



# Elm Grove NEWS-

# INDEPENDENT



Vol. 13 No. 7

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

March 2023

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

## On the Ballot: Election – April 4, 2023

Elm Grove  
**VILLAGE  
PRESIDENT**  
Candidate

Elm Grove **TRUSTEE** Candidates  
(3 seats up for Election)



**Jim  
KOLESKI**



**Tom  
CASTILE**



**Robert  
PRANGE**



**Kristina  
SAYAS**



**Tom  
SHEPHERD**

### ----- INSIDE -----

Elm Grove Makes History as  
**1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Community**

to Earn NWF's Community  
Wildlife Habitat Certification

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### Q & A with Candidates

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## Elm Grove Candidates Forum to be Held

Candidates for Elm Grove Village President and three open Trustee seats will gather at the Village Hall Courtroom on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> for a forum, set to begin 6:30 pm. The event, which is open to the public, will be moderated and time-kept.

The forum's organizer and moderator, **Sarah Wynia Smith**, noted: "Like years past, we will take citizen suggestions for topics/questions via an online form (<https://forms.gle/p2YWfKfC9Q9tJ5sw9>) and the questions for the trustees will be gathered from these; no "live" questions will be taken during the official forum.

We do also hope to live stream and record the forum for later viewing which will be hosted at our Elm Grove Junior Guild Communications YouTube Channel at [https://www.youtube.com/@EGJG\\_Communications](https://www.youtube.com/@EGJG_Communications) and on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ElmGroveJuniorGuild](http://www.facebook.com/ElmGroveJuniorGuild)."

## ELMBROOK SCHOOL BOARD Candidates

Area I seat

Area III seat

At-Large seat



**Scott  
WHEELER**



**Gregg  
EBERHARDT**



**Preetha  
KURUDIYARA**



**Sam  
HUGHES**



**David  
IRWIN**

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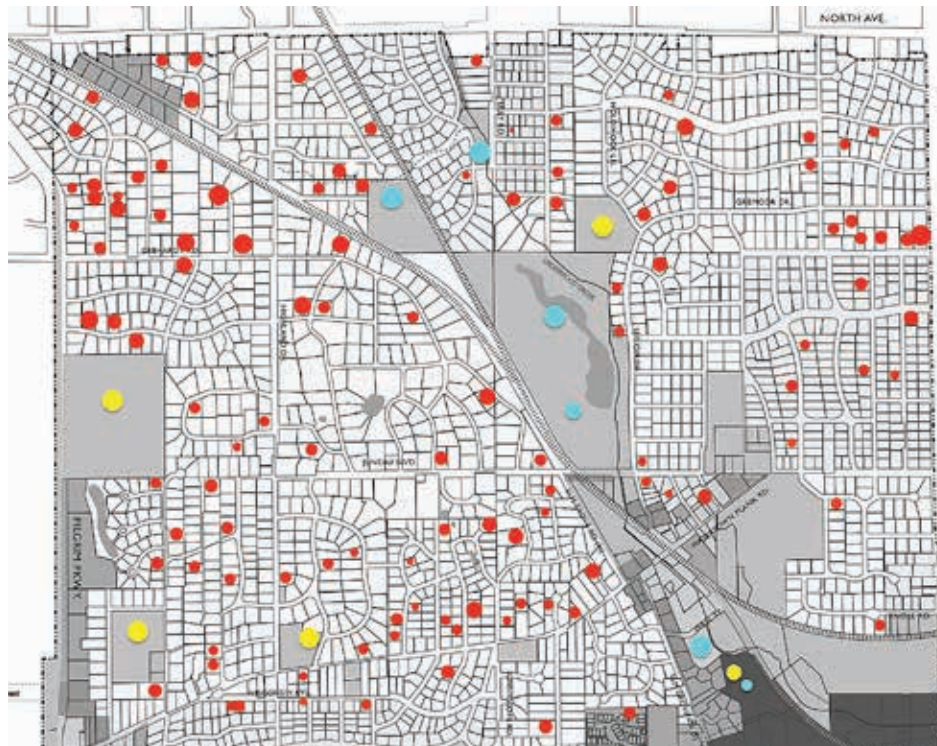
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# "I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain



Graphic courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

A map of Elm Grove properties certified as Community Wildlife Habitats: red dots are homes; blue dots are common areas; yellow dots are schools.

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## Elm Grove first Wisconsin community to earn National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat certification

*Village Becomes 150th Certified Community Wildlife Habitat in the Nation*

(ELM GROVE, WI) - The National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat™ program has announced that the village of Elm Grove has officially been certified as the first community in the state of Wisconsin to achieve this designation. Through the program, Elm Grove aims to become healthier, sustainable, and more wildlife-friendly by committing to create wildlife habitat throughout its community while also educating and engaging residents through events, educational workshops, and hands-on service projects.



"The Elm Grove Beautification Committee led the Community Wildlife Habitat certification effort," according to Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Executive Director **Mark LaBarbera**, who said he hopes other communities in the state will follow Elm Grove's lead.

own community and beyond," said **Patrick Fitzgerald**, Senior Director of Community Wildlife.

The volunteer committee hosts several activities each year to help educate and engage residents in creating a beautiful community for homeowners and wildlife alike. The activities include native plant, shrub and tree sales, weekly invasive species removal in the village, establishing and registering monarch butterfly habitat throughout the community, engaging residents in No Mow May, hosting an Earth & Arbor Day celebration, establishing a rain garden in the village park, and sponsoring a Winter Lecture Series and a Book Club.

The well organized and supported National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat program has been in existence since 1997. Elm Grove is proud of becoming the first certified community in the state of Wisconsin and looks forward to partnering with other Wisconsin communities to help them achieve their goals of certification.

"Earning this certification by engaging residents to take action to make our community healthier, more sustainable, and more wildlife friendly makes perfect sense given our community's previous attainment of Tree City USA, Bird City Wisconsin High Flyer status, and Bee City USA" said Village President **Neil Palmer**.

WWF's LaBarbera added, "This program is vital in helping implement wildlife conservation strategies equitably across communities by creating corridors for wildlife, increasing the use of native plants, removing invasive species, and reducing the use of chemicals."

Attaining this certification requires each community to earn 150 points in four supporting categories (community outreach, education, registration, and administrative) along with habitat points that are based on each community's population.

For more information about the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat network, please go to: [www.nwf.org/community](http://www.nwf.org/community).

Healthy habitats and healthy communities go hand-in-hand. Looking beyond the more visible wildlife, the program seeks to encourage participants to understand the important interconnectedness of plants, insects, and the whole breadth of the ecosystem. Protection of species such as the federally endangered rusty-patched bumblebee are at the heart of this community's motivation.

"By becoming certified with the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program, Elm Grove is sending a clear and powerful message to communities all over America that people working together can create healthy habitats and healthy communities, and make a difference in their

**About Elm Grove, WI** -- Elm Grove is a village in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, with 6,629 residents living among 3.29 square miles. The village of tree-lined streets and expansive, well-maintained yards and gardens is a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. Its 79-acre village park is named in **Rob Bignell's** 2021 book entitled *Wisconsin's Best Wildflower Hikes*. The community takes pride in its Tree City USA, Bird City Wisconsin High Flyer and Bee City USA designations. The community also was named America's best suburb by *Business Insider* in 2014. <https://elmgrovewi.org/>

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# On the Ballot: Spring Election - April 4, 2023

Candidate for Elm Grove Village President: J. Koleski

Trustee Candidates: T. Castile, R. Prange, K. Sayas, T. Shepherd (3 seats up for Election)

## #1. Tell us about yourself.

**\*Jim KOLESKI –**

“Married with 2 children, eleven year resident and Village Trustee serving on the Finance (Chair), Public Works and Building Board Committees and consult with Private Businesses.”

