



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 15 No. 11

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

July 2025

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



Photo by Maggie Kersey

ELM GROVE SAFETY VILLAGE volunteers and several young participants gather near miniature replicas of local buildings (church, library, post office, Ace hardware, etc.) on June 24 in the west parking lot at Community United Methodist Church, along Highland Drive. The annual, 5-day Community Safety Education Program, coordinated by the Elm Grove Junior Guild, emphasizes traffic, fire, and personal safety procedures for local children entering K-4 or K-5 in the fall. This year, about 40 kids and 20 (age 12+) assistants took part. Guild members **Maggie Kersey** and **Elizabeth Johnson** served as co-chairs.



The News-Independent is mailed by the first of each month to every residence & business in Elm Grove.

Copies are also available for pick up at numerous locations, including:

- Elm Grove Public Library
- Brookfield Public Library
- Elm Grove Post office
- Sendik's / Ace hardware / Walgreens
- The Chocolate Factory
- Sunset Playhouse / Fazio's

Veteran's Park Restoration Project - Update

By Tyler Beckley

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee's drive to restore Veteran's Park (at the southwest corner of Juneau Blvd and Legion Drive) is gaining a lot of traction due to the growing list of community donors, including a large contribution from the Elm Grove Woman's Club (EGWC), whose main goal of civic improvement and environmental stewardship aligns with the goals of the project.

The restoration of the park will improve water quality, manage stormwater, enhance bird conservation, and remove invasive species, while supporting pollinator habitats; all of which reflect the values of the Elm Grove Beautification Committee.

A comprehensive restoration plan created by Native Roots LLC, funded in part by a \$500 grant from the Elm Grove Junior Guild, offers a sustainable path forward for the village green space.

The total cost of the project is \$5,600 to complete. So far, \$2196 has been raised, including generous contributions from **Pat and Mark Westen, Andrea and Jim**

Emling, Clarissa and Michael Ortiz, Bette and Rich Frangesch, Jennifer Morris, the Elm Grove Woman's Club, Talia and Andrew Cawrse, Bonnie and Jerry Welz, Patricia Ruttum, Lina and Brian Badura, Lanora Jennings, Elizabeth and James Lange, Brookfield Congregational Church, the Saidai Family, Carol and Michael Cinquegrani, Jennifer Studebaker, and attendees who donated at the June 7th Beautification Committee plant sale. Anyone who wants to be a supporter of the project can view the 13-page plan on the village website and make a tax-deductible donation.

The Beautification Committee is working to target removal some of the less common invasive species that are present, with plans for the first broadcast herbicide application to Canadian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and canary reed grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) to occur in August. Residents are encouraged to contribute and help transform the park into a thriving, sustainable native landscape for future generations.

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Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / EGNI

Colorful coreopsis and poppies bloom in an Elm Grove garden.

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provides?

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Profile: Crystal Turner
Village of Elm Grove - Clerk



***Job duties:** The Clerk’s office for the Village of Elm Grove is often the first point of connection for Village residents. This is my favorite part of the position as I get to interact with the community daily and there is always something different every day!. On an everyday basis, the role is that of a records keeper and creator. Some of the Clerk’s duties include overseeing the Village records, working with the Boards to create agendas and minutes, issuing permits and licenses, creating the utility and tax bills, and of course working with our election team to run elections. The position is defined in the Wisconsin State Statute (61.25) but also requires a team effort to be effective. I am grateful to have joined a supportive team in Elm Grove.

***Previous employment:** I joined the City of Delafield as the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer in October 2022 after 16 years with Kohl’s in Store Management.

***What influenced your interest in your current profession?** 2 ½ years ago I wanted a change of scenery in my career but still a role I could learn and grow within. I applied for the administrative assistant for the City of Delafield as it was close to home and then instead interviewed for the Deputy Clerk position. I had no idea what I was walking into!!! But I loved it! And now I get to do even more in the fun Clerk world. Yes – I do think this is a fun role!

***Education:** I completed my Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Design at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom (2004) prior to moving to the US. More recently, and specific to my role, I passed the SHRM-CP (Society for Human Resource Management – Certified Professional) and this summer I am completing the last year (year 3) of the Municipal Clerk’s Institute through UW Green Bay in order to become a certified Municipal Clerk.

***Past and present communities of residence:** I grew up in the UK (Bicester, near Oxford) and met my future husband in 2003 when he was stationed in the US Airforce near my hometown. In 2004, we got married and I followed him back to the US for his next tour of duty. We spent the next 1 ½ years in Omaha, Nebraska then moved back to Waukesha, his home town, once he separated from the Airforce. In 2013, we moved out to Oconomowoc where we are raising our family.

***Family:** My Husband and I have three kids, Logan (13), Hannah (10), and Liam (7).

***Special interests / hobbies:** When you are running around between speed skating lessons to swim lessons and teams that becomes your hobbies but when I do get time my husband and I enjoy working in our yard and vacationing in the National Parks or camping in northern WI or the UP.

***Message to readers:** I am incredibly grateful to be able to serve the Village of Elm Grove Community in this position.

Free Site Visit



Need help getting your yard certified as a National Wildlife Federation’s Wildlife Garden?

A member of Elm Grove’s Habitat Team will come to your yard to conduct a free site visit to aid you in getting your yard certified as a NWF’s Certified Wildlife Habitat. The criteria include 5 categories: food, water, cover, places to raise young, and sustainable practices.



Together we can make your yard a part of the campaign in which Elm Grove is the **FIRST and ONLY** Certified Habitat Community in the state of Wisconsin!

What you can expect from this visit:

- Tips and ideas to help you meet criteria
- Advice on resources to help answer any questions
- Assistance in filling out your application
- A short written summary of the steps you can take and the resources you need to assure your yard gets certified

Reach out on our Facebook page Elm Grove Community Wildlife Habitat or e-mail us at Beautification@elmgrovewi.org

News Briefs



Dixon Event Benefits Area Veterans

(BROOKFIELD) – A spring production of Dixon Elementary School’s *The Nutcracker* involved 132 cast and 11 crew members and resulted in a generous donation of \$10,043.85 to Fisher House, a home away from home for families of veterans who are receiving care at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. The school thanks **Lorelei Geissler** and the 22 choreographers and teachers from Brookfield East High School, Brookfield Central High School, Pilgrim Park Middle School and Wisconsin Hill Middle School students who contributed to the success of the show.



Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President / jikoleski@elmgrovetwi.org

The summer is shaping up to be a hot one. Always remember to hydrate and bring water on your walks, trips to the park and bike rides. Hopefully a summer vacation is in your family plans, and as a reminder, it is a great idea to register with the Police Department your travel plans and request a safety check while away.



Please be aware of personal e-vehicles (bikes, scooters, etc.) while driving our roads. Check your blind spots and mirrors when making turns. Personal e-vehicle operators, please put pedestrians first as you travel the pathways and streets for everyone’s safety. The 4th of July holiday is right around the corner. Please check the Village website: www.elmgrovetwi.org for details of the activities planned.

WE Energies and Power Surges / Outages.

The Village has experienced several events that has led to power surges reaching into residents’ homes and at times causing fire or smoke within the residence. To date, all WE Energies has shared with the Village is that these are related to tree branches interacting with power lines. Village Manager, **Tom Harrigan**, and I will be meeting with WE Energies executives at their headquarters on July 1st seeking answers and support for claims submitted by residents related to damages. Questions on the table include:

- * What safeguards does WE have in place to stop these surges on their equipment and contain the impact?
- * Why are such high voltages entering residents’ homes and powerful enough to melt surge protectors and start outside connection pedestals on fire?
- * Has the “overhead-to-underground” power line project exposed the Village to higher risk?
- * What annual inspections are performed for trees impacting electric wires in between “normal” pruning.

Stay tuned as this is a hot topic for the Board and we are requesting an open forum for residents to interact with WE Energies representatives and share their concerns and ideas. **I ALSO NEED EVERYONE’S HELP. IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT OR OUTAGE – PLEASE REPORT IT TO WE ENERGIES.** At times we may think others will do it, our back-up systems come on, or the electricity will come back on soon. The Village needs these reports to document the ongoing issues we are having to drive action from WE Energies with facts and data. **Public Works Committee.** I would like to give a huge shout out to the entire Public Works Team, including our paving contractor – Wolf Paving, led by our Director, **Richard**

Paul, Jr. The amount of coordination and work needed to complete the Village’s annual paving Project is immense and includes:

- * Road inspections done every other year.
- * Prioritizing of which roads are in the worst shape.
- * Defining how to best allocate the annual paving budget to maximize impact.
- * Bidding and contract negotiation effort.
- * Storm water management work and culvert replacement.
- * Onsite supervision and support to the paving contractor daily.
- * Road closure coordination and management.
- * Minimizing extra charges or change orders leveraging the Villages team.
- * Topsoil and seeding and ongoing watering to finalize the project.

I am sure there are even more activities I am missing. Just a huge thank you and keep up the outstanding work as the 2025 paving project continues in July!

Pathway work is scheduled to commence the week of July 7th with the Underwood River Parkway segment first up. Completion is expected in September, weather permitting. We are still waiting (and actively pursuing) a work permit to be issued by CP Rail in order to complete the pedestrian pathway crossing on Highland Drive.

Daylighting. Discussions continue to finalize the land and easement acquisition. Analysis is continuing to streamline and reduce the cost of the project. A Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled to review next steps on July 17th at 1:30 p.m..

Other Community News.

- Ordinance update. The Board formally approved an update to its Public Art Policy, allowing for murals and other art to be installed within public facilities.
- Our excellent Police Department celebrated the graduation of its latest Citizen Police Academy class at a June banquet. The Department does a wonderful job engaging with the residents and this program’s outreach efforts are outstanding.
- The 2025 summer Recreation Department program is in full swing. The Pool is open and many other family programs and sessions are available to enjoy at a reasonable cost.
- The Beautification Committee continues to meet each Sunday attacking invasive species in the Village Park. Much appreciated!

Please celebrate all the Village and Wisconsin has to offer in the summer!



Public Safety Reports

From the files of the Elm Grove Police, Fire, and Emergency Services Depts.

Park & Pathway Safety Reminder

With summer in full swing and more people out walking, jogging, riding, and enjoying the parks, we’d like to remind everyone: pedestrian safety comes first.

- Whether you’re riding a bike, e-bike, or e-scooter, please follow these key guidelines:
- Yield to pedestrians—always.
 - Give an audible signal (bell or voice) when passing from behind.
 - Ride at a safe speed, especially when the pathways are busy.
 - Slow down and be prepared to walk your bike or scooter in crowded park areas.
 - Wear a helmet—always protect your head.
 - Single riders only—no passengers on bikes or scooters.
 - Stay alert—watch for children, pets, and others.
 - Use designated racks for parking bikes and scooters.

By following these simple steps, we can all help keep Elm Grove’s pathways safe and welcoming for everyone this season.

To learn more about pathway rules or to view the full ordinance, visit the Village website: www.elmgrovetwi.org. If you observe reckless behavior, please contact the Elm Grove Police Communications Center at (262) 786-4141.

Enjoy the ride. Respect the rules. Keep our community safe.

Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- ① July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ① Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Business & Club Directory

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy 14th Birthday!
ELI
Love, Grandma & Grandpa.

Congratulations to Jane (runs-with-scissors) Peck

As she celebrates 18 years as owner of
Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove

* Organizations

Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club

Come Join with 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 stimulating speakers each week and offer socializing among all present.

See us on Facebook
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
www.kiwaniselmgrove.org

* Insurance

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Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack and Myrna Ramstack

A HAND-PUMPED RAILROAD CAR, c. 1920. A track repair crew made up of local men poses in front of **John Reinder’s** mill at the Watertown Plank Road crossing in Elm Grove. A local newspaper reported that “**M. Nass** of Portage is assisting **Gilbert Johnson**, who has charge of a gang of men making repairs at the Elm Grove freight yards. **Albert Goldbeck** is acting as flagman at the railroad crossing for a short time.”



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

ELM GROVE BASEBALL, 1911. Among the team members were **John Spitzer**, “**Indian Joe**”, **George Ramstack**, **Louis Sanders**, and **Joe Spitzer**. On July 30, 1903, the *Waukesha Freeman* reported, “The Elm Grove nine defeated the Brookfielders by a score of 46 to 15, in a recent game. On Sunday, August 9, the Brookfield team will play in this burg with the home team.”



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack and Arline Kirkham

SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT, JULY 1942. When the country’s supply of natural rubber was cut off from the Far East at the start of World War II, **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** put out a call to all Americans to supply the government with their own used rubber that could be converted into synthetic rubber for the military. In this photograph, a group of young people proudly pose in front of a large assortment of rubber boots that they had collected and piled high in front of **F. Kehl’s General Store** in the village of Brookfield.

