



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 16 No. 2

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

October 2025

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

Underwood Creek Daylighting Project Delayed Due to Legal Issue Filed by Railroad

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain
elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Progress on the project to daylight Underwood Creek in downtown Elm Grove for the purpose of enhancing floodwater flow and storage, an effort restarted in 2021, has met with yet another obstacle.

A complaint, filed in Federal Court by the Canadian Pacific - Soo Line Railroad, claims that the Village of Elm Grove does not have the right to acquire the needed 2.3 acres of previously abandoned land.

(To read more about the status of this and other local issues, see VILLAGE UPDATE – Page 3)



Photo courtesy: Village of Elm Grove

PATHWAY PROJECT UPDATE

As of the last week of September, the new village pathway (shown above) along Gremoor Drive at the intersection of Arrowhead Court, although nearly completed, still needs the addition of landscaping. Until that is installed, all residents are urged to avoid travelling there for safety reasons. Several bright orange construction drums and other hindrances have been placed nearby to discourage use.

A newer pathway along Highland Drive from North Ave to Gebhardt Road is now in place, and a future pedestrian path along Highland Drive, extending from Gebhardt Road to Watertown Plank Road, is presently in the design phase.



Photo by James L. W. Bain / The News-Independent

A beautiful, tree-lined street in Elm Grove.

Autumn's *True Colors* Shining Through...



==== **INSIDE** =====

PAGE 2: I Know Where You Live!
Our Good Neighbors

PAGE 3: Village Update
Business & Club Directories

PAGE 4: Our History

PAGE 5: Calendar of Events

PAGE 6: Report from The Capitol
Green is Good!

PAGE 7: Public Safety Reports

PAGE 8: Elm Grove Library Programs
News' Hounds

PAGE 9: Young Writers & Reporters
Old(er) Writers

PAGE 10: Letters to the Editor
Coloring for Kids of ALL ages
Word Search
Mr. Hugh's History

PAGE 11: Local Sports

PAGE 12: Friends of *The News* sponsors
Friends of *The News* form

(+ All the NEWS there's room to print.)



Halloween Trick-or-Treating in Elm Grove

Saturday, October 25th
5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

*Pick up glow sticks
at the Police Department.

*****ECRWSS*****
Postal Customer
Elm Grove, WI 53122

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Elm Grove, WI
Permit No. 30

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Elisabeth
Passalis-Bain



The News-Independent is mailed by the first of each month to every residence & business in Elm Grove.

- Copies are also available for pick up at numerous locations, including:
- Elm Grove Public Library
 - Brookfield Public Library
 - Elm Grove Post Office
 - Sendik's / Ace hardware
 - The Chocolate Factory
 - Sunset Playhouse / Fazio's

Profile: Ella Walker

Managing Director – Sunset Playhouse



***Job duties:** My role is to oversee and manage all of Sunset Playhouse operations including marketing, finances, grants and sponsorships, development, and strategic planning. I work closely with the Board of Directors and the Artistic Director, **Nancy Visintainer-Armstrong**. My role is centered around sustaining and growing Sunset Playhouse and its reach and impact on the community. I love being able to lead a theatre organization that is centered around its volunteers and truly cares about serving the community.

***Education:** I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance (Acting) and a minor in English from Carthage College and a Master of Science in Leadership for Creative Enterprises from Northwestern University.

***Previous employment:** Previous to Sunset I was working in the arts in a variety of fulfilling roles, including Social Media & Communications Director with Amdur Productions, Marketing Director with BoHo Theatre, Theatre Faculty Fellow at Carthage College, and Performing Arts Manager with Elmhurst Children's Theatre. I am also a freelance director, choreographer, and teaching artist in youth and adult theatre. I am especially passionate about new play development and educational theatre.

***What influenced your interest in your current profession?** I have been in theatre ever since I was a child. I grew up performing and eventually decided to go to college to become an actor. Soon into my college education I found that I also greatly enjoyed directing, producing, and teaching. I also grew increasingly interested in how theatres were run. After jumping headfirst into a career in the arts with marketing roles alongside continuing to be in creative roles like choreographing and directing, I continued to want to learn more about how theatres could be sustainably managed and grown and actually thrive. As I began to see troubling changes in the industry landscape beginning with the emergence of Covid and theaters subsequently closing, I realized that I desired to be part of the next generation of theatre that could help keep theatre alive in our society. In order to achieve this dream, I decided to get my master's degree with the goal of becoming an Executive Director of a theater... and now here I am!

***Past and present communities of residence:** I grew up in Cary, Illinois and attended an excellent public high school that prioritized the arts (Cary-Grove High School). From there I completed my undergraduate degree at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I absolutely loved attending Carthage's theatre school and have nothing but fond memories of my educational experience there. After graduating, I lived and worked in downtown Chicago up until returning to Wisconsin to take this job.

***Family:** My husband, **Brian** and I now live in Wauwatosa after moving here from Chicago for my job at Sunset. Fun fact: Brian is in the process of writing his first book after stepping away from investment banking.

***Special interests / hobbies:** Aside from attending and creating theatre, I am an avid reader, nature enthusiast, and crafter. My husband and I love to go on walks and hikes, go camping, and travel. My favorite place I've been to is Oxford, although that may be tied with Maui, Hawaii!

***Message to readers:** Theater is important not just because it provides entertainment and catharsis - both of which are certainly important parts of live arts. But theater is also how we grow in empathy, make lifelong friends, learn more about ourselves, and invest in our community's success. One of my favorite quotes by my favorite playwright, Sarah Ruhl, is, "The theater is one of the few places left in the bright and noisy world where we sit in the quiet dark together, to be awake". There is a place for everyone at the Sunset Playhouse and we cannot wait to meet you!

Our Good Neighbors

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

=== Pat Westen ===

Elm Grove resident Pat Westen embodies the concept of community. Not only is she one of the most kind, gentle, thoughtful people you will encounter, but she endlessly and quietly gives so much to making our community better. She has been volunteering at the Milwaukee County Zoo for years, is an active member of the Elm Grove Citizen Police Academy, and donates many hours volunteering for the Sunset Playhouse.

To top it all off, she puts volunteers half her age to shame each week with the Elm Grove Beautification Committee's Invasive Species Task Force with her chopping, pulling, hauling, and stacking capabilities. We routinely have to remind her to stop working! During a recent Milwaukee Riverkeeper® Clean Up of Dousman Ditch, she went the extra mile pulling out an additional 12 pounds of bulky trash — and then built a carrying contraption out of invasive bindweed and buckthorn to transport it all back to her house on foot!

