



# Elm Grove NEWS-

# INDEPENDENT



Vol. 16 No. 1

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

September 2025

## Our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition!

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

### Elm Grove Beautification Committee Wins Pull-a-thon Trophy By Tyler Beckley

Since 2013, communities across Southeastern Wisconsin have rallied together and combated invasive plants through the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium's (SEWISC) annual Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon. It is a friendly competition and a fundraiser that is having a positive impact on the environment.

This competition has managed to unite children and adults alike, who all have the same goal in mind: protect our ecosystem by removing invasive species like garlic mustard and Dame's rocket. Since it started over a decade ago, in total, participants have managed to remove nearly 124 tons of these alien species.

This year's winner was the Elm Grove Beautification Committee, whose dedication and hard work earned them first place in the competition for having pulled 2,180 pounds by their 22 volunteers. The traveling trophy was presented to the group on July 27 at Elm Grove's Veteran's Park by last year's champions in a tradition that celebrates both community and continuity.

The Pull-A-Thon is more than just a contest; its main goal is to be a call to action. With each bag of garlic mustard pulled, participants help prevent the spread



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Beautification Committee

**Invasive Species Task Force volunteers gather with Elm Grove Beautification Committee chair Nicci Sternitzky (in green shirt, holding Pull-a-thon trophy) at Veteran's Park.**

of a plant that threatens Wisconsin's native biodiversity by outcompeting wildflowers, disrupting deforestation, and degrading wildlife habitats.

Funds raised during the event support environmental education and a sustainable invasive program that helps reduce the production of mustard seed that could be spreading in your own neighborhood. SEWISC emphasizes that ongoing public involvement is essential in protecting

Wisconsin's natural habitats from the long-term effects of these adventive species.

If you want to stop the spread of invasive species, you can join the Elm Grove Beautification Committee's Invasive Species Task Force anytime. They encourage both seasoned participants and newcomers to join the effort.

Email: [EGbeautiication@gmail.com](mailto:EGbeautiication@gmail.com) for more information.

### Electrical Fire Causes Elm Grove Post Office Temporary Closure

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain  
[elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)

As Elm Grove Postmaster **Jon Kloth** and his co-worker **Lesley** interacted with customers on Thursday, August 14 at about 4:40 p.m., they suddenly heard a noise behind them and turned around to see the overhead lights blinking and dark smoke emerging through the vents.

"I quickly called 911," Jon said. "The response from the Elm Grove Police and Fire Department was prompt! They discovered and extinguished an electrical fire in our basement."

Kloth says he is grateful for the help, adding: "I want to thank the Elm Grove Fire Department for their quick response that aided in lessening the damage from the fire. I also want to apologize first and foremost to my P.O. Box customers and bulk mailers for the inconvenience our closure has caused. We have set up an alternate site for retrieval of your P.O. Box mail at the Brookfield Post Office. I also want to apologize to all our customers for our lengthy closure while we are making our facility ready for full operations. Lesley, Celeste, and I hope to see you when we reopen early next month."

A sign posted to the front door of the Elm Grove Post Office noted that the "ETA for reopening is Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>".

In the meantime, customers are encouraged to visit the Brookfield Post Office, 17345 Civic Drive, or the Wauwatosa Post Office, 1655 N. Mayfair Rd.

Questions may be directed to Jon Kloth at (414) 617-2284.

NOTE: Follow *The Elm Grove News-Independent* on Facebook for updates about this and other community issues.



~ WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE ~

# TANGORIUM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - 7:30PM

Experience Tangorium! – an evening of passion and virtuosity with musicians Bridge & Wolak and Water Street Dance. This multimedia experience weaves live music and dance into a journey tracing tango's evolution from the Milongas of Buenos Aires to its place on the world stage. In this Tango, the musicians move alongside the ensemble, fully integrated into the choreography—at times lifted onto the dancers' shoulders or engaging in unexpected, physical interactions.

From Buenos Aires to Brookfield—be part of the tango and get your tickets today!

Scan QR code for Tangorium video and tickets.  
[www.wilson-center.com](http://www.wilson-center.com) • Box Office 262-781-9520  
3270 Mitchell Park Drive, Brookfield, WI 53045

Sharon Lynne  
Wilson  
Center  
for the ARTS

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

PSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Elm Grove, WI  
Permit No. 30



Elm Grove  
News-Independent LLC

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

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

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

Copyright 2025 by  
Elm Grove News-Independent LLC  
All rights reserved.  
Any reproduction without written permission  
from the Publisher is prohibited.

"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth  
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



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / The News-Independent

CRUISIN' THE SPUR: Mike Mitchell of Milwaukee (at left) and The News-Independent's photo editor, James L. W. Bain, pose with Mike's 1934 Austin – Model 10 during the September 20<sup>th</sup> car and motorcycle show in Elm Grove. The public is invited to display their vehicles or just attend as spectators upcoming events on September 25 and October 13, in the parking lot behind Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Rd. from 5 p.m. to dusk.



Photo by Mike Briscoe

OH, DEER! A spotted fawn takes special interest in a grouping of large flowers in the backyard of the Briscoe family home in Elm Grove during late July.

News Briefs

Auditions to be Held at Sunset Playhouse  
700 Wall Street, Elm Grove / (262) 782-4430

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to audition  
on Thursday, September 4 from 6:00 to 9:00  
p.m. for *The Many Disguises of Robin Hood* by  
Brian Guehring.



Join the adventure filled with clever disguises,  
daring escapes, and plenty of action as Robin  
Hood and his band of merry men outwit the  
Sheriff of Nottingham. This is your chance to take the stage in a play packed with comedy,  
courage, fight choreography and legendary characters.

Information and Sign up: <https://sunsetplayhouse.com/education/junior-musical/>

A Rewarding Commitment to Restoring Our Waters  
By Tyler Beckley

The Village of Elm Grove is trying to  
rally residents to roll up their sleeves to  
come together as a community to take part  
in an Adopt-A-River Clean-Up happening  
on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9  
a.m., which happens to fall the day before  
National Clean Up Day. The initiative is  
about restoring and protecting Underwood  
Creek with the help of numerous volunteers  
for a community-wide clean-up effort and  
to inspire lasting stewardship through river  
adoption.

This event is a wonderful way that you can  
give back to the community with a small time  
commitment. Several parts of Underwood  
Creek are still up for adoption with the Adopt-  
A-River program, which gives individuals,  
families, businesses, and community groups  
the opportunity to care for a section of the  
river by committing to clean it at least twice  
a year.

Adopting a section of the Milwaukee River  
Basin, including Underwood Creek, provides

a lot of benefits to not only the environment  
but also the community. These include the  
mitigation of the pollution of microplastics  
and the protection of the native plants that live  
and grow in the area. Beyond the ecological  
impact, adopters contribute to cleaner, more  
beautiful spaces for outdoor recreation while  
enjoying the opportunity to connect with  
neighbors and make a visible difference.

The Beautification Committee encourages  
participants of any age to come and get  
involved. Those interested in volunteering on  
September 20<sup>th</sup> can visit the Events page of  
the Milwaukee Riverkeeper website (<https://milwaukeeiverkeeper.org/event/lets-clean-up-dousman-ditch/>). If you're considering  
adopting a section of our watershed, you can  
find more on the Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Adopt-A-River page. Your efforts, no matter  
what, will have a lasting impact on the Elm  
Grove community and beyond.

Green is Good!

You Can Help Make Oktoberfest 2025 Greener!  
By the Elm Grove Green Team

Elm Grove's premier fall event is  
September 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, and your Sustainability  
Committee is partnering with Uptown Motors  
to make it greener. We're sponsoring use of  
1,200 aluminum beer cups that are not only  
recyclable—they'll also keep your beer cold  
longer and create a better drinking experience  
than plastic. They're made with 90% recycled  
content.

"About 3,500 plastic beer cups hit the  
trashcans last year because #6 plastics are not  
recyclable in Elm Grove," says Sustainability  
Committee co-chair Deb Baesemann.  
"We're making aluminum cups available this  
year and encourage people to request them in  
the beer tent. Our aim is to fully replace use  
of plastic cups at the 2026 event."

Of course, the ultimate solution is to bring  
your own (refillable) beer mug from home!  
Another green tip: Walk, bike or carpool with  
friends to Oktoberfest.

Lunchboxes Get an Upgrade

Packing a lunch can help students and working adults eat healthier and save money, but the downside is the large amount of waste—especially plastics—they often generate. Disposable bags, individually packaged snacks, plastic utensils, and juice boxes are common culprits.