In Memoriam

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

To place an Obituary Notice in this newspaper,
e-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
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for Rate information.

News Briefs

Beautification Committee to Offer *Community Wildlife Habitat* Site Visits

By Tyler Beckley

Elm Grove is on a mission to maintain its status as the only certified National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Wildlife Habitat™ in the state, and residents can help with that in several ways.

Each year, Elm Grove must earn 30 points across a variety of categories to retain its certification. One of the most accessible ways that residents can contribute to this is by certifying your home, business, school, church, or common area through the NWF. The best part? Certification is an easy, one-time process!

To make the process even easier, the Beautification Committee is offering a free site visit to help residents see whether their property meets criteria for certification or not. Committee members will schedule a time to come and visit your yard, do a walkthrough of your property with you, review the certification criteria, and finally provide a personalized report with actionable suggestions and resources to get your property wildlife certified. It only takes a total of 10 criteria in 5 categories, many of which are simple and affordable to implement, such as providing a water source, growing native plants, and minimizing turf grass.

If you’re already certified, the Elm Grove Beautification Committee encourages you to revisit the NWF’s checklist of 62 potential



habitat-supporting elements and try your best to add at least one more this year.

Elm Grove’s participation in the NWF’s Community Wildlife Habitat™ program highlights just how committed it is to create healthier and more sustainable environments for people and wildlife alike. Certified communities try to focus on native landscaping, reducing pesticide usage, and integrating wildlife-friendly strategies into local planning.

For more information or to schedule a free site visit, contact the Elm Grove Beautification Committee at EGBeautification@gmail.com or visit the village website: www.elmgrovewi.org Together, residents can ensure Elm Grove remains a leader in conservation and community beautification.



53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Wishing Elm Grove a Happy Fourth of July Celebration

The Elm Grove Community Foundation is honored to be sponsoring open swim at the Village of Elm Grove community pool and the fireworks display for the Fourth of July celebration in Village Park.

- Fun Run/Walk: 8:30am
- Open Swim: 12:00pm – 5:00pm
- Food Trucks/Beer Garden open: 5:30pm – 9:30pm
- D.J. in the Park, Baking Contest: 6:00pm – 9:30pm
- National Anthem: 9:30pm
- Fireworks Display: 9:35pm

Register Today for the Elm Grove Oktoberfest 0.5K Fun Run

Registration is now open for the 0.5K Fun Run held on Elm Grove's Annual Oktoberfest weekend. The 0.5K “race” is a walk/run beer parade that starts at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub at 3:30pm on Saturday, September 20 and finishes at Village Park. Early bird pricing is available until August 1. For more information and to register, please scan the QR code.



BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 19 & 20, 2025

Calendar of Events – July 2025

Friday - JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY



- A Blast from the Past! Baking Contest for Adults & Kids at Elm Grove Village Park**
5 p.m. - Drop off cookies, cakes, bread, pies, brownies at tables next to Pavilion
6 p.m. – Judging begins
Followed by announcement of winners & Bakery Auction.

(See Community Foundation AD – Page 4 for more July 4th activities.)
- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
No Club Meeting.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- ### Sunday - JULY 6
- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.
beautification@elmgrovewi.org

- ### Friday - JULY 11
- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Mei-Lyn Nelson**
Topic: “Financials for Seniors”
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
 - Friday Flicks**, sponsored by the Elm Grove Junior Guild and the Elmbrook Rotary Club; featuring “**The Lion King**”.
Movie begins at 8:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park Pavilion. FREE.

- ### Sunday - JULY 13
- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.
beautification@elmgrovewi.org

- ### Tuesday – JULY 15
- Elmbrook School Board**
Meeting – 6 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield.
Open to the Public
www.elmbrookschoools.org.

- Tunes on Tuesday**, sponsored by the Elm Grove Community Foundation, featuring “**Andrea and the Mods**” - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Elm Grove Village Park Pavilion. FREE. All welcome!

- ### Friday - JULY 18
- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Jill Herz & Jillian Smith**; Topic: “Physical Activity, Mental Wellness and Nutrition Education”
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- ### Sunday - JULY 20
- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.
beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Elm Grove Recycling Center Hours

The Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste Facility
900 Wall St.
(off Elm Grove Road, between Watertown Plank & Bluemound Road)

OPEN:
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.elmgrovewi.org / (262) 782-6700

- ### Friday - JULY 25
- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Vicki Wachniak**
Topic: “Life Navigators Provides Disability Support Services”
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- Friday Flicks**, sponsored by the Elm Grove Junior Guild and the Elmbrook Rotary Club; featuring “**SpongeBob SquarePants**”. Movie begins at 8:30 p.m.
at Elm Grove Village Park Pavilion. FREE. All welcome!

- ### Sunday - JULY 27
- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.
beautification@elmgrovewi.org

- ### Tuesday – JULY 29
- Tunes on Tuesday**, sponsored by the Elm Grove Community Foundation, featuring “**Hungry Williams Band**” - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Elm Grove Village Park Pavilion. FREE. All welcome!

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BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday
JULY 12
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

Revelation Rm, 2nd floor; west parking lot entance off of Highland; 14700 W. Watertown Plank Road

*Appts. made at <https://bit.ly/CUMCEGJuly2025>
*Appts. also made via QR Code below in flyer.

*Questions? Contact Kathy by emailing her at kdhartke@gmail.com for assistance.

*Please ask younger generations to step up to donate blood, as Baby Boomer donors are not all able to continue to donate, due to illness, death etc.

*Everyone who donates receives A FREE PICKLEBALL SET, as a THANK YOU!

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD & ASK OTHERS TO DONATE TOO!

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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Invasive Species Task Force volunteers display bags of Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Dame's Rocket and other unwanted plants pulled from an area of Elm Grove Village Park



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Elm Grove resident and Trustee **John Schindler** helped with the removal of a variety of invasive species on June 8 at Village Park.

Invasive Species Task Force Welcomes Volunteers

By Tyler Beckley

Every Sunday at 11 a.m., for just one hour, a group of community members gathers with their gloves, clippers, and purpose. Since August 2020, the Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF) has been transforming our public spaces by removing invasive species, restoring native plants, and ensuring that this is a great place for natural wildlife to live.

For the past two years in a row, this effort has managed to clock in more than 300 volunteer hours, showing just how consistent and passionate the group is about this project. From dense thickets of buckthorn to carpets of garlic mustard, the committee has faced and removed some of the most persistent invasive species in this region.

