



# Elm Grove NEWS- INDEPENDENT



Vol. 13 No. 9

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

May 2023

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

## Memorial Day Events

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

### \*Pancake Breakfast

Begin your day at this traditional, pre-parade gathering at the **Elm Grove Woman's Club**.

(See details in AD below.)

### \*The Elm Grove Parade

This year's event, themed "*In Memory of the Fallen...*" and sponsored by **American Legion Post 449** and the **Elm Grove Junior Guild**, will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Village Hall and travel throughout the downtown area, concluding at the corner of Elm Grove Rd. and Wall St.

(See Parade Route map – Page 2.)

### \*Bookie Cookie Returns!

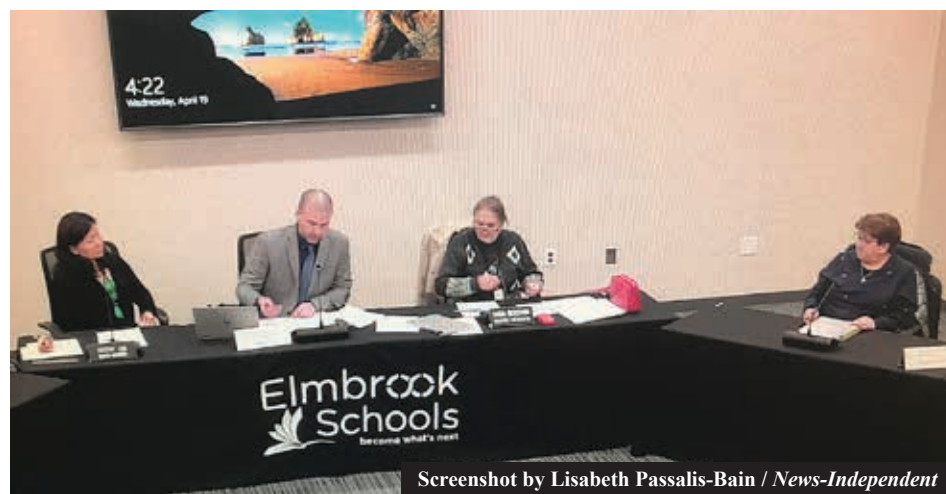
A perennial crowd favorite, those large and delicious cookies, not sold since 2017, will be available once more "thanks to the efforts of several **Friends of the Library (FOEGL)** members and the generosity of **Great Harvest**," notes **Dave Cronin**, President of FOEGL, adding: "The bakery will provide the cookies at or below cost... and a FOEGL crew of volunteers will package the cookies...another crew will vend the cookies on Memorial Day from one or two Bookie Cookie booths and by selling along the parade route."

At least 1,000 cookies will be available at the price of 2 for \$5.00; the selling starts about 9 a.m. Plan to purchase them early, so you don't miss out! The funds raised will support **Elm Grove Public Library** programs for children and adults.

If you're interested in helping FOEGL bring back this sweet tradition and help support the library, leave your name and contact information at the library desk.

(See MEMORIAL DAY – Page 3)

## Elmbrook School Board Election Results Announced Following Area III Votes Recount



Screenshot by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

School District of Elmbrook's Board of Canvassers **Kathy Lim** (at left), **Linda Boucher** (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), and **Christine VanderBloemen** (at right) confer with the school board's attorney during a Live Stream broadcast of recount election results on April 19. (Story – Page 10.)

## Elm Grove Election Results

April 4, 2023 (65% voter turnout)

### VILLAGE PRESIDENT:

\***Jim Koleski**: 1,914 votes  
Mary Inden (registered write-in): 553

### VILLAGE TRUSTEE (3 seats):

\***Kristina Sayas**: 2,008  
\***Thomas W. Shepherd**: 1,936  
\***Tom Castile**: 1,566  
Robert Prange: 761

### MUNICIPAL JUDGE:

\***W. Timothy Steinkle**: 1,928

## Applicants Sought to Fill Board of Trustees Vacancy

Due to the election on April 4 of **Jim Koleski** as our new Village President, the seat that Koleski held as Trustee since 2022 must now be filled. It has, therefore, been determined by the Village Board of Trustees that the vacant seat will be filled by appointment of the Board in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes 17.24 (1). The term of the appointment will expire in April 2024, the end of the regular term of office.

Any interested resident, who is a minimum of 18 years old, a legal resident of the United States, and is an eligible voter is **welcome to submit an application for consideration no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023.**

Applications are available at Village Hall, 13600 Juneau Blvd. Contact Village Clerk Sandee Policello at [spolicello@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:spolicello@elmgrovewi.org) for details.

The Village Board will conduct a formal interview of interested candidates during a Special Board of Trustees meeting held in Open Session at a date to be determined, and will then vote upon the appointment.

## Change of Dates/Times for Trustee, Finance Committee meetings

A vote by the Board of Trustees on April 24 changed Finance Committee meetings to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.; Trustee meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. See [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org) for agendas.

## FAIRGROUNDS COFFEE TO OPEN IN DOWNTOWN ELM GROVE, WISCONSIN

One of the brightest new spots to find black coffee in Elm Grove is Fairgrounds Coffee & Tea, which will open at the end of May, 2023 on 13320 Watertown Plank Rd. in the heart of downtown Elm Grove.

Wisconsin represents the fourth market for the multi-roaster retail coffee brand, which made its debut with a sprawling café in Chicago's Bucktown/Wicker Park area in 2017 before expanding with seven more Chicagoland locations, plus individual openings in Dallas and Minneapolis.

Choice is the driving force at Fairgrounds: Consumers can order flights of kombucha, if they can't pick just one. They can order flights of cold brew, too, a potentially good choice for coffee geeks.

Customers will pick a coffee roaster for their espresso drinks — an interesting option when most shops stick to one coffee roaster.

**GRAND OPENING, MAY 2023**



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Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

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Elisabeth Passalis-Bain

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  - \*Mary Ann Rachow (Elm Grove)
  - \*Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K
- for their Sponsorship of this edition.

See Friends of The News details & form – Page 12

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Photo courtesy: Jill Varick

Siblings (from left) Alex Palmer, Claire Sporrer, and Kelsey Brenn pose with their parents Jill Varick and Neil Palmer during a reception that they organized to mark their father's retirement from Village government. The portrait was painted from a photo of Neil by his good friend, artist Curt Crain.

## Retirement Reception Held to Honor Neil Palmer

Funds being raised for 2nd pier at Village Park

During the 32 years that Elm Grove resident Neil Palmer served in Village government, his name was featured on a small sign during meetings, identifying him as either a Village trustee (1991-2005) or as Village President (2005-2023). But, months from now, he might decide to post a different sort of sign at his home, one that simply says, "GONE FISHING", and he'll have a special place, called Palmer Pier to try his luck.

As the story goes, Neil's 3 children, Kelsey, Alex, and Claire "came up with the idea", according to their mother Jill Varick, to throw a surprise retirement party for their father at Village Hall on March 27, just before Palmer's final Board meeting.

