



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 15 No. 9

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

May 2025

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

77th Annual Elm Grove Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 26

By Tara Schmalz, President – Elm Grove Junior Guild

The Elm Grove Junior Guild and the American Legion Post #449 are proud to host and organize the 77th annual Elm Grove Memorial Day Parade.

Please join us in “Honoring our Heroes” this Memorial Day, May 26, 2025 with the parade starting at the Village Park, kicking off at 10:30 a.m. The Elm Grove parade is a long-cherished event that brings the community together to celebrate individuals who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and commemorate fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

This event is made possible by generous community donations to the Elm Grove Junior Guild and the extra efforts of the Elm Grove Police & Fire Departments.

Grand Marshal

We are excited to announce our Grand Marshal/Honored Veteran, **John Robert Mathie**. Mr. Mathie, born on June 12, 1929, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, lives a life full of passion, dedication, and service. Growing up in Milwaukee, John was a proud graduate of Riverside High School, Class of 1946. His desire to fly led him to join the U.S. Air Force in 1950, where he would serve for five years and embark on a career that would define his life.

John flew a wide variety of aircrafts, including the North American F-86 Sabre, (the first operational aircraft to break the sound barrier), the T-6, T-28, T-33, F-80, F-86, and B-25 Mitchell bomber. His combat experience was extensive, completing 34 combat missions during the Korean War. His dedication and skills earned him several medals, including the UN Service Medal, the Korea Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, and the prestigious Air Medal. He is most proud of his time in the F-86, a jet fighter. He later became an instructor to teach others to fly in the same above-mentioned

aircrafts. John loved flying and remains an iconic symbol of his military career.

After his time in the Air Force, John naturally transitioned into teaching, becoming an 8th/9th-grade science teacher at Longfellow Middle School in Wauwatosa for 33 years. He reflected that “the happiest years of my life were teaching school.”

John’s life is also defined by his love of family. He and his late wife raised four children — **John, Molly, Annie, and Steven** — and he’s a proud grandpa of six grandchildren. Family remains at the heart of everything he does, and he is most proud of his children and grandchildren. A lifelong enthusiast of flying, fishing, and teaching, John is an active member of the F-86 Pilots Association and the American Legion Post 449.

Thank you, John, for serving our country and community for so many years.



U.S. Air Force veteran John Mathie in a 1950s photo.



Photo courtesy: Lisa Kauffman Heisel

A large crowd gathered along Watertown Plank Road 50 years ago to view the 1975 Memorial Day Parade. (Read all about it in “Our History – Page 4).

MORE MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS – Page 3

Donations Sought for Veteran’s Park Revitalization Project

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee’s Invasive Species Task Force was established during the summer of 2020 while working closely with the Brookfield East Students Encouraging Environmental Dedication (SEED) Club at the Village Park. The following year work began on removing invasive species from **Elm Grove’s Veteran’s Park (at the southwest corner of Legion Drive and Juneau Blvd.)** when students identified the potential for the space. Committed and enthusiastic work has continued for 3 years, but due to a very heavy infestation of the problematic and tenacious invasive thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) in the southern end, the group has been unable to effectively make progress.

In the fall of 2023, the Elm Grove Junior Guild granted the Beautification Committee \$500 to obtain a comprehensive site plan from a local landscape design company, Native Roots, LLC. This plan was obtained to formulate the best methods to control invasive species and to increase native plant diversity within the space.

The Beautification Committee is calling on all Elm Grove residents to help raise funds for completion of this plan. Native Roots, LLC has been hired to perform all of the work as outlined in the 13-page plan available for review on the village website: www.elmgrovewi.org. Ongoing maintenance after the first year will be the combined efforts of the Beautification Committee and Elm Grove Public Works Department.

Tax free donations accepted easily online here: <https://elmgrovewi.org/811/Veterans-Park-Revitalization-Project>. Your printed receipt will suffice as proof for IRS tax deductible donation.

2025 Elm Grove Beautification Committee Sales

1

Spring Ephemerals

- Help fill our beautiful wooded properties with a riot of spring blooms
- Bloodroot, trillium, wild geranium, woodland phlox, and more!
- 25 different early spring plants to choose from
- Shop in person on **May 3rd** from 9am to 1pm
- Elm Grove Village Park



2

Shrubs

- Twelve different varieties of native shrubs-only \$7.50 each!
- Bare root, will require immediate planting
- Create a dense hedgerow for the birds
- Pre-order with pick-up on **May 3rd** from 9am to 1pm
- Elm Grove Village Park



3

Perennials

- Over 120 varieties of native plants, grasses, and sedges
- Prices start at \$3.50
- Enjoy butterflies and hummingbirds?
- This sale is for you!
- Shop in person **June 7th** from 9am to 1pm
- Downtown Elm Grove Park-n-Shop



4

Johnson Nursery

- Potted trees, shrubs, and perennials
- Repopulate our community with keystone species, especially oaks
- A portion of all sales will be returned to the village for continued beautification efforts
- Order online and will be delivered to the village for easy pick up on **June 14th**



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Elisabeth
Passalis-Bain

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“Friends of *The News*” supporter!
(See the “Friends” form on **Page 11.**)

Profile: Ethan Sowl

Elm Grove’s Assistant Village Manager / Zoning & Planning Administrator
esowl@elmgrovewi.org

*** Education:** I attended St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin with a BA in Political Science. I then returned to Illinois to earn a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois (NIU).

*** Previous employment:** I previously worked for the Village of Riverside, Illinois, which is located in southwestern Cook County. I worked in Riverside for over 3.5 years, serving as the Special Assistant to Administration and Finance and Village Clerk.

*** Past and present communities of residence:** Prior to moving to Wisconsin in February where I reside in Menomonee Falls, I lived in Wheaton, Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago.

*** What influenced your interest in your profession?** I specifically remember having plenty of time to think during the spring of 2020 after COVID sent me home for the rest of the semester at St. Norbert. By this point it was my junior year, and I still didn’t really know what I wanted to do with my life. A professor of mine suggested local government and that NIU’s MPA program coordinates an internship opportunity with you upon enrollment. In the COVID job market, that sounded great! Over the course of my time in Riverside, starting as an intern, I developed a passion for local government. As my former boss and Village Manager used to say, this work brings many “challenges and opportunities,” and I love that aspect of it.

*** Give a brief summary of your job duties:** I am primarily responsible for all zoning and planning projects, including liaising to the Village’s Plan Commission and Building Board. Additionally, I represent the Village on flood management items, manage the code enforcement process, assist with Village communications, coordinate grant applications and reporting and, as any employee in local government would say, I complete many “other duties as assigned.” I love the variety of the work and the tangible impact that our work has on the lives of people within the community.

*** Family:** My immediately family, including my parents, siblings and grandparents, still live scattered throughout the western suburbs of Chicago. I have two siblings, a brother (25) and sister (22). My brother currently works for a private investigations firm while my sister graduates from Marquette University this month; she currently works for the Milwaukee Bucks in their Communications Department.

*** Special interests / hobbies:** I am an avid runner, having completed my first marathon this past fall. I also enjoy rooting for my favorite Chicago sports teams: Bulls, White Sox and yes, the Bears!

*** Other comments:** I am genuinely excited to grow my Wisconsin roots here in Elm Grove as well as grow professionally. I look forward to engaging with residents, serving the many generous volunteer board and committee members, and working collaboratively with local business owners and organizations.



Call 9-1-1 in an
Emergency.

Public Safety Reports

EGPD Non-Emergency:
(262) 786-4141

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

On **April 6**, at 4:52 p.m., a 24-year-old Milwaukee woman was arrested for Operating While Under the Influence (OWI) after a two-vehicle crash at Pilgrim Parkway and Gebhardt Road. Prior to the crash, witnesses reported her driving recklessly on Pilgrim Parkway. Officers identified the driver, observed signs of impairment, and she failed sobriety tests. A breath test showed a BAC of .13. She was cited for Inattentive Driving, Operating While Suspended, OWI (1st Offense), Prohibited Alcohol Concentration (1st Offense), and Driving Without Insurance.

