



Elm Grove NEWS- INDEPENDENT



Vol. 15 No. 7

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

March 2025



On the Ballot: Election – April 1, 2025



VILLAGE PRESIDENT Candidate

Elm Grove TRUSTEE Candidates

Elmbrook SCHOOL BOARD Candidates

At-Large seat

Area 2 seat



Jim
KOLESKI



Tom
CASTILE



Jim
OLSON



Eric
PETER



Kristina
SAYAS



Liz
BEAUDOIN



Cheryl
MILNES



Amit
SINGH



Wes
SYLLA

***** See **Candidates' Questions & Answers** sections: Pages 4 & 9 *****



LIZ

BEAUDOIN

FOR ELMBROOK SCHOOLS

VOTE

APRIL 1, 2025

ELMBROOK PARENT • NONPROFIT PROFESSIONAL • SERVANT LEADER

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Liz Beaudoin

VoteLizforElmbrook.com

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	+ All the News there's room to print!	



VOTE ERIC PETER


ELM GROVE VILLAGE TRUSTEE

ELM GROVE FIRST

I am committed to maintaining the peaceful, safe and friendly nature of our community. Preserving the special essence of our unique village for successive generations is my goal.

To learn more about me and my goals:

Join us for a
Meet & Greet with Eric Peter
on March 12th, 5:30 – 7:00 PM
at O'Donaghue's Pub!



friendsofericpeter.com

Thank you for your support!
Vote on or before April 1st

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Elisabeth
Passalis-Bain

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Profile: John Bogdal

Elm Grove Public Library Adult Services Coordinator

- I earned my Master’s of Science in Information Science from the University of Tennessee last May, but I have been working in libraries since 2021. Before deciding to become a librarian, I worked in the publishing industry but I left because I felt librarianship was a more fulfilling pursuit for a book-lover like me.
- My family is from upstate New York, where I was born, but I was raised and grew up in Memphis, Tennessee. I moved to Milwaukee by way of Dubuque, IA, where I held my first professional librarian position as Young Adult & Adult Services librarian. From there I made my way to Elm Grove, where I’ve been since the end of January.
- Aside from being an avid reader, I have also been playing guitar for 16 years and played in a funk and soul band back in Tennessee. I also am a competitive chess player and love teaching and sharing the game of chess with players both young and old.
- My favorite book of all time is *The Razor’s Edge* by Somerset Maugham. It’s about a young man disillusioned by war who goes on a quest to find himself. The characters are so vibrant and compelling and I read it over again every couple of years for inspiration. I also recommend the *Time Traveler’s Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger for a compelling story about how love can overcome the passage of time.
- If I could time travel, I would travel to a time in the future when humanity has colonized other planets. I’ve been reading a lot of science fiction lately, and I am just fascinated at the possibilities that would arise from interstellar travel. However, if I could meet any historical figure, it would be Isaac Newton. He was just such a brilliant figure and I would love to hear his thoughts on everything.
- I’m excited to learn and grow in my role at Elm Grove and am eager to bring some fun and interesting new programs to library patrons!



John Bogdal



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- ☒ Focused Learning



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CherylForElmbrook.com

CherylForElmbrook@gmail.com

Vote April 1, 2025

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SinghForElmbrook@pm.me
SinghForElmbrook.com



Learn More About Me



Early Voting Starts March 18th

Paid for by Friends of Amit Singh.

Village Update

By Tom Harrigan, Elm Grove Village Manager / tharrigan@elmgrovewi.org

As President **Jim Koleski** is seeking reelection, past practice is for the Village Manager to write this month's update to avoid any election concerns. Let's jump right in.



Tom Harrigan

"In like a lion, out like a lamb!" As we begin the dynamic month of March, it is important to remember that spring is just around the corner, and with that warmer weather too! There is certainly much to look forward to in the Village and I am thrilled to provide updates pertaining to on-going projects.

Underwood Creek Daylighting Project:
At the direction of the Public Works Committee on February 10th, our engineers at Stantec will be redesigning and extending the stepped quarry stone wall on the westside of the new creek channel (to the northwest near Watertown Plank Road). This 70-foot extension of quarry stone wall will allow for a reduction of the "poured-in-place" reinforced concrete wall, affording the Village real savings in construction costs. Stantec engineering will be completing environmental/geotechnical boring and soil sampling early in the month. The results of this soil analysis will present a clear picture on the amount and type of soil contamination existing within the new creek channel corridor. Providing this soil analysis within the bid advertisement for construction removes uncertainty and risk for contractors leading to a more competitive bid. The Public Works Committee will be reviewing the 90% engineering plan set at the March 10th meeting.

2025 Village Pathway Construction Update:
KL Engineering has completed the 30% engineering plans for the pedestrian pathways being designed in 2025. These segments include: Juneau Boulevard (Village Park to Crescent Drive); Gremoor Drive (Legion Drive to Arrowhead Court); Underwood River Parkway (Hollyhock Lane to San Fernando Drive); Gremoor Drive (Arrowhead Court to Fairhaven Boulevard). A Public Information Meeting was held on February 6th, and residents provided feedback on the 30% engineering design. It is important to note, the engineer's opinion on probable construction cost has come in much higher than what the Village initially budgeted for pathway construction in 2025. The Public Works Committee will need to determine how to proceed within the budget constraints. The Public Works Committee will be discussing this item at the March 10th meeting.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)

On February 20th, the Board of Trustees and the Recreation Committee held a joint meeting and Open House to present the final draft of the CORP document to the public. A presentation was given by our consultants, Vandewalle & Associates, and public comment on the draft document was taken. Why should the Village spend time, energy and resources on a CORP document? As Recreational Committee Chairman and Village Trustee stated, "The CORP is the Village's strategic offensive weapon in advancing the Village park facilities and obtaining grant funding to do so." The CORP outlines the facilities in the Village and makes recommendations on future facility improvements. One of the main drivers behind Drafting the CORP is a prerequisite for many State and Federal grant opportunities and associated funding. Staff will pursue competitive grant funding opportunities as they become available. Next steps? The final CORP document will be reviewed at the March Recreation Committee meeting and forward to the Board of Trustees. A big shout-out to Recreation Manager, **Logan Kein**, and the Recreation Committee members for their "heavy lift" in seeing this guiding document through to completion. Well done!

D 'oh!... A Deer!

Have you observed a higher number of deer roaming through the Village than "normal"? Recently staff has received multiple phone calls, emails and photo evidence of deer in the Village. How does the Village address our deer population and what steps can be taken to ensure a healthy population is maintained? Safety first. Annually, the Police department reviews the total number of Car vs. Deer accidents in the Village which began in 1992. In 2024 the Village had 3 Car Vs. Deer accidents of the 96 vehicle accidents in 2024, representing 3.1% of the total. Currently, the Village does not intend to take action to cull the deer population. However, a deer population census is planned. If the population is determined to be too high, the Village will then need to consider obtaining a Wildlife Management Permit and cull the herd in 2026. From a best practice standpoint, culling operations in Wisconsin typically occur from late fall through winter.

I enjoy visitors and would love to know how the Village is doing in serving you! Please do not hesitate contacting me at (262)782-6700, or tharrigan@elmgrovewi.org

May Good Luck be with you!
Tom Harrigan, Village Manager

News Briefs

Calling 911 from a Cell Phone vs. a Land-line *Elm Grove Emergency Services Recommendations*

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

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

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

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

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



Classifieds

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Two-Companion Crypt
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Location: Main floor, K Corridor
(C- eye level)
Current value is \$40,995.
I'm willing to negotiate the price.
Please call J.C. at 262-490-9096.

Business & Club Directory

*** Organizations**



**Elm Grove Golden K
Kiwanis Club**

Come Join with Us, Men & Women,
to serve the children of our community.
We meet each Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the
St. Mary's Senior Center in Elm Grove.
We have stimulating speakers each week
and offer socializing among all present.