She has even been known to run over to the west side of Pilgrim Parkway and rescue monarch eggs and caterpillars and raise them when the municipality is mowing so they aren't killed before given the chance to become butterflies. There is likely so, so much more that Pat does, but she does it quietly and without the need for acknowledgement.

The world is a much better place because of Pat Westen--everyone needs to know and emulate her generosity of spirit.

----- A Grateful Neighbor



OWLS

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Thursday, November 20, 2025

Our speaker will be professor
Stephen K. Hauser,
historian & educator

Program: "Milwaukee in the 1950s"

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Holiday Luncheon
at Western Racquet Club
Program: "Musical Memories"
Dan Krill, Guitarist

*Watch the website for details
or sign up for our newsletter

Community United Methodist Church
14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove
Details: www.cumceg.org/owl
(262) 782-4060

NEWS ITEMS
(attached as Word documents)

+

PHOTOS
(attached as jpgs)

may be submitted
for consideration
to:

elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Decorative graphic of autumn leaves in red and orange.

Village Update

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

October has arrived, and with it come all the sights, sounds, and tastes of the season—brilliant fall colors, crisp mornings, pumpkins on porches, and maybe even a scarecrow or two keeping watch.

Of course, it’s also the month when our streets fill with little ghosts, superheroes, and witches on Trick-or-Treat, so be sure to keep an eye out!

This month’s column is your chance to catch up on Village news while enjoying all things autumn. Think of it as a bag of treats - updates on local projects, a reminder about upcoming community events, and a friendly note or two to keep things running smoothly here in Elm Grove.

So, pour yourself some hot cider, enjoy the glow of the season, and let’s take a quick stroll through what’s new in our Village this October.

Pedestrian Pathway Construction Update

This year, the Village undertook construction of three new pathway segments:

- **Underwood River Parkway**, from San Fernando Drive to Hollyhock Lane;
- **Gremoor Drive**, from Legion Drive to Fairhaven Boulevard; and
- **Juneau Boulevard**, from Legion Drive to Crescent Drive.

The only remaining segment still under construction is Juneau Boulevard, which is expected to be completed by mid-October. I would like to recognize KL Engineering for their excellent work in overseeing construction, as well as the general contractor, Buteyn-Peterson Construction, for their efficient and effective approach to this project.

Looking ahead, KL Engineering is now designing the future **Highland Drive pedestrian pathway**, which will extend from Gebhardt Road to Watertown Plank Road.

Highland Drive Pedestrian Pathway Crossing at CP Railroad

After months of effort coordinating reviews and approvals from CP Rail, construction on the pedestrian pathway crossing is tentatively scheduled to resume starting on October 20th with an estimated completion date of November 5th (weather permitting).

FEMA Grants Disaster Assistance

On September 12th, President Trump announced that \$29.8 million in federal disaster assistance was approved for the state of Wisconsin to support residents and business owners impacted by the August 9th historic flood event. Please note: if you previously submitted a damage assessment form to the Village, you **must still submit an application directly to FEMA** in order to be considered for assistance. The Village’s forms were used solely to collect local damage data and strengthen the County and State’s request for federal support.

More information on how to apply for assistance can be accessed on the homepage of the Village website: www.elmgrovewi.org or by applying directly at www.disasterassistance.gov



Leaf Collection Resumes

The leaves are turning, and our lawns are quickly filling up with Mother Nature’s confetti. While the colors are beautiful, we all know what comes next—leaf collection! Please do not rake leaves into your culvert or ditch, as it blocks the storm water drainage and causes issues for both residents and the street.

What to do with all these leaves?

Residents can take their leaves to the Village Recycle Center for drop-off, or you may bag your leafs in biodegradable yard waste bags for pick-up by John’s Disposal. For pick-up by John’s Disposal: Purchase specially marked stickers with the Johns Disposal name from Village Hall or the Police Department and place the sticker on your biodegradable yard waste bag. Place the bags at road edge on the same day as your regularly scheduled refuse collection.

Underwood Creek Daylighting Project Update

The Canadian Pacific, Soo Line Railroad has filed a complaint in Federal Court, asserting that the Village does not have the right to acquire 2.3 acres of abandoned railroad land for the Underwood Creek Daylighting flood mitigation project. This unexpected legal challenge requires the Village to defend its position in court while continuing to move forward with other elements of the project until the matter is resolved.

Although this development is unfortunate, it is one of the many challenges that will ultimately make the completion of this important project an even greater accomplishment to celebrate.

Building Board Position Opening

Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? Do you have experience in architecture, planning, or design? If so, the Building Board wants to hear from you!

The Building Board serves as the Village’s architectural review committee, helping to ensure that the aesthetic character and quality of our community are preserved. If this opportunity sounds like a good fit, we invite you to apply by visiting the Village website or contacting Village Hall for more information.

In Closing:

As the leaves fall, I want to thank each of you for the role you play in making Elm Grove such a vibrant and welcoming community. Whether you’re joining neighbors at a fall event, lending a hand to keep our Village looking its best, or simply waving hello on an evening walk, your everyday contributions are what make this place feel like home.

Wishing you a safe and festive Halloween!

Elm Grove

Department of Public Works

Recycling / Yard Waste Facility

900 Wall St.

(off Elm Grove Road, between Watertown Plank & Bluemound Road)

===== OPEN =====

October 1st -14th

Tuesday & Thursday,

3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

October 15th – 31st

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.

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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News Briefs

“Whatcha Got Going On This Weekend?”

By Tyler Beckley

Regular volunteer gatherings are a very important part of maintaining community-based environmental management efforts. At weekly Sunday meetups of the Elm Grove Invasive Species Task Force (ISTF) which are held at 11:00 a.m., new attendees are not uncommon because awareness of the program can spread through numerous interpersonal networks, local news outlets, and media coverage. New participants are typically welcomed with an introduction and an inquiry into how they learned about the group and their motivations for becoming involved.

At one of these meetings, a first-time participant, **Joey**, attended following an invitation given by one of our community members. A few days prior earlier, while scanning the goods of **Beth Zupec-Kania**, a regular participant in our program, at the local Trader Joe’s she extended a personal invitation to him about one of the upcoming sessions. Having just recently relocated to the area, Joe figured, why not?

The day’s primary task focused on the removal of *Dipsacus fullonum* (common teasel), an invasive plant species listed on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) NR-40 Invasive Species Rule. Removal efforts were conducted along the Dousman Ditch, south of North Avenue, in collaboration with the Brookfield National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Habitat Team.

