



# Elm Grove NEWS-

# INDEPENDENT



Vol. 15 No. 10

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

June 2025

*Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.*

## Village Receives Vibrant Spaces Grant

(MADISON, WI) – The Village of Elm Grove is one of twenty-seven Wisconsin communities that will share in more than \$1.1 million to help create attractive new public spaces — ranging from bandshells for outdoor performances to plazas to enhance downtown spaces to trailheads for recreational activities.

A mix of rural, urban, and suburban communities across the state will receive **Vibrant Spaces Grants** from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), the state's lead economic development organization.

### Elm Grove Underwood Creek Pocket Park – \$50,000

The Village of Elm Grove will enhance the downtown corridor with a pocket park adjacent to Underwood Creek. It will serve as an accessible space for programming, entertainment, and amenities that will increase foot traffic to local businesses.

“People want to live and work in thriving communities and offerings like parks, trailheads, and town squares create places for people to gather and hold events as well as boost nearby businesses and improve quality of life,” said **Missy Hughes**, secretary and CEO of WEDC. “Creating vibrant communities is the foundation of economic development.”

The Vibrant Spaces Grants allow communities to apply for up to \$50,000 to assist with local placemaking efforts that will transform vacant or underused spaces into multipurpose community gathering spaces to attract visitors and residents.



**The News-Independent** is mailed by the 1<sup>st</sup> day 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 / Village Hall
- Brookfield public library
- Elm Grove Post Office
- Sendik's / Ace hardware / Walgreens
- The Chocolate Factory
- Sunset Playhouse / Fazio's Chocolate



Blue Star Memorial at Veterans Park on the former site of American Legion Post 449.

## Veteran's Park Revitalization Project Update

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Work is already underway on the restoration of Veterans Park at the southwest corner of Juneau Blvd. and Legion Drive. The Beautification Committee is working to target some of the less prevalent invasive species that are present with plans for the first broadcast herbicide application to Canadian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) to occur in August.

A pre-revitalization insect and bee survey will be happening on site Wednesday, July 11th with the lead horticulturist and naturalist on the project, **Danielle Bell**. Watch for details and please join in!

The entire 13-page comprehensive restoration plan can be found on the village website, but is summarized here:

- Targeted removal and treatment of invasive species throughout the spring, summer, and fall 2025
- Broadcast application of herbicide to Canadian thistle, reed canary grass, crown vetch, quack grass, and bird's foot trefoil scheduled twice before fall mowing and removal of dead material mid-November
- Seeding of park with two separate seed mixes, especially suited for the soil and condition in late November

The cost for all labor, materials, and supplies is \$5,600 to complete this project. The complete plan, along with a convenient donate button is at <https://elmgrovewi.org/811/Veterans-Park-Revitalization-Project>.

A huge *thank you* to the following people who have already donated a total of \$350 towards the project: **Jennifer Studebaker,**

**Carol and Michael Cinquegrani, the Saidai Family, James and Elizabeth Lange, and Brian and Lina Badura.**

Help the Beautification Committee make our community more resilient and beautiful by being a part of this historic community landmark and its restoration!

## Pathways Project to Begin This Summer

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain  
[elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)

Following a final review of within-budget bids on May 22 by the Elm Grove Public Works Committee, the Village of Elm Grove has announced that work will commence this summer on the 2025 Pathways Project. This undertaking has gained significant support in recent years by local residents and groups who made known their strong wish to have additional, safer, off-road areas for pedestrians and bikers, especially young students, to use --- while increasing the community's walkability.

The new pathways will include:

- Juneau Boulevard from Legion Drive to Watertown Plank Road
- Gremoor Drive from Hollyhock Lane to Fairhaven Boulevard
- Underwood River Parkway from San Fernando Drive to Hollyhock Lane

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# "I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

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- \*Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K
- \*Gary McWithey Concert Series at Brookfield Congregational Church UCC
- \*Jen Studebaker \*Patricia Fricker
- \*The Lange Family \*Jeanne Edwards
- \*Bruce & Susan Davidson
- \*Lacey, Herbie, Gus Gus & Toby
- \*Geri Fotsch \*The Knachel Family
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**Do you appreciate the local news, features, and information that *The News-Independent* provides?**

Become a valued "Friends of *The News*" supporter!  
(Complete the "Friends" form **Page 5**.)

## Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

You may have already heard that SweetWater (Southeast Wisconsin Watershed Trust) added 193 drains in Elm Grove to their Adopt Your Drain map in November 2024. Each and every one of these drains takes rainfall, stormwater, and whatever else lands in it to our Underwood Creek which ultimately leads to Lake Michigan.

So far, there have been 46 drains (23.8%) adopted by village residents just like you who walk by them, drive by them, or have them right in their front yard!

Why is this important? Because everything that goes down those drains ends up in Lake Michigan. And there is no way our village staff can monitor almost 200 drains for trash, leaves, road salt, fertilizer, waste, and debris.

When village resident **Lisa Heisel** went to the website to adopt the drain nearest her house, she noticed it was in need of repair. She contacted village hall and they had someone there to repair the drain cover within a day or two and followed up to let her know it was taken care of!

Have you checked the map to see how near a drain is to your house? Do you know what the current highest community adoption rate is? It's 50%! Let's show our community pride and set a new standard—teamwork really does make the dream work!

Check [adoptyourdrain.com](http://adoptyourdrain.com) today!



Photo courtesy: Lisa Heisel

Elm Grove resident **Lisa Heisel** stands near her "adopted" drain.

# Green is Good!



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Green Team

Solar panels were installed last year on the roof of an Elm Grove home.

## Solar Power Group Buy is Back for 2025

By the Elm Grove Green Team

Still thinking about solar? It's not too late to power up with panels for your home in 2025. Grow Solar, part of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, is helping Waukesha County residents and small businesses save on the transition to solar energy through group discounts.

Several Elm Grove neighbors took advantage of the 2024 solar group buy and related tax credits. "We'd considered solar for our home for a while and the group buy opportunity spurred us to attend an information session," said Elm Grove resident **Keegan Mager**. "Then, we got the free estimate, and we could see how quickly the investment pays for itself."

"Our installation went smoothly and after three months, our monthly electricity cost went down to single digits," he added. "We anticipate producing enough electricity during the summer to offset most of our winter costs. We like the individuality of producing our own power – it's a great feeling!"

Find out more by attending the next Solar Power Hour in Elm Grove on Wednesday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Village Hall. Learn how solar operates in homes, costs and benefits, and how the Grow Solar program works. More dates and times at <https://www.growsolar.org/jefferson-waukesha/>

## Elm Grove Crushes 2nd Annual Recycle Day

Thank you to everyone who recycled with us in our Drive-Through event in April! More than 300 people dropped off electronics, textiles, household goods, books, bikes and more. Our recycling stations helped us divert thousands of items from the landfill—including nearly 3,000 pounds of electronics.

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# Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President / [jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org)

Sitting here writing this update on May 22, the cold and rainy weather makes it a challenge to feel spring will ever fully arrive. However, we all know that Wisconsin weather, with patience, will change and bring with it a great end to May as summer approaches. I would also like to thank the Elm Grove Junior Guild for organizing a wonderful Memorial Parade and related events. The volunteerism was on full display as we celebrated Memorial Day and paid tribute to everyone who have served our country. Please be extra careful of children as school sessions end and more bikes and walkers are out and about enjoying summer!



**\*Public Works Committee.**  
The committee met on May 22 to review bids received for the construction of Pathways within the Village. The bids came in within budget and work will commence this summer on the 2025 Pathways Project. As a reminder the Project includes the following sections:

- Juneau Boulevard from Legion Drive to Watertown Plank Road
- Gre Moor Drive from Hollyhock Lane to Fairhaven Boulevard
- Underwood River Parkway from San Fernando Drive to Hollyhock Lane

Completion of the Highland Pathway railroad crossing is also a top priority as CP Rail has until May 31<sup>st</sup> to complete their work. Our contractor is standing by to finish up grading and paving as soon as the railroad completes its work.