Bento-box style lunchboxes are a great way to reduce portable meal waste. "Bento boxes allow you to put food directly into compartments instead of packaging it, and the trays are easy to wash and reuse," says Sustainability Committee Co-chair Molly Salinas. "There are also options for electric bento-style lunchboxes —rechargeable or plug-in—that increase hot lunch options for a few pennies of power. Bring your own utensils to keep your lunch waste-free!"





# Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President / [jikoleski@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:jikoleski@elmgrovewi.org)

## Flooding & Emergency Response

A u g u s t will long be remembered for the historic rainfall and flooding on August 9th and 10th. The Village is working closely with Waukesha County to coordinate and secure support from federal, state, and county resources.



A dedicated link has been added to the Village website: [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org) where residents can report damage and upload photos to help document the impact of the event. These reports support applications for potential federal disaster assistance.

FEMA conducted door-to-door damage assessments during the week of August 18th—an important step in the process of qualifying for federal aid. The Village will share updates as more information becomes available.

The Board would like to recognize the outstanding, coordinated response from the Village’s Emergency Services teams. Their swift action protected residents and minimized the impact of the flood. Special thanks go to:

- **Public Works:** Richard Paul Jr., Mark Becker, Tim White, Eli Swan, Brian Kelly, Greg Collins, Jake Hanson, and Jeff Regan
- **Police Department:** Jason Hennen, Natalie Riley, Preston Noble, Brent Sluka, and Evan Schano
- **Fire Department:** Brian Naylor, Dale Pekel, Tim Flanner, Brian Gerstmeier, Paul Martin, Claudia Roedl, Ben Roy, Daniel Gardner, John Lieske, and Andrew Luck
- **Emergency Services:** Kurt Waddell and Eddie Poggenburg
- **General Government:** Tom Harrigan, Ethan Sowl, and Crystal Turner

These individuals worked through the early morning hours to safeguard the community. Thanks to their efforts, no injuries or rescues were reported. Please join me in thanking our entire Village team for their dedication—during emergencies and every day—in support of our great community.

## School’s Back in Session

As the school year begins, please drive with extra caution. Watch for students walking, biking, or using e-scooters, and remember that school buses make frequent stops.

## Flood Prevention and Daylighting

Many residents have asked about the effectiveness of the Village’s past flood control investments. In the early 2000s, the Village nearly doubled the size of the Village Pond, reconfigured South Park to hold floodwater, and installed a large 9-foot stormwater bypass pipe.

This “deep tunnel” begins at the southeast portion of Bluestar Memorial Park on Legion Drive, routing water underground and around downtown before resurfacing just south of Wall Street, west of the DPW yard. These improvements performed as intended and significantly reduced the effects of what was a 500-year rain event.

The final phase of these improvements—**Daylighting Underwood Creek**—will further enhance floodwater flow and storage. The Village Board restarted this project in 2021 after newly elected members recognized its broad benefits, particularly in flood mitigation.

Unfortunately, progress has been slow due to land acquisition challenges with CP Rail. However, the finish line is in sight. Design work continues, and easement offers have been made to affected downtown property owners. The Village is hopeful construction can begin in 2025, with a 12-month timeline.

## Public Works Update

The Public Works team completed the 2025 paving projects in August. Pedestrian pathway construction along Underwood River Parkway is also complete and will improve safety for students.

- **Gremoor Drive Pathway:** Construction is ongoing. The Village is coordinating with the construction contractor, Police Department and School District to ensure a safe route to Tonawanda and St. Mary’s Schools.
- **Juneau Pathway:** Construction begins mid-September, with all pathways expected to be completed by mid-October.

Please drive carefully in construction zones, where heavy equipment is in use to install stormwater pipes and lay new asphalt. A big thank you to the entire Public Works team—your work is appreciated as we push through the final months of the 2025 project calendar.

Unfortunately, we are still awaiting CP Rail’s permit approval to complete the Highland Pathway. Due to multiple administrative delays by the railroad’s review team, we are following up weekly and have enlisted state assistance to move the process forward. We remain hopeful for resolution soon.

## 2026 Village Budget

Finance Director **Brian Lahey** is working with department heads to develop the 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets. Budget workshops will be held in October, where departments will present their funding requests to the Finance Committee.

These workshops are open to the public and offer a great opportunity to better understand Village services and the costs supported by your tax dollars. These reviews help ensure responsible spending while maintaining the high level of service residents expect.

## Caroline Heights Update

Residents may have noticed increased truck traffic at the Caroline Heights site. Over the past six weeks, your Village Board and staff have worked extensively to keep this project moving.

During testing of the stormwater management system, it was discovered that the clay soil beneath one of the ponds was not allowing proper drainage. The soil had to be replaced with stone. Following several meetings, a temporary occupancy agreement was reached for part of the final building under construction while work continued.

The heavy rain on August 9th and 10th provided a real-world stress test for the drainage system. While it largely functioned as designed, some damage occurred due to the system not being fully completed at the time. Repairs are underway to restore the pond to its approved specifications. Per the development agreement, the developer will incur a financial penalty if the stormwater system is not completed by the end of September.

## Community News & Events

- **E-Recycling:** Many thanks to Krueger Communications for sponsoring and supporting a successful e-recycling event in August, including providing destruction certifications.
- **Shred Day:** This year’s event will take place on **September 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the **St. Mary’s parking lot**, with entry off Crescent Drive. The event is sponsored by the Elm Grove Kiwanis Club.

As fall approaches and cooler weather sets in, take time to enjoy all that Elm Grove and Wisconsin have to offer during this beautiful season!

# Business & Club Directory

## \* Community Organizations



### Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club

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

See us on Facebook  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)  
[www.kiwaniselmgrove.org](http://www.kiwaniselmgrove.org)

## \* Insurance

### Woller-Anger, a Relation Company

930 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122  
**(262) 789-2500**  
“Relationships Matter”

### BUSINESS DIRECTORY & CLASSIFIED

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

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

# Classifieds

## FOR SALE

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Happy Birthday, Jimmy!



## Elm Grove Recycling Center

The Department of Public  
Works Recycling / Yard Waste  
Facility

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

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

[www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)  
**(262) 782-6700**

# Letters to the Editor

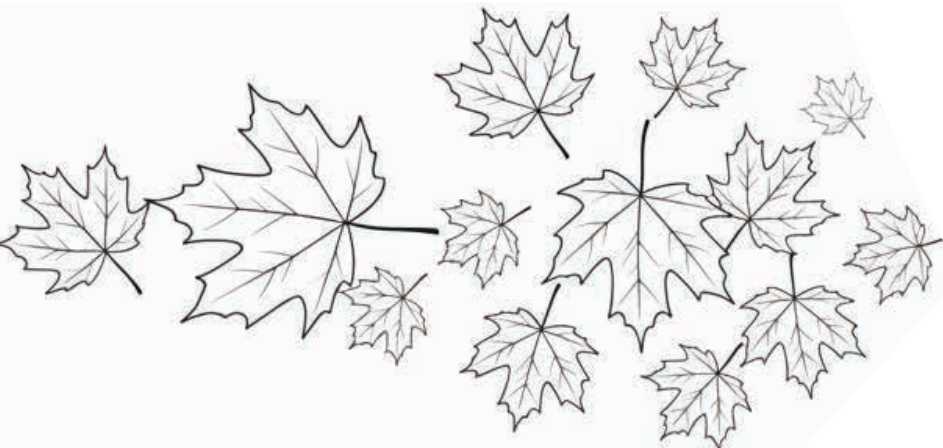
**NOTE: Letters (150 words or less) regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space-available basis. Submissions must include the writer’s name, community of residence, phone #.**

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

## Funding Needed for Eagle Scout Project

My name is **Sydney Boyung**, and I am currently a Life Scout in Troop 156 of Elm Grove, Wisconsin with Scouting America. I am currently working on my Eagle project, which is to create pieces for an agility/ enrichment course for dogs at Elmbrook Humane Society. However, this project requires fundraising. So, I am asking for your help.

I will need to fundraise about \$900 in order to make this project possible. Any amount of donation is welcome. If you wish to contribute, please make your tax-deductible check to Charles Boyung and mail it to 17660 Gebhardt Rd, Brookfield, WI 53045. Any surplus will be donated to the humane society for other projects. Thank you for your help.





# Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack and Craig Black

**COTTAGE SCHOOL, C. 1906.** Children attending the Cottage School in Brookfield are shown, left to right (first row) **Hilda Reinders, Frieda Wallman**, and two unidentified; (second row) two unidentified; (third row) **Walter Hoffman, Albert Sheets**, and two unidentified; (fourth row) unidentified and **Margaret Behling**; (fifth row) **Harold Behling**, unidentified, **Mary Hoffman**, and unidentified; (sixth row) unidentified, **Robert Behling, Jr., Alvin Mierow, and Henry Mierow.**



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

**ST. MARY’S GRADE SCHOOL, 1935.** The seventh and eighth grade students of St. Mary’s Grade School in Elm Grove for the 1934-1935 school year included, left to right (first row) **Lucy Marks, Mildred Rademacher, Betsy Rohr, Ruth Reinders, Jane Svehlek, and Catherine Sanders**; (second row) **Bob Witterholt, Joe Ramstack, Catherine Bobrowitz, Barbara Becker, Bob Jaques, and Gilbert Michel**; (third row) **Clement Reusch, Clarence Blaszyk, Paul Bobrowitz, Harold Gebhardt, Richard Smith, Robert Guiesell, Peter Boos, and Ed Frieberg.**



Photo courtesy: John Schoenknecht and Tom Ramstack

**DIXON SCHOOL, 1952.** The teacher of this first grade class appears to be well prepared with plenty of graphics, pictures, sentences, projects, and even a live feline (at center, foreground) for a lesson on cats. The Dixon School was then located on North Avenue in Brookfield. While remodeling the building during the 1950s, workmen found a wall that revealed a written lesson dated 1882 under a slate blackboard.

## 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](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)  
or call: (262) 782-6193  
for Rate information.

# Volunteers Needed!

\*\*\* Community organizations in need of volunteer help are invited to submit a statement (150 words maximum) to: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) --- OR --- write to: *Elm Grove News-Independent*, 14420 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423.

## \*American Red Cross

The American Red Cross of Wisconsin is issuing an urgent call for Disaster Action Team volunteers to help families impacted by home fires, floods, and other emergencies—both locally and nationwide. With extreme weather events on the rise, the Red Cross needs more trained responders who can deploy at a moment’s notice. Volunteers receive **free, flexible training** and can choose roles that fit their schedule—from shelter operations to logistics, health services or disaster assessment.

Start Today! If you’ve ever considered how you could help during a crisis, now is the time. The Red Cross provides all the tools, training, and support—you bring the compassion. Visit: <https://www.redcross.org/local/wisconsin/volunteer.html> to learn more and start your application.

## \*School District of Elmbrook

Please see <https://www.elmbrookschoools.org/departments/human-resources/how-to-volunteer-in-elmbrook> for all of the information including completing our district’s volunteer background check process. You will need to renew this process every two years. There is an approximate two-week processing time before you are able to volunteer in our school or chaperone a field trip.

## \*Sunset Playhouse

Sunset Playhouse loves our volunteers! We rely on them to help create the high-quality productions that Sunset is known for. From working in the Scene Shop to Front of House ushering to helping children make crafts at our bug in a rug Children’s Theater shows, we have volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in giving time to the arts. No experience needed - we will train you. If interested, call **(262) 782-4431 x233**. Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove, WI.

## \*Meals on Wheels

Become a Volunteer Driver to help others in your community by delivering meals to seniors, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Call Sherry Williams at 262-548-7829 or Email: [siwilliams@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:siwilliams@waukeshacounty.gov)



# Prost, Elm Grove! Oktoberfest is Back

Since 2016, the **Elm Grove Community Foundation** has been transforming Village Park into our very own slice of Germany—complete with lederhosen vibes, steins of beer, and plenty of gemütlichkeit (that’s German for “good times with good friends”).

This year, the 9th Annual **Elm Grove Community Foundation Oktoberfest**, presented by Honest Teeth, is taking over the park on **Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20**. Mark your calendars, because these are two days of food, music, games, and enough beer to keep the oompah band happy.

## Friday Night Festivities

Things kick off Friday at **5 pm** with German and local beers, tasty eats (from brats to tacos to donuts), live music, and an inflatable slide for the kids. Stick around as the Squeezettes bring their squeezebox swagger to the stage, keeping the party rolling until the lights go down—literally—thanks to Riv/Crete, our Friday night music sponsor, and our outdoor lighting sponsor, Johnson Electric.

## Saturday Shenanigans

Saturday gets rolling at **3:30 pm** with the world-famous (or at least Elm Grove-famous) **0.5K Fun Run**. Think of it as a “race for the rest of us”—a half-kilometer stroll-slash-beer parade from O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub to Village Park, fueled by Leinenkugel’s brews for the 21+ crowd and root beer for our younger participants. Everyone who crosses the *grueling* finish line (all 0.5 kilometers of it) gets a t-shirt, beers or root beers, and a shiny Oktoberfest mug. Bonus: the Elm Grove Original Scooter (EGOS) crew will lead the way, so no one gets lost.

And that is just the warmup. The real Oktoberfest celebration kicks off right after with more live music—this time by the Jeff Winard Band, courtesy of Alpine Yodeler Sponsor, Waterstone Bank. We will have Raise Your Pint contests with celebrity judge Katie Leinenkugel, sponsored by Doering & Co., big games like bags and giant Jenga, and of course, more food and beer than you can shake a pretzel at.

## All Weekend Long

Throughout the weekend, you’ll find a giant Bier und Wine tent sponsored by Leinenkugel’s, tons of food vendors (Great Harvest-Elm Grove, Romero’s Tacos, Kettle Range, Chick-fila-A, Cuppa Tosa, Cocino Filipina MKE, Romero’s Taco Truck, Donut NV-Milwaukee), plus Oktoberfest games and an inflatable slide in the Kids Zone sponsored by Milestone Plumbing. With over 3,000 people expected, this is one community party you do not want to miss.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors including Honest Teeth, Leinenkugel’s, Waterstone Bank, O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub, Uptown Motors, Attorney Elisa Ruer, Johnson Electric, Doering & Co., Milestone Plumbing, Riv/Crete, Nona, Weber Physical Therapy, Wine Down, and our media friends at B93.3FM for spreading the word.

So, dust off your dirndls and lederhosen, grab your friends, and raise a pint with us—because Oktoberfest only comes once a year, and in Elm Grove, we do it right.



# Calendar of Events – September 2025

**Monday – SEPTEMBER 1**  
**LABOR DAY**  
Village Hall & Library Closed

**Tuesday – SEPTEMBER 2**  
Elmbrook Schools begin classes

**Friday – SEPTEMBER 5**  
• Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Chad Source**; Topic: “Surviving Nuclear War”  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – SEPTEMBER 7**  
**GRANDPARENTS’ DAY**

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee  
**Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets 11 a.m. to Noon at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrove.wi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrove.wi.org)
- **FREE Outdoor Concert at 3 p.m.**  
sponsored by  
**Brookfield Congregational Church**  
16350 Gebhardt Road, Brookfield



**Tuesday – SEPTEMBER 9**  
• Elmbrook School Board  
Meeting – 6 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield.  
Open to the Public.  
[www.elmbrookschoools.org](http://www.elmbrookschoools.org)

**Wednesday – SEPTEMBER 10**  
• Elm Grove Woman’s Club  
Open House: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at their Clubhouse, 13885 Watertown Plank Road.  
FREE and open to the public.

**Thursday – SEPTEMBER 11**  
**PATRIOT DAY**  
National Day of Service & Remembrance

**Friday – SEPTEMBER 12**  
• Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Thomas Harrigan**, Elm Grove Village Manager; Topic: “State of Elm Grove Village”  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – SEPTEMBER 14**  
• Elm Grove Beautification Committee  
**Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets 11 a.m. to Noon at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrove.wi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrove.wi.org)

**Monday – SEPTEMBER 15**  
• **Cruisin’ The Spur – Cars, Trucks & Motorcycle Show**, 5 p.m. to Dusk in the parking lot behind Silver Spur Texas Smokehouse BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. FREE to exhibit and attend. (See story – Page 2)

- **Elmbrook Historical Society:**  
Free Lecture - 7 p.m. at the Brookfield Public Library. Join us to hear architectural historian and WI State Historic Preservation Officer, **Jim Draeger**, talk about his book: “Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin’s Historic Bars & Breweries”.