**\*Tom CASTILE –**

“Resident of Elm Grove for 15 years. Married with daughter and two grandchildren also in E.G. Business owner with experience in polymers and emerging technologies.”

**\*Robert PRANGE –**

“Born / raised on farm. Career managing information technology / developing strategic planning for large corporations. Work for local bank. Elm Grove resident since 2016. One teenage son.”

**\*Kristina SAYAS –**

“9-year resident who married a grove native and welcomed son in 2022. Business Development Consultant, Vice-President EG Community Foundation, member EGWC, Past-President of Junior Guild.”

**\*Tom SHEPHERD -**

“Husband to Holly, and proud parent to two pre-K children. Active St. Mary’s Visitation parishioner, small business owner, fiscal conservative, and resident for 12 years.”

## #2. What has motivated you to run for election / re-election at this time?

**\*Jim KOLESKI –**

“As Village President, I will be dedicated to actively listen to and communicate with the community, including open discussion of issues and explanations supporting decisions.

**\*Tom CASTILE –**

“Elm Grove’s success depends on engaged citizens forming the backbone of the community. My desire is to serve the citizens by representing their needs / interests only.”

**\*Robert PRANGE –**

“Experience, insights, skills learned throughout career prepares me to be a good addition to board. Ready to give back to my community; understand the hard work that is required.”

**\*Kristina SAYAS –**

“I’m running for re-election to keep Elm Grove a great community to live in for future generations and to ensure residents voices are heard.”

**\*Tom SHEPHERD -**

“I am not a single-issue candidate. I serve the Village on the Finance Committee. That experience has exposed me to all departments and challenges within Village government.”

## #3. What can you offer our Village that is unique from the other candidates? What do you most hope to accomplish if elected?

**\*Jim KOLESKI –**

“Serving as Chair of the Finance Committee educated me on the budget and funding challenges facing the Village. As a CPA, I will work with the Village team to help prioritize spending priorities and maintain the current strong financial position. Work with State representatives to increase State support of Municipalities.”

**\*Tom CASTILE –**

“My business experiences in Open Innovation processes will assist in building frameworks for improved communication and developing creative solutions to the challenges we face. My goal is to ensure open, transparent, two-way communication and that proposed solutions represents the will of the majority and not just the few or developers.”

**\*Robert PRANGE –**

“Working in a variety of positions while paying for college. I gained experience in construction, remodeling, building maintenance, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and physical operations of multibuilding campuses. I look forward to working on committees to manage and develop the Village for the future.”

**\*Kristina SAYAS –**

“I’m fortunate to hold leadership positions with multiple village organizations which provides me a unique perspective of our current challenges and opportunities. Foster constructive, civil and respectful dialogue among Village residents, the Board and the business community; continue to listen, respond and act in the best interests of EG residents.”

**\*Tom SHEPHERD -**

“I come from a family that emphasizes servant-leadership. I am an effective business leader of an award-winning team. In my field we are faced with making challenging business decisions each day. I am a uniter and a problem solver. I will leverage my private sector experiences to the benefit of the Village.”

## #4. What are the 3 most significant issues / challenges facing Elm Grove within the next 5 years? What solutions / improvements would you suggest?

**\*Jim KOLESKI –**

“Challenges include approving the downtown master plan supporting the measured development of open spaces including the Reinders parcel and downtown and exploring options, recognizing the impact of on-line and home delivery trends. Also, creating housing options for residents no longer desiring single family homes, possibly side by side townhomes built to support aging in place. Other priorities include, finding long-term solutions for the EMS and Fire Department manning / coverage, Underwood Creek Daylighting, defining the future of water in the Village and monitoring the construction of the Charlton Heights (Mandel) project. Finally, technology investments required to enhance public safety and security cost-effectively.”

**\*Tom CASTILE –**

“Police, Fire and EMS service: Increased demand for services together with recruiting issues. Multiple challenges, especially with staffing volunteer EMS and Fire. We must find creative way to fund these critical community services.

Pedestrian safety: Increased density within Elm Grove and in neighboring areas will result in increased traffic. Additional pathways will be required, traffic speed laws enforced plus when possible, enforcing no thru traffic to reduce non-local citizen traffic at key traffic times.

Proper Development: Development is needed to ensure community growth, however future development must fit within what makes Elm Grove a safe, tranquil community for our families.”

**\*Robert PRANGE –**

“Increasing costs of public services and how they are provided by the village.

EMS and Fire department services are under pressure as volunteerism wains and costs are increasing related to delivering services.

Tough questions about development projects and how to provide pressurized water to development areas to support code requirements of fire suppression on all construction.

Moving forward on redevelopment efforts to help increase tax revenues and avoid future taxes of service fee increases to the citizens of Elm Grove Village.”

**\*Kristina SAYAS –**

“Budget: pressure on operating budget from levy limits and inflation, combined with capital projects that have been neglected, we need to go after more federal grants, cut costs and find creative ways to fund programs/projects.

Development: Daylighting the creek, potential rezoning, bringing water to residents and downtown. With current TIF projects not to be paid off for 20 plus years, challenges to find additional funding for village projects while balancing downtown character.

Emergency Services: We already implemented overnight accommodations and increased pay. Still, we need to consider additional contracting to cover potential shortfalls if recruitment efforts cannot cover needs.”

**\*Tom SHEPHERD –**

“1. Long term strategic planning for our Village Center – I am running on a platform of ‘common sense planning and development’ which I believe unifies the current divide.

2. Fire/EMS – Our history of volunteerism is exceptional and unique, however, most likely not sustainable. I will work cooperatively with the Fire/EMS department heads, Village board and staff to evaluate all options and determine the best long-term Fire/EMS solution for our citizens.

3. Public safety – crimes of opportunity, auto thefts, and fraud are on the rise in the west suburbs. I am unapologetically pro family, pro safe neighborhoods, and pro police.”

# Business & Club Directory

## \* Community Organizations



**Kiwanis – Golden K of Elm Grove, Wisconsin**

**Come Join Us, Men & Women,** to serve the children of our community. We meet each Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Mary’s Senior Center in Elm Grove. We have wonderful speakers each week, and we have lots of fun.

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# Village Update

By Neil Palmer, President – Village of Elm Grove / [npalmer@elmgrovi.org](mailto:npalmer@elmgrovi.org)

The Village Board met as a Committee of the Whole on February 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss a number of issues and planned projects (a Committee of the Whole is for discussion only; no action can be taken.)

**Possible extension of municipal water** from the City of Wauwatosa to the Village of Elm Grove. There have been a number of discussions regarding obtaining access to Lake Michigan water over the last 30 years. The planned Mandel project to redevelop the School Sisters of Notre Dame campus will be connecting to the City of Wauwatosa system at 118<sup>th</sup> Street and Watertown Plank Road and installing a new water main along Watertown Plank Road to a point near the SSND cemetery. The Village proposes to extend to new main to serve other Village properties. The initial Village constructed new main will proceed west to the railroad tracks.

The “big picture” plan is to provide municipal water from Lake Michigan throughout the Village. Elm Grove will not form a water utility. After sections of the new water system are constructed, the system will be turned over to the City of Wauwatosa water utility, which will own and operate the system under rules and rates established by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Elm Grove customers will be charged the same rates as users in Wauwatosa.

The Public Works Committee will work with the Village Engineer to establish a plan and schedule to extend the system through out the Village. Numerous questions about the extension to new areas will need to be decided in the coming couple of years. These issues include whether or not to require connection by property owners, how to apportion costs for the new service to property owners and how to finance the projects.