On **April 8**, a 54-year-old Elm Grove woman was charged in Waukesha County Court for OWI-2nd Offense. At 1:44 a.m., officers were in the area searching for a hit-and-run vehicle that had struck a stop sign at the intersection of Highland Dr. and Juneau Blvd. While searching for the vehicle, officers located the woman in the 1100 block of Lone Tree Rd., passed out behind the wheel of her car, which had struck a rock retaining wall. The vehicle was in gear, with her foot on the accelerator and the tires spinning. She displayed signs of impairment, failed Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, and was arrested. She submitted to an evidentiary chemical test of her blood. She was also cited for OWI-2nd and hit-and-run – property adjacent to the highway. She failed to appear for her initial Waukesha County Circuit Court date.



We encourage everyone to drive responsibly and never get behind the wheel under the influence. Make use of designated drivers or one of the many available ride-sharing services. If you see impaired or reckless driving, please report it immediately.

Speed Limit throughout Elm Grove: 25 MPH

On **April 11**, while conducting community outreach at Jilly’s Mobil Convenience Store in the 15300 block of Bluemound Road, officers suspected a man had taken merchandise without paying. Surveillance footage later confirmed he had concealed a 20 oz. beverage and left the store without rendering payment.

The 36-year-old Milwaukee resident was seen crossing Bluemound Road and boarding a Waukesha Metro bus. Officers stopped the bus and made contact. The man refused repeated commands, used profanities, and resisted arrest. He later admitted to stealing and consuming the beverage and continued with verbal outbursts toward officers during transport. At the time of the incident, he was out on bond for multiple open cases in Milwaukee County.

He is now facing charges of disorderly conduct, obstructing an officer, retail theft, two counts of misdemeanor bail jumping, and felony bail jumping. He was formally charged in Waukesha County Circuit Court, where he appeared before a judge and was released on a \$2500.00 signature bond.

On the afternoon of **April 16**, officers were dispatched to Walgreens for a report of retail theft. A 39-year-old Elm Grove man was observed taking two 750ml bottles of Coulson’s vodka into the store restroom, where he allegedly consumed both bottles without paying.

Responding officers located the subject still inside the store and took him into custody without incident. Further investigation revealed that the individual had previously been involved in a theft at the same location.

The subject was arrested for retail theft, booked, and released. Charges were referred to the Waukesha County District Attorney’s Office.

We appreciate the cooperation of Walgreens staff in reporting this incident. As always, we encourage businesses and residents to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity promptly. Working together helps keep Elm Grove a safe place for all.

Uninvited Visitor – Turkey Trouble Near Highland Drive

On **April 13** at 12:18 p.m., officers responded to an unusual call— a report of a wild turkey that had crashed through a window and become trapped inside a home near Highland Drive.

By the time officers arrived, the feathered intruder had already made its escape, leaving behind a shattered window, some feathers, and a story the homeowner won’t soon forget. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. While this one flew under the radar, we’re always here to respond—whether it walks, crawls, or flies.

Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President / jikoleski@elmgrovewi.org

The warmer weather of May is here and with it the trees are starting to come back to life and leaves are appearing. The birds are chirping, and it is a great time to walk or bike through the Village.

I would like to thank **Village Manager Tom Harrigan** for writing the last two monthly Village Updates as election season requires. As we drive or bike through the Village, let's be aware that pedestrians have priority and be courteous while passing, especially with the increase in very quiet electric motorized vehicles.

Underwood Creek Daylighting Update.

The request for bids was released on April 24th. The bid will close after approximately four weeks and by the end of May the Village will have firm bids to consider. It is expected that contract language and final details will be completed around the end of June and a contract awarded shortly thereafter. The pacing item currently is acquiring land from CP Rail. At the April Board meeting an initial offer was approved at a value of \$501,000, equal to appraised value, to begin the “taking” process which is a formal process that could extend into the future.

Road Construction Activity.

Various construction activities have commenced in the Village which are exciting. Installation of water laterals along Knoll Road and progressing west has begun, led by Corner Stone One. Additionally, contractors for We Energies are working to bury electrical lines in the Village. Please use extra care as these projects are underway as trucks will be parked on roads and various underground boring activities proceed. We still need resident support from a section of the Village to approve easements for the second phase of the We Energies project to move forward. We has contracted with outside firms to seek your approval. If anyone has any questions, please contact the Village for details.



Public Works Committee.

Pathway engineering design work is 90% complete and bids are expected to go out in early May. Additional scope was added to the project to rework stormwater underground piping along Juneau Road. This will eliminate the need to rework the completed pathways in the future. The committee is also planning to design the 2026 pathway to be added from Gebhardt to Juneau on Highland Drive in 2025 to have the design ready to bid in early 2026.

Staff has received favorable bids for the 2025 paving season which were under budget. The Village has opted to expand the roads to be paved in 2025 to leverage the competitive bid received. The committee will review the results of the village road condition review which was completed in April at a future meeting to prioritize future paving timelines.

Community News.

The Beautification committee has received a quote for the Veteran's Park Revitalization Project to help control invasive species. There is a donation button on the website: www.elmgrovewi.org for Village residents to help support this important effort.

The Board revised its Vehicle ordinance to include electric bikes and scooters in its scope. Important training materials and signs were also approved to support the enjoyment of pathways for all residents.

Welcome and Thanks.

The Board took action at its April meeting to approve the hiring and appointment of **Crystal Turner** as the new Village Clerk. Please join me in welcoming Crystal to the Village from her current position as Assistant Clerk in Delafield with a start date towards the end of May.

The April Elections saw the reelection of **Trustees Kristina Sayas and Tom Castille and Village President Koleski**. Additionally, **Jim Olson** was elected Trustee filling the seat of **Tom Shepherd**. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Trustee Shepherd for his expertise on the Finance, Public Works and Recreation Committees. His leadership was instrumental in finalizing the future recreation plan. Thanks, Tom, for your service and many contributions!

As we enter May, lets enjoy the outdoors and upcoming activities throughout the Village.

News Briefs

But I Thought I was Supposed to Leave the Leaves!

By Elm Grove Public Works Director Richard Paul, Jr.

You've likely heard the mantra #LeaveTheLeaves each fall that is aimed at assuring winter survivability of most native bees, fireflies, moths, and butterfly pupae, right? But then you read reports about our watershed quality report card getting an F in phosphorus in part due to leaf decomposition. What in the world are we supposed to do?

Like most things in life, a better understanding of the process allows for a deeper and more accurate appreciation of the nuances. So, let's get started!

Simply stated, it matters where the leaves are when making a decision. The leaves that fall within our culverts, drainage ditches, and roadways that can be carried to our waterways are the leaves that need to be picked up and moved elsewhere. If they are allowed to decompose within the water, phosphorus is leached from the leaves further contributing to already elevated levels. These high levels of phosphorus within our Underwood Creek, and our larger watershed of the Menomonee River, lead to multiple problems including algal blooms. The book “The Devils Element” by Dan Egan is an easy, inspiring synopsis of this plight within the Great Lakes due to phosphorus excess.

Removing the leaves from ditches, culverts, and drains also helps to decrease flooding during heavy spring rainfalls by allowing rain to flow where it was engineered to go. If you are interested in helping improve water quality within our watershed, there are multiple opportunities to do so with the Milwaukee Riverkeeper organization.

But there is no need to look much further than your own yard and street! With the newly released Adopt Your Drain program within Elm Grove, we can all do a little something to help keep our water safe and clean. Check the map today to find the drain(s) nearest to your house at www.adoptyourdrain.com.

As for all of the other leaves in our gardens and planting beds? Leave them be! With warmer spring weather they will serve their purpose by housing future fireflies and caterpillars while breaking down to create a healthy soil—just as mother nature intended. No need to pick them up and remove them from your yard. If they are too thick in spots, consider starting a compost pile...away from stormwater drainage areas.



Photo courtesy: Nicci Sternitzky
Leaves collect near a drainage ditch, impeding the flow of water.

Remember Our Veterans on Memorial Day

American Legion Post 449

By Richard Strehlow and Jennie Riemer

Our American Legion Post 449 will be participating in the Annual Elm Grove Memorial Day Parade once again this year. Our very own Post member **John Mathie** will be the Parade Grand Marshall and also serve as this year's Honored Veteran. John served our Country as a distinguished fighter pilot in the Korean War and has been a longtime member of Post 449. John's vehicle will be followed by Boy Scouts carrying our banner, American flag, then our Commander car, Honor Guard, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary

At Noon, in front of our **Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith Memorial Building**, 3245 N. 124th St., Brookfield, we will raise our flag to full mast and begin our annual memorial service to honor those that are no longer with us. This will be followed by music, food, fun and a bake sale.