**Friday – SEPTEMBER 19**  
• Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Pastor Lindsay Jordan**, St Luke’s Lutheran, Waukesha  
Topic: “History of the Lord’s Prayer”  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

- Elm Grove Community Foundation’s **Oktoberfest**.  
(See ADs – Pages 4 & 8)

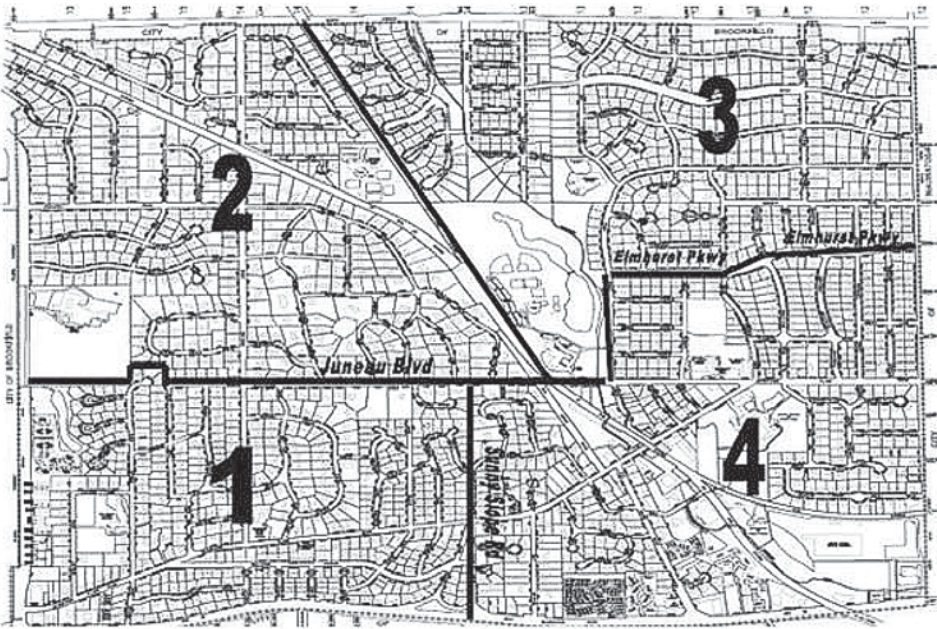
**Saturday – SEPTEMBER 20**  
• Elm Grove Community Foundation’s **Oktoberfest**.  
(See ADs – Pages 4 & 8)

**Sunday – SEPTEMBER 21**  
• Elm Grove Beautification Committee  
**Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets 11 a.m. to Noon at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrove.wi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrove.wi.org)

## Village of Elm Grove *Brush Pick up* Schedule

The DPW will pick up brush placed along Elm Grove streets on these dates:  
\*Area 1 (September 8) \* Area 2 (September 15)  
\* Area 3 (September 22) \* Area 4 (September 29)

Please refer to the map below to determine your area number.  
Visit: [www.elmgrove.wi.org](http://www.elmgrove.wi.org) or call (262) 782-6700 for more information.



**Monday – SEPTEMBER 22**  
**FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN**



**Tuesday – SEPTEMBER 23**  
• Elm Grove Board of Trustees  
Meeting – 7 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom, 13600 Juneau Blvd.  
Open to the Public. (262) 782-6700  
Agenda: [www.elmgrove.wi.org](http://www.elmgrove.wi.org)

**Friday – SEPTEMBER 26**  
• Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Installation of Club Officers for 2025/2026 Kiwanis Year.  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – SEPTEMBER 28**  
• Elm Grove Beautification Committee  
**Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets 11 a.m. to Noon at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrove.wi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrove.wi.org)



# GET YOUR TICKETS FOR

# FARM TO FORK

at

[www.WaukeshaCountyGreenTeam.org](http://www.WaukeshaCountyGreenTeam.org)

Savor the Season, Support the Future

**Sun, Sept 21**  
**11am to 3pm**  
**@ Rustic Manor**  
**1848**

**NEW!**  
Presenting the  
**Eco-Visionary**  
Award to  
**Elm Grove's**  
**own**  
**Nicci Sternitzky**

## ENJOY

Spending an Hour or Two Learning Something New!

**2025 FALL TERM / OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> – NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**

**36 New Adult Enrichment Classes**  
Mondays & Tuesdays, 1-2 hours Each  
Starting at 9:30, 11:30 am or 1:30 pm

**Affordably priced**  
\$10 per Class or \$65 per Term for Unlimited Classes

**Conveniently Located**  
One mile from Brookfield Square at Community United Methodist Church in Elm Grove

**2025 Fall Catalogs Available**  
on Website: [www.EGS4LL.org](http://www.EGS4LL.org)  
and at School Office and Libraries

**Safe & Welcoming Environment**

**Wide Variety of Topics**  
Iditarod Dog Race, Civil War Medicine, Lincoln Conspiracy, Hot Topics, Florentine Opera, Trump’s Tariffs,

Bay View History, Wisconsin Author, Carnegie Medal, Nazi Art Plunder, Gong Meditation, Estate Planning, History of Milwaukee County Zoo, Modern Cataract Surgery, Artists, Capitalism & Marx, MAM Highlights,

Eleanor Roosevelt’s Life, Growth of AI, Modern-day Piano Composer, Baseball, Crafting Paper Piecing, Tax Strategies, Robotic Surgery, iPhone/iPad Tips,

Christmas Ornaments, Nutrition, Lewis & Clark Trip, Milwaukee Mafia, American Foreign Policy, Hollywood Legends, Supreme Court Justice, Self-Advocacy Skills

## Elm Grove School

for Lifelong Learning

14700 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122  
262-782-4060, ext. 221 / [WWW.EGS4LL.ORG](http://WWW.EGS4LL.ORG)

**An outreach of Community United Methodist Church.**



# Report from The Capitol

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

## “Welcoming Your 4th Graders to the State Capitol”

I’m dedicating my column this month to one of my favorite things to do at the Wisconsin State Capitol—welcome your 4th graders!

It’s common for 4th graders to make a school trip to the State Capitol, and when they do, I’m thrilled to welcome the classes, reserve a photographer to take their picture, and send printed and digital copies to their school. And, if I’m really lucky, I spend an hour or two hosting the students in a “Puppies For Everyone” mock hearing—an activity I created for my Assembly District. (*As far as I know, I am the only Wisconsin state legislator who hosts regular mock hearings for 4th graders!*)

“Puppies for Everyone” is a pretend bill I wrote to introduce students to the legislative process, first-hand, in an interactive workshop. Rather than simply telling students how the legislative process works, I both show them, and let them do it themselves! Students play the role of legislator, sit in the fancy chairs, pretend to speak into the microphones, read testimony on state letterhead, learn to operate a committee as the “Chair” and “Vice-Chair,” confer with each other about possible amendments, and vote!

“Puppies for Everyone” is entirely nonpartisan (*I promise!*) and entirely fictional—but the experience is real, meaningful, and fun for us all. The entire process is focused on kids learning what it’s like to take critical thinking skills into a hearing room to hear and debate a bill, and think through what to do when you realize something you thought might be a good idea, starts to look like a concerning idea the more good questions you ask.

How is this activity an excellent exercise in critical thinking skills? The student legislators swiftly poke holes in the bill—*how much will giving everyone in Wisconsin a puppy cost? What does “everyone” mean? What about people with allergies? What if someone would rather have a turtle, or a cat, or a bunny, or a snake? Are there enough veterinarians for this bill? Are there enough puppies? What...if you don’t want a puppy?* And more!



At the end of the hearing, each student votes for whether or not the bill should pass. “Puppies for Everyone” has seen a whole variety of votes over the last year and a half that I have been proposing the pretend bill. Different groups of kids have different thoughts, and that, in itself, is a lesson.

In late July I had the pleasure of welcoming 5th-grade Girl Scout Troop 1378 from Brookfield to participate! This was a smaller group than we normally have, but it was exciting to allow each of the girls more time to express their thoughts on the bill and how they would view bills as legislators or co-authors. Some of the quotes I heard from them afterwards were:

*“It was so much more interesting to get to DO this instead of someone just telling us about how it works.”*

*“I grew in confidence.”*

*“This was so interesting and fun!”*

Over the last year I’ve also heard kids say, *“I think I want to do this one day—I want to do your job.”* And I love that, because I’m not so sure they’d have felt that way if they’d just walked into the room, heard about what takes place in there, and walked out.




I’m so grateful I was lucky enough to grow up the daughter of an absolutely brilliant school teacher. My mom spent my childhood showing me both how to learn, and how to lead others through learning. Thanks, Mom!


If you have a 4th grader visiting the Capitol this year with their school, or group that would like to request a similar visit, please

connect with your local teachers and tell them to call or email my office. If you would like to request a “Puppies For Everyone” mock hearing, please reach out as soon as you know you are coming so we can reserve a spot on my schedule, as well as a hearing room where our mock hearing can take place. We make this available as often as possible. I hope to see you at the Capitol soon!


