



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 16 No. 9

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

May 2026

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



Elm Grove's 78th Annual Memorial Day Parade

By Sarah Van Lieshout

Please join the Elm Grove Junior Guild in celebrating “**From Roots of Courage to a Legacy of Heroes**” this Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026. The parade begins at Village Park at 10:30 a.m.

The Elm Grove Junior Guild along with American Legion Post 449, are excited to announce the Parade's Grand Marshal and Honorary Veteran, **Laurence “Larry” J. Sullivan**.

Born in Evanston, Illinois in 1952, Larry graduated from St. Benedict High School (Class of 1970). Soon after high school, and facing the draft, he enlisted in the United States Army, completing basic training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina, and MOS training at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia, where he served as Military Police (95D10).

Larry served stateside at the Red River Army Depot in New Boston, Texas, and later at the Savanna Army Depot in Savanna, Illinois. He especially remembers his connection to work at Red River, where missiles were produced and used during the Vietnam War, as a defining part of his service. By 1976, Larry had achieved the rank of E-5 and completed his Army service, retiring that same year.

After the Army, Larry returned to the Chicago area. He later moved to Milwaukee to continue his career in banking / financial services.

Larry is the proud father of four daughters: **Casey Ann (Sroka), Erin Darby (Eischen), Moira Kathryn Sullivan, and Siobhan Pearl Sullivan**. All were raised in Elm Grove, where Larry still resides today.

Larry has been part of American Legion Post 449 for the past 20 years. He has long



Larry Sullivan

enjoyed the Elm Grove parade, first attending with his children when they were young, often recalling memorable moments along Watertown Plank Road and the long-running spirit of the Elm Grove community.

He credits the military with shaping lifelong habits: “*Learn good discipline and good habits to carry you through life.*” He worked to instill that same work ethic in his daughters.

For Larry, Elm Grove has always felt like the kind of place where families can thrive. He says it is “a great place to raise a family,” and he is honored to take part in the parade tradition he has witnessed throughout his life. Larry hopes the community continues to support service members and their families, especially in the face of today's global challenges.

This Memorial Day, we invite everyone to join us to thank Larry J. Sullivan for his service and to celebrate all who have worn the USA uniform. As Larry reminds us, we should never turn our backs on the veterans of this country—there is always a way to help.

Local Memorial Day Events

*American Legion Post 449

By Richard Strehlow
Post 449 Service Officer

Post members will again participate in the annual Elm Grove Parade. After the parade, we will hold our annual Memorial Day Program starting at Noon at, 3245 N. 124th St., Brookfield. The Post will be open until 8:00 p.m. with plenty of good foods, lots of music, vendors and a bake sale.

*Oakhill Cemetery

By Helen Moore

A ceremony commemorating Memorial Day will be held on Monday, May 25, at 10 a.m. at Historic Oak Hill Cemetery, 3500 N. Brookfield Road, Brookfield. The event is a joint effort of a number of 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 45-minute program --- which includes a variety of local speakers and groups ---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. A rifle salute will be offered by the American legion Post.

Light refreshments will be available at no charge following the program. Come join us, weather permitting. Seating is not available, so please bring a lawn chair.

*Elm Grove Men's Club /

Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative
By Carl Carran

Festivities will continue after the Memorial Day Parade on Watertown Plank Road in front of **O' Donoghue's Irish Pub**. The iconic local *historic* band, “**The Elmbrook Spyders**”, will continue to perform on Watertown Plank Road, followed by more live music in OD's parking lot. The Elm Grove Men's Club will be raising funds for The Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative during the Day, as they've done for 25+ years, by “Passing the Jug” for donations.

If you'd like to make a donation by mail, please make a check out to 'Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative' and mail it to: Elm Grove Men's Club, P.O. Box 5328, Elm Grove, WI 53122-5328.

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Lisabeth
Passalis-Bain

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Profile: Lauryn Chesney

Elm Grove Public Library’s Youth Services Librarian
(as of April 2026)

**** Main Job duties:**
* Plan and perform programs for library visitors ages 0-18.
* Purchase and maintain materials in the children and young adult areas of the library.
* Work at the reference desk to answer library visitor questions in-person, over email, or on the phone.
* Change out displays in the children and young adult areas of the library.

**** Education:** I received my Bachelor’s degree in 2022 from UW-Madison in political science and communications. I completed my Masters in Library and Information Science with a concentration in public libraries in December of 2024.

**** Previous Employment:** I started my career in the world of public libraries at the Mukwonago Community Library as a Library Associate, while attending school for my masters.

After I graduated, I moved into a role as the Adult Services Librarian at the South Milwaukee Library. I’m so excited to now be in my first full-time position in youth services at the beautiful Elm Grove Public Library!

**** What influenced your interest in your current profession?** Unsurprisingly, I’ve always loved reading. But the only time I went to the library growing up was during the summer reading program. Visiting the library made me so happy, and as I was deciding what I wanted to do for a career, I figured the thing that would make me happiest was spending as much time as possible in the library! I am absolutely working in my dream job getting to be silly and whimsical playing with kids in the library, reading them stories, and performing fun programs, but also get to have a real impact on someone’s journey to engaging with their community, finding a new job, or learning how to read.

**** Past/current communities of residence:** I’ve always been a Wisconsinite! I grew up in Appleton, lived in Madison for school, and have lived in the wonderful city of Milwaukee ever since.

**** Family:** I have been married for almost two years to my partner, Keegan, and together we have three cats, Petey, Walter, and Matilda.

**** Special interests/hobbies:** You can most often find me reading in my downtime, but I also am an indoor cycling instructor, a volunteer dog walker, indoor rock climber, and a lover of the outdoors and ice cream.

**** Message to readers:** I can’t wait to meet you in the library!



Lauryn at the Library



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OWLS
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Thursday, June 18, 2026

Winston Churchill:
The British Bulldog,
portrayed by Terrance Lynch

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Noon
Program at 1:00 p.m.
at

Community United
Methodist Church

Cost: Members \$22; Guests \$27
Program only \$10

Reservation Deadline:
Monday, June 8th

Reservation forms available at the Church
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Elm Grove

OR www.cumceg@org

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Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President – jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org

Are we ready for warmer and dryer weather as May arrives? I certainly am! As I write this update on April 23rd, severe storms, tree damage and flooding have impacted the Village.