(See PALMER – Page 11)



Photo courtesy: Jill Varick

Items displayed during the event.



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ELM GROVE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ROUTE

75th Annual ELM GROVE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE 2023

Monday May 29th - 10:30am

In memory of the fallen....

Parade route will close at 9:45 AM



# Report from Madison

By Tom Michalski, Wisconsin State Assemblyman – District 13  
[Rep.michalski@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.michalski@legis.wisconsin.gov) / (608) 237-9113

When I ran for State Assembly, I made two promises; The first was to work on the growing threat of crime coming to us from our eastern border; the second was to help our local governments fund their priorities without increasing local property taxes.

I’ve already gotten to work, authoring my first two bills this March, and I’m proud to report that both bills passed in the Assembly. The first (AB-57) prevents judges from dismissing illegal gun possession charges. The second (AB-58) requires that violent felons caught with a firearm must be sentenced to a minimum of five years in prison. I’m not done in this area but must focus on other priorities.

The Assembly is actively working on the budget. I have attended three public budget

listing sessions (Waukesha Expo, Elm Grove Village Hall, and New Berlin H.S.); I will post details of a possible 4th session on my website when they are available. I am comfortable that this budget will help local municipalities pay for neglected roads and emergency services.

The Committee on Universities and Colleges has been very active. We have been focusing on freedom of speech within the University System. The results of a student survey were released in February and were eye-opening.

Students’ lack of understanding of the Constitution’s first amendment’s protection of freedom of speech was distressing. Over 50% of students who self-identify as liberal believe that a statement that can

be viewed as offensive is an actual act of harm or violence. Additionally, over 50% of all students are unlikely to consider viewpoints that disagree with their own. I find this concerning for two reasons. First, how can we address the polarization of our society if people will not even consider opposing views? Second, what does this say about our school system’s oft-stated goal of creating critical thinkers?

Work in this area is in the early stages, but I encourage you to view the survey yourself. It was very well done, and I am grateful to **Jay Rothman**, the new president of the Wisconsin University system, for commissioning the study.

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/civil-dialogue/download/SurveyReport20230201.pdf>.

# Volunteers Needed!

\*\*\* Community organizations in need of volunteer help are invited to submit a statement (150 words maximum) to: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) OR write to: EGNI, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.

**\*Village of Elm Grove Fire Department & E.M.S**

Seven out of ten firefighters and emergency responders are volunteers, and Elm Grove needs more volunteers like you. If you’ve got the heart to serve your community, we’ve got volunteer opportunities for you.

Our volunteers need to live within the department’s established response area, be at least 18 years of age, and have a valid Wisconsin driver’s license.

Upon acceptance, new members attend one semester of Firefighter 1 State Certification course at WCTC or MATC followed by Probationary Training held on Tuesday evenings at the Elm Grove Firehouse.

Call Chief David Kastenholz at (262) 782-6700, ext. 251 or e-mail [dkastenholz@elmgrovetwi.org](mailto:dkastenholz@elmgrovetwi.org)

**\*Sunset Playhouse**

Sunset Playhouse loves our volunteers! We rely on them to help create the high-quality productions that Sunset is known for. From working in the Scene Shop to Front of House ushering to helping children make crafts at our bug in a rug Children’s Theater shows, we have volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in giving time to the arts. No experience needed - we will train you. If interested, call **Brooke** at (262) 782-4431 x233. Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove, WI.

**\*School District of Elmbrook**

Please see <https://www.elmbrookschoools.org/departments/human-resources/how-to-volunteer-in-elmbrook> for all of the information including completing our district’s volunteer background check process. You will need to renew this process every two years. There is an approximate two-week processing time before you are able to volunteer in our school or chaperone a field trip.

*“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy.  
You vote in elections once a year,  
but when you volunteer, you vote every day  
about the kind of community you want to live in.”*  
– Anonymous

Tell us about your

**GOOD NEIGHBORS**

(300 words or less)

How they help you, your neighborhood, the community and the **Good News** might be featured in an upcoming edition.

E-mail your story + a photo of your neighbor(s), if available to: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) (subject line: “Good Neighbors”) OR Mail it to: EGNI “Good Neighbors”, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122.



**Memorial Day** (Continued from Page 1)

**\*Fundraiser for Veterans**

The Elm Grove Men’s Club will be raising money for the **Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative** through donations from EGMC and others who want to contribute. “During the last 2 years we raised over \$20,000 this way,” said club member **Carl Carran**. Although there will not be an actual fundraising event this year, the group will ‘pass a jug’ for donations at **O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub**, and a live band will perform in the parking lot.

Checks should be made payable to: Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative and mailed to: Elm Grove Men’s Club, 1205 Woodlawn Circle, Elm Grove 53122.



**\*Oak Hill Cemetery Ceremony**

Historic Oak Hill Cemetery, 3500 N. Brookfield Rd., Brookfield will be the site of an event beginning at 10 a.m. The ceremony is the joint effort of several community organizations, including the **Behling-Kutchera American Legion Post 296**, the **Oak Hill Cemetery Association**, the **Elmbrook Historical Society**, **Brookfield Academy**, and **Boy Scout Troop 71**. The program honors all those who gave their lives in defense of liberty, with special recognition given to **Nathan Hatch**, a Revolutionary War veteran buried at Oak Hill.

The 45-minute program will include a variety of local speakers, including *The News-Independent’s* “Our History” columnist **Stephen K. Hauser**, and a rifle salute by members of the American Legion Post. Light refreshments will be available following the ceremony. Bring a lawn chair, as seating will not be provided. The event is **FREE** and open to the public.

*Remember Our Veterans*

# Business & Club Directory

## \* Community Organizations




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

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

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

**Elmbrook Rotary**



**People of Action**

Where neighbors, friends and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders and take action to create lasting change. Fridays – 7:00 a.m.

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

*Join us to make a difference in the world!*

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# Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo from the collection of Stephen K. Hauser

**THE ELM GROVE LUMBER COMPANY** at 13415 Watertown Plank Road as it looked in May of 1959. Florian Gnant’s realty company shared office space in the building. This photograph is taken from the Underwood Creek, looking east toward the railroad tracks.

## WHATZZIT?

By Stephen K. Hauser

Anybody need a hammer? As a newly-settled suburbanite in the mid-1950s, you could have gotten one, along with nails, a level and all the lumber you needed to complete your project at the **Elm Grove Lumber Company**. Located on the east side of the **Elm Grove Park & Shop** lot at 13415 Watertown Plank Road, the wood frame building and lumber yard sat about 100 yards south of the old **Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad** passenger depot.

The 1950s was the decade of “suburban sprawl” as young families of the Baby Boom era began settling in formerly bucolic agricultural areas that surrounded larger cities. They soon turned them into so-called bedroom communities. The new residents, and the contractors who were building new homes for them, often needed materials and supplies ranging from flooring to bathroom tile to paint. Area lumber companies, including **Bliffert Lumber** on S. Highway 100 at Blue Mound Road, **General Lumber & Supply** on N. 91<sup>st</sup> Street in Granville, **Brookfield Lumber** on Brookfield Road in the Town of Brookfield, and even Elm Grove’s own **Reinders Brothers** were all in competition to attract the patronage of builders and newly-transplanted ex-urbanites.