Elm Grove Men's Club / Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative

By Carl Carran

The Elm Grove Men's Club (EGMC) will again be raising funds on Memorial Day for The Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI). Unlike past years, when we served food and hosted a band on Watertown Plank Road after the parade, we will be raising funds through donations from EGMC members as well as from anyone else who would like to contribute. We will again be present after the parade at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub (live music, food in the parking lot) to accept donations.

If you'd like to make a donation by mail, please make a check out to “Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative” and mail to Elm Grove Men's Club, PO Box 5328, Elm Grove, WI 53122

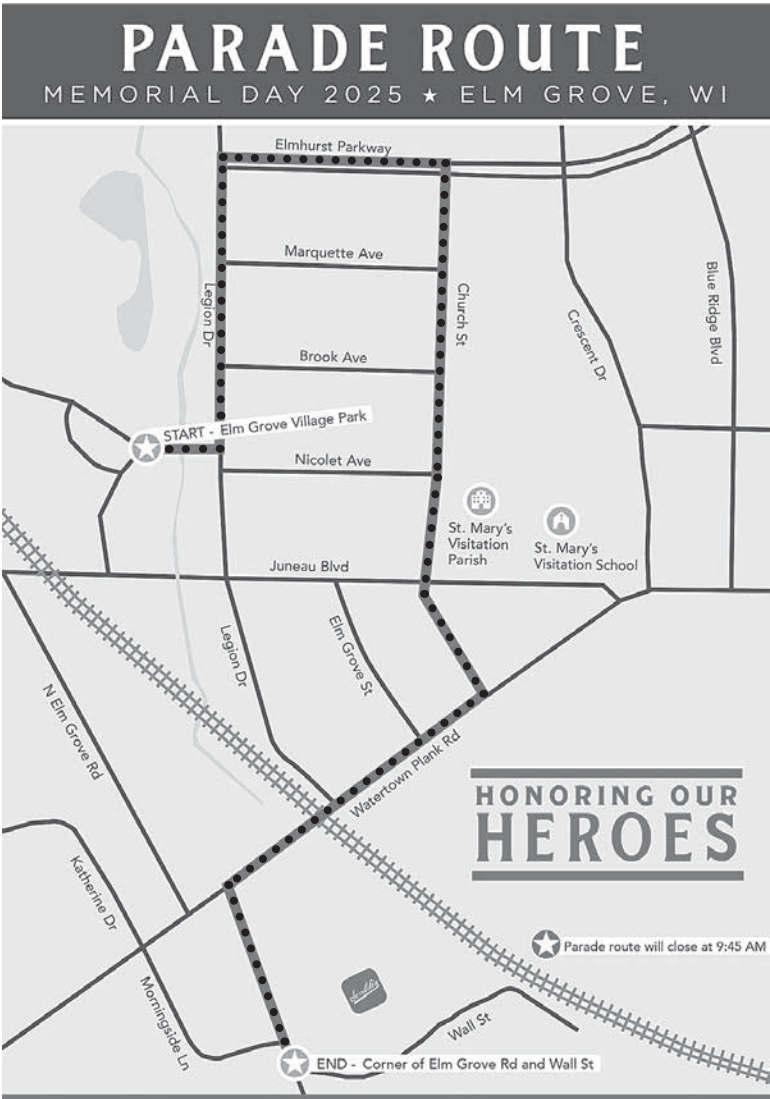
Oak Hill Cemetery

By Helen Moore

A Memorial Day ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. at historic Oak Hill cemetery, 3500 N. Brookfield Rd., Brookfield.

The event is a joint effort of a number of community organizations, including the **Behling-Kutchera American Legion Post 296, the Oakhill 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 includes a variety of local speakers and groups. A rifle salute will be offered by the American Legion Post. Light refreshments will be available at no charge following the ceremony. Come join us, weather permitting. Seating is not available, so please bring a lawn chair.



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Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: Lisa Kauffman Heisel
Dr. Myron Kauffman, Fire Chief Duane Reusch and young Joe Cusick point to an “I AM NOT PAID FOR, PLEASE DONATE” sign on the side of Elm Grove’s Emergency Ambulance in this 1955 photo, from a local newspaper. When the ambulance was on display at the Stenz-Griesell-Smith American Legion Post 449 (then located on the corner of Juneau Blvd and Legion Drive), fundraising efforts included the sale of tiny lapel flags by the Legionnaires and chances to win a dollhouse, an Elm Grove Junior Guild project.

50 Years of Emergency Medical Services in Elm Grove

By Lisa Kauffman Heisel

The population of Elm Grove in 1975 was approximately 7,201 (U.S. Census 1970) and it was thriving as a community. Elm Grove had everything a kid could want: a pool, a public library, a pharmacy with a dining counter, the annual Memorial Day Parade, Fourth of July fireworks at the park, and the freedom to roam and explore until the sun went down. What it did not have, however, was its own ambulance, not something a kid would think about, unless you or a loved one needed one – or, in my case, your father was one of two Elm Grove doctors who spearheaded a campaign to raise the funds to purchase one for the village.

In February 1975, the Village Trustees approved a funding drive proposed by my father, **Dr. H. Myron Kauffman** and another Elm Grove resident, **Dr. Derward Lepley**. Both were pioneers in the field of organ transplantation and began programs in the Milwaukee area in the 1960s. Dr. Kauffman initiated the Kidney Transplant program at Milwaukee County General Hospital (now Froedtert) and Dr. Lepley,

the Heart Transplant program at St. Luke’s. Both knew the importance of getting patients to hospitals quickly in order to save lives and the Village Trustees were on board. But how do you fund a project like this in a small community?

Dr. Kauffman and Dr. Lepley’s fundraising goal for the ambulance, equipment, and training was \$40,000. Organizations and businesses in the community were encouraged to donate. How would they meet this goal? Where could they get more exposure?

The idea was hatched to drive the ambulance in the annual Elm Grove Memorial Day Parade with a sign on it indicating “*I’m Not Paid For, Please Donate*”. By July 1975, enough funds were donated to pay for the ambulance itself. The remainder of the \$40,000 goal was reached not long after that.

This year, we mark the 50th Anniversary of Emergency Medical Services in Elm Grove!

Business & Club Directory

* Organizations



Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club

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

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

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Classifieds

FOR SALE

Two-Companion Crypt Wisconsin Memorial Park

13235 W. Capitol Dr.
Brookfield, WI 53005
Location: Main floor, K Corridor (C- eye level)
Current value is \$40,995.
I’m willing to negotiate the price.
Please call J.C. at 262-490-9096.

GREETINGS

Happy Birthday, May 26th! NICHOLAS

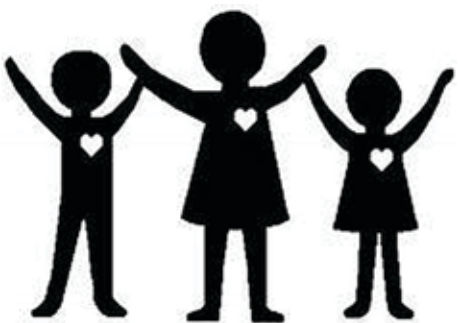
=== ELI ===
Congratulations on your graduation from 8th Grade!
Love,
Grandpa & Grandma

News Briefs

Donations Needed for Elmbrook Humane Society

(ELM GROVE) - The First Graders at St. Mary’s Visitation School are hosting their annual Pet Drive to benefit the Elmbrook Humane Society from Monday, May 12 through Wednesday, May 21. Please drop off donations in the school office, 13000 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove or with an SMV neighbor. Spring is kitten time. Donations of kitten food are appreciated.

(See story: YOUNG WRITERS – Page 9)
Contact Sara at ssinense@stmaryeg.org for more information. Other needed items can be found on the Humane Society’s wish list at: <https://ebhs.org/wish-list/>



The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County

Donations can be dropped off at The Food Pantry, 1301 Sentry Drive, Waukesha, 53186. Donations by check are also welcome. Call (262) 542-5300. Top of Form

Hosting a food drive with your congregation, school, community group, neighborhood, or workplace is easy to do and makes a big impact. Call the Food Resource Manager at (262) 522-2374.