**The Board continued discussion of the plan to “daylight” the Underwood Creek** that currently runs underground between Watertown Plank Road and Wall Street. The daylighting project is the final piece of the “Stormwater Management Plan” developed after the 1997 and 1998 floods. Right the creek runs inside a pipe under the Park & Shop parking lot and under the Sendek’s grocery store. The plan design approved previously by the Board will create a new creek channel beginning at the south side of Watertown Plank Road at the bridge, which will turn east to then follow the railroad corridor south to rejoin the existing creek south of Wall Street near the walking trail. The plan includes naturalization of the new creek corridor and a pathway. The Village has acquired the old Martinizing Cleaners property which will be demolished in March.

**The Board also discussed options for financing** of the municipal water extension, the creek daylighting, and the planned Gebhardt Road repaving and pathway projects.

**The Legislative Committee unanimously approved language to amend the Village Ordinance language covering “Standing Committees” to create a new “Sustainability Subcommittee** of the Public Works & Utilities Committee. The new subcommittee will provide guidance on, and support for projects approved by the Public Works & Utilities Committee and the Village Board, which will assist the Village, residents and businesses in balancing the needs for economic, social and ecological needs. The new subcommittee can have up to eight public members plus a Trustee member.

I recognize that the subcommittee charter sounds a little weird or vague to some. However, the focus is easy to understand when seen as the logical extension of the successful work of the Beautification Committee over recent time. That committee has spearheaded efforts to educate and encourage property owners to consider planting native species, reducing, or eliminating insecticides and weed herbicides. Elm Grove recently became the first community in the state to receive certification from the National Wildlife Federation for Community Wildlife Habitat! Elm Grove has “Bird City” designation. Many residents plant native plants to support the Monarch butterfly and manage their property in ways which sustain wildlife. These efforts don’t mean that we let our property “go wild.” It means we recognize that a property which



is managed primarily in the old English garden idea of manicured turf grass and non-native flowers and bushes does not support most other species we need and want. Nationally, we are struggling to save Monarch butterflies and many species of bees. If we don’t help these and other insects survive, we lose our pollinators for food crops and other plants. If we don’t create and support some habitat for other insects to flourish, there is no food for raising young songbirds. Insects also eat other insects helping keep other insect populations from reaching pest levels.

The new subcommittee will help residents learn how to manage and improve their properties in a more sustainable manner and improve the natural beauty of Elm Grove.

**Candidates for school board, village trustee, judgeships are set for the April 4<sup>th</sup> general election, following the February 21 Primary.** If you will not be in town on April 4th, please make arrangements to vote absentee or early.

## Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo by Robert T. McCoy

The Elm Building at 13400 Watertown Plank Road, under construction in the spring of 1946.

### WHATZZIT? By Stephen K. Hauser

The above photo was taken on May 13, 1946. It was a sunny spring day. The foundation had recently been laid for the Elm Building, a new commercial and professional building to be constructed “in the heart of Elm Grove” at the 13400 block of Watertown Plank Road. As the post-war “baby boom” and the suburban “building boom” began to get underway, the unincorporated hamlet of Elm Grove was rapidly transforming into a burgeoning suburb. Newly settled families required a wider array of services and greater retail choices. In the 1950s, the Elm Grove Park & Shop complex would be built across the street, but, for now, the Elm Building would be the Grove’s new retail destination.

By the end of 1946, the building’s new tenants would include the Elm Grove branch of the **Wauwatosa State Bank**, **Esther M. Knapp’s Elm Grove Beauty Salon**, **Dvorak’s Tastee Towne** restaurant and soda fountain, **John D. Piazza’s** shoe repair shop and **Hugo A. Tagatz Plumbing, Heating & Appliances**. Upstairs, **Dr. G. Allan Kriz**, a physician, saw his patients in a small office, not an uncommon practice for doctors of that era.

The next few years saw additional tenants settle in. **Elm Grove Printing Services** set up shop in the building’s basement, with a separate entrance in the back. The Dvorak family sold Tastee Towne to **Verne and Virginia Draka**, while Dr. Kriz sold his practice to **Dr. Elmer A. Schmidt** who

continued to see his patients in the upstairs office. **Al Quartemont** opened a shop selling shades, blinds, and draperies, while the **Elm Grove Flower Shop** moved in in 1950. There were also several private apartments on the upstairs level. **Comer’s Bakery** opened a confectionery in 1951.

Of course, change is constant in commercial real estate. Comer’s sold their bakery to Klein’s and moved to a new location at 122<sup>nd</sup> and North Avenue in Wauwatosa. The doctor’s office became an artist’s studio occupied by **Gil Reid**, nationally acclaimed for his paintings of trains and railroad themes. (His last painting was of the old Elm Grove passenger depot.) The Klein’s bakery became the offices of **Hanon Realty**, with former village barber “**Harkey**” **Bartsch** as agent in residence. Time and space do not permit tales of the accountants, security specialists, sales representatives and others whose occupations passed through the Elm Building over the decades since 1946.

(See OUR HISTORY - Page 6)



**53 one 22**  
Elm Grove Community Foundation

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

### NEW at the Community Foundation

#### Support the Community Foundation with Planned Gifts

The mission of the Community Foundation is to provide quality of life enhancements to the Village of Elm Grove with projects for which tax dollars are unavailable.

Your current gift, or your planned future gift through your will or trust, can assist the community and provide a lasting legacy for you or a loved one and provide enjoyment for all present and future Village residents. You might also consider designating the Community Foundation a beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance policy, or a portion of appreciated stock.

In as little as one sentence, and with the assistance of your legal or financial advisor, you can complete a planned gift to the Foundation so that we can continue our mission for years to come.



**BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 15 & 16, 2023**

# Calendar of Events – March 2023

## Wednesday – MARCH 1

**\*Elm Grove Beautification Committee**  
Meeting - 6:30 p.m. in the Park View Room at Elm Grove Village Hall. All are welcome.  
[egbeautification@gmail.com](mailto:egbeautification@gmail.com)

## Thursday – MARCH 2

**\*Elmbrook Garden Club**  
Meeting - 6:00 p.m. at the Brookfield Public Library - Community Room; Orchid Society Presentation. Open to the Public.

## Friday – MARCH 3

**\*Elmbrook Rotary Club**  
Meeting: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Speaker: Ann Leinfelder Grove, Wellpoint Care Network CEO at Machine Shed, Pewaukee. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

**\*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Rev. David Rebey, Broken Chains Ministry. [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**\*Friends of Elm Grove Library - 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Used Book Sale**, 13600 Juneau Blvd. – Lower Level  
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (262) 782-6717

## Saturday – MARCH 4

**\*Friends of Elm Grove Library - Book Sale**  
13600 Juneau Blvd. – Lower Level; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Sunday – MARCH 5

**\*Friends of Elm Grove Library - Book Sale**  
13600 Juneau Blvd. – Lower Level; Noon to 4 p.m.

## Friday – MARCH 10

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

**\*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speakers: BCHS & BEHS Key Clubs, summarizing their club activities. [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

## Sunday – MARCH 12

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**  
Set clocks ahead 1 hour.



## Thursday – MARCH 16

**\*OWLS - Seniors’ Group**  
Trip to Drury Lane Theater “A Chorus Line”; sponsored by Community Church, Elm Grove. Guests are welcome. <http://www.cumceg.org>

## Friday – MARCH 17

### ST. PATRICK’S DAY

**\*Elmbrook Rotary Club**  
Meeting: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., Speaker: Caroline Martini, “Habitat for Humanity” at Machine Shed, Pewaukee. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

**\*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Robert Hall, Elmbrook Schools Project LAUNCH. [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

## Friday – MARCH 24

**\*Elmbrook Rotary Club**  
Meeting: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., Speaker: Mary Madden & Angela Reilly, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) at Machine Shed, Pewaukee. <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

**\*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Marj Kozlowski, Elmbrook Senior Taxi. [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

## Monday – MARCH 27

**\*Elm Grove Board of Trustees**  
Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room. Agenda & Live Stream: [www.elmgrovetribe.org](http://www.elmgrovetribe.org) (262) 782-6700.

