



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 15 No. 8

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

April 2025

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

On the Ballot: Election - April 1, 2025

Elm Grove residents can cast their ballots on Tuesday, April 1 (7 a.m. to 8 p.m.) at Village Hall, 13600 Juneau Blvd., for these offices: Elm Grove Village President; Village of Elm Grove Trustees (3 seats up for election); Elmbrook Board of Education members (Area 2 seat + At-Large seat); State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court; Court of Appeals Judge (District 2); Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge (Branch 1); Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge (Branch 4); Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge (Branch 6).

The following State of Wisconsin Referendum, is shown on the back-side of the ballot: (Vote YES or NO)

"Photographic identification for voting. Shall section 1m of article III of the constitution be created to require that voters present valid photographic identification verifying their identity in order to vote in any election, subject to exceptions which may be established by law?"

Sample ballots are available for review at <https://myvote.wi.gov>.



Photo by: Lisabeth Passalis-Bain, *The News-Independent*

Oh, Dear... Oh, Dear... Oh, Dear... Oh, Deer!

A family of deer frolic in the back yard of an Elm Grove residence, along Watertown Plank Road in early March.

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VOTE APRIL 1st
2025

LIZ

BEAUDOIN

FOR ELMBROOK SCHOOLS

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Paid for by The Committee to Elect Liz Beaudoin

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Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

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*Gary McWithey Concert Series at Brookfield Congregational Church UCC
*Bruce & Susan Davidson *The Lange Family
*Lacey, Herbie, Gus Gus & Toby *The Knachel Family
*Jane McMullen *Geri Fotsch *A Faithful Reader *Anonymous Readers

for helping to Sponsor this edition.


Do you appreciate the local news and information that
The News-Independent provides?
Become a valued “Friends of The News” supporter!
(See the “Friends” form on **Page 11.**)

Word Search
Easter



J	F	N	I	O	Q	U	F	Q	P	H	B	C	P
P	A	B	I	G	X	X	Z	G	D	O	A	H	N
N	B	A	W	B	U	N	N	Y	N	L	S	O	D
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D	C	G	R	A	S	S	E	J	O	D	E	O	J
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EASTER
APRIL
CHOCOLATE EGG
CHICKS
SPRING
BASKET
EGG HUNT
BUNNY
GRASS
SUNDAY
LILY
HOLIDAY



"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth
Passalis-Bain



Profile: Mark Becker – Village of Elm Grove Superintendent / Forester

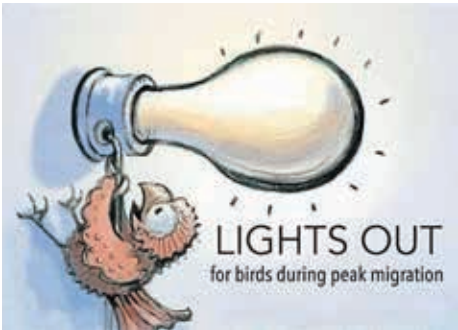
- **Education:** BS - Urban Forestry, UW- Stevens Point
MS - Occupational Environmental Safety & Health UW-Whitewater
- **Previous Employment:**
Lied's Landscape - Arborist Foreman
Buckley Tree Care - Arborist Foreman
Milwaukee County Parks - Parks In-Charge
City of Brookfield DPW – Operator
- **What influenced your interest in forestry?** Just a love of being outdoors especially when the sun's shining.
- **Communities of Residence:** I've lived in Oshkosh, Wautoma, Stevens Point, Wauwatosa and now Milwaukee.
- **Family:** I have an amazing wife, a dog that would walk the Appalachian Trail alone if you let him and a seriously old three-legged cat that I'm convinced is immortal.
- **Favorite trees / plants:** I'm a Bur Oak guy, myself. I used to love climbing those back when I was a climber.



- **Special Interests:**
I love traveling to quiet corners of the world, hiking, mountain climbing, running, walking and backpacking with my wife and dog. I've fished for more Musky than any sane man should. Throw in a little live original music, while playing my bass guitar, and I'm as happy as can be!
- **Contact Mark at (262) 782-6700 or mbecker@elmgrove.wi.org**

“Lights Out Elm Grove” Will Help Migrating Birds By Birders of the Grove

Spring signals the welcome return of our feathered friends as they migrate north to their nesting grounds. Elm Grove is both a destination and important waystation for migrating birds. Our woodland neighborhoods and abundant backyard feeders provide food and rest, and the pond at Village Park is an important stop-over for many different species of waterfowl.