Staff has been working to prepare for the 2025 paving along Highland Drive as well as other locations upgrading culverts and storm water drainage in preparation for paving. Having our great Public Works team do this scope of work is a cost savings initiative and I appreciate the quality work performed.

Paving to be completed are:

- Highland Drive from Club Drive to Hawthorne
- Fairhaven Boulevard from Watertown Plank Road to Elmhurst Parkway
- Lone Tree Road from Watertown Plank Road to Terrace Court
- Elm Grove Road from Watertown Plank Road to Juneau Boulevard
- Woodlawn Circle from Juneau Boulevard to Hillside Road
- Sunset Drive from Hillside Road to Woodlawn Circle

As construction schedules are finalized updates will be posted online.

**\*Underwood Creek Daylighting Update.**

As I write this update, bids were opened on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Bid compilation and analysis is underway comparing Stantec's estimate of project costs to the bids submitted. It would appear that the low bid currently exceeds the engineers estimate which will require further review and Board discussion. The Village has initiated the acquisition process to acquire 2.3 acres of the abandoned CP Rail corridor which will be used for the new stream alignment. Additionally, the Village is finalizing the other necessary easement acquisitions and costs. CP Rail has until June 20<sup>th</sup> to respond to the Village's offer.

**\*WE Energy Update.**

The Board will be receiving an update on the resiliency of the electrical network in June. If you have any specific questions that need answers, please forward to Village staff. In addition, we would appreciate resident support to collaborate with We Energy finding solutions to easements for the second phase to bury electrical lines to improve service and reduce outages.

**\*Recreation Update.**

The Elm Grove pool opens on Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>. The recreation team is excited about the various activities scheduled for 2025 and more information can be found at [elmgrovewi.org/599/Aquatics](http://elmgrovewi.org/599/Aquatics).

**\*Other Community News.**

- **Single Family Home Construction in the Caroline Heights project area continues to expand.** There are currently five homes that have received building permits, and four additional homes will be reviewed by the Building Board on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **Vehicle Ordinance update.** The Board formally approved an update to its vehicle ordinance to address e-scooters. As part of this update, staff created a community education program which emphasizes the need to yield to pedestrians and appropriate etiquette to announce your intent to pass, including bell or other warnings. Additionally, signage has been updated to conform with the new ordinance and safety procedures to allow all residents to fully enjoy the Villages Pathways and Village Park.
- The annual **restocking of fish** into the Village Pond with several species was completed in May. Special thanks to the Junior Guild for sponsoring this project!
- **Water lateral work** is moving forward quickly with completion in June expected. Meeting with the Cornerstone One crew, appreciation was expressed for all the cooperation and understanding from residents.

With summer right around the corner, my best wishes for a safe and fun filled June.

# Public Safety Reports

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

**Drug Take Back Success!**

(April 28) Thanks to the incredible support of our community, our officers collected 62 pounds of unused and expired prescription medications during our recent Drug Take Back Day.

Safely disposing of these medications helps prevent misuse and protects our environment. We're proud to be part of a community that takes health and safety seriously.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made a difference!



Photo courtesy: EGPD

**EGPD Officers Hannah Martin (at left) and Preston Nobile** at Walgreens in Elm Grove during Drug Take Back Day.

**Digital Speed Awareness Trailers**

These trailers are meant to educate—not enforce—by displaying real-time vehicle speeds and encouraging drivers to slow down. Studies show that radar speed signs can reduce speeds by up to 11 mph, creating a safer environment for everyone on the road.



Elm Grove residents (only) can request the speed trailer for their neighborhood by submitting a form here: <https://elmgrovewi.org/forms.aspx?FID=72>

**Seasonal Crime Patterns.** As warmer weather returns, so do seasonal crime patterns—particularly vehicle break-ins at parks, grocery store lots, daycares, and sports fields. Thieves often target quick stops where purses are left behind. Once they gain access to a wallet or checkbook, they engage in: Check washing, Credit Card fraud, and Identity theft. Two fraud operations we've seen in our area in the past are: **\*Felony Lane Gang** – A loosely connected group using stolen IDs at bank drive-throughs to commit check fraud. **\*Operation Homeless** – Groups that recruit unhoused individuals near shelters or street corners to impersonate victims and carry out financial crimes. They are often coached and dressed for the role to avoid detection. These schemes are well-organized, deliberate, and difficult to trace once underway. Please remember: NEVER leave your purse, wallet, or other valuables in your vehicle—even for a short time. Awareness is key.

**\*Citations Issued** (April 28 - 9:43 a.m.) - Officers were alerted to a hit-and-run accident involving a mailbox in the 13300 block of Gre Moor Drive. The incident was reported by a highly vigilant Department of Public Works (DPW) employee who witnessed the crash and observed the vehicle last traveling southbound on Legion Drive from Gre Moor Drive. Officers located the suspected driver, a 62-year-old man from Wauwatosa, in the Village Park. Upon making contact, officers observed signs of impairment. The driver performed standardized field sobriety tests, which he failed. A breath test showed a BAC of .22. He was issued citations for OWI-1st Offense, Operating with PAC >.15 – 1st Offense, hit and run – property adjacent to highway, and failure to have control of a vehicle and released to a sober responsible party.

**\*OWI Arrest** (May 2), A 38-year-old Milwaukee woman was charged in Waukesha County Court for OWI-4th Offense. At 4:31 p.m., officers were in the 12400 block of Bluemound Road investigating a vehicle crash when the department received multiple reports of a separate vehicle that was swerving all over the road, driving extremely slowly, and traveling eastbound on Bluemound Road from Sunnyslope Road. Thanks to vigilant community members who provided a description and license plate, officers quickly located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop with it. The driver displayed signs of impairment, failed Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, and was arrested. A preliminary breath test revealed a BAC of nearly three times the legal limit. She also submitted to an evidentiary chemical test of her blood. She was cited for OWI-4th offense, unsafe lane deviation, and transported to Waukesha County Jail. She appeared in Waukesha County Court and a signature bond of \$6000.00 was set. This incident is a reminder of the dangers of impaired driving and the importance of community awareness in keeping our roads safe. Thank you to the alert citizens who made a difference.

**\*Multiple Charges:** On the evening of May 1, 2025, an officer with the EGPD conducted a traffic stop near Bluemound Road and 124th Street after observing a red Nissan Maxima with a defective headlight and no rear license plate. A strong odor of marijuana was present in the area, prompting the stop. Upon approaching the vehicle, officers observed five unsecured children in the backseat along with three adult females, including the driver. The odor of marijuana intensified as contact was made with the driver, who initially provided a false name and was later correctly identified. A dispensary-style bag containing a green leafy substance, later confirmed to be marijuana, was located inside the vehicle. The driver admitted to smoking earlier but denied possessing more substances. A search revealed two additional empty dispensary bags. Although the woman passed field sobriety tests, she was arrested for possession of marijuana. Initially booked under the false identity that she provided, fingerprints later revealed her true identity. Officers discovered she had an active warrant and was currently facing multiple criminal cases in Milwaukee County, including charges for: • Resisting/Obstructing an Officer • Battery (Domestic Abuse Repeater) • 2nd Degree Recklessly endangering safety • Criminal Damage to Property • Use of a Dangerous Weapon • Disorderly Conduct • Misdemeanor Bail Jumping.

She also violated conditions of her previous bonds, which prohibited the possession or use of controlled substances and committing new criminal offenses. She was transported to Waukesha County Jail and turned over to jail staff without further incident. She later appeared in Waukesha County Court and a \$1000.00 cash bond was set.

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# Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: SSND and Tom Ramstack

**SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME GROUNDS, c. 1905.** Shown (from left to right) are Notre Dame Hall, constructed in 1899; the original Our Lady of Visitation convent, constructed in 1859; and The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary church, built in 1868. A Sunday school class of 12 children stands on the church steps along with two sisters. Additionally, about 13 adults, including a priest, can be seen standing along the fence line.



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

**THE BOB ELLIS, C. 1873.** Hundreds of Brookfield residents lined the tracks on February 25, 1851, as *the Bob Ellis*, "the first train that ever turned a wheel in Wisconsin," passed through the town for the first time on its way from Milwaukee to Waukesha. The railroad's initial rate table provided stops at Elm Grove, Dixon's Road, Power's Mill, and Tews Road --- all in Brookfield.

