



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 13 No. 5

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

January 2023



JANUARY 14, 2023

Village of Elm Grove's 68th Anniversary of Incorporation



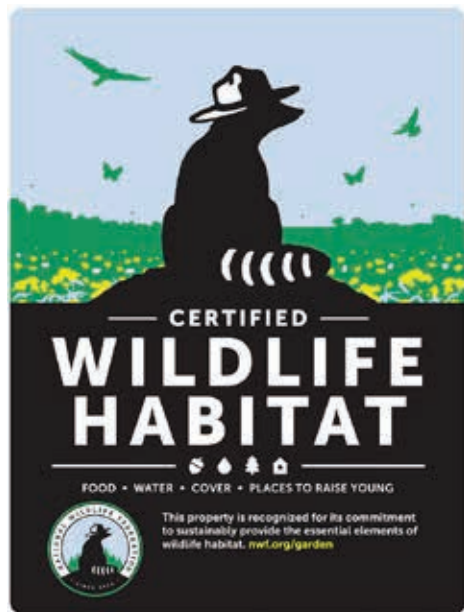
Elm Grove Community Wildlife Habitat Project Update

"We just hit the halfway mark!"

By the Elm Grove NWF Habitat Team

Happy 2023! Our community has made tremendous progress toward becoming the **first community in Wisconsin** to be certified as a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Habitat. **As of 12/19/22 we had 76 points (50.7% to goal of 150 points)!** We earn 1 point per home, 3 points for common areas, and 5 points for schools that qualify.

We are happy to announce that we met our monthly goal for certifications in December and beat our November progress. Your Elm Grove Habitat Team would like to give a big thank you to everyone who has already certified their yards and properties as a NWF Wildlife Habitat. Special gratitude to the following groups: Elm Grove Beautification Committee, Birders of the Grove, Elm Grove Woman's Club, Elm Grove Junior Guild and Friends of the Elm Grove Library who have been instrumental at getting the word out



We still have work to do—please consider helping us by earning your dot on the map. **Certifying your yard, business, school, condo association, condo or church is very quick and easy. Once you know your property meets the criteria, all it takes is four minutes and a \$20 donation to the National Wildlife Foundation.** Please consider heading to <http://www.NWF.org/Certify> to complete the online form.

You can learn more by joining our Elm Grove Community Wildlife Habitat Facebook page, where we post weekly updates and helpful information.

If you need help or would like a Habitat Team member to tour your yard with you, to assist with certification, please contact us at Beautification@elmgrovewi.org



Are you on this map? Red dots (1 point) are homes, blue dots (3 points) are common areas, and yellow dots (5 points) are schools. Elm Grove needs 74 more points to be certified as the **FIRST and ONLY** National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat in the state of Wisconsin. Will you consider helping us set our community apart by achieving this designation? www.NWF.org/certify

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"All the News there's room to print."

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Elisabeth Passalis-Bain

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Waukesha County Sheriff’s Citizen Academy Seeks Participants for Spring Program

After graduating from the Elm Grove Citizens Police Academy (EGCPA) in the Spring of 1999, I went on to attend the Waukesha County Sheriff’s Citizens Academy (Fall 1999 class) which was established in 1995 to provide opportunities for citizens to have a better understanding about the operations and duties of the Waukesha County Sheriff’s Department.

As an Elm Grove / Waukesha County resident and a long-time journalist, I found the Sheriff’s Academy experience of tremendous personal interest and value and would highly recommend it.



The Sheriff’s Citizens Academy is a 12-week course. The next series of classes will be held every Tuesday night from March 14 through May 30, 2023, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Much like the EGCPA, the Waukesha County program consists of a series of lectures, field trips, ride-alongs, and activities that provide insight about the day-to-day functions of the department. The class agenda includes numerous law enforcement-related topics and functions, such as Waukesha County Jail, Patrol Division – OWLS, Mock OWI Trial and Court Services, Detective Bureau, Drone Unit, Communications Center, Use of Force, Identification Bureau, Polygraphs, Tactical Enforcement Unit, Canine Unit,

Metro Drug Unit, Search and Recovery Unit, Firearms, Traffic Stops, and the Medical Examiner’s Office.

“This program also fosters a growing pool of well-informed graduates who share their knowledge and insights with others and become active participants in preventing crime,” said a spokesperson.

Applications for the Spring 2023 Academy are due by January 20, 2023. Submit an application at www.waukeshacounty.gov/sheriff/citizens-academy-application/ Call the Sheriff’s Department Administration Office at (262) 548-7122 for more information.

News’ Hounds & other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Gourley

Oh, hi, hello!! My name is **Arwen**, and I pride myself on being the small animal room greeter! I run right up to the edge of my kennel when new friends walk in. In my free time, I love playing with my puzzle cup toy and enjoying some veggies. Not to brag, but I have the cutest sploot you will ever see when I get nice and comfy. I would love to go home so I can greet my family each day when they come to play with me! Apply to meet me today!



Photo: Elmbrook Humane Society

Visit: <https://ebhs.org>. Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.

Arwen

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Village Update

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

As I write this column a few days before Christmas 2022, it seems weird to be typing the year 2023. Time does go by fast. I truly hope everyone had a joyous Christmas holiday.

Elm Grove property tax bills arrived late again in 2022 due to problems at the Waukesha County office issuing the bills. Property taxes (full payment or first installment) are due by January 31, 2023. The Elm Grove property tax rate declined this year by 10.34% thanks to the increasing value of property in the Village. The approved tax levy is \$7,497,240 which is an increase of \$52,805 or 0.71% above 2022. The approved budget also includes sewer, stormwater and solid waste fees totaling \$1,127.35 per single family residence.

Winter and the time changes mean that it gets dark earlier now and we all need to use extra caution when driving in the Village. Children travelling to and from our schools, dog walkers, and health walkers can be hard to see.