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

*** Insurance**

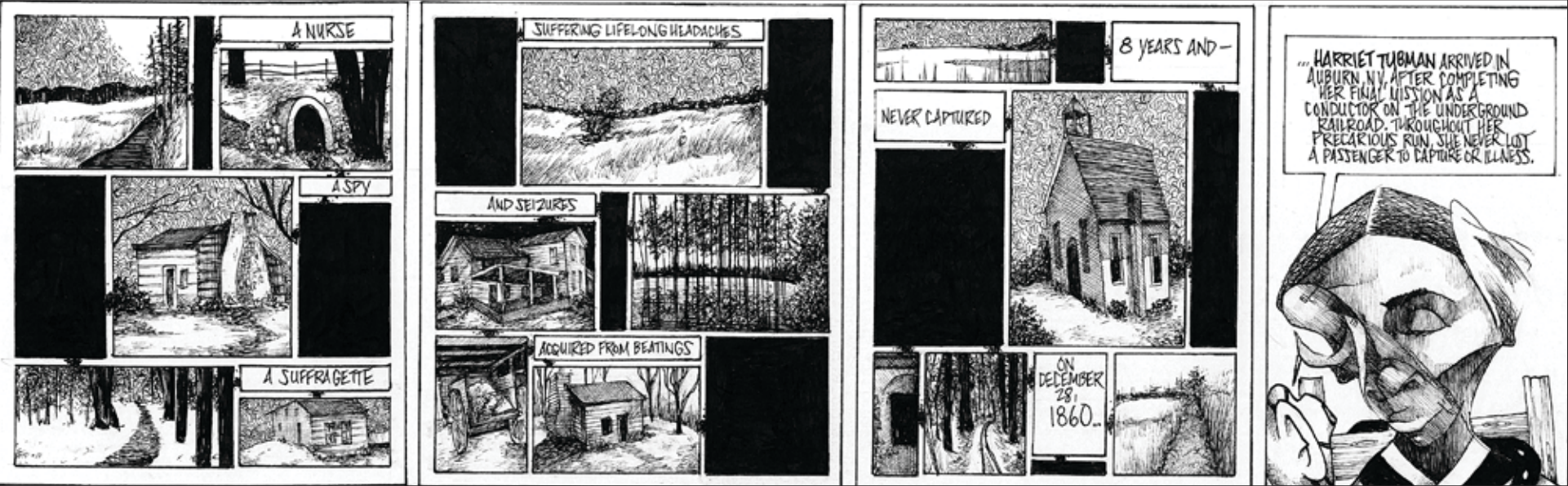
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MR. HUGH'S HISTORY by Drew Sternitzky asternitzky@wi.rr.com





On the Ballot: Election – April 1, 2025



Candidates for Elm Grove Village Trustee

(3 Trustee seats up for Election; 2-year terms)

#1. Discuss your background, education, occupation, years in Elm Grove, family.

- **Tom CASTILE –**

Resident of Elm Grove for 17 years. Married with daughter and two grandchildren also in EG. BS in Accounting degree. Majority of my career in Polymer compounding and emerging technologies. Retired in 2024 after the sale of our compounding business.
- **Eric PETER –**

My parents and grandparents were Elm Grove residents, so I spent years growing up in and exploring the village. For over four decades we have lived and raised our family here. Our family runs a manufacturing business in Menomonee Falls.
- **Kristina SAYAS –**

My husband James and I moved to Elm Grove and purchased his family home 11 years ago. 2022 we welcomed our son Thomas. Bachelors from DePaul, masters from Northwestern. President/Founder of KEO Consulting Group (business development consultant) and full-time mom.
- **Jim OLSON –**

My wife, Betsy, and I have lived in Elm Grove since 2005, raising our children, Nick and Katy, who attended St. Mary’s Visitation School. I’m a Wisconsin Registered Architect with degrees from UW Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

#2. What has motivated you to seek election / re-election?

- **Tom CASTILE –**

As a newer trustee, my efforts to provide residents with increased transparency/insight into critical issues facing the Village (see below) remain nascent. We need to develop sound long-term solutions that protect the character of our Village and not band aids.
- **Eric PETER –**

Having lived in surrounding communities, this tiny village in eastern Waukesha County is unique. Today’s Elm Grove experience is quite similar to past generations, and to most residents that’s good. Preserving that unique substance for successive generations is a goal.
- **Kristina SAYAS –**

I ran for trustee 4 years ago to ensure residents’ voices shape Elm Grove’s future. Seeking re-election, I remain committed to transparency, community input, and initiatives that enhance our village’s vibrancy and quality of life, ensuring comprehensive and informed decision-making.
- **Jim OLSON –**

I’m seeking election due to my experience on local and professional boards, which taught me the value of collaboration, leadership, and service. I’m motivated to give back to the community by using my skills to strengthen and enhance it.

#3. How have you contributed to / served our community within the past 5 years?

- **Tom CASTILE -**

My efforts have been focused on key citizen-driven demands – enhanced public safety, controlling Village expenses, and supporting critical public initiatives including increased pathways, enhancements to our Village Park, and garnering support for the creek daylighting referendum. I’m focused on new legislation to preserve and protect resident approval on critical issues.
- **Eric PETER –**

Personally, I serve on the Elm Grove Board of Appeals. Recently I have been attending select Village Board and Committee meetings. I am a director at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and support many local charitable organizations. In reality all village property taxpayers contribute to bettering our greater Elm Grove community.
- **Kristina SAYAS -**

Currently serve as Village Trustee, Vice-President of Community Foundation, member of Woman’s Club, EGJG and Mrs. Claus for Lights-of-Love. Been an active member of the community since the year we moved here. President along with other leadership positions of the EGJG and Board of Directors of EG Citizens Police Academy.
- **Jim OLSON –**

Since 2006, I’ve been a dedicated and engaged member of the Elm Grove Building Board, collaborating with the community and fellow board members to maintain neighborhood integrity. In 2008, I became chair, motivated by a desire to assist residents in enhancing their properties and the overall character of Elm Grove.

Candidate for Elm Grove Village President

(2-year term)

- **Jim KOLESKI -**

#1. Discuss your background, education, occupation, years in Elm Grove, family.

Margo and I moved to Elm Grove in 2011 as empty nesters. After attending Whitewater, I have worked for Manufacturing Businesses after 12 years with KPMG, an accounting Firm. I am a Certified Public Accountant and consult with Businesses on Strategy.

#2. What has motivated you to seek election / re-election?

Elected Trustee in 2022 and Village President in 2023. As Village President, working with the Board, we have advanced pathways, Underwood Creek Daylighting, road repaving, recreation improvements and hiring/retaining Village Staff. Would welcome the opportunity to lead further meaningful improvements.

#3. How have you contributed to / served our community within the past 5 years?

As Village President I serve on the Public Works, Planning Commission (Chairman) and Finance (Chairman) Committees. Through active participation and leadership, we have been able to balance the budget within the constraints of the State’s levy limits which have averaged 2% over the last 3 years and built 2 pathways.
- #4. What are the 2 most significant issues / challenges facing Elm Grove within the next 3 years? What solutions / improvements would you suggest?**

Balancing the fiscal budget will be challenging without levy relief from the State. Mandel/Caroline Heights will require increased services from the Village without any increase in Village revenue for over 15 years. Incremental revenue from the Project will payback borrowings used to fund incentives provided the Developer. The Village is exploring other tax revenue actions taken by other communities, if necessary.

Developing a long-term strategy to maintain the excellent volunteer EMS and Fire services provided. As current volunteers are no longer able or willing to volunteer, the Village must attract additional volunteers. Recent compensation scale improvements have provided breathing room.



#4. What are the 2 most significant issues / challenges facing Elm Grove within the next 3 years? What solutions / improvements would you suggest?

- **Tom CASTILE -**

We need to find creative, cost-effective, long-term solutions to **ensure the long-term sustainability of the current level of fire and EMS services** our residents deserve and expect. Our volunteer-driven model lacks sufficient new volunteers. The short-term solution will be to utilize the higher taxes residents will soon pay as a result of the Caroline Heights development.

The longer-term solution to fund Village services will be to **develop a comprehensive master plan that favors single family home development**. This approach will help ensure that future development is consistent with the current resident wishes without compromising to large developers.
- **Eric PETER -**

We will soon face the assimilation of the Caroline Heights development into our Village. Retaining the special essence of Elm Grove will require monitoring and addressing traffic, safety, noise and other items which may arise from high density housing. Greater services for any of these may create additional financial burdens.

We need to continue our pedestrian path project and execute the creek daylighting project in a beautiful, functional and economically viable fashion, update our Village Master Plan and finalize and execute as much of the CORP plan as is reasonable.

I believe these responsibilities should fall under local decision making.
- **Jim OLSON –**

The opening of the Caroline Heights Development represents a pivotal moment for our village, bringing both opportunities and challenges. This evolving landscape will require thoughtful future planning to preserve the qualities that make our village special.

Daylighting Underwood Creek and expanding pathways are exciting and transformative village projects. Ensuring safe, accessible design elements for residents is key to their success.