I am extremely grateful for the dedication of the Public Works team in clearing trees, placing detour signage, and carrying out cleanup efforts to keep residents safe and our Village roads accessible. With the warmer weather and longer days, please enjoy the expanded Pathway network to support downtown businesses and the Village Park. It is wonderful to see all the residents walking pets, riding bikes and enjoying the outdoors as Spring has sprung.

Memorial Day

The Memorial Parade, organized by the Elm Grove Junior Guild, will begin at 10:30 a.m., starting at the Village Park. The Grand Marshal will be **Lawrence “Larry” J. Sullivan**, a proud member of the Elm Grove community. (See Front Page story.)

For more information or additional questions, please reach out to the Guild at memorialday@elmgrovejuniorguild.org. Hope to see everyone along the route of the parade, which was first held in 1947.

Public Works Update

The biggest challenge from the April flooding was a failure of the “twin” culverts at the intersection of Hollyhock and Wrayburn Road. The force of the water breached under the culverts and made the intersection unsafe by undermining the roadway. Public Works has taken on the project internally to replace the culverts and secure the area and roadway. This will save the Village over \$100,000 compared to outside bids. The construction

site will be temporarily filled with gravel as the area needs to settle before final asphalt is installed, which will be in conjunction with the 2026 road repaving project.

Construction Bids for the Highland Drive Pathway project (extending from Gebhardt Road to Watertown Plank Road) were received in April and the apparent lowest qualified bid was below the engineer’s estimated total construction cost. This favorable outcome was reviewed at the April Public Works meeting, with final award anticipated to be approved by the Board on April 28th. Construction is expected to begin in June.

Recreation News

As a reminder, enrollment in recreation programs offered by the Village is open. Please visit the Village website to register online. Additionally, Recreation Manager, **Isabella Naughton**, still has a few position openings for the summer. Anyone interested can get more information under the “*Employment Opportunities*” section on the website, or reach out to Isabella directly at (262) 782-6700.

Welcome

Please join me in congratulating **Ben Roy** on his recent promotion to EMS Director. Ben has served on the EMS team for over 12 years and has a firm foundation in Emergency Management administration. Please join me in congratulating Ben on this opportunity. I would also like to extend the Boards appreciation to **Curt Waddell** who stepped in as interim EMS Director in 2025. Curt did an excellent job throughout his tenure as Service Director and will continue to serve with the department. Many thanks Curt!

Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan

The kickoff meeting for the Master Plan will be on May 6th at 6 p.m. in the O’Neil Room at Village Hall. Staff and the project team from Vandewalle will be joined by

the Village Board and Plan Commission members. The Plan Commission will lead the Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan efforts, gathering resident input, evaluating options for the Downtown area, and guiding the completion of the planning documents. As the Project moves forward please take full advantage of opportunities to share your input and ideas to continue to build on the uniqueness of Elm Grove. The Plan will provide guidance on what the community would envision in any future downtown development. A dedicated project webpage will be hosted on the Village website and updates will be included in the monthly Village Newsletter.

Housekeeping – Building Permits

The construction season is now here in Wisconsin and with that a reminder of the need to obtain a Building Permit before construction commences. Most home improvement projects require a building permit which many times are “pulled” by the contractor. While it may be easy to assume that “cosmetic” updates like kitchen or bathroom refreshes do not need oversight, that is not the case. Any project that involves plumbing, electrical or structural remodeling requires a permit to ensure the safety of residents and compliance with building codes. In addition, permits are required for most exterior building improvements, including installation of new windows. Exterior modifications may also require Building Board review. When in doubt, please contact the Village to review your specific project and confirm the requirements prior to commencing work so your project gets off on the right foot and not delayed.

Welcome to the longer sun filled days of May!



Public Safety Reports

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

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

Crime Report

On November 9, 2025, Elm Grove Police responded to a forced-entry residential burglary in which a safe containing a firearm, jewelry, approximately \$50,000 in cash, and other valuables was stolen.

This case reflects the department’s commitment to thoroughly investigating serious offenses and holding offenders accountable. Through extensive follow-up and investigative work, three suspects were identified in connection with this incident. Investigators also linked these individuals to multiple previously unsolved burglary cases across the region, expanding the case into a large, multi-jurisdictional investigation spanning both Wisconsin and Illinois.

On April 13, 2026, arrest warrants were issued for three suspects residing in Gurnee, Illinois, along with four residential search warrants.

These warrants were executed on April 14, 2026. As a result of the operation, all three suspects were taken into custody, and a significant amount of cash, jewelry, firearms, and other evidentiary items were recovered. The individuals are currently in custody awaiting extradition to Wisconsin.

This case highlights the importance of coordinated investigative efforts when addressing organized criminal activity that impacts multiple communities. Elm Grove Police remain committed to pursuing those responsible for crimes that threaten the safety and security of our residents.

At this time, related cases connected to this group have been identified in multiple Wisconsin communities and locations in Illinois. The investigation remains active as additional cases are reviewed.

No further information will be released at this time due to the ongoing investigation.

2026 Citizens Police Academy

The 2026 Citizens Police Academy officially began on April 15, 2026. Over the course of 10 weeks, 17 members of our community will get a closer, behind-the-scenes look at the day-to-day operations of our police department. This program is designed to build understanding, strengthen relationships, and provide firsthand insight into the profession.

Participants will explore a wide variety of topics, including:

- Introduction to the police department
- Patrol procedures
- State statutes and traffic law
- The judicial system and courtroom procedures
- Officer survival and use of force
- Criminal investigations and evidence collection
- Crime prevention strategies
- Police officer requirements

...and much more.

New Dispatcher

Please join us in welcoming our newest dispatcher, **Lizzie Kwiecinski**, to the Elm Grove Police Department! Our dispatchers are the calm voice on the other end of the line during some of life’s most critical moments. They play a vital role in keeping our officers and community safe by coordinating emergency response, gathering crucial information, and providing reassurance when it’s needed most. We’re excited to have Lizzie join our team and look forward to the experience, professionalism, and dedication she will bring to our department and the Village of Elm Grove.

D.A.R.E. Graduation Held

Congratulations to the 5th grade students at St. Mary’s School on graduating from the D.A.R.E program on Thursday, April 16th. Throughout the program, students learned valuable lessons about making safe, smart, and responsible decisions. We are proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown throughout each lesson. A special thank you to **Officer Billstrom** for her dedication and commitment to guiding students through the program.

