



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 16 No. 3

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

November 2025

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

First Responders of the Year Recognized

(MADISON) - **Representative Robyn Vining** (D-Wauwatosa) honored all first responders who were involved in the August 2025 flood response in Brookfield, Wauwatosa, and Elm Grove at the Wisconsin State Capitol as part of the Wisconsin State Assembly's First Responders of the Year award ceremony in October.

"The first responders across the 13th Assembly District who responded to the historic August 2025 floods all demonstrated remarkable service and courage. Their extraordinary efforts ensured that there was not a single serious physical injury to any residents or first responders—a remarkable feat amidst the most severe flooding we've seen in decades. They saved lives and provided much-needed assistance to those affected by the floods, and continue to serve our community as we recover," Vining said.

The individuals honored as part of the "First Responder of the Year" Award for the 13th Assembly District include:

Elm Grove Fire Department

Fire Chief **Brian Naylor**, Captain **Dale Pekel**, Firefighter **Tim Flanner**, Motor Pump Operator **Brian Gerstmeier**, Firefighter **Paul Martin**, Firefighter **Claudia Roedl**, Firefighter **Ben Roy**, Firefighter **Daniel Gardner**, Motor Pump Operator **John Lieske**, Lieutenant **Andrew Luke**

Elm Grove Police Department

Officer **Peter Holmes**, Officer **Brent Sluka**, Dispatcher **Carlee Mayer**, Dispatcher **Wendy Priest**, Officer **Evan Schano**, Sergeant **Christopher Douglas**, Sergeant **Preston Nobile**, Lieutenant **Natalie Riley**, Chief **Jason Hennen**

Elm Grove Emergency Medical Service

Curt Waddell, Acting EMS Director, **Eddie Poggenburg**, EMT

Elm Grove Department of Public Works
Richard Paul Jr., Director; **Mark Becker**, Superintendent/Forester; **Tim White**, Foreman; **Eli Swan**, Mechanic; **Brian Kelly**, Safety; **Greg Collins**, Laborer; **Jake Hanson**, Laborer; **Jeff Regan**, Laborer

(See **FIRST RESPONDERS** – Page 11)

Remember Our Veterans

on November 11th

and all through the year.

(See *American Legion Post 449's Veterans Day event* – Page 5)



November 7th

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POMMERENING**

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AGAIN!



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Eastern Wisconsin



Christmas Fantasy House
Sharing Joy with Others

Stroll through a holiday wonderland while supporting families with ill or injured children.

November 1, 2, 8, and 9 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
November 3, 5, 6, and 7 | 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesday, November 4

For tickets and more information, scan the QR code or visit www.christmasfantasyhouse.com



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News-Independent LLC

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Published monthly.

Distributed via the U.S. Postal Service
to every Residence, Business & P.O. Box
in Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122.
Additional copies available at select
locations within Elm Grove &
neighboring communities.
Online @ www.elmgrove.news

Mailing address:
Elm Grove News-Independent
14420 Watertown Plank Rd.
Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth
Passalis-Bain

We **THANK** all of our
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- *Tom & Jane Dwyer
- *Anne Du Puy
- *John Kuenzle & Kate Kuenzle
- *Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K
- *Gary McWithey Concert Series at Brookfield Congregational Church - UCC
- *Geri Fotsch
- *Jen Studebaker
- *The Lange Family
- *Bruce & Susan Davidson
- *Herbie, Gus Gus & Toby
- *Anonymous Readers

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Happy
Thanksgiving!
from
The Elm Grove
News-Independent



Kiwanis Club Projects ‘Serve Children of the World, One Community at a Time’

The Elm Grove Kiwanis Club is dedicated to improving the lives of children and families in Southeastern WI through service, leadership, and community engagement. As part of Kiwanis International, the club brings together local volunteers who share a passion for making a positive difference.



The club’s primary missions (but not limited to) are: high school Key Clubs and LAUNCH Program, scouting troops & packs, camps for disabled children, Waukesha Food Pantry. In the very recent past the club has supported the local Shred Day and has an ongoing collection of empty prescription bottles to support free clinics. Each project is designed to strengthen the community while providing opportunities for fellowship and personal growth among members.

The Club meets every Friday with a social and coffee time at 9:00 a.m. followed at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting that starts with a speaker presenting a pertinent topic and concludes with club business being discussed. Meetings provide a chance to plan service projects, discuss upcoming events, and collaborate on ideas that further the Kiwanis mission. Club meetings are held at St. Mary’s Visitation Center,

Through its work, the Elm Grove Kiwanis Club continues to live out the Kiwanis vision - serving the children of the world, one community at a time.

Learn more at www.kiwaniselmgrove.org or our Instagram page @elm_grove_kiwanis_club.

Contact kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com for details about current projects.

(See AD about an upcoming Kiwanis event – Page 5)

Green is Good!

Sustainable Acts of Thanks: 4 Simple Ways to Give Back By The Elm Grove Green Team

This season of gratitude is the perfect time to reflect on how our everyday choices can give back — not just to one another, but to the planet we all share. Here are small, intentional ways to live your thanks:

- **Shrink your digital footprint.** Streaming, cloud storage, and emails all use surprising amounts of energy. Clean out your inbox, unsubscribe from unused lists, and back up photos offline to reduce data center demand — a quiet but meaningful way to “green” your gratitude.
- **Host a swap night.** Instead of buying new, gather friends or neighbors to exchange clothes, books, or household items. It’s a fun, social way to refresh what you own, reduce consumption, and keep useful items in circulation.
- **Replace every-day plastics.** Switch to beeswax wraps instead of plastic wrap, use glass bottles for bulk, refillable soaps and detergents, skip plastic bags at stores, and bring your own containers for takeout.
- **Celebrate with experiences.** For holidays, suggest shared experiences such as a hike, a cooking class, or tickets to a local event, instead of gifts. It reduces consumption and focuses gratitude on connection, not clutter.

Living green is simply gratitude in action. The more we weave gratitude into daily life, the brighter and more resilient our community becomes.

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A check for a total of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Village Update

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

Sitting here writing this update at the end of October, we can feel the fall weather beginning to take hold. Cooler morning temperatures and the leaves finally showing the beautiful fall colors are upon us.



With the falling leaves, let’s use extra care making quick stops while driving or riding our bikes to avoid sliding through intersections or falling. As the daylight hours diminish, let’s fully enjoy the outdoors in November and I hope to see you in the Village Park or walking throughout our community.

Pathway Update

Great progress was made in October building out our pathways throughout the Village. Work recommenced after a lengthy battle with the railroad getting permits to complete the Highland pathway. Additionally, work on Gremoor and Juneau has moved forward significantly. The storm water upgrades along Juneau were impressive and work on the pathway paving will be completed in early November. Many thanks to our design firm **KL Engineering**, led by **Travis Brush**, and our construction contractor **Buteyn-Petersen** for a job well done!

Planning is underway to design the pathway from Gebhardt Road to Watertown Plank Road along the west side of Highland. We expect to let a request for proposals (RFP) related to pedestrian pathway construction work to be completed in 2026. The Board has elected to combine two phases of this project to realize cost savings of least \$40,000 on engineering alone.

Daylighting / Public Works Committee

As reported previously, the railroad has filed a complaint against the Village challenging the purchase of the 2.3 acres of abandoned land needed for this project. A ruling from the court is expected in mid – November. The Board has worked closely with outside council throughout this process and have offered solutions for all objections raised by the railroad, except for one. That objection is over price, which the railroad is seeking 3 times the appraised value for the parcel. We will keep you posted.

Concurrent with resolving this legal dispute, the Public Works Committee is working diligently to advance the project. Our Engineering firm will be presenting revised construction drawings reflecting cost reduction actions approved by the Committee by the end of October. After final review and approval, it is possible that the Project will be rebid based on the revised project scope. In addition, progress continues on the relocation of the Park and Shop sign and finalizing necessary permanent and temporary easements with impacted parties.

Numerous residents have commented their gratitude for the advance work performed on the 2025 paving work performed by our Public Works team, led by **Richard Paul, Jr.** Larger culverts and other grading and seeding were mentioned as huge improvements to storm water control and restoration of impacted areas after paving. Thanks to the whole team!

2026 Village Budget

Finance Director, **Brian Lahey**, has been coordinating Capital and Operating Budget meetings with the finance committee starting in October. Each year it is a challenge to balance the budget and sustain the high level of services expected by residents. The Committee does an excellent job reviewing the needs of all departments and providing feedback to staff to consider alternatives and how to continue to leverage technology to reduce waste and inefficiency. Work will continue through November and meeting dates are published on the website for anyone interested in attending. These workshops provide the community an opportunity to participate in understanding the scope and cost of services provided by the Village and supported by your tax dollars.