The common denominator of both initiatives highlights the need to revisit a master plan, making sure it reflects our community’s evolving needs and provides clear, fiscally responsible guidance for future development while embracing forward progress.
- **Kristina SAYAS -**

 - Prioritizing a balanced operating budget that covers rising maintenance costs while funding essential services and infrastructure improvements residents seek. Strategic financial planning ensures we sustain existing services, invest in the community’s future, and responsibly manage increasing costs without overburdening taxpayers.
 - The full impact of the Caroline Heights development on Elm Grove is still uncertain. Once fully occupied, we can assess traffic and public safety needs. With no added tax revenue from the TIF, we must ensure taxpayers are not burdened with increased costs from this development.

53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Thank you Elm Grove Residents

The Elm Grove Community Foundation (EGCF) Board extends our heartfelt gratitude to all residents who generously contributed to our annual appeal campaign this winter. Your support makes a meaningful impact, allowing us to fund essential community projects, including:

- **Downtown Holiday Decorations** – Bringing festive cheer to our village
- **EGPD Dispatch Appreciation Week** – Honoring our dedicated dispatch team
- **EGPD Police Appreciation Week** – Recognizing our hardworking officers
- **Elm Grove Public Works Appreciation Week** – Celebrating those who keep our village running smoothly
- **Hanging Flower Baskets** – Beautifying our streets
- **July 4th Fireworks** – Lighting up Independence Day
- **July 4th Free Swim** – Making summer memories for local families
- **Tunes on Tuesday** – Bringing live music to the community

Become an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run Sponsor

Looking for a great way to showcase your business in the Elm Grove community? Consider sponsoring Oktoberfest or the 0.5K Fun Run! Your sponsorship helps us host our largest annual fundraiser, ensuring we can continue to enhance the quality of life in our village.

For more information on customizable sponsorship opportunities, visit www.elmgrovefoundation.org/contact. We’d love to hear from you!

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 19 & 20, 2025

Calendar of Events – March 2025

Tuesday – MARCH 4

- Elm Grove Building Board
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall
- Elm Grove Sustainability Committee
Meeting: 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall

Friday – MARCH 7

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
- Friends of the Elm Grove Library Annual Used Book Sale
Open to the public: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (See AD)

Saturday – MARCH 8

- Friends of the Elm Grove Library Annual Used Book Sale
Open to the public: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday – MARCH 9

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins
Turn clocks ahead 1 hour.

- Friends of the Elm Grove Library Annual Used Book Sale
Open to the public: Noon to 4 p.m.

Tuesday – MARCH 11

- Elmbrook Board of Education
Meeting – 6 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield.
Open to the public.
www.elmbrookschoools.org

Friday – MARCH 14

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Gail Jacobsen**
Topic: Coping with Grief and Loss through Journaling.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Monday – MARCH 17

ST. PATRICK’S DAY

- Birders of the Grove
Meeting: 9 a.m. at Village Hall

Tuesday – MARCH 18

- Elm Grove Building Board
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall

Thursday – MARCH 20

FIRST DAY OF SPRING !!!!!



- OWLS – Seniors’ Group
Coach Trip to Drury Lane Theatre
“Beautiful” – The Carol King Musical
(Reservation deadline was Feb. 24.)
Don’t miss future events. See our website.
<http://www.cumceg.org/owls>

Friday – MARCH 21

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker, **Billy Stenavich**
Topic: Adventures of a WWII Submariner
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Tuesday – MARCH 25

- Elm Grove Board of Trustees meeting:
7 p.m. at Village Hall courtroom.
Open to the public. www.elmgrovewi.org

Friday – MARCH 28

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

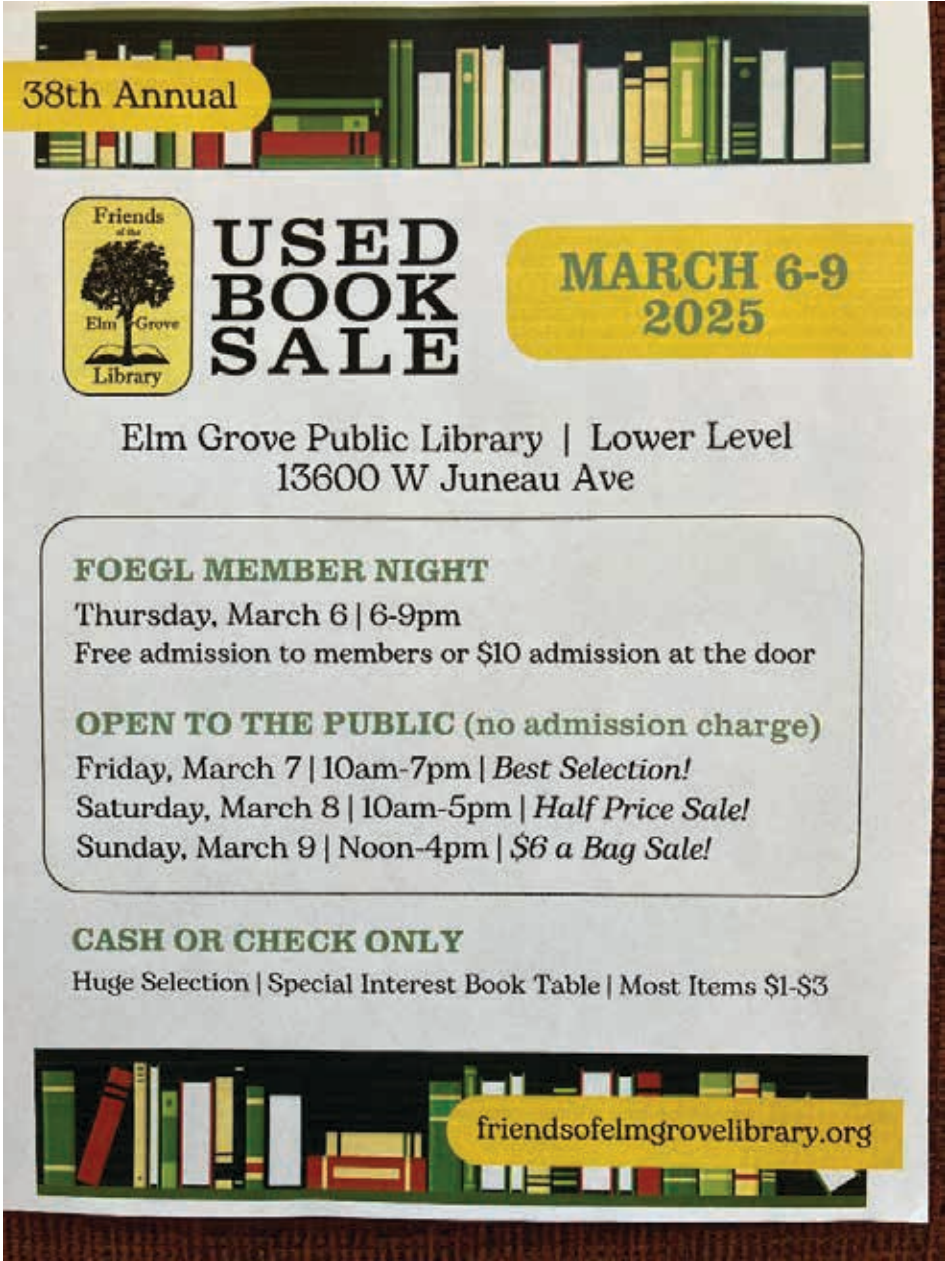
Elm Grove Recycling Center Hours

The Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste Facility

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

MARCH 2025 – OPEN: Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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



38th Annual

USED BOOK SALE

MARCH 6-9 2025

Elm Grove Public Library | Lower Level
13600 W Juneau Ave

FOEGL MEMBER NIGHT
Thursday, March 6 | 6-9pm
Free admission to members or \$10 admission at the door

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (no admission charge)
Friday, March 7 | 10am-7pm | *Best Selection!*
Saturday, March 8 | 10am-5pm | *Half Price Sale!*
Sunday, March 9 | Noon-4pm | *\$6 a Bag Sale!*

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Huge Selection | Special Interest Book Table | Most Items \$1-\$3

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TUESDAYS at 2:30 pm

Kim Wells \$10/session

Community UMC Elm Grove
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Register: Call (262) 782-4060



MUSIC IN THE GROVE presents

PADDYGRASS & TRINITY IRISH DANCE

MARCH 14, 2025 | 6PM



TRINITY IRISH DANCE

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Elm Grove

Food and beverages available for purchase on site

 Get tickets here or visit egwc.org

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Free Lecture

presented by the Elmbrook Historical Society

MILWAUKEE MAYHEM

Murder & Mystery in Cream City's First Century

Author Matthew J. Prigge will tell us about his fascinating book. From murder and matchstick men to all-consuming fires, painted women, and Great Lakes disasters--and the wide-eyed public who could not help but gawk at it all--"Milwaukee Mayhem" uncovers the little-remembered and rarely told history of the underbelly of a Midwestern metropolis. "Milwaukee Mayhem" offers a new perspective on Milwaukee's early years, forgoing the major historical signposts found in traditional histories and focusing instead on the strange and brutal tales of mystery, vice, murder, and disaster that were born of the city's transformation from lakeside settlement to American metropolis.




focusing on the strange and brutal tales of mystery, vice, murder, and disaster

MONDAY, March 10, 7:00 PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY Community Room
1900 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield, WI




DONATE BLOOD

Saturday MARCH 15

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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



COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

Fellowship Hall, 1st floor; 14700 W. Watertown Plank Road



*Appts. made at <https://bit.ly/CUMCEGMarch2025>
*Appts. also made via QR Code below in flyer.