The Elm Grove Park skating rink is open. Hours of use and rules of use are available on the Village website at: <https://elmgrovetownship.org/695/Elm-Grove-Ice-Rink>

The arrival of January means it is time to renew dog licenses. Residents can review the rules for dog vaccinations and licenses on the Village website at: <https://elmgrovetownship.org/194/Dog-Licenses>

Elm Grove Police Officer Steven Weber will begin duty as the first School Resource Officer (SRO) at Pilgrim Park Middle School in January. Both Elmbrook School District high schools already have a SRO assigned from the Brookfield Police Department.

The Village Board met recently as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the status of the Underwood Creek Daylighting project in the Village center. The Village has acquired the former One Hour Martinizing building on Watertown Plank Road just west of the railroad tracks. Demolition of the empty building will begin in the 1st quarter of 2023. Conceptual plans for amenities along the open creek and pathway will be developed and offered for public input. A public referendum on the Daylighting project cost will also need to be scheduled. The daylighting of the creek is the last piece of the stormwater project begun in 2005. Not only is the daylighting an important step in fulfilling the requirements of the project permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, but I believe it will provide a very attractive amenity to the Village center. Think about how much the naturalization changes and pathways improved our Village Park, as an example.

The Board also discussed the scope and timing for the extension of water from Lake Michigan by the City of Wauwatosa into Elm Grove for the Caroline Heights development by Mandel Development. The Village intends to connect to the system and extend it to the railroad tracks in the Village Center. The Public Works Committee and the Board will begin work to define the process and timing of extending water to neighborhoods. This long-term effort offers important fire protection, water quality and property value benefits for the entire Village.

Hopefully, Village Board candidates are busy gathering support for their campaigns for the April 4, 2023, election. As the incumbent Village President, I filed a form declaring that I will not be a candidate this spring. I will discuss my service as a Trustee and Village President in a future update column.

Volunteers Needed!

*** Community organizations in need of volunteer help are invited to submit a statement (150 words maximum) to: elmgrovetownship@yahoo.com OR write to: EGNI, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.

• Village of Elm Grove Fire Department & E.M.S

Seven out of ten firefighters and emergency responders are volunteers, and Elm Grove needs more volunteers like you. If you’ve got the heart to serve your community, we’ve got volunteer opportunities for you.

Our volunteers need to live within the department’s established response area, be at least 18 years of age, and have a valid Wisconsin driver’s license.

Upon acceptance, new members attend one semester of Firefighter 1 State Certification course at WCTC or MATC followed by Probationary Training held on Tuesday evenings at the Elm Grove Firehouse.

Call Chief David Kastenholtz at (262) 782-6700, ext. 251 or e-mail dkastenholz@elmgrovetownship.org

• Sunset Playhouse

Sunset Playhouse loves our volunteers! We rely on them to help create the high-quality productions that Sunset is known for. From working in the Scene Shop to Front of House ushering to helping children make crafts at our bug in a rug Children’s Theater shows, we have volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in giving time to the arts. No experience needed - we will train you. If interested, call Brooke at (262) 782-4431 x233. Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove, WI.

• School District of Elmbrook

Please see <https://www.elmbrookschools.org/departments/human-resources/how-to-volunteer-in-elmbrook> for all of the information including completing our district’s volunteer background check process. You will need to renew this process every two years. There is an approximate two-week processing time before you are able to volunteer in our school or chaperone a field trip.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

– Anonymous

Business & Club 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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www.elmbrookrotary.org

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Our History:

Remembrances of Things Past



Photo by Marvin E. Race

The Stenz-Griesell-Smith American Legion Post 449 at 1195 Brookside Drive (now Legion Drive) as it looked in early 1948

WHATZZIT?

By Stephen K. Hauser

Many readers will recall the old American Legion Post 449 clubhouse at 1195 Legion Drive in Elm Grove, but few will remember it looking like this! At the time this photo was taken in early 1948, the building was nearing completion in preparation for its dedication ceremony on June 6th, the fourth anniversary of D-Day.

The Stenz-Griesell-Smith Post held its organizational meeting at Lee’s Tavern (subsequently known as the Elms, the Cove, and the London House) at 13395 Watertown Plank Road on December 13, 1945. The fourteen World War I and II veterans in attendance elected a slate of officers, including **Marvin Race** as the post’s first commander. The veterans present believed that the unincorporated Elm Grove area needed a Legion Post. (The Town of Brookfield already had a Post of its own, The Behling-Kutchera Post 296, which served the Brookfield Junction area to the west.)

In 1946, the new Post received its charter and set about the business of finding a place to build a clubhouse. Local businessman **George Reinders** donated property on the southwest corner of Brookside Drive and Juneau Blvd. where they could build. (Brookside Drive was the original name of what became Legion Drive, and some old-time residents used to insist that the street name had never actually been legally changed!)

For the modest price of \$485, a Menomonee Falls farmer was persuaded to sell an Army surplus barracks that he had recently purchased for use on his farm as a chicken coop. The price included delivery of the small building, which Post members expected to arrive in neat sections. Instead, the structure had been crudely pulled apart, delivered on a flatbed truck, and dumped in a heap near the underwood creek. The veterans assembled work parties to root through the debris and sort out what could be salvaged before beginning the

painstaking puzzle of reassembly into something approximating a clubhouse.

The vets, skilled and unskilled, did most of the work themselves. Some material was donated by local businesses and an area lending institution offered a \$2,500 construction loan. The Brookfield town board granted a building permit, not too concerned about what the Legionnaires would erect with it. (The Village of Elm Grove was not yet incorporated, and the permit would have been less likely to have been issued had Elm Grove existed as a legal entity at this point.)

When open in June of 1948, the Post consisted of a meeting room and a bar area. In 1951, a furnace room and a small “convenience kitchen” were added. The new Post soon proved to be a boon to the larger community as well. The Elmbrook Masonic Lodge used the building for their meetings and a ballet school leased space for their classes, installing ballet rails along the north wall of the meeting room. **Mrs. George Snider** opened a nursery school (nowadays known as “K-4”) in the Post in 1956, and I might add that I spent my first year in school there under her guidance.