One of their proudest recent efforts includes participation in the SEWISC (Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium) Pull-a-thon, a region-wide challenge targeting garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket. The initiative, which wrapped up June 30th, saw the ISTF contribute valuable hours toward a healthier local ecosystem.

The group's June 8th partnership with the Junior Guild also drew attention. The Guild auctioned off an hour of the ISTF's labor, offering their time and energy as a prize. The winning bidder would receive help clearing buckthorn from their lot.

Looking ahead, the ISTF's goal for 2025 is to make the entire 79-acre Elm Grove Village park buckthorn-free. It might be an ambitious goal, but it is one that can be done with numerous volunteers.

No prior experience is needed to join in. Volunteers will learn on the job how to identify and remove what plants are considered invasive species, and the best part is that they can take that knowledge when they work on their own yard and can share what they've learned with their friends, family, and neighbors.

Now is the perfect time for you to get involved. Whether you're someone who is a seasoned gardener or curious about getting into it, your hour can make all the difference. Join the ISTF every Sunday at 11 a.m. and help protect the spaces we all share. One hour a week can make such a big impact.



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Report from Madison

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13

June is known as “budget month,” which means a very busy month at the Capitol trying to finalize the state budget by June 30th. In addition to state budget work, I authored and co-authored a lot of bills in June (with more coming in July!).

“Mental Healthcare Is Healthcare” Bill Package

I rolled out my “Mental Healthcare is Healthcare” package of legislation to increase mental health access for Wisconsinites.

- Requiring health insurance to cover mental health visits (LRB-1677)
- Awarding school-based mental health grants to school districts (LRB-1681)
- Expanding state aid for schools to hire mental health professionals (LRB-1680)
- Paying prospective school social workers during their internship (LRB-1683*)
- Training teachers in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) (LRB-1700)
- Bringing more federal Medicaid funds to schools (LRB-1678*)
- Investing in the mental health needs of college students (LRB-1691)
- Providing grants to racial minority groups to become school social workers (LRB-1682)
- Providing grants to schools to hire racially diverse mental health professionals (LRB-0013)

I am proud of this legislation, and welcome your input. **Notes the bill is bipartisan*

The Push for Affordable Childcare

I hosted a Brookfield childcare roundtable with **Sen. Jodi Habush Sinykin**. Wisconsin needs quality, affordable childcare, and the childcare workforce deserves to be paid a living wage. Child Care Counts funding was set to end June 30th, so **I both co-authored the Child Care Counts bill, and submitted a budget motion to fund it.** We are concerned 25% of childcare centers may close if this funding isn't provided, and families could face rate increases. I will continue to work hard on this issue.

APRN Modernization Act

The APRN Modernization Act passed the Assembly and Senate after many years of debate. 2025 AB 257/2025 SB 258, which creates an additional system of licensure for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), **passed with zero registered opposition**—the result of an agreement between medical professionals, Governor Evers, Democratic and Republican lawmakers, and more.

PRIDE Month

June was Pride Month! **I authored an LGBTQIA+ mental health bill included in the “Equality Agenda”** legislative package to provide LGBTQIA+ rights training to school counselors and school social workers, and Governor Evers raised the Progress Flag over the Capitol for the seventh year in a row.

State Budget Motions

I tried something new in June—I **sat down, wrote, and hand-delivered letters to Republican colleagues asking to partner on important initiatives (including funding**



for falls prevention and establishing insulin caps), that I thought were excellent places to find common ground for the common good. With the uncertainty of what will be in the final state budget—or whether we will pass a state budget by the June 30th deadline—I’m **looking for any way we can creatively partner to get good work done for Wisconsinites.** I’ve also written state budget motions for childcare funding, the Early Child Health Consultation program, and Medicaid expansion.

Gun Violence Prevention

June was Gun Violence Prevention Month, and I stood alongside doctors, students, Attorney General Josh Kaul, advocates, and my Democratic colleagues to introduce legislation to prevent gun violence in Wisconsin. **Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in Wisconsin, but it’s not inevitable**—we can do something about it, and we should! I co-authored four bills:

- Requiring **Universal Background Checks** (LRB-8027)
- Reinstating the **48-hour Waiting Period** (LRB-0829)
- Creating an **Extreme Risk Protection Order** (LRB-1598)
- Banning **“Ghost Guns”** (LRB-3342)

Complete Streets

I authored the “Complete Streets” bill to require the installation of bikeways and pedestrian paths in all new state or federally funded highway construction, ensuring that our neighborhoods are equitably and sustainably connected while reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and improving our quality of life.

While it is a busy time, we remain committed to the needs of constituents.

Please reach out with issues important to you, or any assistance you may need. It is an honor to represent you, thank you.

Forward together,

Robyn Vining
State Representative
13th Assembly District

**Please note this article was written June 20, 2025*

We Must End Gun Violence

Postpartum Medicaid Extension

Public Schools Funding

Mental Healthcare Is Healthcare

Office Hours

Budget Primer

PHONE (608) 237-9113 / (888) 534-0013

EMAIL REP.VINING@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV

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@REP.ROBYN

<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/13/vining>

News Briefs



Brooke Olson

A New Role at Sunset Playhouse...

Christine White began work on June 23 as Sunset Playhouse’s newest Production / Volunteer Coordinator, and Office Manager, following the resignation of Brooke Olson to pursue a new career path.

“The past 5 years at Sunset have been a fantastic and life-changing experience. I will be continuing my time at Sunset but in a part time capacity... It has been an absolute pleasure, and I hope to see you all at Sunset in the future!” Brooke wrote on a Facebook post.



Christine White

“I wish Brooke the best of luck in her new position and am excited to welcome Christine as our new Office Manager/Production and Volunteer Coordinator, said Sunset’s Artistic Director Nancy Visintainer-Armstrong.

Christine can be contacted at cwhite@sunsetplayhouse.com or at (262) 782-4431 x 233.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Education Foundation

EEF Interger Volunteer **Dee Gabbard** with Tonawanda students **Elizabeth Allen** and **Katie Wood**.

Elmbrook Education Foundation Intergenerational Program Seeking Volunteers

(BROOKFIELD) – The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) is committed to its focus on “Strong Communities. Strong Schools,” and our Intergenerational Program is leading the way. Started in the 2023-24 school year at Swanson Elementary, it will expand to all five Elmbrook elementary schools in the fall. Nearly 35 volunteers meet weekly with students and the EEF is looking for more to add to our growing roster of adults of all ages who want to instill the love of reading in our young students.