## Business & Club Directory

### \* 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](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)  
[www.kiwaniselmgrove.org](http://www.kiwaniselmgrove.org)

### \* Insurance

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## Classifieds

### FOR SALE

#### Two-Companion Crypt Wisconsin Memorial Park

13235 W. Capitol Dr.  
Brookfield, WI 53005

Location: Main floor, K Corridor  
(C- eye level)

Current value is \$40,995.

I'm willing to negotiate the price.

Please call J.C. at 262-490-9096.

### GREETINGS

#### To Jim & Nicholas,



Happy  
Father's  
Day

## Pollinator Week 2025 – June 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee has planned a few events for you to celebrate right here within the village!

- **All week**—check out the library display window to learn all about pollinators and what YOU can do to help them!
- **Monday, June 16th at 9 a.m.**—register to take part in a guided tour around our gorgeous village park ponds and learn some of the native plants that are blooming or about to bloom. Sign up on the village website: [www.elmgrovetwi.org](http://www.elmgrovetwi.org) under the Beautification Committee Upcoming Events tab.
- **Wednesday, June 18th at 4 p.m.**—one more opportunity for a free guided tour around the village park ponds—registration required.
- **Saturday, June 21st at 11 a.m.**—attend a free lecture by Warren Porter, UW-Madison Professor of Integrative Biology, Ardath and Robert Rodale Prof. of Environmental Toxicology in the Department of Integrative Biology. No registration required. Basement of the Elm Grove Public Library in the O'Neill Room.

## Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove

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### St. Joseph Parish RUMMAGE SALE

12130 W. Center St., Wauwatosa

June 19, 9 am to 6 pm  
June 20, 9 am to 5 pm  
June 21, 9 am to 2 pm

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### GARY MCWITHEY FREE CONCERT SERIES 2025

JAZZ GUITAR  
BEN DAMERON

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025 AT 3PM

We are thrilled to welcome Ben Dameron, a sought after performer, composer and pedagogue based in Milwaukee, WI. He received his degrees in classical guitar from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, having studied with Kevin Callahan, Sergio Assad and René Izquierdo.

In 2021, he recorded his first studio album "Voyage to Phrygia Session", a collection of original compositions for jazz quartet. He currently performs in his group Badland as well as Heirloom, Match Stick and Cream City Hotclub. Ben resides on the guitar faculty at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music

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# 53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

[www.elmgrovefoundation.org](http://www.elmgrovefoundation.org)

## NEW at the Community Foundation

### Community Foundation to Sponsor Tunes on Tuesday

The Elm Grove Community Foundation is proud to be the official sponsor of the annual concert series, "Tunes on Tuesday," held at the band shell in Elm Grove Village Park. All concerts start at 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, June 10th - After Hours

Tuesday, June 24th - Saturday June Band

Tuesday, July 15th - Andrea and the Mods

Tuesday, July 29th - Hungry Williams Band

Tuesday, August 12th - Kaleidoscope

We hope to see you and your friends at these free kid-friendly concerts this summer!

### Become an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run Sponsor

If you are interested in promoting your business to the Elm Grove community, an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run sponsorship is a great option. Your sponsorship will help us underwrite our biggest fundraiser so we can continue to enhance the quality of life in our village. We encourage you to contact us at [www.elmgrovefoundation.org/contact](http://www.elmgrovefoundation.org/contact) with any questions and to learn more about customizable sponsorship opportunities.

**BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 19 & 20, 2025**

# Calendar of Events – June 2025

## Sunday – JUNE 1

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrovetwi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovetwi.org)
- **Jazz Guitar concert, featuring Ben Dameron**, 3 p.m. at Brookfield Congregational Church, 16350 W. Gebhardt Road, Brookfield; part of the Gary McWithey FREE Concert Series 2025. Open to the public.  
(See AD – Page 4)

## Friday – JUNE 6

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting** – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Kim Lamansky**, President & CEO of Kathy’s House; Topic: “Overview of the Agency’s Mission”. [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)
- **Friday Flicks**, sponsored by Elm Grove Junior Guild and Elmbrook Rotary Club; Featuring “Lady and the Tramp”. Movie begins at 8:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park Pavilion.

## Saturday – JUNE 7

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Plant Sale** – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Elm Grove Park & Shop.  
(See AD – May 2025 edition, Page 1)



## Sunday – JUNE 8

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrovetwi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovetwi.org)

## Tuesday – JUNE 10

- **Elmbrook Board of Education Meeting** – 6 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield. Open to the public  
[www.elmbrookschools.org](http://www.elmbrookschools.org)

## Friday – JUNE 13

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting** – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Mary Inden**; Topic: “Forms of Art and Framing”  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

## Sunday – JUNE 15 FATHER’S DAY

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrovetwi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovetwi.org)

## Friday – JUNE 20

### FIRST DAY OF SUMMER



- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
No Club meeting.  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)
- **Friday Flicks**, sponsored by Elm Grove Junior Guild and Elmbrook Rotary Club; Featuring “Mary Poppins Returns”. Movie begins at 8:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park Pavilion.

## Sunday – JUNE 22

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrovetwi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovetwi.org)

## Friday – JUNE 27

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting** – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Bob Anderson**; Topic: Review and Update of Club Investments.  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

## Sunday – JUNE 29

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrovetwi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovetwi.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.elmgrovetwi.org](http://www.elmgrovetwi.org) / (262) 782-6700

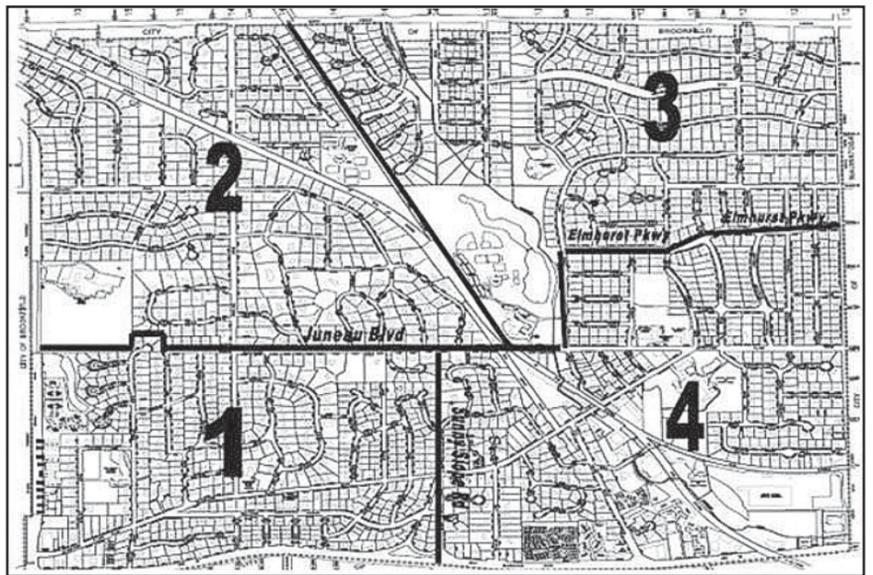
## Village of Elm Grove Brush Pick up Schedule

The DPW will pick up brush placed along Elm Grove streets on these dates:

\*Area 1 (June 2) \* Area 2 (June 9) \* Area 3 (June 16) \* Area 4 (June 23)

Please refer to the map below to determine your area number.

Visit: [www.elmgrovetwi.org](http://www.elmgrovetwi.org) or call (262) 782-6700 for more information.



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

# Create More MOMents



## BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday

JUNE

11

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

### ELM GROVE JUNIOR GUILD BLOOD DRIVE

Pilgrim Park Middle School Gym; 1500 Pilgrim Pkwy.

\*Appts. at <https://bit.ly/ElmGroveJuniorGuild061125>

\*Appts. also via the QR Code below in this flyer

\*Blood CANNOT be manufactured! Blood, needed by our loved ones TODAY, has to have been donated 1.5 days ago or earlier to allow for testing and typing.

