Elm Grove NEWS-INDEPENDENT

FREE

Vol. 17 No. 3 Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities November 2026

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

Community Invited to Complete Online *Public Visioning Workshop*

What should Elm Grove look like 10, 15, or 20 years from now? That's the question at the heart of the Village's Integrated Comprehensive & Downtown Master Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will help guide Elm Grove's long-term decisions about land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and other community priorities. The Downtown Master Plan takes a closer look at the heart of our community, including downtown character, walkability, revitalization, and opportunities to support a vibrant local business district.

In July, the Village Plan Commission hosted an interactive Public Visioning Workshop to begin gathering input on the community's thoughts and ideas for the future of the Village, specifically the downtown. More than 50 residents and business owners attended this event, where planning consultants from Vandewalle & Associates lead them through four activities: Priority Project Tradeoffs, Downtown Experiences, Downtown Vision & Redevelopment Role, and an Interactive Mapping exercise.

If you wish to share your input, the Village has created an online version that can be completed at your own pace. Your input will play an important role in guiding the Village's Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan.

(See ONLINE WORKHOP – Page 2)

VETERANS DAY
November 11th

We Thank
&
Remember
all who serve
our Country,
now
&
in years past.



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+ *All the other News there's room to print!*





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Founder / Owner / Publisher / Editor
Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

News & Advertising
elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
(262) 782-6193

www.elmgrove.news
Click on ARCHIVE to read past issues.

Photographer / Photo Editor
James L. W. Bain

Production & Distribution Assistant
Christos Passalis-Bain

Web Designer / Webmaster
Nicholas Passalis-Bain

Production Artist
Chaz

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

We THANK all of our ADVERTISERS & these
Friends of *The News*
*Nancy Ferguson *Dana Cable *Dale Reich *Nancy Gloe *Leanne Wied
*Elm Grove Kiwanis Club-Golden K *Gen & Justin Daniels-Brown
*Curt & Nancy Waddell *The Lange Family *Bruce & Susan Davidson
*John Kuenzle & Kate Kuenzle *Krista Allenstein *Mary York
*Anonymous Readers
for helping to **Sponsor this edition**.



Photo by Nicci Sternitzky

Community residents gather at Elm Grove Village Park for a tree planting event. The group added 90 trees of sixteen different species—hardy pecan, shagbark hickory, winterberry, swamp white oak, ironwood, hazelnut, black cherry, elm, quaking aspen, paper birch, pagoda dogwood, buttonbush, elderberry, serviceberry, hackberry, and pagoda dogwood.

Bring Back the Canopy, Planting More Trees in the Grove

By The Elm Grove Beautification Committee

The first of four tree and shrub planting events took place on October 24th at the Elm Grove village park. The village public works department and village administration worked closely with SEWRPC and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to develop and finalize an agreement for a total of 478 trees and shrubs over the next 2 years to be planted at our village park. The planting is being coordinated by the Elm Grove Beautification Committee, the tree planting will be done via volunteers, and all are welcome to help.

Elm Grove, like many municipalities, has lost a substantial number of trees over the last decade (3,924 just on public property!) to diseases such as Dutch Elm disease and Emerald Ash borer. With projected future diseases being tracked, it's important our community has a wide diversity of native species planted and thriving within our community. Sadly, the Wisconsin DNR estimated canopy cover for the village of Elm Grove dropped from 58% in 2012 to 46% in 2022.

This project is part of MMSD's Reforestation & Wetland Restoration program (RWR). MMSD works with public and private landowners to plant trees and restore wetlands to decrease flooding and improve water quality to support human and ecological health. The goals of the RWR program include planting 6 million trees and restoring or enhancing 4,000 acres of wetlands within the five watersheds.





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*** $10.00 per issue x ___ issues = $_____**
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A check for a total of $_____ is enclosed.

Village Update

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



As we turn the calendar to November, Elm Grove is once again showing off why fall is such a wonderful time to call our Village home! The leaves have put on their annual show, the Packers have given us plenty to talk about on Monday mornings, and our Public Works crews are preparing for that four-letter word we Wisconsinites know all too well - SNOW!

Before we trade our rakes for snow shovels and settle in for the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many things that make Elm Grove such a special place. From our beautiful neighborhoods and vibrant Village Park to the countless residents, volunteers, and Village employees who contribute to our community, we certainly have much to be thankful for. As Thanksgiving approaches, I encourage everyone to enjoy the season, check in on a neighbor, and take pride in the wonderful community we are fortunate to call home!

2027 Budgeting and Fiscal Management –

On October 22nd, the Village successfully completed a significant debt issuance, selling $16,090,000 in General Obligation (G.O.) Promissory Notes. So, what led to a bond offering of this size? The answer lies in three years of thoughtful financial planning and a deliberate approach to funding capital improvement projects with existing Village resources. By leveraging the Villages cash position, staff was able to plan for a larger debt issuance, spreading the relatively fixed cost of the debt issuance over one offering. Well done team!

As part of this process, the Village received some excellent news! Moody's Ratings reaffirmed the Village's impressive Aa1 credit rating, reflecting our continued commitment to sound financial management. This strong rating helped the Village secure a True Interest Cost (TIC) of 4.27%, coming in below the pre-sale estimate. Ultimately, these results demonstrate the importance of responsible financial stewardship and our ongoing commitment to ensuring the Village's long-term financial sustainability.

Of course, the work of managing the Village's finances never truly stops. Our Finance and Licensing Committee is hard at work addressing an approximately $300,000 funding gap in the proposed 2027 Village Operating Budget. Each year, the Committee approaches this process with a fresh perspective, carefully balancing the Village's operational needs, long-term priorities, and the financial impact on our residents. It is no small task, and one that requires thoughtful discussion, collaboration, and occasionally some difficult decisions.

A sincere thank-you to our Finance and Licensing Committee members and Village staff for their continued dedication, diligence, and commitment to keeping Elm Grove on solid financial footing. Their efforts behind the scenes play an important role in maintaining the exceptional community we are all proud to call home!

Police Department Command Staff Transitions -

After nearly 30 years of dedicated service in law enforcement, including the past three-plus years serving as Elm Grove's Chief of Police, **Jason Hennen** has announced his retirement, effective January 8, 2027.

Throughout his tenure with the Village, Chief Hennen has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public safety, professionalism, and the well-being of both our residents and the men and women who serve within the Elm Grove Police Department.

On behalf of the Village Board, Village staff, and the entire Elm Grove community, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Chief Hennen for his years of service, dedication, and leadership. While we will certainly miss his presence at Village Hall, we are grateful for the lasting contributions he has made to our organization and community! Many thanks to Chief Hennon and his Family for his dedicated serve and the sacrifices made by his family over the years. Happy retirement Jason!

I am equally excited to share some wonderful news about the next chapter of leadership within our Elm Grove Police Department.

Following a recent meeting of the Village's Police and Fire Commission, I am pleased to announce the following conditional leadership appointments:

***Assistant Chief Unger – Chief of Police**
***Lieutenant Riley – Assistant Chief of Police**
***Sergeant Douglas – Police Lieutenant**

These appointments will become effective upon Chief Hennen's retirement and the resulting vacancies in early January 2027.

Each of these individuals brings valuable experience, institutional knowledge, and a demonstrated commitment to the Village of Elm Grove. Their appointments also reflect the thoughtful succession planning that has taken place over the past several years, helping ensure continuity in leadership, organizational stability, and the exceptional level of public safety services our residents have come to expect. The ability to promote from within highlights the exceptional officers serving our community. Take the time to thank these fine men and woman for their service. Please join me in congratulating our incoming Chief of Police, Assistant Chief, and Lieutenant on these well-earned appointments!

Underwood Creek Daylighting Update –

After years of planning, engineering, and navigating a few unexpected hurdles, we're excited to share some encouraging news regarding the Underwood Creek Daylighting Project.

As of writing this update, the Village is working to finalize the terms of a settlement agreement with Soo Line Railroad, which would resolve the ongoing litigation and allow this long-anticipated project to move forward. While there are still a few final details to work through, we are optimistic that construction will begin before the end of 2026.

This transformative project will restore a portion of Underwood Creek to a more natural, open-waterway environment, providing environmental, stormwater management, and aesthetic benefits to our community.

After a long journey, we're looking forward to finally getting some shovels in the ground! Stay tuned for additional updates as we approach this exciting milestone.

November 3rd – General Election –

For those who may have missed the opportunity to vote in-person absentee, the polls will open on November 3rd! All Elm Grove residents vote at Village Hall in the lower level. Our building is ADA compliant. Don't forget to bring your photo ID with you! Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Election Day.

Fire and EMS Departments Study –

The Village is working with Innovative Public Advisors on a comprehensive study of our Fire and EMS Departments. This important initiative will take a close look at our current operations, staffing, service delivery, and long-term sustainability, helping us identify opportunities to strengthen these essential community services.

Our goal is simple: ensure Elm Grove continues to provide exceptional Fire and EMS services today, tomorrow, and well into the future. This effort is about thoughtful planning, collaboration, and making informed decisions that support our dedicated emergency responders and the residents they serve. Stay tuned as we continue this important work.

