-19 testing toolbox. At-home COVID-19 saliva collection kits will be available to everyone who lives in Wisconsin, with or without symptoms, at no cost.

"We believe that anyone in Wisconsin who needs to be tested for COVID-19 should have access to a test, and I'm proud of our statewide testing efforts throughout this pandemic," said Gov. Evers. "We also know that getting to a health care provider or a community testing site isn't easy for everyone, and that's why we are excited to offer this new option to make testing even

more accessible for folks across our state."

"This is an important tool to provide easy access to COVID-19 testing," said DHS Secretary-designee **Andrea Palm**. "As we roll out the COVID-19 vaccine to more Wisconsinites, we need to continue testing, contract tracing, and public health measures such as wearing a mask and social distancing.

Wisconsinites can order a collection kit online and have it shipped to their home. Like a nasal swab test, a saliva test determines whether you have an active COVID-19 infection and can spread it to others.

More information can be found on the Wisconsin COVID testing webpage: www.DHS.wisconsin.gov/covid19/testing







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Sincerely,

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

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