Many area residents also fondly recall the conclusion of the Village’s annual Memorial Day parade in the Post’s parking lot, with free ice cream handed out by the veterans. Sadly, the Post moved from Elm Grove to its present location at 3245 N. 124th Street in Brookfield in 2003. Its members continue to serve fellow veterans and the community. A Blue Star Memorial marker now stands at the site of the old Post.

(This column benefitted greatly from my past conversations with **Marv Race** and **Gene Cetton**. They were both great storytellers and great men.)

Stephen K. Hauser is a retired college history professor and a longtime village resident.

“OUR HISTORY”

STORIES & PHOTOS WANTED!

Share your memories of Elm Grove / Brookfield / Waukesha County during the 1930s, ‘40s, ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s, etc.

E-mail stories (300 words maximum) + photos to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
(Subject line: Our History)

OR

Mail them to: EGNI “Our History” P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372



Photo from the collection of Tom Ramstack

Long ago area residents and travelers gather in front of the Phoenix Hotel.

New Year’s Eve at the Phoenix Hotel

By Tom Ramstack

On December 31st, 1879 (144 years ago), New Year’s Eve was being celebrated in a big way at Brookfield’s “Phoenix Inn” on the Watertown Plank Road. The house was full up. One traveler, **Willis S. Spaulding**, an Oconomowoc farmer, maintained a journal in which he recorded the events of that evening. Gas lighting had been installed in the inn illuminating the aura of the twenty-five-plus boarders sitting around tightly placed wooden tables. Willis wrote, “A band plaid outside on the street until 12 o’clock that night.”

Waukesha historian **Libbie Nolan** observed, “**Elizabeth Hoffman** stood in front of her big black cook stove which steamed, brewed, and baked the old Swiss and German dishes she served the travelers.

Light snow flickered down on the inn that evening, but it wasn’t particularly cold. **John Hoffman**, the host, visited with the diners and made certain their mugs were full. One might imagine a very pleasant evening was had by all in attendance.

Before long all were in slumber. Willis, recorded, “splendid night sleeping.” Arising before 6:00 a.m. Willis paid for “supper, breakfast, stock, feed & lodging--\$2.25, paid for Plank Road Toll Gate fee-- cost 20 cts.”—1-mile down the road while still in Brookfield, he was bound for Milwaukee on this bright, fresh, New Year’s Day.

Tom Ramstack is a longtime historian, former teacher, and the author of books and articles about local history.

53 one 22
Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Happy
New Year

Thank You for a Wonderful 2022. See You in 2023!

The Elm Grove Community Foundation board and all of its volunteers would like to thank all of you who donated your time, talent, or resources to make our support of the Village possible in 2022.

Now that the longest day of winter has passed, we look forward to another great year of living in Elm Grove. From the Memorial Day parade and Tunes on Tuesday, to Fourth of July fireworks and our very own Oktoberfest in the Village Park in September. We hope to see each of you out in the community we love so much later this year!

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 15 & 16, 2023

Calendar of Events – January 2023

Sunday – JANUARY 1



Friday – JANUARY 6

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at Machine Shed in Pewaukee; Club Assembly – Strategic planning for upcoming events. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

***Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Dr. Mark Hanson; Topic: Elmbrook School System Update kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

Wednesday – JANUARY 11

***Brookfield East High School Wind, Symphonic and Concert Ensembles**
Winter Band Concert - 7 p.m. at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, Brookfield. Under the direction of Kevin Loughney. www.elmbrookschoools.org.

Friday – JANUARY 13

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at Machine Shed in Pewaukee; Speaker: Dr. Mark Hanson, Elmbrook Schools Superintendent. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

***Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Krystal Chase; Topic: “The Waukesha Women and Children Center”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Monday – JANUARY 16

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Thursday - JANUARY 19

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Rotary Straight Shooters – 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

Friday – JANUARY 20

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at Machine Shed in Pewaukee; Speaker: Brenda Campbell - SecureFutures.org. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

***Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Pastor Ron Kral; Topic: “Wisdom in Old Age”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

Sunday – JANUARY 22

LUNAR NEW YEAR
Year of the Rabbit

Monday – JANUARY 23

***Elm Grove Board of Trustees meeting:**
7:30 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room
Open to the Public. Agenda & Live Stream: www.elmgrovetwi.org (262) 782-6700.

Tuesday – JANUARY 24



***Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers**
presents his 2023 State of the State Address at the Assembly Chamber of the State Capitol in Madison. Broadcast locally at 7 p.m.

Thursday – JANUARY 26

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Monthly Social – Trivial Night (location TBA) 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Friday – JANUARY 27

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at Machine Shed in Pewaukee; Speaker: John Gorman – RMHC Eastern Wisconsin. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

***Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Terry Tobin; Topic: “Toilets of the World”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

Tuesday – JANUARY 31

***Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Board of Directors meeting (zoom) 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

The senior ministry of
Community Church
invites you to attend
any or all of the
following 2023 events.