Fall Back & Stay Alert! –

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1st, as Daylight Saving Time comes to an end. While we all appreciate that extra hour of sleep, the time change also means darker evening commutes. With more residents out enjoying Elm Grove's beautiful pedestrian pathways, we encourage motorists to slow down, stay alert, and be especially mindful of pedestrians and bicyclists during the evening hours. Pedestrians, remember to wear bright or reflective clothing to help motorists see you. A little extra caution goes a long way in keeping Elm Grove safe for everyone!

Public Works Update –

If you've noticed a smoother ride around the Village lately, you're not imagining things. We're excited to announce the successful completion of Elm Grove's 2027 Road Repaving Program. These improvements represent another important investment in maintaining our Village's infrastructure, improving roadway conditions, and keeping Elm Grove looking its best. A special thank-you also goes to our dedicated Public Works team and construction partners for helping bring these improvements across the finish line.

As we head into November, there's certainly plenty to be thankful for. From exciting infrastructure improvements and new leadership to the countless individuals who help make our Village such a special place, we have much to celebrate. With the holiday season just around the corner, I encourage everyone to slow down, enjoy time with family and friends, support our wonderful local businesses, and take a moment to appreciate the community we're so fortunate to call home.

On behalf of the Village Board and our dedicated Village staff, I wish you and your families a safe, happy, and memorable Thanksgiving! See you around the Village!

Business Directory

*** Insurance**

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

Classifieds

Directories & Classifieds

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



Village Volunteers

By Jim Koleski, President – Village of Elm Grove / jkoleski@elmgrovewi.org

Public Safety Committee

As Elm Grove prioritizes the health, safety, and general welfare of its residents, municipal operations rely heavily on structured oversight to ensure public resources and emergency services adapt to changing community needs. While the Police and Fire Commission focuses on executive appointments, hiring eligibility, and personnel matters, the Public Safety Committee serves as the primary policy-making, legislative advisory, and strategic body for the Village's safety infrastructure.

Established under Chapter 7, Article I of the Village Code, the Public Safety Committee works closely with the Police Department to provide proactive oversight and policy recommendations to the Village Board. Composed of Village Trustees and appointed residents, the committee acts as an essential bridge between public safety operations, Village administration, and community residents.

The Public Safety Committee members include: **Kristina Sayas,** Chair
Tom Castile, Shawn Hillmann
Mike Danielson, Margaret Thew
John Oliveri, Barbara Decker

Essential Responsibilities Under Village Ordinance Under Article I of Chapter 7 of the Village Code, the Public Safety Committee is tasked with a broad range of policy and operational review functions:

****Policy Recommendation and Legislative Oversight***: The Committee reviews, drafts, and recommends municipal ordinances, traffic regulations, parking restrictions, and local public safety policies before they are brought to the full Village Board for consideration.

****Traffic and Community Safety Evaluation***: The body routinely evaluates resident petitions regarding neighborhood traffic calming, speed limits, crosswalk safety, sign placement, and pedestrian infrastructure.

Some recent agenda items the Public Safety Committee have taken-up for discussion and action include:

*Discussion on bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters signage, education, and enforcement.

*Consideration of potential traffic controls and crosswalks on Highland Dr and Juneau Blvd.

*Consideration for a crossing guard on Watertown Plank Rd at Crescent Dr.

Balancing technical traffic analysis and neighborhood safety concerns requires significant dedication, thoughtful deliberation, and personal time from the committee's volunteers. On behalf of the Village Board, staff, and residents of Elm Grove, I extend a heartfelt thanks to the members of the Public Safety Committee for their dedicated service.

Report from The District

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

From the District to the Capitol

After thousands of conversations with neighbors across our community, one thing has become clear to me: Wisconsin families need help.

As I knock on doors and talk with people about their lives, I hear the same concerns over and over again. Families are struggling with the rising cost of healthcare. Parents want their children to have access to excellent public schools. And people are frustrated that too often, their elected leaders in Madison seem more interested in helping powerful corporations than in making life more affordable for the people they represent.

These aren't partisan talking points. They're real concerns from our neighbors, friends, and families. And they deserve real solutions.

When I talk with families about healthcare, I hear how difficult it has become to manage premiums, prescription drug costs, and unexpected medical bills. No one should have to choose between getting the care they need and paying the mortgage. No parent should lie awake worrying about how they'll afford a child's medication or whether an unexpected diagnosis will put their family's finances at risk.

We need to do more to lower healthcare costs, protect access to quality care, and make sure Wisconsin families aren't left on their own to navigate an increasingly expensive system. Healthcare should be about keeping people healthy, not maximizing profits for corporations.

I also hear from parents, teachers, and community members who want Wisconsin to invest in its public schools. They know that strong schools are the foundation of strong communities. They want their children to have the resources, support, and opportunities they need to succeed, regardless of their zip code.

Our schools need reliable funding so educators can do their jobs, students can get the attention they deserve, and local communities aren't forced to shoulder an unfair share of the burden. Investing in public education isn't just an investment in our children. It's an investment in Wisconsin's future.

And beneath these conversations is a broader frustration: people want a state government that works for them.

Wisconsinites work hard. They pay their taxes, raise their families, care for their neighbors, and contribute to their communities. They expect their elected officials to do the same—to listen, solve problems, and put the public interest first.

Instead, too many people see a legislature that gives special treatment to powerful corporate interests while working families struggle to keep up. They want to know why their costs keep rising while corporations have so much influence over the decisions made in Madison. They want accountability, fairness, and leaders who remember who sent them there.

I hear those voices, and I take them seriously. I believe that the government should work for the people who make Wisconsin a great place to live, work, and



raise a family—not just those with the biggest checkbooks or the most powerful lobbyists. We can build a government that listens to people and delivers results for them.

What I'm hearing from neighbors is clear: healthcare, public schools, and childcare are taking up a lot of space at the kitchen table. Parents are worried about finding mental healthcare for their kids. Families are struggling to afford childcare. And people paying for health insurance are still fighting to get the care they need. Every conversation at the door is a reminder of what's at stake. Behind every concern about health care costs is a family trying to make ends meet. Behind every call for stronger schools is a parent hoping for a brighter future for their child. Behind every expression of frustration is someone who still believes their government can make a difference.

Those conversations will guide my work in the next legislative session. My priorities include expanding Medicaid, passing a Badgercare Public Option, strengthening public school funding, and making childcare and mental health services more accessible and affordable.

That also means taking on the insurance barriers that delay care. Prior authorization reform is one of the top priorities I hear from healthcare professionals, including physical therapists. They want to spend their time caring for patients, and patients shouldn't have to fight their insurance company to get the care their doctor recommends. This will be a priority for me in the next legislative session.

These are the concerns you're bringing to me, and they deserve action. Please keep sharing your experiences with my office. Because Wisconsin's future shouldn't be decided by the most powerful interests in the room. It should be shaped by the people who call this state home.

Forward *together,*
Robyn Vining
State Representative 13th Assembly District

Note about the Rule of 49
Beginning June 1st and through the November election, state legislators are prohibited from sending more than 49 identical items, so this means that we may not use state resources for items like op-eds, e-updates, newspaper columns that are printed more than 50 times, etc. So, this column and any columns written between now and November will be written without the use of state resources.



ADVERTISE!

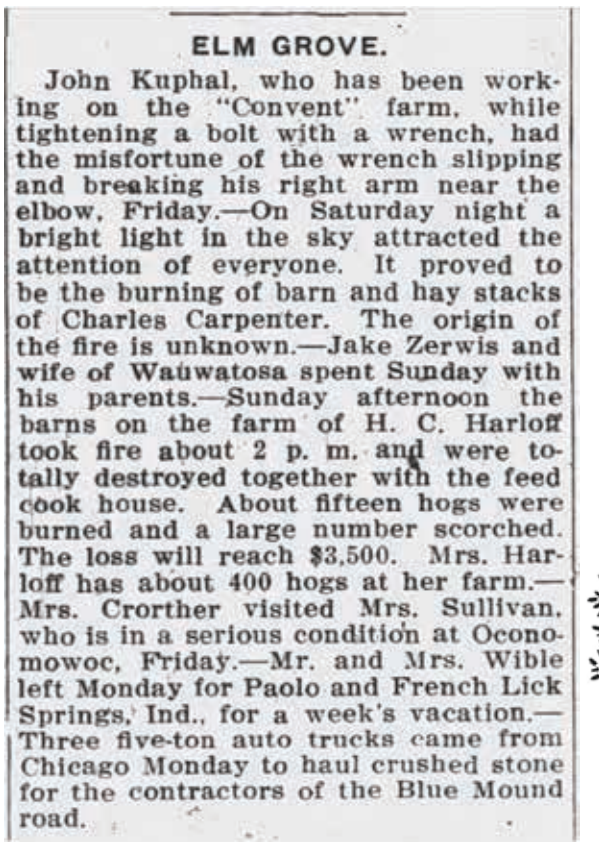
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Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



ELM GROVE.