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

*Please ask younger generations to step up to donate blood, as Baby Boomer donors are not able to donate in the numbers they used to!

*ALL ATTEMPTING DONORS INCLUDED IN VERSITI'S MARCH SWEEPSTAKES TO WIN HAWAIIAN VACATION

*NO PURCH. NEC. MI, OH, IL, IN, and WI residents only; 21+. Ends 3/31/25. One (1) drawing. Enter by blood donation or online. See Official Rules and online entry form at versiti.org/savevacation. Sponsor: Versiti, Inc., 638 N. 18th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233.



Report from Madison

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13 State Budget Process: Will The Will of the People Be the Law of the Land?

Governor Evers and I often quote what is written on the ceiling in the Governor’s conference room, “The Will of the People is the Law of the Land.” Long ago those words were inscribed on that ceiling as a reminder that what we do in Madison should reflect the values of the people we represent, and the will of Wisconsinites. Governor Evers and I take that energy into the state budget process.

Every two years the Wisconsin legislature passes a biennial (2-year) state budget—this occurs in the *odd year* of the 2-year legislative session. Fun fact: in Wisconsin we must balance the budget.

The budget process begins about a year earlier, in the “even year,” with the governor gathering input from state agencies and stakeholders. Lawmakers (that’s me!) also spend the “even year” gathering input from constituents and stakeholders, and then present funding proposals to the governor. I met with Governor Evers in December to present my ideas and concerns on behalf of my constituents and my district, and we will include a link below to more details of that meeting.

On Tuesday, February 18th, Governor Evers delivered his “Budget Address” in the State Assembly. The governor’s budget proposal is presented in the form of a bill. Both the executive and the legislative branches are part of the budget crafting process—and so are the people of Wisconsin.

After the governor’s address, the proposed budget bill, along with related documents, lands on our desks at the Capitol, and the process is off and running across the state!

Wisconsinites will have the opportunity to participate in various types of listening sessions between now and the final budget

vote, which is likely in June. You can also call and email your representatives anytime with your input.

The final version of the budget bill comes from the legislature’s Joint Finance Committee (JFC), a committee composed of 12 Republicans and 4 Democrats from both the Assembly and the Senate. JFC spends months deliberating the final version of the bill, and then sends their proposed budget to the floors of the Assembly and Senate for (possible) amendments, and a final vote in each house. The two houses can each amend the bill, but must agree on the same version before sending it to Governor Evers for his response.

If the Senate and Assembly pass a budget bill (it must be the same in both houses), the bill is sent to Governor Evers’ desk where he can sign the budget as-is, veto the budget in its entirety, or utilize his partial veto power and then sign the budget. *If a budget is not passed by July 1st, the state continues to operate under the biennial budget from the previous session.* Once a budget is signed by the governor, the final state budget goes into effect starting the 1st of July.

And...that’s how it *usually* happens. Time will tell what will happen this year, and I encourage you to engage in the process and share your feedback with me, and your state senator.

At the end of this process, will the will of the people be the law of the land? I always move forward with hope.

Forward together,
Robyn Vining, State Representative

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

EMAIL REP.VINING@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV

 @REPROBYNVINING  @REP.ROBYN

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

State Budget Preview:



Governor Evers' Budget Speech:



State Of The State Recap:



Green is Good!

Why “Fast Fashion” Isn’t Worth It

By Elm Grove Green Team member Danielle Linn

Did you know that over 60% of Americans reported buying secondhand items, primarily clothing, in 2023? The trend is growing! However, fast fashion—inexpensive, mass produced, lower quality clothing, is also on the rise. People spent \$150 billion (with a B) on fast fashion worldwide in 2024, and the industry is only growing.

While buying inexpensive clothing can be beneficial to your wallet in the short term, the items don’t last—and aren’t intended to. People typically wear an item only 7 to 10 times before disposing of it. Is this because the quality is lower? Likely. Is our society inclined to overconsume, especially when we see a “good deal” that we can’t pass up? Indisputably.

The environmental impact of fast fashion cannot be overstated. The industry contributes annually to more carbon emissions than international air travel and

shipping combined, uses a staggering amount of water (141 billion cubic meters annually) and oil, and is a significant microplastics polluter.

Fast fashion also contributes to humanitarian crises, both in underpaying workers, and with high volumes of textiles—over 11 megatons annually! -- ending up in landfills, which are more likely to be located in areas with higher populations of people of color.

The good news is, through buy/sell/trade groups online, local consigning events, neighborhood resale and thrift stores, and online platforms like Poshmark and ThreadUp, it’s never been easier to source your family’s wardrobe sustainably and economically. Find unique pieces, save some money, and help the planet—win, win, win!


**Sources: Statista, UniformMarket.com*

BUDGET PROCESS

1

FEBRUARY



Governor Evers introduces his biennial budget proposal.



2

MARCH


Budget listening sessions for constituents to share what matters to them.



3

APRIL


The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) hosts public hearings across the state.



4

APRIL


State agencies meet with JFC about their budget requests.



5

MAY & JUNE

JFC has executive sessions to vote on provisions of the budget.





Republicans may propose & vote on an alternative. Final proposal sent to the Senate & Assembly for a floor vote.

6

MAY & JUNE


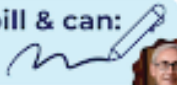
Assembly & Senate vote on the JFC budget bill, & amendments are proposed.



7

MAY & JUNE


Governor Evers receives the budget bill & can: sign, veto, or sign & partially veto.



8

JULY

The new fiscal year starts with the new budget.



ROBYN VINING
WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE



REP. ROBYN VINING ANNOUNCES
“COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS”

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AUTISM



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROBYN VINING
13TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
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News’ Hounds & other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Hi, I’m Skye! I’m a sweet, gentle soul who’s absolutely “obsessed” with treats and all things food. Seriously, snacks are the way to my heart—just crinkle a treat bag, and you’ll see me perk right up! I also love cozy sunlit naps; there’s nothing better than snoozing in a warm, sunny spot after a snack (or two). I’m a little shy at first, but with patience, kindness, and, of course, a stash of my favorite treats, I’ll let you see my curious, playful side. I’m looking for someone special who knows that building trust takes time but is so worth it. So, how about we share some snacks and start this journey together? Skye’s adoption fee has been sponsored by an anonymous supporter!

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



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Skye

News Briefs



A Used Book Sale promotional display at the Elm Grove Public Library.

Friends of Elm Grove Library to Host 38th Annual Used Book Sale – March 6th through 9th

By Janet Wintersberger

We are looking forward to our big book sale in March! It may still be snowing in March, but it will be “Raining Books” at the sale. Choose from a huge assortment of gently-used books, puzzles, vinyl, CDs and DVDs. Plus, we have a “Special Table” of rare and collectible items. Topics range from Archeology to Zoology.

Preview sale for FOEGL members and those paying \$10 at the door on Thursday evening, March 6. Free admission on Friday, March 7, Saturday, March 8, and Sunday, March 9. Shop early and often. Many items \$3 or less. Best selection and full price Thursday and Friday. Half price Saturday. \$6 a bag Sunday. *Cash or check only.*

All proceeds go to our library’s services. See you there! Elm Grove Public Library, 13600 Juneau Blvd. Elm Grove. **Check our AD (Page 5) for hours.**

St. Patrick's Day

word search

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

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PARADE
GOLD

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MAGIC
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Elm Grove Public Library Programs

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

- Bright Beginnings Story Time and Play Group**
Ages 1-3 years / Meets Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Dates: March 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15, 22.

