



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 16 No. 7

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

March 2026



On the Ballot: Election – April 7, 2026



Elm Grove TRUSTEE Candidates			Elmbrook SCHOOL BOARD Candidates					
			Area I seat	Area III seat	At-Large seat			
Shawn HILLMANN	John SCHINDLER	Jennifer STUCKERT	Kevin KLANDRUD	Scott WHEELER	Bob BURLAGE	Jennifer ROSKOPF	Sam HUGHES	Elizabeth THEIS



Vote **ELIZABETH THEIS**

FOR ELMBROOK SCHOOL BOARD

Learn more

Elizabeth Theis to keep Elmbrook excellent!

- Fiscally responsible
- Data-driven decision making
- Independent, nonpartisan
- Elmbrook parent and volunteer

ElizabethforElmbrook.com

Paid for by Friends of Elizabeth Theis

See Candidates' Questions & Answers sections Pages 4, 9 & 10

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RE-ELECT

JENNIFER ROSKOPF

for ELMBROOK SCHOOL BOARD

Vote April 7 for Experienced, Engaged, Effective, Nonpartisan Leadership.

Learn more about Jen and support her campaign

jenforelmbrook.com

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

We **THANK** all of our ADVERTISERS & these

Friends of The News

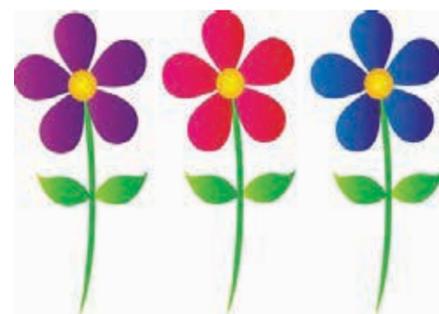
- *Mary Ann Rachow
- *Bruce & Susan Davidson
- *Leanne Wied
- *Nancy Ferguson
- *Geri Fotsch
- *Pat Rierson
- *Gary Morris
- *Denise Merino
- *Anne Du Puy
- *John Kuenzle & Kate Kuenzle
- *Jen Studebaker
- +
*Anonymous Readers

for helping to **Sponsor** this edition.

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

Happy 1st Day of Spring!

March 20th (finally)



Now, go plant some flowers and hug a tree or two.

Green is Good!

Simple Steps for Smarter Lighting & Spring Lawns

By The Elm Grove Green Team

The return of migrating birds is an early sign of spring. Beginning in March, many species travel at night, guided by the moon and stars as they make their long journeys north. However, outdoor lighting on homes and businesses can increase their likelihood of fatal collisions or exhaustion. Bright outdoor lighting can disorient migrating birds and draw them off course. Light that spills upward and outward also wastes energy and raises electricity bills without improving human safety.

Reducing light pollution cuts energy waste, lowers costs, and helps birds travel safely through our community. Small changes like shielded fixtures, warmer bulbs, and timers or motion sensors direct light where needed and turn it off when not. Want email reminders from Lights Out Wisconsin to turn off nonessential lights during peak migration? Sign up at <https://www.lightsoutwi.org/>.

Give Pollinators and Waterways a Break

As spring arrives, our lawns need patience, not quick fixes. Remember that spring rains wash excess nutrients and chemicals into storm drains, creeks, and lakes, fueling algae growth and harming fish. Grass roots are still developing, so give them time before adding fertilizer and pesticides—or skip them this year. Leave grass taller and mow less in early spring to let dandelions and clover feed emerging pollinators.

Get Ready!

Drive-Through Recycling Day returns to Elm Grove on Saturday, April 25th from 9 a.m. to noon in the Pilgrim Park Middle School parking lot. Spring clean smarter by recycling and donating more, tossing less.

- ✓ **SAM**Hughes
- ✓ **KEVIN**Klandrud
- ✓ **BOB**Burlage

VOTE

all three for

ELMBROOK SCHOOL BOARD

SAM Hughes

★ Current EB School Board member
★ Business owner
★ Engineer

Sam@SamForElmbrook.com

"For the past three years, I've fought to ensure our children receive the highest-quality education they deserve. I pledge to uphold TRUST, TRUTH, and TRANSPARENCY for students, teachers, parents, and our community to deliver the best educational outcomes for our youth."

KEVIN Klandrud

★ Military leader ★ Administrator
★ Educator

KevinForElmbrook@gmail.com

"I seek to maintain the high standards that make Elmbrook schools exceptional while ensuring responsible financial oversight for district residents and taxpayers. I'm committed to working collaboratively with educators, administrators, families, and the community to support student success today and into the future."

BOB Burlage

★ College professor
★ Administrator

BobForElmbrook@gmail.com

"I believe strong schools are built on clear priorities and steady leadership. My core principles: every student counts, every teacher counts, and every dollar counts. Thoughtful decision making that keeps students at the center, respects educators as professionals, and ensures responsible use of community resources."

We are your team to...

- ★ Maintain fiscally conservative values of Elmbrook with potential referendum.
- ★ Focus on literacy, math, and science.
- ★ Reduce and rethink student technology use.
- ★ Support teachers as professionals.
- ★ Prepare students for better academic outcomes.
- ★ Smaller classes and lower student/teacher ratios.
- ★ Be honest, thoughtful, and transparent leaders.
- ★ Prepare Elmbrook for the future.

VOTE early MARCH 24-APRIL 3

at City Hall

OR on election day APRIL 7

at your polling place.

To donate, request yard signs, or for more information, scan QR code.

Paid for by Sam for Elmbrook, Friends of Kevin Klandrud, and BobforElmbrook.

Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President – jkoleski@elmgrove.wi.org

As I write this letter on February 19th, winter is still hanging on after some great weather for Presidents Day weekend. As the weather warms up, please be aware of the children on the pathways and walking to school.



With Spring hopefully around the corner, the Board will be considering adding additional pathway signage to increase awareness of pedestrian and safety guidelines.

Underwood Creek Daylighting Update

The Public Works and Utility committee received updated bids at the end of January for the Project. The low bid came in \$1.3 million lower than the prior bids resulting from the cost-effective improvements to the overall scope and design of the Project. This bid was in line with the Engineers estimate of construction cost provided to the Board, which is very good news. It is expected that a contract will be awarded before April 27, 2026, with provisions to cancel in the event the acquisition of the Railroad parcel is unsuccessful. Meetings with the Railroad operations team did take place in February to advance the purchase, however still more work to be done.

Pathways

The Highland pathway engineering and design work is progressing on the planned extension from Gebhardt Road to Watertown Plank Road. Design drawings continue to progress to the 90% stage. Village staff and KL Engineering have conducted multiple site visits with impacted residents in an effort to address concerns related to the proposed pathway location and impacts to vegetation. Although this project will create change and cause disruptions during construction, it will be a lasting public amenity and improve pedestrian safety in Elm Grove. As this project progresses, traffic on Highland will be impacted. The Board asks for your patience as construction commences this summer.

2026 Paving

The Public Works Committee reviewed and prioritized road paving plans for 2026 within the approved budget of approximately \$550,000. The bid for the paving work will be released in February, with final bids determining the project scope. The minutes from the February 8th Public Works Committee meeting, available on the Village's website: www.elmgrove.wi.org includes a five-year outlook for Road Paving based on current road conditions.