John Kuphal, who has been working on the "Convent" farm, while tightening a bolt with a wrench, had the misfortune of the wrench slipping and breaking his right arm near the elbow, Friday.—On Saturday night a bright light in the sky attracted the attention of everyone. It proved to be the burning of barn and hay stacks of Charles Carpenter. The origin of the fire is unknown.—Jake Zerwis and wife of Wauwatosa spent Sunday with his parents.—Sunday afternoon the barns on the farm of H. C. Harloff took fire about 2 p. m. and were totally destroyed together with the feed cook house. About fifteen hogs were burned and a large number scorched. The loss will reach $3,500. Mrs. Harloff has about 400 hogs at her farm.—Mrs. Crorther visited Mrs. Sullivan, who is in a serious condition at Oconomowoc, Friday.—Mr. and Mrs. Wible left Monday for Paolo and French Lick Springs, Ind., for a week's vacation.—Three five-ton auto trucks came from Chicago Monday to haul crushed stone for the contractors of the Blue Mound road.

The Elm Grove news story (at left) was published on August 24, 1916 in *The Waukesha Freeman* newspaper.



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

===== OPEN =====
***NOVEMBER 2026**
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: Thursday, November 26)

***NOTE: The facility is for Village residents only; no contractors, contractor equipment, or contractor vehicles are permitted. Please bring your driver's license showing your current Elm Grove address.**

Contact Village Hall at (262) 782-6700 for more information / questions.

ELM GROVE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Est. 1999

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Thank you, Annie Bolger and Jeremy Doering!

On behalf of the Elm Grove Community Foundation Board, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Annie Bolger and Jeremy Doering for their years of dedicated service. Annie served as corresponding secretary and led our 0.5K Fun Run efforts and volunteer recruitment. Jeremy secured and managed Oktoberfest food truck vendors and has generously supported the event as a sponsor for many years. Their leadership, time, and generosity have made a lasting difference in our organization and community. We are grateful for all they have contributed!

Our Annual Appeal Letter

Our annual appeal letter will arrive in November, and we hope you'll take a few moments to read it and consider a gift to the Elm Grove Community Foundation. While Oktoberfest is our largest fundraiser, three days of rain this year dampened attendance and reduced revenues compared with last year. Every dollar we raise goes back into the community to support projects and programs that enhance life in Elm Grove. Your generosity helps us continue making our village an even better place to live, work, and play. Thank you for your support!

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - 3rd Weekend in September

Calendar of Events – NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday – NOVEMBER 1
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
Turn clocks back 1 hour

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

Tuesday – NOVEMBER 3
ELECTION DAY
Vote from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Friday – NOVEMBER 6
- **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove –** Foundation Meeting – 8:30 a.m.; Board Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center, kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

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Saturday – NOVEMBER 7
Happy Birthday
Doug Pommerening!!!

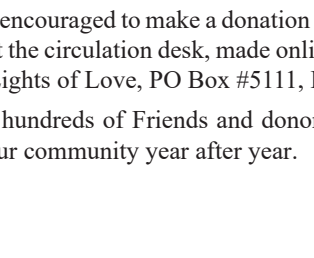


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Sunday - NOVEMBER 8
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force -** Meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautifcation@elmgrovewi.org

Monday – NOVEMBER 9
- **"Bareback Riders & Educated Elephants" lecture** - 7 p.m. at the Brookfield Public Library**,** presented by Peter Shrake, archivist at Circus World Museum, Baraboo, WI – FREE & open to the public. Sponsored by Elmbrook Historical Society. (See Page 7.)

Wednesday – NOVEMBER 11
VETERANS DAY

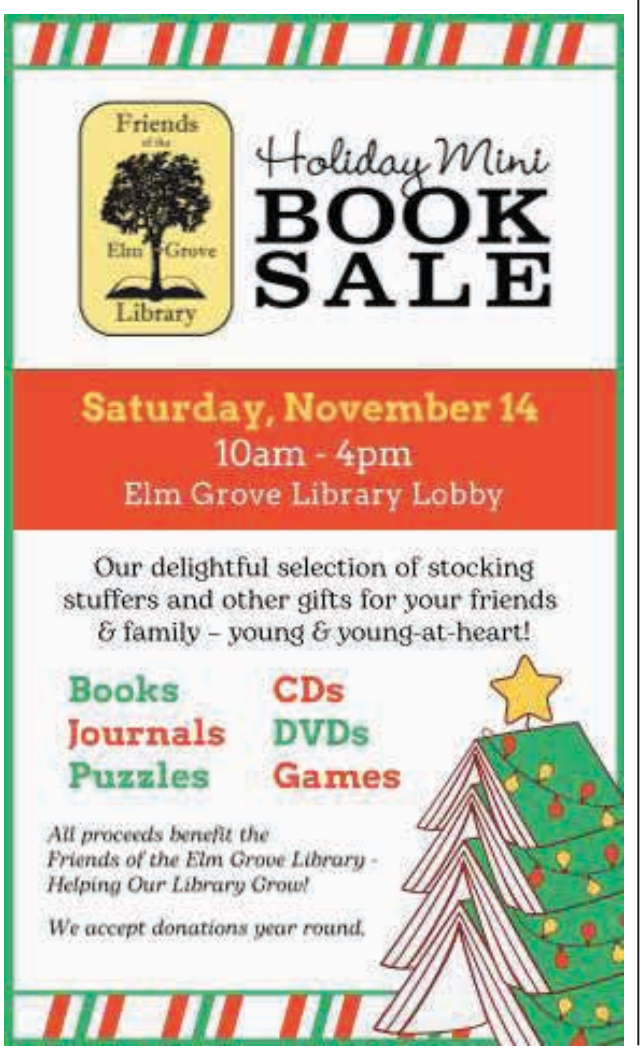


Friday – NOVEMBER 13
- **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove -** Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center. Speaker: **Frances Thomas**, Waukesha County Health Dept. Guests welcome. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – NOVEMBER 15
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force -** Meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautifcation@elmgrovewi.org

Thursday – NOVEMBER 19
***Friends of the Elm Grove Library** Meeting: 9 a.m. at Village Hall – Parkview Room.

- **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove** Meeting – 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center. Speakers: **James Fee and Chris Lewis**, SMV Scouting programs. Guests welcome. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com



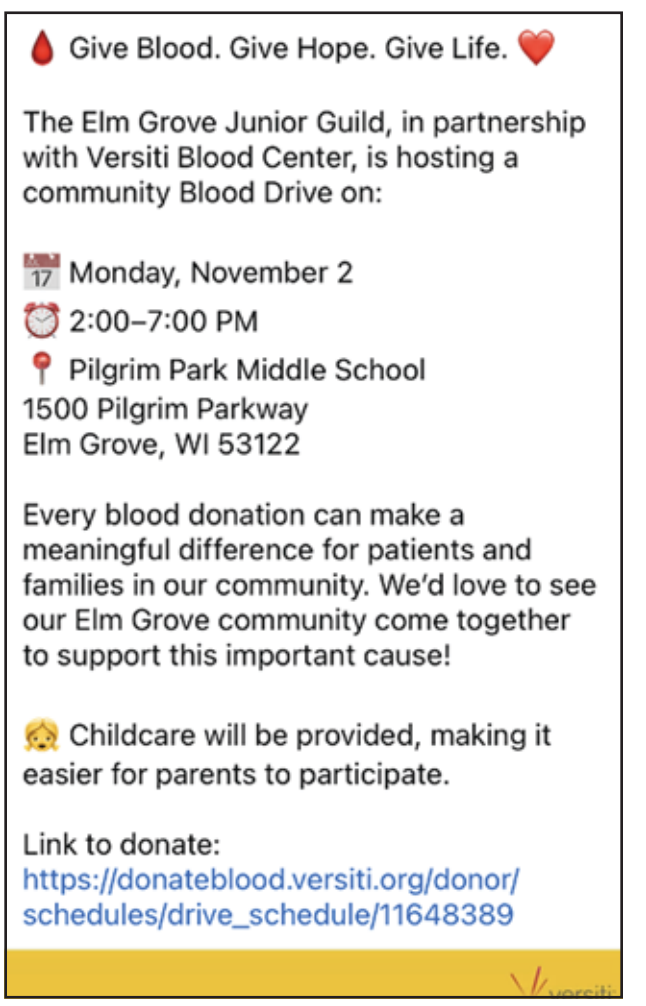
Sunday – NOVEMBER 22
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** Meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautifcation@elmgrovewi.org

Tuesday – NOVEMBER 24
- **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

Thursday – NOVEMBER 26
THANKSGIVING



Sunday – NOVEMBER 29
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force -** Meets at 11 a.m. at Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautifcation@elmgrovewi.org



Coming Next Month…
Lights of Love: A Treasured Elm Grove Tradition



Each December, Elm Grove shines a little brighter as families, friends, and neighbors gather at Village Hall to celebrate *Lights of Love* - the community's beloved holiday tree lighting and annual fundraiser for the Elm Grove Public Library. Now in its 32nd year, *Lights of Love*, presented by Friends of the Elm Grove Library (FOEGL), is a treasured holiday tradition and the perfect way to kick off the festive season. This year's celebration will take place on Sunday, December 6th.