“Our volunteers are amazing members of our community. They are very dedicated to growing the skills of our young readers,” stated **Deborah Nustad**, Chairperson of the EEF Intergenerational Program Committee. “With the program expanding to all five Elmbrook Elementary Schools next year, we will need to significantly increase our number of volunteers.”

Volunteers work with small groups of 1 to 3 students at a time, allowing kids to practice oral reading fluency. Volunteers do not need teaching experience, only patience and enthusiasm with a genuine interest in helping students grow.

One Interger volunteer said, “Both of the students in my class who participate in the program have made significant improvement with their Oral Reading Fluency scores. Both really enjoy the program and are motivated to go. I have also heard from both of their parents that the students are more excited about reading at home.”

Are you interested in learning more about the program for 2025-26? Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and an on-line volunteer application are posted on the EEF website at <https://eef.elmbrookschoools.org/events/intergenerational>. Please contact **Deborah Nustad**, at EEFintergen@gmail.com with any additional questions.

PPMS Students Rocketry Competition Champions

(ELM GROVE) - **Anshul Bairi, Joel George and Will Pedriana**, all 8th grade students at Pilgrim Park Middle School, recently won the 2025 Wisconsin Youth Rocketry Competition, competing against middle school and high school teams across the state. Their team also competed in the American Rocketry Challenge, placing 114th out of 1,001 teams nationally. Their mentor was **Tom Disch**, and it was their first year competing.

The purpose of the Challenge in 2025 was to teach students aerospace engineering by having them design and build a safe and stable model rocket that lifts a fragile payload of two raw eggs to an exact altitude of 790 feet and has a flight duration of 41 to 44 seconds, at the end of which it returns this payload to earth safely and undamaged. Congratulations to the Team!



Photo courtesy: Deb Baesemann

Pilgrim Park Middle School students display their model rocket.



Green is Good!

Make Your Closet Count: How to Fight Fast Fashion Waste

By **Susie Salinas**, Elm Grove Green Team Guest Writer

I love fashion, however, the fashion industry negatively impacts the environment. Fast fashion is a billion-dollar industry that brings us cheap clothes and 97 million tons of annual waste. That’s equivalent to 19,400,000 elephants of trash. Creating cheap clothes contributes to climate pollution, with over 60% of the materials used derived from fossil fuels. Fast fashion is responsible for as much as 10% of global emissions. Just one white t-shirt takes more than 766 gallons of water to produce. Textiles thrown in the trash can take over 200 years to disintegrate, damaging the local environment and releasing microplastics into water sources.

- Here’s what you can do to avoid fast fashion waste:**
- Think before you buy: How does the creation of this item impact the environment?
 - Packaging: How much trash does buying this create?
 - Shop local: Cut down on shipping impacts
 - Secondhand: Find treasures secondhand, even new with tags!
 - Develop a capsule wardrobe: On average, people only wear clothes 7-10 times before discarding them. What staples can you wear over and over?
- I hope you will implement these strategies for cooler clothes and a cleaner earth for my generation and beyond.



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Green Team

A textile recycling bin in Elm Grove.

Don’t Toss It—Recycle It in Elm Grove’s Textile Bins

Have worn-out clothing, bedding, towels or drapes? Drop them in Elm Grove’s textile recycling bins located in front of the police station and in the Village Recycle Center. We’ve diverted more than 12,000 pounds of textiles from the landfill since 2023 – let’s keep it up!



JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT



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September 15 - 16, 2025

July 10 - August 3, 2025

News Briefs



Members of the Elm Grove Citizen Police Academy Class of 2025.
(Back Row, left to right) **Jim Makowski, Mark Bosbous, Pam Evason, Britt Horner, Lisa Elliot, Kitty Griffin, Jeff Hargarten, Tom Kelly;**
(Front Row, Left to right) **Matt Wozny, Laurie Hanson, Nikole Soika, Scott Mathison, Jim Quinn.** Not pictured **Ted Wentzel, Opal Smith**

Citizen Police Academy – Update

By Stacy Barry Coffey

The 25th Elm Grove Citizen Police Academy (CPA) class graduation was held at The Western Racquet Club on June 11th. Almost 100 alumni, graduates, friends and family members joined Elm Grove Police Officers and Dispatchers to celebrate the 15 members of this year’s class. The CPA Alumni community thanks **Sergeant Douglas**, whose dedication and coordination make this program a continued success year after year. CPA graduates attended 10 weeks of classes this spring to learn about the mission, training, and daily work of the Elm Grove Police Department. The enthusiasm, thoughtful questions, and active engagement during each class, ride-alongs and hands-on scenarios, allowed participants to gain a deeper understanding of the commitment it takes for Officers and Dispatchers to serve and protect our community.

2025 CPA graduate **Mark Bosbous** said, “The CPA class was a wonderful experience. I would definitely recommend investing the time to be a part of it! Between the classroom, ride-alongs, dispatch sit-ins and other unique experiences --- we got an up close and personal look at the work that our EG police force does on a daily basis. I learned something new every time we had class and developed a deep appreciation for the work these men and women do to keep our village safe!”

“Participating in the Elm Grove Citizens Police Academy was an unforgettable experience. The program not only educated citizens and increased community awareness, but it also gave us a hands-on, realistic look into the dedicated work of our law enforcement and paramedics. I even volunteered to get tazed—check that off the bucket list! I’m incredibly grateful to Sergeant Douglas and the entire EG team for stepping outside their regular routine to share their time and insight with us,” said

Laurie Hanson, aka ‘badass’, who earned the nickname for being the volunteer to get tazed during the CPA Class of 2025.

Thank you to all who donated items to the CPA silent auction. It was the CPAA’s most successful fundraiser. Thanks to the hard work of **Lisa Armitage** and **Colleen Devere**y, almost \$12,000 was raised to use for future CPAA initiatives. In 2024-25 CPAA funds were used to purchase a grill, microwave, radar gun, large TV for classroom, 2 e-bikes, gift cards, and lunch & treats to celebrate Police and Telecommunications weeks.