Caroline Heights Update

Final review of the storm water management plan is still pending. The Village’s outside engineering firm will be providing guidance and any suggested updates towards the end of the October. Presently, the final building under construction has temporary occupancy approved for up to 60 units. The final occupancy will not be granted until all punch list items and storm water issues are resolved.

Other Community News

- **Logan Kein**, the Village’s Recreation Manager, will be departing in November for a new opportunity offering a larger role and better options for career advancement. Logan has worked tirelessly to improve the recreation and special events coordinated by the Village and we wish him well.
- **Sarah Muench**, the Village’s Library Director for many years will be retiring at the start of the new year. The Village was fortunate to have such a passionate supporter of the library and its many programs. We wish Sarah all the best in this new adventure.
- Congratulations to deputy police chief **Ryan Unger** on his graduation from the FBI National Academy. This highly competitive 3-month course will support the departments continuous improvement and high level of service.

In October, the Village of Elm Grove’s Police, Fire, EMS and Public Works teams were recognized by the State Assembly for the outstanding community service provided during the August 9th historic floods. Well-deserved recognition for the entire team!

Enjoy all fall has to offer here in Elm Grove, and wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Elm Grove Department of Public Works Recycling / Yard Waste Facility

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

OPEN

November 1st – 30th
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

CLOSED

November 27th & 28th

Business Directory

* Insurance

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

* Community Theatre

Sunset Playhouse, Inc.
700 Wall St., Elm Grove
(262) 782-4430
SunsetPlayhouse.com
”Entertainment Begins at Sunset!”

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

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HERE.**

Business Directory, Clubs & Organizations Directory & Classifieds

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+ 50 cents for each additional word. / + \$20 extra per photo or logo.

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

News Briefs

Elm Grove Residents: Adopt Your Drain!

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

We are now almost three months out from the devastating rains that affected our community in August. But ongoing action and preparedness doesn’t stop. Despite that event being called a 500-year event, it doesn’t mean it’ll happen only once every 500 years. Just that it has a 0.2% chance of happening each year based on floodplain modeling predictions.

SweetWater (SE Wisconsin Watersheds Trust) was formed to help restore the Greater Milwaukee watersheds to conditions that are healthy for swimming and fishing and to assist municipalities in assuring compliance with WI DNR MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit.

Adopting a Drain is one of the easiest actions that residents can take to be an active participant in the health and well-being of our community.

Did you know?

- There are 190 drains on the Adopt Your Drain map for Elm Grove.
- There might be a drain in front of your house that isn’t on the map—reach out on their website to get it added so that you can adopt it!
- Keeping an eye on the storm drain near you helps minimize flooding and decrease pollution.
- It takes seconds each week to monitor your drain
- If there is trash, leaves, road salt, or anything other than rain water about to enter your drain—it takes minutes to remove it.
- The online form that allows tracking of removed items takes less than one minute to complete.



- Underwood Creek, the body of water that flows through Elm Grove and connects to the Menomonee River and then Lake Michigan gets an overall water quality grade of a C- with failing grades in three monitored categories—bacteria, phosphorus, and conductivity.
- All storm drains lead directly into Underwood Creek and are NOT filtered or treated.

The website to adopt (and creatively name your drain) is: **www.adoptyourdrain.com**

If every one of us does just a little bit to take better care of our waterways, together we can make a difference in the health and wellbeing of our ecosystem. Won’t you help be a part of improving our waterway?



Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*

Free Lecture

presented by the Elmbrook Historical Society

Join us to hear author, educator and historian **Stephen Hauser** speak on:

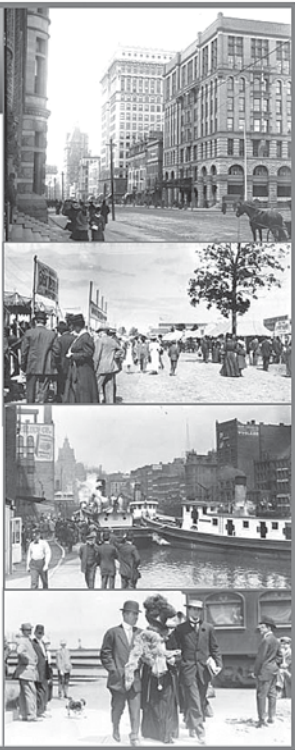
Milwaukee in the Early 1900s

Learn how "Madams, Marxists and Madmen" all played a role in Milwaukee's history.

Did you know that Milwaukee was considered one of the most corrupt cities at that time?

MONDAY, November 10, 7pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY Community Room
1900 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield, WI
<http://www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org>



News Briefs

Volunteers Strive to Remove Buckthorn at Park *Will you join in that effort?* By Tyler Beckley

Over the last five years, the Beautification Committee along with community volunteers have been working diligently to remove common and glossy buckthorn from the village park, along with invasive honeysuckles, invasive euonymus species, and invasive autumn olive. Common buckthorn has unfortunately overtaken significant portions of the 79-acre park. In 2023, the Beautification Committee started using herbicide to treat the cuts stumps, which has allowed them to make significant progress in the last two years. The final goal is to make the park buckthorn-free and after that routinely monitor and survey it to ensure removal of seedlings.

Since the removal of buckthorn started, they've seen species returning to the area as the buckthorn is cleared. These include gray dogwood, oak seedlings, shagbark hickory seedlings, marsh marigold, Virginia bluebells, mayapples, purple meadow rue, and starry Solomon's plume.

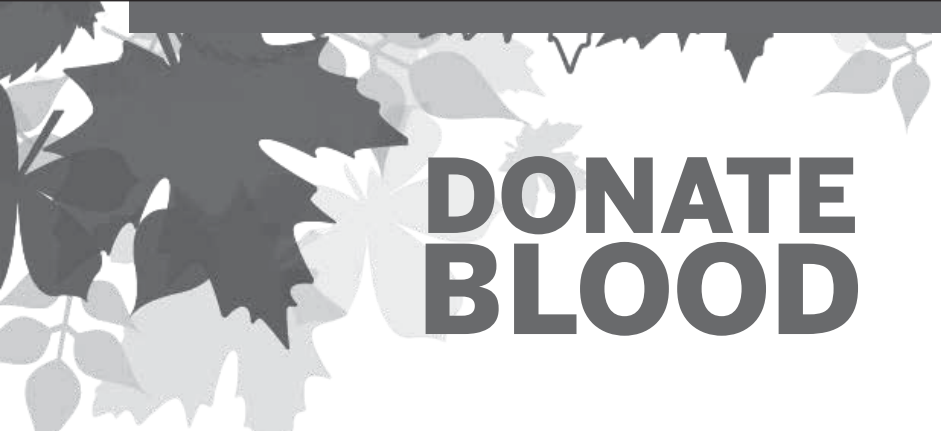
Native plants are super important because they are crucial for supporting the wildlife that lives around the park. They are an

important food source for insects, which in turn are important food sources for the birds and small mammals that live in and visit the park. So, as the buckthorn dissipates and the plant variety increases, the Beautification Committee expects to see corresponding gains in ecological health and an abundance of wildlife.

The Beautification Committee is looking for volunteers to help with their work sessions each Sunday. Sessions are only one hour out of your day and are open to anyone-- no special training required. Fall offers one of the most effective windows for buckthorn removal as it is easy to identify being one of the few species that holds onto its leaves very late in the year. Additionally, treating the cambium layer of the cut stump allows minimal herbicide use.

Sustained volunteer involvement is essential to continuing this work and protecting the long-term health of our village park. With each cleared section, we see the return of native species that support a healthier, more balanced ecosystem.

Contact: egbeautification@gmail.com



Saturday
NOVEMBER 1
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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



COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF ELM GROVE BLOOD DRIVE

Church Fellowship Hall; 14700 Watertown Plank Rd.

<https://bit.ly/CUMCEGNov2025> to make your appointments via this link
Appts. also made via the QR Code below.

**If you need help, email Kathy Hartke at kdhartke@gmail.com and she'll assist you.*

**Do we not expect a SAFE & ADEQUATE blood supply be available when we or our loved ones? YES WE DO! Blood CANNOT be manufactured!*



Community Wish Lists

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.