\*Do we not expect a safe & adequate blood supply in our or our loved ones’ time of need? YES WE DO!

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



Blood Center of Wisconsin

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD & ASK OTHERS TO DONATE TOO!

# News Briefs



## Elm Grove Invasive Species Task Force Volunteers Needed

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Yes, your Elm Grove Invasive Species Task Force is still hard at work each Sunday. And it shows!

There has been a dramatic decrease in garlic mustard, Dame's Rocket, invasive honeysuckle, and buckthorn within public lands. Excitedly, we are already seeing lots of gorgeous native plants move into the areas that we have been working on: starry solomon seal, bloodroot, Virginia bluebells,

marsh marigolds, gray dogwood, smooth sumac, meadow rue, violets, and oak and hickory seedlings.

If you'd like to get involved, reach out to [EGBeautification@gmail.com](mailto:EGBeautification@gmail.com) to be included in the weekly notice letting everyone know where we will be meeting and what we will be working on, along with any special instructions.



## Upcoming event... Cruisin' The SPUR

The next Cruisin' the SPUR car, truck and cycle show will be held on Monday, June 23rd. (Changed from the previously reported June 16th date.) 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.

## Ways to Help: The Women's Center

(WAUKESHA) - Since 1977, The Women's Center has provided adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, abuse, and/or trafficking with safe shelter and empowerment programming. As Waukesha County's only agency of its kind, they provide a wide range of life-saving and life-changing programs and services that heal and empower survivors on their paths to build a future free from violence.



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

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

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# Report from Madison

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13

It's been an honor to meet so many constituents from Elm Grove over the past few months. We've had an energizing start to the legislative session with so many of you visiting me at the People's House. Thank you for taking the time to join us at the Capitol and advocate for what is important to you as we develop the state budget! Below is a brief update—please feel free to reach out for more information.



**Bipartisan Work:** Much of the work accomplished in May was bipartisan—Democrats and Republicans working to find common ground for the common good.

**Of the 25 bills and resolutions we passed in the State Assembly, I co-sponsored 14.** And as is often the case in a body designed to debate toward a better future for Wisconsinites, I also spoke out when I thought we were not doing enough for the people of Wisconsin.

**1st Legislative Asian Caucus:** Representatives **Francesca Hong, Angelito Tenorio, and Renuka Mayadev** announced the first ever Legislative Asian Caucus! May is Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Month, and the new Legislative Asian Caucus organized various events to celebrate AANHPI heritage.

**May Was Women's Health Month!** This is my 7th year in the legislature, and my 7th year working to pass legislation that supports women's health.

**Early Breast Cancer Detection Saves Lives!** I am on a mission to expand access to early breast cancer detection, and I am proud to cosponsor LRB-0466 which requires insurance to cover supplemental and diagnostic breast examinations for individuals at increased risk for breast cancer. I heard from nearly 60 constituents *almost immediately*, most of them from Elm Grove! I'd love to hear more of your stories as to why passing this legislation is important to you.

**Perimenopause and Menopause:** Let's talk about it, destigmatize the conversation, educate, and continue to push for more funding for research. I am a proud cosponsor of LRB-1297 to educate women on the symptoms, processes, and treatment for menopause and perimenopause.

**Postpartum Medicaid Expansion:** This is the most popular bill of the session, and it's already passed the Senate 32-1! And while Republican lawmakers are blocking a vote in the Assembly (where we have the 50 votes needed to pass the bill), hope is not lost. I encourage you to contact legislators to include this bill in the state budget. This bill isn't partisan, and we need to come together and get this done for Wisconsin women and families.

**State Budget Update:** *If you feel disappointed when you read this, please know I am with you in that.* The Joint Finance Committee voted to cut all of Governor Evers' proposed state budget, including 612 items (over 50%) that Democrats are now prohibited from reintroducing or discussing during the JFC budget process. These cuts passed with Democratic opposition

(JFC is composed of 12 Republicans and 4 Democrats). I've listed some of those cuts below:

**Mental Health-Related Cuts:** As the Ranking Member on the Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Prevention, I want to highlight the cuts related to mental health. These cuts came days before the legislature officially recognized May as Mental Health Awareness Month (link to my speech below).

- \*Postpartum Medicaid Expansion
- \*Clinician Wellness
- \*Maternal and Child Mental Health
- \*Peer-Run Respite Centers, After-School Mental Health
- \*Law Enforcement Behavioral Health
- \*Veterans Mental Health
- \*PTSD Coverage for First Responders
- \*Treatment, Alternatives, and Diversion (TAD)
- \*Medicaid Funding for Schools
- \*Indian Mental Health Placements
- \*Mental Health Training, Suicide Prevention

**Education-Related Cuts:** Republican lawmakers on JFC cut every education-related proposal in Governor Evers' budget. I wrote about the benefits of funding public education in my April column.

- \*60% Special Education Reimbursement Rate
- \*Indexing Per-Pupil Funding to Inflation
- \*Healthy School Meals, School Breakfast, and School Milk
- \*Personal Financial Literacy, Computer Science Education
- \*Technical Education Staffing, Career and Technical Education Aid
- \*Early Childhood Special Education Coaches
- \*Increasing The Educator Workforce
- \*Early Literacy Tutoring, Early Literacy Summer Reading
- \*Arts for All

It's been a month of good news and bad news, successful bipartisanship and partisan bickering and gamesmanship. As you hear about this in the news, please know I am committed first and foremost to my constituents and your needs, and I will continue to work to find common ground for the common good.

**Forward together,**  
Robyn Vining, State Representative -  
13th Assembly District

# News Briefs



Student artists gathered on the steps of the Elm Grove Woman's Club, 13800 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove at the conclusion of this year's art scholarship competition.

## Elm Grove Woman's Club's 2025 Art Scholarship Winners Announced

Photos courtesy: EGWC



Rachel Simmons, a senior at Brookfield Academy, received the \$2,000 Senior Scholarship for her innovative and compelling fashion designs.

## Local High School Artists Shine at Annual Scholarship Event

By Sharie Sinson

For 56 remarkable years, the Elm Grove Woman's Club (EGWC) has nurtured the creative spirit of local students, and this year's milestone Annual Student Art Scholarship Competition was no exception. Held on Saturday, May 3rd, the event drew more than 250 community members to a vibrant Open House that celebrated artistic excellence.

Guests were treated to an impressive display of student artwork spanning a range of mediums—from drawing, textiles, and mixed media to pottery, painting, and fashion design. Attendees engaged with the artists, gained insight into their creative processes, and cast votes for the popular People's Choice Award.

Since its inception in 1969, the EGWC Art Scholarship Competition has recognized and supported local talent, many of whom have gone on to pursue successful careers in the arts. This year, 37 talented high school students from Brookfield Academy, Brookfield Central, Brookfield East, and Divine Savior Holy Angels participated in the competition.

The program awards a \$2,000 Senior Scholarship and a \$500 Art Grant for students in grades 9–11, helping young artists continue to explore and develop their creative passions. A panel of professional judges evaluated submissions on creativity, technique, and overall presentation, selecting winners from a field of outstanding entries.

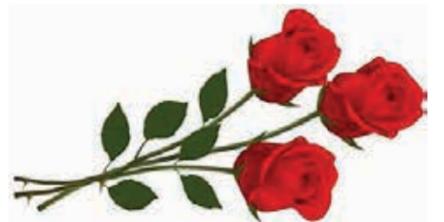
Congratulations to all participants—your creativity, dedication, and talent continue to inspire and enrich the community.



Kelly Li, an 11th grader at Brookfield Academy, earned the \$500 Art Grant for her exceptional printmaking work.



Charlotte Durand, a 10th-grade student at Brookfield East, won the \$300 People's Choice Award for this highly detailed drawing of a tarantula, titled "My Greatest Fear."



## News' Hounds & other beloved animals

### Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Meet Calliope! This beautiful girl is independent, yet she absolutely loves her people and enjoys bonding with them. She's a playful pup who loves to run and have fun with her dog friends! She also enjoys her daily walks, eager to explore the world around her.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Calliope

Calliope is highly food motivated—she'll do anything for a tasty treat, which makes training a breeze! She's almost fully potty trained and is making great strides every day. When she's not playing or learning, Calliope loves to snuggle up and keep you company, especially when she is wearing one of her cozy sweaters.