GARY MCWITHEY CONCERT SERIES 2025

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
3PM
COMMAND PERFORMANCE
BIG BAND



We are thrilled to welcome this 17-piece big band with a male and female vocalist that plays all your favorite songs from the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. They've been bringing the greatest sounds of the Big Band era to many events and venues throughout southeast Wisconsin for decades.
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Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Honoring Our Heroes: A Memorial Day Tribute

As Memorial Day nears, we pause to honor the bravery, sacrifice, and unwavering spirit of our veterans. Their courage in the face of adversity and their dedication to protecting our freedoms stand as a powerful testament to true heroism. With deep gratitude, we remember those who gave their lives in service to our country and recognize the families who continue to carry their legacy.

This Memorial Day, we reaffirm our commitment to never forget their sacrifices and to ensure their stories of valor live on. And in a spirited tradition, keep an eye out for several of our board members joining the Memorial Day parade once again.

Get Involved

We are always looking for ways to further enhance life in the village. Please visit our website by scanning the QR code to share your ideas for initiatives that will benefit Elm Grove and its residents. Also, if you are interested in joining one of our many Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run committees, please send us an email.



BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 19 & 20, 2025

Calendar of Events – May 2025

Friday – MAY 2

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; “Tour of Caroline Complex”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com



Saturday – MAY 3

- Annual Art Scholarship Competition
Open to the public - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elm Grove Woman’s Club, 13885 Watertown Plank Road. View works of art by local high school students. One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior; a student in grades 9-11 will receive a \$500 art grant. Those attending can vote for one piece of art to be given the People’s Choice Award. An awards ceremony will be held at 3 p.m.

Sunday – MAY 4

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrove.wi.us

Friday – MAY 9

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Mary Inden
Topic: “Forms of Art and Framing” kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MAY 11 MOTHER’S DAY



POLICE WEEK through May 17

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrove.wi.us

Elm Grove Recycling Center Hours

The Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste Facility
900 Wall St.
(off Elm Grove Road, between Watertown Plank & Bluemound)

OPEN in May 2025:
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.elmgrove.wi.us / (262) 782-6700

Tuesday – MAY 13

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

Thursday – MAY 15

- OWLS (Older/Wiser/Livelier/Seniors) Luncheon program: “The Six Wives of Henry VIII” at Community United Methodist Church, Elm Grove.
RSVP deadline: May 5. Reservation form at: www.cumceg.org/owl

Friday – MAY 16

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speakers: Key Club Members
Topic: Update of Key Club Activities at Brookfield Central & Brookfield East kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MAY 18

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrove.wi.us

Friday – MAY 23

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speakers: Team Members
Topic: LAUNCH Team Presentation kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MAY 25

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrove.wi.us

Monday – MAY 26 MEMORIAL DAY



Friday – MAY 30

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Dr. Mark Hansen, District Superintendent; Topic: Yearly Update on Elmbrook Schools kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – MAY 31

- Disco Kid Party, sponsored by the Elm Grove Junior Guild, 4 to 6 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Kid Boogie Down DJs will be performing near the playground and pavilion. There will be bubbles, a fog machine, lights. Bring your dancing shoes.



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2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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*Appts. at <https://bit.ly/ElmGroveJuniorGuild061125>

*Appts. also via the QR Code below in this flyer

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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary Club

Residents of a Guatemalan community gather with Elmbrook Rotary members.

Elmbrook Rotary Members Travel to Guatemala

By Erik Moeser, International Committee, Elmbrook Rotary Club

Members of the Elmbrook Rotary Club recently returned from a transformative week-long service trip to Antigua, Guatemala, where they collaborated with Common Hope, a Saint Paul, Minnesota based non-governmental organization. Its core mission is to create environments leading to increased school attendance by fighting poverty through education, healthcare, housing programs, and social services. (www.commonhope.org)

During their visit, the Rotary team built a new home for a family affiliated with Common Hope. Members also accompanied social workers on home visits, witnessing firsthand how the organization’s comprehensive approach has resulted in over 3,000 affiliated students achieving greater grade level completion, and in many cases high school graduation, at a rate far above the national averages.

A highlight of the trip included in-home meetings with families and students personally sponsored by Elmbrook Rotary Foundation and individual Elmbrook Rotary Club members, reinforcing the direct connection between the club’s contributions and improved educational outcomes for many.

This marks the club’s 12th team trip to Guatemala since 2012, demonstrating the club’s commitment to sustainable international service. The club plans to continue these annual trips and its partnership with Common Hope in the coming years, along with other international partnerships including with Engineers Without Borders, Marquette University Chapter, which is focusing on clean water projects in Guatemala.

A new and ongoing project involves collecting instruments from ‘retired’ musicians, rehabilitating and donating them to support Common Hope’s growing emphasis on musical education, which aligns with their belief that well-rounded students have more tools for continued growth. Contact any Elmbrook Rotarian if “retired musician” applies to you, and give that horn a new life!

For more information about Elmbrook Rotary Club projects, meetings, and activities please visit (www.elmbrookrotary.org) or contact Erik Moeser (emmesm77@yahoo.com) for more information about our programs and how you can help.



Photo courtesy: Ray Shannon

Vehicles like this 1955 Chevy will be on display at this year’s Cruisin’ the Spur.

CRUISIN’ the SPUR is Back!

Elm Grove’s Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, will again be hosting a series of FREE and informal vintage and classic car, truck and cycle shows this year.

These events will take place in the parking lot behind the SPUR and go from 5 p.m. until dark. The dates will be Monday, May 12th; Monday, June 16th; Monday, July 14th; Monday, August 18th; Monday, September 15th and Monday, October 13th.

And, as always, there will be plenty of hot food, cold drinks and cool music. So, put that special vehicle of yours on display... or just show up as a spectator and enjoy the sights and sounds.

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Report from Madison

The Heartbeat of Our Communities Should be the Heartbeat of Our State Budget.

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13

The mission we have before us is to write a state budget that serves our communities well. I’m committed to this mission, and I’m committed to the hard work needed to finish the job this June.

One of the hottest topics is school funding. For months we have been listening to constituents tell us what matters to them, express mighty frustration that their schools have been underfunded for over a decade, and that they’re either now weighed down with new and costly referendums, or worried that’s in their near future.

This includes public school families, private school families, grandparents, and concerned community members without kids. The school funding debate seems to touch everyone.

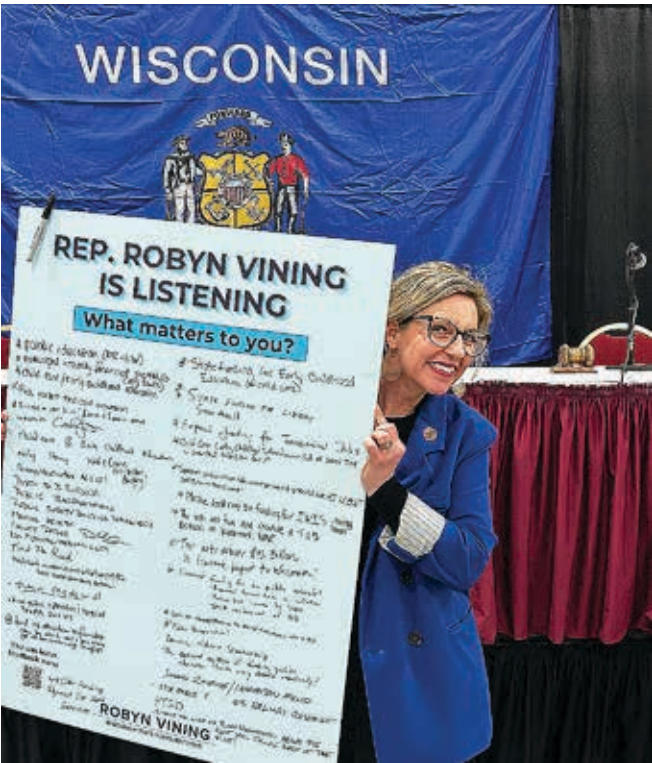
Wisconsin’s founders must have understood that public education affects everyone, because they audaciously included the constitutional right to an adequately funded education in our state constitution. If that sounds unusual to you, that’s because it is! Wisconsin was fairly unique to make this move, and to this day, every kid in Wisconsin is promised the constitutional right to an adequately funded public education. Now, it’s the legislature’s job to uphold that constitutional right by adequately funding the schools.

If you’re a family that loves your private school, or not a parent, I think it’s a fair question to ask how this helps you. How does adequately funding our public schools serve everyone? What does it mean that public education is a public good?

Public education is one of the strongest—if not the strongest—economic engines in the state. This includes our K-12 schools, and our university system. A strong public school system supports a strong economy, and that’s good for everyone.