CPAA President **Johnny Koremenos** presided over the CPAA board elections following the graduation ceremony. Thank you to the 2024-25 outgoing board members:

- President-**Johnny Koremenos**
- Vice Pres.-**Stacy Barry Coffey**
- Sargent at Arms-**Colleen Devere**y
- Secretary-**Jodi Dirks**
- Treasurer-**Jeff Davidson**
- Activity Director-**Lisa Armitage**

CPAA Welcomes this new slate of board members for 2025-26:

- President-**Harlan Weinberger**
- Vice President-**Pamela Evason**
- Sargent at Arms-**Colleen Devere**y
- Secretary-**Kitty Griffin**
- Treasurer-**Kenneth Allen**
- Activity Director-**Lisa Armitage**

If you are a CPA Alumni who has not been receiving email communications, please reach out to CPAA to be added to the email list at citizenpoliceacademy@gmail.com. For updates via social media, as a CPA Alumni you can request to join the EGCPAA Facebook group.

For more information about the Citizen Police Academy or to apply for a future class, visit: <https://elmgrovewi.org/206/Citizen-Police-Academy>.

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Library News and Programs

July 2025

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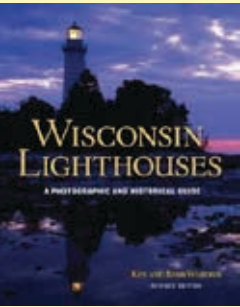


Expression in Form, Passion in Thought, Spoken in Silence: A Comparative Analysis of Manet & Daumier / Tuesday, July 8, 6:30 pm.

Join Professor Karri Fritz-Klaus for a compelling exploration of how Édouard Manet and Honoré Daumier used form and silence to convey deep emotional and social commentary in their art. This lecture delves into their innovative techniques and the profound impact of their works on modern visual culture. Presented by the Cornerstone Symposium, it's an opportunity to engage with art history in a meaningful way.

First Friday Films: The Boys in the Boat / Friday, July 11, 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon escape with First Friday Films at Elm Grove Public Library! Each month, we screen a recently released film in a relaxed setting—no tickets, no fuss, just a good movie and great company. July’s movie will be *The Boys in the Boat*, a true story of perseverance and unity. In 1936, a group of underdog rowers from the University of Washington defied the odds to compete in the Berlin Olympics. Directed by George Clooney.



Wisconsin Lighthouses with Barb and Ken Wardius / Tuesday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.

Join authors and photographers Barb and Ken Wardius for an engaging 45-minute lecture and presentation showcasing Wisconsin’s historic lighthouses. Featuring stunning images, captivating storytelling, and live narration, the program highlights iconic beacons such as Cana Island, Wisconsin Point, and Milwaukee North Point. Perfect for enthusiasts of maritime history and photography, the session wraps up with a Q&A.

Elm Grove Public Library Trivia Night / Monday, July 28, 6:00 p.m.

Gather your friends and put your wits to the test at our Library Trivia Night! This fun-filled evening features a variety of trivia questions, including regional topics, pop culture, history, and more. Whether you’re a trivia enthusiast or just looking for a good time, it’s a great opportunity to learn something new and enjoy some friendly competition. The grand prize? Ultimate bragging rights. Join us for a lively and friendly competition—no tickets required, just your knowledge and a love for trivia!



4TH OF JULY

word search for kids

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LIBERTY
NATION
PARADE
RED

REVOLUTION
RIGHTS
STATES
SUMMER
THIRTEEN
UNITED
WHITE

Young Writers & Reporters

The World after the Storm

By Hebela Ayalew

Grade six, Brookfield Academy

I’ve heard about the calm before the storm
But no one talks about after
Just the before
Even though after,
There’s still a disaster,

Fear hangs on
Like it could never leave
But then it dawns
And once the truth is buried deep
The fright has no choice but to creep

How are you still the same? They ask
You went through a disaster
How can you mask
In the terrifying world of after
The pain from the disaster

It’s not a mask
It’s simply the truth
And the more and more they ask
They understand why you
Know there is a truth

A truth in healing
In kindnesses brought
After a reaping
I have been taught
The thing that never lasts?
It’s called distraught.

Working in the Heat: A Global Health Challenge

By Janavi Wagle – Brookfield East High School

Editor’s Note: Janavi is a youth ambassador for the organization, GHAR, that works to support migrant workers in Nepal who have developed kidney failure from working in extreme heat.

Over the past two decades, a rise in chronic kidney disease of non-traditional origin (CKD-nT) has been reported among outdoor workers exposed to extreme heat. Initially seen in agricultural workers in Central America and gold miners in South Africa, this pattern is now appearing among Nepali migrant workers—especially those returning from the Middle East. Many are coming back with advanced kidney disease, requiring lifelong dialysis or transplants, often before the age of 40.

As global temperatures rise, heat exposure has become a serious health risk for millions of workers, especially in agriculture and construction. Although the exact cause of CKD-nT remains unknown, factors like agrochemical exposure, poor water quality, and infections may contribute. However, heat stress and dehydration are considered the main drivers.

Nepal heavily relies on labor migration, with remittances making up nearly 25% of its GDP. Yet, nearly 30% of dialysis patients in Nepal are returning migrant workers—highlighting a disturbing trend that is

still poorly understood and inadequately addressed.

CKD-nT is largely preventable. Research shows that access to clean water, scheduled rest, shade, and proper safety measures can significantly reduce health risks. Unfortunately, there is a lack of government regulation, supportive data, and protective systems for workers—both before they migrate and after they return.

The Global Health Advocacy and Research (GHAR) program is actively raising awareness about heat-related health risks, particularly among Nepali workers. Their mission is to advocate for worker protections and support further research into CKD-nT prevention.

This is more than an individual issue—it is a public health emergency. Immediate, coordinated action is needed to ensure safe working environments and prevent future suffering. To support GHAR’s mission, contact: gharnexus@gmail.com.

WANTED: Young Writers & Reporters!

Students in Grades K-12
are invited to submit
for consideration:

- NEWS ITEMS / INTERVIEWS
- SHORT STORIES
- POETRY

(about 200 words maximum)

*Send items (within an email or as a Word document) to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Subject line: Young Writers

Include the writer’s name, grade level & school / homeschool



News Briefs

Upcoming event... *Cruisin’ The SPUR*

The next Cruisin’ the SPUR **car, truck and cycle show** will be held on Monday, July 21st. The event will start at 5 p.m. in the lot right behind the SILVER SPUR BBQ at 13275 Watertown Plank Road in Elm Grove. And in addition to the classic cars, trucks and cycles on display, there will be plenty of hot food, cold drinks and cool music for all to enjoy.



St. Mary’s Visitation students at their DARE graduation.