Recycling Center Hours

The Recycling Center is open for business again in 2026. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan

In February, the Board of Trustees awarded the project to Vandewalle and Associates. As a reminder, Vandewalle performed the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) in 2025 and delivered a Plan that was tailored to the needs of the Village. The Plan Commission is excited to begin the Project in April and the planning process is expected to take about a year to complete.

April 7, 2026 Election

Early voting for the April election for in person absentee voting begins on March 24th and extends through April 3rd. Please visit www.myvote.wi.gov for a summary from the Wisconsin Election Commission. Included on the website you will find what is on the ballot, view your voting information, register or re-register to vote and request an absentee ballot.

Elm Grove Fire and EMS Teams

Your Fire and EMS teams are continuing to recruit new members. If you have an interest in investing your time and talents in this noble pursuit, please contact the Village for more information. A link on the website provides more details on the proud history of the Elm Grove Fire Department and its call for members.

Elm Grove Professional Police Association's Union Contract 2026-2028
The Village of Elm Grove and the Elm Grove Professional Police Association successfully concluded positive and collaborative



collective bargaining negotiations in January of 2026, resulting in a three-year labor agreement effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028

Throughout negotiations, both parties demonstrated a shared commitment to maintaining high standards of public safety, operational stability, and competitive compensation. A key outcome of the agreement is the formal integration of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) credential requirements into the wage structure, recognizing the expanded skill set and service expectations of sworn officers. It is important to note, Elm Grove's Police Department is one of the few in the entire state where all officers are required to maintain an EMT or EMR credential. A true benefit for all Elm Grove residents and visitors. Overall, the negotiated contract reflects a balanced and forward-looking partnership that supports officer wellness, recruitment, retention, and continued professional excellence within the Elm Grove Police Department.

As we enter March, let's begin to anticipate the green shoots of spring and take extra care to increase our awareness while driving through the Village as residents become more active outdoors.

Our Village

Volunteer Recognition – Public Works & Utilities Committee

By Jim Koleski, Village President – jkoleski@elmgrove.wi.org

The Public Works and Utilities Committee plays a vital yet often underappreciated role in local government. Charged with reviewing, advising on, and supporting public works initiatives, this committee helps plan the Village's core infrastructure projects. Their responsibilities—ranging from roads and public facilities to stormwater management and sewer infrastructure—place them at the center of some of the most complex and consequential decisions the Village makes each year.

The Public Works Committee members include:

***John Schindler**, Village Trustee and Chairman

***Jim Koleski**, Village President

***Jim Olson**, Village Trustee

***Ted Eull**

***Craig Harley**

***Natalie Schneider**

***Gary Zwirlein**

Some of the distinct challenges that the Public Works Committee faces on a regular basis include:

- **Core competency of local government.** Building roads, sewers, pathways, and other public infrastructure is a core competency of local government. Infrastructure enables everything else the Village does and the Committee is uniquely positioned to play a central part in such projects.
- **Technical complexity of projects.** Infrastructure projects frequently involve detailed engineering reports, regulatory requirements, cost estimates, and long-term maintenance considerations. Committee members must interpret and evaluate highly technical information, often outside of meeting time, and translate it into informed recommendations that balance professional expertise with community needs.
- **Aging infrastructure.** The Committee is frequently grappling with systems that were built decades ago and are nearing or exceeding their intended lifespan.

Committees must weigh the urgency of repairs and replacements against budget limitations and competing priorities. Decisions about when to rehabilitate, replace, or defer infrastructure investments are rarely straightforward and often carry long-term implications for public safety and fiscal health.

- **Stormwater and sewer projects.** Increasingly intense rainfall events, evolving environmental regulations, and heightened public awareness of flooding and water quality issues requires the Committee to think proactively about storm- and wastewater. Members must consider not only immediate drainage or capacity concerns, but also long-term resilience, downstream impacts, and compliance with state and federal requirements. These projects add to the committee's workload and responsibility.
- **Financial stewardship.** Public works projects are among the most expensive undertakings a municipality faces. The Committee must evaluate project costs, funding sources, and long-term operational impacts. This includes reviewing capital improvement and budget plans all while being mindful of taxpayer affordability. Striking the right balance between necessary investment and fiscal restraint requires careful judgment.
- **Managing public expectations.** Infrastructure is often most noticeable when it fails—when roads deteriorate, basements flood, or sewer backups occur. Residents may understandably expect quick fixes, even when solutions require significant planning, permitting, and funding. The Committee must navigate these expectations while supporting realistic timelines and sound engineering solutions.

(See VOLUNTEERS – Page 4.)

Business Directory

* Insurance

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

* Real Estate



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

* Community Theatre

Sunset Playhouse, Inc.
700 Wall St., Elm Grove
(262) 782-4430
SunsetPlayhouse.com

"Entertainment Begins at Sunset!"

**ADD YOUR
DIRECTORY
LISTING
HERE!**

Clubs & Organizations Directory



**Elm Grove Golden K
Kiwanis Club**

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

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

**Business Directory,
Clubs & Organizations
Directory
& Classifieds**

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

To place an AD...
Email: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
or Call: (262) 782-6193



On the Ballot: Election – April 7, 2026

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.

*Shawn HILLMANN–

My wife Stephanie and I have lived in the Village for twenty-one years and have two children, Elle and Noah. I graduated from UW-Madison and Marquette University Law School. I am a practicing attorney.

*John SCHINDLER –

I grew up in Elm Grove and am a retired research hydrogeologist and flight paramedic, now a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway. My wife, Jean, and I live on Grandview Drive, and I've been actively involved in our community for decades.

*Jennifer STUCKERT –

My husband, Randy, and I have enjoyed living and raising our children in Elm Grove, our home for 39 years. I graduated from the UW-Madison School of Education and retired from a career in medical sales and sales management.

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

*Shawn HILLMANN–

Providing all basic village services is a challenge given the size of our community and the inherent budget limitations. First, emergency services are a tremendous undertaking at our size particularly as those who fill the service roles age and costs continue to increase. Second, village infrastructure requires attention. There is no easy solution to these two issues. We will continue to work with community partners and be open to novel but sensible solutions to provide critical emergency services. Regarding infrastructure, we are currently successfully managing the Underwood Creek and pathway projects and we next must manage the potential expansion of water services and address our park infrastructure. The buildings, fields and playground facilities in the park need attention. I do hope that in the coming year, we will be able to further engage with our community to formulate a route to funding improvements in park.

*John SCHINDLER –

(1) Our Fire Department and EMS members are aging out, and we face a nationwide shortage of qualified senior personnel and advanced EMS practitioners. Education and licensing requirements continue to rise while compensation has not kept pace. We must develop a realistic plan to improve pay, upgrade facilities, and attract and retain the professionals we need. Without decisive action, we risk losing local control and being forced to contract these critical services to another municipality—undermining our ability to protect the Village's interests.