Meets in the O'Neill Room downstairs for 15 – 20 minutes of interactive stories, rhymes and songs, followed by playtime with special toys.
- Morning Break Story Time**
Ages 3-5 years / Meets Fridays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Dates: March 14, 21, 28; April 11, 25.

Meets in the story room at the library for 30 minutes of stories, songs and other early literacy activities.
- Therapy Pet Reading Program**
Grades 1-5 / You may choose to read with a certified therapy pet for 25 minutes, once per month. Register at the library.

Pets include **Marty** (cat), **Clover** (dog), and **Blumi** (dog).
Appointments are all after school. Check the library website or call the library for specific dates and times.
- Build It Club**
Grades K through 5 - Wednesdays, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. / March 12 and April 9

Participants will spend time designing and building with Legos, Keva Planks, Ozobots and more. No registration is required and the library will provide all materials.

Scholarships for BEHS Seniors Available

(BROOKFIELD) The Brookfield East Friends of Fine Arts is happy to offer a number of scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to BEHS Seniors graduating in June 2025 who will be attending a four-year university or a two-year technical program. The scholarships are offered to students who have been involved in the fine arts at Brookfield East, which include Band, Orchestra, Choir, Drama, Forensics & the Visual Arts. The application deadline is April 15th at 11:59 p.m. More information, instructions and the application can be found on the Scholarships tab of the Brookfield East Friends of Fine Arts website linked here: <http://www.brookfieldeastffa.com/college-scholarships.html>

National German Exam Results Announced

(BROOKFIELD) - The following Brookfield East High School students received awards for their excellent performance on the National German Exam:

- *Gold Medal: Avery Lauenstein
- *Silver Medals: Jonah Lotegeluaki, Isabella Ityavkase, Paxtyn Weiss, Robert Neary
- *Bronze Medal: Olivia Lauenstein
- *High Honors: Carina Skoronski, Claire McNallie, Luke Derwinski, Mani Arunachalam, Matt Schatz, Miya Koenning

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News Briefs

Elmbrook High School Key Clubs: Leadership and Service to Our Communities

By Bill Keefer

Key Club International, affiliated with Kiwanis International, is a worldwide service club dedicated to helping children around the world. The Elmbrook School District is blessed with two very strong and successful Key Clubs at Brookfield East and Brookfield Central high schools, sponsored and supported by the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club.

Key Club International, established in 1925, is the oldest and largest student-led service organization for high school students. Its mission is to promote leadership and its core values through serving others, fostering character development, and encouraging inclusiveness.

The first Key Club was formed in May 1925 at Sacramento High School in California. The initiative was spearheaded by **Albert C. Olney and Frank C. Vincent**, both members of the local Kiwanis Club and high school administrators. They envisioned a junior service club within the high school that mirrored the Kiwanis model, aiming to provide vocational guidance and promote community service among students. The inaugural club began with 11 charter members and held regular luncheon meetings, featuring guest speakers from the Kiwanis community.

Over the subsequent decades, Key Club experienced significant growth. By 1939, the organization had expanded to approximately 50 clubs, leading to the formation of the first Key Club district in Florida. In 1943, the movement achieved international status, officially becoming Key Club International. A notable milestone in the organization’s history was in 1977 when female students were first admitted, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity.

Today, Key Club International has several thousand Key Clubs in high schools and their equivalent institutions in 45 countries around the world. Cumulative membership numbers exceed 200,000 high school age students.

Brookfield Central High School (BCHS)

Begun in 1957, the Brookfield Central High School (BCHS) in Brookfield, Wisconsin, boasts one of the most active Key Clubs in the nation. Its Key Club is recognized as the largest club in the world, offering students numerous opportunities to engage in service, character building, and the development of leadership skills.

The club’s 300+ members are deeply involved in community service projects and programs amassing over 9,000 hours of service time each year. Projects range from school initiatives like serving as guides for Open House or running concessions for various events, to community efforts like working the city’s parades or holiday tree lighting events, various library events as well as community-wide, such as serving meals at Kathy’s House or the Gathering, to larger efforts like raising money for the Red Cross for disaster relief.

The club organizes large-scale events as well. In February 2019, the BCHS Key Club held its third annual Dance Marathon, successfully raising over \$9,000 for Children’s Hospital. The event featured students standing and dancing for extended periods to garner sponsorships, with additional support from local businesses and school administration through raffle prizes.

Each year the club works at the “I Can Shine Bike Camp” where volunteers teach kids with special needs how to ride a bike. The club hosted the event at BCHS in 2022 to start off the summer and successfully worked with 60 kids for a full week. Kids, volunteers, and parents all gain something special through participation in this event.



Members of the Key Club at Brookfield Central High School.

One of BCHS Key Club’s most anticipated annual events is the Gold Out Football Game, a charitable initiative dedicated to raising awareness and funds for childhood cancer research. Each year, in conjunction with cross-town “rival” Brookfield East, students, staff, and community members come together for this special game, donning gold attire to show their support. The event includes t-shirt sales, raffles, and donation drives, with all proceeds benefiting organizations such as the MACC Fund (Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer). The Gold Out Game not only unites the school in a shared cause but also unites the community to make a difference in the lives of children battling cancer.

The BCHS Key Club is also active in Key Club International and the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District. Club members have served as Lieutenant Governor for various districts around the state, as well as board members for the district and as the District Governor.

Brookfield East High School (BEHS)

Since its formation, the BEHS Key Club has been passionately serving its local community through service activities. Chartered on June 1, 1965, the Club began with sponsorship from the Brookfield Kiwanis Club. In 1986, the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club assumed sponsorship.

Founded on the pillars of purposeful service, citizenship, and leadership, the Key Club has been both an impactful and popular organization over the years among students at BEHS primarily because of its core values, opportunities to develop leadership skills and its dedication as a service organization. Over the years the Key Club has initiated and supported many projects including selling American flags in support of patriotism measures for local veterans, care packages for active-duty service men and women, toy drives for the Salvation Army, created Thanksgiving baskets for low-income families in Milwaukee, organized holiday clothing drives, and school-wide park cleanups.

Throughout the years, BEHS Key Club has continued to flourish, averaging around 200 members, supporting more than 30 events each year and providing hundreds of hours of annual community service. Not only has the Club increased its membership numbers, but it has also expanded the impact it has had in the support of its many service projects. The Club has also entered partnerships with several local organizations including the Brookfield Library, the Elm Grove Woman’s Club, the Elmbrook School District, and the Red Cross. Key Club outreaches to the community include activities such as Candy Cane Lane, an event that the club



Members of the Brookfield East High School Key Club.

has supported for several years. One in particular is working with their counterpart at BCHS, supporting the annual Gold Out Football Game against Brookfield Central that raises over five thousand dollars annually for childhood cancer awareness.

The BEHS club continued to have a close relationship with the Kiwanis organization and Key Club International. Several East alumni served in leadership positions as District Governors and were pivotal in planning statewide projects.

The Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club is proud of its association with our two local Key Clubs. Both clubs have for many years provided the foundation for young men and women to build character, develop leadership skills and learn the importance of giving back

to their community through service to their community.

Dr Mark Hansen, Superintendent of Elmbrook Schools has this to say about the Key Clubs: «The Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club has been an invaluable partner in helping establish and support our Key Clubs at Brookfield East High School and Brookfield Central High School which also happens to be the largest Key Club in the world. The students who are Key Club members contribute thousands of hours of service to our region each year. These young men and women are changing the world, and we are so grateful for the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club’s participation in helping them make the world a better place.”

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On the Ballot: Election – April 1, 2025

Candidates for Elmbrook Board of Education

Each Board member represents the entire district. Residents can vote for one candidate for each seat. Three-year terms.

#1. Discuss your background, education, occupation, years in Elmbrook District, family.

==== AT LARGE SEAT =====

- **Liz BEAUDOIN** –
I grew up in suburban Milwaukee, earned a Bachelor’s degree with majors in Strategic Communications, History and English. I moved to Brookfield in 2013 with my husband and three daughters. Professionally, I am Director of Marketing for a nonprofit organization.
- **Cheryl MILNES** –
As a 27-year resident of the Elmbrook District, I have witnessed firsthand the excellent education the district provided to my four children. I bring a strong background in financial stewardship as a CPA and CFO for nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

==== AREA II SEAT =====

- **Amit SINGH**–
I learned English through my public school’s ESL program, then studied biomedical engineering at Boston University. I became an osteopathic physician, and now serve as Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at MCW. I have lived in the district for seven years.
- **Wes SYLLA** –
I am the son of a former Elmbrook school board member, a Brookfield East graduate, and have lived in Elmbrook for 25 years. I completed college and law school at public universities and am an attorney with three kids.