St. Mary’s Students Complete DARE Program

(ELM GROVE) - Earlier this year, the Elm Grove Police Department congratulated a class of students at St. Mary’s Visitation Parish School for completing the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. The EGPD noted that the graduation ceremony “marked the end of an amazing journey where these young leaders learned about making healthy choices, resisting drugs, and staying safe,” adding, “We’re so proud of their hard work and dedication throughout the program. These students have proven they’re ready to make positive decisions and be role models for their peers.”

The department also acknowledged and thanked **Officer Amy Heggie** for making the DARE program’s return to the school so successful. Waukesha County Deputy District Attorney **Kristi Gordon** spoke at the graduation event.

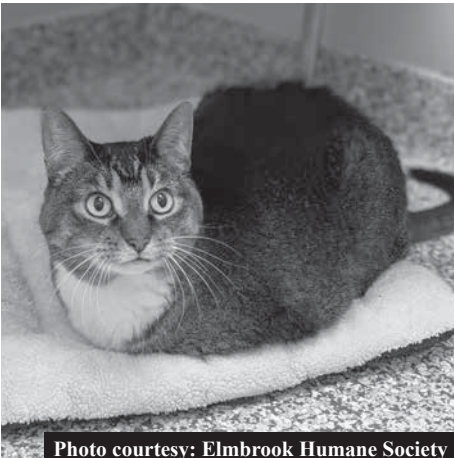
St. Mary’s student **Benjamin Cording** was chosen as the **2025 DARE essay winner**, and **Alice LoCoco** and **Rosalie Ciriacks** received runners-up recognition for their essays.

News’ Hounds & other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Meet this little honey Bee! Bee is one of the sweetest cats you will ever meet! She’s a bit of a talker and loves to have conversations with people. She also loves bird watching and has been known to cozy up on a lap or two! Bee would do best in a home where she can be the queen of her castle, with no children under 6—and no other pets. If you’re interested in meeting this sweetheart, fill out an application today! Adoption Fee sponsored by Brett Furuta



The EBHS is at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield. Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.

Bee

Coloring for Kids (of ALL ages!)



News Briefs

Elmbrook Students Compete at the International Academic Competitions at Nationals

(BROOKFIELD) Elmbrook Students from Elementary and Middle Schools (Grade 2 - 8) participated in the National Science Bee Competition at Orlando, FL conducted by the International Academic Competitions from May 22-26, 2025. The below students represented Elmbrook Schools and the state of Wisconsin admirably and had a great learning experience through the competition.

Congratulations to:

- **Shubh Khopkar**, Swanson
- **Liam Hargraves**, Dixon
- **Nithya Kothapalli**, Tonawanda
- **Niranjana Pramod**, Burleigh
- **Sritha Bhagavatula**, Burleigh
- **Arjun Vasudevan**, Burleigh
- **Ishani Malreddy**, Tonawanda
- **Rayaan Absham**, Burleigh
- **Anay Jadhav**, Burleigh

After four preliminary rounds, Sritha, Rayaan and Abhishikth got into Quarterfinal Playoffs for their respective grades and were recognized for their playoff achievements in the competition, and all three WHMS students advanced to the Quarterfinals (Round of 64) in their grade level—a remarkable achievement on the national stage. Congratulations to **Vickram Kapoor, Krishna Karody, and Anirudh Sai Muralidharan**.

In addition to the buzzer-based Science Bee, Anirudh Sai Muralidharan also competed in the National Championship Written Exams across various science disciplines and placed in the Top 10 rank in multiple categories.

Calling 911 from a Cell Phone vs. a Land-line

Elm Grove Emergency Services Recommendations

When you call 911 from your cell phone, the call is sent to a centralized dispatch center in either Waukesha County or Milwaukee County, depending on what cell tower picks up your call. Before the call taker can transfer your call, they need to determine your location for transfer to the proper dispatch center.

In most cases, the county dispatcher will not be familiar with landmarks and business locations by name, and they will need an exact address before they can transfer the call to our Elm Grove Dispatch Center.

We strongly suggest that you program our direct emergency line, 262-786-4141, into your cell phone to avoid delays in service for emergencies happening in Elm Grove.

Our dispatchers have intimate knowledge of our geography and are capable of discerning your location quickly, with limited information. When it is your emergency, you will want to be speaking to the person who is talking directly to the responding fire, ambulance, or police unit that is coming to your aid.

There are no changes to your current land-line 911 service.
All land-line 911 calls continue to be answered by Elm Grove dispatch personnel.

Letters to the Editor

NOTE: Letters (100 words or less) regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space-available basis. Submissions must include the writer’s name, community of residence, phone #.

E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Letters to the Editor) or Mail: EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423.



Old(er) Writers

*Readers (age 18+) may submit poetry, short fiction, life stories / reminiscences (200 words maximum) to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com or EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove, WI 53122

On Infinity

By Gary Kerslake

What could this be – infinity?
It seems such a strange word to me.
Meaning the stars, the moon, the sun?
Or meaning a life or death or one.

Meaning the stars so high above
noticed by only those in love.
So great the number that exists
mortals know not of the ones
they’ve missed.

Meaning the moon with all its power
to guide men in their darkest hour.
A moon which seems to stand alone
the only moon that man has known.

Meaning the sun, the center, the source
without which man would have no course.
For cast away its light and see
how quickly life would fade from thee.

Meaning a life, so precious, so dear.
The life that man must play by ear.
Or life which was a mark in time
that stays unreal and seems divine.



Meaning death or the final state.
From such a goal we hesitate.
For modern man believes that he
shall never live eternally.

Meaning a symbol, as that of one
so vast its use, we know of none.
For man may use it so to speak
but what he sees in it is weak.

What could this be – infinity?
It seems such a strange word to me.



Poems About Nature

By Tom Fobbe

Home cannot be perfect
without surrounding trees.
There’s beauty made,
along with shade,
by simply having these.

Nothing more amazing
than tiny, simple seed.
From pinhead small
Grow things that sprawl,
and at amazing speed.

Make A Paper Hat!

1. Fold Newspaper in Half. (Like it comes.)

2. Fold top down to meet bottom.

3. Fold right and left sides towards the middle to form a point.

4. Open bottom, and fold bottom up on back and front.

5. You may use a piece of elastic to hold the hat in place, if needed.

MR. HUGH’S HISTORY

by Drew Sternitzky @mrhughshistory on Instagram

HERE IN RICHMOND CASTLE, YORKSHIRE, SIXTEEN MEN WERE HELD FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD WAR I, DESPITE THEIR CONSCRIPTION TO DO SO.

