



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 10 No. 5

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

July 2022

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



The Elm Grove Kiwanis Club Presents
“Cruisin’ the Grove”
9th Annual Classic Car & Motorcycle Show
Downtown Elm Grove on Watertown Plank Rd.
Sunday, August 7th, 10:00 - 3:00
Hot Food,
Cold Drinks & Cool Music
Spectators enter FREE
Help us help the Kids!

Photos by
Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

Bronze plaques, such as these, are displayed atop a series of large boulders along the walking paths at Elm Grove Village Park as part of “A Walk in Time”, a 2007 project of the Elm Grove Community Foundation.

Read a “Milwaukee Road – Cannonball train” story by Stephen K. Hauser in “Our History” – Page 4.

Elm Grove’s July 4th Celebration at Village Park

Details - Page 5

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Lisabeth
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Details - Page 5.



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Wednesday, July 13th 10am - 1pm

Wednesday, July 27th 3pm - 6pm

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www.elmgroveheights.com



An Interview with Elm Grove's Village Clerk / Deputy Treasurer: Sandee Policello

Sandee Policello was appointed to the position of Elm Grove Village Clerk earlier this year. She can be contacted at (262) 782-6700 or spolicello@elmgrovewi.org.



Sandee Policello

- **Community of residence:** "Village of Vernon for 27 years."
- **Background / Education and previous employment:** "I have an associate degree from MATC and a paralegal certificate. I have worked in municipal and county government my entire career, the last 15 years with the City of Waukesha."
- **Special interests:** "Enjoy time with family, gardening, and relaxing at our cottage in northern Wisconsin."
- **Family:** "Husband – Michael, sons – Mitchell and Nicholas, dog Eva"
- **What goals do you have as Village Clerk?** "I am looking forward to the challenges that the Clerk position will bring. My goal is to continue the great service that the Village provides to its residents."

- **Additional comments:** "I am privileged to work with an awesome, supportive team and I love coming to work at a beautiful park every day!"



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary

Volleyball teams in action during a "Spikes for Tykes" event at Mitchell Park.

Elmbrook Rotary Holds "Spikes for Tykes" Fundraiser By Larry Myers

The Elmbrook Rotary Club's annual fundraising effort recently culminated with approximately \$60,000 raised. This money will be poured back into the local community and beyond through other charitable organizations.

Spikes for Tykes started in 1988 and initially benefited Rotary International's End Polio campaign. Since then, over the past 34 years, the proceeds have been directed to organizations such as the Child Abuse Prevention Fund, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, and numerous other charitable causes. Since its inception, Spikes for Tykes has raised over \$1 million!

Spikes for Tykes funds come from sponsorships, concessions, and a raffle on the event day. In addition to the team sponsorships, major sponsorships—ranging from Bronze Sponsor to Presenting Sponsor—are encouraged.

The 2022 "Spikes for Tykes" effort climaxed with a low-key volleyball event on Saturday, June 4, at Mitchell Park in Brookfield. Nearly 20 teams played for the first time since the global pandemic shut down the event in 2020 and 2021.



The fundraising effort continued through the "Changing of the Guard" event on June 29. A "Silent Auction" was part of that event and added approximately \$10,000 to the combined fundraising effort.

Most of the monies that were raised will be distributed through a program of "Mini-Grants." Visit <https://elmbrookrotary.org/documents/en-ca/a1364ceb-b124-4458-8d80-01fcdd8b233b/1> to obtain the application form. An application requires sponsorship by a club member.

To learn more about the Elmbrook Rotary Club and Rotary International, join the club for breakfast any Friday morning at 7:00 a.m. at the Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove.

Village Hall

13600 Juneau Boulevard
Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122

(262) 782-6700
www.elmgroviewi.org

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(262) 782-6717

Municipal Judge TIM STEINLE

Village Attorney
HECTOR DE LA MORA

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dkastenholtz@elmgroviewi.org

Medical Director Dr. JON ROBINSON
irobinson@elmgroviewi.org

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Questions:
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Director of Public Works
(262) 780-6643
rpauljr@elmgroviewi.org

Village Update

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

The “No Mow May” effort in Elm Grove was a big success with more than 75 homeowners participating. Hopefully we will have supported an improved population of native pollinators. We certainly demonstrated that delaying spring mowing of all or even just a part of your yard is not a big deal.

Summer is in full swing with lots of good weather. Many visitors to the swimming pool in the Village Park have commented positively on the updates to the locker rooms. Tunes on Tuesday and the Beer Garden have been popular also.

Swimming pool hours have been altered to deal with the shortage of certified Lifeguards. However, children’s lessons and swim teams are not impacted. The pandemic restrictions created a big hole in the normal pipeline for lifeguard training and certification. Lifeguarding is a great summer job likely to be high demand for several years.

Plans for July 4th celebration are all set and even the weather forecast looks good. Please be careful with fireworks and be courteous to your neighbors by avoiding late night use.

The Village has received some complaints about the use of motorized scooters in the Village Park and on Village streets. Scooters are not legal on public roadways and the Village Public Safety Committee is going to review the question of use in the Village Park at the July meeting.

Property owners should have received updated property assessment statements. The new assessments reflect the robust home values of the last year. If you have questions or concerns about your assessment, contact the office of the Village Assessor at Village Hall. It is easy to schedule a meeting.

Interest in residential solar installations is growing in Elm Grove and across the state. One of the ways to investigate if solar is feasible on your home and economic is to contact: www.growsolar.org/jefferson-waukesha



This website offers has an excellent video presentation on how residential solar works and how to participate in a group buying program to save money. After learning how solar might work on your home you can sign up for a no obligation site assessment.

On a 4 to 3 vote the Village Board voted at the June 27th meeting to hire independent legal counsel to review the legality of the Village approval of the application to redevelop the School Sisters of Elm Grove campus.