Jan 19	11:30 AM - Community Church Program: “Milwaukee Ghosts & Legends” by Anna Lardinois
Feb 16	11:30 AM - Community Church Program: Our First MYSTERY PROGRAM
Mar 16	Trip – Oakbrook, IL Drury Lane Theater: “A Chorus Line”
Apr 20	Trip—Classic Milwaukee: Basilica of St. Josephat, Turner Hall tour & lunch, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Burnham Block
May 18	11:30 AM - Community Church Program: “Adventures of a Desert Queen: A Meeting with Gertrude Bell” by Betsey Means
June 15	Trip—Green Bay, WI: National Railroad Museum & Green Bay Packers Historic Tour
July 19	Trip - Lake County, IL: Shiloh House and “How a Lipizzan Learns to Dance” at Tempel Lipizzans
Aug 17	Trip—Madison, WI: UW Weather Station, Babcock Hall Dairy and Olbrich Gardens
Sept 21	Trip—11:30 AM - Community Church “Be Gone—Single Use Plastics” by Marissa Jablonski
Oct 19	Trip—The Annual Mystery Trip!
Nov 16	11:30 AM - Community Church Program: “A Tale of Two Holidays! America’s First Thanksgiving and First Christmas” by Stephen Hauser
Dec 14	11:00 AM - Annual Holiday Luncheon — Westmoor CC Entertainment: “Joseph Michael—Live in Brookfield”

All are welcome to become a 2023 member for \$15.00 and save on all events — or attend as a guest for a slightly higher cost. For a membership application and monthly event reservation forms go to cumceg.org or stop by the church office. All events include lunch.

Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122
www.cumceg.org 262.782.4060

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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Tonawanda Elementary

Fifth grade students present a check to The Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Tonawanda Event Benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation

(ELM GROVE) Hundreds of students at Tonawanda Elementary School, plus some additional community members, participated in a special event last fall --- appropriately during the week before Thanksgiving. Their emphasis was on “giving to others” while having fun in the process.

Principal Kristin Olson explained, “Our specialist teachers, Mrs. Bond, Ms. Deck, and Ms. Glembin, facilitated an

all-school walk, called the Turkey Trot, which happened on Wednesday, November 16. Throughout the school day, our grade levels walked or ran loops on our school grounds. Families were invited to join, too. Students were invited to donate one dollar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and in return they could wear a hat in school that day. Our generous Tonawanda school community raised \$641 with a (check) presentation on December 7th.



Photo courtesy: Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove

Kiwanis 25-year Membership Awards for **Jerry Theder** and **Don Bardonner** were presented during a recent Kiwanis Club meeting by **Larry De Longe**, Past President. **Dave Lang** also received the 25-year Membership Award but was not available for the presentation.

Tell us about **YOUR GOOD NEIGHBORS** (300 words or less)

How they help you, your neighborhood, the community, etc. and the **Good News** might be featured in an upcoming edition.

E-mail your story + a photo of your neighbor(s), if available to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: “Good Neighbors”) OR Mail it to: EGNI “Good Neighbors”, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122.

WINTER

WORD SEARCH

M	I	X	P	B	E	D	Z	Q	T	D	D	W	M	R	Z	R	L	T	F
S	N	V	O	L	U	X	K	N	E	V	N	E	Q	T	N	S	P	E	N
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BLANKET
BLIZZARD
BOOTS
CHILLY
COAT
COLD
DECEMBER
FEBRUARY
FIREPLACE
FROST
FROZEN
GLOVES
HEATER
HOT COCOA
ICE
ICE SKATES
ICICLE
JANUARY
MELT
SCARF
SHOVEL
SKIING
SLED
SLIPPERY
SNOWING
SNOW BALL
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
SWEATER
WINTER

Ways to Help

Blood Donations

- *American Red Cross of Wisconsin**
Visit www.redcrossblood.org
or call (800) 733-2767
to schedule an appointment or locate a nearby blood drive.
- *Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin**
Donor Centers:
8733 Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa
638 N. 18th St., Milwaukee
2111 Springdale Rd., Waukesha
Call 1-877-BE-A-HERO
1 (877) 232-4376
or visit: versiti.org/Wisconsin.

Food Banks / Pantries

- * Food Pantry of Waukesha County**
1301 Sentry Dr., Waukesha 53186
www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/donate/
(262) 542-5300
Needs donations of food, volunteer time & money.
- *New Berlin Food Pantry**
14750 W. Cleveland Ave. 53151
(Serves residents of Elm Grove, Brookfield & New Berlin)
(262) 789-8040
- *Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin**
1700 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee
Call **(414) 931-7400** for ways to help.
Drop food donations in local store barrels.
- *Hunger Task Force**
201 S. Hawley Court, Milwaukee
Call **(414) 777-0483**. Cash donations & volunteers are needed to help build “stockboxes” for seniors and do other work. E-mail: info@hungertaskforce.org.

News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary Club

Rotary members display holiday gifts for the Wellpoint Care Network. Elmbrook Rotary’s Gifts Brightened Holidays for Local Families

By Jackson Bubolz

Christmas was on for over 100 families at Wellpoint Care Network!

Students at Wellpoint can be candidates for very few presents or no gifts during the holidays. The Elmbrook Rotary Club (ERC) donated both monies that were turned into toys, as well as bought and wrapped toys themselves. Each of the gifts matched a specific “wish” for a boy or a girl in our community.

Jack Nelson and Doug Jacobson delivered more than 100 gifts that found their way into someone’s stocking this past Holiday.

Wrapping and delivering gifts is one example of dozens the ERC activities we organize throughout each year to help brighten the school and home life of hundreds of children in our own and surrounding communities.

If you are curious what a “Service” group is all about, please join us for a 7:00 a.m. Friday meeting.

All events are open to the public. The Elmbrook Rotary Club invites all members of our community to join us for meetings OR volunteer events. We are currently accepting new members. Visit: www.elmbrookrotary.org.

**BUILDING YOUR
CREATION CARE
COMMUNITY**

Connecting Faith, Equity, and Justice

January 29, 2023
12:30pm - 3:00pm
St. John's Lutheran Church, Brookfield
Light Lunch & Program
www.wcccn.org

Are you a part of a Creation Care program in your congregation, or do you want to start one?

Whether you are just starting out or have a thriving team, join the Waukesha County Creation Care Network and Catholics for Peace and Justice for an afternoon of fellowship and learning on January 29, 2023 from 12:30-3:00pm.