Joey shared that his favorite part of being involved with the ISTF is the opportunity to connect with the community by helping the local environment. As a 2020 graduate of Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, Illinois, he explained that engaging with the community was a core value within his education, and he found it very meaningful to continue that here in Elm Grove. Joey noted that the experience of working outdoors gave him a rare sense of calm and a chance to reconnect with nature. “You can’t beat old-fashioned peace,” he stated, showing



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Beth Zupec-Kania and Joey volunteer with the Invasive Species Task Force.

his enthusiasm for returning to the next gathering.

This story shows just how important direct, personal contact and outreach in volunteer recruitment for conservation work can be.

While public announcements and newsletters are valuable, face-to-face interactions can be just as effective in garnering individuals, especially those who are new to the area.

Grassroots environmental stewardship initiatives benefit from diverse recruitment strategies, including informal social interactions. As demonstrated by Joey’s participation, even brief community encounters can contribute to expanding the volunteer base and advancing ecological restoration goals.

Those interested in volunteering with the ISTF can contact the Elm Grove Beautification Committee at: egbeautification@gmail.com for details.

Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack and Doris Haley

BAG-CLOSING MACHINE, C. 1935. Shown is the bagging process inside Reinders mill. First, the grain drops down from a cleaner on the second floor into an “Old Elm Feed” bag with a scale reading its weight. Next, the bag on the belt goes through an automatic sealing machine. Finally, oats are crimped on the second floor and dropped down into a sacker in the back room.



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack and Doris Haley

ELM GROVE FAIR, MARCH 31, 1927. George H. Reinders of Elm Grove and auctioneer Rudy Domain organized the first Elm Grove Fair, which was held in a vacant field on the east side of the railroad tracks where today’s Legion Drive runs north from Watertown Plank Road. Up for auction were wagons, machinery, a scale, a DeLaval Crean Separator, and livestock. The group standing in a crowd at right is listening to Mr. Domain, who some considered “the best auctioneer Brookfield had ever known.”

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“OUR HISTORY” STORIES & PHOTOS WANTED!

Share your memories of
Elm Grove / Brookfield
Waukesha County in years past.

E-mail stories (250 words maximum)
+ photos to:
elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
(Subject line: Our History)

Or, Mail to: EGNU “Our History”
14420 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove,
WI 53122

Imperial
Hair Care
of Elm Grove

13425
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in the
Elm Grove
Park & Shop

(262)
784-4241

Be a
FRIEND!

WHAT WE DO

Sponsor library programs & events
Fundraise for new books & resources
Host used book sales
Advocate for library services

MEMBER PERKS

Early access to our Used Book Sale
First to know about upcoming events
The joy of supporting our library!

TO JOIN OR
LEARN MORE:

friendssofelmgrovelibrary.org

53 one 22
Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Oktoberfest, Fun Run Bring Community Together

Despite a little rain, this year’s Oktoberfest and 0.5K Fun Run were a big hit! Friends, families, and neighbors came together for a weekend filled with delicious food, music, and fun. The energy and community spirit shone through, proving that not even the rain could dampen the celebration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose support made the event possible.

- Honest Teeth Dentistry
- Leinenkugel’s
- WaterStone Bank
- Uptown Motors
- O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub
- Milestone Plumbing
- Johnson Electric
- Doering & Co.

- ReMax/Legacy Group
- Riv/Crete Ready Mix
- Ruer Law, LLC
- Wine Down
- nona
- Weber Physical Therapy
- 1st & Bowl
- B93.3 FM

Thank You, Oktoberfest Volunteers

Oktoberfest would not be possible without the dedication and energy of our incredible volunteers. Your time, effort, and community spirit are the driving force behind the event’s success—and we are truly grateful for your support!

Get Involved!

The Elm Grove Community Foundation is always looking for new ways to enhance life in our village. If you have an idea that could benefit Elm Grove and its residents, we’d love to hear from you. We also welcome those interested in joining the committees that plan Oktoberfest and the annual 0.5K Fun Run. To get involved, please contact us at elmgrovefoundation@gmail.org

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 18 & 19, 2026

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.

Calendar of Events – October 2025

Wednesday – OCTOBER 1

- Brookfield Resist public demonstration at Main Street. and West Bluemound Road, Brookfield , 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
www.BrookfieldResist.org

Friday – OCTOBER 3

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting - 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center + Board meeting.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – OCTOBER 5

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force Meets: 11 a.m. to Noon at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.
beautification@elmgrovewi.org
- Brookfield Congregational Church presents a Violin Concert – 3 p.m. at 16350 W. Gebhardt Road, Brookfield (See AD below)



Thursday – OCTOBER 9

- St. Mary’s Visitation presents “Holiday Sip & Shop” (See AD below.)

Friday – OCTOBER 10

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting - 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speakers: Dena Kugel and Anne Chard; Topic: “Dixon Hollow”
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – OCTOBER 12

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

Monday – OCTOBER 13

- Cruisin’ the Spur – featuring a display of cars, trucks, cycles and more. – 5 p.m. to Dusk in parking lot behind Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. FREE & open to the public to display vehicles and attend.

Tuesday – OCTOBER 14

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

Friday – OCTOBER 17

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting - 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Andrea Roberts Topic: “Alternate Education”
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – OCTOBER 18

- Brookfield Resist public demonstration at Main Street. and W. Bluemound Road, Brookfield , 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
www.BrookfieldResist.org

Sunday – OCTOBER 19

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

Thursday – OCTOBER 23

- Elm Grove Board of Appeals Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room

Friday – OCTOBER 24

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting - 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Jack Kelly Topic: “Training New Detective Recruits”
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – OCTOBER 25



- Elm Grove Trick-or-Treating: 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Pick up glow sticks at Elm Grove Police Department, provided by the Elm Grove Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association.

Sunday – OCTOBER 26

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

Tuesday – OCTOBER 28

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

Friday – OCTOBER 31

HALLOWEEN

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting - 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Christine White Topic: “What’s New at Sunset Playhouse”
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE



TUESDAY October 7th
6:00PM-8:00PM



- Explore Fire Trucks and Ambulances!
- Tour the Fire Station!
- Meet Firefighters and EMTs!
- Experience various demonstrations!