Elm Grove Lumber Company opened its doors in 1956 to also offer products and services to Elmbrook area residents. I recall shopping there with my folks and running in to several of our new neighbors, all looking to further customize their fledgling homes with recreation rooms and the like. Expert personalized assistance was provided by employees, as best they could.

Sharing their new building with Elm Grove Lumber was the **Gnant Realty Company**. **Florian Gnant** had an upstairs apartment a block or so to the east (next to **Dr. Joseph Faupl’s** dental office) and found it easy to walk to his realty office each morning to meet clients. Realtors, of course, were also kept busy during this “boom time” of Brookfield and Elm Grove history, and there were plenty of prospective buyers to keep them hopping.

The Elm Grove Lumber Company narrowly missed destruction on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1958 when the nearby depot was leveled by a **Milwaukee Road** freight train derailment. The lumber company continued in business for the next several years, but would close in early 1963. The building was torn down that June. The spot it occupied remained vacant and is now

only a nondescript portion of the **Park & Shop** parking lot alongside the bushes and scrub trees that grow along the west side of the **Canadian National** railroad tracks. No telltale evidence of the once bustling lumber yard can be seen. I’d like to think, however, that some few village residents

might still recall the good service that was provided there.

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

53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovethefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Community Foundation Supports Village Safety

Earlier this year the Community Foundation donated funds to the Elm Grove Police Department (EGPD) to purchase a new speed trailer. The trailer will provide the EGPD with anonymous data related to vehicular speed and real-time traffic counts throughout the day. It will also act as a visual reminder to drivers, especially non-village residents, to be aware of the 25-mph speed limit.

Keeping the village streets safe for vehicular and pedestrian traffic is a priority for the EGPD. “The Elm Grove Police Department is truly grateful to the Elm Grove Community Foundation for their generous donation,” said Chief Jason Kubiak. “Without the financial support of the Foundation and others, the purchasing of this safety tool would not have been possible. I thank the Community Foundation for their support and helping our department accomplish our mission.”

Requests can be made to the EGPD by any resident who wishes to have the monitor placed in their neighborhood in hopes of lowering vehicular speeds. For more information, please visit: <https://elmgrovethefoundation.org/200/Speed-Trailer>

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 15 & 16, 2023

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# Calendar of Events – May 2023

**Thursday – MAY 4**  
**\*Elmbrook Garden Club**  
Meeting: 6 p.m. at Brookfield Public Library.

**Friday – MAY 5**  
**\*Elmbrook Rotary Club**  
Meeting: 7 a.m.; Speaker: St. Camillus Operations Director at St. Camillus East Tower Conference Room.  
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>


**\*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Private Spring Luncheon.  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Tuesday – MAY 9**  
**\*Elmbrook School District Board of Education** Meeting: 6:00 p.m. at the District Office - 3555 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield. Open to the Public. Agenda, Live Stream, and recordings of meetings: [www.elmbrookschooldistrict.org](http://www.elmbrookschooldistrict.org).

**Wednesday – MAY 10**  
**\*Generally Speaking Toastmasters Club** – Meeting: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Brookfield Public Library – Harnischfeger Room. Open to Public.

**Friday – MAY 12**  
**\*Elmbrook Rotary Club**  
Meeting: 7 a.m. at St. Camillus East Tower Conference Room; Speaker: John Schindler; Topic: Daylighting Underwood Creek in Elm Grove.”  
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

**\*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: John Schindler, Village Trustee; Topic: “Daylighting of the Underwood Creek in Elm Grove.”  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – MAY 14**  
**MOTHER’S DAY**  


**Thursday – MAY 18**  
**\*OWLS – Seniors’ Group**  
Lunch & Program: “A Meeting with Gertrude Bell” at Community UMC, Elm Grove. Guests are welcome.  
<http://www.cumceg.org>.

**Friday – MAY 19**  
**\*Elmbrook Rotary Club**  
Meeting: 7 a.m. at St. Camillus East Tower Conference Room; Topic: “Classification Talks: Hear an overview of a fellow Rotarian’s life.”  
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

**\*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: Lisabeth Passalis-Bain, Owner / Publisher of *The Elm Grove News-Independent*; Topic: “Facts About the EGNI and the Value of Hyper-Local News”. [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Monday – MAY 22**  
**\*Cruisin’ the Spur - vintage and classic car, truck, and cycle show** – 5 p.m. at the parking lot behind Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. FREE & Open to the Public.

**Tuesday – MAY 23**  
**\*Elm Grove Board of Trustees**  
Public Meeting: 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room. Agenda & Live Stream: [www.elmgrovetrustees.org](http://www.elmgrovetrustees.org). (262) 782-6700

**Wednesday – MAY 24**  
**\*Generally Speaking Toastmasters Club** – Meeting: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Brookfield Public Library – Harnischfeger Room. Open to Public.

**Friday – MAY 26**  
**\*Elmbrook Rotary Club**  
Meeting: 7 a.m. at St. Camillus East Tower Conference Room.  
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

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


**Monday – MAY 29**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
Elm Grove Village Hall Closed



**Elm Grove Recycling Center Hours**  
The Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste facility, 900 Wall St.  
**APRIL - OCTOBER**  
**Tuesday & Thursday**  
**3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday**  
**8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
For more information, visit: [www.elmgrovetrustees.org](http://www.elmgrovetrustees.org) or call: (262) 782-6700.

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**American Association of University Women**  
Invites you to our **May 24<sup>th</sup>** Branch Meeting  
Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove  
TOPIC  
“Helping Women in the Criminal Justice System  
Live Healthier & Safer Lives  
Speaker: Jeanne Geraci, Executive Director Benedict Center  
Social 6:30 PM  
AAUW Business meeting 7:00 PM  
Speaker 7:20 PM  
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West Suburban-Milwaukee (WI) Branch

**word search puzzle**  
**Mother's Day**  
  
BOUQUET  
MAY  
CAKE  
MOMMY  
CARD  
SUNDAY  
CELEBRATE  
TRADITION  
COOKIES  
LOVE  
FLOWERS  
HUG  
GRATEFUL  
FAMILY  
HEART  
KISS

**Elm Grove Beautification Committee**  
**Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, June 3th**  
**9am-1pm**  
**downtown Park-n-Shop lot**  
**Over 60 varieties of native plants and grasses, herbs, too!**



# News Briefs

## PPMS Science Olympiad Team in State Finals

(ELM GROVE) The PPMS Science Olympiad Team competed in the State Finals held at UW-Milwaukee, and placed in the top 10 in Wisconsin for 8 events. Special congratulations to:

- **Vedh Bagare and Anson Li**, who took 2nd place in Crave the Wave
- **Rock Arunkumar and Zaina Morshed**, who earned 2nd place in Forestry
- **Anson Li and Rock Arunkumar**, who earned 3rd place in Can't Judge a Powder
- **Krishiva Balaji and Sharvesh Saravana Perumal**, who took 6th place in Solar System