(2) The Downtown Master Plan and Village-Wide Comprehensive Plan are both being updated this year. While a consultant is guiding the process, meaningful input from residents, property owners, and businesses is essential to ensure the final plans reflect our shared vision for the Village's future.

#2. What has motivated you to seek election?

*Shawn HILLMANN–

The Board of Trustees together with Village staff have successfully managed both the day-to-day operations of the Village as well as our long-term projects. I would like to see our board continue to lead the village.

*John SCHINDLER –

While we've made significant progress over the past four years, serious challenges remain that demand immediate attention to prevent lasting harm to our community. I believe my experience and background equip me to lead these efforts and see the necessary changes through.

*Jennifer STUCKERT –

In 2022, I ran to ensure that future development within the village maintained the unique character of our community. This continues to be my priority as the village moves forward with a comprehensive proposal that includes a downtown master plan.

*Jennifer STUCKERT –

I am committed to the completion and implementation of a comprehensive plan, including a downtown master plan that enhances our community while maintaining the unique character of Elm Grove. My priorities include controlling density of development, daylighting the creek, bringing municipal water to downtown, completing pathways on major thoroughfares and preserving green space. Soliciting resident and business input is an imperative part of this process as well as transparency at every step. Fiscal responsibility in decision making and grant applications is essential. I'm also committed to developing a long-term, cost-effective solution to maintain emergency services, specifically fire and EMS. Our current emergency service volunteer model struggles with recruiting and retaining volunteers thus a long-term strategy to supplement recent incentives is needed to maintain future outstanding service. I am committed to continued service as a Trustee, Legislative Committee Chairman, Administrative Chairman and Committee Member on both the Planning Committee and Building Board.



Our Village

(Continued from Page 3)

Like many of the Village's advisory committees, the Public Works Committee is comprised of volunteers who dedicate substantial time and effort beyond their regular professional and personal obligations. Reviewing reports, attending meetings, asking informed questions, and engaging in thoughtful discussion requires commitment and preparation. Their work supports not only roads, sewers, and facilities, but also public health, environmental quality, and overall quality of life.

On behalf of the Village Board, staff, and residents of Elm Grove, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of the Public Works Committee for their service! Your willingness to volunteer your time and expertise makes a meaningful difference in our community. Elm Grove is stronger, safer, and better because of your commitment, and we are deeply grateful for the role you play in shaping and protecting our Village.

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

*Shawn HILLMANN–

I have been a Trustee for the last three years, currently serve as chair of the Recreation Committee and contribute as a member to a number of committees. I am proud that the board has restored the sense that our local government is responsive to the community it serves.

*John SCHINDLER –

I've served as a Village Trustee and Chair of the Public Works Committee for the past four years. I sit on the Board of the Elm Grove Community Foundation, am a member of Elmbrook Rotary, and have been an on-call paramedic serving Elm Grove for nearly 30 years.

*Jennifer STUCKERT –

I'm honored to have represented our residents as a Trustee for 4 years. My contributions include Chairman Administrative and Personnel Committee, Chairman Legislative Committee, Chairman Ad-Hoc Pathway Committee, active member of Plan Committee and Building Board. In these roles I have applied fiscal responsibility and transparency in my decision making.



53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Thank you Elm Grove!

The Elm Grove Community Foundation Board extends our sincere appreciation to the residents who supported our annual appeal this winter. Your generosity fuels the programs and traditions that make our village such a special place to call home. Because of you, we're able to support these initiatives that enhance community spirit, recognize those who serve us, and create memorable moments for families throughout the year.

- **Holiday Decorations & Beautification** – Seasonal décor and hanging flower baskets that keep Elm Grove charming year-round
- **Community Appreciation Weeks** – Recognizing our Police Department, Dispatch, and Public Works teams
- **July 4th Celebrations** – Fireworks and Free Swim for families to enjoy together
- **Tunes on Tuesday** – Live summer music that brings neighbors together
- **Elmbrook Senior Taxi** – Providing reliable transportation for senior residents

Every dollar raised stays right here in Elm Grove, strengthening the traditions and services that bring us together.

Showcase Your Business. Support Your Community.

Interested in increasing your visibility while making a lasting impact? Consider becoming a sponsor of our annual Oktoberfest or the 0.5K Fun Run — two of Elm Grove's most anticipated events and our largest annual fundraiser. Sponsorship opportunities are customizable and offer meaningful exposure within our engaged and supportive community. To learn more, visit www.elmgrovefoundation.org/contact.

We'd love to partner with you!

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

Old(er) Writers

*Readers (age 18+) may submit poetry, short fiction, life stories / reminiscences (200 words maximum) to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com or EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Rd. Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423

Respect Mary's Work By Jerry Brunner

God sees everything as if it has all taken place already. Think of Luke 1:26-38, The Annunciation of the Lord, as proof of a working Master Plan. The Archangel Gabriel speaks to Mary very "matter of factly" about future things that have not occurred then, but did later on.

The Annunciation of the Lord was honored on March 25, 1858 at Lourdes, France. For the first time ever, Mary identified herself as the Immaculate Conception to Bernadette Soubirous. When Father Peyramale heard those words, he knew only Mary could truthfully say that, then accepted them as his sign from heaven. On October 9, 1859, Mary, Queen of Heaven appeared to Adele Brice at Champion, Wisconsin, promising to help Adele in the future. The Great Peshtigo Fire on October 8-9, 1871 surrounded the Our Lady of Champion Shrine. As Adele prayed the Rosary with shelter seekers, a miraculous rainstorm spared many lives and saved Mary's shrine and grounds. From handmaid of the Lord to Queen of Heaven, Mary still enjoys eternal life and infinite rewards.

Hidden Love

By Gary Kerslake

The lilies never cease to grow
as does the love I cannot show.
But in my heart so deep inside
the love is there and does not hide.

Calendar of Events – March 2026

Sunday – MARCH 1

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets: 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers needed. Contact: beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Monday – MARCH 2

- **Elmbrook School Board Candidates**
“Meet & Greet” at Pilgrim Park Middle School Library – 6 to 8 p.m. Open to the Public.

Thursday – MARCH 5

- **Elmbrook Garden Club**
6 p.m. at the Brookfield Public Library, 1900 N. Calhoun Rd.; Presentation by Dawn Wallace, “House Plants”. Monthly meeting to follow. Details: Call Shelley at (262) 271-8060.

Friday – MARCH 6

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

Sunday – MARCH 8

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS.
Turn clocks ahead 1 hour.



- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets: 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers needed. Contact: beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Tuesday – MARCH 10

- **Elmbrook School Board**
Public meeting: 6 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield. www.elmbrookschools.org

Thursday – MARCH 12

- **Wine Down’s St. Patty Party**
(See AD – Page 8)

Friday – MARCH 13

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Alan Worth on “A Worthy Cause”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MARCH 15

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets: 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers needed. Contact: beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Tuesday – MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK’S DAY



Thursday – MARCH 19

- **Friends of the Elm Grove Library (FOEGL) Board meeting** – 9 a.m. at Village Hall – Parkview Room.

