Elm Grove NEWS-INDEPENDENT

FREE

Vol. 16 No. 10 Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities June 2026

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

Photos by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / *The News-Independent*

(Above) Demonstrators gather along the 13200 block of Watertown Plank Road.
(At Left) Activist LuAnn Bird, (blue shirt) founder of Birds on a Wire, speaks to the crowd.

A Candidate's Fundraiser; A Local Protest

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

U.S. Congressman Tom Tiffany (Republican – 7th District)**,** a Wisconsin Gubernatorial candidate**,** came to our downtown area on the afternoon of Monday, May 18, arriving along with former Wisconsin Governors **Tommy Thompson and Scott Walker** to greet supporters at a campaign fundraiser taking place inside a village business.

Outside the venue, more than 100 demonstrators from communities, including Elm Grove, Brookfield, Waukesha, Milwaukee and surrounding areas, assembled to express their opposition to Tiffany's stance and votes on national health care and other prominent issues.

Standing side-by-side on both sides of Watertown Plank Road, they displayed signs and banners, listened to speakers, acknowledged occasional 'beeps' of solidarity from passing motorists, and could often be heard repeating the chant: "What do we do when our rights / freedoms are under attack? Stand up! Fight Back!"

COME ONE...COME ALL

TONAWANDA CARNIVAL

TIGER SUMMER SENDOFF

and

COMMUNITY FUN FAIR

Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Elm Grove Village Park
4:00 - 8:30pm

RIDES, GAMES, FOOD
PONY RIDES, PETTING ZOO,
BALLOON ART, FACE PAINT,
COMMUNITY PARTNERS.

Kick off your summer at the first ever Tonawanda Carnival and Community Fun Fest! Everyone is Welcome!

The Tonawanda PTO is excited to welcome all Tonawanda families, surrounding schools, neighbors, and friends to join us for carnival games, rides, treats, and activities–a food truck will be serving traditional carnival favorites and the Elm Grove Beer Garden will be open for business, too!

From the swinging ship and giant slide, to the bake walk and a dunk tank, from balloon art and face painting, to pony rides and a petting zoo, and all the nostalgic carnival fun in between, lifetime memories are sure to be made. Pre-order your activity tickets today by scanning the QR code.

Are you a local business owner or part of a community group that's looking to reach a bigger audience? We are still seeking partners to sponsor activities and for volunteers to make the event a huge success.

Please reach out to tonawandapto@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering or for more information on sponsorship opportunities.

The News-Independent
is mailed by the 1st day of each month to every residence & business in Elm Grove.

Copies are also available at:

- **Elm Grove Village Hall**
- **Elm Grove Public Library**
- **Brookfield Public Library**
- **Elm Grove Post Office**
- **Sendik's**
- **Elliott's Ace Hardware**
- **The Chocolate Factory**
- **Sunset Playhouse**
- **Table in front of Fazio's**
- **Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove**

+ at other area businesses, clubs, organizations, schools & churches

ADVERTISE!

Request a Rate Sheet & Reserve Space

Email: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
OR
Call: 262-782-6193

Photo courtesy: Ray Shannon

Vehicles like the one above can be viewed at this year's Cruisin' The Spur.

Cruisin' The Spur to Feature Vintage, Classic Vehicles on Display this Summer and Fall

(ELM GROVE) – The Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, will again be hosting a series of FREE and informal vintage and classic car, truck and cycle shows this year.

These events will take place in the parking lot behind The SPUR and will go from 5 p.m. until dark on the following **Mondays: June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, and October 12.** As always, there will be plenty of hot food, cold drinks and cool music. So, put that special vehicle of yours on display or just show up as a spectator and enjoy the sights and sounds.

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"I Know Where You Live!"

Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

We THANK all of our ADVERTISERS & these Friends of *The News*

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for helping to **Sponsor** this edition.

If YOU appreciate the local news, features, and information that *The News-Independent* provides… please complete and submit the "Friends" form on PAGE 11.

Elm Grove Woman Celebrates 100th Birthday

Born in San Antonio, Texas, **Nancy Niemi Groskopf** is turning 100 years old on June 8, 2026.

Her close-knit family with 7 children, 2 brothers and 5 sisters, migrated north to Chicago when she was a child. Nancy attended a Catholic boarding school in southern Illinois where she excelled in school. Upon graduation, she worked as a secretary in the city, where she met and married her husband **Hugo Oliver Niemi**. They settled in the southern suburb of Olympia Fields, Illinois. As a young mother, she stayed active in her community by acting with the Homewood Players in Homewood; she was a charter member of the Olympia Fields Woman's Club; and she learned to golf. Nancy, Hugo, and their 3 children moved to Elm Grove in 1967.

Nancy's official portrait as Elm Grove Woman's Club President, 1979-1980

Her eldest daughter, **Barbara Burbach**, built a successful family law firm, Burbach and Stansbury. Her son, **Kent** lives down the road from her and has a successful career in sales. He is best known, however, for playing lead guitar with the Elmbrook Spyders and in his current band, the Vintage Groove, where his sons, **Bo and Wyatt Niemi,** play bass guitar, fiddle and keyboards. Her daughter, **Jackie**, made her career in media sales and most recently retired from Wintrust.

Nancy's community involvement continued after moving to Elm Grove. She is an avid gardener, serving as President of the Elm Grove Garden Club for 2 terms. In 1971, her leadership was instrumental in working with the committee to designate Elm Grove as a Bird Sanctuary. At the same time, she served on the board of the Sunset Playhouse in the early years when she and members of the Garden Club planted trees and helped landscape the area around the Playhouse. She also served on Elm Grove's 1976 Bicentennial Committee and served as President of the Elm Grove Woman's Club from 1979-1980.

Hugo, passed away in 1969. Later in life she found happiness with **Alvin Groskopf** of Elm Grove. After their marriage, they lived in Oconomowoc on Lake LaBelle. While there Nancy served as President of the Oconomowoc Women's Club.

Jackie says that her mother is "the Hostess with the Mostest", adding: "One of her neighbors once referred to her as the Perle Mesta of Elm Grove. She loves to entertain and welcomes friends and neighbors into her home on a regular basis. She is to this day hosting an annual Christmas party for her neighbors at The Elms where she forgoes a caterer and prepares all the food and hors d'oeuvres herself."

Perhaps her greatest pride and joy are her 6 grandchildren **Erika, Andrea, Bo, Molly, Wyatt** and **T.J.** and her great-grandchild, **Nico**. They all love and adore their "Motts" and she continues to be an inspiration and role model to all who know her.

Photos by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / *The News-Independent*

Elm Grove Police Officer **Alexa Billstrom** poses with her 13-year-old, 400-pound, small horse, **Sawdust**, during an event in May 2026 at the Village Hall Courtroom. The public gathering, held to mark Mental Health Month, featured a presentation by Compass Health Center representatives, along with the opportunity for visitors to see and pet the very cooperative animal. Alexa and 'Sawdust the Therapy Horse', who she has owned for the last 10 years, travel together to schools, parades and other area venues throughout the year.

THIS SUMMER, RIDE WITH
ELMBROOK NEW BERLIN SENIOR TAXI

Summertime, and the livin' is easy, when you ride with Elmbrook New Berlin Senior Taxi (ENBST). Wherever life takes you, we'll take you there if you, or your loved one, is a senior or adult with disabilities. ENBST delivers safe, dependable, affordable rides to customers headed to the eastern half of Waukesha County.

We set a ridership record last year, tallying 21,930 rides to seniors and disabled adults living in Brookfield, Elm Grove, Butler and New Berlin. ENBST also renewed its contract with Waukesha County to provide subsidized transportation services via the Shared-Fare Discount Card. The icing on the cake? Rides to County Meal Sites are only $2.00 each way with the Card! **Call the County ADRC at (262) 548-7848 for your Card.**

So, if you need to get to a medical or dental appointment, or to an area hospital or clinic, we've got you covered. Same goes if you need reliable transportation to work, job training, the grocery store, hair salon or an outing with family or friends. And we're always looking to hire good drivers. **Questions? Call our Brookfield office at (262) 785-1200.**

Look for us, too, at the Enjoy Life Active Aging Symposium - June 10, holiday parades, or at the Brookfield Farmers Market & More.
Savor summer with us at ENBST!

ELMBROOK NEW BERLIN SENIOR TAXI
EB–262-785-1200
NB–262-814-1611
Safe. Reliable. On Time.

Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President – jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org

June has finally arrived and the start of summer is less than three weeks away. With the longer days, warmer weather should follow, erasing the cold and windy days of May from our memory.

With the school year ending soon, please use extra care while driving through the Village. It is also a good time to reacquaint ourselves and our children with the Village's Vehicle Ordinance updated in 2025. The ordinance reinforces that pedestrians have the right of way. All e-scooters, bikes and other forms of transportation must yield to pedestrians. To socialize this update, various community education programs and outreach activities were completed and shared in the schools and various police events. The training includes etiquette to announce your intent to pass a pedestrian through ringing of a bell or other verbal means. The goal is to improve the safety of our existing and expanding pathway system for all residents to fully enjoy.

Memorial Day Parade

Special thanks to the **Elm Grove Junior Guild** for planning and leading the Memorial Day Parade. The Guild, along with the many volunteers who support this event, help contribute to the unique character of Elm Grove and proudly showcase our community spirit.

I would also like to recognize the **Elm Grove Men's Club** for sponsoring the extended music event on Watertown Plank Road immediately following the parade. Proceeds from the event benefited homeless veterans, making the celebration even more meaningful.

Many thanks to everyone involved for helping make the day such a success!

Public Works Update

Construction on the Highland Pathway is anticipated to begin June 8th, with substantial completion targeted for September 4, 2026. The project generally consists of constructing approximately 4,795 linear feet of six-foot-wide pedestrian pathway along Highland Drive, including associated storm sewer improvements, retaining wall installation, curb and gutter work, paving, grading, and restoration. The contractor completing the work is Parking Lot Maintenance ("PLM").

PLM will be responsible for coordinating driveway access directly with impacted residents and the importance of minimizing neighborhood disruption has been emphasized.

Staff will continue coordinating with KL Engineering, utility providers, and the contractor to ensure the project remains on schedule and to minimize impacts to residents throughout construction.

Recreation News

As a reminder, the Village Pool will open on June 12th. Isabella Naughton, is doing an excellent job hiring and coordinating all the various tasks to ready the facilities for a great 2026.

Elmbrook School Capital Investment Planning

Several Trustees and I participated in a walk-through of Tonawanda Elementary in May to better understand the planning related to a possible renovation and expansion of the facility. Key takeaways from this visit included:

*A deep and profound respect to all the educators and administration at the school. The success and achievements are amazing. Tonawanda is ranked #6 out of 1,075 elementary schools in Wisconsin!

*The innovation and creativity of staff to meet the increasing enrollment and facility needs of the students. Transitioning from an "open" design and adapt to improve the learning environment is outstanding. Built in the 1969, with very little use of walls to create classrooms, the staff has really worked hard to change with the times to create a positive learning environment.

*The school enrollment has expanded, requiring the re-imagination of learning spaces to support the students. One example of this was the partitioning of the IT server room to create a classroom. Current planning is to update the learning spaces to align with lessons learned in more recent facility expansions as a "best practice".

*Tonawanda is real asset to the community as is the entire Elmbrook school District. The success of the District, which ranks #1 out of 366 Districts in Wisconsin, supports the overall desirability of living in Elm Grove. The Elmbrook School Board will be reviewing community input throughout the summer. Please invest your time to learn more about the plans being considered and share your input and feedback with the School Board.

Other Business

The Board continues to seek a mutual agreement with Soo Line Railroad to acquire the needed land to begin the Daylighting Project. This is a very high priority, and the investment of time and talent is significant.

The Beer Garden is open on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hours do vary. Many events are planned to entertain residents in the Park. This includes Tunes on Tuesdays and Friday Flicks beginning in June. Please check the website for more detailed information. June is here! Please join me and enjoy all the activities happening in your Village!

Report from The Capitol

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13 *Serving Elm Grove & sections of Brookfield & Wauwatosa

Every week, I hear from families in Wauwatosa, Brookfield, and Elm Grove who are doing everything right — working hard, saving when they can, trying to build a future — and still feeling like they're falling behind.

The cost of groceries, housing, healthcare, and childcare keeps climbing, and too many of my neighbors are left wondering when relief is coming.

I remember what it was like when I could barely put food on the table at my house, when we lost our healthcare, when I wasn't sure how we'd afford housing, and when we could not afford enough childcare – those memories have instilled in me a tenacity and grit that I carry with me to Madison.

According to polling, 96% of Wisconsin voters are very or somewhat concerned about inflation, and that is consistent with what I am hearing from my constituents. What's happening right now transcends party lines; the affordability crisis is affecting everyone. I'm concerned that parents are on the verge of losing childcare, families and individuals can't afford food, young people through seniors are scared they can't afford housing, it seems almost nobody can afford their healthcare, and gas prices are making it hard to get to work, and visit family.

While the issue isn't partisan in people's homes, solutions are being blocked by the majority party at the state Capitol. This can't happen–too much is on the line. We need solutions, we need legislators to reach across the aisle, and we need to see swift action.

Wisconsinites deserve affordable housing, and while we've passed some bipartisan bills to begin addressing the crisis, it's not enough. The average home price in Wisconsin has now reached approximately $330,000 — up 6.5% from last year — and the average age of a first-time homebuyer is 40 years-old. That's not the Wisconsin dream. That's the Wisconsin nightmare for young people trying to put down roots in the communities where they grew up.

Here's something that often gets left out of the housing conversation: the relationship between rising housing costs and school funding. 96 of 99 Assembly Districts have seen referendums on their ballot since 2024, driving up property taxes and, in turn, the cost of already unaffordable housing. We cannot keep asking voters to raise their own property taxes to fund our schools. We have to address the root cause. Properly funding our public schools isn't just an education issue, *it's an affordability issue.*

And it doesn't stop there. I've worked to expand access to affordable prescription drugs, including introducing legislation to ensure that families who need epinephrine can afford it. For too many families, financial burden is the greatest challenge they face in trying to fulfill their dreams — whether that means staying healthy, raising children, or just keeping a roof over their heads. That's why I've also backed legislation to remove economic barriers to childcare and family healthcare, because affordability has to be addressed across the board, not just in one area at a time.

And what happens with disaster strikes? Last August families in our area faced devastating floods, causing damage to homes, and costing families at a time they were already spread too thin financially. In times like this, we need help. We need legislators to step in with solutions there, too. I cannot control the weather, but I can author policy. And I co-authored a bipartisan bill this session to help Wisconsinites and small businesses recover in times of devastating times, like the August floods. The Wisconsin State Emergency Relief (WISER) Act establishes a state-funded emergency grant program to help families in their time of need. *We can still pass this bill, and we should.*

Legislative Democrats have a real plan to address housing, childcare, healthcare, and energy costs — the four areas where families feel squeezed most. Prices continue to rise, the costs of finding and keeping a home are going up, property taxes and insurance premiums are growing, and workers need more flexibility to balance their responsibilities at home and on the job. Wisconsin Democrats are ready to tackle these challenges head-on.

I came to Madison to fight for families as if they're my own, and I'm not giving up. The legislative session has concluded, but the fight continues — in committee, on the floor, and in every community conversation where someone tells me they're just barely getting by. Wisconsin families deserve better. And *I will continue to fight for what we deserve.*

Forward together, Robyn Vining

Note about the Rule of 49

Beginning June 1st, and through the November election, state legislators are prohibited from sending more than 49 identical items, so this means that we may not use state resources for items like op-eds, e-updates, newspaper columns that are printed more than 50 times, etc. So, this column, and any columns written between now and November, will be written without the use of state resources.

Business Directory

*** Insurance**

Woller-Anger, a Relation Company
930 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122
(262) 789-2500
"Relation***ships*** Matter"

*** Community Theatre**

Sunset Playhouse, Inc.
700 Wall St., Elm Grove
(262) 782-4430
SunsetPlayhouse.com
"Entertainment Begins at Sunset!"

*** Real Estate**

m3 realty
890 Elm Grove Rd. #107
(262) 787-8995
info@m3realty.com
Local, Family-Owned
Real Estate Boutique

Clubs & Organizations Directory

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

Classifieds

Free Help Wanted
to stand up for our constitutional rights and rule of law.
Visit WaukeshaResist.org to get involved.

Directories & Classifieds
Listings are **$25 per issue (for up to 20 words)**
+ 50 cents for each additional word.
+ $25 extra per photo or logo.

Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*

Photo from the collection of Tom Ramstack

The Charles Reusch family pose in front of The Elm Grove Hotel, along Watertown Plank Road in the mid-1800s.

Images from Our Early Days

By Tom Ramstack

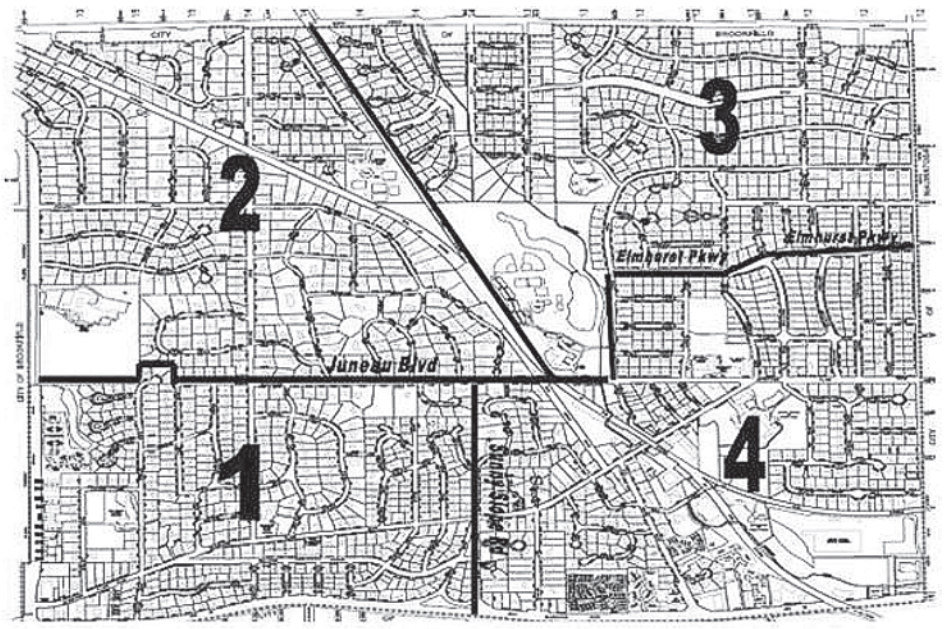
If you have enjoyed a delicious meal at the "Silver Spur" in the village of Elm Grove recently, you might recognize this photograph. In earlier days, the inn was owned by **Charles Reusch**, who brought his family from Prussia to Brookfield Township in the early 1850s and built "The Elm Grove Hotel" in 1855, making it the oldest commercial building still standing in the village. Looking at the photograph, you will see, posed, the Charles Reusch family along with 2 harness makers working out if their shop at the east wing of the hotel. So, don't be surprised if you get a slight whiff of leather the next time you dine at the Silver Spur, it may simply be the lingering spirits of two harness makers, hard at work, practicing their trade.

Tom Ramstack, an area historian and author, is the descendant of early settlers of Elm Grove.

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 1) * Area 2 (June 8) * Area 3 (June 15) * Area 4 (June 22)**

Please refer to the map below to determine your area number.
Visit: www.elmgrovewi.org or call (262) 782-6700 for more information.



Elm Grove
Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste Facility

900 Wall St.
(off Elm Grove Road, between Watertown Plank & Bluemound Road)

===== OPEN =====

JUNE 1 – October 14, 2026
Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. *Closed July 4

***NOTE: The facility is for Village residents only; no contractors, contractor equipment, or contractor vehicles are permitted.**
Please bring your driver's license showing your current Elm Grove address.

*** Metal items are now accepted for recycling. They cannot contain any flammable liquids, freon, or pressurized tanks.**

Contact Village Hall at (262) 782-6700 for more information / questions.

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 53122-2423**

Friends --- By Gary Kerslake

Nivea
She reminds me of a rose.
She brightens my day with her pose.
She is friendly and bright,
and such a beautiful sight.

Nicole
She's a free spirit and very bright.
Being around her is such a delight.
She has many talents which show,
as well as a very real glow.

Wisconsin Nice --- By Dean B. Kaner

I went to the store to buy evaporated milk, but by the time I got home it was gone.
Hummingbirds hum because they can't remember the words.

Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove
13425 Watertown Plank Road in the Elm Grove Park & Shop
(262) 784-4241

VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

53 one 22
Elm Grove **Community** Foundation
www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Elm Grove Oktoberfest Celebrates 10 Years!!!

Elm Grove Oktoberfest is raising a stein to celebrate its tenth anniversary with an expanded three-day event from Thursday, Sept. 17 to Saturday, Sept. 19 at Elm Grove Park. This milestone year introduces exciting new **Thursday night kickoff events** alongside returning favorites and the community spirit attendees love.

Highlights include a Thursday Bags Tournament presented by First and Bowl with a grand prize of tickets to a Green Bay Packers game. Trivia Night, hosted by *Jeopardy!* champion Michael Falk, offers teams a fun, competitive evening with prizes.

On Saturday, the popular 0.5K Fun Run returns with a race shirt, pre-race celebration, midpoint refreshment, and post-race party included with registration.

For a decade, Oktoberfest has brought the community together with great beer, live music, and delicious food. This year promises the biggest celebration yet. Register now for the Bags Tournament (teams of 2) and reserve your table (up to 6) for Trivia Night using this QR code.

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 17, 18, & 19, 2026

Calendar of Events – June 2026

Friday – JUNE 5
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
  Board Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center.
  kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – JUNE 7
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**
  Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Volunteers welcome.
  Contact: beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Monday – JUNE 8
- **Cruisin' The Spur**
  Classic and Vintage car, truck and cycle Show – 5 p.m. until dark.
  (See story – Front Page)

Wednesday – JUNE 10
- **Birders of The Grove** – "Songbird Stroll"
  Meet at 9 a.m. in front of the Elm Grove Public Library for a guided walk around the Village Park pond. Open to the public.
- **Tonawanda Carnival** at Village Park
  4 to 8:30 p.m. (See details – Front Page)

Friday – JUNE 12
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
  Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center. Speaker: **Mark Hansen**;
  Topic: "Elmbrook Education".
  kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
- **Friday Flicks** at 8:30 p.m. – Village Park
  View the film **"Lilo and Stitch"**.
  FREE. All welcome.

Sunday – JUNE 14
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**
  Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Volunteers welcome.
  Contact: beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Tuesday – JUNE 16
- **Tunes on Tuesday" – 6:30 p.m.**
  at Elm Grove Village Park, near the pool, featuring the band **Bear With.**
  FREE. All welcome.

Friday – JUNE 19
JUNETEENTH DAY
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
  Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center. Speaker: **Alan Werth**;
  Topic: "A Worthy Cause".
  kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – JUNE 20
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

Sunday – JUNE 21
FATHER'S DAY
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**
  Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Volunteers welcome.
  Contact: beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Tuesday – JUNE 23
- **Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
  Meeting: 7 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom.
  Open to the Public.
  Agenda & Live Stream at www.elmgrovewi.org (262) 782-6700

Friday – JUNE 26
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
  Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center. Speaker: **Craig Luther**;
  Topic: The Revolutionary War".
  kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
- **Friday Flicks** at 8:30 p.m. – Village Park
  View the film **"The Incredibles"**.
  FREE. All welcome.

Sunday – JUNE 28
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**
  Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Volunteers welcome.
  Contact: beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Tuesday – JUNE 30
- **Tunes on Tuesday" – 6:30 p.m.**
  at Elm Grove Village Park, near the pool, featuring the band **After Hours.**
  FREE. All welcome.

Photo by Ann Briscoe

"While walking in Elm Grove Park, I was fortunate to see an astonishing sight fly over the lake! I couldn't believe my eyes but it was a huge bald eagle! Wanted to share, so others may enjoy being on the lookout!"

OWLS
OLDER/WISER/LIVELIER/SENIORS

Bus Trip "UWM Treasurers"
Thursday, July 16, 2026
Community United Methodist Church

Energetic tour with 3 blocks of walking between each campus location to:
American Geographical Society Collection at the UWM library
With a curated tour

Boxed lunch at the UWM Student Union
UWM Planetarium program
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Return: 3:30 p.m.