## PPMS Names New Student Senate Members

The Pilgrim Park Middle School Student Senate Executive Board was announced for the 2023-24 school year. Congratulations to the following students who will be serving the student body:

- \*President: **Maeve Green**      \*Vice President: **Rory Correa**  
\*Secretary: **Adi Sangowdar**      \*Member at Large: **Shivani Sharma**

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Herb Kohl Award Recipients (Left to right): **Ananya Bhatt, Erin Hu, Anant Jhaveri, Abbey Turner, and Andy Farley.**

## Elmbrook Students, Principal Named Herb Kohl Award Winners

(BROOKFIELD) This year in Elmbrook, three Brookfield Central seniors, one Brookfield East senior, and one Brookfield East staff member received Herb Kohl Awards. Brookfield Central High School seniors **Ananya Bhatt** and **Erin Hu**, and Brookfield East senior **Anant Jhaveri** were awarded the Herb Kohl Foundation Excellence Scholarships on behalf of the foundation for their academic leadership. Brookfield Central senior **Abbey Turner** was awarded a Herb Kohl Initiative Scholarship for overcoming obstacles and adversity in learning and demonstrating exceptional classroom initiative and has shown strong promise for succeeding in college and beyond. Additionally, Brookfield East Principal **Andy Farley** was named a 2023 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Principal Leader for setting high standards for instruction, achievement and character, and creating

a climate to best serve students, families, staff, and community.

“The Kohl Foundation’s support of students and staff across the state of Wisconsin continues to be astounding,” said Superintendent **Mark Hansen**. “Congratulations to Ananya, Erin, Anant, Abbey, and Mr. Farley on this well-deserved recognition!”

The selection committee for the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Scholarship and Fellowship Program has announced recipients of the 2023 Herb Kohl Foundation awards for students, teachers, and principals. The students are among 190 graduating seniors that will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Foundation.

For more information on the scholarships, visit [www.kohleducation.org](http://www.kohleducation.org).



The scene along Watertown Plank Road during a past Cruisin’ the Grove event.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “Cruisin’ the Grove” Car Show, August 6<sup>th</sup>

By Larry De Longe

The Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove Golden K announced that the classic cars, trucks and cycles will be returning to Watertown Plank Road on Sunday, August 6th for another great display of classic and collectable vehicles. In past years the audience has been spell bound with a custom manufactured gull wing door DeLorean, Rolls-Royce sedans, the all Milwaukee Harley Davidson motorcycles, 50s cars with fins, corvettes, mustangs and antique autos and trucks. The Kiwanis Club encourages you to mark your calendar and “Save the Date”, August 6, 2023. This event is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. rain or shine.

Three hundred exhibitors are expected again this year. The cars, trucks and cycles will be arriving for registration early and will be parked and ready for your review and admiration starting at 10:00 a.m. This will be the 10th annual car show in Elm Grove. The show again will feature broadcast music with

a DJ and the favorite foods with hot and cold beverages from O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub and Silver Spur BBQ. The very intense Youth Judging of cars is being featured again this year.

The Kiwanians will be seeking sponsorships and donations from local businesses, benefactors and Club members. This year, two raffles will be conducted during the show. One raffle will offer chances to win \$\$\$s. The other raffle will offer a chance to win a “Hog Quilt” made of “Harley Davidson” shirts. The Cruisin’ event has generated income that exceeds expenses by \$13,000.00 and helps the Kiwanis Club with its philanthropic goal of funding programs for children in the area. These programs include early reading, scouting, help for children with disabilities, and scholarships for Key Club members.

So, mark your calendars now and watch for further details in the months ahead!



# News Briefs



St. Mary's Visitation First Grade students with some of their 'Pet Drive' project posters.

## SMV 'Pet Drive' Benefits Elmbrook Humane Society

(ELM GROVE) St. Mary's Visitation's (SMV) 44 First Graders hosted the school's first Pet Drive to benefit the Elmbrook Humane Society. An all-school assembly was held on Wednesday, April 22 to kick off the project. Their guest speaker was **Sheila Postotnik**, an educator from Elmbrook Humane Society (EBHS). The school's band played and a slide presentation was shown. The Pet Drive lasted two weeks, April 22 through May 5. To promote the Drive, the students made posters in science class and hung them up around school. They included all the items needed, the date of the event, and pictures of cute pets. Among the items collected were pet food, Pedialyte, paper towels, peanut butter, pet treats, towels, small blankets, toys, chews, gift cards, and baggies. Donations were also made on Amazon.com and Chewy.com from the

Wish List at [ebhs.org/wishlist](https://ebhs.org/wishlist).

SMV's two first grade teachers, **Sara Sinense** and **Kerri Koepke**, helped coordinate the project. "The first graders were so excited each day coming in to tell me what they donated," Sinense said, adding: "Several students were able to speak in front of the entire school. This was a great project because it benefits the animals in our community and First Graders love animals. The students practiced working in groups and it covered several learning standards."

"I brought three bags of treats for the Pet Drive because dogs need them," said SMV first grader **Alia Flores Sanchez**.

Sheila Postotnik delivered the items collected to EBHS.

## Rotary Clubs' Guiding Principles Explained

By Jackson Bubolz

The Four-Way test is recited at the end of thousands of Rotary meetings across the globe every week. The test was first implemented by Rotary's founder **Paul Harris** in 1905. His test was initially designed to keep his business associates focused on ethical business practices during their networking meetings.

Over the last 100 years, the Four-Way test has evolved into a paradigm for thousands of Rotary chapters around the globe to best determine which course of service is Fair to All Concerned.

At the Elmbrook Rotary Club, we've allowed these principles to guide us through decisions on awarding tens of thousands of dollars in grants and scholarships each year. We've used it to discern what organizations we should physically volunteer our time and efforts – from reading to children, to cooking for the weary, or building homes in Guatemala. We consider this test when we decide how to share our accomplishments when recruiting new members. (Yes, we are actively looking to add more members in our 23/24 campaign)

We deliberate on the best way to Truthfully describe the Benefits of sponsoring our fundraisers and the perks of spending time with the wonderful 80+ person club we have in Elmbrook. The Four-Way Test has



grounded Rotary members in logic and empathy for over a century.

If you've been wanting to volunteer directly in your community, join a group focused on Goodwill & Better Friendships, or learn more about the business and non-profit ecosystem locally, please check our website to learn about visiting a meeting: <https://elmbrookrotary.org/>

## Cruisin' the Spur is Back!

By Ray Shannon

Elm Grove's Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road in downtown Elm Grove, will again be hosting a series of free and informal vintage and classic car, truck and cycle shows on alternate Monday evenings this year. The dates will be May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 14, August 28, September 11, September 25, and maybe October 9.



Show vehicles can enter the Spur's back parking lot any time after 5 p.m. There will be plenty of hot food, cold drinks and cool music. And as always, spectators are invited to join the fun. So, come on down.