Friday – MARCH 20

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Dave Griffin on “Modern Dentistry”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MARCH 22

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets: 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers needed. beautification@elmgrovewi.org

Tuesday – MARCH 24

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

Friday – MARCH 27

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Dan Michaels on “Civil War Medicine”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MARCH 29

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets: 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers needed. beautification@elmgrovewi.org



Wisconsin’s Amazing Circus Heritage

“Bareback Riders & Educated Elephants”

MONDAY, March 16, 7pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY Community Room
1900 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield, WI

talk by Peter Shrake,
archivist at Circus
World Museum,
Baraboo, WI

Sponsored by the Elmbrook Historical Society
<http://www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org>

SPONSORED BY:
THE WOMAN’S CLUB
THE ELM GROVE JUNIOR GUILD
ELMBROOK PARENTS

ELMBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
CANDIDATE FORUM

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
6:00pm to 8:00pm
Elm Grove Woman’s Club

Join us for an evening of civil discourse and opportunity for community members to learn more about **all six school board candidates**. All Elmbrook community members are welcome to attend.

We believe our community can host a respectful forum for voters to make informed decisions and where candidates can feel safe expressing their perspectives. Thanks in advance for your contribution to this goal and we look forward to seeing you there.

39th Annual

USED BOOK SALE

MARCH 5-8, 2026

Elm Grove Public Library | Lower Level

FOEGL MEMBER NIGHT

Thursday, March 5 | 5:30-9pm
Free for members or \$10 admission at the door

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Friday, March 6 | 10am-7pm | *Best Selection!*
Saturday, March 7 | 10am-5pm | *Half Price Sale!*
Sunday, March 8 | Noon-4pm | *\$6 a Bag Sale!*

Cash or Check Only

friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org

Report from The Capitol

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

Protecting Kids Online

As the elected adults who have been entrusted to represent Wisconsin children and families in the state legislature, it is our job to ensure that kids are protected – especially in a digital age with rapidly changing technology. I've invited my colleague **Representative Alex Joers, Vice Chair of the Speaker's Task Force on Protecting Kids**, to join us to discuss several bills in the state legislature that seek to protect kids online. *Please feel free to reach out to either one of us for additional information.*

The risks of spending more time online have become clear: exposure to explicit content, increased social isolation, and poor mental health outcomes have been linked to social media use, and we have also seen a concerning rise in internet crimes against children. It is important that we as a legislature act to protect kids, and we can do so through several bills that we are proud to co-author:

Age-Appropriate Design Code

We heard loud and clear from the Speaker's Task Force about the harms of social media companies' unfettered access to our children and youth, and the need to make strong protections the default. That's why we introduced the Age Appropriate Design Code (LRB-5458 / [2025 Senate Bill 978](#)), which establishes a clear and enforceable framework to protect minors online by requiring digital platforms to build privacy and safety into their products from the start.



Representative Robyn Vining and Representative Alex Joers.



Parental Education on Social Media

Teaching healthy habits early helps set kids up for long-term success, which is the goal of [2025 Assembly Bill 967 / Senate Bill 968](#). This bipartisan bill increases funding to provide resources to educate parents on healthy social media practices. Research has shown that screen use in front of children can disrupt bonding, reduce verbal interaction, and create habits that may negatively affect attention, sleep, and emotional development. Increasing funding to educate parents on how digital behaviors influence development, mental health, and family relationships can help equip parents with the tools to model and teach healthy technology use, promoting more positive outcomes for their children.

Internet Crimes Against Children Enforcement

The Wisconsin Department of Justice's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force helps state and local law enforcement respond to technology-facilitated exploitation and serves as a clearinghouse for "Cyber Tips". These reports on child victimization must be investigated, and we have seen a concerning rise in reported Cyber Tips – from over 11,000 reported in Wisconsin in 2024, to almost 20,000 in 2025.

We must continue to equip ICAC with the funding, staffing, and resources needed to investigate these reports, prosecute perpetrators, and prevent exploitation in the first place. That's why we have proposed two bipartisan bills that authorize and fund four additional full-time positions within DOJ: two ICAC criminal analysts, one ICAC outreach specialist, and one ICAC digital evidence examiner ([2025 Assembly Bill 958 / Senate Bill 956](#) and [2025 Assembly Bill 957 / Senate Bill 955](#)). Providing these resources are an important step to protecting kids online.

Mental Health Warnings

The negative impacts of social media and technology use on mental health have become clear. As legislators, we've heard from health providers, school officials, parents, and teens themselves about the toll social media has on kids' wellbeing. If we know a product is unsafe, there should be clear labels warning users of the risks. [2025 Assembly Bill 960 / Senate Bill 933](#) is a bipartisan bill that does just that by requiring social media platforms to provide mental health warnings and requires users to acknowledge the risk before continuing use. These warnings are an important step to educating the public on the risks associated with social media use.

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Subpoena Power

Current Wisconsin law authorizes the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee to serve administrative subpoenas in investigations of human trafficking and internet crimes against children. Unfortunately, that authority does not apply when the Department of Justice investigates sexual extortion of a minor. Instead of having subpoena authority, investigators must attempt to obtain this critical evidence through slower or alternative methods.

[2025 Assembly Bill 964 / Senate Bill 953](#) closes this gap by expanding the definition of "internet crime against a child" to include sexual extortion when the victim was a child at the time of the offense. This change would allow the Attorney General to issue administrative subpoenas in these cases, just as DOJ already can in other internet crimes against children investigations. By closing the subpoena gap, this bill will help ensure that Wisconsin law enforcement can effectively enforce *Bradyn's Law* – which makes sextortion a felony – and hold offenders accountable, while maximizing the impact of the ICAC Task Force's existing investigative and victim support infrastructure.

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BREAKING NEWS: Postpartum Medicaid Expansion & Gail's Law (Breast Cancer Screenings) Pass the Assembly!

<p>Rep. Vining's Call for a Vote:</p> 	<p>"We should be doing that today" -Rep. Vining on PPMA & Gail's Law</p> 	<p>Rep. Vining's Speech on Postpartum Medicaid Expansion Vote:</p> 	<p>Rep. Vining's Speech on Gail's Law Vote:</p> 
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 https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/13/vining



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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Brookfield Academy

Scholastic Art Awards-Wisconsin winners from Brookfield Academy. (Front Row, left to right): **Charlize Hughes, Claire Spaeth, Marilyn De La O, Omotola Oladeji, Aya Van, Izzy Prado, Peyton Emling, Evelyn Maassen.** (On the stairs from bottom to top): **Kelly Li, Kate Allen, Matthew Wang, Brooke Nowacki, Lila Mason, Grace Schneider, Julia Van Bogart, Lillian Bergman.** Not pictured **Kerri Xiao** and **Luya Zhang.**

Scholastic Art Awards-Wisconsin

(BROOKFIELD) - Brookfield Academy is proud to announce that 18 Upper School art students were recognized for their artistic talents by Scholastic Art Awards-Wisconsin. The following students earned 35 awards - Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention (HM) - in a wide variety of categories.