## Friday – MARCH 31

**\*Elmbrook Rotary Club**  
Meeting: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Speaker: Mike Beinlich, Westpoint Financial at Machine Shed, Pewaukee <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

**\*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Lem Obasik, PhD, “Entering the Lithium Age”. [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)



American Association of University Women  
West Suburban-Milwaukee Branch  
cordially invites you to attend the  
20th Annual Luncheon & Style Show

*Saturday, April 1, 2023*

**Wisconsin Club**  
900 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI

Proceeds go to local scholarships and to support AAUW's mission to advance equality for women and girls  
Featuring Fashions & Styling By:

**Magnatrain Boutique** **cabi** **Access Boutique**

**THE INSTITUTE OF BEAUTY AND WELLNESS**

Cocktails, shopping & Raffles 10:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:45 a.m. Style Show 12:30 p.m.  
Guests are Welcome  
Valet Parking Available

Cost is \$70.00 per person.

Contact AAUW.wsm@gmail.com for further information and to RSVP.

*St. Patrick's Day*  
word search

S	P	A	T	R	I	C	K	H	I	V	E
C	C	C	H	A	R	M	N	L	R	E	R
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# News Briefs

## Scholastic Art & Writing Award Winners Announced

(BROOKFIELD) - The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is a nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying students with remarkable artistic talent and presenting their works globally. In 2022 alone, students across the United States and Canada entered more than 260,000 original works across 28 different categories.

### BROOKFIELD EAST HIGH SCHOOL:

#### Gold Keys:

- \***Andy Budovec** - Jewelry – “Dionaea muscipula”
- \***Hannah Liu** - Jewelry - “Cat Cuff”
- \***Lucy Schick** - Painting – “Bust of a Woman”
- \***Mackenzie Swan** - Ceramics & Glass - “Reliquary”

#### Silver Keys:

- \***Laura Estrada** - Jewelry – “Spider Bracelet”
- \***Eiman Mir** - Mixed Media – “Rosemary Jane”

#### Honorable Mentions:

- \***Sofija Brazauskas** - Painting - “Provisions”

- \***Navya Dadepogu** - Drawing & Illustration – “Gaze”
- \***Logan Frey** - Photography – “Dream Lines”
- \***Ben Gosnell** - Painting – “Momentary Beauty”
- \***Quinn Griffin** - Digital Art – “Tained Memories”
- \***Spencer Harris** - Design – “What You See On The Surface”
- \***Amoolya Mammula** - Ceramics & Glass - “Natural Form”
- \***Eiman Mir** - Mixed Media – “Red White and Who?”
- \***Julian Robinson** - Digital Art – “The Geoffian Dollar”
- \***Lucy Schick** - Painting - “Grandma Elsie”
- \***Kathy Sun** - Digital Art - “12 Zodiacs”



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary

Elmbrook Rotary Club members **Ian Smith, Don Black, and Rick Chabot** celebrate their Red Badge achievement, assisted by members **Mark Thurner and John Allen**.

## Elmbrook Rotary Continues to Grow Membership, Community Impact

By Jackson Bubolz

We’ve had a few busy weeks at the Elmbrook Rotary Club, initiating a new member and celebrating 3 Red Badge recipients.

The Red Badge is recognition of new members completing their training to be a strong Rotarian. This involves joining a board meeting, being involved in a service project, and taking part in a Fireside chat, etc. **Ian Smith, Don Black, and Rick Chabot** have all completed their requirements, and will hopefully soon find a committee that speaks to them.

The Elmbrook Rotary also inducted **John Schindler**, referred by **Jackson Bubolz**, into our club. John has been a land surveyor, a flight EMT, and currently focuses on residential realty. He is married to **Jean**,

and currently holds office on the Board of Trustees in Elm Grove.

Our club also took time to discuss our areas for growth as we continue to grow membership and put more energy into Spikes. Those conversations are kept to our breakfast meetings, but the exciting part is we’re all working together to consistently have a positive impact on our community and our world. In the first months of 2023 we’ve had several members travel to Guatemala to build homes, we’ve sent aid to Turkey, and we’re planning a great Summer event June 3rd.

Welcome to our new member, and our Red Badge graduates! If interested in joining, please reach out to **John Allen** at [jallen@jallengroup.com](mailto:jallen@jallengroup.com).

## American Association of University Women

Invites you to our **Wednesday, March 15** - Branch Meeting  
Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove, WI

Liz Taylor, Director of STEM Education, at MSOE (Milwaukee School of Engineering) will share MSOE’s journey in developing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) student initiatives.

**Social at 6:30 p.m.**  
**AAUW Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Speaker, 7:20 p.m.**



Visit us at: [AAUW West Suburban-Milwaukee \(WI\)](http://AAUW West Suburban-Milwaukee (WI))

# THOMAS SHEPHERD

## For Elm Grove Village Trustee

Tom is a husband, father and small business owner with a deep personal and family history of public service. He is looking forward to serving and improving our community by leveraging his non-profit and private sector experience to the benefit of the Village.

- Current volunteer on Village Finance and Licensing Committee
- 12 year Village resident
- Fiscal conservative
- Common-sense candidate
- Small business owner
- 20+ years of experience balancing budgets and making strategic business decisions

## Vote Shepherd

On April 4th



Email Tom:  
[ElmGroveShep23@gmail.com](mailto:ElmGroveShep23@gmail.com)

Paid for by Friends of Tom Shepherd for Trustee

# News’ Hounds

& other beloved creatures

## Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Gourley

Hi there, I’m **Coco**. I am a sweet lady who loves to snuggle. My favorite way to take naps is curled up on your lap under the covers. That’s right, I love to snuggle under blankets. I also love toys and being with people. I would love a home with people there most of the time so I can have ALL the attention. I would also do best as the only pet because I really do not want to share the love of my people. Interested in meeting me and falling in love?

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



Photo: Elmbrook Humane Society

Coco



# Our History

(Continued from Page 4)

Although it cannot be disputed that change is indeed constant, it must also be granted that there is some validity in the old saw that “the more things change, the more they stay the same”. The venerable old building still plays host to a beauty salon, now known as **Elm Grove Hair Design**. The Elm Grove Flower Shop still resides at its original location, nowadays called **Snapdragon Flowers** (although it is interesting to note how many area residents still refer to it by its former name.) And **Caroline’s Café** still serves lunches, following in the tradition of the proprietors of Tastee Towne. No doubt former owners and employees of these establishments would be well pleased to see their work being

carried forward into the 2020s.

Writing articles of this sort naturally stirs up memories. I recall the delicious doughnuts from Klein’s bakery, and I remember my friend “**Hunz**” **Reusch** telling me (in the early 1990s!) how much he missed being able to order a meat loaf ‘blue plate special’ at Tastee Towne. It’s all just a reminder to me that the work we do in life lives on in the appreciation and memories of those we’ve served, even after we’ve gone.

Stephen K. Hauser is a retired college history professor and a longtime resident of Elm Grove.

# News Briefs

## Brookfield Academy Students Win Scholastic Art Awards

(BROOKFIELD) – The following 26 Upper School art students at Brookfield Academy received Scholastic Art Awards in a wide variety of categories. Their work will be on view at the Milwaukee Art Museum through March 19. The nine Gold Key winners will compete at the national level in New York City in March.