- Explore best practices for growing your Creation Care team.
 - Connect faith, equity, and justice to sustainable practice.s
 - Meet others working on Care for Creation.
 - Receive resources and tools for your congregation.
- A light soup lunch will be served. Bring a friend! **The program is Free.**



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(please circle one or more)

*FEBRUARY 2023 (Submit form by January 24)

*MARCH 2023 *APRIL 2023 *MAY 2023 *JUNE 2023

*JULY 2023 *AUGUST 2023 *SEPTEMBER 2023


*OCTOBER 2023 *NOVEMBER 2023 *DECEMBER 2023

* \$10.00 per edition x _____ edition(s) / Additional contribution \$ _____

A check for a total of \$ _____ is enclosed.

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Read All About It!



Library News and Programs

January 2023

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


French Paint: Letting Life Be Life: A Cornerstone History Symposium Art History Lecture Series
The Essence of Womanhood by Mary Cassatt
Tuesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m.

The celebrated Impressionist, known to some as Mary or Marie Cassatt, sought strength not elegance in her portraiture. She was born in a country whose people made their own rules and lived by them. Her father violently objected to her choice of artist as a career, declaring to his daughter, “I’d rather see you dead.” A childless painter, she found beauty in a mother’s immutable love for her children and defined that love in her art.

Discover the life and works of the American expatriate and painter of the avant-garde, Mary Cassatt, famous for her depictions of women across generations, in lives both public and private. Presented by Professor Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone History Symposium.

Join us for the second lecture in a five part series. Mark your calendars for the remaining presentations (1/10, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4). All programs begin at 6:30 p.m. Free to attend. No registration required.





Read Aloud Book Club


Thursday, January 12, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

This month's book is *Rump: The (Fairly) True Tale of Rumpelstiltskin* by Liesl Shurtliff. Gather around to listen to the reading of an unforgettable chapter book. Hear the first few chapters read aloud, then take home your own copy of the book to finish and keep (one copy per family). Program for ages 7-11. Please register in advance at elmgrovelibrary.org.

Cutting the Cord: Controlling Cable & Internet Costs

Monday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.

Fees for cable television, home internet, smartphones and streaming services can quickly add up to hundreds of dollars. This seminar reviews your options to cut costs and still watch television programs and have internet access on your devices. Presented by C.T. Kruger. Free to attend. No registration required.



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News Briefs

Service Academy Nominees Announced

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Scott Fitzgerald (WI-05) on December 22, 2022 honored candidates from Wisconsin’s Fifth Congressional District who were recently nominated for appointment to the U.S. service academies.

“As a Member of Congress, it is my privilege to nominate exceptional individuals to attend our U.S. service academies to be molded into our nation’s next generation of leaders,” said Congressman Scott Fitzgerald. “This year’s class of nominees is nothing short of exceptional, having demonstrated their qualification through a rigorous review process. I am confident they will serve our country and represent the 5th District of Wisconsin with distinction. I also want to recognize the board members who dedicated their time to review applicant materials and conduct interviews. The selection process could not have been possible without their generosity.”



NOMINEES

***Henry Tasker** of Elm Grove has been named a principal nominee to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

***Yesenia Morales** of Oconomowoc has been named a principal nominee to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York.

***Gabriel Sanchez** of Wauwatosa has been named an alternate nominee to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York.

***Airiana Lynch** of Oconomowoc has been named a principal nominee to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

***Michael Wawrzyn** of Delafield has been named an alternate nominee to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

***Joseph Taschler** of Germantown has been named a principal nominee to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

***Jesse Ellis** of Oconomowoc has been named an alternate nominee to the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.

Young Writers



Photo courtesy: Janavi Wagle

Janavi Wagle celebrates Diwali.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights

By Janavi Wagle, 8th Grade, Pilgrim Park Middle School

What does good over evil mean to you? What does good over evil truly mean to mankind? How does it apply to our lives today? As a practicing Hindu by birth, we celebrate several festivals to celebrate the victory of good spirits over evil spirits. One example is Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, which signifies triumph of goodness over evil, light over darkness and wisdom over ignorance. It is celebrated around October or November in mid-fall. People call Diwali other names depending on where they come from. Since my family is from the Himalayan country of Nepal, which is situated between India and China, we call it Tihar or Lakshmi Pooja. Lakshmi Pooja means praying to the goddess Lakshmi who symbolizes wealth and prosperity. Hinduism and Buddhism are the main religions. In fact, Gautam Buddha was born in Nepal. Today, this festival is celebrated all over the world irrespective of faith.

There are many mythological stories behind Diwali. Hindus celebrate Diwali to honor Lord Rama (king of Ayodhya), his wife Sita and his brother Lakshman’s return to their home in Ayodhya after 14 years of exile after defeating the evil king of Lanka Ravan. The people of Ayodhya had welcomed their king and queen with open arms and lights to signify the victory of good over evil.

Before Diwali houses are cleaned, painted and decorated to welcome happiness and prosperity with lights. During Diwali, family and friends gather together, irrespective of their differences. It is a time when people dress in nice clothes, eat good food such as special sweets called mithai. People do fireworks, and exchange gifts. But the best part is singing and dancing.

In Nepal, Diwali is celebrated for 4 days. On Diwali, kids and adults of all ages go



around their neighborhood, they dance and sing to bless their families and get treats and money in return. To me, as a Nepali American, Diwali gives me the vibes of Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas all together.

In my opinion, it will not be an overstatement if we call Diwali a universal celebration of light that signifies triumph of righteousness and end of injustice and negativity.

Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests Available

An expected increase in COVID-19 cases during the post-holiday season has prompted The White House to offer another round of free rapid tests. **Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 of these at-home COVID-19 tests through the mail.**

The tests can be requested on <https://www.covid.gov/tests>.



The government is urging people to test themselves when they have symptoms, and before visiting with family, friends, and attending large gatherings. If you need assistance in placing an order, **call 1-800-232-0233. (TTY 1-888-720-7489)**



Young Writers & Reporters

Poem + Story

By Miliyah White
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Winter

White snow
Ice
Night
Tree
Early snow
Reindeer



My Teacher

My favorite memory was the first time I met Mrs. Callahan. She is the greatest thing that has happened to me. She is so nice and kind and caring. I am so happy I know her.