Tuesday, August 9th is Election Day for Partisan Primary elections. Elm Grove voters have choices to select general election candidates for State Representative, State Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, U.S. Senator and Congressional Representative. Seven Waukesha County communities also have referendums seeking increased property taxes to pay for Fire and EMS services.

Absentee ballots should be arriving soon. Absentee voting at Village Hall is available from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. from July 26 through August 5th. Residents can view a sample ballot on the Village website or at: www.MyVote.wi.gov

News Briefs



Dixon Elementary School presents a check for \$5,302.90 to the Fisher House as the proceeds from Dixon’s annual performance of The Nutcracker.


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


Elmbrook Rotary

People of Action
Where neighbors, friends and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders and take action to create lasting change. Fridays – 7:00 a.m.

www.elmbrookrotary.org
Join us to make a difference in the world!

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elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
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or
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P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122.

The Elm Grove News-Independent
has been a Chronicler of Elm Grove / Brookfield / Waukesha County for more than 11 years!
Read it online: www.elmgrove.news / Request a Rate Sheet: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Our History:

Remembrances of Things Past



Photo by Stephen K. Hauser

The Watertown Plank Road railroad crossing as it looked 48 years ago.

WHATZZIT?

By Stephen K. Hauser

At first glance, this June, 1974 photograph is merely a view of the railroad crossing at Watertown Plank Road, looking south. The now vacant One Hour Martinizing building can be seen on the right.

On closer examination, however, the photo also shows two long concrete slabs on the eastern and western sides of the tracks. They were gathering platforms for passengers waiting to board the Milwaukee Road “Cannonball” commuter train which ran for 86 years between Milwaukee and Watertown. Each weekday morning, the passenger train would stop to load businessmen and workers aboard, bound for their jobs in the city. It would bring them home again in the evening. (The train also made stops in Oconomowoc, Brookfield, and Wauwatosa.)

Prior to April 19, 1958, commuters could wait, warm and dry, inside the Elm Grove

passenger depot, but that venerable 19th century building was destroyed in a freight train wreck on that date. “Cannonball” commuter service, however, continued uninterrupted until it was abandoned by the Milwaukee Road on July 31, 1972, as a result of declining ridership.

The concrete boarding platforms were not removed until 1981, the last vestige of Elm Grove’s role in Milwaukee’s commuter rail era. It is at least interesting to note that if they were still here today, they might afford area residents a prime spot to set up lawn chairs and grab a snack or a beverage while watching the many interminably long Canadian Pacific freight trains slowly amble their way through the village.

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

The 1950 U.S. Census is Available for Public View.

Visit: www.archives.gov

In Memoriam

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News Briefs

‘No Mow May’ Deemed a Community-wide Success

By Nicci Sternitsky

If pollinators could talk, they’d be thanking Elm Grove residents who participated in No Mow May. We had a greater than anticipated response in Elm Grove to No Mow May – exceeding the participation levels we predicted based on the communities that preceded us. This campaign was brought from the UK to the US and one of the first cities to participate was Appleton, Wisconsin. Their first year, 2020, they had 1.5% of homes register and participate. Our goal was to match that, which meant we needed 36 homes to register. We’re happy to report that we more than doubled that with 75 homes partaking in the campaign. Many residents commented that there were others that participated without registering or displaying a sign. Kuddos to our community!

So why did we work so hard to promote this concept? It’s simple—we can’t live without pollinators as more than 80 percent of the crops we grow and ultimately eat require pollination. In the Midwest, May

is a crucial time for pollinators to get started; many of the food sources for bees, butterflies, birds, beetles and other bugs are in our grasses. Even more importantly than not mowing our lawns were the other ways many participated:

- Mowing later than you would have otherwise
- Mowing less often than you would have otherwise
- Suspending the use of pesticides which harm all pollinators
- Expanding your use of native plants within your landscaping—trees, shrubs, and perennials that best support our ecosystem

We had great support from our Village leaders, who passed an ordinance temporarily suspending the existing requirement to mow turf and weeds that reach a height of 7 inches. Thank you to all of our community for making Elm Grove a place where pollinators can thrive!

Area Residents Graduate from Creighton University

Creighton University, a Jesuit university in the Big East Conference, held its undergraduate commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 14, at the CHI Health Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

The following Waukesha County residents were among this year’s 1,962 graduates:

- **Lauren Sinense**, of Elm Grove, (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration)
- **Grace Hilbert**, of Brookfield, (Bachelor of Science, *cum laude*)
- **Charles Simon**, of Delafield, (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration)
- **Saif Zurob**, of Delafield, (Bachelor of Science, *summa cum laude*)
- **Garrett Rusch**, of New Berlin, (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration)

53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Foundation Board Elects New Officers

The Elm Grove Community Foundation (EGCF) is excited to announce the newly elected officers of the board.

Ted Wentzel - President

Kristina Sayas – Vice-President

Mike Danielson – Treasurer

Amy Scheidt – Recording Secretary

Annie Bolger – Corresponding Secretary

Fourth of July Fireworks

The EGCF underwrites activities throughout the village that enhance the quality of life for residents. We are proud to be sponsoring the **fireworks display** in the Village Park this July 4th at 9:30 pm. Bring a chair and come enjoy the fun!

0.5K Fun Run Early Bird Registration

Registration is now open for the **0.5K Fun Run** during Oktoberfest weekend September 16-17, 2022. The race is scheduled for September 17 at 3:30 pm.

Register now for this family friendly race and receive **early bird pricing** through August 4 at <http://www.elmgrovefoundation.org/0.5k-fun-run.html>.