Cost: Members $58.00, Guests: $63.00

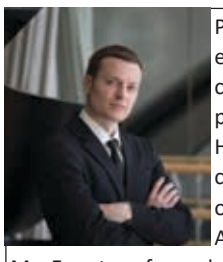
Reservation Deadline: Monday, July 6th

Forms available at the church office
14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove
Or www.cumceg@org

The concert features the church's digitally enhanced Casavant pipe organ and classic Steinway piano played by Mr. Richard C. Ewert, organist at Elm Grove Lutheran Church and Dr. Aaron Wunsch, Professor of Keyboard Studies at the Juilliard School in New York City. Musical selections include a rare live performance of the Concerto for Organ and Piano (Op. 74) by Flor Peeters as well as George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Charles Ives' "Variations on 'America'" in celebration of the 250th birthday celebration July 4th.

Admission is free and open to the public. Ample parking is available. A reception will be held afterward in the Fellowship Hall in honor of the artists.

Richard Ewert is the Director of Church Music at Elm Grove Lutheran and a leader in the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. His skills in organ performance and hymn accompaniment are recognized in the US and abroad. He holds a bachelor's degree in organ performance from Carroll University and a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University Wisconsin.



Pianist **Aaron Wunsch** enjoys a multifaceted career as a performer, presenter, and educator. He has performed on concert stages throughout the US, Europe and Asia. At church he heard Mr. Ewert perform classic organ literature and stirring hymn accompaniments. Aaron studied at the Milwaukee Conservatory, Yale University (B.A.), the Mozarteum in Salzburg (Fulbright Fellowship), and The Juilliard School (Ph.D.).

Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church · 945 Terrace Drive · Elm Grove WI · (262) 797-2970 · egl.org

A Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary

Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum
1075 Pilgrim Parkway, Brookfield, WI

SATURDAY JUNE 20 | Complimentary Shuttle Bus & Parking at nearby Pilgrim Park Middle School | 10:00AM to 3:00PM

FREE Admission and fun for all ages!

- Opening Ceremony & Color Guard Procession at 10:30am Followed by the Dedication of a Liberty Tree & Anniversary Plaque
- Games, crafts & giveaways for children including handmade fifes, colonial coloring books & flags
- Historic Gun & Flag Displays
- Reenactors such as George and Martha Washington, the Baker General and Descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots dressed in period costumes
- "Selfie" Photo Area • Food Available for Purchase • Self-guided Museum Tours

DAR Daughters of the American Revolution Mary Warrell Knight Chapter
ELMBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum
SAR MK Chapter

News Briefs

Local High School Artists Honored at 56th Annual Elm Grove Woman's Club Competition

By Sharie Sinson
EGWC, 2025-2026 Art Scholarship Chair

On Saturday, May 9, the Elm Grove Woman's Club hosted its Annual Art Scholarship Competition, featuring the work of 21 local high school artists. The event drew 120 family members, friends, and club members to view the student exhibition.

The gallery displayed a variety of student artwork, including pottery sculpture, mixed media, oil pastel, drypoint etching, charcoal drawings, printmaking, and fashion.

Before the event opened to attendees, a panel of three judges evaluated the submissions to determine the scholarship and grant recipients. This year's panel included Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) admissions counselors **Natasha Bivins and Keelin McMurtagh**, along with Elm Grove artist **Krista Allenstein**.

In addition to selecting the award winners, the judges provided educational feedback to the students. Each of the 21 participants received three professional critiques of their artwork to help guide their continued development.

The Elm Grove Woman's Club looks forward to continuing its long-standing tradition of supporting student artists in the community.

Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Woman's Club

Omotola Oladeji, Brookfield Academy, received the $2,000 Senior Scholarship for her sculpture, Smile, and drawing, As & Ps.

Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Woman's Club

Claire Spaeth, an 11th grader at Brookfield Academy, earned the $500 Art Grant for her sculpture, A Bitter Taste, and print, Looking for a New View.

Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Woman's Club

George Fadeski, a 10th grader at Brookfield East, won the $300 People's Choice Award for his painting, Inner Self.

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News Briefs

St. Mary's Visitation Quiz Bowl Team members (Left to right) **Will Parsons, Will Swietlik, Paul Lewis, Jude Alexander** (captain)**, Lex Ludka, Jane Driscoll,** and **Declan McManus.**

SMV Team Participates in Academic Quiz Bowl

"With its strong finish at Gladiator Fall Tournament 2025, the quiz bowl team from St. Mary's Visitation Catholic School (SMV) in Elm Grove, (the only Wisconsin team competing this year) proved themselves worthy to play on a national stage. On May 8-10, the team represented their school in a 192-team national competition: National Academic Quiz Tournaments' Middle School National Championship Tournament --- held in the Chicago area --- featuring teams from 30 states," said event spokesperson **Dean Kidder**.

The team was coached by SMV teacher **Michael Falk,** along with **Mary Grace Smrz,** and **Maggie Lewis.**

Falk, whose own quiz competition experience includes being the 2006 Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions winner, noted: "Quiz bowl is an academic game for two teams of 4 players. The students buzz in to answer questions about history, literature, geography, science, math, fine arts, pop culture, and current events. St. Mary's Visitation has been competing in quiz bowl since 2010, and this year marked our 7th appearance at the Middle School National Championship Tournament. SMV's team includes over 30 students in grades 6-8, but the team that qualified for MSNCT comprised six 8th graders and one 7th grader.

Our team had a 3-5 record in the tournament, so we missed making the playoffs. We officially finished 129th out of 192 teams. We played against teams from California, Texas, Ohio, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. One of our players, **Paul Lewis**, averaged 59 points per game, which made him the 46th leading scorer out of 958 students at the tournament. He was one of eight students to win a Rising Star award for high scores among 7th grade and younger players," Falk added.

Brookfield Academy Holds Class of 2026 Graduation

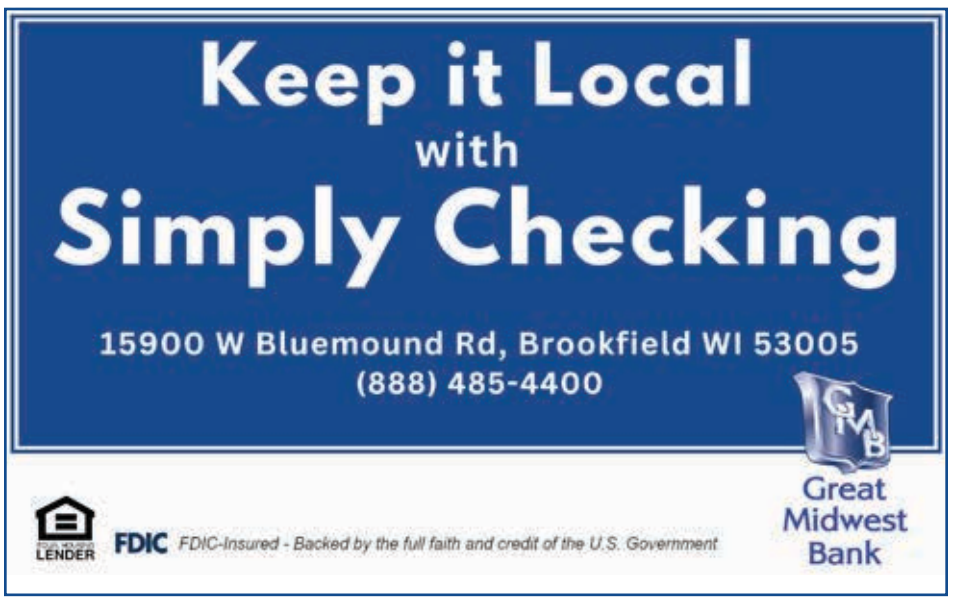
(BROOKFIELD, WI) – Brookfield Academy is proud to announce that 83 students received diplomas in a ceremony on the Fields of Freedom at 2 pm, in the company of family, friends, faculty members, administrators and board members.

Valedictorian was **Annika Thiel** of Menomonee Falls and Salutatorian was **Zoe Johnson** of Pewaukee.

Notable Class of 2026 accomplishments and honors include:

- Students received more than 540 college acceptances from 194 unique institutions in the United States and abroad.
- Students received more than $24 million in college scholarships and grant offers.
- The Class included one National Merit Scholarship recipient, seven National Merit Finalists and four Commended Scholars.
- Two students earned perfect scores on the ACT, 16 were Cum Laude Society Members, and several received top placements in National French, German, and Latin exams.
- Several members of the class won State, Regional and National awards in Art, Writing, and Music.
- There were several individual all-conference and all-state athletic award winners.
- Seven seniors are committed to play collegiate sports.

Thirty-four members of the graduating class are "BA Lifers," having attended the Academy since Primary School and Lower School.