If you're looking for an independent but loving companion who enjoys both playtime and cuddle time, Calliope is the perfect fit for you! The EBHS is at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield. Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.

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Community United Methodist Church  
 Elm Grove

**RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS!**

Look for this drop off box in the lobby of Sendik's in Elm Grove.





# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Bombshell Theatre Company

Abigail Davidson and Milo Eull rehearse a scene from the musical *Mary Poppins*.

## Elm Grove Students in Milwaukee Theatre Production

Tonawanda 5<sup>th</sup> grade students **Abigail Davidson and Milo Eull**, both of Elm Grove, will perform the roles of Jane and Michael Banks in Bombshell Theatre Company's *Mary Poppins*, June 5-15 at Next Act Theatre's Performance Space, 255 S. Water St, Milwaukee.

Abigail says she is thrilled to return to Bombshell Theatre after starring as Anna in *Frozen Jr.* and *The Wizard of Oz*. When she's

not onstage, Abigail enjoys Irish dancing and playing the alto saxophone.

Milo loves to perform, with some of his favorite shows being *Frozen Jr.*, *The Aristocats Jr.*, *Willy Wonka Jr.*, and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Offstage he plays tennis and baseball, sings in choir, plays trumpet and drums, and participates in his school musical and Leadership Club.

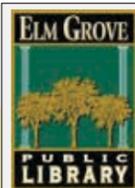
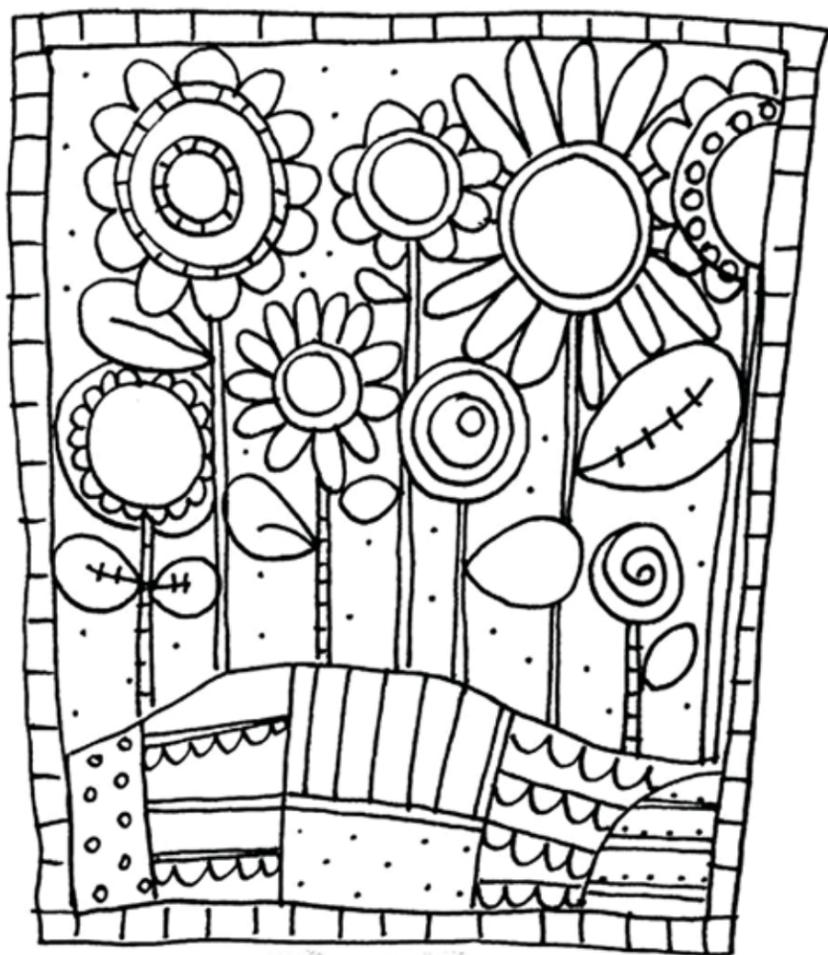
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Mail it to: *The News-Independent*, 14420 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove, WI 53122

# Coloring for Kids (of ALL ages!)

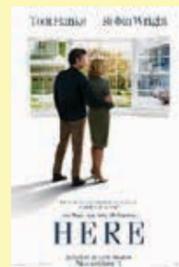


## Library News and Programs

June 2025

13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122

262-782-6717 | [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org)



**First Friday Films: Here / Friday, June 6, 1:00 pm.**

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. June's movie will be *Here*, a generational story about families and the special place they inhabit, sharing in love, loss, laughter, and life. Starring Tom Hanks and Robin Wright.

**The Romanticism of Revolution Memorialized by David, Delacroix, Gros & Gericault / Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.**

How did artists paint revolution into history? In this dynamic lecture, Professor Karri L. Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone Symposium explores the raw emotion and bold imagery of Romantic-era painters—David, Delacroix, Gros, and Géricault—who captured the spirit and turmoil of 18th-century Europe. Part two of the *Revolution Pictured in Frames* series. Don't miss part three on July 8!



**Drawing Flowers to SEE as an Artist / Tuesday, June 24, 6:00 p.m.**



Join Juliane Rae, artist and educator, as we relax, observe, and slowly draw the edge we see down and around the flower capturing every change in movement. We will experiment with a variety of drawing tools, on a variety of paper surfaces, making marks that are unique to each of us. And we will confirm there is a Universal Language of Line! For adults 18 and over. Registration required. Class size limited to 12.

**Introduction to Zentangle with Kim Turmel / Monday, June 30, 1:30 p.m.**



Looking for a creative outlet that's calming and fun? Learn the Zentangle Method—a meditative drawing technique that turns simple patterns into stunning artwork. Certified instructor Kim Turmel will guide you through the basics in this beginner-friendly workshop. No experience needed, just an open mind and a pen in hand! For adults 18 and over. Registration required. Class size limited to 12.

## Bridges Library System's 'Journey of Dragons: A Library Challenge' Event Set to Launch on June 2

Join a legendary journey to visit libraries and solve passwords for a chance to win prizes!

(WAUKESHA, WI) – Bridges Library System is excited to announce the free *Journey of Dragons: A Library Challenge* event happening at 22 public libraries in Jefferson and Waukesha counties this summer. People are invited to visit libraries, gather letters and stamps, then piece together passwords for a chance to win prizes! The program will run Monday, June 2 through Friday, August 29, 2025.

"Summer is a fantastic time to visit your libraries, and we encourage everyone to discover the unique offerings each one holds," said **Karol Kennedy**, Director of Bridges Library System. "While they serve as centers of incredible materials and services for communities, our Journey of Dragons event also highlights libraries as venues for joy and imagination at any age."

To begin the *Journey of Dragons Library Challenge*, participants can pick up game materials at any of the 22 participating member library locations. At each library, participants will read the game poster, record the letters, get stamped, and work to solve the passwords. Solved passwords will earn prize entry forms. There's up to four chances to win prizes.

The last day to complete the challenge and submit entry forms is Friday, August 29, 2025. An active Bridges Library System CAFÉ library card is required to be eligible to win. Library cards are free and give borrowing privileges at all 24 libraries and access to shared digital collections. Check with your library for card eligibility. Checking out items is not required, but always encouraged. Only one winner per household will be selected each month of the challenge.

To learn more about Bridges Library System's *Journey of Dragons Library Challenge* and to find participating library locations, visit [bridgeslibrarysystem.org/dragons](http://bridgeslibrarysystem.org/dragons).