Oktoberfest - Village Park - September 16 & 17, 2022

Calendar of Events – July 2022

Friday – JULY 1

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Program: Ray Shannon & Larry Holloway, Kiwanis Co-Chairmen, “Cruisin’ the Grove 2022 Classic Car Show”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

• **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
No meeting.
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

Monday – JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

Village of Elm Grove activities chart below



Friday – JULY 8

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Program: Bill Abbott, Kiwanis Governor-Elect, “WIUM Kiwanis District Update”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

• **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Western Racquet Club; Program: Rotary New Members, “Classification Talks”.
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

• **Friday Flicks**, “Space Jam: A New Legacy” – 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park Pavilion. FREE

Monday, JULY 11

• **Birders of the Grove**
Meeting: 9 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Hall. (See Page 7 for details.)

Tuesday – JULY 12

• **School District of Elmbrook – Board of Education meeting:** 6 p.m. at Central Administration Office, - Board Room 100, 3555 N. Calhoun Road, Brookfield. Open to the Public. (262) 781-3030.
Livestream: www.elmbrookschoools.org.

• **Tunes on Tuesday:** Ryan McIntyre, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park Pavilion. FREE.

Wednesday – JULY 13

• **Dementia Friendly Elmbrook** offers Purple Lily Friendship Café from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church. Area individuals with dementia and their care partners are invited to attend this no-cost activity featuring story-telling, songs, crafts, and many other engaging activities. For more information or to register, call or text Nancy Shea at (262) 617-7152 or e-mail: Dementiafriendlyelmbrook@gmail.com.

Friday – JULY 15

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Program: Jerry Anson, “Woodworking Art”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

• **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Western Racquet Club; Program: Virginia Zignego, “Serenity Inns”.
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

Monday – JULY 18

• **“Cruisin’ the Spur”** car show at parking lot behind Silver Spur restaurant, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove - 5 p.m. to dusk. Owners of antique, classic, collectible, muscle, sports, motorcycles, scooters, etc. are invited to display vehicles. FREE and open to the Public.

Tuesday - JULY 19

• **100+ Women Who Care – MKE Metro West** – Meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. at O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub, Elm Grove. (See story – Page 7)

Friday – JULY 22

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Program: Ralph Zick, “Hope Center: Helping Hands Building Hope”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

• **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Western Racquet Club; Program: TBA
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

• **Friday Flicks**, “Luca” – 4th Annual Dive-In Movie; 8:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park.

Monday – JULY 25

• **Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
Meeting: 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom; Agenda and Live Stream: www.elmgroviewi.org. (262) 782-6700.

Tuesday – JULY 26

• **“Tunes on Tuesday”** featuring Saturday June Band, 6:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. FREE.

Friday – JULY 29

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Program: Matthew Wolak, “3D Printers”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

• **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Western Racquet Club; TBA
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>.

Young Writers

The 4th of July

By Jacob Katula
Rising 5th Grader, Tonawanda

There is no day, like the 4th of July.
Just watch the pretty fireworks fly.
Different from Halloween,
different for Christmas.
It is a holiday you cannot miss.
The parade, the candy, the tasty food.
You will always be in a good mood.
The holiday is always very true.
With flashing colors
of red, white and blue.

Read more student writing - Page 9

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JULY 4TH FAMILY FUN FEST 2022

4th OF JULY EVENT SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 8:30am | Fun Run/Walk sign in and warm up |
| 9:00am | Fun Run/Walk starts outside of Library |
| 11:30am | Bike Decorating Contest at the Fire Department |
| 12:00pm | Flag Raising ceremony at flagpole |
| 1-4pm | Junior Guild Games (see schedule below) |
| 4-5:30pm | FREE Pickleball Demonstration & Try-It Event (Registration Required) |
| 4:30-9:30pm | Food Trucks, Beer and Other Refreshments |
| 6-9:30pm | DJ in the Park |
| 9:30pm | National Anthem, followed by Fireworks |

ITS GAME TIME!

| Time | Event | Age | Location |
|---------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| 1pm | Information table and volunteer check-in | | Yellow Flag |
| 2pm-3:30pm | Fire Truck & Ambulance Tours | 2-10 yrs old | Pool Drop Off |
| 1pm | Inflatable Fun! | 2-10yrs old | Pavilion |
| 1:30pm-2pm | Splash Contest | 10-18+ yrs old | Pool |
| 2:00pm-2:30pm | Swim Race | 8+ yrs old | Pool |
| 2:30-3:15pm | Foot Races & Field Games | 2-15+ yrs old | Blue Flag |
| 3:30pm-4:00pm | Water Balloon Toss | All Ages | Blue Flag |

All activities and times are subject to change and are all tentative.
For updates on schedule and event status check the Village of Elm Grove website!

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News Briefs

Sunset Playhouse to Hold Auditions for “The Spitfire Grill”

Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove, invites the public to audition for a role in “The Spitfire Grill”, a heart-warming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and family.

Auditions: July 17-18, 2022
Call backs: July 19, 2022
First Rehearsal: July 25, 2022
Tech: September 3-7, 2022
Performances: September 8-25, 2022
Director – **Michael Pocaro**
Music Director – **Mark Mrozek**
Stage Manager – **Christine White**

All those auditioning must fill out an Audition Information Sheet --- on the night of the auditions or ahead of time by visiting SunsetPlayhouse.com to print out form. Bring your completed audition form with you on the night of auditions. Visit the audition page to reserve your audition spot.

Contact **Brooke Olson** at bolson@sunsetplayhouse.com or (262) 782-4431, ext. 233 if you have any audition-related questions.



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

ZIP CODE DAY: Area residents gather at Elm Grove Village Park to celebrate 5-3-1-2-2 on May 31, 2022.



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

A pair of Monarch butterflies perch atop coneflowers in an Elm Grove garden.



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

A large white-tailed deer roams through an Elm Grove property in spring 2022.