- ***Kate Allen:** Gold Key-Fashion, Honorable Mention-Fashion
- ***Lillian Bergman:** (2) HM-Mixed Media
- ***Marilyn De La O:** Gold Key-Sculpture
- ***Peyton Emling:** HM-Fashion
- ***Charlize Hughes:** Gold Key-Sculpture
- ***Kelly Li:** Gold Key-Mixed Media, Silver Key-Art Portfolio, Silver Key-Fashion, HM-Drawing, HM-Mixed Media
- ***Evelyn Maassen:** Gold Key-Mixed Media, Silver Key-Drawing, Silver Key-Printmaking
- ***Lila Mason:** Silver Key-Painting
- ***Brooke Nowacki:** Silver Key-Ceramics & Glass, HM-Sculpture, HM-Experimental Photography
- ***Omotola Oladeji:** Gold Key-Digital Painting, Gold Key-Sculpture, Gold Key-Sculpture, Silver Key-Art Portfolio, HM- Sculpture
- ***Isabelle Prado:** HM-Drawing, HM-Printmaking
- ***Grace Schneider:** Silver Key-Printmaking
- ***Claire Spaeth:** Silver Key-Printmaking
- ***Aya Van:** HM-Painting

- ***Julia Van Bogart:** HM-Drawing, HM-Drawing
- ***Matthew Wang:** Gold Key-Ceramics & Glass
- ***Kerry Xiao:** Silver Key-Sculpture
- ***Luya Zhang:** Silver Key-Fashion

Seven Brookfield Academy students earned a total of nine Gold Key awards. Their pieces will compete at the national level. The national competition will be judged in March, in New York City.

The Scholastic Art Awards program acknowledges excellence in the visual arts and encourages the artistic endeavors of young people throughout the United States.

The Silver Key and Gold Key award winning pieces will be on view in the Schroeder Galleria at the Milwaukee Art Museum through March 15.

All of the pieces will be displayed at Brookfield Academy during the Upper School Art Show on Thursday, April 16, from 6-8 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.



NANA'S NAUGHTY KNICKERS

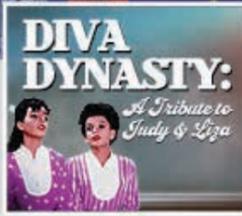


March 9 - 10, 2026

March 5 - 22, 2026



SUNSET PLAYHOUSE
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March 26 - 29, 2026

An Evening in Paris

FASHION SHOW



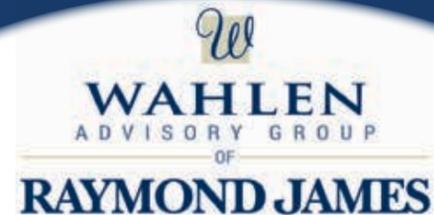
April 23, 2026 • 6-9 PM

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Public Safety Reports

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

IN AN EMERGENCY... CALL 9-1-1 from your landline or cell phone.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary Club

(Shown, left to right) **Shawn Wurtzbacher** - Elmbrook Rotary Club; Chief **Curt Waddell** - Elm Grove EMS Department; Paramedic **Sonia Stowe** - Elm Grove EMS Department; **Bill Selzer** - Elmbrook Rotary Club.

Sonia Stowe Receives Distinguished Service Award

(ELM GROVE) - The Elm Grove EMS Department recognized Paramedic **Sonia Stowe** with the "Distinguished Service Award" sponsored by the Elmbrook Rotary Club. The award honors outstanding service and dedication to the Village of Elm Grove and was also presented to a member of the Police, Fire, and Dispatch Departments.

Sonia joined as a volunteer in 1993 as a driver and then as an EMT. She was a member of the first class from Elm Grove to complete Paramedic training, which allowed the

village to become relicensed by the state of Wisconsin as a paramedic-level community. She became licensed as a Tactical Emergency Medicine in 2011 and licensed as a Critical Care Paramedic in 2015. She has been a member of the administrative team of the EMS service for decades and is the backbone of the service. For several years, she was one of the top two members in the number of calls responded to. Sonia has 32 years of remarkable service to the Village of Elm Grove EMS.

Join the Elm Grove Citizens Police Academy

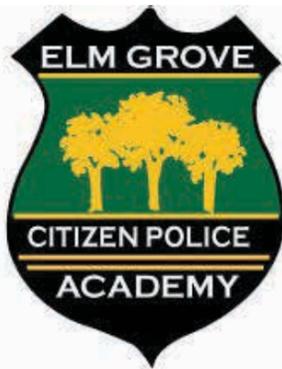
The Elm Grove Police Department is excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 26th Citizens Police Academy class. This is your chance to get an inside look at law enforcement in our community.

The 10-week program will run on Wednesdays from April 15, 2026, to June 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. concluding with a graduation banquet. You'll participate in a variety of engaging and educational sessions, including: Evidence Collection, Use of Force, Alcohol Awareness, Court Procedures, Crime Prevention and Criminal Investigation.

Beyond the classroom, you'll get hands-on experience by riding along with officers, practicing at the shooting range, and observing our dispatch center.

The Citizens Police Academy is a fantastic way to learn about the day-to-day work of our officers and build a stronger connection with the department. Space is limited, so we encourage you to apply soon.

Applications can be obtained through the Village / Elm Grove Police Department website: www.elmgrovetwi.org under Community Relations Programs or at the EGPD lobby.



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Library News and Programs

March 2026

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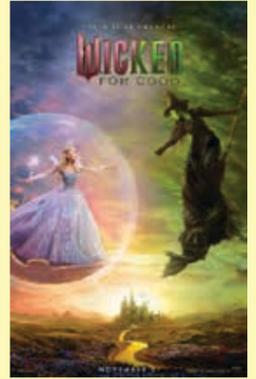
The Yearning in Alchemy of Chagall / Tuesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m.



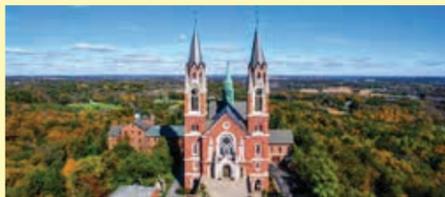
Presented by Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone Symposium, this richly illustrated art history program explores the poetic and dreamlike world of Marc Chagall, one of the most beloved and imaginative artists of the 20th century. The program traces Chagall's life and work, from his early years in Eastern Europe to his international career, highlighting how memory, folklore, spirituality, and love shaped his vibrant visual language. Blending modernist experimentation with deeply personal symbolism, Chagall created a body of work that defies categorization and continues to enchant viewers across generations. This is the third lecture in a five-part series, "The Push and Pull of the Soul." Mark your calendar for the next presentation (4/14: Dali). Free to attend. No registration required.

First Friday Films: *Wicked for Good* / Friday, March 13, 1:00 p.m.

First Friday Films will take place on the second Friday of March due to the used book sale from March 5-8. This month we will be showing *Wicked for Good* the long-awaited sequel to *Wicked* (2024). Film description: Elphaba, a young woman ridiculed for her green skin, and Galinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads. Starring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo. PG. 2h40m.



Inside Holy Hill / Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.



Photographer Cornel Rosario visits the library to discuss his book *Inside Holy Hill*, a striking photographic exploration of the iconic basilica. Through vivid images and thoughtful commentary, Rosario offers a rare look at the artistry, architecture, and atmosphere of this renowned landmark, capturing both its grandeur and its quiet, contemplative details. Free to attend. No registration required.