Elm Grove Fire Department
13600 Juneau Blvd

Facebook.com/ElmGroveFire
[ElmGroveWI.org/Fire](https://www.facebook.com/ElmGroveWI.org/Fire)

Elm Grove Woman’s Club Presents

CHRISTMAS IN THE GROVE

NOV 7, 4-8 | NOV 8, 10-4

Local Vendors | Unique Handcrafted Items
Home Decor | Delectable Treats

Café | Bake Sale| Prize Raffle | Wine Pull

Admission \$5
(children 12 and under FREE)

Elm Grove Woman’s Club
13885 Watertown Plank Road

Holiday Sip & Shop

Join us for an evening of
holiday shopping & festive fun!

Thursday, October 9th
6-9 pm

St. Mary’s Visitation
1260 Church Street, Elm Grove

\$5 admission
Includes refreshments

Report from The Capitol

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

“Let’s Talk About Perimenopause, Menopause, and Early Breast Cancer Detection.”

I’m dedicating my column this month to women’s health issues, including perimenopause and menopause education, breast cancer screenings, postpartum Medicaid expansion, and maternity and newborn care. It is time that women’s health is prioritized.

Women’s health matters, and Wisconsin women deserve to be educated, prepared for and cared for through all health experiences. As legislators, it is our job to make sure this happens. I want to hear from you: **Why are women’s health issues important to you, and what feedback do you have on the following women’s health related bills?**

Perimenopause and Menopause Education

I am proud to co-author the bipartisan Perimenopause and Menopause Education Bill, 2025 Assembly Bill 381. This bill requires the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to partner with healthcare providers, including obstetricians and gynecologists, community health centers, and hospitals, to educate women on the symptoms, processes, and other issues surrounding perimenopause and menopause so that Wisconsin women are prepared for this natural life transition. It requires that DHS create informational materials (both in print and digital forms) to be distributed or made available to women who are determined by their healthcare providers to be experiencing or soon to be experiencing perimenopause and menopause.



I am committed to making sure that all Wisconsin women are well-informed, prepared, cared for, and empowered when it comes to their health.

Supplemental Breast Cancer Screening

Early breast cancer detection and treatment saves lives, and Wisconsin women’s lives are worth saving. It is important to me that we continue to research breast cancer, new treatments, and new methods of detection so that we continue to make improvements to how we catch and treat breast cancer. **I am proud to be a co-sponsor of a bill requiring that health insurers cover supplemental breast**

screening examinations or diagnostic breast examinations for an individual who is at increased risk, or has heterogeneously or extremely dense breast tissue. **2025 Assembly Bill 263** prohibits insurance policies from requiring Wisconsinites to pay out-of-pocket for supplemental breast screening examinations or diagnostic breast examinations, removing barriers to early detection and treatment. **Women and families deserve accessible, affordable and effective breast cancer detection and treatment.**

Postpartum Medicaid Extension

Postpartum Medicaid expansion provides the critical healthcare that postpartum moms desperately need and deserve in the 12 months post-childbirth. We know that in 2023, nearly 50 Wisconsin women died due to causes related to childbirth (*and those are the postpartum deaths that we know about*). These deaths are largely preventable, and extending postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 1 year has been shown to improve maternal outcomes. That’s why I have been supporting legislation to expand postpartum Medicaid coverage since I took office in 2019, and am a co-sponsor of 2025 Assembly Bill 97. We need to get this done– Wisconsin women, families, and children deserve to be connected with the healthcare that they need, and it is our job as legislators to do that.

Pregnancy Protection Act

Every woman in Wisconsin deserves access to high-quality and affordable maternal healthcare. I authored the Pregnancy Protection Act (2025 Assembly Bill 402), to put into state law that maternity and newborn care are essential health benefits, and individual and small group health insurance plans must cover them. Maternity care coverage benefits both women and children, improving health outcomes for both. Prenatal and postnatal healthcare can identify and treat complications of pregnancy, such as preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, ectopic pregnancies, life-threatening mental health concerns, infection, and other potentially life-threatening complications for mother and child.

I want to hear from you–if you have thoughts on why these bills are important, stories related to these topics, or ideas on how we can best work to find common ground for the common good and ensure that Wisconsin women’s healthcare is prioritized, please use the QR code or link below to submit feedback or reach out to my office. Thank you for taking the time to join me in advocating for Wisconsin women’s health!

<https://tinyurl.com/FeedbackWomensHealth>

Forward together,
Robyn Vining

Rep. Vining's Website:

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>

NON-PROFIT GRANT OPPORTUNITY

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Applications accepted
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Proposals wanted for projects
serving women or children in
Milwaukee and Waukesha counties

Visit elmgrovejuniorguild.org/grants for more information!

Friends of the Elm Grove Library 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 am until 4 pm .

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!

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

Green is Good!



Baseline water testing by researchers **Erin Povak, John Schindler, and Samir Qureshi** laid the groundwork for protecting the health of the Elm Grove pond and creek.

Using Research to Restore and Protect Elm Grove Village Pond

By The Elm Grove Green Team

New research is underway to assess the health of Elm Grove’s pond and creek. The Village is partnering with local watershed protector Southeast Watershed Trust ([Sweet Water](#)) and the [UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences](#) on water quality testing and best practices for their long-term protection.

“In countless ways the pond and creek are at the heart of our community, including being essential to our flood management system,” said Village Trustee, hydrogeologist, and Sustainability Committee member **John Schindler**, the project’s driving force. “In the 20 years since the pond was created, it’s been influenced by what flows into it, what lives in it, what surrounds it, and how we care for it. This project will help us understand how it has changed and what we need to do to keep it healthy.”

“Sweet Water forges partnerships to restore and protect watersheds in Greater Milwaukee,” said **Erin Povak**, Watershed Program Director. “We were already working with Elm Grove on storm water pollution mitigation strategies. This is a natural pro bono project for us, and we asked Freshwater Sciences to join in.”

In January 2026, School of Freshwater Sciences students will start a year-long independent study that will culminate in a science-based water quality management plan. And the work has already started.

“In September we performed pre-study sampling to get baseline data we’ll share with the students,” said **Samir Qureshi**, Teaching, Learning and Technology Specialist at UWM. “We started tracking key biological, chemical, and physical indicators of the pond and creek conditions.”

News Briefs



BROOKFIELD EAST HIGH SCHOOL National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Isha Girish, Gavin Longley, Aditi Moorching, Tabitha Orange, Alexandra Orejuela, Isabella Sandroni, Elizabeth Schmidt, Ethan Zhang, Jake Zheng.



BROOKFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: (Front Row, left to right) Aidan Liu, Krisha Pakala, Shreya Panda, Leon Cao. Owen England, Meera Nammi, Vaishnavi Mayya; (Back Row, left to right) Victor Han, Kevin Hou, Vinayak Menon, Benji Lu, Andrey Semin, Ishani Nayak, Vaidehi Ramachandula.

Elmbrook Announces National Merit Semifinalists

(BROOKFIELD) - Nine Brookfield East High School students and 15 members of the Class of 2026 from Brookfield Central High School have been named semifinalists in the prestigious 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Each year, approximately 1.3 million juniors nationwide enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of these students, only about 16,000 earn Semifinalist status, placing them among the top one percent of high school seniors in the country.

The National Merit Scholarship Program,


established in 1955, recognizes and honors the academic accomplishments of students who take the PSAT/NMSQT. As semifinalists, these students have demonstrated outstanding academic abilities and will now advance to compete for finalist status and potential scholarship awards in the spring.

“This recognition serves as a testament to the academic and human excellence that exists within our student body,” reflected **Andy Farley**, Principal of Brookfield East High School. “These students are leaders at East and we will continue to change the world in the years to come.”




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Public Safety Reports

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

Assistant Police Chief Completes FBI Academy Training

On September 4, 2025, **Assistant Chief of Police Ryan Unger** proudly graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Assistant Chief Unger, a dedicated 24+ year veteran of the Elm Grove Police Department, was among 254 law enforcement leaders from 49 states, the District of Columbia, 20 countries, six military organizations, and four federal civilian agencies who completed the Academy’s 295th session.



Internationally recognized for its academic excellence, the FBI National Academy provides 10 weeks of advanced training in communication, leadership, and fitness. Fewer than one percent of law enforcement officers are selected to attend, and graduates typically return to serve in executive-level positions within their agencies.

Graduating from the FBI National Academy is a significant accomplishment and a reflection of Assistant Chief Unger’s commitment to leadership and public service. His experience and training will benefit not only our department but the entire Elm Grove.

New Officer Joins the Department

The Elm Grove Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of Officer **Alexa Billstrom** who was officially sworn in on September 18, 2025. She brings nearly four years of prior law enforcement experience from the City of West Allis Police Department furthering our commitment to maintaining a well-trained and professional police force dedicated to serving the community.



Officer Billstrom’s experience and training strengthen our department’s ability to provide responsive and effective service, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents, businesses, and visitors.

Please join us in welcoming Officer Billstrom to Elm Grove. If you see her out on patrol, take a moment to say hello and help her feel at home in our community.

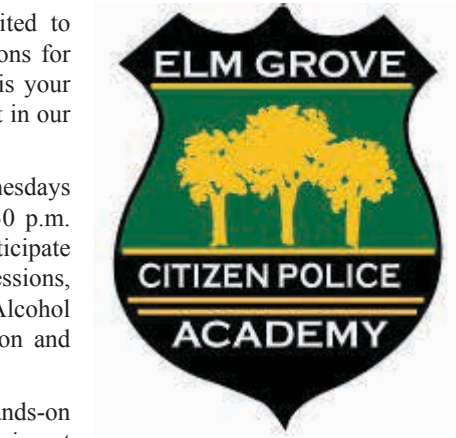
Congratulations to Officer Billstrom for joining our team. We’re grateful for her prior service in law enforcement and excited to see the positive impact she’ll make here in Elm Grove!

Join the Elm Grove Citizens Police Academy

The Elm Grove Police Department is excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 26th Citizens Police Academy class. This is your chance to get an inside look at law enforcement in our community.

The 10-week program will run on Wednesdays from April 15, 2026, to June 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. concluding with a graduation banquet. You’ll participate in a variety of engaging and educational sessions, including: Evidence Collection, Use of Force, Alcohol Awareness, Court Procedures, Crime Prevention and Criminal Investigation.

Beyond the classroom, you’ll get hands-on experience by riding along with officers, practicing at the shooting range, and observing our dispatch center.



The Citizens Police Academy is a fantastic way to learn about the day-to-day work of our officers and build a stronger connection with the department. Space is limited, so we encourage you to apply soon.

Applications can be obtained through the Village / Elm Grove Police Department website: www.elmgrovetwi.org under Community Relations Programs or at the EGPD lobby.

ADVERTISE!

**Promote your Business, Organization,
Club, Event, School, Church,
Items for Sale,
Job Opportunities, etc.**

Request a Rate Sheet & Reserve Space
E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com
OR Call: (262) 782-6193

News Briefs

Elmbrook Education Foundation Awards \$70,000 to Hydroponic Farms Food & Nutrition Initiative

BROOKFIELD, WI – The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) proudly announced the successful completion of its 2024-2025 fundraising campaign, surpassing its original goal of \$65,000 by raising a total of \$70,000 for the Hydroponic Farms Food and Nutrition Initiative. The check was officially presented to **Caitlin Harrison**, Director of Food Service for Elmbrook Schools, at the Elmbrook School Board meeting held on Tuesday, August 12.

“We are so thankful to the entire Elmbrook Education Foundation and all of the time they have invested in supporting our mission to grow our hydroponic farms to bring more whole, high-quality food to our students and community. This incredible donation helps us take our vision and impact to the next level and gives us the ability to increase our student, staff and community connection. All through hydroponic gardening. This donation will pay dividends for years to come and help us continue to build a sustainable food service

model for our students to connect with,” said Caitlin Harrison, Director of Food Service, Elmbrook Schools.

Funds were raised through two EEF-hosted events — Ladies Night and Explore STEAM — as well as a generous \$5,000 grant from the Kettle Moraine Garden Club (KMGC), which helped EEF exceed its fundraising target.

“The KMGC joins me in congratulating the Elmbrook Education Foundation in being selected as a recipient of a 2025 - \$5,000 grant to grow and expand their Elmbrook Farms program to service the district’s school lunch program. KMGC has a long history of partnering with community organizations that support horticulture education, environmental stewardship, and community service. We applaud your vision, initiatives and making a difference,” stated **Paddy Kieckhefer**, Kettle Moraine Garden Club.



Cruisin’ the SPUR Draws a Big Crowd

Beautiful weather and almost 50 cool cars and cycles gathered behind Elm Grove’s SILVER SPUR BBQ on Monday, September 15th. And there will be one more edition of Cruisin’ the SPUR starting at 5 p.m. (or maybe even a little earlier) on Monday, October 13th. As always, there will be plenty of hot food, cold drinks and cool music. So, stop by and check it out. The event is FREE and open to the public.