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News Briefs



Members of the Elm Grove Police Department pose with recent Citizens Police Academy graduates. (Back Row, left to right): **Assistant Chief Unger, Ian Jacklin, Kathleen Fleming, Tina Evens, Mary Riemer, Greg Francken, James Koleski, Chief Kubiak, Jeff Davidson, Jody Dirks, Rick Drollinger, Sgt. Douglas;** (Front row, left to right): **Detective Mayer, Jean Kelly, Margo Koleski, Lt. Riley, Christian Walters, Kristin Masters. Not pictured: Kaycee Whitaker and Dave Beaumier.**

Citizen Police Academy Graduates Announced

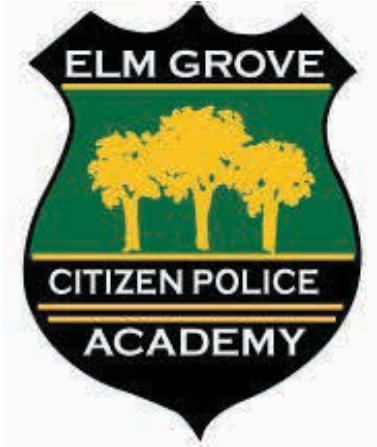
(ELM GROVE) On June 8, the 22nd Elm Grove Citizen Police Academy class held their graduation at the Western Racquet Club. The graduates include: **Dave Beaumier, Jeff Davidson, Jody Dirks, Rick Drollinger, Tina Evens, Kathleen Fleming, Greg Francken, Ian Jacklin, Jean Kelly, James Koleski, Margo Koleski, Kristin Masters, Mary Riemer, Christian Walters, and Kaycee Whitaker.**

The Elm Grove Citizen Police Academy, which began in the spring of 1998, is a community relations-based program designed for citizens to meet the officers who serve them and to be educated about the “how’s and why” of law enforcement. Participants are given a realistic view of the department and a wide variety of topics are covered including patrol procedures, state

statutes and traffic law, the judicial system, court room procedures, officer survival and use of force, criminal investigation, evidence collection, and crime prevention.

The Elm Grove Police Department (EGPD) noted that it “appreciates the time and commitment given by these graduates during the ten-week program and gives a special Thank you to **Lt. Natalie Riley** for her hard work in the role as this year’s CPA coordinator.”

The EGPD is currently accepting applications for the spring 2023 Citizen Police Academy class. Applications can be obtained on the village website: www.elmgrovewi.org or requested by sending an email to Lt. Riley at nriley@elmgrovewi.org.



Village Achieves Bird City “High Flyer” Status

By Kelly Mathwick

Congratulations are in order for Elm Grove! We are now recognized as a “High Flyer” community. This is an additional achievement above and beyond our existing “Bird City” designation.

Bird City Wisconsin awards two different levels of public recognition to communities that demonstrate their commitment to bird conservation: “Bird City” and the more rigorous “High Flyer” award. Led by the efforts of Birders of the Grove group, the Village satisfied all the criteria necessary to achieve High Flyer status. This included accomplishments in a number of areas such as an Earth Day bird education booth, Birdathon bird count event, World Migratory Bird Day celebration, native plant sale, and invasive species control. For more information about Elm Grove’s High Flyer submission, go to the Bird City WI website at <https://birdcitywisconsin.org/bird-city/elmgrove>

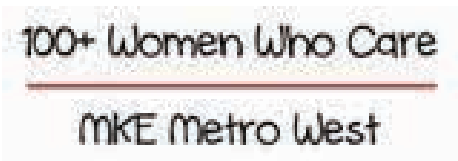
If you love birds, consider joining Birders of the Grove, a birding group working to protect the well-being of birds in our village according to the mission of Bird City Wisconsin. The group meets monthly at Village Hall. New members are always welcome. The next meeting is July 11th at 9 a.m.. Contact **Karen Lloyd** at knlloyd78@gmail.com or **Nicci Sternitzky** at asternitzky@wi.rr.com for more information.

100+ Women Who Care-- Donations Update

By Jane Condon

On the evening of March 29, 2022, we chose the local charity, Family Promise of Waukesha County. Our donations totaled \$10,950 including matching funds. Support of 100+ Women Who Care – MKE Metro West is provided by an amazing group of generous women who are *Making a Difference* in our community.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at O’Donoghue’s Pub in Elm Grove. More information is available at <https://www.100wcmkemetrowest.org>



New members are welcome. Come a few minutes early to register. The organization is simple to join and it’s easy to donate. We will have commitment forms on hand at our meeting if you would like to bring a friend or two. We hope to see you on July 19!

Wisconsin Arts Board Announces Award Recipients

(MADISON) The Wisconsin Arts Board has announced the ten 2022-2023 Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program grant awardees. Folk Arts Apprenticeships are designed to strengthen and encourage the continuity of Wisconsin’s diverse cultural traditions by supporting distinguished traditional artists and tradition bearers in passing their skills and knowledge on to committed and talented apprentices. The award provides \$3,500 to each Wisconsin-based artist / tradition bearer to support their work with the emerging-artist mentee(s) this year.

Local grant winners include: **Kripa Baskaran**, mentor (Brookfield), and

apprentices **Navya Francis, Reva Hegde, and Anushla Guru** (Brookfield) for Bharatanatyam (South Indian Classical Dance); and **Lavanyaa Surendar**, mentor (Brookfield), and apprentices **Nivedha Nandhagopalan** (Brookfield), **Sanjana Vasireddy** (Mequon), and **Joshitha Senthil** (Brookfield) for Bharatanatyam.

The Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program is supported with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, visit: <https://artsboard.wisconsin.gov/Pages/community/FAA.aspx>.