(See PUBLIC SAFETY - Page 4)

Business Directory

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Clubs & Organizations Directory



Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club

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

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

100+ Women Who Care
MKE Metro West
is celebrating 10 years of giving on May 5 at O’Donoghue’s Pub - 6:00 p.m. Come and learn more about us.
www.100wcmkemetrowest.org

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Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

The Toll Gate House (c. 1900).

When Watertown Plank was a “Toll Road” By Tom Ramstack

Most of us are aware that in earlier days, the “Watertown Plank Road” literally was a road surfaced with oak planks. The plank road which ran through Brookfield Township (now Elm Grove, the city of Brookfield and the town of Brookfield) opened in September of 1849. To collect tolls, the gatekeeper dropped the gate across the road, while residing in a house built up close to the road to make it more convenient to collect tolls (cost 25 cents in 1878). Brookfield’s gate and toll gate house were located just to the west of today’s Penny Mustard Furnishings on the north side of Bluemound Road.

In the February 26, 1903 edition of the *Waukesha Freeman*, one reporter wrote a fascinating account, shown below, about one of our own “town” gate keepers.

Our Toll Gatekeeper

“Mrs. Marie Solomon was born in the city of Mainz, Germany, which is situated on the left bank of the beautiful Rhine River, on March 15, 1802. She received a fine education through schools and travel. While a young girl, she accompanied her father, who possessed a number of large vineyards, on his travels through France, Switzerland, Italy, England, and while in Belgium in the summer of 1815, they visited the battlefield of Waterloo, where she found a pretty silver buckle, which she prized highly, as a souvenir, until a few years ago when it was pinched by some relic hunter.

Mrs. Solomon was a good linguist and

conversed fluently in several languages. She came to America in 1850 and settled in Wauwatosa, and lived there until 1867 when she came to Brookfield Township and took charge of the tollgate on the Watertown Plank Road here, which position she held until 1892, when she retired to live on her farm where she died.

It was always interesting to talk to the good lady and listen to her descriptions of the city of her nativity, the fortifications, the long railroad bridge over the Rhine, and the beautiful buildings, **Guttenberg’s** house and other buildings associated with the invention of printing, etc.”

Elm Grove
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Public Safety (Continued from Page 3)

National Police Week: May 10 – 16, 2026

(ELM GROVE) - “In recognition of National Police Week, we take a moment to honor the dedicated men and women of the Elm Grove Police Department who serve our community with professionalism, integrity, and unwavering commitment,” said Assistant Police Chief Ryan Unger.

He continued, “Our officers collectively represent decades of service to the Village of Elm Grove. Many also bring valuable experience from previously serving other communities, strengthening our department through diverse perspectives, training, and a shared commitment to public safety. Every day, our officers work to protect, serve, and build trust within our community. Whether responding to emergencies, engaging in proactive policing, or simply connecting with residents, their dedication does not go unnoticed. We are grateful not only for their service, but also for the continued support of our community. Your trust, cooperation, and encouragement play a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission. We extend our sincere

appreciation to our officers and thank the Elm Grove community for standing alongside them.”

- *Chief Jason Hennen – 29 years of service
- *Assistant Chief Ryan Unger – 25 years
- *Lieutenant Natalie Riley – 15 years
- *Sergeant Preston Nobile – 20 years
- *Sergeant Chris Douglas – 6 years
- *Sergeant Paul Weber – 3 years
- *Detective Sean Lenardic – 9 years
- *Detective Hannah Martin – 10 years
- *Officer Evan Schano – 17 years
- *Officer Steve Weber – 11.5 years
- *Officer Alex Hocket – 9 years
- *Officer Pat Sykes – 5.5 years
- *Officer Kyle Karasti – 4 years
- *Officer Nathan Anhalt – 2 years
- *Officer Brent Sluka – 3 years
- *Officer Jared Peterson – 1.5 years
- *Officer Peter Holmes – 1.5 years
- *Officer Alexa Billstrom – 1 year
- *Officer Michael Kubiak - < 1 year

In Memoriam



*Honor the Life
of a beloved
family member or friend.*

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Elm Grove Community Foundation

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NEW at the Community Foundation

Honoring Those Who Served: A Memorial Day Reflection

As Memorial Day approaches, we take time to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of the men and women who served our nation. Their commitment in the face of adversity and their dedication to safeguarding our freedoms embody the truest form of heroism. We honor with gratitude those who gave their lives in service, and we recognize the families who continue to uphold their memory with strength and pride.

This Memorial Day, we renew our promise to remember their sacrifices and to keep their stories alive for generations to come. As part of our ongoing tradition, be sure to watch for several of our board members proudly participating in this year’s Memorial Day parade.

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 17, 18, & 19, 2026

Calendar of Events – May 2026

Friday – MAY 1

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Spring Luncheon at Silver Spur
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MAY 3

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

Tuesday – MAY 5

- **100 Women Who Care – MKE Metro West:** Meeting – 6 p.m.
(See AD – Page 4)

Friday – MAY 8

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. (cereal / pill bottle day) at St. Mary’s Senior Center.
Speaker: **The Women’s Center**;
Topic: “Distressed Children”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – MAY 9

- **Elm Grove Woman’s Club’s Annual Art Scholarship Competition** – Open House
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Clubhouse, 13885 Watertown Plank Road. All welcome!

Sunday – MAY 10



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

Monday – MAY 11

- **Cruisin’ The Spur** – Classic & Vintage car, truck and cycle show – 5 p.m.

Tuesday – MAY 12

- **Elmbrook School Board**
Public Meeting – 6 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield
www.elmbrookschoools.org

Friday – MAY 15

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: **Kristina Emmons**;
Topic: “Financial Exploitation”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MAY 17

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

Thursday – MAY 21

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

Friday – MAY 22

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: **Sister Brown**; Topic: “Homeless, But Not Helpless”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MAY 24

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

Monday – MAY 25
MEMORIAL DAY



Tuesday – MAY 26

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

Friday – MAY 29

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: **Michael Murray**; Topic: “Stock Market Trends”
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MAY 31

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





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Open Memorial Day with Patio and Music

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Elm Grove**



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ELM GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB

MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MAY 25, 2026
7:30 AM - 10:00 AM
13885 Watertown Plank Rd, Elm Grove 53122

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ADULT \$15 (SAVES \$1!)
CHILDREN AGES 4-17 \$10 (SAVES \$1!)
CHILDREN 3 & UNDER FREE

Available at Fazio's in Elm Grove
or by QR Code





Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Plant Sale

Saturday, May 16th

9am - 1pm

Elm Grove Public Library lower level
13600 Juneau Blvd, Elm Grove

Over 125 varieties of native perennials and grasses!