**About the Bridges Library System**  
*Bridges Library System is a network of 24 public libraries serving Jefferson and Waukesha counties in southeastern Wisconsin. By providing shared resources, technology, and cooperative services, Bridges Library System strengthens communities, expands access, and supports member libraries to better serve their patrons. For more information visit [www.bridgeslibrarysystem.org](http://www.bridgeslibrarysystem.org).*

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# Young Writers & Reporters

## Soccer's Journey

By Audrey Klein

Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

I play soccer for Elmbrook United on the Premier 1 team. I have played on a competitive team since I was about 7 years old, but have known how to play since the age of 4. I used to not like soccer that much because my coach would always come to practice grumpy and tired so soccer was not fun. However, now I am on a new team with the best coach ever! He has believed in me so much and pushes me to be a better soccer player. Every time I step onto the field, I try to make him proud, and show him that I want to be there. Once on the field, all my worries go away and I am as free as a dandelion flying in the breeze with no worries of what anyone will think if I mess up, only caring how I improve afterwards. Because of this coach, my passion for the sport has grown so much throughout the season. My teammates are always supportive of each other, and it is a great environment. I feel that my soccer teammates and I are like sisters. We can tell each other anything, we go through rough times like losing by one from a penalty and the cherished times like winning 1st in a huge out of state tournament. My coach is a huge part of my team's success. I am so happy he has come into my soccer journey.

## Dear Mom and Dad...

By Greta Gehl, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

My friend Katie has a pet, Katie got her pet for Christmas. Because of that Katie is never lonely. After talking to her about it, I would like to respectfully ask you to get me a pet. There are many reasons why I should get a pet. If we got a pet it could keep us company. Some pets sleep a lot and are easier to take care of. Having a pet would be great because a pet like a dog, cat, or a hamster are soft pets. One more pet that could probably work is a fish. I would pay for the fish if you paid for the tank.

My last reason is if I got a pet that we have to walk, you don't need to exercise, because when you walk the pet you would get your steps in. You would also have more time to play with me. Another example is when you exercise you don't talk with your friends. Well, if I got a pet you could walk with your friends and talk! As a result, pets can be hard work but in the end a pet would be great.



## The Moon

By Hebela Ayalew,

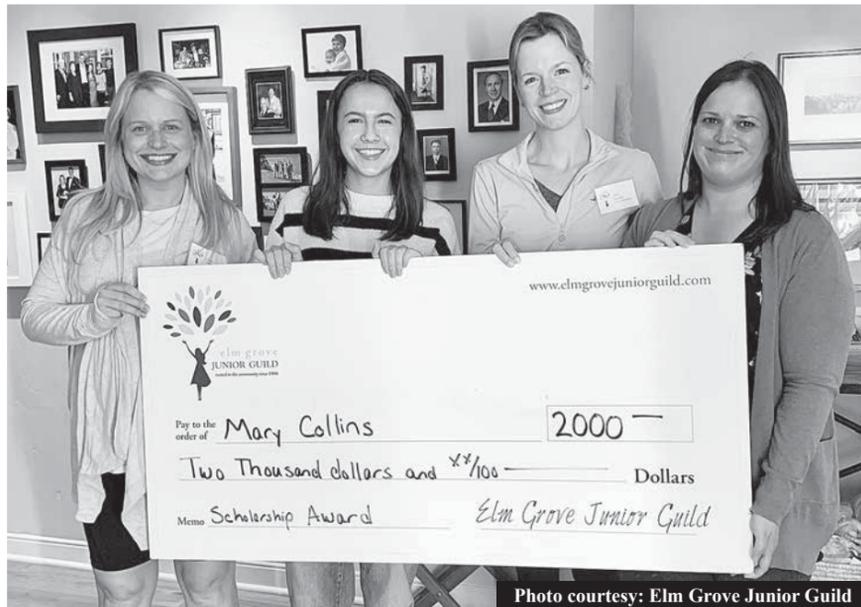
6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Brookfield Academy

The moon is hurting  
All up there on its own  
The moon is mourning  
But doesn't let it show.

The moon has been lonely,  
All these years  
It has the stars for company,  
But they have other things to hear

The moon wishes for bliss  
If only if  
It could feel the sun's kisses  
But it's stuck, stiff

The moon still shines  
No matter the pain  
The moon is the line  
Between important and vain



EGJG members **Maria Greene, Beth Sievers** and **Jessica Buchberger** with Essay Contest Scholarship winner **Mary Collins** (2nd from left).

## Junior Guild Awards Essay Contest Scholarships

(ELM GROVE, WI) – The Elm Grove Junior Guild (EGJG) holds an annual scholarship essay contest for high school Seniors attending school in or residing in the Elmbrook school district. After carefully reviewing many submissions, two deserving Seniors were awarded scholarships this year.

**Essay Prompt:** Write about a person who has had a profound impact on your life as a mentor. How did they inspire you, and how did their guidance shape your contributions to your community? How do you hope to carry forward their influence in supporting and uplifting others around you?

## First Place Essay – \$2,000 award

By Mary Collins – Senior, Brookfield East High School

Some people lead with loud voices and grand actions. My grandma leads with quiet consistency, compassion, and the belief that service is something you live, not just something you do. She didn't just teach me those values—she embodied them everyday, in every door she walked through.

I've always looked up to my grandma. Every time I was asked the question, "who inspires you", there was no doubt as to what my answer was. I remember as a kid, asking my mom "Why isn't grandma the pope?". She laughed but I remember being genuinely confused because to me, she was the most empathetic, compassionate, and accepting person in the entire world. Although I was always sure of this, I started to truly understand all of the things that she did for those around her as I got older. As a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education for many years, she fought endlessly for the things she believed in—namely equal opportunities for every student, no matter their ethnicity, identity, or background. Deeply involved in the fight against segregation, she was a pivotal advocate for reducing educational disparities and enhancing the quality of education in the Charlotte area for all. In every aspect of her life, she devoted herself to those around her, leading with compassion, humility, and action. She taught me that leadership means showing up and doing what you can to make an impact, no matter how big or how small. I got to see her leadership and kindness in action in many small moments all throughout my life. Every time we ate out at a restaurant, walked around downtown, or went to a museum, we would be stopped by someone my grandma had touched. "Oh my gosh, Louise! How are you doing?!" became an all-too familiar phrase to hear wherever we went. It seemed as if everyone in the whole world knew my grandma and had some sort of deep connection with her. I longed to be the kind of person who would leave behind a similar legacy of love and connection.

Observing and engaging with my grandma, I have become a more empathetic and intentional person. Because of her, I have realized my purpose in life: to be of service

to others. At school and in my community, I have used the things I have learned from her to make a difference. Planning numerous volunteer events a month for my service club, engaging in politics and advocacy for what I am passionate about, and helping out around my school however I can, I have felt genuinely fulfilled and happy that I can contribute to her legacy in my own way. In particular, I was able to volunteer at an organization in downtown Milwaukee called Kinship Community Food Center. Although it's mission may not have been centered around education, I saw my grandma in every aspect of the place: the smiling faces on all of the volunteers, the cheerful conversations and laughter between community members, the sense of unity and community that seemed to go beyond where each person came from. The organization resonated with me deeply and I felt immense joy when I got to bring students from my school there with me to experience the same things that I did.

Looking to the future, I hope to pursue a career in education, building a classroom that uplifts and supports all who walk through the door. I hope to be a dedicated and strong teacher who inspires my students in a similar manner to how my grandma inspired me. I hope to teach them the history that my grandma lived, pushing them to think critically about the past and use that knowledge to change the future. I hope to be an advocate for those who may not have as loud of a voice wherever I am, pushing for a better and brighter future for all. I hope to continue to be a leader, making small impacts in all of my communities—college and beyond. Most of all, I hope to simply be a fraction of the person, leader, and friend that my grandma is to everyone she has ever interacted with. Ultimately, I know that my grandma's legacy doesn't lie just in what she did for the world—it lies in the people she touched, people she inspired, and people she loved.

As a kid, I didn't understand why someone as kind, wise, and selfless as my grandma couldn't be the pope—but now I realize she never needed a title to lead or inspire. Her legacy lives on in the lives she quietly changed, and I intend to carry her spirit with me as I strive to do the same.

## A Poem for My Mom

By Emma Hintz, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Her eyes shine like twinkly stars.  
Her voice like an angel's singing  
all day long.  
Her hair waves like a waterfall.  
This HER, who is she?  
She is my mom.