- \***Neerja Ahuja**  
(Honorable Mention – Drawing & Illustration)
- \***Justyn Anderson**  
(Silver Key - Painting, H.M. - Painting, H.M. - Art Portfolio)
- \***Davis Arvold**  
(H.M. - Sculpture)
- \***Kaelin Bayerlein**  
(H.M. - Digital Art)
- \***Gianna Beine**  
(H.M. – Jewelry)
- \***Margaret Campbell**  
(H.M. – Sculpture)
- \***Aidan Canga**  
(Silver Key - Painting, Silver Key - Printmaking)
- \***Avery Denman**  
(Silver Key – Fashion)
- \***Cecilia Elfelt**  
(Gold Key - Mixed Media, H.M. - Printmaking)
- \***Max Hong**  
(H.M. -Sculpture)
- \***Jeff Huang**  
(Gold Key - Painting, Silver Key – Printmaking)
- \***Raya Khraisat**  
(H.M. – Drawing & Illustration)
- \***Kelly Li**  
(H.M. – Painting)
- \***Lucy Moede**  
(H.M. – Drawing & Illustration)
- \***William Morgan**  
(Gold Key – Sculpture, H.M. – Sculpture)
- \***Charlie Neuenschwander**  
(Gold Key – Printmaking)



- \***Ellie Plamann**  
(Gold Key – Digital Art, Silver Key – Digital Art, 3 Honorable Mentions – Digital Art)
- \***Daniel Rauh**  
(Gold Key – Printmaking)
- \***Emma Richardson**  
(Silver Key – Art Portfolio, 2 Honorable Mentions – Drawing & Illustration)
- \***Aidan Rogers**  
(H.M. – Photography)
- \***Norma Sanchez**  
(Gold Key – Sculpture)
- \***Mira Santo Tomas**  
(Gold Key – Painting, Silver Key – Painting, Silver Key – Drawing & Illustration, 4 Honorable Mentions – Painting)
- \***William Schneck**  
(Silver Key – Digital Art)
- \***Elisabeth Schwertfeger**  
(H.M. – Printmaking)
- \***Julia Van Bogart**  
(Gold Key – Drawing & Illustration)
- \***Riya Vijayapal**  
(Silver Key – Fashion)



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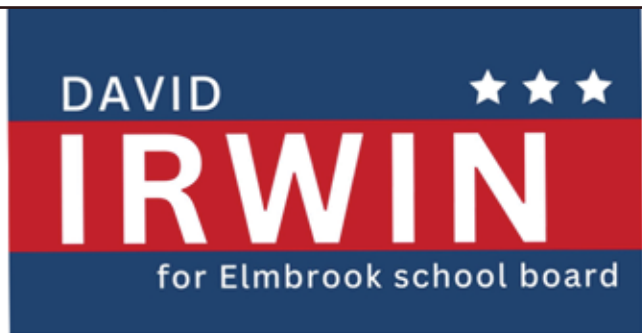
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## Steady Improvement NOT Radical Change

The **ONLY** At-Large Candidate who:

- \* **Actually sends his kids to Elmbrook schools!**
- \* Rejects political party money and agendas for local education.
- \* Brings a global record of building bridges between people with varying outlooks.

What Elmbrook parents and grandparents are saying:

I have known David Irwin for about 15 years. He is a clear-thinking, analytical individual with a strong moral compass who is careful and fair in his deliberations and conclusions. It is my privilege to support his candidacy.

Tom Curl  
Retired Publishing Executive,  
Past President of Elmbrook Rotary

I have known David through Community United Methodist Church. He has a keen interest in education and is very interested in providing the best curriculum for our students and a high-quality environment for our teachers. David is a great listener and person of integrity who would bring vast business experience to the School Board.

Betty Hunter  
Village of Elm Grove Plan Commission, 1994-2017



**Vote on April 4**  
[irwin4elmbrook.com](http://irwin4elmbrook.com)

The Elmbrook District is the number one reason people choose to raise their families here. David Irwin is an honorable man with a record of leadership, community service, and sound judgement, and ability to work with others that makes him an excellent choice for School Board. He has my confidence and my vote.

Kathryn Wilson  
Brookfield Alderperson  
Elmbrook School Board, Past President

*Elect* **TOM CASTILE**  
 For Elm Grove Trustee



**Top Priorities**


- ★ Keep Elm Grove the beautiful, tranquil, friendly, and safe village it has been for generations.
- ★ Fiscal discipline, working to be a good steward of Village resources while maintaining core services.
- ★ Will work to protect and enhance our green space including our beloved Village Park.
- ★ Support responsible growth only, keeping what makes Elm Grove a special place to live and raise your family.
- ★ Promote clear, honest, two-way communication to engage with and understand the community to best determine how to meet the challenges our Village faces.

Paid for by Friends of Tom Castile for Elm Grove Trustee.



**A Furlan Auditorium Production**

# The CEMETERY Club



**March 2 - 19, 2023**

By Ivan Menchell  
 Produced by arrangement with Concord Theatricals

**SUNSET PLAYHOUSE**

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 262-782-4430  
[SunsetPlayhouse.com](http://SunsetPlayhouse.com)

## Read All About It!

**ELM GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY** Library News and Programs  
**March 2023**  
 13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122  
 262-782-6717 / [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org)

**Starry Nights: The Light in the Life of Van Gogh / Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.**  
 It is often remarked that Vincent van Gogh is one of the first painters to paint with emotion. No other artist better exemplifies this idea as part of the creative process in his paintings and writings. In this presentation, discover the life and works of the Dutch Post-Impressionist, posthumously regarded as one of the greatest and most influential artists in history. Presented by Professor Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone History Symposium.  
 Join us for the fourth lecture in a five part series. Mark your calendars for the remaining presentations (3/7 Van Gogh, 4/11 Gauguin). No registration required.



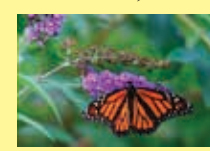
**Read Aloud Book Club / Thursday, March 9, 4:30-5:00 p.m.**  
 We will be reading *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang. Gather around to listen to the reading of an unforgettable chapter book. Hear the first few chapters read aloud, then take home your own copy of the book to finish and keep (one copy per family). Program for grades 3-6. Please register in advance at [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org). Book copies are limited.



**Monarch Conservation (EG Beautification Committee Winter Lecture Series) Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.**  
 Although much is being done, monarchs were recently listed as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Given the downward trajectory of the monarch population, how long do we have to ramp up our efforts? Barb Agnew of the Monarch Trail Organization will discuss what can be accomplished:

- *At home:* Planting ideals and basic practices to help pollinator and monarch populations.
- *In your neighborhood:* Connecting gardens and commons with “paths” of plantings and community plantings.
- *In your City:* Policy changes for large businesses’ parking areas, mowing, herbicide policy, planting medians and swales with native plants, providing resources for rain gardens, and doing presentations for elected officials.

This is the fifth program in the 2022-23 Elm Grove Beautification Committee Winter Lecture Series, with partner support from the Elm Grove Library. Mark your calendars for the remaining presentations (3/15, 4/12).



**Trinity Irish Dance / Saturday, March 18, 10:00 a.m.**  
 This local dance group will put on a free program showcasing young dancers of all ages. Performance will be followed by a short jig lesson for children. General seating, doors open 20 minutes before show time.



**The Buck Stops Here: The Life of Harry S. Truman Thursday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.**  
 Harry S. Truman met his responsibilities and never turned his back on the uphill challenges of life. He was a revered military captain, failed haberdasher, county judge, two-term U.S. senator, and vice president for a mere 82 days. Then suddenly, on the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, thrust into office as the 33rd president of the United States.  
 Historian Jim Gibbons presents the life of the Missouri farmer and former president, known for his determination and persistence. No registration required.