Cash or check only



News Briefs



Elm Grove Woman’s Club members: **Jean Schindler, Wende Fedder Gorniak, Natalie Heaney, Donna Vincent, Ann Welch, and Julie DiFonzo** and Center for Veterans Issues representatives: **Faye Peters, Gillian Hauboldt, Kontessa Blaylock, and America Manley** gather in front of the EGWC Clubhouse.

Woman’s Club Donates Funds to Benefit the Center for Veterans Issues

(ELM GROVE) - Elm Grove Woman’s Club (EGWC) President **Jean Schindler** and **Wende Fedder Gorniak**, Director of Fundraising, presented a \$10,000 check to the Center for Veterans Issues of Waukesha County and Southeastern Wisconsin during its regular monthly meeting on April 7.

The donation represents a portion of the proceeds from the club’s 2025 White Christmas Chandelier Ball, held on December 6, 2025. The elegant holiday fundraiser featured a silent auction, live orchestra, dancing, dinner, and desserts, drawing strong community support for local veterans’ causes.

The EGWC, which has served Elm Grove and surrounding communities since 1939, has a long history of supporting local nonprofits and community initiatives in Waukesha County through events like the annual Chandelier Ball.

This year’s contribution will help the Center for Veterans Issues, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, continue its vital work providing housing stability, supportive services, and other resources to veterans and their families across Waukesha County and throughout Wisconsin.

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Library News and Programs

May 2026

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

First Friday Films: *The Extraordinary Caterpillar* / Friday, May 8, 1:00 p.m.

First Friday Films will take place on the second Friday of the month due to a staff training day on May 1. This month we will host a special viewing of *The Extraordinary Caterpillar*, a film that raises awareness of the importance of insect species, especially Monarch Butterflies. Viewing is sponsored by The Elm Grove Beautification Committee.

Film description: Over 98% of the living world on Earth is smaller than a bee. Yet humans view the planet as a world centered around themselves. Landscapes are deconstructed to suit human needs, often with little regard for the natural systems that sustain the food web. *The Extraordinary Caterpillar* follows the scientists and community activists with this peek into the dazzling world of nature’s tiniest superheroes. 60m.

Bosch: An Abundance of Man’s Desires, Vices, and Vain Appetites / Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Presented by Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone Symposium, this engaging art history program explores the fantastical and enigmatic vision of Hieronymus Bosch one of the most imaginative and mysterious painters of the Northern Renaissance. The program examines his broader body of work, revealing how Bosch departed from conventional religious imagery to create intricate, dreamlike worlds filled with symbolic creatures, moral allegories, and haunting visions of heaven and hell.

This is the fifth and final lecture in a five-part series, “The Push and Pull of the Soul.” Free to attend. No registration required.

Hiking the Ice Age Trail / Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.

Join us at the Elm Grove Public Library for *Exploring the Ice Age Trail*, an inspiring introduction to Wisconsin’s own Ice Age Trail!

Presented by Diana Matthews of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, this engaging program highlights the Trail’s fascinating glacial history, scenic beauty, and the many ways you can explore and support it. Learn about local Trail segments, helpful hiking tips, volunteer opportunities, and enjoy a beautiful “Moments on the Trail” photo slideshow to wrap up the evening. Whether you love hiking or simply enjoy discovering more about Wisconsin’s natural heritage, this engaging presentation will leave you inspired to get outside and explore!

Green is Good!

By The Elm Grove Green Team

If You’ve Got a Kitchen, You Can Compost

The first week of May is International Compost Awareness Week—there really is a week for composting education!

That’s because this simple habit has BIG impact. Composting keeps food scraps out of landfills, turns kitchen waste into nutrient-rich soil for gardens, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. Despite these benefits, composting is often misunderstood. Let’s clear up the myths:

Myth 1: Composting smells bad.

A well-managed compost pile actually has an earthy smell. Odors usually mean the mix needs more dry materials like leaves or paper. Balancing “greens” (food scraps) and “browns” (dry materials) is key to preventing unpleasant smells.

Myth 2: It attracts pests.

Pests are avoidable. Skip meat, dairy, and oily foods, and keep scraps covered with carbon-rich materials. Use a bin with a lid or a tumbler to deter animals.

Myth 3: You need a big yard.

You don’t need a yard at all! Composting works in small spaces too—countertop bins and small tumblers make it accessible to everyone. In Elm Grove, weekly home compost pick-up from one of these companies makes composting easy, for pennies a day: Waste Not, LLC - www.wastenotcompost.org Compost Crusader - www.compostcrusader.com Brew City Compost - www.brewcitycompost.com

Elm Grove’s trash audit showed nearly 20% of our trash picked up by JOHNS is food waste. Let’s not “waste” what is actually a valuable resource for our families and the environment. Start composting today!



READ

The Elm Grove News-Independent

online at

www.elmgrove.news

Click on Archive.

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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Junior Guild

Grant recipients receive funding at a special awards celebration at the Elm Grove Village Hall on March 23, 2026.

Guild’s Fundraising Efforts Benefit Community

(ELM GROVE) - The Elm Grove Junior Guild (EGJG) was founded in 1966 by a group of women who shared a common vision of making a difference in their community while enriching the lives of their children. The Guild has remained strong throughout the years and continues to serve the Village of Elm Grove and surrounding communities as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. For more than half a century, we have been committed to the protection, education, and wellness of women and children in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties.

We organize and fund community programs that have become cherished Elm Grove traditions, including the annual Memorial Day Parade and Santa Brunch. EGJG also grants funds to the Village of Elm Grove (Police, Fire and Recreation Departments) for public initiatives designed to make our community a stronger, safer, and more beautiful place to live and work.

While we fundraise throughout the year, our annual Tree of Giving Gala remains our most significant source of revenue. Proceeds from the Gala and auction support women and children’s charities that extend beyond village borders through grants awarded to organizations serving those broader

communities. We look forward to a bright future as we continue meeting community needs and enriching the lives of area families in Southeast Wisconsin.

Through funds raised this past year, we were proud to grant more than \$100,000 divided amongst our Village and the following recipients. We received applications from more than 40 deserving organizations, reflecting the tremendous need within our broader community.