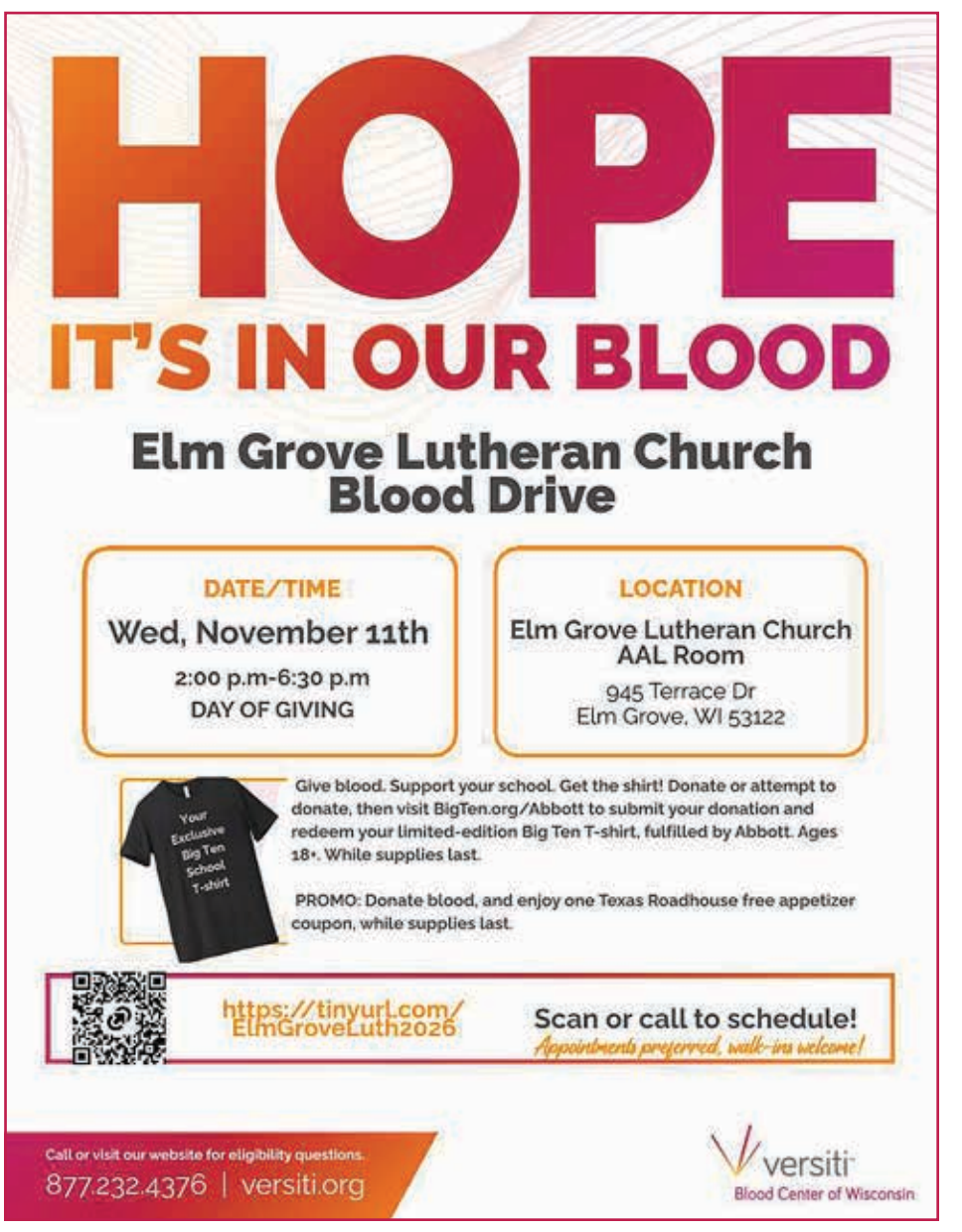
The afternoon will begin at 3:30 p.m. with children's activities in the library, including a chance to visit with Santa, listen to stories read by Mrs. Claus, and craft a holiday keepsake. At 4:00 p.m., guests will be treated to an award-winning magic show by **Glen Gerard** in the O'Neill Room.

Following the performance, everyone is invited outdoors to enjoy caroling as anticipation builds for the lighting of the village tree. One lucky young library patron will be chosen to Flip the Switch and officially illuminate the tree. (**Details on how to enter the drawing to Flip the Switch will be available at library checkout beginning November 1st.)** After the lighting, guests are welcomed back inside for cake and refreshments, continuing the celebration among neighbors and friends.

Beyond its festive charm, *Lights of Love* serves a vital purpose: raising funds and awareness for the Elm Grove Public Library. Over the years, contributions from this campaign have supported the library in countless ways - from purchasing new collections and online databases to providing educational technology, furnishings, and experience passes that benefit patrons of all ages.

Residents and supporters are encouraged to make a donation to the *Lights of Love* campaign. Donations can be dropped off at the circulation desk, made online at friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org/lightsoflove, or mailed to Lights of Love, PO Box #5111, Elm Grove, WI 53122.

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of Friends and donors, *Lights of Love* continues to brighten both our library and our community year after year.



News Briefs

More Than Just a Pretty Place

The Revitalization of Veterans Park

By The Elm Grove Beautification Committee

The history of the land at the southwest corner of Juneau Blvd. and Legion Drive is storied and vital to our community and ecosystem. The 1.81-acre space, created as part of our community's flood management plan, is called Veterans Park as it sits on the prior site of American Legion Post 449, which was damaged beyond repair in the August 1998 flooding. It serves as a bioretention basin for overflow from Underwood Creek.



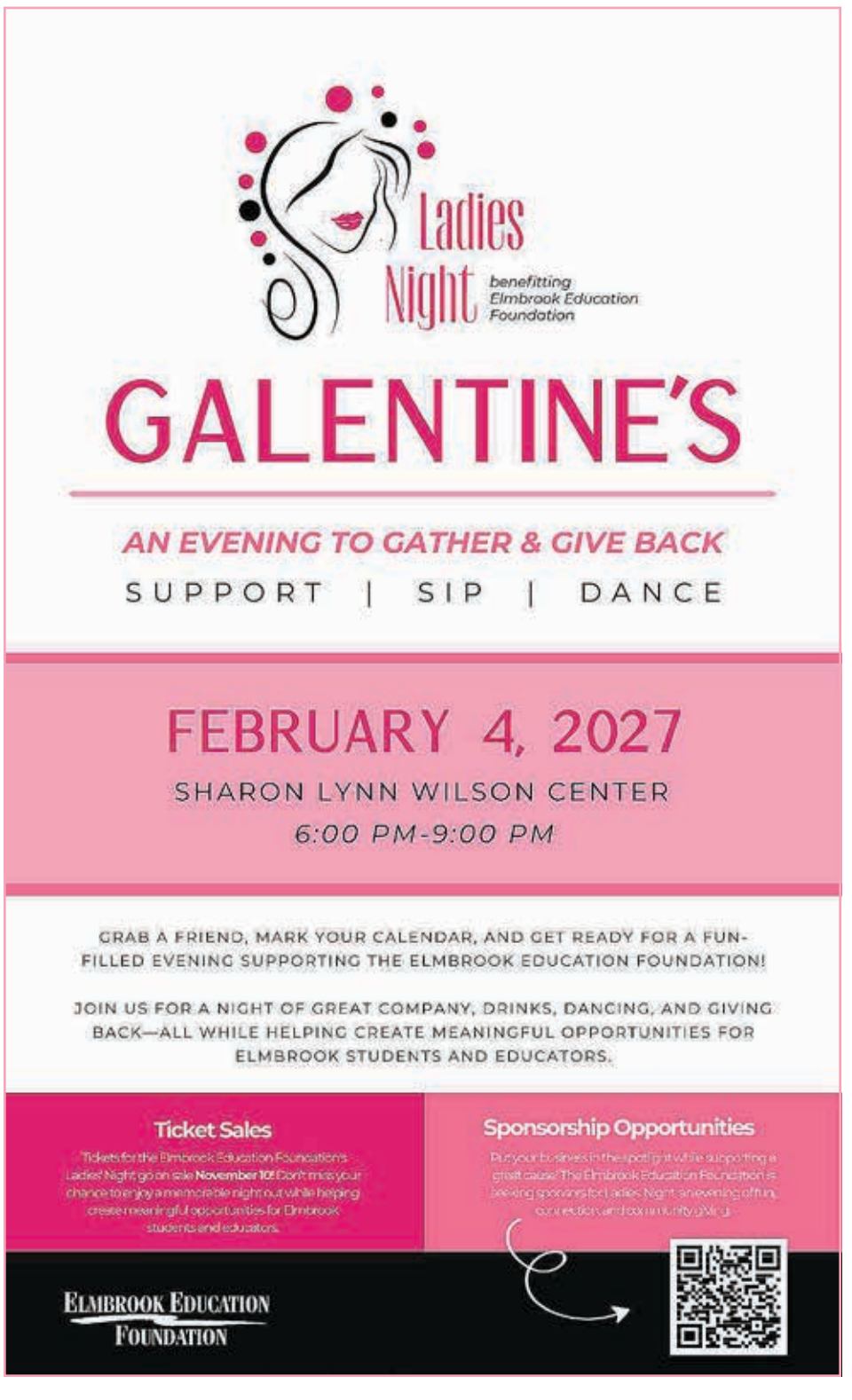
Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / *The News-Independent*

The Blue Star Memorial at Veterans Park, the former site of American Legion Post 449.