Winter

By Will Anton, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

W. white snow falls
I. icicles forming
N. nights are cool
T. tons of people making snowmen
E. evergreen trees
R. ringing bells

New Year

By Tyler Holland and Elliot Dworak
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

I can smell cookies.
I can see the New Year’s parade
I can touch food
I can hear fireworks
I can taste steak.
Happy New Year!

All About Winter

By Miliyah White and Dani Metz
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Winter is a season where it snows a lot. It is very cold. Winter is the season when Christmas comes and goes. Mini snowflakes fall and we try to catch them. It is the season to gather and have snowball fights. We love winter!

Interview with Midori S.

By Anaya, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

*Why do you like 4th grade?
“Because I feel older and more responsible.”
*What is your favorite subject?
“Reading”
*Why do you like Reading?
“Because I can read really fast.”
*How do you like your teachers?
“I like them very much.”

Interview with Anaya

By Midori, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

*Do you like 4th grade?
“Yeah. Mostly.”
*How would you describe your teachers?
“Nice, but they have a lot of rules.”
*What is your favorite subject in school?
“Science”
*Why do you like science?
“Because I like finding the answers to things.”
*What is your favorite special?
“Music.”

Thank you, Anaya!



Happy New Year!

By Ty Holland and Mason Kressin
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

I can eat cake
I can see fireworks
I can feel snow
I can hear music
I can smell cookies
Happy NEW YEAR!

Ms. Watenpuhl

By Lilly Rydze, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

You should appreciate Ms. Watenpuhl! First, she teaches us. She especially will help you solve hard Math problems. She is flexible. For example, if someone’s Chromebook is dead, she will let you go on it at another time.

Another reason she is nice is that she won’t yell at you if you get something in Math wrong or if your Chromebook is dead. If you are sad, she will make you feel happier. For all these reasons, you should know Ms. W. is great!

Snow

By Mila Webb and Dani Metz
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Snow is falling
Kids are sledding,
Snowball fights next door.
Hats, gloves, snow pants and boots.
Hot chocolate on the kitchen table.
I love winter!



Super Bowl

By Henry Paradis,4th Grade-Tonawanda

The Super Bowl is a football game that decides the all-time best team of the football season. Crowds come from all over to see it in person. Two lucky teams have a chance to win it all and claim the trophy. The fans cheering for one of the two teams will either be terribly disappointed or shouting with cheer. It is a suspenseful time.

Cheer

By Madelyn, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

Competing
High in the air
Excited to compete
Everyone cheering for the team
Really hoping to win

Happy New Year

By Emma Stromwall & Anaya Sati
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Have a Great Year.
As a Family.
Party of the Year!
Party All Night!
Yahoo!

New Year Party.
Everyone Have Fun!
Woohoo!

Yay!
Extra Fun!
Absolutely a Great Year to Come.
Really Enjoy Your Year!

Martin Luther King Jr.

By Brayden Blong, Tucker Neubauer, Joseph Peterson and Jonathan Rajan
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Martin Luther King Jr. worked hard to change rules, so they would be the same for whites and blacks. He was born on January 15, 1929. At the time segregation was going on, his father was the minister of the church. He taught his children to stand up for what is right. When he was 14, he entered a speech contest. He talked about white and black being separated and the judges loved it. That was King’s first speech. But Martin wanted more for blacks to be treated the same as whites. Newspapers, television and radio reported it all. People around the country were mad. They saw how bad it was to have separated rules. At the time, John Kennedy was president. The president wanted to show that he agreed that the rules should be the same for whites and blacks. King’s ‘I have a Dream’ speech was in Washington. It was a speech for jobs and freedom on August 28, 1963. On Thursday, April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King was shot dead while standing on a balcony outside the second-floor. We remember Martin Luther King Jr. on the third Monday of January each year.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

New Year’s Eve/Day

By Blue Gress and Violet Welsh
4th Grade - Tonawanda

New Year’s Eve/Day is a very important time. It celebrates the new year that is going to switch at midnight on New Year’s Eve. There are many different traditions for the New Year celebration.

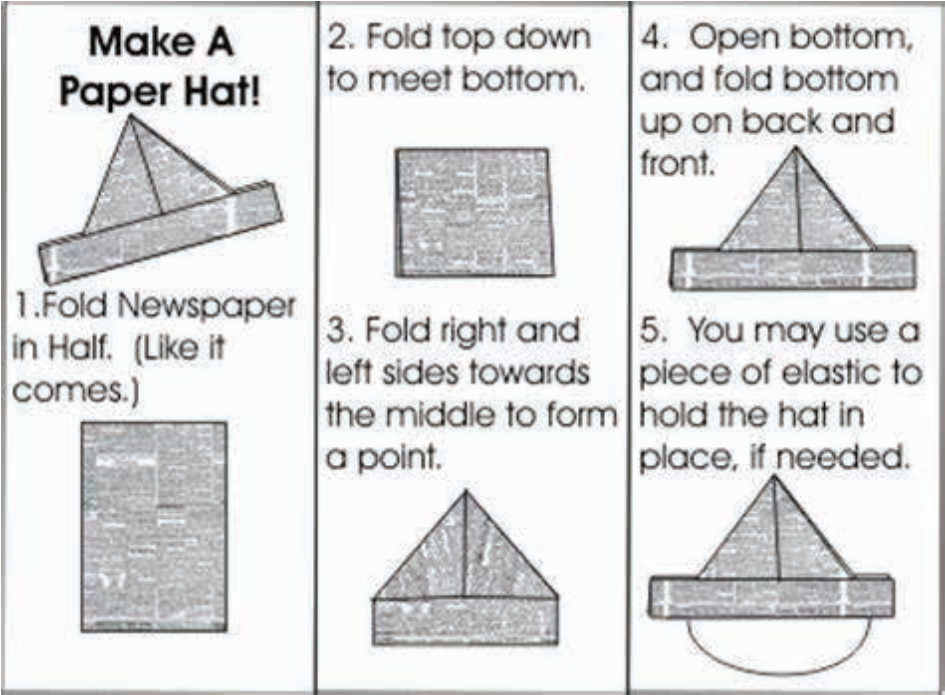
For example, Blue’s family has a big party and goes on the news and watches the clock tick ‘till the new year. When the clock ticks to zero, we celebrate the New Year.