AS ABSOLUTISTS, THEIR BELIEFS HELD THAT THEY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY MANNER OF BRITISH WAR ACTIVITY.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE SOCIAL CONTRACT? WHAT DO WE OWE OUR SOCIETY?

THE SIXTEEN WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH ON JULY 14, 1916 – THE SENTENCES WERE COMMUTED TO TEN YEARS OF HARD LABOR, AND THEY WERE EVENTUALLY FREED AFTER THE WAR'S END.

THEIR TALE OFFERS US A MOMENT'S CONSIDERATION. DO WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHER? OR, IS THE INDIVIDUAL'S OWN MORAL SENSE OF JUSTICE THE ULTIMATE ARBITER OF ONE'S DECISION MAKING?

HISTORY KEEPS CHURNING AND BATTLE LINES DISAPPEAR AND REFORM. PEOPLE LOVE - THEY HATE - IN A ROLLING SEA OF HUMANITY. IN MANY WAYS WE ARE ALONE WITH EVERYBODY. IN ORDER TO RETURN TO - TO FACE - EVERYBODY - WE MUST STAND UP AND CONFRONT THE SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY OF WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL.

There is something really wrong with who is not a Socialist. ALB

dry a floor by throwing water on it, as they to end this war by fighting. ALB

News Briefs



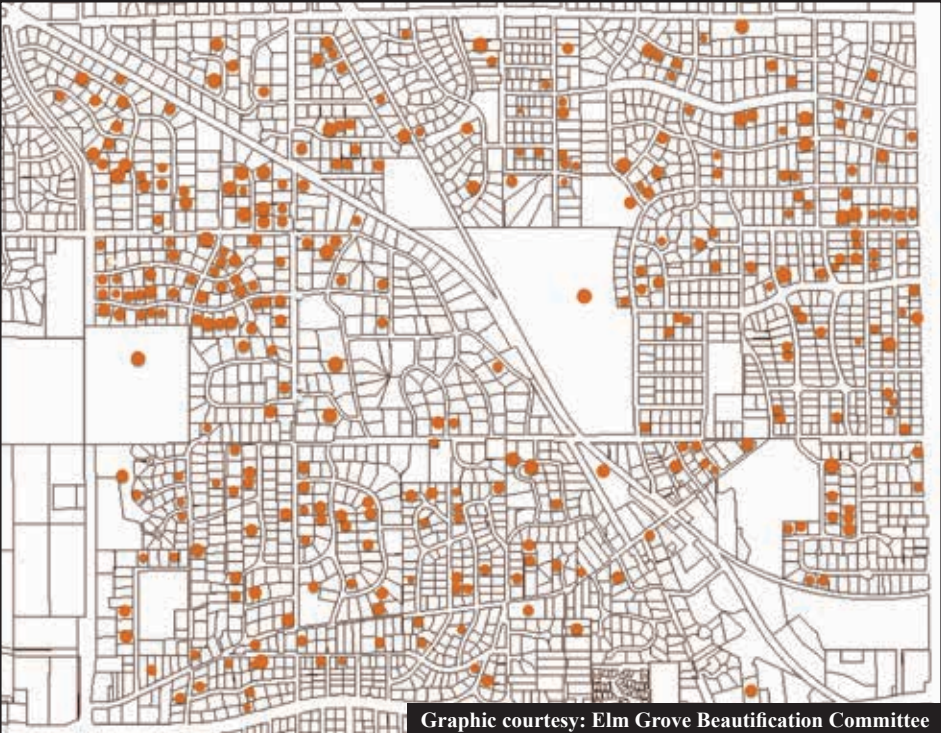
Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Education Foundation

The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) awarded more than \$105,000 to graduating School District of Elmbrook seniors during its annual Scholarship Night event. The EEF commented: “Thanks to the generosity of our donors – honorarium and memorial funds, local businesses, community groups, and PTOs --- we’re proud to support Elmbrook students in their next chapter.”

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.



Graphic courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

The more than 300 dots on this map indicate the properties in Elm Grove on which Milkweed is grown.

Elm Grove Ranks High in Conservation Efforts

By Tyler Beckley

As monarch butterfly populations continue their drastic decline, by 90% in the East and a staggering 99% in the West, communities across the USA are stepping up to protect this species. Through the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge, local governments are committing to habitat restoration, community education, and pollinator-friendly practices. In Wisconsin, the Village of Elm Grove has emerged as a state leader in this ever-growing movement.

On January 27, 2023, Elm Grove made history by becoming the first community in Wisconsin to earn the National Wildlife Federation’s Community Habitat designation. This recognition adds to an already impressive conservation résumé: Elm Grove is also a Tree City USA, a Bird City Wisconsin High Flyer, and a Bee City USA. The village currently hosts eight certified Monarch Waystations, including one in its 79-acre village park, highlighted in *Wisconsin’s Best Wildflower Hikes*.

For many in Elm Grove conservation is part of daily life. Residents engage in native plant sales, garden installations, nature-themed book clubs, invasive species removal and speaker events that spotlight pollinator health. The village recently joined the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle, signaling its intent to expand conservation efforts even further in 2025.

A key focus is planting milkweed, the only plant on which monarch butterflies lay

their eggs. Wisconsin is the home of a dozen native milkweed species, such as *Asclepias syriaca* (most common milkweed) and *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed). The Elm Grove Beautification Committee encourages residents to plant these native varieties, avoid pesticide use, and attend upcoming educational events.

You can join the effort simply by adding native milkweed to your yard for the village’s Monarch Milkweed Map. If common milkweed becomes too aggressive, simple trimming in late June or early July encourages regrowth—and often results in more monarch eggs with higher survival rates. The committee currently has 307 dots on the map with the goal of reaching 400 dots in 2025.

Elm Grove’s proactive and inclusive approach demonstrates how even small communities can lead the way in environmental stewardship and biodiversity protection.

Email: egbeautification@gmail.com for more information.



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Dixon Elementary School in late May 2025 presented a check for \$6,672 to Milwaukee Rescue Mission from its Empty Bowl Gallery Night Fundraiser Event.



Photos courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

(BROOKFIELD) Dixon Elementary School held a successful “Walk for Cancer” event this past spring, helping to raise awareness and funds to support local kids fighting cancer. Dixon raised an inspiring \$3,716.96 for Children’s Wisconsin MACC Fund Center. “100% of this donation will be used on toys, art supplies, and other items to help kids fighting cancer be kids,” it was noted in a School District of Elmbrook newsletter.

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

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.

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