The basin was initially seeded over 20 years ago, with additional plantings and informational kiosks added about a decade later. Most recently, the Beautification Committee started work on removal of invasive species that had populated the area in 2021. Then, in 2023 the Junior Guild provided a grant to get a comprehensive restoration plan from a professional.

Fast forward to January 2025, with donations and fundraising, volunteers were able to seed the basin with 7.8 pounds and 43 varieties of native species seeds suited to the site that had been locally collected. Moving forward, Native Roots, an ecological landscape design and land management company has been performing monthly site visits and consultations, along with targeted herbicide application of difficult to treat species that are present.

If you'd like to learn more about this project, please visit the village website, www.elmgrovewi.org and search "Veterans Park Revitalization Project". There you will find the comprehensive management plan, along with the monthly consultation reports. If you are interested in lending your expertise, opinion, or time to seeing this project succeed, please reach out to the Beautification Committee at Beautification@elmgrovewi.org.



Elm Grove Birding Festival

By Jennifer Morris

I would like to introduce you to one of my neighbors… This gorgeous great horned mama owl flew over my head and landed on the tree branch and gave me a very clear message: she had eyes on her fledgling and eyes on me. The spring of 2025 was filled with quiet observations of the growing owl family. As spring turned into summer, the three fledged owls weren't so quiet as they noisily demanded attention and food from their parents. Living in Elm Grove provides so many opportunities to observe nature in our backyards and in our public spaces.



Photo by Jennifer Morris

A Great Horned Owl sits on a tree branch.

As you probably know, Elm Grove is a wonderful place to live and has the official distinction of being a nationally-certified Tree City USA, Bird City Wisconsin (High-Flyer Status), Bee City USA, National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat (the only one in the state of Wisconsin!), and is a member of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle. But did you know that each of these distinct titles is awarded on the hard work of our community to meet annual recertification based on the education and continual improvement of the Elm Grove community to support the success of a healthy habitat for citizens and all of the nature that lives with us?

Please join us for a celebration of birds and the opportunity to learn and explore our feathered friends. The second annual Birding Festival will feature the **Schlitz Audubon "Beaks and Talons" program that begins at 1 pm**. The program features real birds of prey ambassadors and is an experience that you will thoroughly enjoy! Birders of the Grove is sponsoring the "Beaks and Talons Program" using funds raised during the annual Great Wisconsin Birdathon.

Starting at noon, you will be able to visit representatives of a variety of organizations that support birds, native plants, and birdwatching groups and learn more about local resources available in our community. Some of the organizations will be offering raffle items. The author **Mariette Nowak** will be present for conversations and questions and her new book "Birdscaping for Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region: The Best 50 Plants to Attract Birds to your Midwestern Garden" will be available for purchase and author signing. Some of the information booths include: Birders of the Grove, Wisconsin Ornithological Society, Lake Michigan Bird Observatory, Milwaukee Birders, BIPOC Birders, Ben Goss Bird Club, Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society, and the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center.

The Birding Festival is free to attend, but registration is limited, so don't forget to register today: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2003246042840?aff=oddtdtcreator or scan the QR code on flyer --- Page 8.

If you have any questions or need assistance registering for the event, please contact: Jennifer at ffjenmorris@gmail.com

Green is Good!

Smarter Salting, Cleaner Water: Elm Grove Joins the Effort

By The Elm Grove Green Team

Elm Grove has joined an innovative regional effort to make winter roads safer—with less salt. Two in-ground pavement sensors will give the Village real-time road condition data with readings from the road surface to a 12-inch depth. The data will help Public Works make smart salting decisions, reduce winter maintenance costs and keep excess salt out of our waterways.



Image courtesy: Vaisala xWeather Horizon

"The Department of Public Works has been cutting back on chloride use since 2014, using data to precisely match salt application to storm conditions while prioritizing mechanical plowing," said Elm Grove Director of Public Works **Richard Paul**. "New sensors will provide a real-time temperature dashboard. This replaces manual pavement readings with a faster, more accurate system. As the network expands west of Elm Grove, we also expect to gain advanced forecasting tools."

Road salt contains chloride, which doesn't break down naturally. It washes into our ponds, rivers, lakes, and groundwater, building up indefinitely. High chloride levels harm and can kill aquatic life and can affect drinking-water quality—making more precise salt use critical in protecting our water.

The Sweet Water Horizon Network, a partnership between the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. (Sweet Water), Salt Savvy Solutions and Vaisala xWeather Horizon, is helping southeastern Wisconsin communities share pavement-sensor data for localized forecasts and smarter decisions about when, where and how much salt to apply.

"We're taking a collaborative, regional approach to smarter salting using cutting-edge technology," said **Erin Povak**, Watershed Program Director at Sweet Water. "It enables smaller communities to participate in big efforts that can be difficult to pursue alone. Elm Grove consistently shows that community size doesn't determine leadership when it comes to protecting water quality."

News Briefs



(Back row, Left to right) **Erica Cartledge, Kellie Van Rixel, Heather Miller, Molly John, Julie Wasielewski, Jess Evans, Erin Brodzeller**; (Front row, L-R) **Shannon Sedlacek, Sonja Kania, Kathleen Evans, Missy Tocco, Apallonia Wilhelm, Shann Soiney**

Elmbrook Education Foundation's 6th Annual Boos & Ghouls Night Out Raises $45,000+

(BROOKFIELD) - The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) celebrated the success of its 6th Annual Boos & Ghouls Night Out on Thursday, October 8, welcoming nearly 400 guests and more than 75 volunteers to The Corners of Brookfield. The event raised more than $45,000 to support staff appreciation initiatives benefiting educators throughout the Elmbrook School District.

Presented by Soerens Ford and held in partnership with The Corners of Brookfield, Discover Brookfield, Spring City Wine House and AVA Distributors, the popular community event offered attendees an evening of food, wine and Halloween fun. Guests explored 20 participating locations throughout The Corners, sampling 37 different wines paired with food offerings. Many attendees embraced the festive spirit by arriving in costume. The event's success reflects the generosity and dedication of the local businesses, sponsors, volunteers and community members who came together to celebrate and support Elmbrook educators.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of so many in our community," said **Beth Dobrzynski**, Executive Director of the Elmbrook Education Foundation. "Whether you were a sponsor, a participating Corners location, a volunteer or an attendee, you helped make the night special. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this an amazing evening!"

Proceeds from the event will support EEF's staff appreciation activities, including sponsorship of the Engaged in Excellence Awards, Most Influential Educator banquets and Thank You Thursday, Right Around the Corners initiative. These programs recognize, celebrate and show appreciation for the educators and staff members who make a difference in the lives of Elmbrook students.



A selection of books and other materials displayed at the 2025 Book Sale.

Holiday Book Sale at Elm Grove Public Library

By Janet Wintersburger

As the seasons shift from summer's warmth to fall's crisp air, the season of giving is just around the corner. Get an early start on holiday shopping at the Library during Holiday in the Grove on Saturday, November 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m..

A carefully curated selection of gently used donations will be available just beyond the Library's entrance in Village Hall.

Shoppers will find pristine, giftable journals, games, puzzles, and books chosen to inspire readers and gift recipients of all ages.

The sale will be joyfully staffed by Friends of Elm Grove Public Library (FOEGL) volunteers. All proceeds benefit the Elm Grove Public Library, located at 13600 Juneau Blvd. *FOEGL is the 501(c)(3) fundraising group for the library.*

ELMBROOK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Wisconsin's Amazing Circus Heritage
"Bareback Riders & Educated Elephants"
MONDAY, November 9, 7pm
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY Community Room
1900 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield, WI
Sponsored by the Elmbrook Historical Society
http://www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org
talk by Peter Shrake, archivist at Circus World Museum, Baraboo, WI

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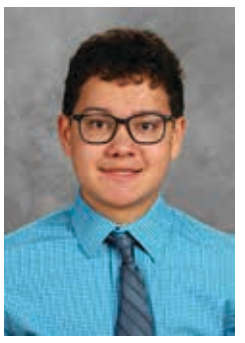
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News Briefs



Brookfield Academy Scholars Named

Four Brookfield Academy seniors, (shown at left) **Amina Khazi-Syed, Everett Koss, Ritisha Mathur,** and **Celia Muller**, have been named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program.



Matthew Wang (at left) was named a National Merit Semifinalist. He will advance to the next stage of consideration for a National Merit Scholarship.



Library News and Programs
November 2026

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

First Friday Films: The Sheep Detectives / Friday, November 6, 1:00 p.m.



A matinee film series for adults. On the first Friday of every month, a new release movie is screened in the O'Neill Room at 1:00 p.m. Popcorn and water provided. Movie ratings and contents vary. Not all movies will be suitable for all audiences. Free admission, no RSVP needed. November's movie is *The Sheep Detectives.*

Film Description: Every night a shepherd reads aloud a murder mystery, pretending his sheep can understand. When he is found dead, the sheep realize at once that it was a murder and think they know everything about how to go about solving it. PG. 1h49m.