Library News and Programs

June 2026

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

Supernatural Lake Superior / Tuesday, June 2, 6:30 p.m.
One Great Lake--Many Great Mysteries.

Beyond the rugged beauty and picturesque shoreline of Lake Superior lurk strange and bizarre legends. From countless ghostly ships, tales of mermaids, and UFOs, to sea serpents, cursed locations, and wandering ghosts, you will soon discover that Lake Superior is filled with much more than watery graves. Presented by author and paranormal researcher Chad Lewis. Free to attend. No registration required.

Unearth a Story: Elm Grove Library Youth Summer Program / Monday, June 8 – Saturday, August 8
Join us this summer for Unearth a Story, our exciting youth reading program running from June 8 through August 8! Kids of all ages can dig into great books, attend special storytimes, enjoy live musical performances and magic shows, and earn coupons, prizes, and other fun rewards just for reading and participating. Discover new adventures, uncover hidden treasures in stories, and make this a summer full of imagination and discovery at the library!

The Wisconsin Supper Clubs Story / Tuesday, June 23, 6:30 p.m.
Step back in time and discover one of Wisconsin's most beloved traditions with "The Wisconsin Supper Clubs Story" featuring acclaimed author and filmmaker Ron Faiola. Through vintage photographs, fascinating stories, and rich local history, Faiola explores the origins and enduring charm of the iconic Wisconsin supper club—from relish trays and Old Fashioneds to family traditions and unforgettable dining experiences. This entertaining and nostalgic program celebrates the people, places, and culture that make supper clubs a treasured part of Wisconsin heritage. Free to attend. No registration required.

Maximize Your Medicare Benefits! / Tuesday, June 30, 1:30 p.m.

Learn more about your Medicare options! This presentation will provide an overview of Medicare Parts A, B, C and D as well as supplemental insurance and an explanation of how they all fit together. The program will also include information about Medicare's upcoming annual open enrollment period (October 15 – December 7) and an explanation of how to use and understand the plan comparison tool on Medicare's website. Important information will be shared about special programs for Medicare beneficiaries with limited income that may help them pay their Medicare costs (Medicare Savings Plans) and also help pay for their Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage ("Extra Help"). Registration is not required but is appreciated. Register at elmgrovelibrary.org.

News' Hounds

& other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Diva

Oh, you've been waiting for me, haven't you? I'm **Diva**, and I bring a little drama, a lot of charm, and a voice that absolutely must be heard. I'll happily keep you updated on my thoughts all day long. I enjoy the finer things like cozy lounging spots, tasty treats, and an audience that appreciates me. When it is time to shine, I take my role seriously. My toy mice are my prized catches, and I will carry them around in my mouth, meowing until you properly acknowledge my impressive hunting skills, as you should. I prefer to be the star of the show without any other cats sharing my spotlight, so I am looking for a home where I can be your one and only. If you are ready for a playful, chatty cat with a big presence and a flair for attention, I am ready to move in and steal the show.

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

News Briefs

It's "For the Birds"

By Tyler Beckley

The 2026 Great Wisconsin Birdathon runs from April 15 to June 15 as a statewide bird conservation fundraiser. Participants record bird species sightings to raise money for habitat protection and environmental education. Locally, the "Birders of the Grove" in Elm Grove support participation and encourage public donations.

The Birdathon is organized by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and is Wisconsin's largest bird conservation fundraiser.

Across Wisconsin, birders have helped fund habitat protection, species monitoring, and education initiatives that benefit bird populations throughout their life cycles. Since its launch in 2012, the Birdathon has raised over $1.2 million, with this year's goal set at $130,000.

The Elm Grove team has already recorded 62 bird species this season, contributing to a statewide effort. Wisconsin typically documents about 300 species each year through migration and seasonal residency.

As part of their outreach, the team will host a "Songbird Stroll" on June 10 at 9:00 a.m. The group will meet right outside the Elm Grove library for a guided walk around the village pond.

The funds that they raise throughout the Birdathon will also support a planned November 2026 birding festival in Elm Grove. This event will include educational programming and a scheduled appearance by the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center Raptor Program.

Organizers say the Birdathon remains open through June 15, encouraging residents to participate by donating, birding locally, or attending community events that support Wisconsin's broader conservation efforts.

You can pledge to our team by going to https://charity.pledgeit.org/WIBirdathon2026 and selecting our team "Birders of the Grove".

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Allison Urban, Wisconsin Teacher of the Year

(ELM GROVE) - The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) announced that **Allison Urban**, Special Education Teacher at Pilgrim Park Middle School (PPMS) in Elm Grove, has been named a 2026 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year.

"Allison exemplifies the very best of student-centered teaching," stated Principal **Kelly Szesterniak**. "Her compassion, expertise, and commitment to helping every learner feel valued and capable have made a lasting impact on students, families, and staff. This honor is a testament to her dedication and excellence in the field of special education."

A veteran Special Education Teacher with more than 16 years of experience, Urban currently serves 8th-grade students at Pilgrim Park Middle School.

Throughout her career, she has supported middle school students with diverse academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. She brings strong expertise in co-teaching, differentiated instruction, and the development of individualized supports that help students build independence and confidence.

The Teachers of the Year are selected from the 100 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellowship award honorees across Wisconsin who receive a $6,000 grant, with each recipient's school also receiving a matching $6,000 grant to support student learning and school initiatives.

Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Local gardeners shop for plants at Village event.

Annual Plant Sale Benefits Community

By Tyler Beckley

A record-setting crowd attended the Elm Grove Beautification Committee's annual native shrubs and plant sale on May 16. The event filled the lower level of the local library with residents searching for affordable native plants.

This was the first year that the event was moved indoors to the library's lower level. Long lines could be seen before the sale as residents waited eagerly for access to one of the area's most affordable sources for native plants.

In less than four hours, volunteers sold 2,688 native perennial plants and 750 bare-root shrubs. The turnout reflected growing local interest in native landscaping and conservation gardening.

All shrubs and plants sold at the event were sourced pesticide-free and selected specifically for their ecological benefits. Native plants play a critical role in supporting pollinators and wildlife, particularly monarch butterflies, whose populations have been dwindling in recent years.

The event also contributed to the community's Monarch Milkweed Map initiative. Ten new Elm Grove households committed to growing milkweed. Milkweed is essential for monarch butterflies to reproduce and raise their young. Those commitments brought the total number of Elm Grove properties growing at least one variety of native Wisconsin milkweed to 441, just 85 short of our 2026 goal to reach 20% of all properties in the village.

Beyond the environmental impact, the sale also brought residents together. Many connected through a shared interest in conservation and community beautification. Organizers noted that new friendships and partnerships formed throughout the day.

Proceeds from the sale will support the ongoing work of the Elm Grove Beautification Committee and its efforts to promote a healthier, more resilient community through native planting initiatives and environmental stewardship.

Big Band Music Returns to Brookfield Concert Series

(BROOKFIELD, WI) - Brookfield Congregational Church, 16350 Gebhardt Road, Brookfield, is proud to announce the return of Command Performance Big Band on Sunday, June 28, 2026 at 3:00 p.m., to present an exciting, family friendly concert of dynamic, inspiring music.

The concerts are open to anyone in the community, and are a great way to experience beautiful music, friendship, and fellowship close to home. Residents of southeastern Wisconsin are invited to participate in this wonderful music series to experience a variety of musical programming and repertoire in a welcoming environment. Command Performance Big Band returns as a result of positive feedback from numerous attendees at their concert last year. No ticket purchase is required for these concerts. A freewill offering will benefit the Gary McWithey Concert Series and its growth.

Young Writers & Reporters

Summer

By 3rd Grade Students at Tonawanda Elementary

Summer is a season that is hot HOT HOT!
You can put on sunscreen
If you get sunburnt it will hurt
you can do summer activities like going to
the POOL and the BEACH and the PARK
and you can go on vacation
There are summer sports like soccer,
baseball, tennis, football and softball.
You can get STRONG!

- Rylan Cainion

The sun is warm
On a fun day
It's a wonderful day
To bike
To eat ice cream
To scooter
To do anything
It's a wonderful world
To live in
It's fun
Just wonderful days
Won't it be fun on a
Wonderful day you could
Have a picnic or have a walk
The summer sun is beautiful
Won't it be a wonderful day

- Clara Magnor

Summer is the best
UR the reason why!
My favorite season
My favorite thing is to ride my bike and
Eat ice cream
Riding bikes is the best!