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News Briefs



Photo by Brian Breitzman

(Back row, left to right) **John Thornstenson**, **Jeff Stark**, **Matthew Turner** (Front row, left to right) Sergeant **Jeffrey Edmonds**, Officer **Mia Murphy**, **Maxwell Zimmerman**, WM #307, and Officer **Nick Mastracola** gather during a special presentation at the Masonic Lodge in Brookfield.

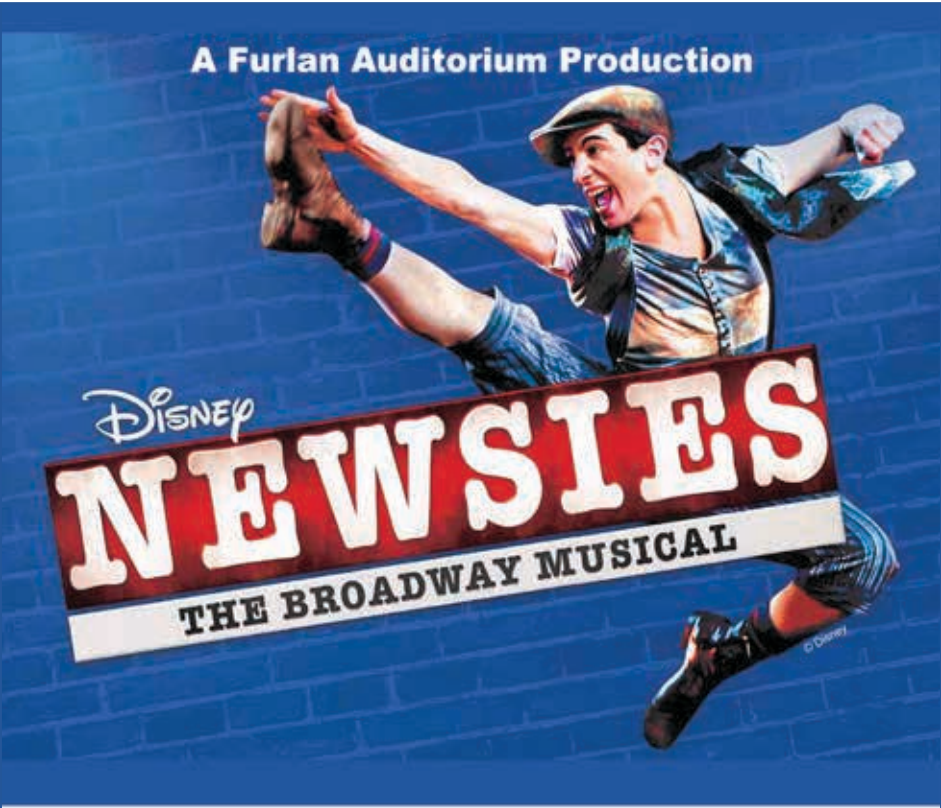
Masonic Lodge Donates Fire Suppression Tool to Brookfield Police Department

(BROOKFIELD) The McKinley Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin held a ceremony on June 2 at the Brookfield Masonic Center, 4550 Pilgrim Road, during which the organization donated a state-of-the-art GreenPort Portable Fire Suppression Tool to the Brookfield Police Department.

These small devices fit in the trunk of squad cars or other first responder vehicles and can dramatically reduce fire and water damage in enclosures like houses, garages,

stores, or sheds. They are lightweight and easy to deploy: just “pull the pin and throw it in” and within 35 seconds, the fire is suppressed and the temperature inside the enclosure drops over 1000 degrees, making it a safer environment to extract trapped firefighters or citizens.

“These devices will help save lives - and the Masonic Lodge is proud to donate these to help make our community a safer place,” said a Lodge member.



July 14 - August 7, 2022

Book by Harvey Fierstein
Music by Alan Menken | Lyrics by Jack Feldman
Based on the Disney Film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White
Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Productions
Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International, (MTI).

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Library News and Programs

July 2022

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

Following the Trail: The Story of Blumound Road

Wednesday, July 20, 7:00 p.m.

What do Andrew Jackson, Chief Blackhawk, Al Capone, and Les Paul have in common? They all factor in the story of one of Wisconsin’s most noteworthy thoroughfares. From its origins as an Indian trail through its “Blood Alley” moniker, join us for a presentation steeped in local history.

Presented by Elm Grove’s own Stephen K. Hauser, author of the book *Following the Trail*. Free to attend. No registration required.

A Cup of Health: Heart Health / Tuesday, July 26, 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a one-hour educational session, presented by a registered nurse, to learn about ways to protect your heart health by knowing your numbers and identifying your personal risk.

This is the third in a series of five "Cup of Health" presentations, co-sponsored by the Waukesha County Public Health Dept., the ADRC of Waukesha County, and the Elm Grove Library. Please register in advance for this presentation at elmgrovelibrary.org.

ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Books can take you places. So will this year’s Summer Reading Program! To participate, visit the library and pick up a Reading Program postcard. For every book you read, place a stamp on your postcard. (stamps are available at the library) Three stamps equals one entry. There’s no entry limit, so read as much as you can!

Place your completed entries in the prize box of your choice at the library. Entry Deadline is August 13. Sponsored by the Friends of the Elm Grove Library. **Bon voyage!**

Summer Reading Suggestions (from the staff of the EG Library)

This Time Tomorrow by Emma Straub - “The perfect book for right now: wise and witty, a truly enjoyable reading experience.” – Noah W

Hello Molly: A Memoir by Molly Shannon – “A profoundly honest account of a resilient survivor who found joy in humor and mischief...as well as a peek into the world of comedy television and movies.” – Shannon M.

The Paris Bookseller by Kerri Maher – “For those who enjoy books about books (and paper, printing, publishing, bookstores, and libraries), this is fun historical fiction.” – Sarah M.

Meddling Kids by Edgar Cantero – “A teasing love letter to detectives like Nancy Drew and the Scooby Doo gang...and an intriguing mystery where the ghosts of the past aren’t the only monsters the group must confront.” – Jay R.