Strong public schools prepare the future of Wisconsin’s workforce. These are our future nurses, trade specialists, researchers, small business creators, entrepreneurs, doctors, teachers, caregivers, artists, physician assistants, investors, scientists, first responders, and more. A strong public school system supports a strong Wisconsin workforce, and that’s good for everyone.

Strong public schools support strong property values. We know that one of the



leading reasons people move to Brookfield and Elm Grove is for the Elmbrook School District. If the school values drop, property values are likely to follow. A strong public school system supports strong property values, and that’s good for everyone.

Strong public schools are good for our workforce, good for our property values, good for our economy, and good for our communities. Public schools unite us. I approach the state budget with the belief that schools are, in many ways, the hearts of our communities. So much is rooted in strong public schools—whether or not we have children we drop off in those buildings each day. We invest in our schools, and our schools invest in our future. And so, it is my position that an investment in Wisconsin’s public schools is a worthy investment, and a worthy investment that I will fight for.

I will fight to fund the schools because every kid in Wisconsin has the constitutional right to an adequately funded public education. And, I will fight to fund the schools because our communities, our economy, our workforce, our property values, our families, and our kids benefit from strong public schools. I will fight to fund the schools because strong public schools benefit everyone.

The heartbeat of our communities should be the heartbeat of our state budget.

Forward together,
Robyn Vining

*P.S. Please watch our social media and Forward Fridays e-updates, for a possible May announcement of “Community Conversations: Perimenopause & Menopause.”

Budget Feedback

Website

Budget Process

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

EMAIL REP.VINING@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV

@REPROBYNVINING

@REP.ROBYN

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

News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Birders of the Grove

Birders of the Grove enthusiasts gather in front of Elm Grove Village Hall.

Elm Grove is a 2025 High-Flyer!

By Birders of the Grove

Bird City Wisconsin was created in 2009 and began recognizing communities the following year. The program recognizes municipalities for the conservation and education activities that they undertake to make their communities healthy for birds... and people. Bird City Wisconsin is the first Bird City program and served as the model for the Western Hemisphere-wide Bird City Network, of which Bird City Wisconsin is a founding member.

To be recognized as a Bird City, a community must take actions across four categories (Habitat, Threat Reduction, Education & Engagement, and Sustainability) and officially recognize and celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. Bird City also offers High Flyer recognition for those communities that truly go above and beyond in their conservation and education programs. To become a High Flyer, a community must meet additional, and more involved, criteria.

The first year Elm Grove earned the distinction of being a Bird City community was 2011, but now for the 4th year in a row, our community has earned the High Flyer designation. This is accomplished through the hard work and dedication of a small group of volunteers, who call themselves the Birders of the Grove, that meet every other month. If you'd like to be a part of this accomplishment by contributing your talents,



strengths, knowledge, or experience—please reach out (EGBeautification@gmail.com) or join in our next meeting on May 19th at 9 a.m. in the Park View Room at Village Hall.

If you couldn't join in any of the three Waterfowl Walks organized by the group, mark your calendar for a "Songbird Stroll" on May 30th in which we will hope to spot a large number of migrators. Be a part of assuring their safe travels by signing up to participate in Lights Out Elm Grove by visiting the Birds and Lights section of our village website: www.elmgrovewi.org.

News' Hounds & other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Meet **David**—a curious cutie with a soft spot for head and cheek pets. He's got a sweet purr and won't hesitate to nudge your hand when he's ready for more love. Before he settles in for full-on affection mode, David likes to take his time sniffing around and checking out his surroundings. Once everything passes his inspection, he's all yours for cozy cuddle time. He's the perfect mix of inquisitive and affectionate, and he's just waiting for the right person to share his world.

David has tested positive for FIV. FIV may cause a weakened immune system, but FIV+ cats are frequently asymptomatic for the duration of their life. This also has no effect on their lifespan, and they are able to live safely with other cats.

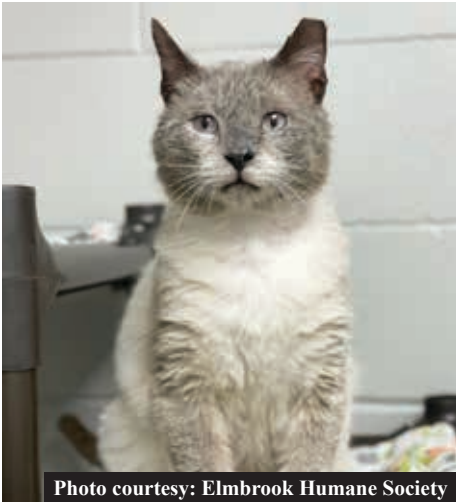


Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

David

For more information on FIV, see: <https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/fiv-cats-fags-feline-immunodeficiency-virus>. The EBHS is at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield. Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.



(ELM GROVE) - The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) announced that **Elizabeth “Liz” Nelson**, Associate Principal of Pilgrim Park Middle School in Elm Grove is the 2025 NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year for Middle Level Schools, in the award’s inaugural year. This marks a momentous milestone for the Elmbrook Schools and Wisconsin educational leadership.

“Liz exemplifies outstanding leadership and dedication in her role as Associate Principal at Pilgrim Park Middle School,” stated Principal **Kelly Szeszterniak**. “Her commitment to building a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment has made a significant impact on both students and staff. This award is a testament to her commitment, hard work, integrity, and dedication to excellence.”

Open House for Tonawanda Retirees to be Held

(ELM GROVE) **Heidi Hudson Mairet, David Schimpf and Lori Shinnars** are retiring from Tonawanda/Elmbrook Schools. Please join us at Tonawanda for a community OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, May 28 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. to share our gratitude and stories with these three amazing educators. Please share this event with others! If you would like to add messages or share pictures, please use the emails provided at the end of the invitation.

WHERE: Tonawanda School Library, 13605 Underwood River Pkwy, Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122

EMAIL PICTURES/MESSAGES ASAP: Please share pictures (please label with names/ years) or messages for:

HEIDI HUDSON MAIRET: HeidiHMSretirement@submit.memento.com

DAVID SCHIMPF: schimpf25@submit.memento.com

LORI SHINNERS: Lori@submit.memento.com

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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Volunteers with the Invasive Species Task Force show the results of their hard work at Elm Grove Village Park.

Let the Pull-a-thon Begin!

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

The entire village of Elm Grove is registered as a team for the 2025 Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium Pull-a-thon! Last year was our first year participating in this event and we were able to pull 2415 pounds of garlic mustard and Dame’s Rocket!

The Beautification Committee’s Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF) has definitely done well in their efforts as there is a noticeable decrease in amounts as you walk around the park. However, it isn’t an invasive species for nothing—there is plenty of it to keep us busy from now until the end of June!


How can you help our team bring the traveling trophy to the village?

- Sign up to get the weekly notices from the ISTF letting you know where we will be meeting up to work. We work for only one hour each Sunday at 11 a.m. There is power in numbers—join in when you can!
Email EGBeautification@gmail.com to get on the list!
- Pull garlic mustard and Dame’s Rocket at your house—no amount is too small! Enter your amount (weight or volume) on the simple spreadsheet on the village website under the Beautification Committee’s ISTF tab (<https://forms.gle/HU4McLrpif48tZ3s5>)
- Donate to our team! Half of everything collected does come back to our community to continue our work on invasive species.
<https://sewisc.org/garlic-mustard-pull-a-thon/pull-a-thon-teams/elm-grove>

Questions or unsure how best to identify garlic mustard or Dame’s Rocket? Feel free to reach out to the Beautification Committee at EGBeautification@gmail.com

Coloring for Kids (of ALL ages!)






Library News and Programs

May 2025

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




The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition: A Legacy

Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m.

Travel back in time to arguably one of the most influential events of the late 19th century. From the Ferris Wheel to pancake mix, learn about some of the many inventions and products first showcased at the Fair that we still enjoy today. Wisconsin paleontologist and historian Jason Rehorst will discuss the people, the things and the stories that came together to make this event one of the most significant of that time. Free to attend. No registration required.

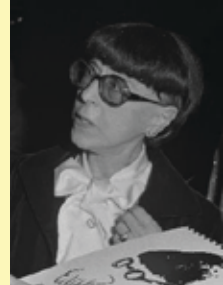
Goya: A Questioning Concerning an Attitude of Life Structured by a Society, a Church, a Monarchy / Tuesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.