Plant-Based Eating: The What's, Why's, and How's / Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 p.m.

Plant-based health coach and physical therapist Michele Stamn shares the what, why, and how of plant-based eating in a practical, encouraging way. Through inspiring client success stories, current nutrition information, and simple, actionable tips, you'll discover how this way of eating can improve your health while still being doable, delicious, and fun. Whether you're simply curious or ready to give plant-based eating a try, this presentation is for you! Free to attend. No registration required.



Cup of Health: Self-Care / Tuesday, November 17, 1:30 p.m.



Self-care is a necessary and unselfish tool for maintaining good health and well-being. This unit will educate individuals on the steps they can take for balanced physical, mental, and spiritual health needs amidst everyday responsibilities.

The session will cover:
- Symptoms of burnout and imbalance
- What is self-care?
- Health benefits of self-care
- Self-awareness activities
- Practical tips for physical, mental, and spiritual health

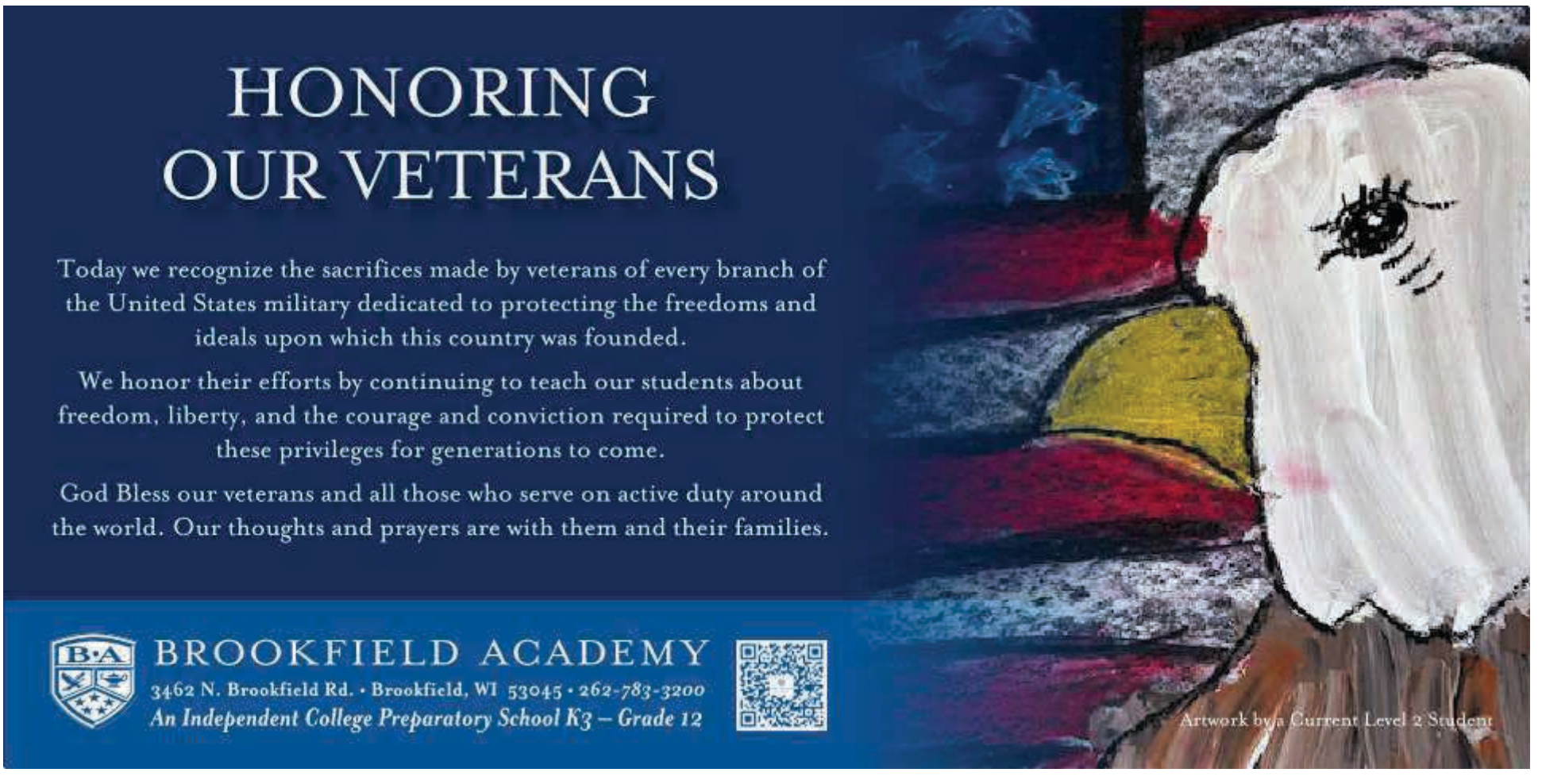
Maximise Your Medicare Benefits! / Wednesday, November 18, 1:30 p.m.



Learn more about your Medicare options! This presentation will cover Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D, supplemental insurance, the upcoming annual open enrollment period (October 15–December 7).

You'll also learn about programs that may help people with limited income pay for Medicare costs and prescription drug coverage, including Medicare Savings Plans and Extra Help.
The better informed you are, the better decisions you can make! Registration is not required but is appreciated.





Young Writers & Reporters

Thanksgiving
By Eleanor Habich, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Every Thanksgiving I go to my Grandma and Grandpa's house. Every time we go, we have a big lunch there. We have turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and other stuff. We also watch a game. We usually try to play a game with a pole and we try to put the balls in the hole. It is fun! I love Thanksgiving.

Run!
By Eloise Holmes, 3rd Grade, Tonawanda

Run, run turkey RUN!
Before Farmer Ben can get you.
Happy Thanksgiving!

My Second Piano Recital
By Nora Daul, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

It was my second piano recital. I saw people coming in. It was booming loud inside! Finally, it was my turn. I was scared that I was going to mess up the notes. I did a GULP! Then I played my song on the piano. Suddenly, everyone clapped for me! I was so proud when I got off stage. My Grandma gave me flowers. They were pretty pink. I loved them! I was so happy! I got home thinking what song I would do next.

Weather Report
By Louis Fuchs, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Hi my name is **Louis Fuchs**. I will be predicting the weather by the look of the weather right now. I predict it will be snowing by November 28th. This is Louis Fuchs signing off.

We Honor
By Zoey Lopez, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

We honor those who passed.
We honor the people who serve us
and those who did.
It's a day to honor the military.
We honor them on Veterans Day.

The Day I Almost Got Run Over
By Logan Vang, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

I was 2 years old and we were at the mall. I was mad because I didn't get the toy I wanted at the store. My mom and dad were not paying attention. Then they saw me running down the mall toward the door. I had tears running down my face. I almost got run over by a truck. Luckily, I was safe.

Swimming in Puerto Rico
By Elias Rivera, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

One evening I splashed in the pool while I was playing with my family. We were swimming at night at the hotel in Puerto Rico. The sky was dark. We played Marco Polo in the pool. We also played underwater tag. It was fun.

Dress to Impress
By James Remington, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

I was on my way to BFF's up north for the first time. I was so excited to see them but I was not there yet. In the morning the lake was so peaceful. Maggie and Lane are my BFF's. We got out our iPad's for later in the day. Meanwhile, we went tubing. Later that day around 10:00, we got on our iPad's. We were so excited! We started hoping that our Wifi was not out. IT WAS! So, we started thinking... BOOM! We had an idea and we hoped it would work. Ok, it is time to tell you the idea. We asked our parents for the Wifi password. It took awhile, but it finally worked. We were on the update for Dress to Impress! It's a great update. Now I can't wait for the next update!



Master Sergeant Edward Miclavic of the U.S. Air Force
By Peter Tsitiridis, L6 Brookfield Academy

Edward Miclavic is a Master Sargent in the U.S. Air Force and one of the remaining twelve Pearl Harbor Survivors and also survived the Battle of Iwo Jima. Edward lives in the Brookfield / Elm Grove area and is one of the fittest residents, by running miles in the early morning.

Miklavcic was just twenty years old when he was drafted into the U.S. Air Force the same day he signed up at 10:00 in the morning. Miklavcic went to Pearl Harbor with other people from Wisconsin and Illinois, some even from his high school. Many people that he knew tragically died when the first bomb was dropped on Pearl Harbor but the remaining survivors walked through the chaos to get to Wheeler Field. Miklavcic himself said, "And in all those dying days, the bodies of the Marines were piled up. . . " Then, Miklavcic was assigned to the Philippines, which was later canceled to go to Iwo Jima. Ed and his team prepared landing crafts there. That night the Japanese did a sneak attack while the crew was sleeping. After the terrible war, Ed went to many places including Seattle, San Francisco, and Honolulu.

Today Edward is 106 years old, and is still active. Miklavcic has been congratulated by the U.S. President, himself along with many other people. *Thank You* Edward, for your service and devotion!