Final Grant Recipients:

- The Women’s Center - \$10,000
- Family Service Agency of Waukesha County - \$5,000
- Blessings in a Backpack - \$6,000
- Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$5,000
- Milwaukee Diaper Mission - \$5,000
- Community Advocates, Inc. - \$10,000
- Book Ahead, Inc. - \$4,100
- Meta House - \$10,000
- Moms Mental Health Initiative - \$10,000
- Jacarrie’s Kicks for Kids - \$5,000
- NourishMKE - \$7,500

Our Good Neighbors

Do you know a community resident who should be recognized in print for their extraordinary kindness, generosity, or service to others?

*Stories (300 words maximum) & photos for this section may be e-mailed to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Good Neighbors)

or mailed to:
Elm Grove News-Independent / Good Neighbors
14420 Watertown Plank Rd.
Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423.

Report from The Capitol



Photo courtesy: Rep. Robyn Vining

Rep. Robyn Vining (at right) looks on as Abby Wurzburger (at center) speaks during a press conference in Madison.

Wisconsin Humane Cosmetics Act with Abby!

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13 and Abby Wurzburger, Wauwatosa Student

****Rep. Robyn:** I’m joined again this month with a co-author, this time a local middle school student, Abby Wurzburger. I met Abby a couple of years ago when she was working to inspire Congress to pass a bill that protects animals from cosmetics testing. Abby was 12-years-old at the time, passionate, and driven to get this legislation signed into law. At the time, I promised Abby that if Congress didn’t listen to her, I would, and if Congress didn’t pass this law, we would introduce it together at the state level. And so, over the last two years, in the wake of Congress failing to act on this legislation, Abby and I worked together to draft the 2025 Humane Cosmetics Act. She’s taken every opportunity at her fingertips, and I’m honored to join Abby today in her first newspaper column.

Before I turn this article over to Abby, I want to share with our audience how inspiring she is. Abby earned every step of this opportunity by working hard, doing the research we sent over to her, showing up on time and preparing for our meetings, and choosing to do difficult tasks—sometimes tasks she’d never done before, and even made her nervous. Abby deserves every bit of credit for this bill; we wouldn’t be here without Abby. And when this bill is one day signed into law, it is Abby who deserves the credit. And with that, here’s Abby to tell you about how, at 14-years-old, she introduced a bill to the Wisconsin State Legislature.

****Abby:** On March 10, 2026, Representative Vining, her team, and I all went to the state Capitol to introduce a bill. This bill was the Humane Cosmetics Act (Assembly bill 1185 and Senate bill 1182), which would prohibit the use of animals used in cosmetic testing. Cosmetic animal testing is a way of evaluating the safety of cosmetic products (such as makeup) on animals. This involves rubbing, feeding, or dropping ingredients onto body parts of various animals (such as dogs, cats, mice, monkeys, etc.). These tests cause tremendous amounts of unnecessary pain and death, as many alternative testing

methods are already available. 3D Cell Cultures, Computer Modeling, and even skin models are all effective testing methods that don’t involve animals. By getting rid of cosmetic animal testing in Wisconsin, it would save animals, boost the cruelty-free market, and pave the way for other states to follow suit. This is why it is my dream—as well as the dream of others—for Wisconsin to join the 12 states that have already banned cosmetic animal testing.

As a 14-year-old 8th grader in the Wauwatosa area, I did not expect to get this amazing opportunity to introduce the Wisconsin Humane Cosmetics Act. I have always loved animals and felt the need to help them, so in 2023, I became a vegetarian. This is what got me more aware about how humans are treating animals, especially in the cosmetic industry. That was about the time (roughly two years ago) when I brought up the bill idea to Representative Robyn Vining. It has been really neat to work with her and learn about the legislative process along the way. There are already several co-sponsors that support the bill from both houses, and the bill is currently sitting in the Committee on State Affairs. If you feel passionate about this as well and want to support it, please reach out to your local state representatives and senators to request they support the bill. Buying cruelty-free products is also a great way to promote ethical testing methods. Just remember, you are never too small to make a difference in the world. If you put in the passion, dedication, and hard work, you will be surprised at what you can do.

****Rep. Robyn:** I encourage our readers to use the QR code below to watch Abby deliver our press conference, and take questions from the press corps. Abby was masterful, and I am so impressed by her hard work, brilliant mind, and expansive heart. I want to echo Abby’s words to young people in Elm Grove, and across Wisconsin: “Just remember, you are never too small to make a difference in the world.”

Press Conference with Abby:



Abby & Rep. Vining’s Press Release:



Wisconsin Humane Cosmetics Act:



PHONE (608) 237 9113 / (888) 534-0013
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https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/13/vining

SLEUTH
by Anthony Shaffer

Sing Along with SINATRA

June 4 - 21, 2026

SUNSET PLAYHOUSE

SunsetPlayhouse.com
262-782-4430

LEGALLY BLONDE
The Musical

June 4 - 7, 2026

July 16 - August 9, 2026

Young Writers & Reporters

Students in Grades K-12 are invited to submit for consideration:

- NEWS ITEMS
- INTERVIEWS
- SHORT STORIES
- POETRY

(about 200 words maximum)

***Send items (within an email or as a Word document) to:**
elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Subject line: Young Writers

Include the writer’s name, grade level & school / homeschool

Letter to My Parents

By Holden Phelan, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Dear Mom and Dad,

I want a gecko! First, I would do chores to save money to buy the gecko. I would work extra hard. I would work thirty minutes a day. Geckos only cost 20 to 60 dollars! How about if I buy the gecko and you buy the enclosure? Henry says it’s nice having a gecko because it’s cool and it keeps you company.

How would you like it if you didn’t have a pet to keep you company? I would feed it every two days. I would feed it flies and other bugs. Also, I will feed it by myself so you don’t have to. Teddy says it’s nice to have a reptile or amphibian because it keeps you company and it is fun to feed it. Some people might say it is too much work to have a gecko but I can be responsible.

Another reason why I should get a gecko is to teach me responsibility. I would clean its enclosure. I would clean it every three days. I would learn how to be responsible, which is a good life skill. Some people might say Holden you already have two pets but I think two is not enough and I will take good care of it. After hearing these reasons, I hope you agree with me.

Love, Holden

Spring

By Rylan Cainion
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Spring is the season where flowers bloom
The snow starts melting
The summer activities are starting soon
School is ALMOST out and
Summer break is about to arrive
Everyone can lay down
after a long school year!