Join us as we explore the life and works of the revolutionary Spanish painter, the "Great Demolisher" himself, Francisco Goya. Presented by Professor Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone History Symposium. This is the first lecture in a five-part series, "Revolution Pictured in Frames." Mark your calendar for the next presentation (6/10: Romanticism). Free to attend. No registration required.



Edith Head: the Woman who Dressed Hollywood


Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.



An incredibly successful costume designer with eight Oscars to prove it, Edith Head’s dazzling career continues to inspire new generations of designers. She dressed the biggest stars to shine over Hollywood. Adored by some, and hated by others, Edith Head’s highly competitive and secretive nature drove her career to a meteoric height. Join educational entertainer Martina Mathisen to discover why Edith Head was the most influential costume designer in Hollywood history. Free to attend. No registration required.

Wisconsin's Gangster Past: Turning the Badger State into the Crime State

Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.



Put on your zoot suit and follow in the footsteps of America's most infamous gangsters as they turn Wisconsin into their personal crime vacation land. Filled with deadly bank robberies, explosive shootouts, brutal murders, and daring kidnappings, this presentation lets the audience discover the grisly locations where the gangster history will never die. Presented by author and paranormal researcher Chad Lewis. No registration required.

Green is Good!

Recycling Rhythms and Rumors

By The Elm Grove Green Team

A recycling routine is a great way to reduce waste, conserve natural resources and save energy! We are suggesting recycling rhythms and clearing up recycling rumors to maximize this important service in our village.

- Rumors:**
- “Plastic bags are recyclable.” → Although there are various local collection sites for plastic films, it is important to NEVER add these to home recycle bins for collection. Bags are caught in sorting machines, requiring downtime, not to mention safety concerns!
 - “Batteries should be thrown away.” → Please identify the proper disposal option for the specific battery. Never add lithium-ion batteries to trash or recycling. Fire hazard!
 - “Foil is not recyclable.” → You can recycle foil! Rinse and any collected foil (golf ball or larger) can be processed with other aluminum items.

- Rhythms:**
- Breakdown Cardboard Boxes. → Remove all packaging in/around boxes prior to recycling. Remember, plastic films in/around packaging should NOT be added to your home recycling bin.
 - Remove Liquids. → Rinse food residue, remove fluids, and put caps back on recyclable items before recycling.
 - When in Doubt, Throw It Out. → Visit the Elm Grove Village website → Sustainability Committee → Recycling and check the latest guidelines!

Waste Warriors Spring Spotlight
Cleaning out containers placed in blue recycle bins, breaking down cardboard boxes, having a good ratio of recycling to trash – our neighbors at 12635 Wrayburn Road, 13646 Underwood River Parkway, and 1000 Circle Drive are doing it all. They’re this month’s Waste Warriors!



Young Writers & Reporters

Our Heroes

By 3rd Graders at Tonawanda Elementary

My Dad---By Greta Gehl
My dad is a hero to me and all of his patients because he is a doctor!!!! My dad helps his patients but he also helps me when I am sick. He knows how to help. He is also fun to play with. He teaches me fun games. When I’m sad I know I can talk to him when I need to. When something is hard my dad helps me. For example, when I don’t understand something, he explains it to me. I am so lucky to have such an amazing dad!!!!

Eddie & Jacob---By Noah Young
I have two brothers, and you may not believe it, but they’re both my heroes.

Eddie is one of my heroes and we do a lot of things together but the one thing that is our favorite thing to do (Jacobs to) is to wrestle and it’s one of the best things we do together. So when we wrestle it’s the best thing in the world. Facts about Eddie: Age is 7. Favorite food is pasta. Favorite color is blue. Favorite sport is soccer. Favorite thing to do is to wrestle. That’s a lot of things about my brother Eddie, but if I mention anything more it’s gonna take up this entire page, so that’s why I need to move on to my next hero, Jacob.

Jacob is an amazing brother and I say that because I don’t really know why but he’s still great. Jacob likes a lot of things but it looks like he has the most fun when he is with Eddie, and now here are some facts about Jacob. Age is 4. Favorite food is an ice cream sandwich. Favorite color is white. Favorite sport is soccer. Favorite thing to do is to wrestle. I hope you have a hero, too.

My Dad & Mom---By Michael Rincon
My Dad was a teacher at Waukesha North high school for 10 years, he is always by my side and keeps me company. He also cheers me up when I feel sad. My Mom helps me when I have problems and she helps me when I’m sad. She also makes food for me when I’m hungry. I am incredibly happy to have heroes like my Mom and Dad.

My Mom---By Nora I.
My mom has 2 kids and 2 dogs and still takes care of us perfectly. She helps me when I am down and makes me happy and I will do the same. She helps around the house and makes it clean and that inspires me. She volunteers for building houses and volunteers to help at a farm and more. That is so cool! She buys me food to give me a better life. And that is so kind. I love heroes, but I especially love my mom.

My Mom---By Addi Davis
Did you know my mom has to work from 6:20 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. because she is a nurse and nurses have to work for a long time? When she is at work, she has to give shots, she also has to give check-ups, and room patients. Did you know when my mom gets home you think she’d rest but no she has to clean the house and it is helpful. Even though my mom has a lot of work to do and she is tired she still plays soccer every day in the basement. I am so thankful for my hero.

Why I Love My Mother...

By 1st Graders – St. Mary’s Visitation

I love my mom because sometimes she cleans my room. She also makes cheeseburgers for us. She even makes my snacks and lunch. She also helps me with my homework. She helps me memorize my spelling words.
-- **Leo A.**
I love my mom because she hugs me when I am sad. She also makes me a snack when I get home from school.
-- **Clare K.**

The Top 5 Things We Love About Our Moms

By 3rd Graders at St. Mary’s Visitation School

My mom makes the best spaghetti sauce. She is a good gardener. She is great at piano. She lets me do fun things. Finally, sometimes she lets me have my favorite food for a snack... anchovies!
-- Love, **Mary**
She makes the best chicken salad. She makes me laugh. She helps me get better at sports She doesn’t waste money like my Dad. She’s the best sub at SMV!
-- Love, **Scott**

My mom makes the best brownies. My mom does all the holiday stuff. She is the best mom ever. She comes to see our sports. She is kind hearted.
-- Love, **JJ**

My mom makes the best steak. She gets me books every year. She’s cheerful during my games. She plays board games with me. She’s also good at grilling.
-- Love, **Jake**

My mom is very good at art. My mom plays pickleball and tennis with me. My mom is very good at cooking and my favorite is pasta. My mom plays my favorite game, “Guess Who.” Last, my mom will bike with me.
-- Love, **Adler**

She makes the best pizza. She likes reading *Harry Potter*. She taught me to read and write. She likes the Avengers movies. She is a great cook!
-- Love, **Isaiah**

My mom helps me bake treats. She is a doctor, so she can help me when I’m sick. She bought me and my siblings a pet bunny. She makes the best brownies. My mom sends me to a good school.
-- Love, **Bridget**

She is funny and makes me laugh. She is great at snuggling. She will cheer me up when I am sad. She will play outside with me. She has really funny jokes that make my eyes water.
-- Love, **Caroline**

She makes the best bread rolls. She tells funny jokes. She makes the best chocolate lava cake. She gives great birthday presents. She’s always willing to cuddle with me.
-- Love, **Veronica**

She makes the best dinners. She helps me a lot when I’m sick. Sometimes she takes us to a restaurant. She puts me to bed. In summer, she signs me up for camps and takes us to fun parks.
-- Love, **Graham**

She gives me good advice. She teaches me about God. She sings funny songs. She helps me when I am sad. She always encourages me to do what is right.
-- Love, **Abby**

She makes the best pumpkin pie. She makes my favorite pasta. She is sooooo nice. She is caring. She teaches me how to cook.
-- Love, **Damian**

I love going shopping with my mom. She makes the best food. I love when my mom helps me when I am sick. I love when I’m doing sports, I always see my mom cheering. She gives the best presents.
-- Love, **Madeline**

She makes the best Puppy Chow. My mom loves me so much. My mom is encouraging. She’s super friendly. She’s the best mom ever!
-- Love, **Sloane**

She makes my favorite food which is tater-tots. She gets me fun toys. I love when she plays with me. She also reads with me. She plays Mario Party Jamboree.
-- Love, **George**

My mom lets me and my siblings do fun things. She teaches me how to bake. When she gets mad at us, she always is sorry. She makes the best food, it is hard to pick a favorite. She is willing to send us to a great school.
-- Love, **James**