**A Cup of Health: Coping with Stress through Journaling Tuesday, March 28, 1:30 p.m.**  
 Stressed out? This one-hour presentation will discuss chronic stress and its impact on physical and mental health. Participants will be introduced to and practice journaling as a coping technique to protect their well-being. This session will cover:

- Normal stress vs. chronic stress
- Stress-related health consequences
- Personal stress assessment
- Journaling as a coping technique
- Journaling exercises

This is the first in a series of five "Cup of Health" programs in 2023, presented by a community health educator with the Waukesha County Public Health Department. Advance registration is appreciated at [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org).



**Maximize Your Medicare Benefits / Thursday, March 30, 1:00 p.m.**  
 Learn 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 fit together. Presented in conjunction with the ADRC of Waukesha County and GWAAR (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.). Advance registration is appreciated at [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org).



*The Elm Grove News-Independent*  
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# Candidates for Elmbrook School Board

NOTE: Each Board member represents the entire school district; thus, residents can vote for one candidate for each seat.

## 1. Discuss your background (education, occupation, volunteer activities, years in Elmbrook District, family, etc.)

### ----- AREA I seat -----

**\*Scott Wheeler -**  
(Did not submit a response.)

### ----- AREA III seat -----

**\*Gregg Eberhardt -**  
“Lived in the district 1976-2003 and 2016-present, 1990 East graduate, coached at Central 1991-1992, coached and refereed for Elmbrook Youth Basketball mid '90s – 2001. B.S. Mechanical Engineering and MBA, both from Marquette. Currently, Product Manager with \$50M in P&L responsibility.”

**\*Preetha Kurudiyara -**  
“I am a 2nd-generation American from the Midwest, a pediatrician specializing in teenage development, and the proud mother of 2 current Elmbrook students. I've lived in Brookfield for 14 years, and volunteer extensively in this school district and greater community.”

### ----- AT LARGE seat -----

**\*David Irwin -**  
“Graduated Hinsdale HS, Dartmouth, and Wharton; started career at Boston Consulting Group; served as a business president for Fiserv; now work in management consulting and investments; Lived in Elm Grove since 2005; Volunteer: UWM, Methodist Church, Rotary, Secure Futures.”

**\*Sam Hughes -**  
“Like many economically disadvantaged students, my strong public education was the foundation of my later success. It provided me with critical thinking skills and proficient knowledge, which gave me the confidence to build a successful business and achieve further degrees.”

## 2. What has motivated you to run for election / reelection at this time? What are your qualifications to be a board member?

**\*Scott Wheeler -**  
(Did not submit a response.)

**\*Gregg Eberhardt -**  
“As an alumnus with history going back to 1976 and having children entering elementary school, I have a deep desire for the district to be the best that it can be. Combining this with my technical and business acumen, I can provide needed leadership in district oversight.”

**\*Preetha Kurudiyara -**  
“I have children attending Elmbrook schools for the next 7 years, and am invested in maintaining the exceptional quality of this district. I have spent the past 2 decades of my professional life as an advocate for families raising children and bring expertise in developing child-centered policies to this role.”

**\*David Irwin -**  
“Concerned about extremism that seizes upon honest mistakes made in Elmbrook to create hysteria about our schools allegedly “indoctrinating” students. This may happen somewhere; but not here. Their goal is a board majority to terminate/chase-off good leaders and teachers, which damages education and our ability to hire for future.”

**\*Sam Hughes -**  
“I grew up on government subsidies and now own a profitable business. I am motivated to give back to our community through civic service. Our school district is great, and I believe it can be greater. The youth of our community deserve the best public education we can offer them.”

## 3. What are the 3 most significant issues and/or challenges facing the School District of Elmbrook within the next 3 years? What solutions / improvements would you suggest?

**\*Scott Wheeler -**  
(Did not submit a response.)

**\*Gregg Eberhardt -**  
“Academic focus, 2014 math proficiency was 77%, now at 66%. English Language Arts proficiency at 62% means that almost 40% of students are not at grade level proficiency.

Safety and transparency. From explicit material available to children to cyber security, there are more safety concerns than decades ago. Proper oversight and management of our digital assets will lessen the potential of a dangerous outcome.

Traditionally the district had been financially frugal, but this changed over a decade ago and though the current balance sheet is passable, headwinds are coming that will require difficult decisions.”

**\*Preetha Kurudiyara -**  
“Significant issues facing this district include:

- 1) Role of technology in education. I bring expertise in child development to ongoing evaluation of educational tools.
- 2) Retaining high-quality staff and administrators. I will work to develop policies to most effectively support teachers and administrators in achieving our district goals for growth and excellence.
- 3) Partisan political influence on educational priorities. I am committed to treating this nonpartisan office with the neutrality that it deserves. Our children deserve decision-makers who aren't tied to political agendas and instead are level-minded, informed adults who approach all facets of decision-making with integrity and sound reason.”

**\*David Irwin -**  
“Getting back to pre-pandemic test-score levels and higher, and broadly preparing our students for life, college and career. Solutions lie in teaching fundamentals rigorously, proper teacher-student ratios, and maintaining / building welcoming environments where kids focus on learning.

Avoiding a board takeover by ideologically motivated extremist movements that are seeping into the mainstream, largely due to misinformation and outside money, as I've written. Solutions lie in raising awareness of the issues in our community.

Managing our way through a likely leadership succession process and generally attracting the finest teachers and staff at a time when many are leaving the field.”

**\*Sam Hughes -**  
“Raising academic proficiency levels, retaining excellent teachers, and achieving long-term financial stability without a tax referendum.

Last year only 51.9% of 8th graders were proficient in math, and only 61.5% of 3rd graders were proficient in ELA. I want to listen to teachers' concerns and work together to find solutions. We lose 10% of staff each year, and only 65% report a satisfactory work-life balance. How can we help teachers achieve better academic outcomes for students? Do we need more learning spaces for smaller class sizes? Why do we have thirteen 4th grade classrooms with 27 students each?”



## 4. If you have children in grades K-12, which district school and/or non-district schools do they attend?

**\*Scott Wheeler -**  
(Did not submit a response.)

**\*Gregg Eberhardt -**  
“My bonus child is in eighth grade in a neighboring district. We're looking at the best option for our younger children entering elementary school.”

**\*Preetha Kurudiyara -**  
“I have a 5th-grader at Brookfield Elementary, and a freshman at BCHS. I have been a parent in elementary, middle and high school in Elmbrook.”

**\*David Irwin -**  
“Tonawanda, PPMS, BEHS, 2008-2024. Sent one kid to BA, grades 4-8 because insufficiently challenged in Elmbrook. I'm not a Pollyanna --- early years can improve.”

**\*Sam Hughes -**  
“My children attend schools in our community that best meet their educational needs. Stakeholders in our district have many options. I believe in educational choices.”

## 5. What do you propose to help ensure the retention of teachers in the district given the current climate?

**\*Scott Wheeler -**  
(Did not submit a response.)

**\*Gregg Eberhardt -**  
“We should have safe work environments so that our employees can perform their jobs and provide a competitive salary / benefits package with continuous training for them to educate children.”

**\*Preetha Kurudiyara -**  
“District employees need to feel valued and respected. Hiring high-quality educators and providing the partnership, tools and support required for success is essential to retaining the best for this district.”

**\*David Irwin -**  
“Continuing our compensation and benefits strategy of top quartile or higher; continuing to recognize excellence in teaching; modeling a non-political learning culture at the administrative and board levels.”

**\*Sam Hughes -**  
“I have been actively listening to Elmbrook teachers' concerns. As a Board member I will support our talented educators so they can focus more on doing what they do best.”

## On the Ballot – April 4, 2023 Spring Election



## 6. How will you, as a board member, work to ensure that students (of ALL races and ethnic backgrounds, and those who identify as LGBTQIA+) feel like they belong, feel safe, and are not marginalized in our schools?