American Legion Post 449 COOKIE WALK Sale

Saturday, December 13th, Noon to 3 p.m.
3245 N. 124th Street, Brookfield
(Across from Briggs)

This cookie, candy & bread sale is one way the Auxiliary can raise funds for our Veterans.

All offerings are homemade!!!

Thank you for your support. It makes many happy tummies. It is a wonderful way for you to have a great selection of goodies!

Each plate or package is \$5.00

Thank You!
Co-chairs Colleen Gotowitz & Carol Jensen

53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Thank you, Amy Scheidt!

On behalf of the entire Community Foundation Board, we extend our deepest gratitude to Amy Scheidt for her years of dedicated service and steadfast commitment. Your leadership, insight, and countless contributions have left a lasting impact on both our organization and the community we serve. We are truly grateful for all you have done and the difference you've made. While we will miss your presence on the board, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Help Us Plan Our 10th Oktoberfest Celebration

It's hard to believe, but our 10th Oktoberfest is just around the corner! Since our first celebration in 2016 (with one year off during COVID), Oktoberfest has become a beloved Elm Grove tradition — growing each year into a true signature event for our community.

As we begin planning for our 2026 celebration, we want to hear from you! What would you love to see at our 10th Oktoberfest? Whether it's entertainment ideas, food and drink suggestions, family-friendly activities, or something totally new — we're all ears.

Share your ideas by emailing us at info@elmgrovefoundation.org. Let's make our 10th Oktoberfest the best one yet!

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 18 & 19, 2026

Calendar of Events – November 2025

Saturday – NOVEMBER 1

- 2025 Christmas Fantasy House benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities opens to visitors. (See AD – Front Page.)
- Community United Methodist Church – Blood Drive 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (See details – Page 4)

Sunday – NOVEMBER 2

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Turn clocks back 1 hour.

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

Monday – NOVEMBER 3

- Blood Drive, hosted by Elm Grove Junior Guild 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Pilgrim Park Middle School, 1500 Pilgrim Parkway, Elm Grove. Register at: <https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive/schedule/11618056>

Friday – NOVEMBER 7

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Board of Directors meeting at St. Mary’s Senior Center; kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – NOVEMBER 9

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets: 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrovetwi.org
- Concert at Brookfield Congregational Church 16350 W. Gebhardt Rd. Brookfield – 7 p.m.

Tuesday – NOVEMBER 11

VETERANS DAY



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

Wednesday – NOVEMBER 12

- Birding Festival presented by Elm Grove Beautification Committee (See details – Page 11)

Friday – NOVEMBER 14

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speakers: Lisa Armitage and Elm Grove Police Lieutenant Riley; Subject: Overview of Citizens Police Academy program. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – NOVEMBER 16

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

Friday – NOVEMBER 21

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

Sunday – NOVEMBER 23

- Elm Grove Beautification Committe Invasive Species Task Force meets: 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrovetwi.org

Tuesday – NOVEMBER 25

- Elm Grove Board of Trustees Public meeting – 7 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room; Agenda & Live Stream at www.elmgrovetwi.org (262) 782-6700

Thursday – NOVEMBER 27

Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday – NOVEMBER 28

NATIVE AMERICA HERITAGE DAY

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K No meeting. Happy Thanksgiving! kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – NOVEMBER 30

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

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OP. 48
And other sacred choral pieces
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Sunday, November 9, 2025 @ 7:00 pm
Brookfield Congregational Church
16350 W. Gebhardt Road
Brookfield, WI

*Friends of the Elm Grove Library
Holiday Book Sale
November 8th
10 am - 4 pm*

Our delightful selection of stocking stuffers and other gifts for your friends and family - young and young-at-heart.

Pristine Journals, Books, CDs and DVDs, Literature, History, puzzles, and games.

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Elm Grove Library
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Just within the Library’s foyer

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Helping our Library grow*

We accept donations year round



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Milwaukee in the 1950’s: No Wonder they called it “Happy Days”.

- Presentation and Luncheon November 20, 2025

Savor lunch and the lively stories of Milwaukee in the 1950s–brought to life by Professor Stephen Hauser’s engaging storytelling.

Community UMC
14700 Watertown Plank Road
Elm Grove, WI 53122

Registration Deadline: November 10th

www.cumceg.org/owls

Holiday Luncheon

Entertainment and Luncheon
December 11, 2025

Join us for an afternoon of lunch and musical memories with Dan Krill, a beloved southeastern Wisconsin folk singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose original songs span five full-length albums—a perfect holiday treat!

Western Racquet Club
1800 Highland Dr.
Elm Grove, WI 53122

Registration Deadline: November 28th

Want to help Kids?

Join us November 11th from 6:00 - 8:00pm
at St. Mary’s Visitation Senior Center.
Learn how our Kiwanis members help kids’ dreams come true.

Come and join our Elm Grove Kiwanis Club.
Interested? Contact us at kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

VETERANS DAY DESSERT PARTY

THIS VETERANS DAY, LET’S HONOR OUR HEROES TOGETHER!

All are welcome to join us on Tuesday, November 11, 2025 4:30 pm - 8 pm

WE’LL HAVE AN INCREDIBLE VARIETY OF DESSERTS, COOKIE DECORATING STATION , AND GOOD COMPANY AS WE CELEBRATE AND THANK THE VETERANS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

American Legion Post 449 - 3245 N124th St, Brookfield

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Report from The Capitol

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

Taking Care of Small Business

I’m dedicating my column this month to small business, because it’s time we go BIG for small business. Wisconsin small businesses are key to both the fabric and character of our communities, and our state’s economy. 99% of Wisconsin’s businesses are small businesses–Wisconsin is a small business state! And it’s time for Wisconsin to go BIG for small business.

ONE-STOP SHOP (my bill)

As a small business creator and owner myself, I know what it’s like to turn a vision into reality and build a business from the ground-up. The juggle is real—we wear many hats at once, and building, maintaining, and growing a business comes with both rewards and challenges.

That’s why we should be making it easier for Wisconsinites to start and grow a business, not harder. I am excited to be re-introducing my small business portal bill: a one-stop shop for small business owners to navigate government processes and resources. This portal would streamline licensing, permitting, and fee payment processes and allow business owners to easily access information on state and local government bidding opportunities, economic development programs, educational and networking opportunities, and other resources.



People often start a business to provide goods and services they know their community needs. But building and maintaining a business takes time, and the rewards aren’t always immediate or clear. Streamlining government processes allows small business owners to invest more time in their businesses and families, rather than navigating the complex web of information they need to start or maintain their business.

Rep. Vining’s Website:



Small Business Feedback:



Women’s Health Feedback:



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

EMAIL REP.VINING@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV

f@REPROBYNVINING

@REP.ROBYN

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

My bill had a hearing in the state senate last legislative session, and has been included in the Governor’s state budget proposal in the past, so I am hoping we can soon gain the bipartisan support to sign this bill into law!

In addition to passing legislation to support small businesses, it’s also important to be tracking the challenges Wisconsin small businesses are facing. Right now, we are hearing concerns about tariffs, healthcare, and childcare.

TARIFFS

Small businesses are getting hit hard right now by tariffs, and these tariffs impact both the small businesses directly, and the consumers who rely on them. Tariffs are raising costs and creating uncertainties for small business owners, increasing consumer prices, and forcing business owners to make hard decisions about their workforce. Wisconsin is a small business state, and when tariffs hit small businesses, tariffs hit Wisconsinites.

Wisconsin businesses and consumers purchased \$38.9B in goods imported from other countries in 2024, and those goods are going to be more expensive as we enter the holiday season.¹ Some estimates show that since April, Wisconsin small businesses have already paid almost \$622 million in tariffs.² I am actively working with my colleagues to address the financial pain facing Wisconsinites, and am certainly mindful of the approaching holiday season and how it affects small businesses and consumers.

HEALTHCARE

Many small businesses rely on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for access to health insurance. There is a lot of uncertainty and concern right now about changes to the ACA: 300,000 Wisconsinites are likely to be impacted by Congressional Republicans’ plan to end ACA premium tax credits that help make health insurance affordable, meaning that they will face surging premium costs or lose coverage altogether. For those living in Congressman Scott Fitzgerald’s district, ACA premiums are estimated to increase an average of \$1,224 annually starting January 1st.³ These increases will hit small businesses—and the families that rely on them—especially hard, which is why 87% of small business owners want ACA tax credits to be made permanent.⁴

CHILDCARE

A lack of affordable childcare makes it even harder for businesses to attract and retain workers, and to juggle their own precious families with the demands of running their business. I will continue to advocate at the Capitol for access to affordable, quality childcare.