A Little Dab’ll Do You (In)... if you’re an amphibian

By Tyler Beckley

For more than 20 years, one village resident’s little backyard pond was home to frogs, toads, dragonflies, birds, and bees. More than 30 frogs and toads once hopped along the banks, basked in the sun, and swam freely in the pond without a care or worry in the world; pollinators and birds completed the little self-sustaining ecosystem. But in the last few years, the life around the pond has all but disappeared.

The problem stemmed from the pesticides that were being sprayed in the neighboring yard. After that came the changes: bees disappeared; frogs began to develop deformations; dead birds appeared near the water’s edge, their bodies quiet reminders of the shift.

The chemical that was being used was deltamethrin, a synthetic insecticide known for its effectiveness at eradicating a wide variety of insects; however, it is also very harmful and toxic to amphibians, aquatic life, and even birds. When it is sprayed, it does not just stay where it was sprayed, it drifts, clings, seeps. Slowly it can find its way into ponds, attach itself to neighboring plants, and contaminate food. And now, what used to be a thriving ecosystem has been reduced to little more than a few struggling frogs and an occasional visit from a bird or two; a painful reminder of just how powerful these chemicals can be, and what kind of damage they leave behind on the environment.

Today’s pesticides are marketed as safer but remember: “safer” does not mean safe. It




might be safer for us, yes, but that does not mean it is safe for everything around us. The effects can cause a lot of harm to pollinators, songbirds, and the backyard ponds that were once their own little thriving habitats. What vanishes may never return.

Homeowners do have options. They could use larvicides that are eco-friendly, like Bti, and find ways to encourage natural predators such as dragonflies and bats to come and help manage the mosquito population without devastating local wildlife. As spraying continues in neighborhoods across the country, it’s worth asking: Should we protect ourselves from mosquitoes and insects at the cost of our entire ecosystem?

For more information, or to learn more, attend the Elm Grove Beautification Committee’s Winter Lecture Series events at the Elm Grove Public Library on November 12, 2025, January 21, 2026, and March 18, 2026, which will discuss these issues and potential solutions.

Contact: egbeautification@gmail.com for details.



Library News and Programs

October 2025

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



An Evening with Malcolm McDowell Woods / Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 p.m.
Join us for an unforgettable evening with editor and journalist Malcolm McDowell Woods as he discusses his debut novel, *What the Tide Leaves Behind*—a moving story of self-discovery set against the windswept beauty and quiet wisdom of Ireland’s County Donegal. Free to attend. No registration required.

About the book: After losing his father in one of the final acts of the Troubles, Thomas McKay drifts through life until he returns to his late mother’s remote cottage on the wind-swept Donegal coast. As he settles into the quiet village of Dunnybegs, he begins to connect with her elusive border collie and uncovers a community rich in character and ancient history.

Zombie Preparedness / Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m.
Are you ready for the unexpected? Join Waukesha County Public Health for a fun and informative Zombie Preparedness Program — where emergency planning meets a touch of the undead! Learn how to build a survival kit, create a family emergency plan, and stay safe in any disaster — even a zombie apocalypse. Perfect for all ages, this interactive session turns preparedness into a thrilling adventure. Because if you’re ready for zombies, you’re ready for anything!



The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald: The Ship, the Storm, and the Song / Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 p.m.
Join meteorologist and UW-Madison professor Steve Ackerman for a captivating exploration of the Edmund Fitzgerald shipwreck. Dive into the story from three unique angles — the fierce weather that doomed the ship, the vessel’s final journey, and the haunting ballad by Gordon Lightfoot that immortalized the tragedy. This engaging program offers a fascinating blend of science, history, and music, bringing the legendary Great Lakes mystery to life.

Therapy Pet Readings
Back by popular demand, therapy pet readings will begin again in October and continue throughout the school year. Readers in grades 1-5 may sign up once per month to read with a dog or cat. Below are the scheduled dates and times:

- Marty (cat):** Mondays at 4:30, 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. on October 6, November 3 and Dec 1.
Clover and Corky (dogs): Thursdays at 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. on Oct 16 and Nov 20.
Blumi (dog): Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. on October 21, November 18 and Dec 16



News’ Hounds

& other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Beetle is a sleek, handsome fellow with a quiet, observant nature. He’s not one to dive headfirst into new situations — he prefers to hang back, scope things out, and ease into comfort at his own pace. Once he starts to feel secure, his gentle curiosity shines through, and you might catch him peeking around corners or softly blinking in your direction. Beetle does best in a calm environment where he can build trust slowly and feel safe just being himself. If you’re the kind of person who appreciates a thoughtful introvert with a sweet side, Beetle might be your perfect match.

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



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Beetle



Young Writers & Reporters

A Sound
By Hebela Ayalew
6th Grade, Brookfield Academy

One sound
Echoed all around
One sound
Tore down this town

It was 1944
And we were in this war
Trying to survive
The dark of night

I had heard about the bombs
We all worried about the swarms
But you don't know fear
Until it is all you can hear

The bomb screamed
Children blubbed, mothers weeped
Deep underground we were
Trying to preserve

And when we came up
We knew we couldn't keep the past
 beneath us
The town was destroyed
Our live in a spoil

One sound
Echoed all around
One sound
Tore down this town

Never the end though
There will always be hope
 at the end of the road
And when this town was built back
The past becomes nothing more
 than a flashback

Raise Your Voice
By Janavi Wagle
Brookfield East High School – Junior
Raise Your Voice Club President

At Brookfield East High School, a new club called Raise Your Voice is starting. It is a student-led group under the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), one of the largest grassroots mental health organizations in the United States. NAMI focuses on mental health advocacy, education, support, and public awareness. The first Wisconsin chapter was founded in 1981 and now supports 22 local affiliates across the state. NAMI's mission is to improve life for those affected by mental illness and promote recovery, especially through community engagement and mental health advocacy.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction 2023 data, 1 in 3 Wisconsin students felt sad or hopeless for more than two weeks in a row, and over the past decade, youth depression has risen by 42%. A major reason why many don't get help is the stigma around mental health that makes it harder to seek help.