Untitled
By Hebela Ayalew
Grade 8 - Brookfield Academy

I look out of my window
A bird
Stares at me
It's knowing eyes are watching
No, the bird must already know me
It eyes
Have opened my mind, my heart
Filling my tongues with words
I'd once only dreamed of
Inspiration is river that flows
where there once was drought
The bird's sweet melody
I have often thought
That I'd be the one to decide
But it was the bird
Who wanted me to write

How Tiger Got Stripes
By Evie Roffler,
Level 6 – Brookfield Academy

Everyday jungle animals avoid Tiger. Frigid rivers rush through the massive jungle, and trees tower over animals like skyscrapers. Colors speckle creatures' fur in different patterns, except Tiger. He has perfect orange fur, fierce, dark, eyes, and a harsh scowl imprinted on his mouth. His long, bushy tail slaps the ground as he strides.

"I'm so beautiful!" boasts Tiger, as he trots past other animals. "I can't imagine having ugly spots like you." That night, Monkey holds a meeting. "I'm sick of Tiger bullying us." Monkey exclaims. "We need a plan!" Monkey spots sticks scattered on the ground. "What if we mark him up when he's asleep, so he can't boast about his beauty?"

As midnight approaches, Monkey starts a glowing fire. "Hold a stick over the fire until it turns to ash," instructs Monkey. When ready, they find Tiger snoring in tangled brush. "GO," whispers Monkey. With ash, they draw black stripes on Tiger's skin.

Suddenly, Tiger awakes. "What did you do?" he screams, looking at his hideous stripes. "Now you can't brag about your beautiful coat!" celebrates Monkey. Today, Tigers have stripes because of one boastful jungle animal.

Dreams
By Menna Ayalew, L6 Brookfield Academy

The sparkle of stars,
Wonderful in the best way.
I thought this wouldn't be the last,
But I was wrong.
Dreams.
They rarely come true.
It would take a miracle,
A wish on a shooting star.
Dreams.
A silly thought.
But yet I wonder,
If they are their path.
And though as
Estranged they
May appear,
I wonder how to
Hold on to
The wonder of
Dreaming

Magnificent Maggi
By Anahat Randhawa
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

On a bright Sunday morning, my mom carefully cracks apart a 2 by 2-inch packet of the maggi noodles and puts it in the midnight black, nonstick pan. The colorful spices are satisfyingly mixed with the lukewarm water and sizzle as if warm buttered toast has been burnt to a crisp. As it is slowly being poured onto my snow-white pasta plate, the steam rises like a helium balloon calling for freedom while the yellow, skinny noodles look the same as tangled vines, twisting in my plate. I study the silver, intricate fork in my hand as I eagerly await it arriving at my mouth along with a bunch of yummy noodles.

The plate slowly heats up as it is being poured with the fresh and juicy noodles. As the smell of the spices fills my nostrils, my fork finally arrives at my taste buds. Lumpy noodles flow into my drooling mouth. My smooth pasta plate slowly empties as I steadily devour the masterpiece of a homemade dish.

My fork heads toward my impatient mouth awaiting a wonderland of deliciousness. Now, nothing could make me happier than getting a spicy, bumpy delight of yummy noodles landing in my mouth. My teeth cut into the mass of squishiness as I try to muffle a, "thank you," to my amazing mother with a warm smile. In reply, she sneakily takes a bite of the masterpiece. I take a sip of my iced water, and my mom drinks her coffee.

Insects
By Ellie Multerer, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

You may think insects are useless but they are not! For example, I know bees really help us. Bees make honey by collecting pollen. You might say bees sting but they only do that if you harm them. I know spiders are not insects but they make silk. People can look at it and say what a good idea! Spiders make their webs by spinning spinnerets. If you go outside you can see bugs. Look around, they are amazing!

I Did It!
By Parker Bulgrin, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

One morning I ran outside to get my bike. I started to ride it but I was the only person outside. I rode it around my neighborhood. My controlling was so good! I explained this is so fun! I rode it to my neighbors' house! I was so thrilled so I screamed! But I felt sad because my parents were inside and didn't see me. I went inside hoping I could do this again!

The Soccer Game
By Evelyn Weber, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Long ago, it was a warm, sunny day in spring and I was kicking the ball quickly. I was playing a soccer game. We were up by two. We had eight players on the team. A little later, I got a hat trick. It was loud outside. Everyone threw their hats on the field. Twenty minutes later, I tripped and fell and scraped my knee on a twig, so it was red and bloody. Also, I got a bruise on my arm. But I still can't wait for my game next week, I exclaimed in my head. At the end of the day, I wouldn't let the blood get the best of me!

The Boy of the Silver Moon
By Emily Spindler
Brookfield Academy - Level 6

A young boy named Leo wandered away from his family's campsite. He was only five years old, but the woods did not frighten him. While searching for stones, he met a wolf with eyes like gold. Instead of growling, the wolf, whom Leo named Luna, nudged him toward her den.

Years passed, and Leo became a master of the wild. He learned to run on all fours and hunt for berries. Luna was his mother, teacher, and best friend. They often sat together howling at the moon, Leo burying his face in her fur while Luna's tail thumped against the earth.

One winter, heavy snow fell and the air turned bitter cold. Luna was old, her breath coming in shallow, ragged puffs. She led Leo to a dry, warm cave and curled up beside him. That night, under the moon, Luna took her final breath.

Leo held her until sunrise. Heartbroken but resilient, he remembered everything she taught him: bravery, listening, and survival. He built a stone mound to honor her. Afterwards, hikers found Leo. Though he returned to civilization, he never forgot the wolf who raised him, dedicating his life to protecting the forest.

Thanksgiving
By Gloria McFadden, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

My name is **Gloria McFadden** and I will be telling you about Thanksgiving last year. We drove to Ohio where my Grandma and Grandpa live. The drive is 8 hours. It felt SOO SOO long! I was so bored for the whole time. We finally got there and I went straight to bed. I woke up on Thanksgiving morning and I was so happy! Later, I helped set up for dinner. My family ate dinner and then we had dessert. I got ice cream. I was running downstairs and I tripped and the ice cream spilled and my face was covered with ice cream. It was a fun Thanksgiving!



When the Sink Exploded at Sunday School
By Elena Carbonell, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

It was a sunny Sunday morning at Sunday school in the spring. Ms. Donna was talking about adding details to our clay stars that we were making. Some kids were whispering to each other. We were on the third floor of our church. Suddenly, without warning the sink started cracking and water came gushing out from the cabinets above. The sink started overflowing too. Everybody was surprised! The sink was exploding in the room next to ours too, so the other teacher rushed into our room to call the janitor. Immediately, after that, all of us were rushed out of the room. Everybody was talking about it. Twenty minutes later, my grandma came to pick me up. I felt thrilled because something really exciting finally happened at Sunday School!

A Riddle
By David Parteka-Quigley
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

I have marble halls as white as silk and in my fountain, I hold my one true treasure. In my castle there are no doors or windows but people break in to steal my gold all the time! What am I? (*Answer: an egg*)

Letters to the Editor

Letters (100 words maximum from an individual -- OR -- 150 words maximum from 2 or more 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 --- OR --- Mail to: EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423

Vote Yes on Elmbrook Referendum

Our community has long taken pride in the School District of Elmbrook's excellence, and the November 3rd referendum is a chance to protect that legacy. After years of careful planning and consistent fiscal responsibility, the district has identified essential repairs and updates that simply cannot wait. The timing of the referendum, aligned with the retirement of old debt, means that we can make a lot of school improvements with a very small tax increase. Supporting this referendum is a practical, responsible choice. It keeps our facilities strong, protects property values, and ensures Elmbrook remains one of Wisconsin's top-performing districts. The return on investment for our schools is a no-brainer. Most importantly, it reflects our commitment to giving every student a safe, modern place to learn.

I'm voting **yes** because strong schools strengthen our entire community. I hope you will join me.

Katie Rasoul, Brookfield, WI

Students Deserve Safe, Accessible Schools

As a retired educator, Brookfield resident and grandparent of several Elmbrook students, I am writing in support of the referendum for Elmbrook School District. I urge everyone to vote YES on this referendum. We can proudly proclaim the best public school district in Wisconsin and voting YES on the referendum will bring much needed updates to our aging buildings. Students deserve a school that is accessible while providing a safe learning environment for all.

Deanna Evans, Brookfield, WI

Invest in Our Elmbrook Schools

I've lived in Brookfield for 15 years, and this fall my youngest started full-time school. Watching my kids step on the bus, lunchboxes in tow, I felt how much I trust this community with them.

This year, ***nearly $400 million is deducted from Wisconsin public school aid to help pay private school tuition***. Elmbrook can't wait for Madison to fix that. We retain our students and teachers by investing in our schools ourselves. My taxes will go up if this referendum passes, and I'm glad to pay it. Join me. Vote Yes for the Elmbrook Facility Referendum on November 3.

Laura Swenson, Brookfield, WI

Tonawanda Needs Upgrades, Renovations

Like many families, we moved here almost a decade ago for the schools (and treelined neighborhoods!) Our children have thrived in Elmbrook schools, but we were astonished to find our son spending his 3rd grade year in a windowless single door classroom as the staff scrambled to find space in an overcrowded school. It is obvious Tonawanda needs major safety upgrades and renovations.