Please share your input.

Small businesses employ locally and contribute to the vibrancy of our communities, and we should be doing what we can to help them thrive. Doing so can lower costs for consumers, create family-sustaining jobs, and provide valuable goods and services for our communities.

This is why we need to go big for small businesses—especially now. My Go Big For Small Business bill is a start, and as legislators, we must do more. Attached below is a form where you can share your input about childcare, tariffs, small business healthcare costs, and my bill. Your voice matters, and we welcome your input as we work to best serve you and move Wisconsin forward, *together*.

¹ Wisconsin Policy Forum (2025, May). *Wisconsin’s Shifting Import Economy*. <https://wispolicyforum.org/research/wisconsins-shifting-import-economy/>

² Jenson, Jacob (2025, October 21). *The Impact of Tariffs on Small Businesses*. American Action Forum. <https://www.americanactionforum.org/research/the-impact-of-tariffs-on-small-businesses/>

³ Lukens, Gideon & Zhang, Elizabeth (2024, November 14). *Premium Tax Credit Improvements Must Be Extended to Prevent Steep Rise in Health Care Costs*. Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/premium-tax-credit-improvements-must-be-extended-to-prevent-steep-rise-in-health>

⁴Small Business for America’s Future(2025, October 22). *Survey: As Shutdown Continues, 87% of Small Business Owners Want ACA Tax Credits Made Permanent*. <https://www.smallbusinessforamericasfuture.org/survey-as-shutdown-continues-87-of-small-business-owners-want-aca-tax-credits-made-permanent>

ELMBROOK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) is an independent non-profit that enriches our school district and community by investing in our students and educators, through grants, scholarships, and other major initiatives.

2025-2026 FUNDING INITIATIVE UNIFIED SPORTS

The Elmbrook Education Foundation’s has committed to raising \$75,000 to sustain and grow the district’s Unified Sports program for the next ten years. Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program in which students, both with and without disabilities, are brought together to work as a team, form new relationships and compete in a friendly environment. The program was brought to Elmbrook High Schools in 2021 and is also expanding to the middle schools.

“ Unified Sports isn’t just about playing together, it’s about belonging together.”

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Donate To The Initiative
- Join us for **LADIES NIGHT (11/12)** or **EXPLORE STEAM (2/18)**!

Your donations, sponsorships, and auction gifts make it all possible.

For more information, contact Beth at elmbrookeducationfoundation@gmail.com

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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Brookfield Academy

BROOKFIELD ACADEMY NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS:
(from left to right) **Niall Parkins**, Brookfield; **Emily O’Quinn**, Menomonee Falls; **Neerja Ahuja**, Brookfield; **Rahmah Sajid**, Franklin; **Victoria Zheng**, Hartland; **Annika Thiel**, Menomonee Falls; and **Claire Tian**, New Berlin.

Brookfield Academy Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

(BROOKFIELD, WI) – The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has named seven of Brookfield Academy’s 83 seniors as National Merit Semifinalists. Fewer than 1% of the nation’s high school seniors qualify as National Merit Semifinalists. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition that began providing recognition and scholarships in 1955.

Students who have been named Semifinalists will advance in the process and based on their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, have the possibility to be named Finalists. Finalists then have the opportunity to be considered for National Merit Scholarships.



Photo courtesy: Brookfield Academy

BROOKFIELD ACADEMY NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLARS:
(Left to right): **Omar Alqwasm**i, Brookfield; **Nicolas Alsayegh**, Brookfield; **Zoe Johnson**, Pewaukee; and **Erich Boelter**, Pewaukee / Hartland.

Brookfield Academy Announces Commended Scholars

(BROOKFIELD, WI) - Four Brookfield Academy seniors have been named Commended Scholars in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Only about 34,000 of the more than 1.3 million students who entered the 2026 competition by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying

Test are recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

“Congratulations to each of these students! It is gratifying to see their dedication over many years recognized, and we look forward to seeing how they apply their talents in college and beyond,” said **Mr. Doug Ricci**, Head of School at Brookfield Academy.

The Nunsense Christmas Musical

NUNCRACKERS

Written by Dan Goggin

December 4 - 21, 2025

December 8 - 9, 2025

SUNSET PLAYHOUSE

SunsetPlayhouse.com 262-782-4430

December 11 - 14, 2025



Library News and Programs
November 2025
13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-782-6717 | elmgrovelibrary.org

Home Food Preservation Methods with Amanda Strojinc / Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.



After the success of her sourdough program in September, Amanda Strojinc of Hopefully Homesteading LLC is returning to the Elm Grove Library! This time, she'll be teaching the basics of food preservation—including fermenting, drying, canning, freeze drying, and more—all using methods you can try at home. Amanda will also share important food safety tips, provide recipes, and demonstrate the equipment she uses. Plus,

participants will get to sample some of Amanda’s own delicious preserved foods! Don’t miss it! Free and open to all—no registration required.

First Friday Films: *Superman* / Friday, November 14, 1:00 p.m.

First Friday Films will take place on the second Friday of November due to the FOEGL mini book sale on November 7. This month we will be showing *Superman* directed by James Gunn. About the movie: Superman must reconcile his alien Kryptonian heritage with his human upbringing as reporter Clark Kent. As the embodiment of truth, justice and the human way he soon finds himself in a world that views these as old-fashioned. Starring David Corenswet as Superman. PG-13. 2h9m.



Lady Lighthouse Keeper: The Extraordinary Life & Times of Georgia Green Stebbins / Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 p.m.



Barb and Ken Wardius, authors of *Wisconsin Lighthouses: A Photographic and Historical Guide*, return to share the remarkable story of Georgia Green Stebbins. A sickly young woman from New York City, Georgia came to Milwaukee’s North Point Lighthouse in the mid-1800s to care for her ailing lighthouse keeper father. She went on to become an exceptional lighthouse keeper herself—at a time when few women held such roles. Georgia ultimately became the longest-serving keeper at North Point. Join us to learn more about her inspiring life. Free to attend, no registration required.

Children’s Story Time!

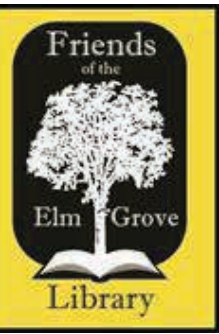
Story times will continue during the month of November. Join us for engaging stories, songs, and play during our fall story time sessions. Here are the upcoming dates and times:

Bright Beginnings Story Time and Play Group (ages 1-3)
Tuesdays, 10-11 am. November 4 and 18.

Morning Break Story Time (ages 3-5)
Thursdays, 10:30-11 am. November 6 and 20.



Friends of the Elm Grove Library to Hold Holiday Mini Sale



The countdown to Christmas has begun. The Library’s Friends’ members are hosting its annual Holiday Mini Sale on Saturday, November 8th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

While you begin readying for the Trick or Treaters, holding family Thanksgiving gatherings, and writing “Who’s Naughty or Nice” lists, FOEGL members will become Santa’s helpers! Bring your list and enjoy some stress-free, friendly shopping.

The Mini Sale is just inside the library’s entrance and hallway. The library’s convenient location offers free parking and is part of the “Holidays in the Grove” celebration.

Our sale is chock-full of pristine gift-worthy items (for all ages) from books to media to puzzles and lots of more interesting items. All proceeds go towards helping our library programs!



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Public Library

A selection of books and other items available for purchase at FOEGL’s Holiday Sale.

Elm Grove Public Library - 13600 Juneau Blvd. - Elm Grove, WI 53122

Young Writers & Reporters

Service Miracles

By Yashwitha Veerapaneni, Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

Hello, my name is Yashi and I am in 6th grade. I am here to talk about Service Club. Service Club is a very fun elective that takes place in Brookfield Academy. In this club you do many service projects, for example this year we are doing crochet hats for premature babies, cat scratching toys, crocheting blankets, and are open to many other ideas. The service club helps people in need and also gives us an opportunity to help others. We have an awesome teacher named **Mrs. Auskings**. She is also the choir teacher who is an outstanding teacher who helps everyone in any possible way. We also have many willing students who want to help her make it possible to do all of these spectacular projects. Obviously, Service Club is an awesome elective that I will continue to do throughout my time in middle school.