The Nineties by Chuck Klosterman – “Over the course of 12 essays, a look at the decade between the materialism of the ‘80s and the nascent days of pervasive technology...As enlightening as they are entertaining.” – Rachael F.L.

News’ Hounds & other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Anita Alfaro

Hi, I’m **Roxy**. I am a high energy pup looking for a new family to go on adventures with! I love to play with toys and run as fast as I can. I am not the biggest fan of other dogs, so a home where I am the only fur kid would be the best. My favorite past time is laying out in the yard in the sunshine getting belly rubs. I also kind of have an obsession with stuffed toys, they’re the best! If you give me one, I can play with it for hours! I am also learning how to walk really well on a leash here and already know how to sit for treats. Interested? Apply today!

Call (262) 782-9261 or visit <https://ebhs.org>.



Photo Courtesy Elmbrook Humane Society

Roxy



Young Writers & Reporters

Girl Scout Cookies

By Sanjana Singh
Rising 7th grader, Brookfield Academy

Every year, Girl Scouts of all ages sell cookies to neighbors, friends, and family. Most girls say they are using the money for troop projects, but what projects does your money contribute to? In my troop, troop 20084, our customers’ money has contributed to many things. Money from our customers has contributed to big and small things. The money helps us rent space to have our meetings, buy craft supplies, and buy meeting snacks. It also helps pay for Badge work such as our Animal Helper Badge we did with HAWS. Our vests’ badges and markings would not be possible without the money we earn.

In Girl Scouts, we love going camping and that would also not be possible without our cookie selling. The money also helps with big projects such as the bronze award we earned last year. Our bronze award was a blood drive we ran during times of Covid. Other big projects include our service projects such as the book drive, we recently ran. Girl Scout cookie selling helps us raise the money we need to earn badges, help our community, and go camping and hiking.

Thank you to everybody who buys Girl Scout Cookies.

4th of July

By Miliyah White
Rising 3rd Grader - Tonawanda

You go outside and see big fireworks. Red, blue, and white!
You sit on a blanket and sit back and look up at the sky.
I love watching fireworks with my cousins on the 4th of July.
BANG, BOOM,
I feel the sounds in my stomach!
It’s so exciting.
I can’t wait for the 4th of July!
Happy 4th!

4th of July

By Henry Krueger
Rising 3rd Grader – Tonawanda

People talking,
fireworks flying,
everyone laughing!
I love the 4th of July.
Hotdogs, burgers, watermelon,
and popsicles.
BOOM!
Sparklers sparkling through the night sky.
Happy 4th!



Book: “Shape of Thunder” by Jasmine Warga

Reviewed by Janavi Wagle, rising 8th Grader – Pilgrim Park Middle School

With the beginning of the pandemic, our country has faced many challenges including racial injustice, and gun violence. Gun violence is a serious epidemic today. It is sad that every morning, the news headline talks about a mass shooting, school shootings etc. According to CDC data 4,368 Americans under 19 died of gun violence. Unfortunately, the number rises and rises. Texas school shooting highlights the serious impact of gun violence.

Today I am going to share with you a book that talks about the trauma of gun violence. Shape of Thunder is written by Newberry Medalist author Jasmine Warga. This beautifully written book reflects the painful experiences and perspective of a shooter’s family and a victim’s family. It covers important topics like family, friendship, grief, coming to terms with the loss of a loved one, gun violence, hope, empathy, and forgiveness.

Cora, a middle schooler, has always had her best friend Quinn by her side, but now it’s just Cora. Cora has been grieving the death of her sister, Mabel, who was shot by Quinn’s brother, Parker, in a school shooting (What an irony). She visits a therapist where she opens her feelings. Whereas her ex best friend Quinn, has been shocked by what her brother had done and misses her best

friend, Cora. Both the girls are experiencing the pain of losing their siblings due to gun violence. On Cora’s birthday, Quinn breaks the silence by planning on a time travel to change the past and save their siblings. Cora is angry about what Quinn’s brother had done and doesn’t act friendly as she used to. Quinn wants to find what happened to Parker and why Parker killed those people and ended his life. Quinn’s parents have been fighting lately because of what Parker had done and that leads to Quinn pouring all her emotions into letters that she writes to Parker. Quinn’s parents are suffering from the trauma of losing their son and being judged as a shooter’s family Cora doesn’t know what to think about Quinn after the incident and cannot forgive. But, with the help of her Father and Grams, she changes her perspective about Quinn. What will happen next? Will the girls get to undo the past to save their siblings? Will their friendship restart? Read this book to find out.

The book is filled with complex emotions and will make you understand how gun violence affects everyone including shooters and the victim’s family. Should guns be banned? This is the topic of debate on television after every incident of gun violence. Maybe this problem will be solved one day.

“Aru Shah and the End of Time” by Roshani Chokshi

Book Review by Abby Subedi, 5th Grade – Dixon Elementary

Do you like Sailor Moon, The Kane Chronicles, and Percy Jackson? Then this book is for you! *Aru Shah and the End Of Time* is a wonderful book about a girl saving the world from a man. (A book we all REALLY need). It’s a book choice for Kids Choice 2022. Here’s what it’s about: In the state of Georgia, a girl named Arundhati (aka Aru, pronounced Aaroo) Shah lives in a museum with her mother, and doesn’t remember her father. In other words, she can’t recall any memories of him. In the museum where Aru lives is a lamp (also called a *diya*). Known to the museum as the CURSED LAMP OF DESTRUCTION. It was against the rules to light it. That much Aru knew. She didn’t know much else about it. But, during autumn break, three of her classmates, Poppy, Burton, and Arielle come to her door and call her a liar, as she lied to her classmates to fit in. Her mom had promised to take her to Paris, and that’s the first thing Poppy mentions. Burton records her and threatens to show the tape to the school, and, under pressure, Aru decides to show them the cursed lamp. Arielle says the only thing Aru is good at is lying. Her classmates judge Aru and disrespect the god statues, making fun of them. Aru says that lighting the Lamp of Bharata (the Lamp of Destruction) awakens the Sleeper, who will summon Shiva, the fearsome Lord of Destruction, who will dance upon the world and bring an end to all of time.