#2. What has motivated you to run for election? What are your qualifications to be a board member?

==== AT LARGE SEAT =====

- **Liz BEAUDOIN** –
I am motivated by the district’s need to remain fiscally sound, academically excellent, and a destination for families. As a nonpartisan candidate, parent of three current Elmbrook students, prolific volunteer, and nonprofit leader, I offer expertise in collaborative decision-making, board governance, strategic communications, and the experience of current families.
- **Cheryl MILNES** –
I’m thankful for the teachers who provided my children with a world-class education, and I want the same exceptional outcome for my grandchildren entering the district. I bring 37 years of cumulative board-level experience with governance expertise, strategic decision-making skills, and a mindset of accountability in service to our community.

==== AREA II SEAT =====

- **Amit SINGH** –
Serving my community on the school board is a way of giving back for the benefits my public education provided to me. I gained critical skills, knowledge, and confidence, even when language obstacles required special support. I want to ensure Elmbrook continues to provide a great education for every child.
- **Wes SYLLA** –
My oldest will start 4k at Brookfield Elementary in the fall. I want my kids, and all Elmbrook students, to receive the same high-quality public education that I received. As an attorney I have regularly educated and interacted with boards, revised policies, and advocated on behalf of others.

#3. Identify a significant issue facing the district within the next 3 years. What solutions / improvements would you suggest?

==== AT LARGE SEAT =====

- **Liz BEAUDOIN** –
One significant issue facing the district is the health and safety of our students. Everything from school start time and secure entries to nighttime staffing and class size affects the safety of everyone in school buildings. Solutions include aligning our school start time with the data and recommendations of child development experts, ensuring that building access is in accordance with district policy, staffing school buildings with SROs during extracurriculars and ensuring adequate classroom staffing.
- **Cheryl MILNES** –
The financial stability of our district could become a significant issue in the future, especially with rising healthcare costs and aging facilities. My CPA skill set and governance experience allow me to offer meaningful solutions to these challenges. I will ensure that our community’s annual \$75 million investment in our schools through tax revenue delivers a maximum benefit to our classrooms while safeguarding our district’s fiscal health without property tax increases.

==== AREA II SEAT =====

- **Amit SINGH** –
A significant concern is responsible management of the \$77 million that our district receives annually from community taxpayers who should be protected from tax-raising referenda. I respect our community’s right to maintain local control of educational content, and I believe the school board must focus on improving reading and math scores, especially in elementary and middle school. I believe that a renewed focus on merit-based academic excellence can improve core academic outcomes for all students.
- **Wes SYLLA** –
Facility planning is a crucial issue, with PPMS being a key example. At 67 years old, 17 years past the average middle school life, Elmbrook must evaluate how to maintain the building and manage the associated costs. Considering the potential scale of the investment, I would gather input from the community, collaborate with the Board, administration, and experts to develop fiscally responsible options, and ensure transparent communication with the public before making a final decision.

#4. If you have children, at which school(s) do or did they attend grades K-12?

==== AT LARGE SEAT =====

- **Liz BEAUDOIN** –
All of my children have attended Elmbrook Schools since kindergarten. Currently, they attend Wisconsin Hills Middle School and Brookfield Central High School.
- **Cheryl MILNES** –
I have four adult children who attended Brookfield Elementary, Wisconsin Hills, and Brookfield Central. Currently, one grandchild attends Brookfield Elementary, with three more soon-to-be enrolled.

==== AREA II SEAT =====

- **Amit SINGH** –
My children attended Elmbrook schools and enjoyed excellent learning experiences. Stakeholders in our district enjoy diverse educational choices, which I believe strengthens our exceptional community.
- **Wes SYLLA** –
I have three future Elmbrook students. My oldest will start 4k at Brookfield Elementary in the fall.

#5. Discuss your current and past involvements with the School District of Elmbrook. In which projects and school activities have you participated / volunteered and when?

==== AT LARGE SEAT =====

- **Liz BEAUDOIN** –
My many volunteer roles include the following leadership positions:
*Brookfield Elementary PTO President, 2017-2019, Secretary, 2016-2017
*BE Players (Theater) Volunteer Coordinator, 2017-2024
*Wisconsin Hills Middle School PTO President, 2023-Present, Director of Communications, 2021-2022
*WHMS Players (Theater), Volunteer Coordinator 2021-Present
*BCHS Applause Secretary 2022-Present
*Elmbrook Parent Network Director of Communications, 2019-2021
- **Cheryl MILNES** –
I have served our district as PTO President at BCHS, as a board member for the Elmbrook Education Foundation, and on several curriculum committees. I helped students develop creative problem-solving skills by founding the Odyssey of the Mind Program at WHMS, later serving as State Director of the global program.

==== AREA II SEAT =====

- **Amit SINGH** –
As a resident within the Elmbrook school district, my taxes have helped to fund Elmbrook’s plentiful offering of academic and extracurricular activities. Like every taxpaying resident of our excellent school district, I am a benefactor of the projects and school activities enjoyed by Elmbrook families throughout the school year.
- **Wes SYLLA** –
I captained Brookfield East’s baseball team my senior year. After graduating from Brookfield East, I served as a volunteer assistant varsity baseball coach. From 2008-2011, I worked as an Elmbrook groundskeeper. Since returning to Elmbrook in 2021, I have regularly attended and spoken at Board and committee meetings.



#6. How will you, as a board member, help 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?

==== AT LARGE SEAT =====

- **Liz BEAUDOIN** –
Through both my professional and volunteer work, I have demonstrated my commitment to building a culture of belonging. I support initiatives that eliminate bullying and harassment and create a safe and supportive space for each and every student to learn.
- **Cheryl MILNES** –
I believe in the Golden Rule, where every student deserves safety and respect. I’m committed to fostering a culture of fairness that encourages students to embrace their unique talents and succeed while building respectful relationships with peers, teachers, and staff.

==== AREA II SEAT =====

- **Amit SINGH** –
All students deserve to feel safe and connected at school, and all students deserve an equal opportunity to an excellent education. This is the school board’s role - to give every student an opportunity to learn, build confidence, and succeed.
- **Wes SYLLA** –
I will seek out perspectives across the community and advocate for policies and professional development training that support every student. Every student deserves a physically and psychologically safe learning environment that supports academic achievement and belonging.

#7. What is your position regarding the banning/removal of certain books and materials in Public School libraries? For or against? Why?

==== AT LARGE SEAT =====

- **Liz BEAUDOIN** –
The school board’s role is high-level oversight. The board determines whether or not to approve curricula; it does not, nor should it, curate library collections. Our highly experienced and educated librarians are rightly responsible for selecting library books and materials.
- **Cheryl MILNES** –
Curating library collections is a complex task balancing First Amendment rights, age appropriateness, and community values. I support age-based restrictions and allowing parents to request certain books be unavailable to their children while respecting diverse views and working toward common ground.

==== AREA II SEAT =====

- **Amit SINGH** –
The school board must respect and support the parent’s role as the primary educators of their children. I believe that parents have the right to curate and monitor the books their minor children are reading, tangibly and online.
- **Wes SYLLA** –
I oppose banning age-appropriate materials from public school libraries because it violates free speech, restricts learning, and limits critical thinking. Parents should decide what is suitable for their own children, while schools ensure transparency through audits and improved parent communication.

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Letters to the Editor



NOTE: Letters (100 words or less) regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space-available basis. Submissions must include the writer’s name, community of residence, phone #.
E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Letters to the Editor) or Mail: EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423.

Beaudoin Has Needed Leadership Skills

I strongly support Liz Beaudoin for the Elmbrook School Board. As a former board member, I know the leadership skills required, and Liz has them. She is thoughtful, decisive, and prioritizes student and staff well-being while ensuring fiscal responsibility.

I’ve worked with Liz in various volunteer roles, including the Girl Scout day camp she has led for over five years. Her resourcefulness, transparency, and ability to navigate challenges are impressive. Liz listens to diverse perspectives and makes informed decisions that benefit our community. She is the right choice for our schools.