State Budget Speech




State Budget Recap



Mental Healthcare Is Healthcare



Office Hours



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

EMAIL REP.VINING@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV

f @REPROBYNVINING      @REP.ROBYN

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

## News Briefs

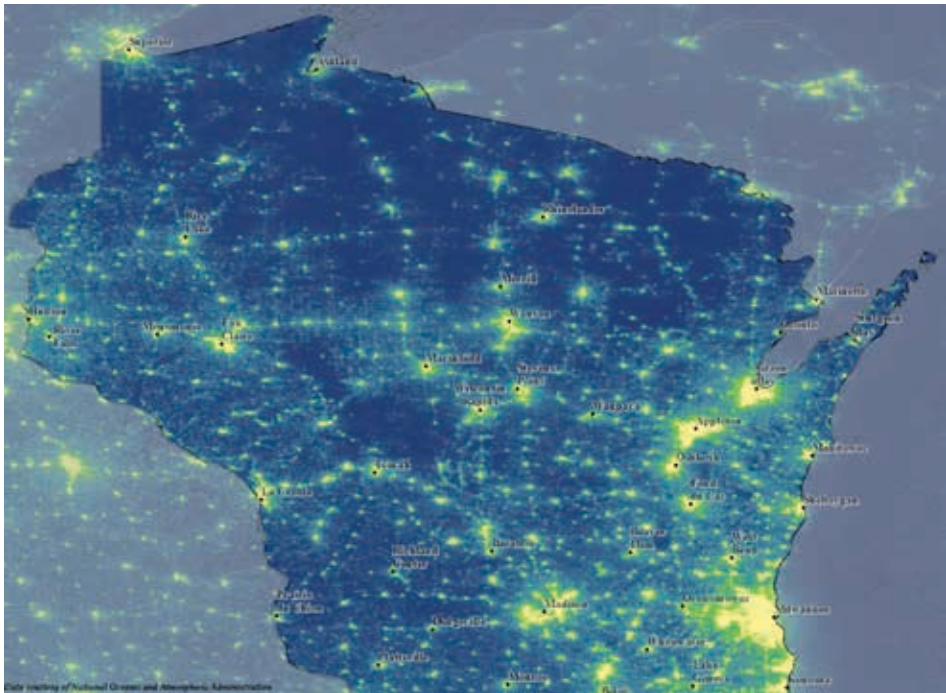
### Lights Out -- Elm Grove

By Tyler Beckley

Every spring and fall, billions of birds make a remarkable journey, as they fly north to nesting grounds and south to wintering habitats. Most travel under the cover of night, using the stars to help them navigate. But when they pass over brightly lit cities, artificial light can lead them astray, sometimes with unfortunately deadly consequences.

Skyglow and building lights can disorient birds, causing them to circle endlessly, call out in distress, and waste precious energy. That exhaustion makes them more vulnerable to collisions, predators, and other urban dangers. The toll can be staggering; dozens of species are affected, including priority species like the Allen’s Hummingbird, Wood Thrush, and Golden-winged Warbler. In one week in 2017, nearly 400 migrating songbirds died after being trapped in the floodlights of a 32-story Texas skyscraper, ultimately colliding with its windows.

The Audubon Society’s Lights Out program offers a simple but powerful solution: encourage landlords and residents to switch off any unnecessary light fixtures during peak migration months. It is recommended that one should turn off any exterior decorative lights, extinguish pots and floodlights, reduce atrium and high-story interior lighting, use task lighting or window coverings for late-night workers, and install motion sensors and down-shielding lights to limit upward glare.



Elm Grove residents can participate in the local Lights Out effort with a one-time, no-renewal sign-up available through the village website. Participants receive seasonal reminders about peak migration and join a growing community supporting not only birds but also fireflies and nighttime pollinators. Scientists state that by protecting these nighttime migrants we are actually benefiting the entire ecosystem. Many birds depend on caterpillars, larvae of both moths

and butterflies, to feed their young. While most pollinator research focuses on daytime species, the U.S. has nearly 11,000 species of moths, compared to just 750 butterflies.

By dimming our lights, communities like Elm Grove can save energy, reduce costs, and give our feathered travelers safe passage on their long and perilous journeys. To sign up and be a part of this effort, sign up now here: <https://elmgrovewi.org/746/Birds-Lights>.

### Funding Sought to Expand, Sustain Unified Sports

(BROOKFIELD) The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) has announced its 2025–2026 Funding Initiative: **Unified Sports**. This program brings students of all abilities together to work as a team, form new relationships, and compete in a friendly environment. Unified Sports was started in Elmbrook’s high schools in 2021 by Brookfield East’s **Hannah Christianson**, and is now entering its 4th year and expanding into the middle schools to reach even more students and deepen its impact.

For the upcoming year, the EEF has set a goal to raise **\$75,000** to support Unified Sports for the next decade. Funding will provide:

- **Staffing** to ensure quality coaching and program coordination
- **Uniforms and equipment** for all participants
- **Program expansion** to reach additional schools and students
- **Long-term sustainability** for lasting impact

Please visit: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/unified-sports> to learn more and donate today.



# News Briefs



Photo by Patty Kujawa

Assistant Library Director / Youth Services Librarian **Sue Daniels** and Library Assistant **Anna Sorenson** at work behind the circulation counter.

## Growing Beyond Our Walls:

## The Future of Elm Grove Public Library

By Patty Kujawa

When Elm Grove residents first pushed for a public library decades ago, not everyone saw the need. Many homes already had shelves filled with books, including those ubiquitous sets of Britannica encyclopedias. But a group of dedicated advocates believed a community library could offer something more: shared access, lifelong learning and a place for everyone to explore ideas together.



Photo by Patty Kujawa

A behind-the-scenes workroom at the library.

Thanks to their persistence, the Elm Grove Public Library opened its doors in 1962, and it has been a cornerstone of our village ever since.

Today, the library continues to thrive. Tucked in the heart of the park and deeply woven into the rhythm of Elm Grove, it's where stories are discovered, curiosity is nurtured, and neighbors connect. With one of the highest circulation rates in the region, EGPL proves this community still believes in the power of shared resources and lifelong learning.

But our success has created a challenge. We've simply run out of space. The shelves are packed to capacity, our staff works in cramped quarters that double as the lunchroom, and we spend our days constantly shifting materials just to make space. A 2022 facility study by FEH Design confirmed what many of us already suspected: the building no longer meets the growing needs of the community it serves.

In response, the Library Board has completed a new Strategic Plan that lays out a clear path forward, focusing on improved service, increased community engagement and reimagined spaces for the future. But we can't do it alone.

We know this news may raise questions. Here are a few we expect people might be asking—and how the library is responding.

**Q: If the library is already popular and functioning, what's the problem?**

A: We're trying to provide 21st-century library services in a mid-20th-century footprint. Our shelves are full, staff areas are cramped and we lack flexible space for programs, quiet study and community gatherings. In addition, we're trying to squeeze the new RFID checkout system at a circulation desk that wasn't built for the task. We've been making it work, but just barely.

**Q: Isn't the collection being reduced? Won't that help?**

A: Since 2020, we've trimmed nearly 12,000 items through thoughtful weeding and new technology. But we're still a high-circulating, high-demand library. Even with a leaner collection, our current space doesn't allow us to offer the accessibility, comfort and efficiency our patrons deserve.

**Q: What improvements are being made now?**

A: We are continuing our weeding process and implementing an RFID tagging system to improve our cataloging methods. Staff, Board members and volunteers will be reconfiguring storage and moving lesser-used items to the basement to free up space. We're also planning workspace improvements to better serve the public. But key upgrades—like modernizing our circulation and information desks—will require future funding.

**Q: What's next?**

A: Our Strategic Plan outlines three major goals: enhance service, grow outreach and optimize library space. We'll continue finding creative ways to serve the community within our current limitations while beginning conversations about future expansion. That will take vision, planning and community support.

**Q: How can I help?**

A: Keep using the library—your engagement tells our story better than any brochure. Stay informed as we share updates and invite feedback. And when the time comes, we hope you'll be part of the solution through advocacy, fundraising or simply lending your voice to the idea that Elm Grove deserves a library that reflects its values. We're not asking for the moon, just a little more room to grow.



## Library News and Programs

September 2025

13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122

262-782-6717 | [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org)



**Beginner Sourdough / Tuesday, September 2, 6:00 p.m.**

Interested in making sourdough bread from scratch but don't know where to begin? No worries! Join Amanda Strojinc of Hopefully Homesteading LLC for an introductory session on sourdough breadmaking at the Elm Grove Public Library. Learn what a sourdough starter is, how fermented foods work, and receive step-by-step instructions on how to bake a wonderful sourdough loaf. Amanda will provide sourdough breads to taste and demonstrate how to mix, fold, and stretch the dough. Free to attend. No registration required.