She was not lying here. Her classmates think of that as a big joke, and dare her to light the lamp (do they seriously want the world to end?). She does, not wanting to be humiliated, releases the Sleeper. After the Sleeper’s awakening, everyone, including Aru’s mom, is frozen in time. And nothing has a shadow. She meets a pigeon named Subala (but is referred to for the rest of the series as Boo, who tells her that she is the reincarnation of one of the Pandavas. She follows him through a portal to meet her soul sister, Mini. They prove themselves Pandavas, with much doubt from the gods (who seem to know Boo), and set out to awaken their divine weapons (currently a yellow Ping-pong ball and a mirror) and stop the Sleeper from causing the end of time...

Will Aru and Mini awaken their divine weapons? What is the truth about Boo? Which Pandava reincarnations are Aru and Mini? Where are the other Pandava reincarnates? Find out in *Aru Shah and the End of Time*! I personally think you should read this because it’s an interesting book, and you will learn a lot about Hindu mythology. It’s a funny book as well, giving the rare, ‘Wow, this book has a lot of adventure. But it’s also super funny!’ Once you start reading, you won’t be able to stop. Have fun!

Coloring for Kids (and Adults)!



Young Writers Wanted!

Students in K– Grade 12 are invited to submit items for possible publication in an upcoming edition:

INTERVIEWS & REPORTING:

About Family, Friends, Neighbors, School, Clubs, Church, Scouting, Academic & Athletic Achievements, Community Service Projects, etc.

CREATIVE WRITING: Short Stories

POETRY: All forms

***** 200 words maximum*****

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

Legal Issues

Discussing Estate Planning with Your Loved Ones

By Attorney Isabell M. Mueller

Talking about estate planning is difficult. Most of us are uncomfortable discussing illness and death in general, let alone in relation to a loved one. Estate planning is, however, an issue too important to avoid. An honest discussion up front can prevent misunderstandings and hurt feelings later. It also provides your loved ones with the opportunity to clarify matters with you, rather than being left with unanswered questions after you are gone. Here are some tips for starting the discussion:

1. Know your family. Some families are open about money, medical issues and other personal matters, while others are more private. Every family has its own dynamic as well. Take this into account in deciding how, when and with whom to initiate the conversation.
2. Do your homework in advance. There are many components to a comprehensive estate plan. Consider meeting with an estate planning attorney before you talk to your loved ones. The attorney will explain your options and clarify the pros and cons of each. He or she may also identify issues you had not considered. A meeting with an attorney will provide you with necessary information and bring focus to the issues, making the discussions with your family more productive.
3. Choose the time and place carefully. Unfortunately, estate planning is usually either discussed spontaneously or when a crisis arises forcing the issue. Neither of these situations is beneficial. These discussions should take place at a planned time and in a comfortable location. This will give everyone the opportunity to organize their thoughts and questions in advance. Allow plenty of time so no one feels rushed or pressured.
4. Plan for the conversation to be ongoing. No matter how well prepared you and your loved ones are, once you actually have a conversation, you will all need time to process the discussion. This usually leads to more questions and more discussion. Estate planning, done properly, is a process. While the process may be difficult, both you and your loved ones will reap the benefits.

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Announcements

Congratulations to
Jane (still runs with scissors) Peck
as she celebrates 15 years as owner
of Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove!

Happy 11th Birthday ELI!

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: 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)



Volunteers Needed!

*** Community organizations in need of volunteer help are invited to submit a statement (150 words maximum) to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com Questions: Call (262) 782-6193.

*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. If you are interested in joining a dynamic group of individuals who together make up a GREAT team, please contact me, **Chief David Kastenholz** at (262) 782-6700, ext. 251 or e-mail dkastenholz@elmgrovewi.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. Right now, we are especially looking for ushers, scenery painters, props designers, and back-stage crew. No experience needed - we will train you. If interested, call **Brooke** at (262) 782-4431 x233. Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove, WI.

Community Wish Lists

Elmbrook Humane Society

Needed items include: grain free dry and canned kitten and cat food, grain free dry and canned puppy and dog food, Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR), kitten nursing bottles, xpens, hot dogs, American cheese slices, easy cheese or Kong easy treat, bleach, and disinfecting wipes. For our complete wish lists visit <https://ebhs.org/wish-list/> and <https://tinyurl.com/yyfykj2a>.

Financial gifts for the care of animals are also appreciated and can be mailed to Elmbrook Humane Society, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield, WI 53045, made online at <https://ebhs.org/donate-form/>, or over the phone at 262-782-9261.

Help The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County

Donations can be dropped off at The Food Pantry, 1301 Sentry Drive, Waukesha, 53186. Donations by check are also welcome. Call (262) 542-5300.Top of Form

Hosting a food drive with your congregation, school, community group, neighborhood, or workplace is easy to do and makes a big impact. Call the Food Resource Manager at (262) 522-2374.