With mental health becoming a growing challenge among youth, a group of Brookfield East students are launching the Raise Your Voice club under the faculty guidance to promote awareness, break stigma, and build leadership in mental health advocacy. Students will participate in events with invited speakers along with opportunities for volunteering, attending training, connecting with mentors, and working on passion projects. Most importantly, they will have fun while raising their voices in support and reminding others: **you are not alone.**

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**

To My Father
By Gary Kerslake

Beneath this large and crooked tree
there lies someone so dear to me.
Never just a grain of sand
 amidst a plot of fertile land,
but someone who shall walk above,
and know and always share our love.



PSALM
By Sister Helen Jones SSND

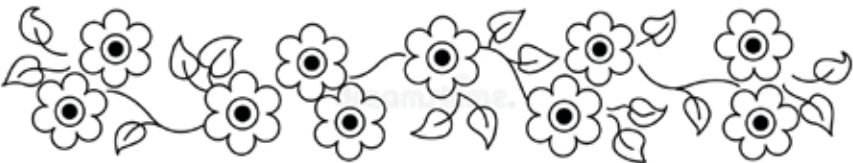
(Lamentation 1: Cry Out; 2: Ends with Ask; 3: Hope, Trust)

Hear the sound of our Lament, Listen to us...
It seems to me that the Nation weeps...
 Have Mercy
 Have Mercy
 Have Mercy on Us, Lord.
The Nation Mourns... Hear Us, Our God!
Our Nation has given over to the wealthy and well fed; the poor call out!

It seems to me that the Nation weeps...
No longer do we seem to care for the needy and the immigrant as we ought.
It seems to me that the Nation weeps... The Nation wages wars that seem to have no end;
 genocide continues and the innocent perish.

It seems to me that the Nation weeps...
We no longer care sufficiently that renewable energy is in danger.
The agricultural worker is neglected and ignored.

It seems to me that the Nation weeps...
 There is a Funeral Pall over the land.
We call out to You, weeping and desolate!
We ask; we hope and pray to You with sincere hearts.
You have come to our aid in the past; come to our aid again!
When we come to You with sincere hearts, You will turn Your ear.
You know what we need better than we do; give us Your aid.



Quick Question
By A to S, 12th Grade – Brookfield East High School

Honestly, it's the way your laugh feels like light,
Or how your presence makes heavy days bright.
Moments with you move quicker, yet stay,
Every glance lingers in the best kind of way.

Conversations never feel small,
One spark outshines it all.
Maybe it's simple, but I can't deny,
I find myself smiling whenever you're by.
Never have I met someone so true,
Going anywhere, I'd want it with you.
?

So, here's my question, wrapped up in rhyme:
go read the first letter of each line.

News Briefs

How to Volunteer in Elmbrook Schools

(BROOKFIELD) - The School District of Elmbrook welcomes family and community volunteers to support our students and staff throughout the year. Volunteer opportunities exist in school classrooms and libraries, as well as through participation in school and district committees, focus groups, athletic or performing arts events, and several parent organizations.

Volunteers provide supervision on field trips, plan school community events, offer fundraising and donation support, and actively engage in classrooms to support student learning. Each year, Elmbrook families and community members contribute thousands of hours of service and raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of our students, programs and schools.

For more information visit www.elmbrookschoools.org or call (262) 781-3030.



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6 PM- 8 PM WILL BE FOR OLDER KIDS

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PUMPKIN
HALLOWEEN
THANKSGIVING
FOOTBALL
SWEATER
APPLE CIDER
SCHOOL
ACORN
ORANGE
YELLOW
BROWN

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

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.

Volunteer, Demonstrate, Vote

I am a long time Elm Grove resident, and I find myself despondent many days. There is so much going on day after day, so many breaking stories. I find I need to do something, to stand with people who believe like I do that we can be a better country. I worked hard last year to elect Kamala Harris, and I was delighted that she carried Elm Grove. Voting is our superpower.

Maybe you also feel alone and powerless. Volunteer to help make the 2026 elections an

overwhelming victory for those who believe in restoring sanity to our federal government.

Volunteer with the Democratic Party.
www.waukeshadems.org
Demonstrate with Brookfield Resist.
www.BrookfieldResist.org

I find volunteering locally helps make me grounded and hopeful. It is up to us. Let's do this ---- together.

Patricia Ruttum
Elm Grove

Exercise 1st Amendment Right to Freedom of Speech

Thank goodness for *Elm Grove News*. I get the majority of my information from indie press like yours. At the rate that the government is suing major media outlets, all because they don't like what was written, (hey facts don't matter with this regime), soon it will all be government-controlled propaganda.

Lawsuits aside, just have the FCC threaten to pull your license over something a comedian said and now we have outright extortion in broad daylight.

Does the general public understand that our government is slowly eroding our First Amendment right to free speech? First the journalists, then the comedians and eventually it will be the common citizen. I feel like I am screaming into the void.

I hope to see millions of people exercising their First Amendment at the No Kings Rallies on Oct. 18. The old adage "use or lose it" springs to mind.

Dawn Lawien
Waukesha

News Briefs

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Respond to Federal Autism Report

By Jeremy Gundlach

Over the last several months, people with disabilities, families, and advocates have grown increasingly concerned about leaders using public platforms to advance outdated and dangerous ideas that portray people with disabilities as burdens or of lesser value if they do not exactly match the metrics of success defined by able-bodied people.

"(In mid-September), the disability community was horrified as a host on a major media outlet publicly suggested 'involuntary lethal injection' as a policy solution for homeless people who also have mental health issues," said **Beth Swdeen**, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Executive Director. "This week, people with autism are being identified as population of people whose existence the government seeks to prevent or change into people who are more 'normal'."

Autism is a complex condition that does not have a single cause. Autistic people share a diagnosis, but have a wide range of talents,

abilities, and support needs that are individual to each person. Autistic Americans have the same unalienable rights as all Americans, the right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. We all find different ways to achieve these things, and it is the individual, not the government, who decides our own worth.

"The government should not decide whose lives are worth living or what criteria must be met to have a worthy life," said **Sydney Badeau**, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities Board Chair.

"I know many people with autism. They do not want to be cured. They don't want to be targeted. They don't want to be told it is ok, or better, if they don't exist," said Badeau. "People with autism have always existed. We are part of what humanity looks like, and we are amazing."

Visit: www.wi-bpdd.org for more information.

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

News Briefs

Brookfield, Waukesha Demonstrations Set

(BROOKFIELD) - More than 830 residents of Elm Grove, Brookfield, Waukesha, Wauwatosa and neighboring communities stood side-by-side along both sides of Bluemound Road on June 14, “No Kings Day” in a peaceful showing of solidarity against the current administration, organized by Brookfield Resist. Another 80+ people demonstrated again on September 13.