We are extremely grateful to the families who came before us who supported Elmbrook schools. Now is our chance to pay it back for the benefit of future families. Vote YES Nov. 3 for Elmbrook schools!

Pedro and Molly Salinas, Elm Grove, WI

To the Voters in Assembly District 13

I am pleased to share my personal support for Mike Morgan in his campaign for the Wisconsin State Assembly. During his service as a Wauwatosa alderman, I have been impressed by the leadership he has demonstrated and his thoughtful approach to public service. One of the qualities I particularly value is his willingness to listen. Mike takes the time to hear differing opinions and perspectives before reaching conclusions. I also appreciate his strong focus on fiscal responsibility. As someone who believes government has an obligation to be a careful steward of taxpayer dollars, this is particularly important to me. Effective public service requires leadership, fiscal discipline, thoughtful decision-making, and a willingness to listen to the people you represent. These are qualities I have seen in Mike and are the reasons I personally support his candidacy for the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Cheryl Milnes



Old(er) Writers

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

Thanksgiving
By Gary Kerslake

What a wonderful holiday
in the greatest country in the world.
Perhaps we should celebrate every day
as if we were always unfurled.



Wisconsin Nice
By Dean B. Kaner

Never fly Peter Pan Airways,
because they Neverland.

My dog sits in the shade, because he doesn't
want to be a hot dog.

In the news today, the Energizer Bunny was
charged with battery.

ADVERTISE!

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Call: 262-782-6193

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.

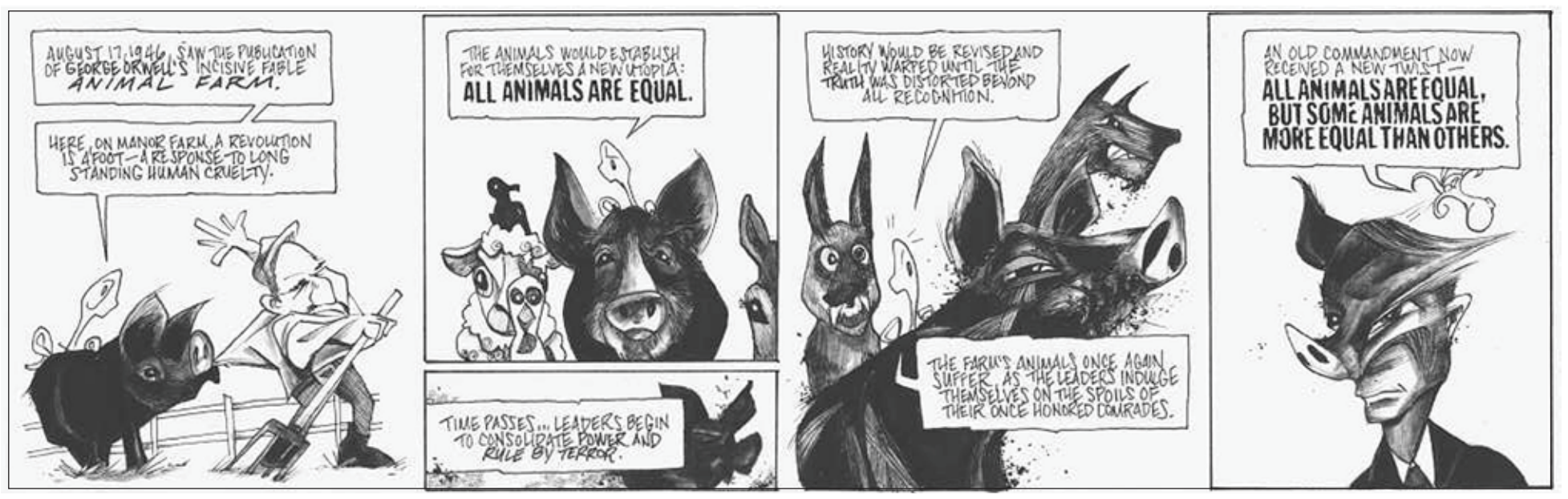


Officer **Thomas Budziszewski** (at left) poses with Police Chief **Jason Hennen**

New Officer Joins Police Department

The Elm Grove Police Department welcomed **Officer Thomas Budziszewski**, who was officially sworn on October 14. Officer Budziszewski brings nearly 25 years of law enforcement experience to Elm Grove. He began his career with the Chicago Police Department and retired earlier this year after nearly 25 years of service. His experience, training, and commitment to community policing will be a valuable addition to our department as we continue serving and protecting the residents, businesses, and visitors of Elm Grove.

MR. HUGH'S HISTORY by Drew Sternitzky @mrhughshistory on Instagram



News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Debrah Vander Heiden

Scouts plant a pollinator garden at the Elm Grove Woman's Club.

Eagle Scout Project = Small Garden, Big Impact

(ELM GROVE) A new pollinator garden in the village may be small, but its environmental and community impacts are significant. You may have noticed it while driving past the Elm Grove Woman's Club, 13885 Watertown Plank Road.



Katherine Mayhew

The garden was installed on August 15th by **Katherine Mayhew,** a Brookfield East High School senior, and her Scout Troop 156 team as her Eagle Scout project. Under the guidance of project director and Elm Grove Woman's Club member **Debrah Vander Heiden**, Katherine researched and selected native plants suited to the garden area. Her selections also aligned with the master plan for the club's landscape, designed by Danielle Bell of Native Roots. All invasive species were removed as part of the project. Katherine submitted her paperwork for sign off and approval on September 3.

In addition to attracting pollinators, the garden offers additional significant community benefits.

- Through collaboration with the Elm Grove Beautification Committee, the garden at the Elm Grove Woman's Club site qualifies as a project under the Mayor's Monarch Pledge through removal of invasive species, planting native species and adding a water source.
- The new pollinator garden enables the Elm Grove Woman's Club to certify the site as a native certified landscape, joining 121 other properties in the Village. Elm Grove is still the only community in the state that has earned certification.
- By providing food, shelter and water for migrating and nesting birds, our Village can maintain its Bird City High Flyer Status.



Feeling Grateful

Word Search

What are YOU thankful for on Thanksgiving Day and all the other days of the year? Here are a few ideas to get you started.

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

ANIMALS
BED
BIRTHDAY
BOOKS
CARS
CHALLENGES
DAD
EARTH
FAMILY
FLOWERS
GRANDPARENTS
HEALTH
HEARING
HEART
HOME
ICE CREAM
JOKES
LAUGHTER
LUNGS
MOM
MOON
MUSIC
NATURE
OXYGEN
POPCORN
RAIN
READING
SCHOOL
SHOES
SIGHT
SMELL
STARS
SUNSHINE
TASTE
TEACHER
TOUCH
VACATION

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Rendering courtesy: Brookfield Academy

MAJOR BUILDING PROJECT ANNOUNCED. Brookfield Academy has launched a $12 million capital campaign to build a Venue for Arts & Academics (shown above), as well as a robotics lab, science lab, and several classrooms at our Upper School (high school). As part of the project, Liberty Hall will be renovated to serve the needs of the youngest students, those in Pre-K-Kindergarten. Liberty Hall currently houses the Lower School (grades 3-5). Lower School students will be moving to Constitution Hall to join grade 1-2 students. A new gym and classrooms will be added to serve all students in grades 1-5. Art and Music space in Independence Hall will also be updated to meet the needs of students in grades 1-5.

In Memoriam

Honor the Life of a beloved family member or friend.

To place an Obituary Notice in this newspaper,
e-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
or call: (262) 782-6193
for Rate information.

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Gather in gratitude. Celebrate in hope.

COMMUNITY UMC

ELM GROVE



Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 26

Appetizers at noon • Dinner at 1 p.m.

All are welcome!

Nowhere to go? Feeling lonely? Family out of town? Or simply looking for a friendly face? There's a place for you at our table.

RSVPs required



CREATIVE ADVENTS

Free intergenerational art nights

All evenings at 6 p.m.

All materials provided

Open to all ages • Open to the public

RSVP required

- Monday, December 7 • Prayer Bowls
- Monday, December 14 • Angel Lanterns
- Monday, December 21 • Mosaic Stars



Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 3 • 6 p.m.

A reflective, meditative service offering a sacred, safe space for those facing grief, loss, loneliness, depression, or illness. When the holidays feel difficult, come as you are and find room to reflect, grieve, and simply be.



Polar Express Night

Saturday, December 12 • 6 p.m.

Families are welcome!

A free night of movie, hot chocolate, treats, crafts, and more.

RSVPs encouraged



Cookie Walk and More

Cookies, Craft, and Card Sale

Saturday, December 12 • Doors open at 9 a.m.

Come early—sells out within an hour each year!



Share the Joy

MDO Gives Back Pajama Drive

November 1–24

Northcott Toy Drive

December 7–13

14700 Watertown Plank Road • Elm Grove

262-782-4060

www.cumceg.org

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- STRONG HOME VALUES

LOOK FOR THE QUESTION ON THE **BACK** OF YOUR BALLOT

INVEST IN OUR FUTURE NOVEMBER 3RD

Paid for by Yes for Elmbrook

learn more at www.yesforelmbrook.org