Two Poems

By Paul Vogel
1st Grade - St. Mary’s Visitation

Tigers

Tigers are great! They can’t be beat!
If I had a tiger, that would be neat!
Tigers are nimble and light on their toes!
My respect for tigers continually grows.

Lions

In a forest half past night,
There are two shadows and a fight.
One with a lion and a mythical beast.
They roar, and howl at least.
Suddenly they fall, and it is a draw.
What an amazing sight I saw.

How to Ride a Bike

By Max Swain
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

First, you have to buy a helmet and bike from anywhere you want. Find any place that has bikes. Then buy the right size for your kid. And bring it home. Second, I would suggest buying your bike and helmet at Target. Then you sit on your bike and put your helmet on. Third, put your hands on the handles and it is like driving, you steer with the handles. Finally, start to peddle and once you have the hang of it you can start biking wherever you want, if your parents let you. Congratulations you are a pro now, see you next time.

A Peaceful Pond

By Julia Connolly, Level 7 - Brookfield Academy

The water is placid, the reeds gently blow. A calm settles over the world.
Somewhere, a frog croaks, and a bird sings. In the air, dragonflies dart and twirl.
The lilies are in blossom, the willows sway, and the daisies bloom.
Toads hop, tadpoles swim, and pollen flies by the plume.
Somewhere in the world, the loud drowns out the peace.
But as for the frogs, they know that at the pond, it will never cease.
The birds stop singing, the frogs go to sleep. Night settles over the land.
The moon rises, the sun fades away, for the hours of darkness are at hand.
Suddenly, out of the depths of the night, there emerges one small light.
Soon, the darkness shines like the sun, for thousands of fireflies take flight.
As the night fades away, and the sun starts to rise, the pond once again becomes bright.
For the creatures all know, despite how dark night is, it will never defeat the light.

Cranes

By Nikhil Gorantla
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

Cranes are a type of large birds with long necks and legs. They have long secondary feathers on the wing that protects over the tail. Cranes live on most continents except Antarctica and South America. Cranes eat a range of items such as small rodents, eggs, and insects. Cranes can detect the faintest sound or sight of danger. Cranes have a haunting, trump-like voice which is produced through a fabulous windpipe. A crane species named Gus is the tallest and rarest of North American birds. It is white, with black wing tips, and has a red cap and face. In conclusion, cranes are an amazing species of birds and their amazing appearance encouraged Americans to protect endangered species which make them my favorite bird.

May

By Sydney Sosalla, 3rd Grade -Tonawanda

May is a fun month
because it is spring and everybody
loves a good spring!
You get to do so many fun things
When it is warm outside!
May also means summer is COMING!
And who would not be excited
for a great summer break?
Especially the WARM WEATHER!
And the FUN
And seeing the flowers in our backyards!
I am so excited
for spring and summer to come!
I hope you are too!

Being 16-Years-Old

By Maya Pillai
Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

I wake up on a cold, dreary December morning. Why are my feet so cold? I look down and see my feet dangling off the bed. Did my bed shrink overnight? I get out of bed and walk to my bathroom while my alarm clock blares. Ouch! I hit my head on the bathroom door! I look in the mirror and see that I’ve grown significantly overnight. After I change, I hurry downstairs to the kitchen. *“Happy 16th birthday!”* my mom says. Even though I love birthdays, this is still such a shock! It feels as if I was 12 yesterday. Once I finish breakfast, I lace up my shoes. “You can drive now that you’re 16!” my mom says. Being 16 is way more interesting than 12 being years old!

Doing My Dream Job

By Alex Best, Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

I wake up at 5 a.m. and go for a run so I can get some breakfast from the Kwik Trip in Columbus. An hour later I am standing in front of thousands of college kids while tossing T-shirts into the crowd an hour before the show. My lungs are burning form the below zero temperatures in November. We start the show off with the traditional theme music of our show while millions of people watch. After four hours of talking football, we head into the stadium for the classic rivalry. It is an all-time classic between two of the most bitter of rivalries. After the game, I hop on a plane down to Tuscaloosa to call a game on National TV. I do this every Saturday in the fall. My dream job is to be on College Gameday, while also being a color commentator.

Spring Air

By Lucy Christianson
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

It’s Spring! It’s Spring!
It’s such a wonderful thing!
New flowers grow, no more snow!
The sun is out, everybody shouts!
It’s Spring, It’s Spring
IT IS SPRING!!!

Desks

By Stella Reuter, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Dear Mrs. Callahan,

I think that we should all get desks. First, we will learn to keep everything clean because our bins are usually dirty. We wouldn’t have to get up all the time. We also wouldn’t talk a lot because the desks would be more spread out! My friend Axel agrees because he wonders what will happen if the bins break.

How would you like to be like us? Whenever it is time to switch spots you really want a desk and you never get one! We wouldn’t have to go in the hall all at once. My class mate Teddy agrees with me because he thinks we need more space for our own things! Let me tell you something a grown up may say: the kids don’t need desks because what if they’re hiding something they know that they’re not supposed to have? I disagree because we should be trusted.

Spring time

By Rosemary Trandem
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Springtime is here!
The air is nice and a little bit windy.
You can see the morning dew.
The sun is shining
and blossoms are blooming!
It is springtime!

My Dad

By Odette Walker
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

My Dad is the sort of person that you always want to be around. He is almost always helping and is the sort of person that you can tell anything to and he will just listen. My Dad is always looking out for people. He knows whether something is safe or dangerous. In short, I love my Dad.

My Heart Has Only Just Begun

By Hebela Ayalew
7th Grade, Brookfield Academy

My heart beats inside my chest
It might be all I have left
But I have been given hope
And that itself is a rope

Guide me in a land where I’m alone
Remind me every flower has to grow
And like the sunrise is painted with the sun
My heart has only just begun

I might fall down
But as I lay there in the ground
I will remember
There comes another month after December

The power of the heart
Cannot be torn apart
The waves will subside
And out goes the tide

Out of fire, out of fear
I don’t need to disappear
The most I have to give
Is the hope within
In a land where I’m alone
I will remember every flower has to grow
The sunrise is painted with the sun
And just like it,
my heart has only just begun.