## Spring / Haiku Poems

By Amal Iqbal, PPMS - 6th Grade

Flowers are blooming  
Singing birds make melodies  
Earth comes back to life

Dandelions grow  
Spring gives life to all others  
Butterflies hover

Vibrant colors clash  
Tulips look up to the sky  
Orchids bring delight

Croaking of a frog  
Lily Pads scatter a pond  
Ribbits pierce silence

Pollen fills the air  
Bees roam around the field  
Wings flutter through air

Chirps of baby birds  
Nestled in a tall oak tree  
Fill the air with tweets

Chipmunks scurry fast  
Zooming up into a tree  
Stuffed with bright green leaves

The sun warms the world  
As rays travel through the air  
Bringing a lush green

Fluorescent colors  
Bring happiness to the world  
Spring takes away gloom

Water clear as glass  
Comes in a flowing river  
Scaly fish swim through

Dark grey clouds roll in  
Water drips on my window  
Pitter and patter

Trees jammed with blossoms  
Cherry blossom aroma  
Soft pink petals in branches

Bright earth hues emerge  
Wildlife awakens again  
Breath in the fresh air

A bright morning sun  
Wakes up the world and shines bright  
Rays pierce through darkness

Sweet smell of roses  
Bugs roam the air— pushed by wind  
Caterpillars crawl

## Coats for Kids Drive

By Kaylee Novotney, Service Club member  
Level 7 - Brookfield Academy

The Brookfield Academy Service Club is an active participant in the local Coats for Kids Drive. This drive is organized by The Salvation Army of Milwaukee in collaboration with FOX6 News and has run from October to December for the last forty years. The intent is to give less fortunate kids new or gently used coats and accessories to keep them warm during the winter months. The Drive has made a large impact on many local families, and it was a great experience to be a part of. The Service Club was able to collect and donate 32 coats and multiple accessories to the cause. It was amazing seeing the compassion and love people have this time of year toward our disadvantaged neighbors, specifically the children. I am inspired by organizations like this that create community awareness and a call to action for the greater good. Just like I was inspired, I hope we can further inspire others to donate to the Coats for Kids Drive in the years to come! Together our small acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion can make a big difference.



# Young Writers



EGJG members **Maria Greene, Beth Sievers** and **Jessica Buchberger** with Essay Contest Scholarship recipient **Evan Fernandes** (2nd from left).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Essay - \$500.00 award

By **Evan Fernandes** – Senior, Brookfield Central

It was 3:00 p.m. in Bangalore, India, and my grandmother, lovingly called “Big Mama,” brushed me awake and urged me to get ready. I dragged my jet-lagged, eight-year-old body off the couch and reluctantly got ready to go. My cousins and I definitely knew she had an agenda. I plopped myself in the backseat, and the car wove through the crowded streets. Curiously, we stopped in front of an orphanage.

Though I knew my grandparents were deeply involved in their community and always eager to give, I was confused about why we were there. We spent time at the orphanage, taking a tour and playing with the children. Although I wasn’t sure why we were there, I could tell it was important to my grandmother for us to be friendly and interact with all the children. This came easily to me because some of them were my age. Before we left, my grandmother had a conversation with the director, and I could tell she was grateful for our visit.

A week later, my family visited a hospital where my grandparents had been supporting patients who were receiving dialysis treatment. I sat quietly, listening to testimonies from doctors and patients who had been touched by my grandparents’ kindness. Before this, I had not realized how much they had contributed to the hospital. The doctors and patients spoke of Big Mama and Papa as though they were heroes, but my grandmother simply said they were just trying to help these people live a normal life.

A few days before we left, we celebrated my grandparents’ 75th wedding anniversary. We all dressed up for Mass, but even on this special day, Big Mama took time to assemble bags of foods and essentials for needy members of her community. She instructed us to deliver them to local families, with whom she had built relationships.

For a long time, I struggled to understand why my grandmother brought us to these organizations she served. I felt I couldn’t do much since I was just a kid. As I got older and saw needs in my own community, I found myself trying to help or get involved with solutions. Her highlighting issues others ignored made me get involved, not out of obligation, but because I instinctively wanted to help.

Now, reflecting on these events as an 18-year-old, I realize that visiting the orphanage, where I later learned the children

were born with AIDS and abandoned, going to the hospital where my grandparents had donated dialysis treatments, and giving small meals to those in need, was never about how many people thanked you. It was about helping your neighbor to the best of your ability and giving them the opportunity to live the life they deserve.

Unfortunately, my grandmother passed away two years ago, and since she lived in India, I couldn’t attend her funeral. However, her funeral was unlike anything I’ve seen. It was open to the public, and by watching online, I saw the sheer number of people who came to honor her. The church was flooded with those she had touched, so much so that people were standing outside to listen. My grandmother served because she felt it was her duty and believed it was her reason for being on this Earth.

I try to honor her legacy every day. Throughout high school, I have become deeply involved with my community and have always participated in many forms of service. The two major roles I’ve taken on as my leadership and service skills have matured are Student Council Chair and Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin event coordinator.

Through these positions and other service clubs, I’ve shared my gifts with my community. One of my favorite events to run in student council is the Thanksgiving Dinner, where we connect with older members of our community. This year was especially meaningful because it reminded me of my grandparents, whom I can no longer speak to. Allowing us to serve these community members who have served for so long is something I cherish.

As I look forward to my next journey, I have committed to Marquette University, whose core values of excellence, faith, leadership, and service align with my own. I’ve also made arrangements to help Cristo Rey High School in Milwaukee as an assistant soccer coach, allowing me to share my passion for the game with disadvantaged kids who want to grow.

I know Big Mama is looking down at me, proud of the person I’ve become. Big Mama instilled in me values that are taught and practiced, not given. As I move on to college, I plan to continue working on these values and grow into the person I am meant to be.

## WANTED: Young Writers & Reporters!

Students in Grades K-12 are invited to submit:

NEWS ITEMS / INTERVIEWS, SHORT STORIES, POETRY  
for consideration.  
(about 200 words maximum)

Send items (within an email or as a Word document) to:  
[elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) Subject line: Young Writers

# News Briefs

## Nature’s Best Hope Event Draws Crowd

Thank you --- Elm Grove!

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

On March 12, 2025 the Elm Grove Woman’s Club was PACKED with over 200 guests who came together for the Nature’s Best Hope event with \$1078 raised for Wauwatosa’s Friends of Monarch Trail organization. **Neil Diboll**, Prairie Nursery president, and **Michael Yanny**, Johnson Nursery plant propagator, discussed **Doug Tallamy’s** 2019 bestseller *Nature’s Best Hope*. The event was moderated by **Bridget Fogarty**, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* west suburbs reporter. Audience questions were answered and original Yanny poetry was read!

With sixteen vendors and numerous door prizes, all guests learned an abundance about how their actions, particularly in their home landscaping, can directly benefit our local ecosystem. There were books for sale, yard signs given away, plant sales promoted, handouts shared, and friendships forged.

The event was a collaboration between the Elm Grove Women’s Club, the Elm Grove Junior Guild, Friends of the Elm Grove Library, *The Elm Grove News-Independent*, the Elm Grove Green Team, and the Elm Grove Beautification Committee. With the theme of the event being “connections”, the night successfully brought together people, groups, and ideas.

The Friends of the Wauwatosa Monarch Trail group diligently works to maintain an important monarch butterfly migration locale and stopover just one mile (as the monarch flies!) from Elm Grove. Consider partaking in upcoming Monarch Trail events ([www.themonarchtrail.org](http://www.themonarchtrail.org))!

July 12th—Prairie Walk with Butterfly Barb  
August 23rd—Migration Celebration  
October 11th—Pod Palooza

## Elmbrook Senior Taxi, New Berlin Senior Taxi Announce Merger

(BROOKFIELD) – The Elmbrook Senior Taxi and the New Berlin Senior Taxi on April 1, 2025 combined resources and merged into the Elmbrook New Berlin Senior Taxi, and a new logo and door sign will appear soon on the vehicles.