Another example is Violet’s family goes to her Grandma’s house to make cookies. These are both wonderful examples of different traditions done on New Year’s Eve/Day.

Brother and Sister Science Fair Interview

By Jacob K.
Tonawanda Elementary, Grade 5

Brother: “So, what are you doing for the science fair?”
Sister: “I haven’t fully decided; I think I will do something on Ice Age people.”
Brother: “Are you planning on doing anything else on the Ice Age?”
Sister: “Um, like how they survive.”
Brother: “Are you going to do any Ice Age animals?”
Sister: “Yeah.”
Brother: “What is your favorite Ice Age animal? Mine is the Saber Tooth Tiger.”
Sister: “Saber Tooth Tiger!”
Brother: “What would be your other option for the science fair?”
Sister: “I don’t know.”
Brother: “Well, I guess that’s it. Bye-bye!”



Legal Issues

Estate Planning: Choosing Your Representatives

By Attorney Isabell M. Mueller

Choosing someone to be your financial power of attorney, personal representative, or the successor trustee for your trust is one of the most difficult aspects of estate planning. Often you end up choosing the same person for each role.

Other times there might not be a good choice and a trust company is most appropriate. These are highly personal decisions and there is no right or wrong way to go about it. There are, however, some qualities that you should keep in mind:

- **Integrity:** These should be people in whom you have complete trust and confidence as they will have access to your finances, and control over your assets after your death.
- **Experience:** While they do not have to be experts themselves, some solid financial experience is necessary. Your agents will be making significant financial decisions for you or your beneficiaries. Also, they have to have the experience to know when and how

to hire the right professionals, such as accountants, attorneys or realtors.

- **Impartiality:** If possible, choose someone who will be viewed by family or beneficiaries as impartial and fair. This will help if disagreements arise and the person you name has to step in to settle the matter. Depending on family dynamics, your best choice may be a trusted friend, or an outside person or entity, to act in this role to maintain impartiality.
 - **Patience:** The agents you name will have to act during some of the most stressful times in your family’s life. Because they are in a position of authority, your agent may become the most obvious target when emotions run high. Consider naming someone who understands this and can remain calm.
- After choosing someone for each role, you should also try to designate a successor to serve in the place of your first choice if your first choice is unavailable for one reason or another.

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In Memoriam

*Honor the Life
of a beloved
family member or friend.*

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e-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
or call: (262) 782-6193
for Rate information.

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 (**200 words max.**) must include the writer’s name, community & phone #
*Mail to: EGNU, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.
*E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Letters to the Editor)



Photo courtesy: Benny Perelman

Community members donate blood in memory of **Daniel Perelman**.

“Daniel Gives Back’ Blood Drive Benefits Many

Our son, **Daniel Perelman**, died in a tragic plane crash in Wauwatosa at the end of May. Daniel was born and raised in Brookfield, attended Brookfield Academy and was about to finish his freshman year at Northwestern University, while pursuing his pilot license. Daniel was a curious, passionate, and talented young man, who was engaged in multiple community service activities. His death left a huge void in the hearts of his family and friends, as well as the entire community. In his death, Daniel’s organs saved four lives.

We, Daniel’s family and friends, have established a non-profit in his memory – **Daniel Gives Back**, committed to promote academic excellence and social responsibility.

On December 22nd, we held our second blood drive in Daniel’s memory. Despite the challenging weather, the community

response was overwhelming, and we were able to collect **74 pints of blood, giving life to nearly 222 local hospital patients.**

We would like to thank *The Elm Grove News-Independent* for helping us promote the event, and thank everybody who braved the weather and made it a priority to do good during this holiday season and honor Daniel’s memory.

And special thanks to our partners in this endeavor: Versiti WI for running the event, Brookfield Academy for graciously allowing us to use their facility, and our tight group of friends who volunteered their time.

To learn more about our organization, please visit **DanielGivesBack.org**.

Regards, **Ana, Benny and Lola Perelman**

News Briefs

Hope Center Needs Donations of Cold-Weather Items

(WAUKESHA) With the extreme cold temperatures coming we are in need of the following items to help keep our friends on the street as warm as possible throughout the night: Hand & Body Warmers; Heavy Duty Waterproof Winter Gloves, sizes M-XL; Long Underwear, Men’s & Women’s

M-XL; Adult Snow Pants/Snowsuits; Warm Blankets; Thick/Warm Socks; Gas Cards; Tents/Tarps; Sleeping Bags.
Call (262) 549-8726 for information about where and when donations will be collected. Visit: hopecenterwi.org.

Supplies Donated to Milwaukee Rescue Mission

(BROOKFIELD) During December 2022, a total of 610 purses, bags and backpacks were delivered to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission’s Joy House for the annual Purse Project drive on behalf of those in need in the Milwaukee area this winter. The bags were stuffed with blankets, books, warm clothing, health and beauty essentials and other valuable items by School District of Elmbrook high school Key Clubs to give to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Milwaukee and totaled 1,155 pounds. The bags and supplies were generously donated by Elmbrook staff, students and community members at all schools throughout the last few months.

The project was led and organized by District Office’s **Jean Loepfe** and the Mission displayed the bags and purses on shelves for guests to pick up for the holiday as needed. Any remaining purses and supplies will continue to be distributed through the cold winter months.
“This drive serves as a reminder of the incredible generosity of our Elmbrook community,” reflected Loepfe. “It’s truly inspiring to see all the support for others during the holiday season.”
This is Elmbrook’s eighth year of contributing to this cause and one of the largest donations to date.