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# News Briefs

## No Mow May 2.0

By Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Your Elm Grove Beautification Committee is once again promoting the No Mow May initiative! The catchy phrase and program began in England in 2019, but caught a lot of local attention in 2020 when Professor Del Toro at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI did a study comparing un-mown areas to regularly mown areas and showed a 3-fold increase of bee diversity and a 5-fold increase in bee abundance.

Our Elm Grove village president and board of trustees enacted an ordinance change in 2022 to allow Elm Grove residents to participate. Of note, Appleton’s participation rate in 2021 was 1.5% (which our committee set out to match), but we were happy to report that 3.3% of homes took part. Let’s see what we can do this year!

For 2023, we are changing our message. Rather than No Mow May, we would like to promote the concept “**The more you know, the less you mow**” and have created a list of activities that will help you partake in the real reason the program is in existence—to minimize adverse effect our actions have on the diversity and abundance of pollinators, insects, spiders, worms, and other invertebrates. These are vital to support our ecosystem and are what birds need to feed their young.

- \*Don’t mow your lawn in May.
- \*Mow your lawn for the first time later than you would have otherwise.
- \*Mow your lawn less often than you would have otherwise.
- \*Don’t use any pesticides.
- \*Delay or minimize pesticide use.
- \*Delay yard clean-up which allows overwintering invertebrates to emerge in spring once it is persistently above 50 degrees.
- \*Remove turf grass and plant a pollinator bed.
- \*Remove turf grass around keystone tree species and plant native perennials (search for Heather Holm’s Soft Landings).
- \*Remove invasive species from your landscape
- \*Add plants that support pollinators—search the Native Plant Finder website by NWF, enter our zip code, and find plants ranked by pollinator support.
- \*You can request a No Mow May sign by visiting the Elm Grove Beautification Committee village website and clicking on the No Mow May tab. It’ll take you to a form with instructions for sign pick-up and drop off.



Photo courtesy: Beautification Committee

## ‘No Mow May’ sign at the Elm Grove Woman’s Club

Your very own Elm Grove Woman’s Club is happy to support this mission! The “Flock Together” bluebird house auction they held in April was a fundraiser to support two initiatives. One was for the Elm Grove “Birders of the Grove” Team in the 2023 Great Wisconsin Birdathon, of which 50% of all proceeds will be returned to our community to support our feathered friends. The second mission of the fundraiser will go towards helping make the EGWC a certified National Wildlife Federation habitat in support of our community’s ongoing annual recertification requirements for the Community Habitat designation. To have such an iconic Elm Grove property participating shows just how committed our community is to supporting our Bee City, Bird City, and Tree City designations. One of the EGWC enhancements is incorporation of milkweed varieties along with nectar sources for monarchs.

The species was listed on the IUCN Red List in 2022 which prompted our community and then-Village President Neil Palmer to take the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge. Elm Grove hopes to become only the 9th community in the nation to achieve the Monarch Champion level.

If you would like to be involved in any of these exciting activities, please reach out to the Woman’s Club at (262) 782-5930, or the Beautification Committee at [Beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:Beautification@elmgrovewi.org).

# News’ Hounds & other beloved creatures

## Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Gourley



Photo: Elmbrook Humane Society

Neiko

Ready to meet the biggest, sweetest dog ever? Look no further! Meet Neiko, this large Great Dane is so ready to find his forever family. He is a great walker on leash, potty trained, and has lived with cats and loved playing with them. Neiko is not the biggest fan of living with other dogs so a home where he can have all the human attention on him would be best! Apply today! Visit: <https://ebhs.org>. Call (262) 782-9261.

# Young Writers



Photo courtesy: Janavi Wagle

The Pilgrim Park Middle School Science Olympiad Team. (Back Row): Parents; (Front Row: Far Left): Coach - **Dr. Van Galen**; Participants from 6th-8th grade; (Far Right): **Janavi Wagle**.



Photo courtesy: Janavi Wagle

The Pilgrim Park Middle School Forensics Team.

## My Best Middle School Learning Experiences

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

People say that middle school is the time you get opportunities to figure out more about yourself. Participating in many clubs and teams, I was able to learn a lot. Out of all the clubs, I had the best learning experiences during my Forensics and Science Olympiad seasons.

After successfully completing four forensics meets at different schools around Milwaukee, I was qualified for the state competition. On March 18, 2023, middle schools from all around Wisconsin gathered at Brookfield Central High School to give their best. Our Pilgrim Park forensics team placed third out of sixty teams at the state tournament, and brought home medals and trophies. The top performers had placed and earned medals for being the best in the state of Wisconsin. I feel honored to be one of them.

This year, my school started a new club called Science Olympiad under the

mentorship of **Dr. Ashley Van Galen** and **Miss Grace Ledin**. During the regional competition at Marquette, our school team had placed 8th out of 24 teams. Finally, on April 1, 2023, the PPMS team was invited for the final state meet at UW-Milwaukee. I competed for three categories namely Disease Detectives, Virology, and Anatomy/Physiology. My school was placed 14th out of 22 teams in Wisconsin and PPMS students did receive medals. Although I didn’t win any medal, I came home with a wealth of experiences and knowledge. I’m proud that I was able to represent my school at a state-level.

As it’s my final month in middle school, I look back and feel that I have grown so much with support from my coaches, teachers and mentors. I am excited to walk through the doors of Brookfield East continuing to do the things I truly am passionate about.

## Rainbows

By Anna Peterson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Rainbows are so cool  
How about you?  
Do you like rainbows?

There are so many colors!  
There’s red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple.  
I love rainbows.



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# Young Writers & Reporters

♥ Mother’s Day ♥

By Caroline D., 4th Grade - Tonawanda

My mother is pretty  
My mother has style  
My mother loves me more than a mile  
My mother is pretty  
My mother is kind  
My mother, My mother, My mother is mine

I Love My Mom

By Violet Welsh, 4th Grade – Tonawanda

INSPIRING  
LOYAL  
OPTIMISTIC  
VIVACIOUS  
ENCOURAGING  
MAGICAL  
YOUTHFUL  
MAGNIFICENT  
OPEN-HEARTED  
MARVELOUS

My Mom

By Ruby Glassman, 4th Grade- Tonawanda

I love my Mom!!!  
LOve!!!  
The best!!!  
SHe loves me!!!  
Extra amazing!!!  
Really nice!!!

May

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

April showers bring May flowers  
that bring the world joy,  
With rainbows streaming on the ground,  
that’s what it looks like because...  
APRIL SHOWERS  
BRING MAY FLOWERS!

Spring

By Mila Webb, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Everyone is smiling  
Flowers growing everywhere  
WOW so wonderful!

Cats

By Amare Lyons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

He left the house  
no meow, meow  
He was gone forever  
no meow, meow  
His toys were left  
no meow, meow  
His food bowl... empty  
no meow, meow  
I cried  
no meow, meow

HAPPY  
MOTHER’S  
DAY

1<sup>st</sup> Grade students in Mrs. Sinense’s class at St. Mary’s Visitation wrote on the theme:

What I Like About May...