New Place

By Anya Chandal, Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

Hi! My name is Ory. I was from the planet Blogr. You’re probably wondering what I mean. I’m being banished from my planet because of my individuality. My planet doesn’t allow any type of creativity or uniqueness. They make us all take this test called the picture test. We look at this picture and are supposed to say what we see. 99% of the people see nothing, but there’s 1% that sees something really creative. I’m part of that 1% so they’re banishing me. They’re going to put me in a spaceship, and I’ll see where I land. I’m buckling in and.... Blastoff! I feel myself rising into the air and smashing into this planet. The outside world is so creative, and so colorful? I have identified that these are humans. There are kids running and playing. I hear a kid yell, “Cannonball! I love fall!” A girl runs to me and shouts, “Want to play dress-up with us in your cool alien costume? I simply nod. It seems fun. This would never be allowed in Blogr. This place seems so unique. I’m starting to really like this new creative place.

Middle School Head of Day

By Hebela Ayalew, 7th Grade - Brookfield Academy

About twice a year, Brookfield Academy Middle School has a Head of a Day. In short, a student is given the opportunity to be the Head (principal) for a day. This opportunity is won in an auction. On October 9th, the middle school had one of these days. **Eleni Gebreyesus**, an eighth grader, was the head of the day. This is a unique event at BA, with many fun activities. One of these activities was watching the Eighth Grade Girls Volleyball team beat the faculty in a volleyball match. Overall, it is one of the most exciting events BA has to offer.

When I Was New

By Ada Yavas, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

When I was new at Tonawanda, it was so hard. I couldn’t speak English. There were a lot of different holidays. I was new and new in the country, too. It was hard but I didn’t give up.

I was new to America. I didn’t have any friends when I was new. Some of the girls from my class asked me to play and I said yes. I had a big smile. When I made new friends, I was so happy and they taught me English every day. I got better and better. But, almost a year later it is better and easier for me. I am so happy.



Selling Flowers

By Holden Phelan, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever gone to a farmers market? First, we drove to a farmers market. I was READY! Then we were finally there! We set up our stand. We were ready. There were a whole lot of people buying our bouquets. We were so happy. We sold flowers for a long time. I was hot. “Finally,” I said as we got in the car. We drove home. My dad said we sold so many flowers because he had two helpers. I was so happy.



Photo courtesy: Mason Kelly

Troop 156 Scouts and their friends gather following completion of new split-rail fencing at Zion Cemetery in Elm Grove.

My Eagle Scout Project

By Mason Kelly - Marquette University High School

On September 27th, my fellow Scouts from Troop 156 helped me complete my Eagle Scout Project at Zion Cemetery in Elm Grove, located at the corner of Highland Drive and Lata Vista Drive. For my project, we installed a split-rail fence to improve the look of the cemetery and create a clear border around the sacred area.

The fence has three 20-foot sections along Highland Drive, each spaced about 26 feet apart. We also built two 15-foot sections behind the big pine tree at the corner of Highland and Lata Vista. We also made a new sign for the cemetery and moved it closer to the road so people can see it better when they drive by.

We started working at 9 a.m. after I went over safety rules and explained the plan to everyone. The whole troop worked really hard, and we were able to finish everything by noon. After taking a group photo, we celebrated with a well-deserved lunch.

I’d like to give a special thanks to my friend, **John Losee of JML Mastercraft**, for helping design and create the new cemetery sign. His help made a huge difference in how great the final project turned out.

I’m really proud of this project and thankful to all the Scouts, adults, and community members who supported me along the way. I hope the people of Elm Grove like the improvements as much as I do!



Photo courtesy: Mason Kelly

Mason with the new Zion Cemetery sign.



November

By Aaliyah Choudhary
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

Leaves have changed
Smiles exchanged
It’s November
Colors everywhere
The crisp air
The sweet bakery smells
Church or school bells
It’s November
Delicious food
All can be viewed
To savor every bite
It’s November
Cut the turkey for everyone
So tasty,
So much fun,
It’s November
Say “thank you”
To the veterans
For their courage and fight,
It’s November
By this time
Leaves have all fallen
Say hi to winter rolling in
Cold winds begin,
It’s November
Winter is close
But it’s still November
We want to have snowball fights
But it’s still November
We can wait for winter
And celebrate November
We can wait for the snow to fall
But love November

Serving Those Who Served

By Janavi Wagle - Brookfield East High School

While many spent their summer at the beach, I spent mine volunteering for six weeks at the **Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center** in Milwaukee. I was assigned to the long-term rehabilitation unit, working closely with therapists and nurses. It wasn’t just about handing out magazines. It was about building empathy, kindness, and humility, especially for those who served our country.



At a previous internship, a Johns Hopkins School of Public Health faculty member once told us interns that healthcare is about service and character, and that the science comes later. I found this phrase meaningful every single day as I walked onto that floor. Whether I was transporting patients in wheelchairs, cleaning labs, playing card games, calling bingo, or expanding cognitive abilities through entertainment and humor, I tried to approach every task with care.

One morning, I witnessed a final salute for a deceased veteran. His coffin, wrapped in the American flag, passed through the hallway as “Taps” played. Family members stood tearfully, and residents looked with a somber expression. That moment filled me with honor and reminded me of the deep sacrifices these veterans made for our nation.

One of my favorite memories was spending time with a 101-year-old veteran who was always full of stories and jokes. Spending time with him and the other faculty members was a great way to show my gratitude.

Volunteering at the VA taught me that healthcare is not just about medicine. It is about compassion and human connection. Even these small acts can make a big difference in someone’s comfort and peace. This Veterans Day, I carry deep respect for those who served. As a future doctor, I hope to serve others with the same care they gave to our country.



Young Writers & Reporters

Thanksgiving
By Rosie Trandem, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Time to be thankful
Having a day off from school
And getting to see relatives
Nice windy weather
Kind nice people around you
Smelling a wonderful meal
Giving someone a compliment
In a warm fuzzy blanket around you
Visiting friends and families
Inviting someone over
Never stop being grateful
Giving great advice

Fall
By Max Swain, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

The leaves are red, yellow and orange
Brown, and green too.
The trees are BEAUTIFUL!

Baseball
By Ryan Kell, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Batting
At bat
Super
Balls
American
Leader
Losing



Be THANKFUL for Thanksgiving
By Axel Nielsen, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Be Thankful!
It’s Thanksgiving.
Have a fest!
Meet with family!
Jump in the leaves.
Have fun!
Play outside!

Seasons
By Odette Walker, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Snow falls.
Trees are bare.
I drink hot chocolate
That will be winter

Puddles are everywhere.
Flowers bloom.
I dance in my rainboots.
That was spring.

Swimming pools are full.
I made daisy chains.
We drink lemonade.
That was summer.

Leaves are everywhere.
I pick apples.
It smells like cinnamon.
THIS IS FALL!

My First Football Practice
By Colin Dugan
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

It took 10 minutes for Cal to pick me up. I was waiting for him to take me. We got there and we started. The assistant had to step up because the head coach did not show up. The assistant coach did the whole entire practice. We finished two drills, and I got an interception. The practice was fun. We were having a good practice. I played wide receiver and we scrimmaged a team. We beat them. I was happy to play football. I scored a touchdown. Finally, it was time to leave. Cal and I walked to Cal’s car. It took 10 minutes to get to my house.

The First Fish
By Felix Kopec-Farrell
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

I went fishing with Cub Scouts We drove from our house to Elm Grove park. It was cloudy and summer. In other words, we are on our way to fish. Yay! I watched other people fish. Some people caught little fish. The first cast I didn’t catch. Then I caught a Bluegill. Yay! It was awesome. I can’t wait to go fishing there again. Yay! It will be awesome!!

The Thing
By Rohit Singh
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

The truth is on Halloween when you see all those people wearing scary, realistic costumes, one out of every 50 is not human. You always stare and that thing never looks back as if you weren’t even there. It just keeps on walking pretending to be human but never stops by any houses, and never takes off its mask because the mask is its face. This thing might own a house or not, but some say those who take its candy have dark, petrifying nightmares for ten days straight. Most people don’t care how realistic people might look, but you never know who is who.

When I Got a Puppy
By Penelope Bolger, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

It was a nice afternoon. She was happy to be at my house. I felt happy to have her. I got home. She had a lot of fun times there. In other words, I was ready to get a puppy! She walked to me. I felt happy when she walked to me. She was looking at me, but she was far from me. I was in the living room. She was on the other side of the room. In other words, I was really happy to have her! She licked me. I felt happy when she walked to me and licked me. It was the afternoon and it was spring. She was so cute. I was so happy to have her!