The Essential Houdini / Tuesday, March 31, 6:30 p.m.

The true stories of Houdini reveal the American self-liberator, Europe's eclipsing sensation, the world's handcuff king, exposé of fraud, original prison breaker, and master magician. Houdini inspired generations of children who dared to dream of the impossible. Gasp at the story of his remarkable death, relive his baffling magic and daring escapes, and hear the only known recording of Houdini's voice. Presented by William Pack.



NEONICOTINOIDS

Learn about this class of pesticides and their negative effect on our environment, biodiversity, and water quality

DR. JAMES CRALL
UW-Madison professor with PhD in organismic and evolutionary biology from Harvard

WEDNESDAY MARCH, 18TH 6:30PM
Elm Grove Public Library O'Neill Room

Neonicotinoid pesticides, or "neonics," are neurotoxins intended to attack the central nervous systems of targeted insects. But research is beginning to reveal alarming, unintended harms from the pesticides, which have been making their way into Wisconsin's waterways and groundwater.



On the Ballot: Election – April 7, 2026

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 the Elmbrook District, family.

==== AREA I SEAT ====

***Kevin W. KLANDRUD** – An Elmbrook School District resident for almost 40 years. I am the father of four grown children. My wife passed away in 2023. I retired from working (Milwaukee Public School teacher, Army Officer, GS worker) a few years ago.

***Scott WHEELER** – I am an educator and teach middle school science. I have a BS in Chemistry from BYU, Masters of Education-Information Technology from Utah State University, and 16 years in the district. I'm married and we have 5 children.

==== AREA III SEAT ====

***Bob BURLAGE** – I'm Bob Burlage. Karen and I have lived in Brookfield for 25 years, and have three children, all of whom are teachers in nearby school districts. I have a Ph.D. (microbiology) and work at Concordia University School of Pharmacy.

***Jennifer ROSKOPF**- I served on the Elmbrook School Board from 2020-2023 and 2025 (Interim). I hold degrees from UW-Madison and Northwestern University. I have 20 plus years of experience in consulting and with GE Healthcare. My Elmbrook community engagement spans 20 years.

==== AT LARGE SEAT ====

***Sam HUGHES** – As a current School Board Member, ELA proficiency increased by 24.7%, and Math increased by 20%. As a business owner, I bring critical thinking skills, a caring heart for children, and a love for Education with my MBA from Marquette.

***Elizabeth THEIS** – We moved to Brookfield in 2021 so that our children could attend Elmbrook Schools. I work part time as a civil engineer and help run my family's manufacturing business. BS Civil Engineering (Illinois), Masters of Engineering Management (Madison).

#2. What has motivated you to run for a seat on the School Board? What are your qualifications?

==== AREA I SEAT ====

***Kevin W. KLANDRUD** – I desire to have our District maintain excellence in our schools and improve where possible. I believe in providing fiscal oversight on behalf of our taxpayers.

***Scott WHEELER** – I've served on the school board for 11 years, 6 years as president. I'm running for re-election to continue Elmbrook's strong academic performance and careful financial stewardship. Leadership and experience matter.

==== AREA III SEAT ====

***Bob BURLAGE** – I will retire in May, and believe that it is time to give back to my community, making use of my extensive experience in education and as an administrator (department chair, and former faculty chair of the university).

***Jennifer ROSKOPF**- I am seeking a second term as a non-partisan, engaged representative, prioritizing the district's evolving needs and sustaining excellence. My experience as a Board member and an engaged parent allows me to immediately resume the impactful work I value.

==== AT LARGE SEAT ====

***Sam HUGHES** – Currently on the board, I will focus on reducing un-necessary technology use, lead the proposed referendum with a conservative fiscal mindset, and ensure we can continue to increase our academics. The community deserves the best public education we can offer.

***Elizabeth THEIS** – Providing a high quality education for students, supporting teachers, and maintaining fiscal responsibility are my top priorities. I believe in removing politics from the board room and have several years of experience working with our school board and district administrators.

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

==== AREA I SEAT ====

***Kevin W. KLANDRUD** – Two issues in front of the school board are a projected tax referendum and a new cell phone policy in the schools. There has been discussion about a \$100 million dollar tax referendum to begin once our current tax referendum is paid off. That is a tax increase and I'm asking why, and what exactly does it accomplish? The current cell phone policy allows phone use during the day vs a school day ban.

***Scott WHEELER** – We have some facilities in need of major renovations for space, safety, and ADA compliance (particularly Tonawanda and PPMS). While well maintained, the proposed improvements exceed our normal operating budget. Our schools are a community asset, and we need a community conversation to discuss the scope of these projects and the best way to pay for them. I want to listen, find solutions, and act on the best approach so our students have great schools.

==== AREA III SEAT ====

***Bob BURLAGE** – The board is currently evaluating a referendum which will have a major impact on our schools and potentially on our tax rates. This will require careful and meticulous examination of our school needs. I have been touring the affected schools to determine the right balance, as well as attending current board meetings at which the Board debates the issues.

***Jennifer ROSKOPF**- Ensuring our school buildings are safe, accessible, and educationally relevant — without overburdening taxpayers — is a key issue for the next Board. The district's 20-year facilities plan identifies learning spaces that may require significant upgrades, potentially including a referendum. Responsible solutions include prioritizing projects based on community-supported needs criteria, clearly communicating proposed changes and tradeoffs, and actively pursuing alternative funding sources to offset costs, such as private partnerships, naming rights, and grants supporting accessibility, skilled trades, and robotics programs.

==== AT LARGE SEAT ====

***Sam HUGHES** – The proposed referendum could exceed \$105 million that will impact our taxes for the next 20 years is why we need strong business leaders who love public education on the board. Additionally, Raising academic proficiency levels, retaining excellent teachers (especially in Special Education), and understanding the impact AI will have in education. I believe through strong support of the teachers and staff, we can surpass our benchmark districts in ELA, Math and Science.

***Elizabeth THEIS** – The school district is planning to address significant needs at its facilities. With a potential capital referendum, a focus on fiscal responsibility is more important than ever. Rising healthcare costs are a concern and require financial risk management (the school district is self-insured). As a school board member, I will ensure that the school district operates within its budget and does not go to an operational referendum.



#4. If you have children, name the specific school(s) that they currently attend or previously attended in grades K-12.

==== AREA I SEAT ====

***Kevin W. KLANDRUD** – All my children attended Elmbrook Schools. Three are graduates of Brookfield East H.S. My daughter attended German Immersion School via the 220 program.

***Scott WHEELER** – My children have attended Burleigh, PPMS, and Brookfield East. I have three Elmbrook graduates, a sophomore at East, and a seventh grader at PPMS.

==== AREA III SEAT ====

***Bob BURLAGE** – All three of our children attended Hillside (now closed), Wisconsin Hills Middle School, and Brookfield Central High School.

***Jennifer ROSKOPF**- My three children attended Brookfield Elementary, Wisconsin Hills Middle School, and Brookfield Central High School (Classes of 2020, 2023 and 2027).