“I like going golfing with Pa. Every time I golf, we usually find a golf ball, and he lets me keep it. I have a whole collection of them. I get to drive the golf cart. We saw a turtle once. I get a kitty cocktail too.” Lucy Brandt

“I like Mother’s Day. She makes me cheesy noodles. I like taking pictures with her. I love her so much. She also takes me to RJ’s.” Sloane Harmon

“I like to go to Mother-Son night at SMV. We eat pizza, candy, and drink water. There is a bouncy house in the gym and we play football.” Jude Black

“I like going to RJ’s with my friends. I like getting mint chip ice cream cones and gum too.” Susie Perrone

“It is my birthday on May 9th. I will be 7 and I am happy for my birthday. I walk to RJ’s with my dad, sister, and brother.” Adler Fuchs

“I like the monkey bars when they are high. When it is warmer, I like to play on my swing set and jump on my trampoline in my backyard.” Audery Akel

“I can go to R.J.’s. I like the waffle cones with Kitty Kitty Bang Bang. I like to rollerblade to Elm Grove Park. It is going to be close to my birthday and I will have a pool party.” Elaina Driscoll

“I like going to R.J.’s. I go three ways: walk, drive, and ride my bike. I like getting Blue Moon ice cream in a waffle cone. It tastes really good. I also really like getting candy there too.” George Romeiser

“I like when the weather gets warmer. I can walk to The Chocolate Factory with my mom and dad. I usually get a chocolate ice cream.” Veronica Linn

The Tea Party

By Philippa Steigerwald, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade & Kateri Steigerwald, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - homeschooled

The scene is set with a coffee table and chairs for a tea party. Cinderella enters dressed in an apron with a towel hung over her arm. She fluffs the pillows and looks everything over to make sure it is ready for her guests.

Cinderella: “There!”

There’s a knock at the door. Cinderella rushes to answer and loses her shoe.

Cinderella: “Oh dear!”

Cinderella: as she opens the door, “Merida! Sleeping Beauty! How was your ride over? I hope it didn’t take too long.”

Merida: “No, it only took a few minutes. I hope you don’t mind; I left Angus tied up outside.”

Cinderella: “Oh, that’s ok.”

Aurora and Merida come in together, Aurora sleepily leaning on Merida’s shoulder who is slightly annoyed about it. They sit. Another knock at the door. Cinderella loses her shoe again. Snow White arrives with Belle. Snow White is carrying a basket of apples. Belle has a book in front of her face and bumps into the door frame on her way in.

Cinderella: “Snow White! Belle! I’m so glad you could come!” She hugs them.

Snow White: “Here! I found this basket of apples on my way over. Aren’t they beautiful?”

Merida: “Uhhh. Find those by the creek, did ya?”

Snow White: “Uh-huh.”

Aurora signals secretively to Cinderella behind Merida’s back, moving her finger across her throat. Cinderella makes a face and takes apples to the kitchen.

Cinderella: “Oh, Thank you! I’ll just take these to the kitchen.”

Snow White and Belle sit down.

Snow White: “Phew, I needed a girls’ night out! The dwarves are driving me crazy! And



all that laundry!”

Sleeping Beauty: yawning, “I don’t know how you do it, Snow White. It sounds exhausting.”

Merida has her boots on the table and Cinderella comes in and hastily wipes them and puts them down.

Cinderella: “Here are some cookies. Let’s pour the tea.”

Merida: “Yes, I’m starving.”

Cinderella gives Merida a tea cup then spots something that needs dusting above Merida’s head. Merida makes an annoyed face and shelters her tea from the falling dust. Belle speaks directly to the tea set.

Belle: “Two lumps for me, please.”

She looks up in surprise that the tea set has not responded.

Belle: “Oh yeah, I’m used to the tea pouring itself.”

Belle starts reading again as she pours her tea and misses the tea cup. Snow White quickly puts a tea cup under the spilling tea. Cinderella bustles over to dab up the spill. There is a knock at the door.

Anna: from behind the closed door, “Hey! Anybody want to build a snowman?”

Everyone freezes, wide eyed.

Merida: sitting up slowly, “Do NOT answer that.”

Young Writers  
Wanted!

Students in K– Grade 12 are invited to submit items for possible publication in an upcoming edition:

INTERVIEWS & REPORTING:

About Family, Friends, Neighbors, School, Clubs, Church, Scouting, Academic & Athletic Achievements, Community Service Projects, etc.

SHORT STORIES

POETRY: All forms

\*\* 200 words maximum\*\*

E-mail submissions as Word files (note the writer’s name, school / home-school & grade) to: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) (subject line: *Young Writers*)



Summer

By Will Turner, 7th Grade – Pilgrim Park

Summer time, open aired outside  
Skin boiling, blazing like oven sun  
Temperature too high, cool fresh swimming  
Rich, creamy and sweet,  
chilling eating ice cream  
No responsibilities, all day free time  
Twenty-four seven, hanging out with friends

Meeting up, relaxing with friends  
Cool weather, fresh clean outside  
Nothing to manage, full of free time  
High in sky, there’s glaring sun  
Melting in my hand, tasty smooth ice cream  
Taking a break, *Splash!* Time to swim

Fingers like raisins, drying after swimming  
Store is up next, recollecting with friends  
Fresh from store, massive tub of ice cream  
Opening store doors exit,  
re-immersed with flaming air outside  
Sizzling concrete, lasered by the sun  
What next, plenty open free time

Clock barely ticking, all free time  
Water like jello,  
blue squeaky clean swimming  
Dazzling high up, beaming down sun  
Socializing with lots, especially friends  
Inside chilly and refreshing,  
parching spicy outside  
Sundaes for all, free ice cream

Summer time fun, unwinding in sun, sun like laser beam, cold, melty ice cream  
refreshing air, cool breezes outside, time to set your friends aside. Swimming day to night. Free time is a special delight. If Summer time was a treat, it’s something I would eat.

Butterflies

By Lilly Rydzw, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Tonawanda

Butterfly sore  
Under a branch they rest  
Take a short fly to the sky  
The butterfly soars through the sky  
Eat your sugar water  
Rain is not fun  
Flying is fun  
Love you butterfly  
You are amazing





# News Briefs

## School District’s Board of Canvassers Confirm Election Results Following Recount

(BROOKFIELD) The School District of Elmbrook’s Board of Canvassers met on Wednesday, April 19, and confirmed the election results for the Area III Seat following a manual vote recount, declaring **Preetha Kurudiyara** as the election winner for the Board Member Seat. Newly elected board members Kurudiyara, **Sam Hughes**, and **Scott Wheeler** took their Oath of Office on Monday, April 24, 2023, thus beginning their 3-year terms.

The Board of Canvassers (BOC) includes and is formed by the Board Clerk, **Linda Boucher**, who appointed two qualified electors **Kathy Lim** and **Christine VanderBloemen**. The aggrieved candidate in the Area III Seat Spring election, **Gregg Eberhardt**, requested a recount by filing a sworn petition with the filing officer, Board Clerk Linda Boucher, on April 12, 2023. In response to the petition, the BOC called for an emergency meeting on April 13, 2023 to prepare for the recount, and determined they would conduct a manual recount rather than tabulating votes by machine. The BOC recruited tabulators to count the ballots and the recount began at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 14, 2023, and continued on Saturday, April 15, and Monday, April 17, before finishing on Tuesday, April 18. A recording of the recount is available on the District YouTube channel.