**Songs of Innocence: William Blake / Tuesday, September 9, 6:30 p.m.**

In the 1700s English writers began to explore the imaginary possibilities of the "Gothic" world. Their works were melancholic and reflective with over-arching themes of human mortality and salvation. A pioneer in this new literary style was none other than William Blake: the poet, the artist, and the mystic. Some thought him completely mad; but in reality, he was born into a world unready to receive his genius. Join us as we explore the revolutionary mind of William Blake. Presented by Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone Symposium. Free to attend. No registration required.



**Music of the West African Kora with Sean Gaskell / Friday, September 12, 1:00 p.m.**

Don't miss this incredible musical performance!

Sean Gaskell features songs on the *kora*--a 21 stringed West African harp. He studied under the extensive instruction of Moriba Kuyateh and the late Malamini Jobarteh in Gambia, and both Youssoupha Cissokho and Mamadou Cissokho in Senegal. The kora is traditionally played by oral historians known as Griots. Many songs featured on the kora preserve an 800-year history dating back to the founding of the Mande empire. Gaskell has presented adult, youth and family programs at over 400 libraries and a multitude of k-12

schools, colleges, universities and assisted living facilities throughout the United States and Canada. Free to attend. No registration required.

**Migration of Birds / Tuesday, September 30, 6:30 p.m.**

Join award-winning naturalist and wildlife educator Bill Volkert as he unravels the mystery of bird migration. This presentation will explore the annual migration of birds, their seasonal phenology, and explore recent studies that are revealing more information and instilling greater wonder over the phenomenon of bird migration. Birds not only come and go with the seasons but they do so in the same order every year. This program will provide an insight into why birds migrate and the orderly succession of species that arrive in Wisconsin each spring.



Keep it Local  
with  
Simply Checking

15900 W Bluemound Rd, Brookfield WI 53005  
(888) 485-4400

Great Midwest Bank

FDIC

FDIC-Insured - Backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government

## 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](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)**  
**OR Call: (262) 782-6193**

# Oktoberfest

## Elm Grove Village Park

### September 19 & 20

A Community Event Organized by the  
**Elm Grove Community Foundation**

#### FRIDAY THE 19TH

5:00 PM    FOOD TRUCKS  
              BEER TENT\*  
              LIVE MUSIC  
              GAMES & KIDS  
              INFLATABLE SLIDE

\*Beer Tent will also feature wine and seltzers  
No outside food or beverage allowed

#### SATURDAY THE 20ST

3:30 PM    0.5K FUN RUN  
4:00 PM    FOOD TRUCKS  
              BEER TENT\*  
              LIVE MUSIC  
              GAMES & KIDS  
              INFLATABLE SLIDE

presented by



**Details at [elmgrovefoundation.org](http://elmgrovefoundation.org)**

Visit to register for the 0.5K Fun Run or to **become an Oktoberfest volunteer.**





# Young Writers & Reporters



## WANTED: Young Writers & Reporters!

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

NEWS ITEMS / INTERVIEWS / SHORT STORIES / POETRY  
(about 200 words maximum)

\*Send items (within an email or as a Word document) to:  
[elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)  
Subject line: Young Writers

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



## Old(er) Writers

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

### To Those Who Make War

By Gary Kerslake

(NOTE: I wrote this for my brother who died from complications related to Vietnam.)

Take a man and send him forth,  
let him live to die.  
Let his heart know victory,  
he must at all cost try.

If the pride in man could speak,  
I know what it might say,  
“Take me if you wish my friend,  
I live from day to day.”

But touch the fragile soul of man,  
pluck it from its birth,  
and you have then created waste,  
a hollowness on earth.



### haiku poem

By Joanne Johnson-Clauser

tall grey stork stands still  
water ripples under foot  
large fish has no chance

### White Flower

By Brian R. Kohlman

Fragrant blossoms linger within the airs of friendship.  
Casual passings perhaps may flower into an array of warmth and caring,  
making for a bouquet of sweetness and affection.  
Flowers often mingle and co-exist among their own kind.  
Such is not always the case as there can often be found some weeds among the flowers.  
But it may that some weeds are ugly and alone, for they can be found to be at times beautiful  
and purposeful to those who look beyond their physical attributes.  
From time to time a flower wilts and needs a little assistance and inspiration.  
That is probably why a sometimes ‘contagious’ weed is nearby.  
The weed wants and needs the friendship of a lovely flower.  
The weed wants the flower to be happy.  
Friendships among flowers are often endless.  
Weeds are merely rejects of desired friendships.  
When a flower needs a weed as a friend, that lonesome weed will always be there.  
While dandelions waltz among the grasses and flowers, the penchant perfume of flowers  
makes for the most beautiful of budding relationships.  
A weed is only a weed if it is in the wrong place.  
In its natural setting of the wilds it feels at ease,  
but when it intrudes where it is commonly not accepted such as among the flowers,  
it is often terminated without a trial.  
Once in a while that weed wants to shrivel up and die.  
A weed needs the companionship of a flower.  
If it is true that opposites attract might it not be true  
that flowers and weeds can have a harmonious friendship?  
This weed thinks so.

--- ‘A Dandelion’

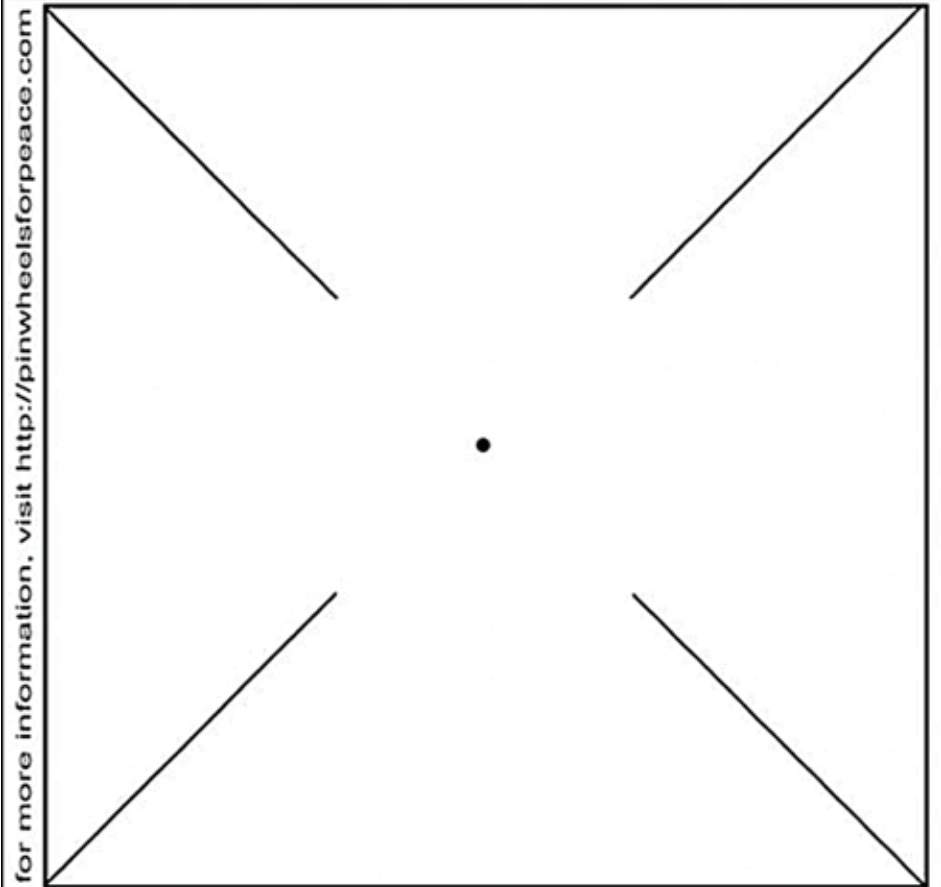
## ADVERTISEMENT

YOUR BUSINESS + CLUB + ORGANIZATION  
CHURCH + SCHOOL + EVENT  
REAL ESTATE + ITEMS FOR SALE  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
CANDIDACY FOR PUBLIC OFFICE + MORE.

Request a Rate Sheet &  
Reserve Space in Upcoming Editions

Email: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)  
Or Call: (262) 782-6193

## Coloring for Kids (of ALL ages!)



What you need:  
Scissors  
Straight pin  
Pencil with eraser  
Colored pencils or markers to decorate

How to get started:  
Cut out the pinwheel square on this page. On one side of the paper, write down your feelings about war/peace/tolerance/living in harmony. On the other side of the paper, use markers, colored pencils, paint, or other art media to visually express your feelings.  
Following the lines on the template, cut in from all four corners, leaving about 2 inches of center uncut.