Fun Facts about BA Students
By Teddy Davis and Clara Posnik
6TH Grade – Brookfield Academy

Hello, our names are Teddy and Clara, and we share many similarities, like sports, friends, food interests and many more. We both play volleyball and many other sports. Here we will introduce a little bit about ourselves.

Teddy: I play many sports and do many other activities. My most favorite sports are lacrosse and volleyball. I play volleyball for school and I play for a club called the Midwest Penguins. For lacrosse I play for the city of Brookfield and it is a travel team. Most of the sports I play are a travel team which is cool cause I love to travel to do the things I love.

Clara: In the fall I do volleyball and in the spring I do basketball. Teddy and I have volleyball practice every Tuesday and Thursday. I don’t do club but I enjoy watching my older sister play for club volleyball and varsity volleyball.

Although we only talked mostly about volleyball there are many other things that we love doing! Thank you for reading about our interests!

The Big Shot
By Kensi Kler
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

Reese was the star of every basketball team on the West Coast. She was always on the court, never out. Reese was friends with everyone, and everyone was friends with her. She wasn’t rude or arrogant; she was the opposite. A straight-A student and captain of the debate club, Reese seemed to have it all.

Everyone loved her, but deep down, she felt that most of her friends only liked her for the publicity and she was right. No one ever invited her to hang out; they only included her when it was convenient or made them look good. When a new girl became popular and everyone stopped paying attention to her, Reese had had enough.

She threw herself into basketball and school, determined to improve. Slowly, she became even better, smarter, stronger, and more focused until she graduated as valedictorian and an even bigger star. Then, at the final game of the year, her team was down by two points. They passed her the ball at the three-point line; she rose up, took the shot. And it was all net. In that moment, people finally realized that Reese was more than just publicity and popularity. She was a person.

The Sky
By Calvin Lane
Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

The sky is always there
like the ocean and the breeze,
it sits on earth like water and the trees;
It never leaves,
only stays all the while the cows graze.

Fall
By Rylan Cainion, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Fall is a season
When school is back
leaves fall down,
and Halloween is here.
Summer activities end
It starts to get chilly
So put on your sweatshirt, hat and scarves
and make nice leaf piles!

The Lake House
By Kelsey Rozny – 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

It was an early, dark, cool summer morning. We started at my normal house in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. It was 4:30 in the morning and we started to pack the rest of our things. In other words, it was technically spring time.

We drove up north and I saw ponds turn into lakes because we were farther up north. When we got to the place to see our first house, we decided to buy it! We spent the last hour driving by lakes before our rented house was open. Our lake was smaller than others. We spent the rest of the week at our rented lake house. Finally, it was time to go home. “Goodbye lake!”



When I Got My Dog
By Pablo Meiguizo, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

First my dog was shy and scared. I felt nervous when **Lucy** came along. It was cold in my house and it was Fall. Lucy was scared and didn’t know us. In conclusion, I was ready to get a dog! I saw my dog. My Mom fed my dog. We named her Lucy. Lucy didn’t know us but she started to like us. Our dog went outside for the first time. To conclude, I finally saw and liked my dog. I cuddled with my dog but Lucy was curious and scared. We fed her and let her sniff our hands. Finally, my dog was very furry. I loved her, it was my favorite thing. She had a new family with us.

My First Sleepover
By Harper Nielsen, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Have you been to a sleepover? I had to leave my home. I was going to my first sleepover. I was worried and excited at the same time. I did not want to be late. Then me, Autumn and Dad went to the backyard. My Dad carried a big backpack with sleeping stuff. Then we got to my neighbors’ home. My sister rang the doorbell. Then they welcomed us home. I was so excited to stay there!

When I Broke My Finger
By Nicholas Dobbe, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

It was a lovely warm day at school. First, I went home on my bike. When I got home me and Jack raced to the mail. Then I toppled over my bike and broke my finger. In other words, it hurt really bad! Later, I went to the doctor. Dad rushed to the doctor. They put stitches in my finger. It really hurt but I didn’t cry. In summary, I went to the hospital. Wearing a cast in school was hard. Before school, I had to wrap my finger up and put a cast on. It was difficult doing school because I couldn’t move my finger and I couldn’t type. In conclusion, I had to wear a cast in public.

St. Mary’s Visitation third graders say who they would invite to Thanksgiving dinner if they could invite anyone they wanted.

I would invite **Chris Pratt** because he played Owen Grady in Jurassic World. I would talk to him about dinosaurs and what it would be like in the movie. I would serve him mashed potatoes and turkey. For dessert, I would make milkshakes. - **Oliver**

I would invite my **Uncle Brian** because he is the ambassador of the Vatican. I would talk to him about what it is like to live in Rome. I would serve him turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce. It would be the best Thanksgiving ever! - **Danny**

I would like to invite **my cousin Rosie** because she is so sweet and kind. We would talk about when we could have another play date. I would serve her mashed potatoes, salad, and for dessert, brownies and Thanksgiving cupcakes. - **Grace**

I would invite **Lionel Messi** because he is a famous soccer player and I want to be one someday. We would talk about sports, mostly soccer. At dinner, I would serve him mashed potatoes and a soccer cake. - **Charlotte**

I would invite **Marie Curie**. I would serve her turkey, stuffing, hash browns, and gravy. I would ask her to tell me more about radiation. After dinner I would give her some homemade cookies. Then, we would talk about what it was like back then without a TV. - **Evie**

I would invite **Jackie Robinson** because we would be able to play whiffle ball. I would serve him a bison burger and chips. We would talk about how many home runs and RBI’s he had. Then, we would play more whiffle ball. - **Caius**

If I could have any guest over for Thanksgiving, I would have **George Washington**. I would talk to him about what it was like to rule a country and if I could rule a country, too. I would serve George Washington turkey, mashed potatoes, pudding, and pie. Finally, I would ask if I could visit the White House. - **Ceci**

If I could have anyone come over for Thanksgiving, I would have **Santa**. We would talk about Christmas and the North Pole. I would serve him mashed potatoes, turkey, and pumpkin pie. I would ask him if I could have an early Christmas present. - **Frances**

I would invite **Christian Yelich** over to my Thanksgiving dinner because he is my favorite player on the Brewers. I would talk to him about how the playoffs went. I would serve him turkey, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie, gravy, chips, and whatever he would like for dessert. - **Jack Z.**

I would invite **Caitlin Clark** over for Thanksgiving dinner. I would invite her because she is my favorite basketball player. I would talk about her strategies and backyard court. I would serve her pizza, potato chips, and soda. This is why I would invite Caitlin Clark for Thanksgiving dinner. - **Rose**

I would have **St. Matthew** over because he is my patron saint. I would ask him about his Christian life. I would serve him turkey and sweet potatoes. For dessert I would serve him chocolate coins because he was a tax collector. - **Matt L.**

I would invite **Dr. Seuss** because I love his books and his books are really funny. I would talk about how he is a good author. I would serve him turkey and apple pie and maybe apple cider. I would love it if Dr. Seuss came over. - **Claire C.**

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

Fly

By Geoffrey Zeidler
(mentored by Ayush Dadgale)

Is there any use trying
When all my falling
Ends in crying
If I could learn new timing
I might end up flying
But why keep trying
When it all
ends in crying
How do I let it fly
On a brain that's dry
If all I do is cry
I just need to Try
Though I might cry
And see if my wings
Remember why they Fly



Rain

By Gary Kerslake

At warmest hour a chill is there,
for all around it fills the air,
to spread new life to all that breathes,
and fill the hollows of the seas.

Young Writers

First Lego League

By Nandana Pramod and Sara Asad,
8th Grade – Pilgrim Park Middle School

We're Team Alpha Geek, an FLL (FIRST Lego League) Challenge team of 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th graders from Burleigh Elementary and Pilgrim Park MS.

Every season, FLL releases a theme to solve a real-world problem. This year's theme involves problems archaeologists face. We went to places like Aztalan, the Milwaukee Public Museum, and the Madison Archaeology Laboratory to conduct further research on problems archaeologists face. Archaeologists face the time-consuming problem of sorting potsherds and reconstructing them without a guide. We zoomed with an archaeologist researching in Greece to gain further insight.

Sherds are vital to archaeology because their durability provides insights into ancient diets and trade routes. Our solution is the Phoenix! The Phoenix is a robot that will help archaeologists sort pottery sherds using 2D imaging and LIBS, Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy, data. This innovative solution is a friend to all archaeologists!!