The approximate cost to the School District of Elmbrook for the recount exceeded \$10,000 per day, which included compensation for poll workers, tabulators, canvassers, security, legal counsel, support staff, and others. Per the Wisconsin Elections Commission Recount Manual, no fee was required from the aggrieved



candidate, Gregg Eberhardt, because more than 4,000 votes were cast and the margin of vote difference was less than 0.25%. As of April 19, the total costs for the Area III recount exceeded 40,000 dollars.

Background: The unofficial, Spring Election results were reported on waukeshacounty.gov. The official results of the election are not determined until the official board of canvassers for the school district has met and completed the official canvassing of their respective offices. The complete and official election results for three Elmbrook Board of Education seats from the April 4, 2023 Spring Election were certified by the Board of Canvassers at their meeting on April 10, 2023 as follows:

- Area I Seat**  
**Scott Wheeler - 12,404**
- Area III Seat**  
**Preetha Kurudiyara - 9,847**  
**Gregg Eberhardt - 9,800**
- At-Large Seat**  
**Sam Hughes - 9,804**  
**David Irwin - 9,682**

The Area III Seat Recount was certified by the Board of Canvassers at their meeting on April 19, 2023 as follows:

- Area III Seat**  
**Preetha Kurudiyara - 9,851**  
**Gregg Eberhardt - 9,795**

# Legal Issues

## Discussing Estate Planning with Your Loved Ones

By Attorney Isabell M. Mueller

Talking about estate planning is difficult. Most of us are uncomfortable discussing illness and death in general, let alone in relation to a loved one. Estate planning is, however, an issue too important to avoid. An honest discussion up front can prevent misunderstandings and hurt feelings later. It also provides your loved ones with the opportunity to clarify matters with you, rather than being left with unanswered questions after you are gone. Here are some tips for starting the discussion:

1. Know your family. Some families are open about money, medical issues and other personal matters, while others are more private. Every family has its own dynamic as well. Take this into account in deciding how, when and with whom to initiate the conversation.
2. Do your homework in advance. There are many components to a comprehensive estate plan. Consider meeting with an estate planning attorney before you talk to your loved ones. The attorney will explain your options and clarify the pros and cons of

each. He or she may also identify issues you had not considered. A meeting with an attorney will provide you with necessary information and bring focus to the issues, making the discussions with your family more productive.

3. Choose the time and place carefully. Unfortunately, estate planning is usually either discussed spontaneously or when a crisis arises forcing the issue. Neither of these situations is beneficial. These discussions should take place at a planned time and in a comfortable location. This will give everyone the opportunity to organize their thoughts and questions in advance. Allow plenty of time so no one feels rushed or pressured.

4. Plan for the conversation to be ongoing. No matter how well prepared you and your loved ones are, once you actually have a conversation, you will all need time to process the discussion. This usually leads to more questions and more discussion. Estate planning, done properly, is a process. While the process may be difficult, both you and your loved ones will reap the benefits.

## Choose Practices Which Support Monarchs and Other Pollinators and Birds

By Neil Palmer

The iconic Monarch Butterfly is one of the most beloved of all the summer visitors to Elm Grove yards and gardens. This incredible insect, known for its twice per year 2,500-mile migration trips, has seen significant population decline since the late 1990s. The most recent monarch winter census calculates the population of Eastern Monarchs holding about steady for the last 2-3 years, but still below the minimum necessary to avoid extinction. There are many reasons for the significant declines of the last 30+ years, including:

- Loss of winter habitat in Mexico
- Loss of breeding habitat in the U.S. and Canada
- Loss of necessary native food sources
- Agricultural practices
- Indiscriminate use of pesticides and herbicides

In July 2022, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared the migratory monarch endangered. Canadian, Mexican and U.S. conservation organizations, local, state, national governments and millions of citizens have been working together to preserve these beautiful creatures. When I was young, monarchs were plentiful across the Midwest from spring through fall. The spring migration north from southcentral Mexico particularly was a strong harbinger of spring. Once they have arrived in the north monarchs must find Milkweed plants. Monarchs will only lay their eggs on Milkweed plants, which are also necessary as the food source for the caterpillars which become Monarch butterflies.

Milkweed plants used to be quite common across North America, growing along roadsides, field edges and stream and riverbanks. Urban expansion, agricultural practices and urban landscape practices eliminated most common milkweed. Milkweed did not grow in large acreages like planted crops. It is the loss of these millions of small patches of milkweed across America that threatens extinction for monarchs.

No milkweed = no monarchs. The same practices and policies which have brought the monarch to near extinction also have had the same effect on other important pollinators like bees and other insects through loss of



breeding and protective habitat and loss of native plant sources of food. The significant reduction in insect populations and habitat has subsequently had a dramatic impact on North American songbird populations. Nesting birds capture an enormous number of caterpillars daily to feed their young. Chickadees will collect more than 400 caterpillars per day to feed their new chicks and Wisconsin’s official bird the Robin, will collect around 14 feet of earthworms in the 2 weeks of chicks nesting period. Juvenile and adult Robins eat a wide variety of bugs and berries from native plants.

The good news in all this gloom is that all of us can do something to turn the tide through slight changes in our individual and collective behavior. We can restore millions of small patches of milkweed and other native plants by developing an appreciation for a look less like a manicured English garden and more like a naturally diverse landscape for our yards.

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee offers many opportunities for residents to support these efforts from their native plant, tree, and shrub sales to invasive species removal around the Village and many more activities! Further supporting these initiatives, the Elm Grove Village Board recently created a “Sustainability Subcommittee” to spearhead and support efforts by individuals, the Village, schools, churches, and businesses to make Elm Grove a healthier place for insects and birds and people to prosper. Residents who championed the creation of the new subcommittee are ready to get to work and I encourage all to watch for opportunities to participate in sustainability activities.

# Letters to the Editor

- \*Letters regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space available basis.
- \*Submissions (**about 200 words**) must include the writer’s name, community & phone #.
- \*Mail to: EGNI, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.
- \*E-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) (Subject line: Letters to the Editor)

## Take Precautions, Protect Animals

The wildfire that’s forced evacuations in Juneau County is a reminder that it’s not just humans’ lives and homes that are threatened. Deer, bears, birds, fish, reptiles and other animals are killed or displaced by wildfires, too.

The impacts are also immediate, debilitating and often life-threatening: Thick smoke disorients them, irritates their eyes and makes breathing difficult. Larger animals may try to outrun the flames, while small animals may try to shelter under rocks and in burrows. Those with babies or who are trapped by fences or other structures may not escape.