To create the pinwheel:  
Gently bend (don't fold) one of the cut corners to the center point. Skip the next cut corner, and bend the next one. Skip and bend until four points meet in the center. Then stick the straight pin through all four points AND the back of the pinwheel. Stick the pin into the pencil eraser. Find some wind to test it out.

Save your pinwheel in a safe place until September 21st (which is International Day of Peace) then take it to a public place and “plant” it into the ground to send a message of world peace!



Cut out this peace sign and put it in the center of your pinwheel before you put the pin in it.





# News Briefs

## Got Milk(weed)?

By Tyler Beckley

Since its launch in 2015, the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge has gone from a small conservation initiative to a tri-national movement spanning the United States, Mexico, and Canada. It is designed to mobilize cities and communities in protecting monarch butterflies and other pollinators. The program has, between 2015 and 2020, brought over 600 mayors and local or tribal government leaders on board, engaging more than six million people and restoring upwards of 6,500 acres of monarch habitat.

The pledge’s reach expanded in 2017 through international partnerships that reflect the monarch’s remarkable migration, a multi-generational journey stretching across all three nations.

Participating mayors commit to both restoring monarch habitat within their communities and encouraging residents to do the same. The process begins with three steps. First, from December 1 through March 31, mayors or their staff can officially take the pledge online, selecting at least three out of 30 possible conservation actions to carry out during the year. Leaders completing eight or more actions earn a place in the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle, while those reaching 24 or more join the ranks of Monarch Champion Cities.

Second, once pledged, cities can get resources from the National Wildlife Federation, including webinars, newsletters, and online guides to help complete their specified actions.

Third, each participating community tracks its progress throughout the year and submits a final report due by December 1. These reports are used to help measure the collective impact of the overall initiative.

For the coming year, the local Beautification Committee has identified key goals to reach at least 20 of the 29 possible pledge actions. They are seeking volunteers to help with efforts including partnering with city departments to revise mowing schedules and increase milkweed and native nectar plantings.

Other priorities include collaborating with gardening organizations such as Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and Native Plant Society chapters; working with homeowners’ associations and neighborhood groups to install monarch-friendly gardens; and engaging developers, planners, and landscape architects to integrate monarch habitats into community design.

The committee also aims to strengthen city ordinances to boost native plant use, reduce harmful chemicals, and cut light pollution. The Beautification Committee continues its “Orange Dot” challenge, which marks properties that support monarch butterflies. The 2025 goal is 400 dots; the community currently sits at 348, with 2,200 properties identified as having the potential to join in. What’s keeping you from getting your orange dot? The Committee points to Westover Road as a shining example of neighborhood participation. For more information or to get involved, contact the Beautification Committee at [EGBeautification@gmail.com](mailto:EGBeautification@gmail.com)



## Veteran’s Park Revitalization Project

By Tyler Beckley

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee is moving steadily along with the revitalization of Veteran’s Park; the project is aimed to restore the park’s greenery and enhance its natural beauty.

This fall, the committee will focus on controlling invasive plant species. Two broadcast herbicide treatments are scheduled to target Canada thistle, reed canary grass, quackgrass, crown vetch, purple loosestrife, and curly dock, plants that have displaced native vegetation over time. Later in the season, treated areas will be trimmed in preparation for early winter seeding. A mix of native plants selected for the park’s soil and climate will be introduced to improve habitat quality and add seasonal color.

The restoration is made possible through the generous donations and contributions from more than 20 village residents, which allowed the committee to hire Native Roots, LLC to complete the restoration in 2025. Nevertheless, the work will not end with planting. The committee knows that on-going maintenance is essential to help native species develop strong roots and to keep invasive plants out!

The committee would like to encourage the community and new members to get involved with the next phase in this project because it is never too late to join and become a part of this effort. With all this continued support, we as a community can ensure that Veteran’s Park stays a beautiful and healthy green place for all residents to enjoy.

# Community Needs

## Blood Donations

**\*American Red Cross of Wisconsin**

Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call (800) 733-2767

to schedule an appointment or locate a nearby blood drive.

**\*Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin**

Donor Centers:

8733 Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa

638 N. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee

2111 Springdale Rd., Waukesha

Call 1-877-BE-A-HERO

1 (877) 232-4376

or visit: [versiti.org/Wisconsin](http://versiti.org/Wisconsin).



## Food Banks / Pantries

**\* Food Pantry of Waukesha County**

1301 Sentry Dr., Waukesha 53186  
[www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/donate/](http://www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/donate/)

(262) 542-5300

Needs donations of food, volunteer time & money.

**\*New Berlin Food Pantry**

14750 W. Cleveland Ave. 53151

(Serves residents of Elm Grove, Brookfield & New Berlin)

(262) 789-8040



### Fall Word Search

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

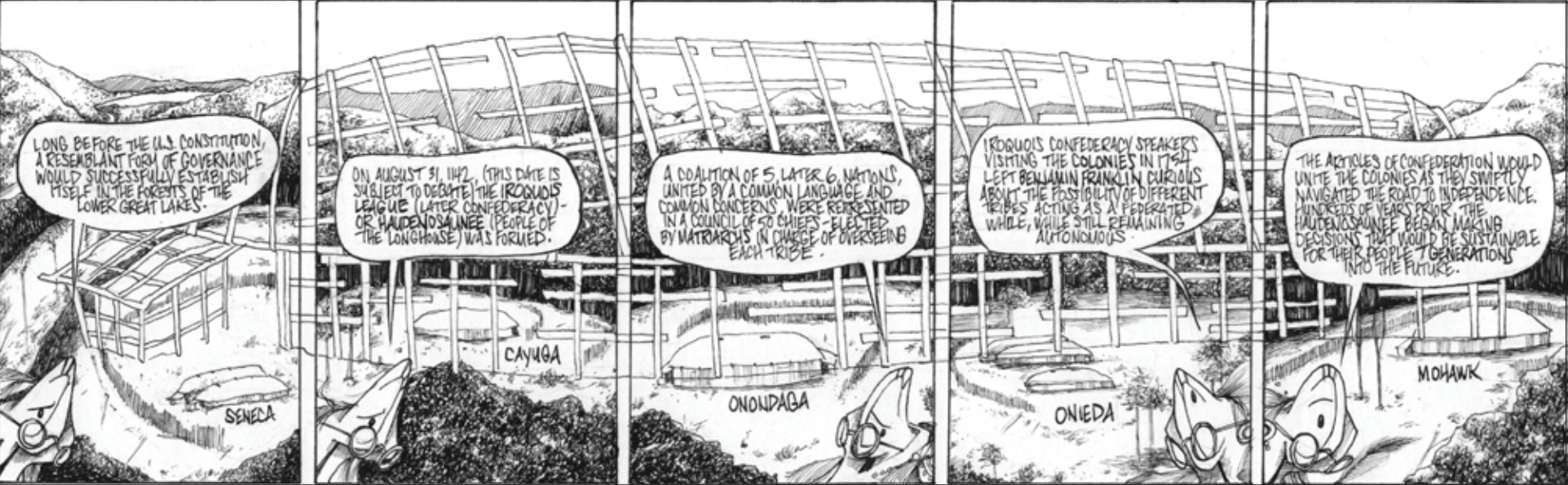
BOUNTIFUL  
CROPS  
CHESTNUTS  
BREEZY

HAPPY  
REAP  
SPICE  
FALL

LEAVES  
TREE  
PUMPKIN  
APPLE

ACORN  
CORN  
LATTE  
CRISP

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





# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K

**BROOKFIELD EAST HONORS NIGHT.** (Shown, left to right) Key club advisor Mark Ehlinger, Seniors Layan (Lulu) Mihyar, Aiden Klick, and Susan Coakley, Club President Richard Seeling.