4th of July

Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| X | P | F | C | G | D | S | B | S | I | R | D | J | S | I |
| D | A | M | E | R | I | C | A | S | U | E | S | D | T | N |
| G | R | G | L | M | D | F | R | E | E | D | O | M | A | D |
| U | A | Y | E | N | F | Q | B | F | S | W | S | K | R | E |
| V | D | R | B | S | H | S | E | I | O | H | G | K | S | P |
| D | E | E | R | R | Y | I | Q | R | H | I | R | K | A | E |
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| M | U | N | C | L | E | S | A | M | Z | E | E | E | S | S |

America
Barbeque
Celebration
Fireworks
Flag
Freedom
Independence

Liberty
Parade
Red White and Blue
Stars and Stripes
Uncle Sam
USA

Local Sports



(Top row, left to right) **Ben Book, Quinn Kaiser, and Thomas Minix;**
(Bottom row, left to right) **Albert Pangman and Jon Sabani**

Brookfield Academy Student-Athletes Named Academic-All State Honorees

By Melissa Eriksen

Five Brookfield Academy students were selected as 2022 Academic-All State honorees by the Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin (GCAW). In order to be considered, students must have a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.25, participate in at least 75% of their team’s varsity matches, and be a sophomore, junior, or senior. A GCAW representative said, “These student-athletes serve as a great example to others, proving

that athletic and academic success are not mutually exclusive.”

The following students were among a total of 401 golfers from around the state who were honored:

- **Ben Book**, sophomore, from Elm Grove
- **Quinn Kaiser**, senior, from Pewaukee
- **Thomas Minix**, junior, from Wauwatosa
- **Albert Pangman**, junior, from Waukesha
- **Jon Sabana**, junior, from Hartland

Celebrate Local Sports Achievements!

Submit stories & photos to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

News Briefs

Brookfield Academy Seniors Receive National Merit Scholarships

By Melissa Eriksen

Brookfield Academy is proud to announce that four members of the 2022 graduating class have been awarded College-Sponsored National Merit Scholarships.

The award recipients include: **Pranoy Sangowdar** of Brookfield (Vanderbilt University); **Anna Marshall** of Hartland (Boston College); **Jacqueline Dieck** of Menomonee Falls (Auburn University); and **Alex Star** of Brookfield (the University of Miami).

Each year, approximately 180 colleges and universities underwrite National Merit Scholarships. Winners are chosen by officials from the sponsoring college or university.



(Top row, left to right) **Pranoy Sangowdar and Anna Marshall;**
(Bottom row, left to right) **Jacqueline Dieck and Alex Star**



The BEHS Boys Tennis team.

Brookfield East Boys Tennis Wins Second Consecutive State Championship

(BROOKFIELD) On Saturday, June 11 in Madison, the #1 seeded Brookfield East Boys Tennis Team finished off another amazing season by defeating Notre Dame (7-0), Marquette (4-3) and Neenah (7-0), bringing home the WIAA Division 1 Team Title for the second straight year. The team finished the season with an impressive 26-3 record, following last year’s undefeated season.

“I am so unbelievably proud of this team,” said Head Coach **Linda Lied**. “They remained committed to our goals and gave their best every day. I will miss our seniors and I know that they will continue to make a huge impact on the sport going forward.”

East’s team success was previewed the week before at the Individual and Doubles state competition. Last year’s doubles state champions, seniors **Henry Irwin** and **Reed**

Cullen, medaled again, this time earning third place. Additionally, sophomore **Oscar Corwin** placed sixth in individuals, the doubles team of **Owen Kendler** and **Michael Francken** also placed sixth, and junior **Sam Klein** advanced to the second round of the singles competition.

Brookfield East had more podium finishers than any other team at the state meet this year, and for the second year in a row, at least two of the six doubles podium finishers were Spartan teams.

The student athletes, also coached by Mike Ward, include: **Oscar Corwin, Arthur Dickson, Michael Francken, Kyle Goller, Henry Irwin, Owen Kendler, Sam Klein, Grant Meyers, Benjamin Plichta, Reed Scullen, Aayush Singh, and Cole Svastisalee.**

JOB FAIR

Elmbrook Schools
become what's next

Wednesday, August 10, 2022
3:00-6:00pm

Job Opportunities in Different Fields:
Assistants (Special Education & Learning) | Drivers | Substitutes | Custodial
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Refugee to Republican State Assembly Candidate

By: Caitlin E. Bray

Sometimes the American dream appears to be just that, a dream. As a young boy living in Rwanda, Erik Ngutse experienced a life in a country where dreaming wasn't something that would help you survive. After the Rwandan genocide, him and his family were moved to a refugee camp in Tanzania. Life in the refugee camp taught him a strong appreciation for the basics in life, such as water, food, shelter, etc. Despite hardships, it never broke down Ngutse's spirit for hope and a brighter future. After many years of waiting, his family was finally approved to immigrate to the United States. A land he knew to be full of potential, and most importantly, freedom.

"My first day in America was like a dream. I had never seen so many lights before in my life. Then came the snow, my time experiencing it was also the first time I learned it even existed," Ngutse said. Coming to the United States changed Erik's life for the better. He was able to get involved in his local community by participating in the Boy Scouts, then later in life he chose to serve his country for eight years in the Armed Service's.

Preserving the freedom that Erik found when he became a U.S. citizen, and fought for while in his military career, moved him to finding a life with meaning within the Republican Party. He saw firsthand how the Republican Party supported and believed in the constitution, supported the people in this country, and the American dream.



Erik Ngutse and father in Rwanda.

Wisconsin."

"I was starting to see our education systems fail our children,



Left Erik Ngutse, right Bonnie Lee former Assembly Candidate.

I was seeing small businesses being crushed, and I couldn't stand by and watch anymore. It was my time to give back to the country that had given me everything, so I decided to run for State Assemblyman. I will work hard representing the people in my district. Change starts with us, right here in Wisconsin, and I am ready to continue fighting to preserve our values and freedoms." Visit Ngutse.com to learn more and support the campaign.

Paid for by Erik Ngutse for WI

In Celebration of Our Nation's 246th Anniversary...

The Declaration of Independence

Action of Second Continental Congress – July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America. (Opening and closing paragraphs.)

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness --- That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and, accordingly, all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States...

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, and with a firm reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.