Jennifer Roskopf, Brookfield Resident
Former Elmbrook School Board Member

Liz is Best Choice for School Board

Elmbrook’s School Board needs representation from current parents who understand what is important to families and whose focus is on serving Elmbrook’s children. Liz Beaudoin has spent over a decade in active, volunteer service to the Elmbrook community. Her service has not only benefited her three children who all attend Elmbrook schools, but hundreds of other children as well. Her leadership at the building, district, and broader community level makes her the absolute best choice for school board. Liz knows what needs to be done and how to get it done for Elmbrook’s students.

Alice Summers

Elect Wes Sylla to Elmbrook Board

Wes Sylla is a strong candidate for the Elmbrook School Board for a multitude of reasons. As a parent with school aged children, I am especially thrilled that he is a former student. He has experience with all of the incredible programs the district has available. With a student and teacher focused initiative, he will actively communicate with the community, parents, students, and teachers to serve the board in the highest regard. His years in law and compliance will also be beneficial.

Jen C.

Beaudoin Dedicated to School Quality

I am writing to express support for Liz Beaudoin in the upcoming school board election. I have come to know Liz as a fellow Elmbrook parent and volunteer. Liz has woven herself into the fabric of this district. I cannot think of an event where she has not been involved. She is passionate about, and truly dedicated to the quality of our schools, opportunities in our community, and the future of our children. She is a devoted parent to Elmbrook students. I have personally witnessed her enthusiasm and celebration of the individuality of our students. She is precisely who should be on our school board. I am proud to know her, support her, and I urge you to do the same.

Maggie Weber

Vote Liz for School Board

I support Liz Beaudoin for the Elmbrook School Board. I have known Liz for more than two decades as a co-worker, neighbor, parent, and friend. In that time Liz has proven to be exceptionally hardworking, fiercely dedicated, and extremely articulate, on top of being smart, and practical. For at least a dozen years, Liz has put her talents to work volunteering her time at all levels of Elmbrook Schools, including as PTO President at two schools. Whether on the team or leading it, Liz gets things done. Liz Beaudoin belongs on the School Board.

Erika McClean

Support Eric Peter for Trustee

I am writing to express my strong support for Eric Peter as candidate for village trustee. I have known Eric for many years. In this time he has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment and passion for any project or problem he tackles. He will bring a fresh perspective, practical experience and a genuine interest in serving the village of Elm Grove. I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to vote for Eric. I know he will listen and serve with integrity and a sense of responsibility for our wonderful community.

Mary Riemer

Cheryl Milnes for School Board

Cheryl Milnes and her family moved from a high performing, suburban school district in Pennsylvania to Wisconsin and searched for a similar district, which they found in Elmbrook Schools.

Cheryl immediately started volunteering. As superintendent I got to know the depth of her analytical and strategic skills on a district committee about weighted grades for advanced courses. She steadfastly incented rigorous academics for all students.

Educated as a CPA and experienced as a leader in both business and non-profit organizations, Cheryl’s qualifications will help Elmbrook Schools.

Dr. Matt Gibson, Brookfield

Beaudoin Dedicated Public Servant

For the last four years, I worked with Liz Beaudoin at Kathy’s House in Wauwatosa. I know her to be a loyal, dedicated, and compassionate community servant.

When Liz told me that she was running for school board, I responded with immediate enthusiasm. Liz is a perfect fit, demonstrating the same integrity, passion and commitment that drove my late husband, Sen. Ted Kanavas, when he served on the Elmbrook School Board in the early 2000’s.

I am confident that Liz will be a voice for academic excellence and sound fiscal stewardship. I encourage you to vote Liz April 1.

Mary Kanavas

Private School Parents, Grandparents and Community,

Strong public schools are vital to our community to ensure every child has access to a free and public education. Strong Public schools define the community, influence your tax bill and enrich our future. Every constituent of the community that votes, will help impact future generations. Research the candidates and determine if they have the experience, expertise and intelligence to do the job and share your values. The wrongly elected School Board Members will negatively impact our community. Voting early or on April 1st is fulfilling!

Sam Hughes
Elmbrook School Board Member & Resident

Beaudoin’s Agenda: School Excellence

As parents of a graduate and current student in Elmbrook schools, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to vote for Liz Beaudoin for the Elmbrook School Board. Liz has demonstrated commitment to Elmbrook schools, serving as PTO president (several times), leading girl scout troops and camp for at least a decade, and organizing and volunteering for countless school events. Her drive to make Elmbrook schools better leaves no doubt she will be a thoughtful and dedicated member of the board. Her only agenda is the continued excellence of Elmbrook Schools and we would be lucky to have her service.

Tim Galow and Amy Fry-Galow

Vote for Sylla a Wise Investment

Wes Sylla is running for school board in the Elmbrook School District. I strongly support him. Having spent nine years on the Elmbrook School Board, I am very aware of the challenges facing our schools and the importance of having knowledgeable, committed and skilled board members. Wes knows our schools and has three children who will soon be attending them. Wes will focus on preserving and building on Elmbrook’s success as one of the highest ranked districts in the state. A vote for Wes Sylla is a wise investment in our future.

Bob Ziegler

Liz Brings Knowledge, Experience

Our school system is essential to our community, so I will be voting for Liz Beaudoin for Elmbrook School Board. Liz brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job. As a volunteer she’s done it all, from room parent to PTO President and more. Liz is also active in her church and nonprofit organizations. She lives her values. I always find Liz to be thoughtful, concise, and prepared. If elected, Liz Beaudoin will hit the ground running. Please join me in supporting Liz Beaudoin for School Board.

Kathryn Wilson
Past President, Elmbrook School Board

Bridget Schoenborn for Waukesha County Circuit Court

I wholeheartedly support Bridget Schoenborn for Waukesha County’s Circuit Court, Branch 4. Why? Bridget embodies our community’s values. A longtime resident of Elm Grove, she genuinely understands our concerns and priorities. Bridget Schoenborn is passionate about protecting crime victims and upholding the rule of law. With two decades of experience as a federal prosecutor, she has the expertise and the know-how to ensure justice is served fairly and efficiently. Bridget’s service on Elm Grove’s Fire and Police Commission demonstrates her commitment to our community. She’s not just another candidate; she’s your neighbor who cares deeply about our safety and well-being.

Tom Michalski

Vote Liz for Elmbrook School Board

It is increasingly important to elect school board members who are in touch with our community and that is why I support Liz Beaudoin for Elmbrook School Board. I’ve seen firsthand the positive impact Liz has made as a school and community volunteer. She’s developed connections with parents, teachers, administrators, students, and community members alike, and has a remarkable talent for bringing people together to support our schools. Liz is a respected, straightforward leader who has the ability to hone in on what is most important when making decisions. She would be invaluable on the board. Vote for Liz Beaudoin.

Nancy Santiesteban

Beaudoin’s Experience Benefits District

I am writing in support of Liz Beaudoin for the Elmbrook School Board. Liz’s commitment to the Elmbrook School District is evident in her years of volunteer work and her parent leadership positions within the District. From leading school PTOs as President, to supporting parents with educational programs through Parent Network, to volunteering with the musical productions, Liz has shown her commitment to making Elmbrook the best district possible. She has enhanced student and staff experiences in countless ways. Her prior experiences will be of huge benefit to the District as a member of the School Board.

Robyn Rubenstein

Focus School Board Election on Our Community

I’m disappointed to see outside special interest groups trying to influence Elmbrook’s school board election. This is **our** community’s election, and we cannot let outsiders dictate what’s best for our schools.

Across the country, national political groups have turned local school boards into battlegrounds, using fear and division to push their agendas. These groups don’t care about our students or schools—only political control. We **won’t** let that happen here.

Elmbrook deserves leaders who prioritize **student achievement, transparency, and fiscal responsibility**—not partisan culture wars. Let’s keep this election focused on what truly matters: **our kids and our community.**

Concerned Elmbrook Parent

Liz: Committed to Enriching Community

It is my honor to write in support of Liz Beaudoin as candidate for the Elmbrook School Board. My family and I have known Liz for over 5 years. As a Scout Camp Director, President of the Wisconsin Hill PTO, activist for Fine Arts Booster Club, and Applause, she applies leadership, and mentoring skills while maintaining grace under fire. Commitment to Scouting values, make her successful and a role model to others. Her experience demonstrates the commitment to enriching our kids and community, and we support her decision to be a part of the school board.

Erik Anderson

Support Milnes for Elmbrook Board

I have known Cheryl Milnes for twenty-five years and strongly support her candidacy for the Elmbrook School Board. During that time, I have seen her work on behalf of the students in the Elmbrook District, and witnessed her excellent judgment and calm, considerate temperament. Both of these qualities are critical for effective service in this vitally important role. Her dedication to the fundamentals of excellent curriculum and a rich menu of academics and co-curricular offerings will serve the students, families, and staff of the Elmbrook District very well.