==== AT LARGE SEAT ====

***Sam HUGHES** – I have a daughter enrolled through Brookfield East in the special needs program. Stakeholders in our district have many options. I believe in educational choices.

***Elizabeth THEIS** – I have 3 children at Burleigh Elementary School. I will be an Elmbrook parent for another 12 years.

#5. In which School District of Elmbrook projects and school activities have you participated / volunteered and when?

==== AREA I SEAT ====

***Kevin W. KLANDRUD** – I was a soccer coach with the Elmbrook Soccer Club for almost ten years. I was a swim parent with Elmbrook Swim club for almost ten years. I was a room parent in elementary school.

***Scott WHEELER** – I started volunteering at the Burleigh chess club 15 years ago. As a board member I've served on several community committees (like the redistricting and HG&D committees), board committees, and volunteered at several EEF events.

==== AREA III SEAT ====

***Bob BURLAGE** – When my daughter was in high school, she was stage manager for the musicals. I helped with the construction crews.

- *Jennifer ROSKOPF** –
 - *Board Member, '20-'23, Interim, '25
 - *Elmbrook Task Forces, '16-'20
 - *EEF Intergenerational Program Founding Committee Member ('23-present)
 - *Parent Leadership: PTO, Parent Network, Elmbrook Parent Leadership Council Director (2016-2020)
 - *Production for Brook El and WHMS Musicals ('16-'23)
 - *Girl Scouts: Leader, robotics team, Camp Teen Volunteer Leader ('11- present)

==== AT LARGE SEAT ====

***Sam HUGHES** - I am an active school board member and have served for the Elmbrook schools as a liaison to Brookfield Economic Development Commission (25-26) and Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts (25-26). I participate in EEF ladies night (23-25) and many other events throughout the year.

- *Elizabeth THEIS** –
 - *President of Elmbrook Parent Network, 2023-2025
 - *Treasurer/Secretary of Burleigh PTO, 2023-2025
 - *Elmbrook Education Foundation volunteer, 2023-present
 - *Elmbrook LAUNCH mentor, 2024
 - *Robotics coach, 2021-present
 - *Cub Scout volunteer, 2021-present
 - *Girl Scout leader, 2023-present
 - *Elmbrook Calendar committee, 2023

Candidates' Q & A

Continued on Page 10

The Elm Grove News-Independent

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Letters to the Editor

Letters for the APRIL 2026 edition (100 words max from an individual OR 150 words max from multiple signers) regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space-available basis. Submissions must include each writer's name, community of residence, phone #.

Deadline: March 20, 2026

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



Invest in Childcare, Early Childhood Education

We have many local businesses that are ready to grow, but can't find the workers they need. In the Waukesha County 2025 Business Survey, 80% of employers say they plan to expand, and workforce availability is one of their top concerns. Across Wisconsin, there are approximately 2.4 job openings for every unemployed worker. At the same time, Wisconsin childcare providers say they could serve 33,000 more children, if they had enough staff. When childcare classrooms sit closed, more parents leave jobs and leave those companies understaffed - companies like independent retailers, chain big box stores, healthcare providers and more. Choosing trustworthy, safe, and reliable childcare is a huge family decision, and it's also important for our communities' economic vitality. I'd like to see local employers and our state partner together to invest in childcare and early childhood education, so that more parents have more options.

Amy Zimmerman - Brookfield, WI

Elmbrook is Not a Political Project

WISRED is a Waukesha County political organization openly working to flip local school boards to advance a specific ideological agenda. Its leaders have publicly discussed securing conservative majorities across the county, and **WISRED-backed candidates have coordinated with partisan groups, including Turning Point USA.** In this election, **Sam Hughes, Kevin Klandrud, and Bob Burlage have aligned themselves with WISRED's efforts.** That should concern every parent and taxpayer. School board service is supposed to be non-partisan and student-focused. Elmbrook should not become a political experiment driven by outside activists. Voters deserve independent leadership - not candidates tied to coordinated political movements.

Respectfully,

Concerned Elmbrook Parent

Vote Wheeler, Roskopf, Theis for Elmbrook School Board

As former Elmbrook School Board members, we write in support of the following current School Board candidates: **Scott Wheeler, Jen Roskopf, and Elizabeth Theis.** All three have demonstrated an exceptional ability to respect and work with people of differing opinions.

Scott, the current Board President, has provided steady, effective leadership — ensuring all viewpoints are respected while keeping the board focused on key priorities, providing strong governance, and clear direction to the Administration.

Interrupting her previous service on the Board to meet the needs of her family, **Jen** now returns to bring a strong analytical background that underpins her decision-making, making it less susceptible to being influenced by emotion.

As an engineer, **Elizabeth**, brings a strong fiscal responsibility, the ability to distinguish between needs and wants. She has also been a strong voice in the Board room for limiting the use of technology to those areas that have evidence-based success.

Glen R. Allgaier
Mushir Hassan, MD
Jian Sun



Protect Public School Resources

Friends and Neighbors: I'm disturbed that several candidates for the school board are motivated to siphon resources away from our public schools towards private institutions. Anyone is free to opt out of public services, but they should also have the personal responsibility to own their decision and its consequences. I'm supporting candidates that are invested in maintaining our excellent public schools and services by protecting the funds that should be spent on students using our public schools and public services. Join me in voting for **Elizabeth Theis and Jennifer Roskopf.**

Taylor Mierow, Elm Grove

Theis Will Bring Needed Skill Set to School Board

I'm voting for **Elizabeth Theis** for the Elmbrook School Board, and I hope you will, too. Elizabeth brings a much-needed skill set to the Board. As a parent of three children at Burleigh Elementary, she understands what families are experiencing. Her leadership and professional experience show she listens, collaborates, and delivers results. Elizabeth is running to serve Elmbrook students and families with focus, integrity, and no personal agenda. Your vote truly will make a difference for students.

Pat Ruttum, Elm Grove

School Board Candidates' Q & A

(Continued from Page 10)

#6. How will you promote diversity and inclusivity to help ensure that all of our public school district students sense that they belong, feel safe, and are not marginalized in our schools?

==== AREA I SEAT ====

***Kevin W. KLANDRUD** – As a school board member our policies should protect all students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, disability, gender or religion. Our curriculum must help all students develop life skills to prepare them for living in a modern society.

***Scott WHEELER** – The social and emotional wellness of our students is a priority for me. While on the board we implemented homework free breaks (lower stress), expanded club offerings and reduced fees (so students can pursue a passion). We also hired SROs and invested \$1+ million in school safety.

==== AREA III SEAT ====

***Bob BURLAGE** – We already have a diverse community, and are justly proud of that fact. As I talk to parents, their major concern is student safety. Our schools have upgraded safety measures to include cameras and door alarms. That's a sad commentary on contemporary society, but we remain prepared.

***Jennifer ROSKOPF**-

***Support and expand extracurricular clubs** — where students build connection and belonging — with strong faculty and facility support to strengthen community and inclusivity.