We can help protect animals and their habitats by eliminating our role in igniting wildfires: Report unattended fires, extinguish campfires and fire pits, keep vehicles off dry grass, don’t throw lit or smoldering cigarettes from your car or truck and check the weather conditions before burning trash or leaves.

While most naturally-occurring wildfires are sparked by lightning, thousands are triggered every year by fireworks. The precaution we can take cannot be clearer.

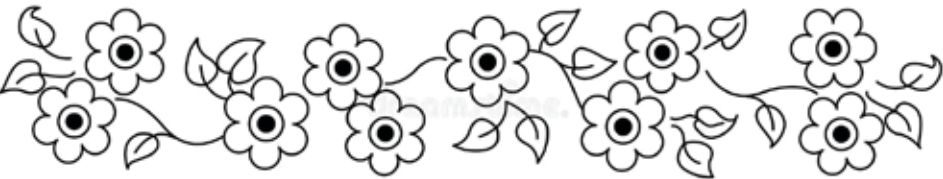
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# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Education Foundation

Shown (left to right) are **Deborah Nustad** (Board President, EEF); **Corey Schneidewent** (Brookfield East High School); **Kim Schlifske** (Schlifske Family Foundation); **John Schlifske** (Schlifske Family Foundation); **Dan Pronley** (Brookfield Central High School); **Connor Dunn** (Lighting and Sound Technician); **Beth Dobrzynski** (Executive Director, EEF); **Kelly Ebbale** (Vice President, EEF and Ladies Night Chair).

## Funds Raised for Elmbrook School District Shared Theatre, Fine Arts Initiative

(BROOKFIELD) - The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) presented an \$80,000 check to the School District of Elmbrook for the Shared Theatre and Fine Arts initiative from funds raised through the EEF Ladies Night event, generous donations from the Elmbrook community, and \$40,000 in matching funds from the Schlifske Family Foundation.

“It’s amazing what we can accomplish when we come together as a community to benefit our students and staff. A special thank you to **John and Kim Schlifske!** Their generosity will impact thousands of students for many years to come,” said **Beth Dobrzynski**, EEF Executive Director.

The Elmbrook Education Foundation super-grant will provide funds to acquire wireless microphones, sound boards, and mobile lighting equipment that will be shared amongst all of our schools and used for musicals, plays, concerts, and school events.

The Schlifskes have generously offered to match an additional \$20,000 through the end of this school year. Donations can be made by check sent to the EEF at Elmbrook District Office (3555 N. Calhoun Road, Brookfield, WI 53005) or online at <https://Theater22.givesmart.com>

## Waukesha County Encourages Residents to Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Properly

(WAUKESHA) – Spring cleaning season has arrived, and Waukesha County Parks & Land Use reminds residents to visit Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection sites to safely dispose of chemicals and dangerous materials. Waukesha County has three free sites and four one-time collection events for residents.



- \*Muskego:** North of Emerald Park Landfill, W124 S10391 S. 124 St.
- \*Waukesha:** **NEW LOCATION** 1500 N University Dr. (near the water tower)

All Waukesha County residents are welcome at one-time collection events with proof of residency:

- \*Mukwonago:** May 20: Village Public Works Garage, 630 Hwy NN
- \*Brookfield:** June 3: City Public Works Yard, 19700 Riverview Dr.
- \*Delafield:** June 17: City Dept. of Public Works, 111 Main St.
- \*Oconomowoc:** September 9: City Public Works Garage, 630 S. Worthington St.

Old, unusable chemicals, pesticides, wood preservatives, solvents, oil-based paints, and mercury-containing products are accepted. Not accepted are latex paint, non-hazardous cleaning materials, motor oil, and oil filters.

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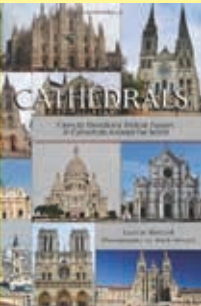


## Library News and Programs May 2023

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

### Route 66: America's Main Street / Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

Take a ride on America’s most famous highway, Route 66. Folk singer and humorist, Craig Siemsen, will explore the 2,448 miles of songs, stories, legends, and humor of Route 66. Often called Blue Highways, our two lane roads were once the backbone of an emerging country. This program offers a little history and a lot of fun!



### Cathedrals: Clues to Identifying Biblical Figures Around the World Monday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.

More than 10 million people visit cathedrals in Western Europe annually. The architecture and artistry are breathtaking. Paintings, statues, and stained glass fill visitors with awe and a sense of sanctity. While the sheer magnitude can be overwhelming, artists did use symbols and visual cues in their cathedral art to tell stories that people could see and touch.

Every biblical character has a visual name tag. For example, a burning bush looms before Moses, a whale swims beside Jonah, and the keys of heaven rest in the hands of St. Peter. Likewise, most of the apostles and martyrs carry the instruments of their death. This presentation by Dr. Lorrie Wenzel will identify the visual name tags so you can recognize biblical characters in any cathedral.

### Advance Care Planning: It's About the Conversation Tuesday, May 23, 1:30 p.m.

Advance Care Planning is a process of understanding, reflecting on, and discussing future medical decisions regarding of age and current health status. All adults should think about, discuss, and create an advance care plan. Having a plan is truly a gift for yourself and others. The session will cover:

- What is advance care planning
- Understanding your healthcare treatment options
- Clarifying your healthcare goals
- Weighing options about the kind of care you would want/not want
- Why an advance care plan is important
- Steps to creating an advance care plan
- How to communicate your wishes with your family, friends and healthcare provider



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

### Milwaukee Mayhem: Murder and Mystery in the Cream City's First Century Wednesday, May 31, 7:00 p.m.



From murder and matchstick men to all-consuming fires, painted women, and Great Lakes disasters, historian and author Matthew J. Prigge uncovers the little-remembered and rarely told history of the underbelly of Milwaukee. This presentation will offer 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. Join us for an engaging and occasionally chilling narrative of a

## PALMER (Continued from page 2)

About 50 people, including State Senator **Rob Hutton** and Waukesha County Executive **Paul Farrow** attended the event, which included a display of citations and commendations from Wisconsin Congressman **Scott Fitzgerald**, the Wisconsin State Senate, Waukesha County, and Governor **Tony Evers**.

The trio of siblings also arranged to have their father’s portrait done, ask community members and others to submit notes of thanks and well wishes, AND create a GoFundMe project to raise money for the construction of a second pier at the Village Park pond to be christened “Palmer Pier” (since, as Jill notes, “Neil loves to fish!”)

The original goal of \$10,000 has been met, but as with many projects, the final costs may exceed original estimates, so additional donations would be welcome.

Because of backorders on materials, the pier is currently expected to be constructed and put in place in Spring 2024 on the northeast side of the pond. The original plan for the park restoration, approved years ago, actually included the

placement of two piers.

Avid area anglers and others wishing to contribute to the 2<sup>nd</sup> pier’s construction may donate online at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/thanking-neil-palmer>. OR, Checks can be made payable to: Village of Elm Grove (note: “for Palmer Pier” in the memo line), and dropped off at Village Hall, or mailed to: Village of Elm Grove, 13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122.





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