Additionally, each season, teams must build a Lego Technic Robot to solve as many of the 15 missions in 150 seconds. Our robot is really cool—it has attachments on 3 sides and is assisting us with achieving a maximum score of 350 points! Our 4th-year team is heading to Regionals in early November.



Serve Your Community

By Grace File and Grace Gorniak
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

At Brookfield Academy, there are many clubs and activities. One of the clubs to join is the service club. This club offers opportunities to help other people and serve their needs. One of our projects this year is collecting pop tops for the Ronald McDonald house charities. Another project is crocheting tiny hats for NICU babies. Every Monday, we meet at lunch to brainstorm and work on our service projects. It is good to serve others and is fun too. Find some way to serve in your community today!

Art Club After School

By Eleanor Fenelon,
Sixth Grade - Brookfield Academy

Art club is an incomparable place to go to do crafts, to talk with friends, and just to play around. Once the academic school day comes to an end at Brookfield Academy, everyone packs up their things. All the creative artists head towards room 202. The students trickle in and take their seats on paint-splattered stools. Art club isn't what you might expect. Mrs. Barker, the art teacher, doesn't teach us one particular lesson, it's student-led. She just sets us free in her classroom to work with any of the materials we want. The art room is a square room that has artwork all over! It has eight tables with two stools at each.

The most popular activities include modeling clay, painting or drawing, resin activities, and crafting earrings. There is usually Art Club once a month. Normally there are usually three to eight students that come in. Mrs. Barker is marvelous! She's genuinely hilarious and she gives us lollypops, which is the best combination ever! Art club is as pleasing as a slice of pizza. After a long day, take out some clay and get your creativity vibes flowing!

Letters to the Editor

NOTE: Letters (150 words or less) regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space-available basis. Submissions must include the writer's name, community of residence, phone #.

E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Letters to the Editor)
or Mail: EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423.

Concerned about ICE and Immigration?
Want to know what's happening?

Get the latest updates at the SOPHIA Religious Leaders Caucus (RLC) Educational Event, Wednesday, November 12 at 8:30 a.m., on Zoom. Bring your questions for our Speaker, **Dr. Stephanie Mitchell**, professor at Carthage College and a partially accredited representative with the Department of Justice. Bring your ideas for discussion and taking action.

To register, visit: sophiawaukesha.org and select Events in the website header, then click the button to learn more. The registration button is on the page that opens. Register now to receive the Zoom link.

Rev. Marty Coons, Co-Chair of the Religious Leaders Caucus of SOPHIA
Elm Grove, WI



Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving
pilgrim
mayflower
gratitude
yams
family
gobble

pilgrim
indian
november
thankful
grandma
mother
traditions

pumpkin
autumn
stuffing
Massachusetts
grandpa
father
fall

turkey
pie
rolls
Plymoth
uncle
brother
leftovers

dressing
cornucopia
cornbread
squash
aunt
sister
acorns

cranberries
feast
drumstick
wishbone
cousin
carve

Our Good Neighbors

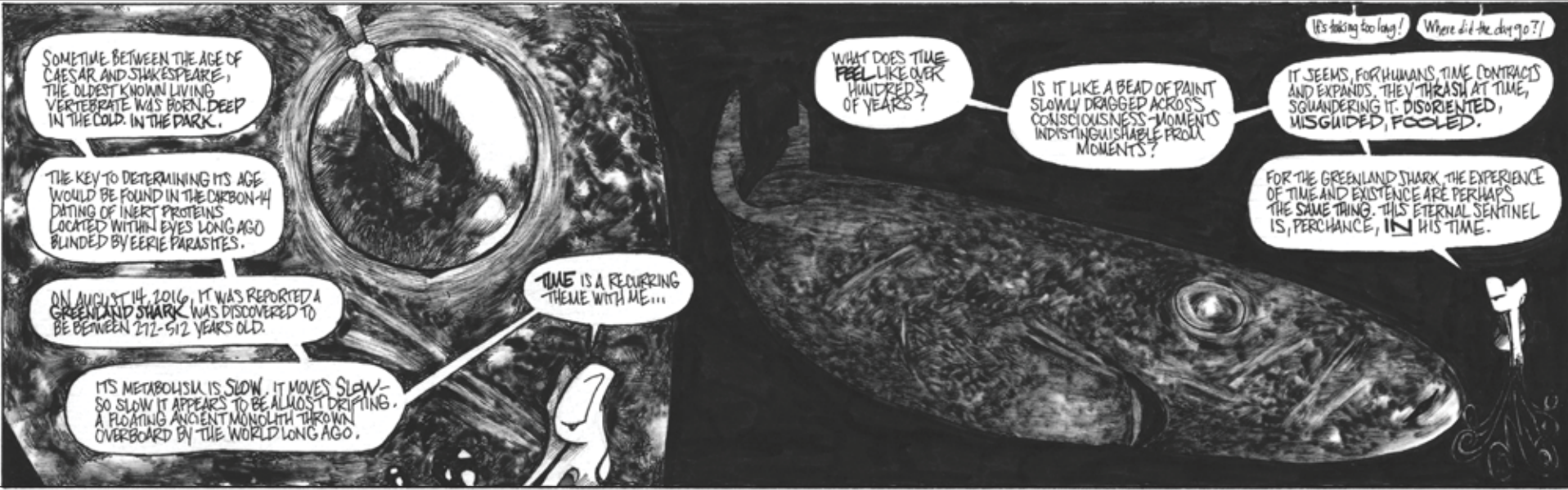
Do you know a community resident who should be recognized in print for their extraordinary kindness, generosity, or service to others?

*Stories & photos for this section (300 words maximum) may be submitted to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Good Neighbors) or mailed to: EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Rd. Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423.



MR. HUGH'S HISTORY

by Drew Sternitzky @mrhughshistory on Instagram



News Briefs



Cindy Lakatos

Cindy Lakatos Selected for 2026 Wisconsin Changemaker Award

(ELM GROVE) - Pilgrim Park Middle School Counselor **Cindy Lakatos** has been named the recipient of the 2026 Wisconsin School Counselor Association (WSCA) Changemaker Award, honoring her exceptional leadership in advancing student access, equity, and success. This statewide recognition celebrates school counselors who make a lasting impact by removing barriers, expanding opportunities, and creating systems that help every student thrive. Lakatos will be formally recognized in November 2025 at WSCA’s Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

The Changemaker Award honors individuals who have led meaningful, systemic improvements to ensure that all students have the support, resources, and encouragement needed to reach their full potential.

PFLAG to Host Author Visit, Discussion

(WAUKESHA) - PFLAG Waukesha will host ‘An Evening with Author Nico Lang’ on November 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Waukesha Public Library’s Program Room A.

Nico will share stories of trans youth resilience from their new book, “American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era”, followed by a guided conversation and an audience Q & A session.

(A similar gathering will be held at All Peoples Gathering Church in Milwaukee on November 4.)

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated at bitly.com/nicolang For more information, email info@pflagwaukesha.org, or call (262) 278-0497.

About PFLAG ---

PFLAG, founded in 1973, is an organization of LGBTQ+ people, parents, families and allies who work together to create an equitable and inclusive world. In Waukesha, people can participate in local support meetings, and find community connections and resources.



Birds to be Topic of Winter Lecture Series

By Birders of The Grove

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee has been sponsoring a Winter Lecture Series since 2020, bringing in 4-6 speakers each year on topics that support their mission. Each year, they have at least one speaker whose area of expertise is birds. In past years they have featured:

- **Charles Hagner**, the Executive Director of Bird City Wisconsin
- **Vickie Piaskowski**, retired director of the international Birds Without Borders
- **Mariette Nowak**, past director of Wehr Nature Center, author of Birdscaping in the Midwest
- **Spence Stenho**, president of the Ben Goss Bird Club, oldest club in the state

This year’s speaker on the topic of birds is **Bob Tamm** from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, who will share his knowledge and expertise on Wednesday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Given the need our feathered friends have for more action and engagement, the Beautification Committee decided to expand this lecture into a Birding Festival. Doors open at 5 p.m. to interact and mingle with multiple local organizations and individuals dedicated to bird conservation. There will even be a bird ambassador named **Luna**, who allows an up close experience with our feathered friends!

There will be a short presentation from **Jenny Bardeen** on the three main aspects of the Lake Michigan Bird Observatory, one of which is our Bird City designation for Wisconsin. Bob Tamm will then share with us all of the lessons learned from bluebird conservation and what we can do to apply these lessons to the remainder of the species.