**\*Scott Wheeler -**  
(Did not submit a response.)

**\*Gregg Eberhardt -**  
“I believe in the golden rule and that we are all God's children. We should treat people as we would like to be treated.”

**\*Preetha Kurudiyara -**  
“I recognize the correlation between a safe school environment and higher student achievement and will advocate for strategies and procedures that address the prevention of school-related harassment, discrimination and violence as a way to help raise achievement for all students.”

**\*David Irwin -**  
“Racial / ethnic discrimination is illegal. Any bullying must be disciplined. All students deserve a safe, welcoming environment regardless of sexual orientation. Beyond fundamental biology and health/safety (parent opt-out available), sexuality is not a “field of study” in public K-12 education.”

**\*Sam Hughes -**  
“All students deserve to feel a sense of belonging in our schools. Every one of our students has unique gifts and talents to offer. The school board's role is to provide all students with equal access to Elmbrook's educational excellence.”



## Classifieds

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# Young Writers & Reporters

## Spring

By Lillian T. Rydze, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade-Tonawanda

You can tell it is spring  
when the blossoms bloom.  
You can tell it is spring  
when the sun fills the air.  
You can tell it is spring  
when the snow goes away.  
You can tell it is spring  
when you go outside and SHOUT,  
"It's spring! Hip, Hop hooray!"

## Chrysanthemum

By Joy Kim, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever felt like you don't belong? Well, in the book *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes, Chrysanthemum feels left out. An example is when she was teased about her name because she is named after a flower. This shows me that she feels left out.

Another example of Chrysanthemum feeling left out is because Victoria says "Your name is too long." Soon the other kids start laughing at Chrysanthemum. The last example of Chrysanthemum feeling left out is because Victoria says, "Your name is as half as many letters in the alphabet, wow so long!"

At the end of the story Chrysanthemum realizes that long names are cool. In my life sometimes you have to ignore what other people say. For example, when my brother called me grumpy, I just ignored him and ignoring him made me feel better. What I am trying to say here is that sometimes you have to ignore what other people say when they are saying something negative about you.

## Charlotte's Web

By Alice Magnor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever been creative before? In the book *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White, Charlotte is very creative. For example, she was creative when she wanted to save Wilbur. She wrote, "SOME PIG" in her web and she also wrote, "TERRIFIC" in her web.

Another example of Charlotte being creative was when she got a rat named Templeton to help her. She said, "I will give you the first chance at my food if you find more words to put into my web."

A final example of Charlotte being creative was when Charlotte asked Templeton to sneak under straw to help save Wilbur at the fair. This helped save his life!

Now as I think about Charlotte being creative if she had not been creative, she would not have been able to save Wilbur. If I had not been creative, I would not have gotten first place in the Pinewood Derby in Cub Scouts.

## A Boy Called Bat

By Mason Kressin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

In the story *A Boy Called BAT* a boy named Bixby Alexander Tam is caring. He loves animals. One example is he works at his mom's vet clinic. "Today you can help Laurence with baths," said his mom. This shows that Bat is caring.

Another example of Bat being caring is when he wrote to a skunk expert to ask for help with Thor. Bat asks, "Why do skunks spray? Where do skunks live? What are skunk's predators? Do skunks make good pets?" Bat was also caring when he braided Janie's hair. "Make sure you are braiding it tight," said Janie.

Now that I think about Bat being caring I realize that it is important to be caring because if I wasn't caring then everyone would feel left out. Once I was caring when one of my friends was hurt and made him feel better.

St. Mary's Visitation First Graders discuss:

### "If I had \$100.00, I would..."

- \*get a dog and a dog house that lights up." - Julia Taylor
- \*get a robot to fold my clothes." - Madeline Nelson
- \*buy a Lego Titanic set." - James Knabel
- \*spend it on a trip to Great Wolf Lodge and get a pet." - Lucy Brandt
- \*buy 100 toys and 100 pieces of candy." - Anthony Mascitti
- \*buy Zelda, Minecraft, Mario party 4, Pokemon, and Wii Sports video games." - Scott Read
- \*buy a Gameboy." - Jake Schultz
- \*buy Alexa." - Mary Andres

## When we look down the mountain

By Janavi Wagle, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Pilgrim Park Middle School

As a daughter of Nepali American immigrants, I wrote this poem to extend the gratitude to my parents who immigrated to this country years ago to follow their dreams. It explains their journey to the top of the mountain, overcoming challenges and making sacrifices so the future generations have a better life with more opportunities. This poem covers the topics of racial stereotypes, the values of hard work, hope for the future and struggle of immigrants. The lines also highlight the pride I have in being born in a country that has given me more honey than any bee in the world could make. I cannot thank my parents enough for all they do every day. Very few people know about my Nepali heritage and culture. But through poetry, I will share my roots and perspectives as an American-Born Nepali American teen in Milwaukee. This poem is inspired by *the hill we climb* by Amanda Gorman and *The Space in Between* from the show *Ginny and Georgia*.

Go home they cry!  
We don't want you here they say.  
Do you ever think about how hard we tried?  
How hard we dreamt about the dream land  
after resting our heads on the pillows after  
putting forth effort all day?

The Quarters, The Nickels and the Dimes  
our parents save,  
So, Me and the generations to come could  
have more honey than a bee could ever  
make.

"Shed down a miracle almighty" they sing  
every night as they pray  
Trying to make the best out of their long  
hard day.

The work ethic isn't that easy.  
Nor is it too hard.  
There's no rush to be the best.  
But there is always time to rest.

Living our story to the fullest  
reliving every chapter  
Avoiding every bullet  
Not worrying about what will happen after.

Thinking about the sacrifices  
So, we could rise to our flag.  
Putting our hands on our tired souls  
Praise to be God.

As we put our worn hand on the flag,  
The pride for the nation comes back,  
The memory of land where the  
enlightenment laid its head under the tree  
of the motherland,  
The land where the climbers of the world's  
tallest mountain felt the pride of reaching  
the top.

This is our new home now.  
But as we stand here and look down the  
mountain, we are being judged by  
stereotypes.

## An Interview with Trenton Jackson

By Henry Idstein, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

- \*So where did you live before you moved here? "*Franklin, Wisconsin*"
- \*What's your all-time favorite sport team? "*Chicago Bears*"
- \*Do you like it better here or in Franklin? "*I like it better here because it has a bunch of nice people*".
- \*What's your favorite subject in school? "*Math*"
- \*How many people are in your family? "*Six*"
- \*Was it hard making friends at Tonawanda? "*Not really because I had done it before*".
- \*Who's your favorite player on the bears? "*Darnell Mooney*"
- \*What's your favorite team in Wisconsin? "*Bucks*"



We are not criminals,  
We are not hoodlums,  
We do not smell like strong spices that make  
the noses burn.  
But we smell like pride.

As we look down the mountain, we think of  
how much we have grown.  
Thinking about the tears, sweat and blood  
that have been shed.  
The difficulties we have overcome to reach  
this place we now call our home.

Tears roll down as we think about the risk of  
entering the unknown universe.  
We do not inherit the hatred and anger  
thrown upon us.  
We bear the flag of peace, pride  
and courage.  
We inherit the goodness that we haven't lost  
in our lust.  
We recount what we have gained and lost  
on our journey to the top  
Looking down at the mountain, we see the  
light of hope.  
We see the cold white snow covered in gold  
as the sun peeks through the clouds.

## Literary Essay: The World According to Humphrey

By Sophia Hogan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Are you ever eager to explore? In the book, *The World According to Humphrey*, Humphrey is a hamster who likes to get out of his cage and explore. Humphrey has a loose lock on his cage so he can wiggle it open and go explore.

He squishes under the door, but never when people are around. Humphrey goes to the principal's office, the library and cafeteria and room 27. Humphrey once said "Time to go explore." This tells me that Humphrey was eager to explore.