- Ada Yavas

Summer is really cool.
I get to splash in the pool.
Summer Summer
watch tv
We can even watch a movie.

- Seth Parkin

Swimming in the ocean
Running like a cheetah
Dancing the motions
Saying I beat you
That is the summer
It is not a bummer

- Emily Boales

School is out
Umbrellas away
Maybe going to the pool
Memories of past summers
Enjoy lemonade
Relax its summer

-Rose Trandem

Summer

By Madelyn Freund
Tonawanda – 4th Grade

School's out
Usually hot
Many Vacations
Most time is in the pool
Epic Experiences
Really fun

Recess

Dear Mrs. Olson,

I think we need a longer second recess. We would get more energy out. We would have more fun. When there is snow out, we could play more because it takes so long to get our snow gear on. Some people may say we would waste our learning time. I disagree. If we don't have a longer second recess, we will be louder in school. According to the internet, playing outside inspires creativity, builds confidence, and teaches responsibility. So, can we please have a longer recess?

Love,
Nadine Habayeb, 3rd grade – Tonawanda

MONTH OF JUNE

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Summer Solstice	Celebrations	Strawberries	Father's Day
Butterflies	Graduation	Gardening	Lawnmower
Celebrate	Fireflies	Balloons	Sunshine
Mosquito	Baseball	Weddings	Vacation
Lemonade	Ladybug	Fishing	Picnics
Flowers	Family	Hiking	Beach

Pilgrim Park Environmental Club

By Lilah Malloy

Have you ever walked through the Pilgrim Park Middle School Forest? It has beautiful winding paths and tall, old-growth trees. The Pilgrim Park Environmental Club has been trying to restore this DNR protected wetland by learning about native plants like Trillium and The Virginia Water Leaf, and taking out invasive species like Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn, and Phragmites. On most Friday afternoons, we are in the forest working to remove invasive species from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. --- even in the summer!

Our goal is to restore our forest to its full strength, so plants have the opportunity to grow, and animals can safely enjoy their habitats. Currently, we are focused on saving the monarch butterflies by spreading native flower seeds so their food can grow. In fact, 7th graders have learned about and spread thousands of native flower seeds to attract and feed the Monarch Butterflies. We will continue to remove invasive plants because they are harmful to native species.

If you would like to join our efforts, we always welcome volunteers who would be willing to help us in our forest, and we could use donations for our club to purchase needed supplies such as equipment and wildflower seeds. If you are interested, the QR code will take you to create an account for our donation page, and if you have any questions or wish to join us on a Friday, feel free to reach out through our school at 262-785-3920 to our club advisor, **Michelle Mallonen** (mallonem@elmbrookschools.org).0

Things to Do in Summer

By Xander Sontag, 4th Grade -Tonawanda Elementary School

Summer is rolling around again and you might struggle to think of what to do. So, I made a list of my 4 favorite summer activities.

- Number 1, water activities.

During the summer, waterparks are in full gear, so you can go snorkeling, diving, swimming, or just having fun in the water.

- Number 2, camping.

Most people are on technology a lot, but when you're camping, you're free from the screens. You can go for a hike in the woods, chat with friends and family, or just listen and watch birds.

- Number 3, theme parks or carnivals.

Some people just want to have fun with a group or family, and friends, and a carnival or theme park is just the thing for you. You can walk around, in a group, having fun while doing different activities, all day.

- Number 4, eating outside.

Some people just want to have a fun relaxing summer, while still enjoying the weather, and my answer to that is, you can eat outside! Just take your food out, and you can feel satisfied! You can also have a picnic.

I hope this article has helped you. Have a good summer!

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

Include the writer's name, grade & school

News Briefs

Lights at Night Negatively Affect Wildlife, Ecosystem

By Tyler Beckley

Across Wisconsin, there is a growing concern of excessive artificial light usage at night. The Elm Grove Beautification Committee is working to raise public awareness about how nighttime lighting affects wildlife and ecosystem health. The committee is encouraging residents to fill out a participation form available on the village website. This will hopefully make light reduction efforts more accessible and community-driven.

A major part of the concern is how it affects bird migration, which occurs on a massive scale each year. About 70% of North American bird species migrate, and roughly 80% do so at night. They traditionally travel along major flyways like the Atlantic and Mississippi, using starlight, the moon, etc. to navigate, making darkness essential to them.

Increasing artificial light is disrupting these patterns. Bright urban skies can disorient birds, drawing them toward buildings where they collide with glass or become exhausted.

Experts estimate that up to a billion birds die each year just in the U.S. from building collisions. Also, nearly half of these incidents occur at residential and smaller structures, not just skyscrapers.

As **Connie Sanchez** of the National Audubon Society explains, "Migrating at night allows birds to avoid certain predators," she noted. "It's also more energy efficient." Cooler nighttime temperatures help birds conserve energy, meaning artificial light interferes with long-evolved strategies.

However, light pollution affects more than just birds; it also impacts many nocturnal species as well. For example, bats, foxes, and owls all rely on darkness to be able to hunt and reproduce. Even small increases in nighttime lighting can really disrupt these behaviors and weaken the ecosystem that is in place.

Dark skies also matter culturally and ecologically for people. The Milky Way and northern lights are increasingly hard to see in bright areas. About 99% of people in the U.S. and Europe live under light-polluted skies. As a result, most can no longer see the dense star fields that once defined the night sky.

To combat this, groups like DarkSky International and the Audubon network promote solutions such as "Lights Out" programs during migration seasons, motion-activated lighting, downward-facing fixtures, and warmer bulbs that reduce skyglow. For Elm Grove residents and others, small changes, like turning off unnecessary lights, can really help protect migrating birds and preserve darker, safer night skies.

Village Volunteers

By Jim Koleski, Village of Elm Grove – President / jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org

The Elm Grove Plan Commission

The Plan Commission occupies a uniquely important role in local government, serving as long-range stewards of community growth, land use, and development policy. Charged with reviewing development proposals, recommending zoning actions, guiding comprehensive planning efforts, and advising elected officials, the Plan Commission helps shape both the physical form and future direction of a community. Their work requires balancing private property rights, public interests, economic development, infrastructure capacity, and community character—often all at the same time.

The Plan Commission includes:

- **Jim Koleski,** Chair
- **Lisa Becker**
- **Pat Cashin**
- **Rick Fronberry**
- **Gina Peter**
- **Jennifer Stuckert,** Trustee
- **Jan Termuehlen**

Some of the distinct challenges that the Plan Commission faces on a regular basis include:

- **Recent Land Use Decisions.** Last Year, the Plan Commission deliberated over the Future Land Use Map, as incorporated within the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Thoughtful and intentional amendments were incorporated which signal the desired future use of Village lands.
- **Balancing long-term planning goals with immediate development pressures**. Communities evolve gradually, but development decisions occur one project at a time. Commissioners must evaluate individual proposals not only on their own merits, but also in the broader context of adopted plans, zoning objectives, infrastructure impacts, and the community's long-term vision.
- **Land use decisions**. These are inherently complex because they often involve competing priorities and differing public expectations. Residents may support economic growth while simultaneously opposing nearby development. Property owners may seek flexibility or redevelopment opportunities that conflict with existing zoning standards or neighborhood character.
- **Interpreting & applying zoning regulations**. Ordinances cannot anticipate every situation, and many proposals involve unique site conditions, changing market demands, or evolving design practices. Commissioners must exercise judgment while remaining mindful that decisions should be based on established standards rather than personal preference.
- **Comprehensive planning responsibilities**. Plan Commissions are often tasked with helping guide updates to comprehensive and downtown plans. As I write this, the Commission has recently embarked on an update to the Village's Comprehensive Plan which was originally adopted in 2007. This effort requires balancing technical analysis with meaningful public engagement and involves difficult conversations about growth, redevelopment, housing, transportation, environmental protection, and infrastructure investment.
- **Infrastructure & environmental considerations**. These are increasingly important components of planning decisions as well. Traffic impacts, stormwater management, utility capacity, sustainability, and resilience all intersect with land use planning.

Despite these challenges, the Plan Commission provides tremendous value to the Village. Their thoughtful review and long-term perspective help guide responsible growth, protect community character, support infrastructure planning, and implement the Village's shared vision for the future. In many respects, the Commission serves as the bridge between present-day development decisions and the long-term health and vitality of the community.