News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Lorika Hintz

Emma Hintz and **Robin Cervero** on the stage at Sunset Playhouse.

YOUNG THESPIANS: Friends **Emma Hintz** and **Robin Cervero**, both 2nd graders at Tonawanda Elementary School, performed in *Shrek The Musical* at Sunset Playhouse in early December 2022. “In the eyes of the parents it was a magical performance by the young actors. The Shrek Musical was funny, clever, and charming. **Erica Navin** (Sunset’s Director of Education) and her crew do a good job on putting together productions for the little ones to perform,” said Emma’s mother, **Lorika Hintz**.

Women and Girls Fund Names New Director

Nicole Wagner, who has nearly 20 years of experience in nonprofit organizations, has been selected to lead the Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County (WGF) as Executive Director. Nicole, a Waukesha County resident, will assume her new role January 23, 2023.

Nicole has been working with Make-A-Wish® Wisconsin for nearly 17 years, most recently as Vice President of Mission Delivery. During that time, she has been involved in all aspects of wishes for children served by Make-A-Wish, as well as supervising teams, managing budgets and overseeing programs to create memorable experiences for the children and their families.

“We are looking forward to having Nicole lead our organization and help improve the quality of life for women and girls in Waukesha County,” said **Kelly Skindzelewski**, WGF Board Chairperson. “Nicole brings a tremendous amount of experience and passion to the role.”

Nicole, who earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, also has experience working for the Mental Health Association of Waukesha County and the former United Way of Waukesha County. She succeeds **Michelle DuBord**, who left the WGF to take on a new role.



Nicole Wagner

The Women and Girls Fund is dedicated to advancing the health and well-being, self-sufficiency and empowerment of women and girls in Waukesha County. Since its inception in 2004, the WGF has awarded more than \$1.4 million in grants to nonprofit organizations focused on improving the lives of women and girls in our community.

Local Sports



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Brookfield East High School’s Girls Swimming and Diving Team.

BEHS Swim Team Place 2nd at State

(BROOKFIELD) In November 2022, the Brookfield East Girls Swimming and Diving Team brought home the silver as the Division 1 state team runner-up. State championship titles for the team were defended by the 200 Yard Medley Relay Team of **Maggie Wanezek, Lucy Thomas, Paris Fullerton, and Caroline Wanezek**; **Maggie Wanezek** in the 100 Yard Backstroke; **Lucy Thomas** in the 100 Yard Breaststroke; and the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay Team of **Maggie Wanezek, Audrey Olen, Reese Tiltmann, and Lucy Thomas**. Of these state champions, **Maggie Wanezek, Lucy Thomas**, and the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay Team all beat their previously held state records and **Maggie Wanezek** set a national, public high school record of 51.09 in the 100 Yard Backstroke.

The event was held at Waukesha South where the Spartans took second place with a total score of 285.5, 53 points behind champion Arrowhead. “(The) state competition was an epic battle between

two of the premier swim programs in the country,” said East Head Coach, **Mike Rose**. “Our girls swam really well in a competition that yielded many state records.”

- Additional achievements include:
- ***Reese Tiltmann**: 2nd Place in 200 Yard Freestyle, 3rd Place in 500 Yard Freestyle
 - ***Lucy Thomas**: 2nd Place in 50 Yard Freestyle
 - ***Maggie Wanezek**: 2nd Place in 100 Yard Freestyle
 - ***Relay Team** (Audrey Olen, Caroline Wanezek, Paris Fullerton, Reese Tiltmann): 3rd Place in 200 Yard Freestyle Relay
 - ***Clara Newman**: 4th Place in 1 Meter Diving
 - ***Audrey Oley**: 5th Place in 200 Yard Freestyle, 6th Place in 100 Yard Freestyle
 - ***Caroline Wanezek**: 8th Place in 100 Yard Butterfly, 10th Place in 200 Yard IM
 - ***Paris Fullerton**: 10th Place in 100 Yard Butterfly



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Unified Sports program participants gather at a basketball game last month.

Inclusive ‘Unified Sports’ Program Holds First-Ever Game

(BROOKFIELD) On December 16 at Brookfield East High School, Elmbrook held its inaugural game for the new Unified Sports program, which was cheered on by a packed house. Unified Sports is an inclusive program in which students, both with and without intellectual and/or physical disabilities, are brought together to work as a team, form new relationships, and compete in a friendly environment. The mid-December basketball game was a ‘Battle of Brookfield’ with Brookfield Central students facing off against Brookfield East, between the boys and girls varsity games.

“I am so proud of what we’ve accomplished in such a short period of time --- it was an honor to be part of the very first Unified event in the District,” reflected **Hannah Christianson**, an East Junior who spearheaded the program. “Unified Sports provided our student body a way to come together and support all students. The amount of smiles, laughs, and cheers were the moments that made the night special and memorable for everyone in the gym.”

In 1989, the Special Olympics adopted Unified Sports to expand sports opportunities for athletes seeking new challenges while achieving social inclusion. “Our students, those on the court and in the stands, were amazing,” said Superintendent **Mark Hanson**. “In the midst of an evening featuring a competitive rivalry between our two high schools, our students found a way to celebrate each other, together.”

If your student is interested in participating in the program, contact Hannah: 25chrish@elmbrookstudents.org.

Spartan Wrestling Results

(BROOKFIELD) Brookfield East High School senior wrestler **Aiden Crawley** earned his 100th career victory on December 15, 2022 and followed that up with a 1st place finish at the Badger State Meet in Madison on December 17. Also finishing 1st for the Spartans at the Badger

State Meet were **Johnny Botsch** and **Brett Skaug**, who also notched his 100th career win.



Fire Safety during Winter Storms

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!





Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.

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