***Continue curriculum that fosters interconnectedness**, including the Human Geography graduation requirement.

***Maintain School Resource Officers** to build positive relationships and ensure a safe, supportive learning environment for all students

==== AT LARGE SEAT ====

***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.

***Elizabeth THEIS** – School clubs and activities naturally promote inclusion and belonging within the student body. The school district needs to remove barriers for extracurricular activities by creating spaces that suit their needs, reducing fees for participation, and celebrating their accomplishments. Every student should participate in a club or an activity.

#7. How do you plan to engage families and the community so that all voices / opinions have the opportunity to be heard and considered?

==== AREA I SEAT ====

***Kevin W. KLANDRUD** – I welcome input from staff, teachers, parents and taxpayers regarding all aspects that are pertinent to school board issues. Listening sessions for organizations and other community groups will be a top priority. It is my responsibility to ensure that everyone is included for all of our children.

***Scott WHEELER** – Transparency and engagement is very important to me. Our board meetings are recorded, citizens can address the board in person and via email, and our board materials and meetings are available on the website. I listen to every perspective because I want to learn and make the best decisions possible.

==== AREA III SEAT ====

***Bob BURLAGE** – The other word I keep hearing is transparency. How many people know that school board meetings are on YouTube? How many people even know who the board members are? I think the Board would like to hear from constituents, but there seems to be a lack of connectivity.

***Jennifer ROSKOPF**- I will continue prioritizing accessibility and engagement when issues require community input, using surveys, town halls, public comment opportunities, and direct email communication. Being active in our schools and community enables me to encourage meaningful participation and ensure board decisions reflect the voices and perspectives of those I would serve.

==== AT LARGE SEAT ====

***Sam HUGHES** – I have my cell phone on the website, I am holding office hours for community members to meet with me and will keep those hours throughout the years on the board. I have the reputation to be a great listener and respond to requests from community members, teachers, and students.

***Elizabeth THEIS** – Before any significant school board decision, parents and residents need to have opportunities to provide input (surveys, listening sessions, etc.) Mailers are expensive but a necessity for engaging all Elmbrook residents, especially with decisions that impact taxes.

News' Hounds & other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society By Morgan Pelon

Meet **Bacon**. She came to us after living with little to no human interaction, so the world as we know it is completely new to her. The sights, sounds, and routines of home life are all big, scary firsts. In fact, this is her very first time living inside. Because of her past, Bacon is extremely shy and cautious. Bacon has already started to show us what's possible. She has formed a bond with one of her caregivers and is beginning to learn that humans can be safe and trustworthy. She has also made progress with handling, and her trusted caregiver is now able to take her outside for very short walks. Bacon will require a home with a secure, physically fenced yard and a calm environment with minimal chaos. She would do best going home with another dog to help her learn how to "dog" and gain confidence.

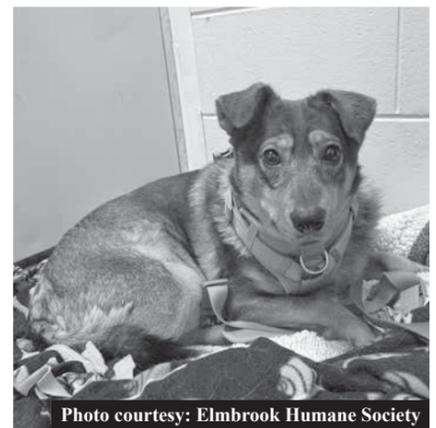


Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Bacon

Bacon isn't looking for perfection; she's looking for patience. If you have a big heart for a dog who just needs someone to believe in her, Bacon might be waiting for you. Adoption fee sponsored by: Just a Girl Who Loves Dogs. The EBHS is at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield. Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.

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Young Writers



Photo courtesy: Alyssa Nolden

Alyssa Nolden (4th from left) with her Blood Cancer United fundraiser team members.

Fundraiser for Blood Cancer United Announced

How you can contribute.

By Alyssa Nolden, Brookfield East High School, Sophomore

In 2011, my mom was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. At the time, she was expecting a second daughter. The first sign of her disease was the loss of the little one's heartbeat. Because of cancer research that produced effective treatments, my mom survived. A few years after remission, we welcomed my little sister.

In honor of the sister I lost, as well as the sister I have because of medical innovations, I am leading a fundraising team for Blood Cancer United in Southeastern Wisconsin. Each year, Blood Cancer United hosts regional competitions called Student Visionaries of the Year, in which teams of high school students raise money over seven weeks.

While I'm working hard to win this competition by raising the most funds, the real winners are blood cancer patients.

Formally The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Blood Cancer United is the largest nonprofit dedicated to creating a world without blood cancers, fund research to advance lifesaving treatments, drive advocacy for policies that protect patient access to these treatments, and provide patients and families with hope, guidance, education and support.

All donations will support Blood Cancer United's mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

If you would be willing to consider a donation to Blood Cancer United, through my campaign, our team would be eternally grateful. **Please scan the QR code above to donate.**

Thank you for your consideration, and please remember, every bit counts.



Lucky Crossword

By Axel Nielsen, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Leprechaun
Unicorn
Clover
Kind
Yellow coins



Spring

By Lucy Christianson

3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Trickling down the window pane
Flowers will grow from the shiny rain
Wet puddles and beautiful flowers
From the nice spring showers
It's Spring, it's Spring, it's Spring!

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
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 O 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

POT RAINBOW PARADE GOLD
CELTIC MAGIC COINS LEPRECHAUN
GREEN PATRICK MARCH CHARM
IRELAND EMERALD CLOVER LUCK

Perfect

By Odette Walker

3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Sometimes I feel like I'm expected to be perfect

PERFECT

The word feels like a stab in the back.

But nobody is perfect.

That's why pencils have erasers.

PERFECT

If I could, I would delete that word from the dictionary.

PERFECT

If I could I would erase it from my life.

PERFECT

If I could I would.

Or can I?

The Spring

By Sydney Sosalla

3rd Grade - Tonawanda

The warm weather finally is here now people can have fun on a spring break vacation or playing outside everyday going on the monkey bars swinging in a backyard having a sleepover traveling swimming in pool going to the beach so many fun things to do now winter is over and spring is HERE

When I Got My Dog

By Ryan Kelly, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

It was a warm July day and my parents were leaving for Chicago, so my grandpa was staying with us. My parents said they were just going for fun, but I wondered why they didn't take me and Clare. They were almost back. They texted me to tell me they would be back in three hours. I really wanted them back and I was going to be so excited when they came back, but I had to wait, so I watched TV, but after that there was still a while left until they got back, so I waited. They got back. My mom came in and said my dad was outside and she told us to go out there. He had a dog and he told my sister to read the address. She said it was our address, so I checked and it was. In conclusion, I was really excited to have a dog and his name was Finn.

Frogs

By Max Swain, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Frogs are **GREEN**
Sometimes they are poisonous
They live in ponds
Usually dirty ponds

When I Saw a Shark!

By Felix Ark, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever seen a shark? It was a tour and it was midday. I got excited and happy! I loved the tour! I fed the shark! The shark was starving, but the rays stole all the fish! My sister gave me her fish, I was really happy! I had a great time! I left after! I was happy because I love sharks! I wanted to learn more about sharks! I looked back and felt happy. I loved the tour!

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