There will be handouts, giveaways, and door prizes—there is something for all ages. This is an event you do not want to miss so mark your calendar now!

Elm Grove Beautification Committee presents

Birding FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

Prizes / Informational booths /Book signing/Lectures/Bird Ambassador “Luna”

Doors open at 5pm / Free entry
Lectures begins at 6:15pm
Jenny Bardeen--LMBO's Three Pillars
Bob Tamm--History & Success of Bluebird Conservation

Elm Grove Public Library O'Neill Room

This event brings together a diverse community of bird enthusiasts, from passionate ornithologists to casual admirers, all united by their shared love for birds. Through expert presentations, educational information, and engaging activities, this symposium provides a platform for participants to explore the rich tapestry of bird species that call our community home and all of the actions we can take to help them thrive

Waukesha County Land Conservancy
Birders of the Grove
Wisconsin Ornithological Society
Wild Birds Unlimited
Lake Michigan Bird Observatory
Native Roots, LLC
Author Mariette Nowak
Milwaukee Birders
BIPOC Birders
Ben Goss Bird Club

News’ Hounds

& other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Peabody is a soft-spoken sweetheart with movie-star good looks and a sensitive soul. He takes life one cautious step at a time, preferring quiet corners and low-key vibes while he learns to trust the world around him. He may need a little extra patience to settle in, but once he does, you’ll see glimmers of his gentle, lovable personality. Peabody is looking for a peaceful home with kind humans who understand that shy cats have a lot of love to give — they just give it slowly. If you’re calm, patient, and cat-savvy, Peabody could be the hidden gem you’ve been waiting for.

The EBHS is at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield.

Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Peabody

FIRST RESPONDERS

(Continued from Page 1)

Brookfield Fire Department

Fire Chief **Chris Cass**, Assistant Fire Chief **Jeremy Wachtl**, Deputy Chief **Darrin Kuwitzky**, Deputy Chief **Korey Suckow**, Deputy Chief **Blake Klingle**, Lieutenant **Brian Dobratz**, Lieutenant **Matthew Caine**, Lieutenant **Steve Warren**, Acting Lieutenant **Chris Weller**, Equipment Operator **Ben Heintz**, Equipment Operator **Jefferey Knollenberg**, Equipment Operator **John Lathrop**, Firefighter **Shannon Carroll**, Firefighter **Andrew Schmidt**, Firefighter **Kerry Anderson**, Firefighter **Thomas Colloton**, Firefighter **Oliver Schneider**, Firefighter **Joseph Jankowski**, Firefighter **Daniel Karinen**, Firefighter **Riley Fregien**, Firefighter **Benjamin Videkovich**, Firefighter **Noemi Barinaga**, Firefighter **Allen Oehlke**, Firefighter **Zach Pratt**

Brookfield Police Department

Sergeant **Samuel Versnik**, Officer **Kaleb McDonald**, Officer **Thomas Hodkiewicz**, Officer **Donovan Lauda**, Officer **Jason Krueger**, Officer **Kaleb Martin**, Officer **Max Faulstich**, Officer **Andrew Wichlacz**, Officer **Brandon Schulz**

Wauwatosa Fire Department

Captain **Ryan Becker**, Firefighter **Tyler Ignaczak**, Firefighter **Chris Riemer**, Firefighter **Zac Thomas**, Firefighter **Tony Kanvik**, Firefighter **Nic Paoli**, Captain **Rob Reid**, Heavy Equipment Operator **Paul Novak**, Firefighter **Robert Guenther**, Firefighter **Nicole Brewer**, Lieutenant **John Schneider**, Firefighter **Austin Murphy**, Firefighter **Donavon Church**, Firefighter **Brady Wendt**, Lieutenant **Jake Patnode**, Firefighter **Nic Pridgeon**, Firefighter **Rehrauer**, Firefighter **Ben Tejada**, Lieutenant **Bryan Tello**, Firefighter **James Hogan III**, Lieutenant **Fred Ehrett**, Heavy Equipment Operator **Dave Rucinski**, Firefighter **Alec Randow**, Firefighter **Tyler Larsen**, Firefighter **Matt Gilanyi**, Heavy Equipment Operator **Eric Latter**, Firefighter **Allen Fuchs**, Firefighter **Brett Wudtke**, Heavy Equipment Operator **Michael Wirth**,

Firefighter **Bradley Hafemann**, Firefighter **Mike Robertson**, Heavy Equipment Operator **Alex Warmka**, Firefighter **Joe Lueptow**, Lieutenant **Brian Wojciechowski**, Firefighter **Adam Wendt**, Firefighter **Adam Bartelme**, Firefighter **Josh Reichert**, Lieutenant **Henry Wendt VII**, Heavy Equipment Operator **Zac Ruggirello**, Firefighter **Kyle Smith**, Firefighter **Matt Rick**, Firefighter **Shea Abernathy**, Battalion Chief **Chris Sandoval**, Battalion Chief **Jeremy Blair**

Wauwatosa Police Department

Dispatcher **Kyle Meltesen**, Dispatcher **Makela Humke**, Dispatcher **Brianna Potter**, Dispatcher **Scott Burgardt**, Dispatcher **Tia Harris**, Dispatcher **Kerri Jay**, Officer **Zosia Bartosik**, Officer **Colan Eigenbrod**, Officer **Jacob Faber**, Officer **Shaun Foster**, Officer **Collin George**, Officer **Alexander Herrera**, Officer **Teagan Joyce**, Officer **Tyler Pytlik**, Officer **Benjamin Rebholz**, Officer **Patrick Baker**, Officer **Chad Bublitz**, Officer **Travis Machalk**, Officer **Trevor Millonzi**, Officer **Jaime Mohs**, Officer **Evan Olson**, Officer **Wesley Reed-Walton**, Officer **Eli Streeter**, Patrol Specialist **Danial Mitchell**, Sergeant **Thomas Orlowski**, Sergeant **Ryan Schwabenlander**, Sergeant **Jordan Yandre**, Lieutenant **Joseph Zientek**, Lieutenant **Bradley Beckman**, Capt. **Shane Wrucke**, Chief **James MacGillis**



Looking for a welcoming place for the kids on Sunday morning? At Community UMC, children ages 4–12 enjoy Children’s Chapel—a joyful time of stories, crafts, and faith discovery while adults worship together at 9:30 a.m. Nursery care is available for ages 3 and under.

All families and neighbors are welcome!

Community UMC
14700 Watertown Plank Rd
Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122
Call 262-782-4060 or email prayers@cumceg.org with questions!

YOGA Classes
Chair Yoga - Tuesdays 2:30pm – Floor Yoga - Thursdays 9:30am
\$10.00 per Session - Open to the Public - No RSVPs Needed

Find your calm at Community UMC!
Join us for yoga open to all ages and abilities—Chair Yoga on Tuesdays and Floor Yoga on Thursday mornings. Each class offers a gentle way to stretch, relax, and refresh your spirit in a welcoming environment. All are invited—come as you are and find your balance at Community!

COMMUNITY
- UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ELM GROVE, WISCONSIN EST. 1949

14700 Watertown Plank Road - Elm Grove, WI 53122 - 262-782-4060

Sunday Service - 9:30am Every Sunday

WWW.CUMCEG.ORG

A WARM greeting FROM WESLEY & FAITH ...



Wesley loves Children’s Chapel, while his little sister Faith enjoys her time in the nursery!

SERVICE EVERY 9:30am SUNDAY

Don't be crying when the snow starts flying...

Call us today and let us make your day!

- Free Estimate
- Fall Lawn Care
- Winter Snow Plowing and Salting

Fall Clean-Up

- Vacuum leaves
- Clean flower beds
- Clip back perennials
- Fertilization for trees and lawn

Snow Plowing

- Commercial
- Residential
- Salt or calcium chloride
- On time; On call 24/7



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Elm Grove's Best Kept Secret for 30 Years!
Also serving the surrounding communities.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Today we recognize the sacrifices made by veterans of every branch of the United States military dedicated to protecting the freedoms and ideals upon which this country was founded.

We honor their efforts by continuing to teach our students about freedom, liberty, and the courage and conviction required to protect these privileges for generations to come.

God Bless our veterans and all those who serve on active duty around the world. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.



Artwork by a Current Level 2 Student



BROOKFIELD ACADEMY
3462 N. Brookfield Rd. • Brookfield, WI 53045 • 262-783-3200
An Independent College Preparatory School K3 – Grade 12



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