She is funny by telling me funny things. She makes me laugh. She is kind by helping me. She is encouraging. She is the Best Mom Ever.
-- Love, **Susie**

She makes the best spaghetti and meatballs. She helps me with homework. My mom signs me up for all my sports. My mom takes me fun places. She is the best mom on Earth.
-- Love, **Frank**

She drives me to baseball. She helps me with my homework. She pushes me to achieve my goals. She drives us to fun vacations. She is the best mom in the world!
-- Love, **Joey**

She makes the best desserts. She comes to all my basketball games. She let us have movie nights. She takes me on bike rides. She takes me to the mall.
-- Love, **Elaina**

My mom lets me cook on the stove myself because I can make perfect cinnamon apples. My mom helps me with my ear infections. My mom helps me with piano practice at home. My mom helps me if I hurt myself, so now I can handle it myself and for others. She helps me read words I don’t know.
-- Love, **Audrey**



Pet Food Drive to be Held

By Ben D., Lucia G., and Maddie S.
1st Grade – St. Mary’s Visitation

The First Graders at St. Mary’s Visitation are hosting a Pet Drive to benefit the Elmbrook Humane Society from Monday, May 12th until May 21st. Please drop off donations in the school office or with an SMV family neighbor. Spring is Kitten time. Donations of kitten food are appreciated.

“These dogs and cats are sad, hungry, and cute. Please help them”, said Maddie. “I love pets. I want to have cats and dogs when I grow up”, said Lucia. “If you don’t get a pet from the shelter the pets might stay in the shelter forever”,

Please see: <https://ebhs.org/wish-list/>

Bound to Your Home

By Sanvitha Madiredi
Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

Off you go!
Dear brother
Dear sister
Off you go
To college.
A place where I won’t be.
You are a son or a daughter
Who has a family:
An annoying sibling
And loving parents.
Say hello to your future
But come home to us.
You are bound to your home.
Wherever you go your roots are here;
at home
Because you are bound to your home.
Your family, friends, and places
you left behind,
They are waiting for you.
Because you are bound to your home.

I am dedicating this poem to my big brother who is going off to college soon.



Ducks

By Sam Bukouras
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Dear Mom and Dad,
Without a doubt, I really want ducks again because I think they are really cute. I promise I’ll feed them and give them water. I’m just sad because dad ran them over. I just want Charlie to know I care about him. Another reason is because ducks are very helpful and playful. There are many reasons why I want ducks again. Please get me a duck for my next birthday.

Treehouse

By Elizabeth Allen
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Dear Mom and Dad,
I think we should get a tree house. Here are some reasons why. It could be a place where I hang out when you guys are watching your grownup movies. When you and dad want peace and quiet when I have a friend over, we could stay in the treehouse. You could have the whole house to yourselves. I respectfully ask that we get a tree house. It can look like anything, maybe even it could have a slide. Then you can have me out of your hair. It would help our family so much. We should really get a tree house. No one can argue that a treehouse is a bad idea.



Young Writers & Reporters

The Lemon of My Lemonade

By Claire Lee
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

My hero, my model, the woman I love
The mom I could've never have dreamed of
The light of my life
The heart of my body
Who adores me so much
and forgets about self love.
She tucks me in and talk until I sleep,
Understands me while I weep,
When I'm with her it's like a dream
If I had to choose one thing in the world,
It's her that I'll keep
To my mom,
I want you to know that you're the lemon
of my lemonade
I couldn't imagine life with you away
I would never be the girl I am without you,
No way!
You made me strong, confident
and I want to say,
I love you so much and
Happy Mother's Day!

A Letter to Principal Olsen

By Maeve Weber
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Dear Mrs. Olsen,

If we had a longer recess the teachers could get more work done. Also, the kids would get more exercise. There are many reasons we should get a longer recess.

How would you like to get more work done while we get more fresh air, exercise and get to play with our friends? It is nice to see kids who are not in our homerooms.

If we had a longer recess the kids would not have to sit in class so long. Also, we would have fun with our friends for longer.

Another reason we should get a longer recess is that we would get energy out and be able to focus on learning. After hearing these reasons, I hope you agree to give us a longer recess!

A Letter to My Friends

By Luke Holland
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Dear Friends,

Soon after talking to my friend Henry he said that the penguin is the best animal. I think that is not true. My favorite animal is an orangutan because they're funny and they're an ape. There are many reasons why an orangutan is the best animal.

Most orangutans are either black or brown. In my opinion black and brown are great colors. Orangutan leaders are very strong. For example, they fight others for they're pack. But orangutans can be kind too!

Orangutans have lots of hair. For example, when you go to a zoo you can see their hair. Currently, orangutans are going extinct. You can only see them in a few places on Earth. One of those places is the Zoo. So, I think you should go to the zoo and see the orangutans.

After hearing these reasons friends, I hope you agree that the orangutan is the best animal.



Photo courtesy: Brookfield Academy

Brookfield Academy students display pop tabs they collected to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Our Service Club Experience --- By Julia Connolly

We are two sixth grade students at Brookfield Academy who tried out the service club for the first time. Our first project, collecting Pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, proved to be a huge success as we collected about ten pounds of tabs. This was a very meaningful project for us to take part in, and it brought us great joy to help others through this collection. Being in the Service Club this year has proved to be a very rewarding experience that has brought me great joy, and has helped me grow through serving others. I am so grateful for these wonderful opportunities and I look forward to being a part of the Service Club for years to come.

The Pop Tab Collection --- By Laney Luttkus

The Service Club has aided many people in need of help and has done many generous activities for others. For the past months that Julia and I have participated in the Service Club, there has been a variety of different activities to assist people that need help. One of them is the RMHC (Ronald McDonald House Charities) Pop Tab Collection where everyone in Brookfield Academy chipped in to help. People started by collecting pop tabs from soda cans, soup cans, and even pet cans. In the end whichever homeroom had the most won a reward. Before this, the service club worked hard to figure out an idea to give to the school in which they would participate. We treated this as a challenge. After it ended, Brookfield Academy collected about **10 pounds** of pop tabs for people in need of any help. Overall, it was a memorable and meaningful experience. When you help others, it makes you feel endlessly joyful.

My Mom!

By Autumn, 4th Grade -Tonawanda

My mom is kind, caring, and amazing!! She always makes time for me and my sisters! My mom works for the CF foundation which is a foundation that makes money for people that have CF (Cystic Fibrosis)! This is a sickness that you cannot breathe well with. My mom does all she can to make sure me and my family are healthy and happy. My mom goes shopping with me late at night when my sisters are going to bed.

Mother!
Of 3!
My mom is amazing!

My Mom

By Lainey Jacobs, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

M ost loving person
O pen hearted
M agnificent person

I love my mom so much. She is amazing, loving, helpful and so much more. She is a great mom who looks after her kids and I love her so much! Happy Mother's Day!

To Mom

From: Mae, 4th Grade-Tonawanda

Most loving person
Open minded
Magical

Mother Poem

By Nova Bowe, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

Most definitely my favorite Mom ever!!!
Outstanding artist!!!
The fashion queen!! #Number1SlayQueen!
Heart that is super kind!!!
Everything she does is the best!!!
Really organized!!!

Love you Mom!!!

Mother

By Caroline, 4th Grade- Tonawanda

Most awesome
One and only
The best
Hockey mom
Excellent cook
Remarkable

Spring

By Susana Soberalski
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Spring might be raining every day but it can be beautiful. The raindrops down your window. Playing in the puddles. Flowers are blooming in the rain, so you should go hop outside and play in the rain.

A Letter to My Mom

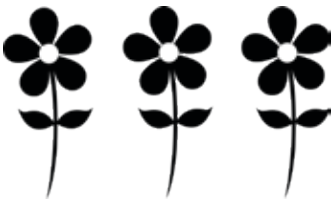
By Lena Stuckart-Miller
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Dear Mom,

How would you like to have a furry, cuddly, black cat or a sweet, playful dog? Well, I definitely do! If I get a black cat or another dog, I will stop asking for one. If you get me a black cat or another dog, I will take care of it a lot! There are many reasons why I believe I should get a black cat or another dog! How would you like to come home and see a cat or a dog so happy to see you? The answer is yes to me! After thinking about it I would like to nicely ask you to get me a cat or another dog. If I stop asking for one or the other, I will be so happy! The reason I want one or the other is because I love cats and dogs! They are so cute!