Elm Grove

By Zoey Rudig, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

*** Swimming:** Elm Grove Park is popular for their pool. The pool is a nice place to visit on a hot summer day. People sometimes set up parties at the pool. The pool has a deep end, and a shallow end. Everyone in Elm Grove should visit the pool!
*** Elm Grove Park** is very popular! A lot of people come to the park to play! Some people even have field days there!
*** The Lake** by Elm Grove Park is where a lot of people fish! There are many beautiful sights to see, such as the fresh water, the fish, and you can also go on the bridge which is above the water.
*** The trail** is where people usually talk to their friends, exercise and bike. The trail is right by the lake. You will also see the park from the trail. The trail leads around Elm Grove park. It is so much fun when you’re with your friends!
*** Basketball court:** At Elm Grove park, there is a basketball court. The basketball court is where you play basketball. A lot of people play basketball there! Everyone should play basketball!
*** The sandpit** is usually meant for volleyball. When you’re in the sandpit, make sure to take off your socks and shoes! Sometimes the sandpit has pennies in it!

THANK YOU for reading about what you could do in Elm Grove! I hope you do all these things!

Cake Batter Covered Ceiling

(a work of fiction)
By Zoe A. Yanke
6th Grade - Brookfield Academy

Yesterday was my mom’s birthday, and because my dad was at work, it was up to me to bake her a cake. At 4:30 on Monday, I walked into the kitchen, threw on an apron, and whipped open the pantry door to grab the flour. I am just short enough where I have to go up onto my toes in order to grab most things in the pantry. My fingers had just wrapped around the sack when— “BARK! BARK BARK BARK!” My dog’s earsplitting barking startled me so much that I fell back, dumping the bag of flour directly onto my face. I waited to stand up until the flour settled. Once the pantry was coated in the white powder, I grabbed the vacuum and cleaned until everything was (mostly) shining. “Well, gluten free cake it is then,” I sigh. Once I finished grabbing the ingredients, I took out our stand mixer, put in the soon-to-be batter, and flicked the lever on to level two. As soon as I looked away to put away the ingredients, my dog jumped up and smacked the mechanism up to level eight, sending eggs, sugar, and butter flying onto the ceiling! Next year, I think I’ll just buy the cake.

Coloring for Kids

(of ALL ages!)

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY



WORD SEARCH

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

ASTER	DAFFODIL	LAVENDER	PANSY
CHAMOMILE	DAISY	LILY	POPPY
CARNATION	FREESIA	LOTUS	ROSE
CROCUS	IRIS	NARCISSUS	TULIP
DANDELION	JASMINE	ORCHID	VIOLET

Letters to the Editor

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

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

Community Connections Are Important

As the weather warms, we begin to see more of one another - on patios, along sidewalks, and in parks across our community. This is what makes our neighborhoods vibrant. But connection doesn’t happen by accident; it grows when we all take part. The seasons’ change can be a prompt to reconnect - with neighbors, with nature, and with our shared spaces.

What will you do with it? Host a picnic, plan a block party, or simply wave hello? Let’s use this season as a starting point for deeper connection and stronger community. Will you join me in making that effort?

Amy Zimmerman, Brookfield, WI

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

Mother
By Gary Kerslake

She is like love itself to me.
Eternal flame to always be.
No single thought, no verse, no rhyme,
Can picture her, for she’s divine.

Wisconsin Nice
(c.) By Dean B. Kaner

Old MacDonald liked to play scrabble. But for some reason, he always got a bad hand with the letters E-I-E-I-O.



Young Writers

I Want a Fish
By Lucy Christianson, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

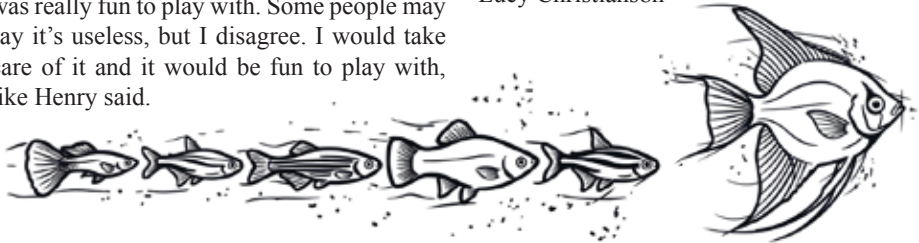
Dear Mom, Dad, and Elliott,

I think we could get a fish. First, I would help feed the fish and help clean the tank every other day. Then one of you wouldn’t have to do all the work. Also, I would make sure Elliott feeds it, too. My classmate Aurelia agrees! She said it would be great if our family had a pet like a fish.

How would you feel if you felt like everyone else had a pet and you didn’t? Well, that’s how I feel sometimes! It would also make me more responsible. If we got another pet it would be easier to get used to. I would know how to take better care of my things. Another one of my classmates, Henry, agrees! He said he used to have a fish and it was really fun to play with. Some people may say it’s useless, but I disagree. I would take care of it and it would be fun to play with, like Henry said.

Third, I would help pay for some of the stuff for the fish. If one of you pays for the fish, I would pay for the food. I wouldn’t spend my money on things I want, I would keep saving so I could pay for some of the stuff for the fish. My friend Rose said she has a fish and they are fun to watch. She said a fish would help us become more responsible. I know you might think it costs too much money, but I disagree! I would help pay for some of the things for the fish with MY money. After hearing these reasons, Mom, Dad, and Elliott, I hope you now agree with me that we could get a fish. It would help us become a better family.

Your daughter and your friend,
Lucy Christianson



MR. HUGH’S HISTORY

by Drew Sternitzky @mrhughshistory on Instagram

DECEMBER 21, 2012 WOULD COME AND GO WITH NARY AN APOCALYPSE REPORTED. THIS DATE MARKED THE END OF THE MAYA LONG CALENDAR, AND MANY READ IT TO BE THE END OF ALL THINGS.

ANISHINAABE MOONS

THE CALENDAR, A COMPLEX SYSTEM OF 13 CYCLES OF 400 YEARS WAS JUST ONE OF THE ANCIENT MAYA CALENDARS. MANY CULTURES USE NATURAL CALENDAR SYSTEMS TO MARK THE PASSAGE OF TIME.

THE ANCIENT MAYA DEVELOPED A SOPHISTICATED WRITING SYSTEM AND WERE WELL-VERSED IN MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY. THE END OF THE LONG CALENDAR DID NOT SIGNIFY THE END - BUT RATHER A REBOOT A NEW BEGINNING.