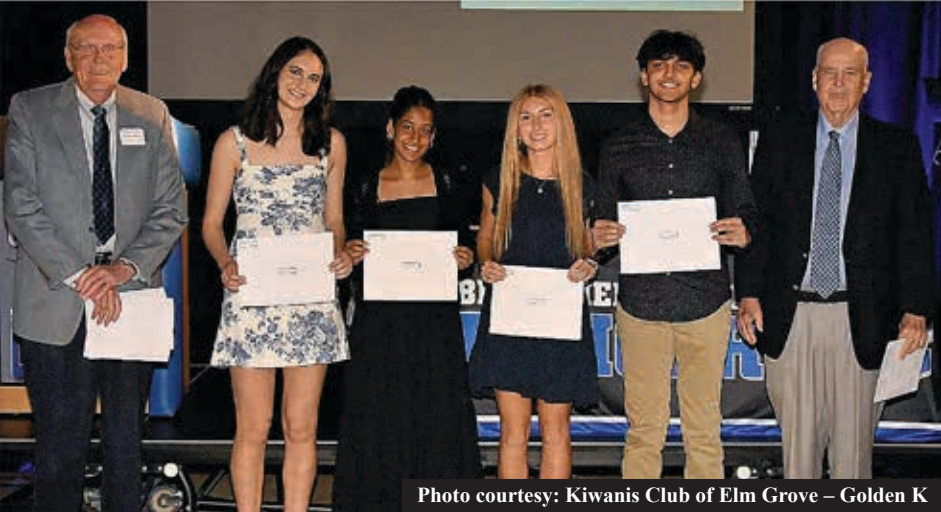


Photo courtesy: Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K

**BROOKFIELD CENTRAL HONORS NIGHT.** (Left to right) Key Club Advisor Mike McBride, Seniors , Mira Jaski, Marika Carvalho, and Ojas Sharma, Club President Richard Seeling.

## Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove Awards Scholarships

By Mark Ehlinger

In May, the Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove, Golden Ks gave out scholarships to senior Key Club members to help with their college expenses.

At the Brookfield East Honors Night, the scholarships were presented to 3 Brookfield East seniors who were officers of the Key Club. **Susan Coakley** also received a scholarship from The Kiwanis Wisconsin Upper Michigan District Foundation. At the Brookfield Central Honors Night, scholarships were given out to 4 Brookfield Central seniors who were officers of the Key Club.

Key clubs are service organizations sponsored by the local Kiwanis and are based in high schools. This past year, the 2 Key Clubs provided more than 6,000 hours of service to our community.

The Elm Grove Golden Ks are a service organization which also sponsors Cub Scout Packs at St. Mary’s Visitation and Tonawanda Elementary and Scouts BSA troops at Pilgrim Park Middle School and St. Mary’s Visitation.

Lately, the Club has, additionally, provided service to the Elmbrook School District and Head Start of Waukesha County.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Education Foundation

Shown (Left to right) are **Dr. Bob Hall**, Executive Director, LAUNCH; **Beth Dobrzynski**, Executive Director, Elmbrook Education Foundation; and **Scott Wheeler**, President, Elmbrook School Board.

## EEF Contributes to LAUNCH Program Funding

(BROOKFIELD) - The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) has awarded **\$25,000** to the **LAUNCH program**, a dynamic and innovative educational initiative within the Elmbrook School District that connects students with real-world learning experiences through industry partnerships and project-based learning.

The contribution will directly support the continued growth and enhancement of the LAUNCH program, which empowers high school students to explore career pathways, build professional skills, and engage with local businesses and community organizations.

“We are deeply grateful to the Elmbrook Education Foundation for their generous \$25,000 gift to LAUNCH. This investment strengthens our ability to provide students with authentic, profession-based learning experiences that prepare them with the skills, confidence, and purpose to thrive beyond high school. The EEF’s continued partnership ensures that innovation and opportunity remain at the heart of education in Elmbrook,” said **Bob Hall**, Executive Director of LAUNCH.

The LAUNCH program, open to students at Brookfield Central and Brookfield East High Schools, offers experiences in multiple strands such as Engineering, Healthcare, Business Analytics, Media Solutions, and Global Solutions. Through mentorship and collaboration with professionals, students gain valuable insights and skills that align with their academic and career interests.

“The EEF is proud to support LAUNCH as part of our ongoing commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in Elmbrook Schools,” said **Beth Dobrzynski**, Executive Director of the Elmbrook Education Foundation. “We believe in preparing students not only for academic achievement, but also for the real world. LAUNCH exemplifies that mission.”

Since its founding in 1958, the Elmbrook Education Foundation has awarded over \$1.7 million in scholarships and \$845,000 in grants, supporting innovative educational initiatives that go beyond the district’s standard curriculum and budget. EEF remains committed to enhancing educational excellence across the Elmbrook School District through community partnership, innovative funding, and long-term support.

# News’ Hounds & other beloved animals

## Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Meet **Tippy** — a sweet, self-assured girl who knows exactly what she wants. She may take a moment to get her bearings in new spaces, but she’s no wallflower. Once she’s comfy, Tippy’s affectionate side shines through with soft meows, gentle head butts, and cozy snuggles that make you feel like her favorite human. She’s loving, calm, and appreciates a peaceful home where she can truly be herself. If you’re looking for a companion with a gentle spirit and a clear sense of what she likes, Tippy might just be your perfect match.

Tippy’s adoption fee has been sponsored by Cynthia Brideson!

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

Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Tippy

### NOT LOOKING FOR HEROES, JUST NEIGHBORS

#### ELM GROVE FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENTS

If you've got the heart to serve your community and are looking for a dynamic group of individuals that make up a GREAT team, then we have an opportunity for you!

##### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- At least 18 years old
- Have a valid Wisconsin Driver's License
- Live within the department's response area

##### UPON ACCEPTANCE - FIRE

- Attend one semester of Firefighter 1 State Certification course at WCTC or MATC
- Attend Probationary Training held on Tuesday evenings at the Elm Grove Firehouse.





##### MEMBERS ARE PAID ON CALL!

###### EMS - BASE REQUIREMENTS

- At least 18 years old
- Have a valid Wisconsin Driver's License
- Live within the department's response area

###### EMS - EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- Complete Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic courses
- Pass Wisconsin state licensencing certifications
- Attend monthly refresher training sessions at the Elm Grove Fire Department

#### CONTACT CHIEF NAYLOR FOR MORE INFORMATION

262-782-6700 ext. 251      EGFDchief@elmgrovowi.org

**NEWS ITEMS + PHOTOS**  
may be submitted for consideration to:  
[elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)





# Cheers to 15 years in Print...

We **THANK** all of our ADVERTISERS  
& these  
**Friends of *The News***

- \*Margaret Kelley
  - \*Silver Spur BBQ
  - \*Tom & Jane Dwyer
  - \*Anne Du Puy
  - \*John Kuenzle & Kate Kuenzle
  - \*Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K
  - \*Gary McWithey Concert Series at Brookfield Congregational Church UCC
  - \*Geri Fotsch
  - \*Jen Studebaker
  - \*The Lange Family
  - \*Bruce & Susan Davidson
  - \*Herbie, Gus Gus & Toby
  - \*Anonymous Readers
- for helping to Sponsor this edition.

Do you appreciate the local news, features,  
and information that  
*The News-Independent* provides?  
  
Add your name  
to the list of our valued  
“Friends of *The News*” supporters!  
  
(Complete and submit the “Friends” form, today!)

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

**Call us today and  
let us make your day!**

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

**Fall Clean-Up**

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

**Snow Plowing**

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



**JW'S  
Lawn &  
Snowplow  
Service**

**414-406-1756**

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



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

**Support Your Local Newspaper!**  
by becoming one of our valued

**Friends of *The News***

**Sponsor** Coverage of hyper-local **NEWS & INFORMATION.**

\* Sponsors' names are published in every issue in recognition of their support.  
QUESTIONS: E-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) OR Call (262) 782-6193

\*To become a **Friends of *The News* sponsor**, complete & mail this  
form + check (payable to *Elm Grove News-Independent LLC*) to:  
Friends of *The News*, 14420 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove, WI 53122

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\* I/We want to help sponsor *The News-Independent*:**

\* \$10.00 per issue x \_\_\_\_\_ issues = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Additional contribution = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

**WINTER LECTURE SERIES  
2025-2026**

**SEPT 17  
2025**

**CHARLIE KOENEN**  
THE STORY OF MANKIND'S MOST  
IMPORTANT POLLINATORS

**NOV 12  
2025**

**BOB TAMM**  
BLUEBIRD CONSERVATION  
LAKE MICHIGAN BIRD OBSERVATORY  
BIRD CITY WISCONSIN

**JAN 21  
2026**

**MOVIE NIGHT**  
A CHICKADEE'S GUIDE TO  
GARDENING

**MAR 18  
2026**

**DR. JAMES CRALL**  
NEONICOTINOIDS AND THEIR  
EFFECT ON OUR WORLD

**ELM GROVE LIBRARY O'NEILL ROOM  
6:30PM**



[EGBEAUTIFICATION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EGBEAUTIFICATION@GMAIL.COM)