Now that I see that Humphrey likes to explore, I am going to go outside more and explore. This connects with me because I like to go outside and explore new things just like Humphrey does.

## Mrs. Olson

By Brady Dugan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Everyone should appreciate Mrs. Olson because she makes sure we are safe at school. For example, she set up security cameras. She also makes sure that you need a special key card to get into the school. Also, she makes us practice safety drills so we are prepared for anything. This is why everyone should appreciate Mrs. Olson!

## My Barah Ceremony

By Abby Subedi

6th Grade - Pilgrim Park Middle School

A barah (coming of age) ceremony is of high cultural significance. A girl enters a dark room, stays there for twelve days, and must look directly into the sun once she comes out. This ceremony is for marrying the sun. The reason behind this is so the girl will not be considered a widow if her next husband dies (which was considered dishonorable). I recently did this ceremony and it was memorable. I was sent to the basement with my older sister and some other girls. Our time in the basement would be shortened to one day because we had to go to school. I wasn't excited to go into the basement because I wouldn't be able to see my cousin, who I enjoy spending time with (he's a boy, and boys aren't allowed at barah ceremonies). My sister felt the same way, except that she just didn't want to go. My cousin, however, who was also having her barah, was excited to spend the night. We did lots of things, like making dolls and drawing. The next day, we had our ceremony. It involved passing fruit and flowers around a circle, the planets, and a lot of rice. It took a lot of time, and by the end of it, we had looked into the sun three times, and my sister and I were ready to go home. When we finally went home, my mom said we had one more thing to do. We sat down, and our aunt and my mother's friends handed us fruit and rice, to be put into a large silver tray. After that was done, we finally completed our barah.

## Diary of a Wimpy Kid

By Adrian, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

In the book *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, Rodrick is a prankster. Usually, Greg is the target of Rodrick's pranks. Rodrick was a prankster when he put a sock in Greg's mouth while he was sleeping. "It just floated in," he said.

Another example is that he set Greg's clock to 6 a.m. and told him he slept through summer. Rodrick said, "Mom said to get you while she waits in the car." Also, Rodrick told Greg that there was a half goat half man thing in the woods.

One time I pranked my brother {Harvey} it was funny. I tied all of his streamers to the inside of his door knob so when he opened it all of them fell off. It was so funny!

## A Literary Review

By Natalie Conroy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever been creative before? In the story *IVY+BEAN Make the Rules* by Annie Barrows, IVY and BEAN are very creative girls. They are creative when they use duct tape and a big board to try to make a treehouse. "She stood on the seat, wrapping tape around the board and the branch. Tape, tape, tape. Okay! Done!" said Ivy as she built the treehouse.

Another example of them being creative is when they used thumb tacks and a metal tub to tap dance. "Stick six thumbtacks in the bottom of each shoe now we dance Tap Tap Tappity tap tap," said Bean. Lastly, Ivy and Bean were covered in bandages so they played zombies. This shows they are creative. "Since we are already covered in fake blood and bandages we can play zombies," said Dino.

Now, as I think about Ivy and Bean being creative, I realize it's important to be creative. I have been creative, too. In art class I was creative when I drew a picture of animals. I made an elephant purple, and a giraffe red and the hippo green!

# Young Writers

## St. Patrick's Day

By Jonathan Rajan, Tucker Neubauer, Corbin Shoen, and Brayden Blong  
4th Grade - Tonawanda

St Patrick's Day is an Irish holiday. It is celebrated on March 17. On St Patrick's Day people celebrate St Patrick, he was a priest in Ireland. When Patrick was only 16 years old, he was kidnapped. The kidnappers took him to Ireland to work as a slave. Patrick's life was very hard, he was very lonely. One day he saw a vision to escape so he escaped to a ship. When he was free, he went back home and studied his religion. He became a priest. Green is Ireland's national color. It's a tradition to hang up green stuff on St. Patrick's Day. People decorate with green streamers and table cloths. Banners are also popular. People eat special foods on St. Patrick's Day such as lamb, corn beef and cabbage for dessert, Irish soda bread, green pancakes and green jello. Leprechauns are a popular thing on St. Patrick's Day. A leprechaun is a magical person. Leprechauns wear green clothing. St Patrick's Day is a wonderful holiday. I hope you learned something in this article.

## St. Patrick's Day

By Violet Welsh, Blue Gress, and Hadley Weber  
4th Grade - Tonawanda

The March 17 celebration started in 1631 when the Church established a Feast Day honoring St. Patrick. He had been Patron Saint of Ireland who had died around the fifth century—a whopping 12 centuries before the modern version of the holiday was first observed. A lot of people like St. Patrick. Patrick's Day observes the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The holiday has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, drinking and a whole lot of green. Patrick believed his missionary work in Ireland as penance for something he did in his younger years. He was often punished for spreading the word of God up and down the country, but it never stopped him. In his writings, he revealed that someone had disclosed his early sin to the other bishops. St. Patrick was born in Britain—not Ireland—to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. St. Patrick was a great guy and deserves to have a wonderful holiday like this.

## St. Patrick's Day

By Maddie and Cora  
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Spirit is in the air  
Together is better

Patrick's Day is coming  
All so fun  
Treats  
Running around  
I love making traps  
Cutting the green cake  
Kids everywhere have fun  
Sweet green candy

## March

By Emma Stromwall  
Edited by Anaya Sati  
4th Grade - Tonawanda

My birthday!  
Awesome!  
Really fun!  
Choir musical!  
Hello spring!

# Legal Issues

## What Documents Will Your Family Need?

By Attorney Isabell M. Mueller

After you pass away, your surviving family members will need to gather many of your personal and financial records in order to settle your affairs. Keeping these documents organized and accessible is important for both you and your loved ones. Your filing system doesn't need to be elaborate, just organized. Your family will need the following documents when the time comes:

- List of Funeral Instructions and prepaid funeral contracts
- Last Will and Testament
- Revocable/Living Trust agreements
- Prenuptial/postnuptial agreements
- VA File Number, Military discharge papers
- Birth certificate and Death Certificate
- Marriage license or Divorce Decree
- Medicare Card/Health Insurance Card
- Bank statements, checkbooks, check registers, certificates of deposits
- Safe deposit rental agreement and keys

- Deeds, mortgages, leases, homeowner's insurance information
- Stock and bond certificates and account statement
- Pension, IRA, retirement statements/current employee benefit information
- Life insurance policies or statements
- Last several years' income tax returns
- Documentation regarding any debts, such as auto loans or credit cards

It is not necessary to give copies of these documents to anyone during your lifetime, but they should be easily accessible in the event of your death. The information should also be kept reasonably current.

Lastly, if you maintain important information on your computer, or have social media accounts, leave instructions regarding username and password information. Not having this information can cost both time and money. Maintaining organized personal and financial records is one of the best gifts you can give your family.

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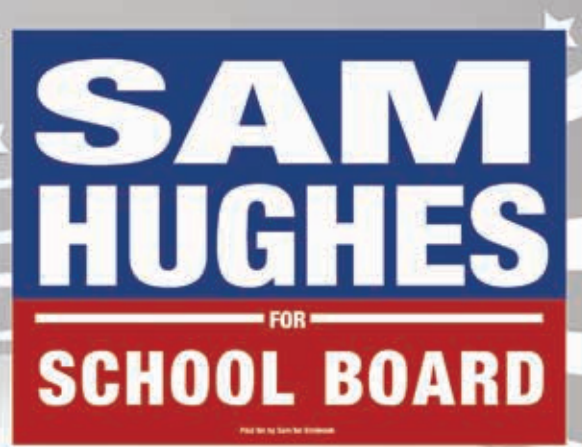
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