Thomas Gehl

Elect Eric Peter Elm Grove Trustee

I have had the privilege of knowing Eric Peter, who is running for Elm Grove Village Trustee, for more than 30 years. He is very qualified for this position, both in temperament and business acumen. Not only is Eric a successful businessman, he is a thoughtful and wise individual who will make decisions that are in the best interests of the residents of Elm Grove. If you want to keep Elm Grove the jewel of Waukesha County, I encourage you to cast your vote on April 1 for long time Elm Grove resident Eric Peter.

Helen Shiely
Elmbrook School Superintendent, 1995-2012

Beaudoin Needed on School Board

Liz Beaudoin is an ideal candidate for the Elmbrook School Board. As the only current district parent in the race, she has firsthand experience about the daily innerworkings of the schools. Being a fellow parent in the district, I feel this is advantageous to holding a board position. Liz brings a wealth of knowledge between her vast volunteerism and board oversight. Liz is a trustworthy and non-partisan candidate and exactly is what this board needs.

Jen C.

Young Writers & Reporters

My Partner in Crime

By Storm Spatz
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Met on the first day,
Friends ever since,
Sleep undars,
Target runs,
Starbies break,
Get ready with me,
Tik tok dances,
Then fights will come,
They make you cry,
And make you realize,
You just want your loving partner in crime,
You will grow up to gather,
My friend could never be replaced,
Forever besties we have each other’s back,
Even if they move far away,
Your friendship will never be thrown away!



Graphic created by Myla Gunter
Level 6, Brookfield Academy

St. Patrick’s Day

By Maeve Weber, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Saint Patrick’s Day this year is celebrated on March 17, 2025. The leprechaun will leave all kinds of tricks like dying your toilet green, leaving jelling beans for breakfast, or even chocolate coins in your bedroom doorway.

March

By Sloane Bulgrin, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Marvelous!
A Valentine’s Day card!
Really fun!
Chase a leprechaun!
Hello spring!

The Best Day Ever

By Aubrey, 4th Grade- Tonawanda

One morning it was snowing.
“YAY, SNOW DAY” I am going to build a snowman and go ice skating and do 700,000 snow angels.
“Aubrey it is not a snow day,” said mom.
“What?” I said. But suddenly the news turned on saying, “School is canceled!
“Oh, I was wrong, school is canceled today,” mom said.
”Yay, no school, no school!” Thump!!!!!!!!!!
That was the sound of me falling back into bed and right back to sleep. And that is how I spent all of my snow days!

First Graders at St. Mary’s Visitation School wrote about what they would do if there was a snow day and they had the day off school:

I would go sledding, have a big snowball fight, make a snow fort and an igloo and go snowboarding. After I would have hot chocolate. -Archie

I would build a snowman and play in the snow with my sister. Then I would go inside and drink hot cocoa and watch the snowfall. -Ava

I would play in the snow and have hot chocolate. I would watch tv and a movie. In the morning, I would play in the snow, have pancakes, and visit my grandparents. -Bella

I would make a snow fort, snow chairs, and ask my neighbors if I could sled down their big hill. I would fall on my butt and laugh. I would make snow angels with my sister. I would make a snowman to drink hot chocolate with. -Caroline

I would make snow angels and build a snowman with my brother. I will roll in the snow. - Eden

I will play in the snow and build a snowman. Then I will go inside and have hot cocoa, then color. -Emmy

I would play baseball with my brothers in the basement. I would get my star slide and go down it. Then I would take a nap. -Gabe

Small Ball Player

By Kieran Kler

There once was a kid who was small
He loved playing basketball
He played all day
But treated everyone in a special way
He was known as the best player of all

Mrs. Marks

By Laney Luttkus

Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

A teacher named Mrs. Marks,
She lit up her students with sparks.
Teaching she did,
To each little kid,
She filled each of her students’ hearts.

A Dog and Her Bone

By Leah Mathew

Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

A dog loved to chew on her bone
Her teeth were as hard as stone
Without it she would stir,
So she always brought it with her
That bone was her best friend alone

Mrs. Porter

By Sophia File

Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

There once was a teacher named Porter,
Whose class really adored her,
She taught math, grammar, and writing,
But didn’t encourage them fighting,
Since she was their biggest supporter.



I would make snow forts and make a fort inside too. I would watch tv and make treasure maps. -Griffin

I would play basketball and Fortnite with my brothers. We would tackle each other and shoot hoops in the snow. -Jake

I would play with my pet rabbit, Peanut. Then I would play toilet tower defense and run around with sister. -Nathaniel

I would play games, drink hot cocoa, and make a museum. My mom would be a customer. -Nell

I would stay in my pjs and have a nap. I would stay inside and build with my Legos. -Wyatt

Wandering to The Willows

By Hebela Ayalew

Brookfield Academy, Level 6

Once upon a time, not long ago
I left the place I called home
To places people feared
And so they called me weird

I wandered to the willows
Though people considered it
far from the meadow
But I was brave
And ignored the hate

The meadow was safe
But is was the willows I chased
To be different
And to be an original

They can call me weird
I no longer have fear
I chose the different way
And it’s the best choice I ever made

Our Elm Grove Community

By Katie Wood, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Our Elm Grove community is a great place because everybody belongs, we have fair rules and people are treated equally. There are schools, houses, stores and more! My favorite place in Elm Grove is Elm Grove park because it has a park, a library, a pond, a sand pit, a pool and more! Every summer there is a beer garden at Elm Grove park.

A Poem About Elm Grove

By Patrick Karst, Ethan Riebesehl
and Michael Rincon

3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Excellent

Lucky

Magnificent

Great

Recommended

Obviously Awesome

Very Amazing

Everybody belongs

My Cousin Named Grace

By Anna Recht

Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

I have a baby cousin named Grace,
There’s always a smile on her face.
She laughs and she giggles,
She crawls and she wiggles.
She’s growing at such a fast pace!

NBA

By Brian Williams

Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

There once was a boy named Henry Clay,
With dreams of the NBA one day.
He worked hard and grew,
With passion so true,
And now in the league, he does slay!

Fred’s Bed

By Henry Kuehn

Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

There once was a person named Fred,
Who would jump all day in his bed,
But one day he slipped,
And the mattress it ripped,
And Fred, why he is now dead.

Old(er) Writers

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

On Immortality

By Gary Kerslake

So quick is the hour
So hard to believe
If life can be time
Then try to conceive

One life in the span
Takes no time at all
But if you’re immortal
You never can fall

If your life be true
Your deeds have been good
The end known as death
Will be as it should

You’ll live on forever
Though time fades away
For actions have made you
The way that you’ll stay



Happy Here

By Tom Fobbe

You won’t find tall buildings here
Or anywhere nearby.
Which means that we
Can clearly see
A lot more of the sky.

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(NO CLASSES THE WEEK OF JUNE 30)




REGISTRATION OPENS: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24
View the catalog to start planning at brookfieldacademy.org/summer-days.

★ ★ ★ Re-Elect

TOM CASTILE

For Elm Grove Trustee

On or Before April 1, 2025



Accomplishments


- ✓ Strengthened public safety by fully staffing the police department and adding an additional officer, enabling enhanced neighborhood patrols, faster response times, and a greater focus on addressing problem speeders to keep our community safe.
- ✓ Successfully engaged the community to secure voter approval for the Underwood Creek daylighting referendum.
- ✓ Delivered resident-supported pedestrian pathways to enhance safety, with additional pathways planned for completion in 2025.
- ✓ Demonstrated fiscal responsibility by keeping actual 2024 costs under budget.


Planned Goals if Re-Elected

- ✓ Advocate for new legislation requiring voter approval before any future Tax Increment Districts (TIDs) can be created, preventing unnecessary tax increases.
- ✓ Develop and implement a new Comprehensive Master Plan to guide responsible Village growth, prioritizing low-density development and single-family homes.

"Protecting Elm Grove's Charm, Safety, and Future."

@ tomc4trustee@gmail.com



 TomC4Trustee.com



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YOUR VOICE
their education
OUR SCHOOLS




WES SYLLA

FOR ELMBROOK SCHOOL BOARD

Key Priorities

- Student Focused Education
- Teacher Retention
- Responsible Stewardship of Taxpayer Funds
- Evidence-Based Decision Making
- Build Community Trust
- Return Decorum to the Board



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