Next Brookfield Resist Demonstrations:

*Wednesday, October 1, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
*Saturday, October 18, 11 a.m.to 12:30 p.m.
Both at Main Street & Bluemound Road
Sign up at: www.BrookfieldResist.org

Next Waukesha Resist Demonstrations:

*Saturday, October 18, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
“No Kings-2” at 321 Wisconsin Ave.
Waukesha, near Cutler Park / Library
Sign up at www.WaukeshaResist.org



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / EGNi

Carl Lock, an organizer with Brookfield Resist, stands along Bluemound Road during the group’s September 13th demonstration.



Photo courtesy: Sunset Playhouse

Elm Grove Beautification Committee members **Nicci Sternitzky, Drew Sternitzky, and Pat Westen** sit in front of a new native species garden at Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove.

Sunset Playhouse Joins Forces with Elm Grove Beautification Committee

(ELM GROVE) - This summer, the Elm Grove Beautification Committee approached Sunset Playhouse, Elm Grove’s local 66-year-old community theater about being part of the village’s beautification efforts.

Upon the recommendation of the Beautification Committee, Sunset decided to remove the invasive ditch lilies and the invasive burning bush on the front lawn along Wall Street, surrounding the Playhouse’s sign. From there, the choice of which native species to plant in place of the former, invasive species began. Sunset’s Managing Director, **Ella Walker** noted, “We were particularly excited about the Beautification Committee’s idea of choosing plants that not only are native to Wisconsin and work well with our soil conditions, but that also match Sunset’s color palette and speak to our mission.”

The first choice, **Royal Catchfly** (*Silene regia*), a bright red, native flower represents Sunset’s hope that patrons will feel like royalty while attending a production.

Sullivant’s milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), a rare, purple toned species, promotes the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge and the Monarch Milkweed Map, and highlights the rarity of Sunset’s dedicated volunteer base.

Another milkweed species, **Whorled milkweed** (*Asclepias verticillata*), represents Sunset’s mission of expanding your world through theater arts just as the plant expands the world for pollinators such as butterflies.

Finally, the perennial herb species, **Rattlesnake master** (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) was chosen as it is as unique as the experience of attending a show at Sunset.

The project work began with the Beautification Committee’s Invasive Species Task Force members, **Martha Kendler, Pat Westen, and Scott Lynch**, removing the ditch lilies and burning bush. Sunset’s volunteers and staff, including **Rob Rasmussen, Annette Tan, and Pat Westen** spent the following Saturday prepping the garden bed and digging up the stubborn roots and stumps of these invasive species to free up space for the new plants.



Photo courtesy: Sunset Playhouse
Royal Catchfly

The next Saturday, another group of Sunset volunteers, including Board President **Marla Eichmann**, planted the new species. The end result is a new beginning that will support the Elm Grove community’s requirements for Bird City Wisconsin, Mayors’ Monarch Pledge, Bee City Wisconsin, and the National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat certification.

One volunteer in particular was crucial in forging this partnership. **Pat Westen**, a Sunset volunteer of nearly 30 years, connected the two groups through her dedicated volunteer work with both Sunset and the Beautification Committee. From sharing information about native plants to digging out roots by hand, Westen’s commitment to this project serves as a reminder of the power of community engagement.

Ms. Walker added, “As a community theater, this kind of partnership is exactly what we are all about. While we serve the community by educating, enriching, and entertaining through theater, we also seek to serve the community in other ways such as caring for our earth and sharing resources.”

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee and Sunset Playhouse look forward to seeing these native plants blossom and thrive, inviting more community members to head to the Playhouse to enjoy theater and the beauty of nature.

Brookfield Academy Board Names New Members

BROOKFIELD - The Board of Directors of Brookfield Academy is pleased to welcome four new members. Since BA opened in 1962, the Board has played a vital role in upholding the vision of the Founders and guiding the school’s continued dedication to its Mission.

Each of the new members brings a wide range of professional experience, along with a strong connection to the school and a commitment to its Mission and values.

The new board members include:

***Dr. Brian Eiche ’03** - After graduating from Brookfield Academy, he studied biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earned his MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and now practices emergency medicine at several area hospitals.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children attending BA where he has served on the Education Committee and the Annual Fund Cabinet.

***Mrs. Cynthia Fletcher** - She and her husband, Bob, are proud parents of two boys, Tyler (2026) and Nolan (2028), who have attended Brookfield Academy since Level A. Cyndi is a commercial finance attorney and partner at Husch Blackwell LLP, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of San Diego and a Juris Doctorate from Marquette University Law School. She previously served on the Marketing Committee before joining the Board.

***Mr. Charles Li** - Charles and his wife, Karen, are the parents of two boys, Alex ’23 and Ethan (2029). At BA, he has served on the Education Committee since 2015. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MBA from the University of Michigan. Charles is a private investor. He also serves on the board of the Wisconsin Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

***Mr. Bryant VanCronkhite** - Mr. VanCronkhite earned an MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and is both a CPA and CFA. He serves as Senior Portfolio Manager at Allspring Global Investments and sits on the boards of Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital and Junior Achievement of Wisconsin. He has served as a member of the BA Board Finance Committee. He and his wife, Erin, have two children at BA.

“We are very excited to welcome these four outstanding individuals to our Board,” said **Mr. Michael Simmons** ’80, Chairman of the Brookfield Academy Board of Directors. “With their professional talents and personal connections to our school, they are well equipped to help guide Brookfield Academy.”



Photos courtesy: Brookfield Academy

New Brookfield Academy Board Members (clockwise from top-left) **Dr. Brian Eiche ’03, Mrs. Cynthia Fletcher, Mr. Bryant VanCronkhite, and Mr. Charles Li.**

Local Sports



Photo courtesy Sarah Wynia Smith

GIRLS SOFTBALL CHAMPS: This summer, the team of girls from Tonawanda (now attending Pilgrim Park) won the Brookfield Parks & Recreation league championship for the 5th/6th grade girls division.

Shown are: Back Row (Left to right): **Coach James Daniels, Giselle Mendeloff, Kiera Maio, Coach Brian Smith;** Middle Row (Left to right): **Arie Barian, Norah Daniels (holding the team mascot Pickles), Vera Pedriana, Evie Hermesen, Miriam Smith, Coach Kim Peterson;** Front row (Left to right): **Lily Rydze, Taylor Guse, Natalie Conroy, Anna Peterson, Raleigh Pliskie**

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