It would be so fun to play with another dog or cat! For example, our dog Willow will have another pet to play with! Even though she's fine without one because she has our grandparents' dog Tessy!

Those are many reasons why I believe I should get a black cat or another dog. I hope you agree to getting me one!



My Mom

By Robin Cervero-Vrab
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Most beautiful mom
Outstanding
Most kind

My mom is a wonderful mom.
Fun fact: My mom is a teacher at WCTC.
My mom is the best woman I know.

Moms

By Addie Holt, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

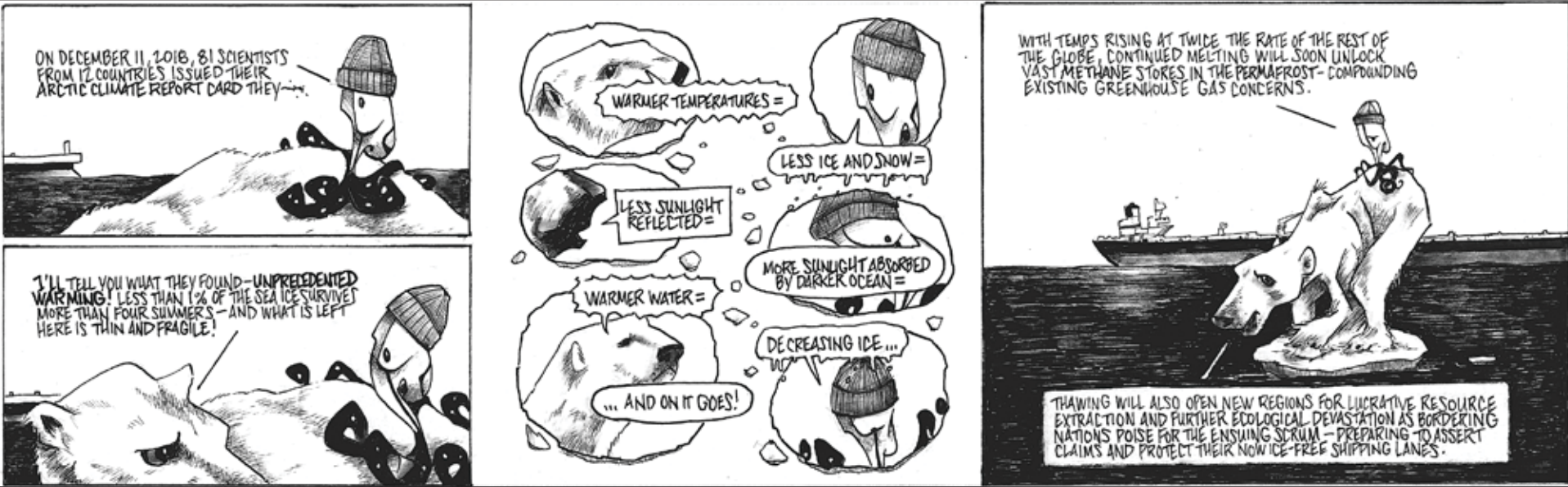
Moms are cool
Moms are great-
Protecting you from tummy aches
Driving everywhere
From school to there
She gives you hugs
And kisses, too
And most of all, she loves you

My Amazing Mom - A Haiku Poem

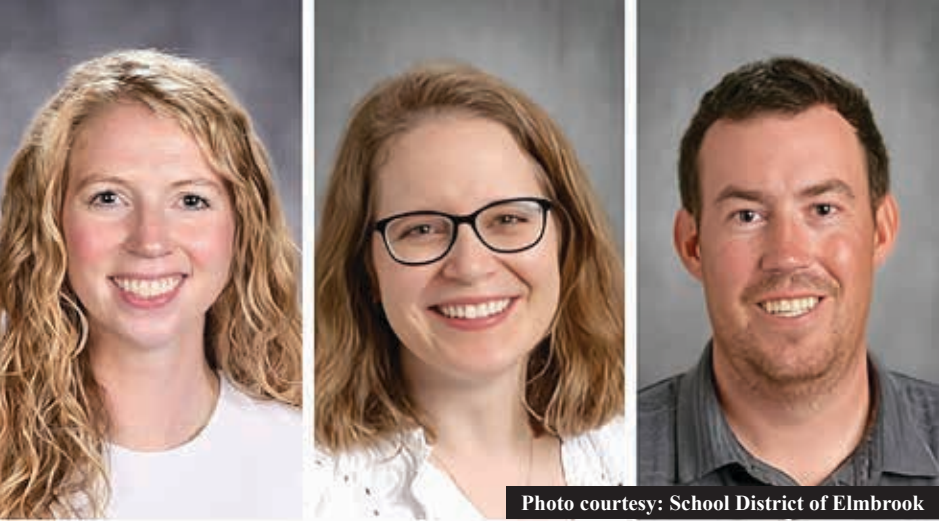
By Storm Spatz, 4th Grade- Tonawanda

My mom is the best
She is brave and athletic
I love you so much

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



News Briefs



Hannah Guth, (at left), Dr. Ashley Van Galen, and Alek Shumaker.

2025 Herb Kohl Teacher Fellows Announced

(BROOKFIELD) - This year, three outstanding Elmbrook educators have been named recipients of the prestigious 2025 Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship award. **Hannah Guth** of Brookfield East High School, along with **Dr. Ashley Van Galen** and **Alek Shumaker** of Pilgrim Park Middle School, were recognized for their leadership, innovation, and commitment to student success inside and outside the classroom.

The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation has long supported excellence in education through its annual awards for students, teachers, and school leaders.

For the full list of 2025 recipients or to learn more about the Foundation’s work, visit www.kohleducation.org.

“The Kohl Foundation’s continued investment in Wisconsin educators has a lasting impact on our schools,” said Superintendent **Mark Hansen**. “We are incredibly proud of Hannah, Ashley, and Alek for their dedication and the meaningful connections they make with students every day. Congratulations to these exceptional educators on this well-earned recognition!”

BEHS Student Wins State Debate Championship

(BROOKFIELD) - Brookfield East junior **Jake Zheng** has once again showcased his exceptional talent in public speaking and debate. Following his national victory in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) ‘Introduction to Public Speaking’ event, Zheng has now earned the title of 2025 Wisconsin State Champion in Congressional Debate at the Wisconsin Forensic Coaches Association (WFCA) State Congress Tournament.



Jake Zheng debates at the State Tournament.

The state tournament was held on April 4th, at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, bringing together top student speakers and debaters from across the state. Competing in the historic chambers of the Wisconsin State Capitol, Zheng demonstrated his prowess in legislative debate, securing the championship title.

Reflecting on his achievement, Zheng expressed his gratitude saying, “It was a great experience representing Brookfield East! I appreciate my team’s support, and special thanks to my debate coach, **Mr. Justin Flynn** of the Elmbrook Schools, for guiding me throughout this journey.”

Local Sports

PPMS Wrestling Team Tournament Results

(ELM GROVE) - The Pilgrim Park Wrestling Varsity Team finished 3rd overall at the conference tournament in March. Taking 1st place: **Easton Staehler, Josh Botsch, Liam McDermott, Jackson Schneider, Kayden Gibson, Charlie Snow, Lukas Maio, Jabriel Garner**; taking 2nd place: **Jackson Reuter, Andrew Kilmer, Jack Cronin, Lincoln Costello, Nico Dahlby,**

Sawyer Pronold, Beau Cerniglia; taking 3rd place: **Edward Koval, Ben Ceilkay, Jackson Larsen, Youssef Abdelkader, Ahmad Azzab, and Sean Edwards**; taking 4th place; **Luke Rentmeester and Lincoln Larsen**, and taking 6th place in the varsity tournament: **Ben Schubert, Jimmari Durant, and Derek Margretz.**

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

A Walk through the Park

By Gary Kerslake

The hour is late – it has to be
for no one walks except for me.
No sign of life, no sound – one light.
The lonely moon which moves by night.

The wind is still, all is so calm.
No restless motion of the pond.
The night air sweet with odor pure,
a scene of beauty – that’s for sure.



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BROOKFIELD
ACADEMY

Congratulations to the Brookfield Academy Class of 2025! We wish them success as they continue to explore, grow, and use their talents to contribute positively in both the classroom and the community.

To learn more about the accomplishments of the Class of 2025 and what Brookfield Academy can do for your child, contact Admissions at admissions@brookfieldacademy.org.

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brookfieldacademy.org

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