On behalf of the Village Board, staff, and residents of Elm Grove, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of the Plan Commission for their service. Thank you.

Letters to the Editor

Letters regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space-available basis. Submissions must include each writer's name, community of residence, phone #.

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

Healthcare Issues Prompt Demonstration in Elm Grove

On May 18th, 100 demonstrators showed up outside a Tom Tiffany fundraiser in downtown Elm Grove to bring attention to Tom Tiffany's disregard for the healthcare of ordinary people.

Last year he voted to cut over $1 trillion in Medicaid and CHIP funding as part of a package that also provided huge tax cuts for billionaires. Today this bill has been driving up out-of-pocket healthcare costs and shifting the financial burden onto Wisconsin families, hospitals, and the state budget.

The sweeping Medicaid cuts and new work reporting requirements are projected to strip healthcare coverage from over 276,000 Wisconsinites over the decade, forcing many onto more expensive private plans or causing them to forgo care entirely.

Before the ACA, insurers routinely denied coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, capped lifetime benefits, and priced families out of care altogether. After 16 years, the GOP has been unable to come up with a suitable replacement for the ACA. Instead, all they've been able to do is complain about it and weaken it.

We have money for illegal wars, ballrooms, golden accented monuments, and tax relief for billionaires but not life-saving healthcare. Tom Tiffany's vote to make drastic cuts to a program that affects the lives of many people shows that he does not care about the well-being of ordinary people.

Carl Lock

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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News Briefs

Remove Invasive Garlic Mustard and Dame's Rocket

By Tyler Beckley

As spring comes to a close, residents are encouraged to take action against two invasive plants: garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket. These fast-spreading species thrive along woodland edges, crowding out native plants and reducing biodiversity. Residents can help protect local habitats by joining the Village of Elm Grove Invasive Species Task Force in eradicating these species. **(See Calendar-Page 5)**

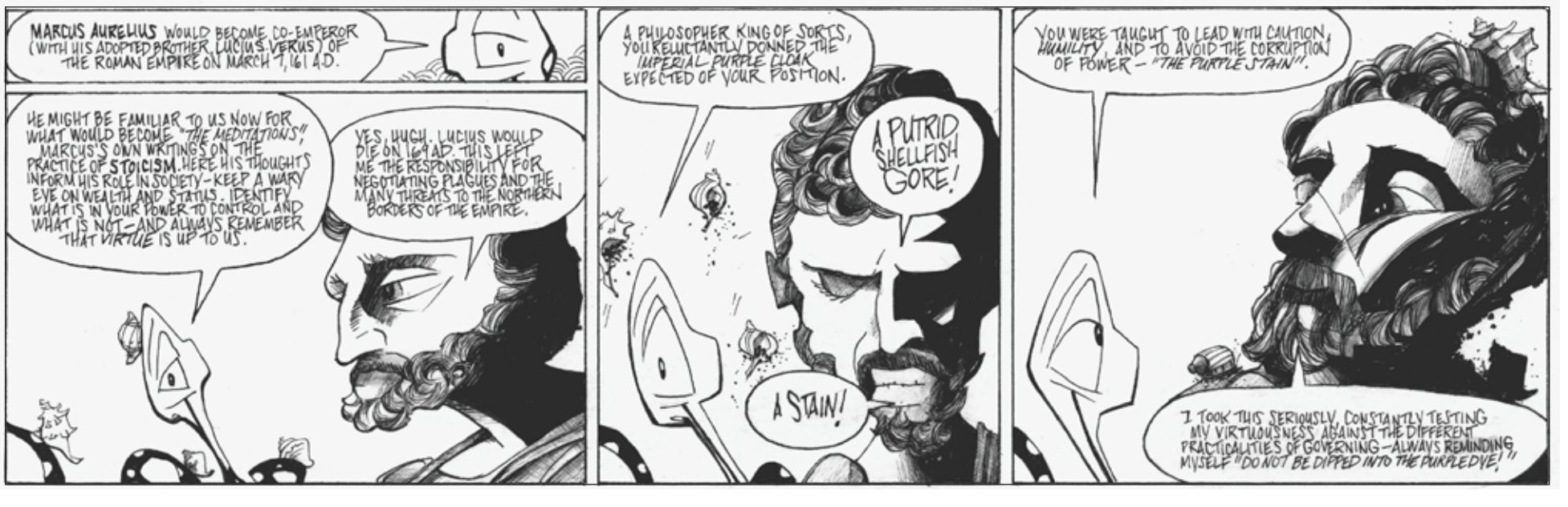
Woodland edge habitats, the transition area between the forest and an open area, support food and shelter for wildlife. Unfortunately, these invasive plants are outcompeting with the other plants and disrupting that ecosystem.

Garlic mustard spreads by windblown seeds and gains an early advantage each spring. According to The Nature Conservancy, "By the time native species are ready to grow, garlic mustard has blocked their sunlight and outcompeted them for moisture and vital nutrients." Along with this, Dame's Rocket, though attractive, also crowds out native vegetation and blocks them from getting the nutrients they need. Protecting these habitats depends on the removal of garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket from yards, parks, trails, and green spaces. The Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force continues coordinating and tracking these efforts.

Community volunteers have already made a major impact. Last spring, Elm Grove removed 2,179.8 pounds of garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket, and this year volunteers have already removed 1,051.8 pounds. With several weeks remaining before June totals are finalized, organizers hope to continue this momentum. Those that help out are encouraged to record their efforts using the fillable form on the village website by searching "Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force." Reporting helps document community contributions and measure conservation success. All totals must be submitted by the end of June.

Residents can also learn to distinguish invasive Dame's Rocket from native phlox. Dame's Rocket flowers have four petals, while native phlox flowers have five. Knowing the difference helps protect beneficial native plants and pollinators. Organizers also would love if residents shared photos of invasive species removal efforts for the team's annual summary and outreach materials. Highlighting volunteers and community groups helps celebrate environmental stewardship and encourage wider participation.

MR. HUGH'S HISTORY by Drew Sternitzky @mrhughshistory on Instagram



News Briefs

Photos courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Pictured above (Left to Right): **Krisha Pakala, Jake M. Zheng, Victor (Liyang) Han,** and **Alexandra C. Orejuela.**

Elmbrook's National Merit Scholarship Winners

(BROOKFIELD) – The School District of Elmbrook has announced that Brookfield East High School Class of 2026 students **Jake M. Zheng** (Valedictorian) and **Alexandra C. Orejuela** (Salutatorian), along with Brookfield Central High School students **Krisha Pakala** (Valedictorian) and **Victor (Liyang) Han** (Salutatorian) have been named as winners of this year's National Merit $2,500 Scholarships.

This Fall, BC's Pakala will be pursuing a degree in Medicine at Brown University, and Han will be attending the University of Pennsylvania with a focus on Computer Science and Finance. East's Zheng will be attending Harvard University with a focus on Economics & Applied Mathematics, and Orejuela will be attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a focus on Business.

These four Elmbrook Scholars were selected from a national talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. National Merit $2500 Scholarship winners are selected as the Finalists in each state who demonstrate the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Selection is based on a comprehensive review of each student's academic record, PSAT/NMSQT performance, leadership and contributions to school and community activities, student essays, and a recommendation from a high school official.

Coyote Awareness

- Do not leave ANY pet or human food in containers in your yard.
- Do not attempt to feed, pet or tame a coyote.
- Keep your pets on a leash at all times when you take a walk.
- Store trash in tightly closed containers that cannot tip over.
- Trim ground-level shrubbery to reduce hiding places.
- Pick up fallen fruit from trees and cover compost piles.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around your home.
- DO NOT feed birds, raccoons, squirrels or other wildlife that coyotes prey upon.
- Be very cautious when leaving pets outside unattended on tethers or using invisible fencing.
- Teach your children to respect wildlife and not approach ANY animal.
- It is important that all residents make an effort to follow these safety suggestions. Some coyotes are non-aggressive and just passing through; others are more aggressive and will challenge pets.

Nuisance activity by a coyote is considered as a reported and verifiable pet attack(s) and/or a pattern of threatening interactions towards humans. If a coyote is participating in this type of nuisance activity, please **contact the Elm Grove Police Department at 262.786.4141.** For more information, please visit the Village of Elm Grove website: www.elmgrovewi.org/106/Wildlife-Management

Green is Good!