“Our new company will remain a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation and provide the same Safe ... Reliable ... On Time transportation that customers have come to

expect. We want to make this transition as easy as possible --- so, we will continue to operate our transportation services without any changes,” said Elmbrook Senior Taxi President **Marj Kozlowski**, and New Berlin Senior Taxi Executive Director **Dianne Wickstrom** in a letter to customers.

To schedule rides or make inquiries, call (262) 785-1200 (Brookfield) or (262) 814-1611 (New Berlin).

# Old(er) Writers

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

## A Powerful Mammal

By Gary Kerslake

Feared in the water  
by man and beast alike.  
Not typically a stalker,  
but will accept a fight.

Their name means river horse  
and are highly territorial.  
They can become a force  
and are almost prehistorical.

When confronted by an enemy  
They often fight as a team.  
With true power and tenacity  
other rivals have not seen.



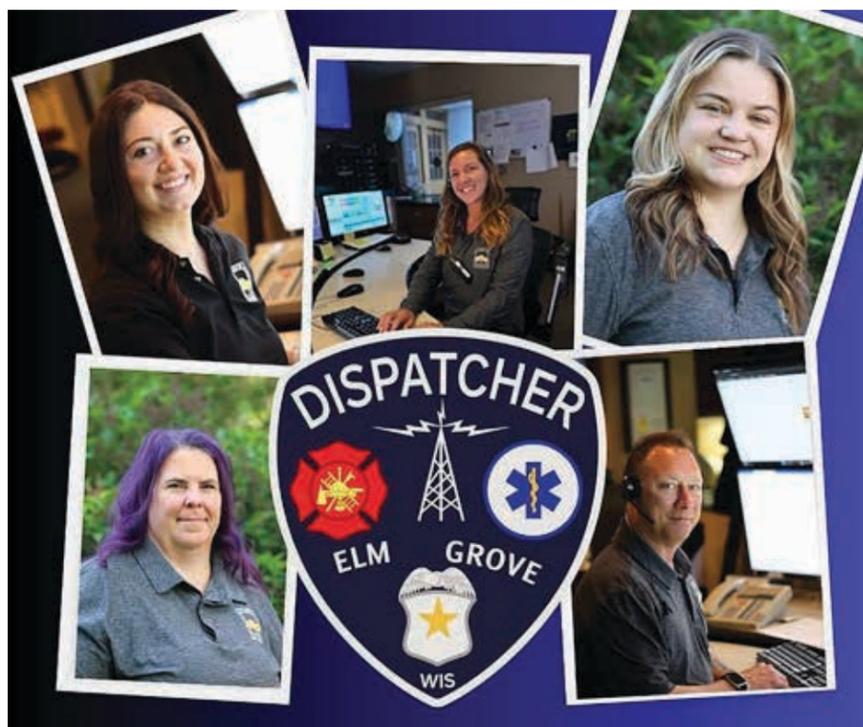
## In Memoriam

Honor the Life  
of a beloved  
family member or friend.

To place an Obituary Notice in this newspaper,  
e-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)  
or call: (262) 782-6193  
for Rate information.



# News Briefs



## Elm Grove Citizen Police Alumni Association

### Honors Dispatchers and Officers

Telecommunicator Week: April 13–19, 2025

During the week of April 13–19, the Elm Grove Citizen Police Alumni Association (CPAA) celebrated our dedicated public safety telecommunicators. These calm, compassionate voices are always ready to respond—whether it’s a fire, a medical emergency, a turkey breaking through a patio door, or a call for help in the middle of the night. These *first* first responders are the unspoken heroes on the headsets—gathering critical information, dispatching help, and providing life-saving instructions in mere moments.

To show appreciation, CPAA partnered with local organizations to treat Elm Grove’s six dispatchers throughout the week. The celebration began with the CPAA donating a replacement microwave for the office. Each dispatcher also received a potted flower to kick off the week.

Other community contributions included:

- Monday: Donuts and coffee from the Elm Grove Junior Guild
- Wednesday: Lunch and dinner from Glass Nickel Pizza courtesy of the Elm Grove Community Foundation
- CPAA Midweek Meal: Subs and chips from The Chocolate Factory
- Thursday: A giant cookie and cupcakes from Pilgrim Park PTO
- Friday: Spring treat baskets from the Elm Grove Woman’s Club

Thank you to our Elm Grove dispatchers and all the community groups that helped make the week meaningful.

### Police Week: May 11–17, 2025

Police Week was observed in honor of law enforcement personnel across the nation. National Peace Officers Memorial Day, held on May 15, commemorates officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The entire week recognizes the bravery, sacrifice, and commitment of law enforcement professionals. To celebrate Elm Grove’s 19 officers, CPAA once again coordinated with local organizations to provide meals, snacks, and tokens of appreciation.

Highlights included:

- Sunday: CPAA-provided grab-and-go snacks
- Monday: Donuts and coffee from the Elm Grove Junior Guild
- Tuesday: Delivery of energy drinks, donated by Beer Capitol Distributing
- Wednesday: Lunch and dinner pizza delivered by the Elm Grove Community Foundation
- Thursday: Giant cookie, ice cream, and cake from PPMS PTO and Culvers dropped off value basket and ice cream coupons
- Friday: Individual patrol car gift boxes and homemade baked goods from the Elm Grove Woman’s Club

The week concluded with CPAA gifting each officer a Chick-fil-A gift card, ensuring every shift enjoyed a well-deserved meal.



Photo courtesy: Brookfield Academy

Brookfield Academy’s Math Team took first place in Wisconsin in the Purple Comet contest. The team consisted of (Left to right): **Helen Knox, Emily O’Quinn, Ishani Joshi, Victoria Zheng, Iilina Joshi, and Ritisha Mathur.**



Photo courtesy: Brookfield Academy

Brookfield Academy seniors **Sanjit Madireddi** (at left) and **Alexis Wilson** were awarded \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship programs are recognized among the highest honors attainable by high school students. Only 8,000 awards are granted each year.

### Elm Grove Citizen Police Academy

The 25th Elm Grove Citizen Police Academy (EGCPA) class began on April 9, 2025. Each spring, up to 18 participants—who either live or work in Elm Grove—meet for 10 Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., primarily at the Elm Grove Police Department (EGPD).

The goals of the Academy are to:

- Increase awareness of a police officer’s responsibilities
- Improve communication between police and citizens
- Educate residents about department operations
- Provide a forum for public feedback and discussion

Participants gain hands-on experience, including:

- A ride-along with a police officer
- Observation of the Elm Grove communication/dispatch center
- MILO simulation training at Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC)
- A Saturday session at the gun range

### The 25th Annual Citizen Police Academy Graduation

A Ceremony, Silent Auction and Board Elections will be held at Western Racquet Club on Wednesday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m.. If you are interested in attending or sponsoring attendance of a Graduate or on-duty Elm Grove Officer with a donation to the CPAA please contact (262) 385-2129. For more information about Citizen Police Academy enrollment for the 2026 class visit the Village website: <https://elmgrovewi.org/206/Citizen-Police->

## MR. HUGH’S HISTORY by Drew Sternitzky [asternitzky@wi.rr.com](mailto:asternitzky@wi.rr.com)



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Each year, Brookfield Academy welcomes more than a dozen international students into our school community. For more than two decades, these students have enriched our campus with diverse cultures and global perspectives, becoming an active and valued part of student life.

A key part of their experience is living with a local host family. As a host, you will provide more than just a place to stay – you will share meaningful traditions, create lasting memories, and help shape a student’s journey.

In return, you will receive a generous stipend and the rewarding opportunity to make a lifelong impact on a young person’s life. The school has a network of host families who participate in activities on and off campus, and provide support throughout the year.

**Interested in learning more or hosting a student for the 2025–26 school year?**

VISIT [BROOKFIELDACADEMY.ORG/INTERNATIONAL-STUDENTS](http://BROOKFIELDACADEMY.ORG/INTERNATIONAL-STUDENTS)  
or contact Dr. Larry Pesch at [larry.pesch@brookfieldacademy.org](mailto:larry.pesch@brookfieldacademy.org)



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# FATHER'S DAY

WORD SEARCH

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