THEN WHY ALL THIS TALK OF AN APOCALYPSE? AS PEOPLE CONSIDERED THE CALENDAR'S TERMINAL DATE, THEY MAY HAVE INFUSED THEIR EUROPEAN RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS INTO THEIR INTERPRETATION - IMPLANTING THEIR FIXATION WITH THE APOCALYPSE INTO THAT OF THE MAYA.

WE CARRY OUR CULTURAL FLOTSAM AND JETSAM WITH US - INTERPRETING THE WORLD THROUGH OUR OWN CULTURE'S COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS.

News Briefs

Elmbrook Student Art Show at the Brookfield Public Library

A wide-variety of drawings, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, and mixed-media work created by students from Brookfield East High School (BEHS) and Brookfield Central High School (BCHS) - Grades 9-12, is on public exhibit through May 6.

Photos by
Lisabeth Passalis-Bain
The News-Independent



“Self-Portrait”
Chalk - Pastel
By Rinlanee Xiong
BEHS – 9th Grade



“Spring”
Ceramic & Glass
By Avary Yang
BEHS – 11th Grade



“Dog”
White Charcoal
By Ginny Toussaint
BCHS – 10th Grade



“Blossoming”
Crepe Paper & Fabric
By Nora Lough
BCHS – 11th Grade

BROOKFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PROUDLY PRESENTS

GARY MCWITHEY

CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, May 17, 3:00 pm

Mariachi Monarchas de Milwaukee

A welcoming community providing a symphony-level experience.
A freewill offering benefits the Gary McWithey Concert Series.

Brookfield Congregational Church, 16350 Gebhardt Rd., Brookfield, WI

NOW IS THE TIME

FOR A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON SUSTAINABILITY IN WAUKESHA COUNTY

AI Data Centers and the Environment
What’s the Impact?

The Conversation Continues. Join us for a dialogue on AI Data Centers and the environment in WI with Guest speaker Joe Piatt, PhD.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026
5:30–8:30pm

Retzer Nature Center
S14 W28167 Madison St,
Waukesha, WI 53188

5:30pm - Doors open - Visit Community Partner Displays

6:00pm - Enjoy Refreshments

6:30pm - Presentation followed by Community Dialogue

MORE INFO & REGISTER ONLINE at

WaukeshaCountyGreenTeam.org/now-is-time-2026

Questions? info@waukeshacountygreenteam.org

Now is the Time community conversation is a partnership between Waukesha County Green Team and Retzer Nature Center. This event is funded in part by a grant from Wisconsin Humanities, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

News’ Hounds & other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society By Morgan Pelon

Meet Mr. Worldwide! Mr. Worldwide is a senior bulldog with goofy charm and the warm heart of a dog who’s never met a stranger. He adores people of all ages and greets everyone like they’re already part of his fan club. This sweet guy has been healing from some skin issues, and he’s handled the process like a total champ. He’s mostly recovered and just needs a bit more treatment, but his spirit has stayed bright and silly throughout it all. Mr. Worldwide will be a wonderful match for an adopter looking for a steady, affectionate companion with a playful streak. His combination of sweetness, durability, and cheerful personality makes him a rewarding addition to a home that appreciates the charm of a senior bulldog.

Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society
Mr. Worldwide

The EBHS is at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield. (262) 782-9261

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in
The ELM GROVE
NEWS-INDEPENDENT

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Village Volunteers

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



Photo courtesy: Village of Elm Grove

Elm Grove Beautification Committee members hug a beloved tree at Village Park.

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee

The Beautification Committee began in 1999 and has been going strong for the last quarter century within our close-knit community, constantly evolving to meet the needs of our beloved village.

The Beautification Committee members include:

- Deb Baesmann
- Susan Baumann
- Sally Cashin
- Amy Forecki
- Katie Forecki
- Kristin Lehmkuhl
- Steve Steen
- Nicci Sternitzky
- Debrah VanderHeiden
- Pat Westen

In addition to the committee members, there are a large number of residents that routinely volunteer and participate in Beautification Committee events. Because it is an ad hoc committee, there is no limit on the number of volunteers that can serve on the committee. Attend a meeting and bring your strengths to the group!

Some of the mission centered programming that the Beautification Committee provides our community on a regular basis include:

*Efforts to educate and facilitate the control of invasive species that are detrimental to the natural spaces we so dearly love

*Support of the designations that are the backbone of the Beautification Committee’s mission, including:

- National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat
- Bird City Network High Flyer status
- Bee City Wisconsin
- Mayors’ Monarch Pledge
- Tree City USA

- Organizing native plant sales and increasing tree planting efforts to replace those lost to storms and disease. Over the past five years, the committee has brought more than 11,700 plants into the community to support ecosystem health, stormwater management, and forest succession. **Their largest plant and shrub sale yet is planned for May 16 in the lower level of the library.**
- Stewards to clean water and the protection of our Underwood Creek through:
- Adoption of a section of the creek to assist Milwaukee Riverkeeper in clean-up efforts
- Promotion of improved water quality measures
- Encouraging resident to adopt a local storm water drain to decrease pollution and minimize flooding
- Ongoing educational efforts through book club, lecture series, programming, and partnerships with the library and other Elm Grove community groups to aid residents in making their home landscaping a vital piece of our community’s ecosystem.

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

See Calendar of Events – Page 5.
Contact: beautification@elmgrove.wi.org for more information.

For more than 15 years...

The Elm Grove
News-Independent

has celebrated our nation’s First Amendment right to
“Freedom of the Press”
by publishing locally-focused news & information
in every **FREE** monthly edition,
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acknowledge the intrinsic **VALUE** of having an informed public.

So, whether you are reading one of the 5,000 printed copies of this edition,
or perusing this & some of our past editions online at
www.elmgrove.news

Thank You for reading!

Please join me in expressing gratitude to our many loyal advertisers & Friends of *The News* sponsors for making this **INDEPENDENT**, Elm Grove resident-owned & -operated newspaper possible.

Sincerely,
Lisabeth Passalis-Bain,
Founder / Owner / Publisher / Editor
Elm Grove News-Independent LLC

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To request an Advertising Rate Sheet & reserve space,
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The News-Independent is mailed by the 1st day of each month to every residence & business in Elm Grove.
Copies are also available for pick up at numerous locations, including:

- Elm Grove Public Library
- Brookfield Public Library
- Elm Grove Village Hall
- Elm Grove Post Office
- Sendik’s
- Ace hardware
- The Chocolate Factory
- Sunset Playhouse
- Fazio’s – table in front of store
- Imperial Hair Care