Why Communities Are Rethinking Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

By The Elm Grove Green Team

Gas-powered leaf blowers may tidy up lawns, but they leave behind a troubling trail of pollution, noise and health concerns. According to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2020 report, using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment releases significant amounts of nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, and microscopic pollutants into the air—all harmful to everyone close by, including those using it. In just one hour, a commercial leaf blower creates as much air pollution as driving a new light-duty passenger car about 1,100 miles, according to the California Air Resources Board.

"It's hard for me to understand why we're using gas-powered blowers in the summer to push grass clippings around when the excessive noise is so annoying to neighbors," said **John Schindler**, Village Board Trustee.

Approximately 200 U.S. cities, counties, and local jurisdictions have or are in the process of restricting gas blower use seasonally or phasing them out entirely. While upfront cost is often raised as a concern, electric leaf blowers save money over time through lower fuel, maintenance, and operating costs.

"There is an upfront cost to switching from gas-powered equipment to electric, but detailed analyses show the return on investment is just 9.7 months, with a savings of up to $3,000 by the end of the second year of use," said **Nicci Sternitzky**, Elm Grove Beautification Committee Chair.

Your Elm Grove Green Team wants to know what YOU think! Email your feedback to debsustain@gmail.com.

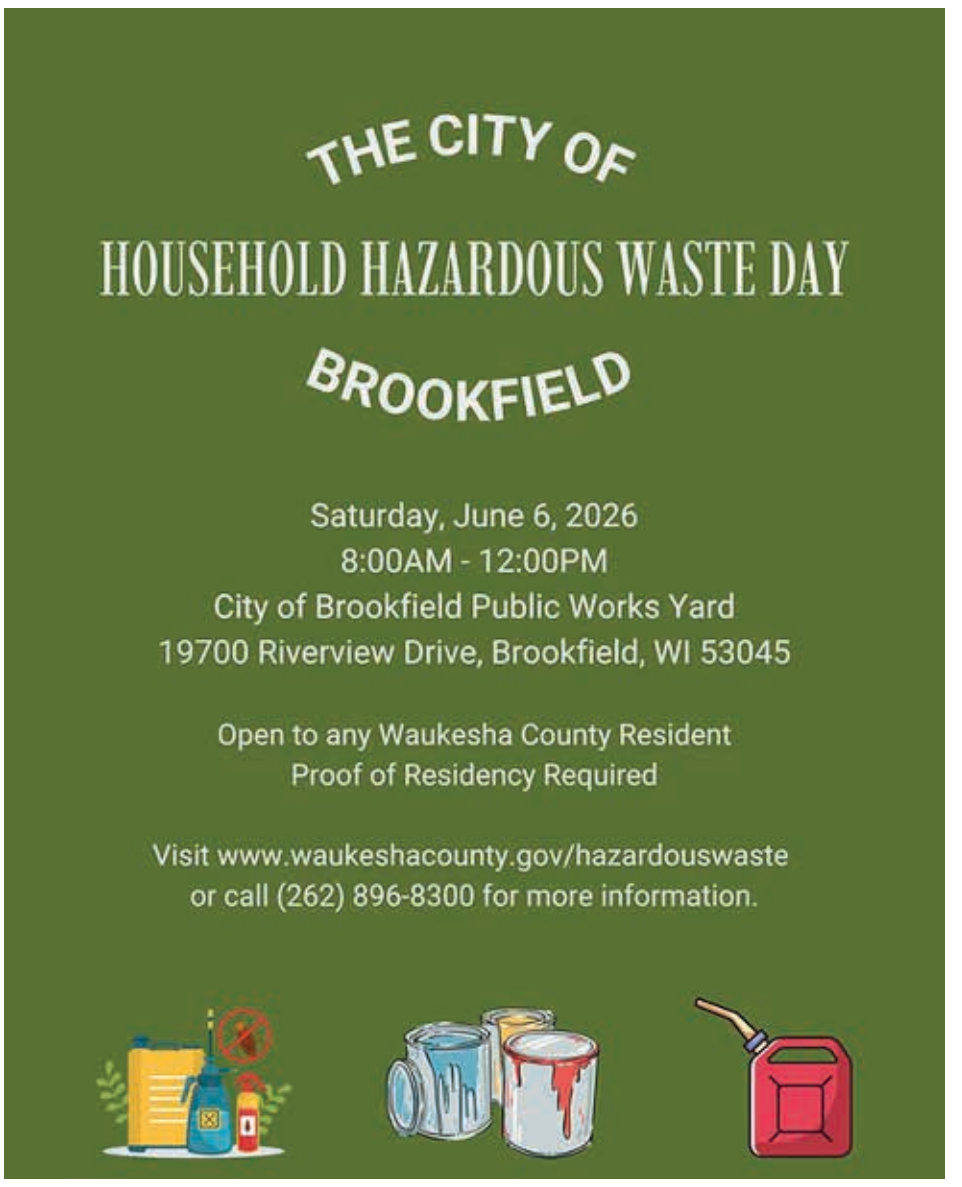
Student to Attend Future Medical Leaders Program

(ELM GROVE, WI) – **Holly Henry**, of Elm Grove, a sophomore at Divine Savior Holy Angels (DSHA), is a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders to be held on June 24 – June 26, 2026 on the University of Massachusetts – Lowell campus, just outside of Boston.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields.

Holly's nomination was signed by **Dr. Mario Capecchi**, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and the Science Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent Milwaukee, Wisconsin, based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

For more information, visit www.FutureDocs.com



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Congratulations Class of 2026!

Congratulations to the Brookfield Academy Class of 2026! We wish them success as they continue to explore, grow, and use their talents to contribute positively in both the classroom and the community.

To learn more about the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 and what Brookfield Academy can do for your child, contact Admissions at admissions@brookfieldacademy.org.

BROOKFIELD ACADEMY

3462 N. Brookfield Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53045
262-783-3200
brookfieldacademy.org

The mission of Brookfield Academy is to graduate students prepared for college and life, educated in the skills, values, and heritage of responsible, constructive, free people.

Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

The cast and crew of Brookfield East High School's 'Pippin'.

BEHS Earns Jerry Awards for 'Pippin' Musical

(BROOKFIELD) Brookfield East High School is proud to announce that students from its theater program have been recognized with honors in the 2026 Jerry Awards. This annual statewide program celebrates excellence in high school musical theater, with over 500 awards presented to students from more than 100 productions across Wisconsin.

This year, Brookfield East's production of Pippin earned multiple honors, recognizing the talent and dedication of the cast and crew.
The following students and staff will be honored:

Outstanding Lead Performance:
Charlie Cornell – Pippin
Outstanding Lead Performance:
Careena Evenson – Leading Player
Outstanding Lighting Design:
Olivia Bucholc & Mason Bradley

The Jerry Awards is the largest program of its kind in Wisconsin, encouraging, recognizing and honoring excellence in high school musical theater. The program began during the 2009-10 school year in Madison and has since expanded statewide. Educators and industry professionals reviewed productions from schools across Wisconsin, providing valuable feedback while elevating the importance of musical theater within high schools.

The 2026 Jerry Awards program will culminate in a live Awards Show on June 7 at Overture Center in Madison to honor student and school achievements, including appearances by Outstanding Award recipients.

BCHS Honored with Jerry Awards

(BROOKFIELD) - This year, Brookfield Central High School earned a record 32 Jerry Nominations and ultimately received Jerry Awards in two productions: Something Rotten (performed at Sharon Lynne Wilson Center) and Little Women the Musical (performed in the BC Black Box Theatre). The Outstanding Musical award marks the 2nd time BC has received this top honor.

The following students and staff also will be honored:

For ---- Something Rotten

- Outstanding Musical (Highest Honor): ***Something Rotten***
- Outstanding Lead Performance: ***Malena Sorrentino***
- Spirit Award: ***Brady Heisman***
- Director: ***Daniel Pronley***
- Musical Direction: ***Callie Barbeau & Alli Hickman***
- Choreography: ***Alli Hickman***
- Scenic Design: ***Daniel Pronley, Erik Anderson, Chris Forgie, & Tabb Patz***
- Lighting Design: ***Connor Dunn***
- Costume Design: ***Christine Birt***
- Sound Design: ***Matt Post***

For --- Little Women: The Musical

- Spirit Award: ***Olivia Pullizzano***
- Costume Design: ***Christine Birt***
- Outstanding Supporting Performance: ***Malena Sorrentino***
- Scenic Design: ***Daniel Pronley, Chris Forgie, & Tabb Patz***

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