Many birds do their migratory flying at night, when the winds are calm and the threat from predators is less. Traveling at night can be hazardous, however.

The bright lights of an urban area can cause birds to become easily disoriented, resulting in deadly collisions with buildings and other structures. It is estimated that hundreds of millions of birds are killed each year in North America due to light disorientation.

“Lights Out Elm Grove” is an annual initiative to help birds navigate safely through our community during migration. This voluntary program encourages residents and businesses to dim or turn off non-essential outdoor lights during the peak migration period of April 15th to May 15th. During this four-week period, homeowners and businesses can minimize outdoor lighting by doing the following:

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish spot and flood-lights
- Turn off interior lighting on higher stories
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and avoid all lighting directed upward
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible
- When converting to new lighting, assess the quality and quantity of light needed. Avoid over-lighting with newer, brighter technology.

“Lights Out” is an Audubon national effort to protect migratory birds. Many communities, particularly those along migratory flyways, have adopted the program. Please consider participating in this annual “Lights Out” initiative every spring and fall. Whether Elm Grove is a final destination or a respite stop on a continuing northbound journey, our little friends deserve safe travels.

For more information about “Lights Out” and Birders of the Grove, go to <https://elmgrove.wi.org/746/Birds-Lights>. To see live bird migration maps, go to [BirdCast website](https://birdcast.org). This tool tracks the weather-sensitive biannual migration movement of birds. *Reference: National Audubon Society*

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Request a Rate Sheet & Reserve Space
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Village Update

By Tom Harrigan, Elm Grove Village Manager / tharrigan@elmgrovewi.org

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow! For a Village of our size, it is remarkable how many exciting initiatives we have underway and I am excited to share a progress update as the weather is beginning to warm and we prepare to “hit the ground running” in April.



Tom Harrigan

So, grab a cup of coffee, sit back, and enjoy all the latest news and happenings. Here’s to a vibrant and joyful spring ahead!

• Highland Pedestrian Pathway Construction Update:
As you have probably noticed, the new segment of pedestrian pathway on Highland Drive from North Avenue to Gebhardt Road is completed absent one critical item, the pathway crossing at the Canadian Pacific / Kansas City Railroad (CPKC) Tracks.

The Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR) in Wisconsin is a state agency that oversees the regulation and safety of railroads. The OCR issued an order on October 10, 2024 mandating the pedestrian crossing be installed and that the Village and the railroad complete their respective portions of the work by May 31, 2025. The Village’s engineering firm and the construction contractor have been working with CPKC to review the engineering design for the crossing and to obtain permitting from CPKC. Unfortunately, communication with the CPKC has been slow, however we still anticipate the crossing to be installed before the May 31, 2025 deadline.

• Caroline Heights Occupancy Update:
Occupancy of the Caroline Heights development has begun on a phased, building by building basis. Currently, two of the four buildings have received occupancy (the eastern most apartment building and the former Notre Dame & Maria Hall). The estimated “Final Occupancy” date when all buildings will be completed is June 30th, 2025 although this could certainly change. The Village Board continues to monitor the multi-family development activities on a quarterly basis and review the twenty-one new single-family home applications as they are submitted. Currently, four new single-family homes are under construction and an additional eight are expected to begin construction in 2025.

• Single-Family Home Water Lateral Installation Update: Cornerstone One has begun coordinating lateral installation directly with home owners who are eligible and have elected to connect to the new municipal water source. It is anticipated installation will begin sometime in late April.

• Underwood Creek Daylighting Update: Stantec Engineering and the Village have established a targeted bid advertisement date of April 22nd with a four-week advertisement window and bids will be opened on May 20th. We are now entering the finalization phase of several items including the Park and Shop parking lot redesign, permitting through the WDNR and FEMA, and 90% engineering plans. The Project Drawings are available on the website: www.elmgrovewi.org

• 2025 Pedestrian Pathway Construction Update: Engineering and design of the 2025 Village pedestrian pathway segments is now entering the 90% plan drawing phase. At a recent Committee of the Whole meeting, the Village Board reached consensus that all identified pathway segments designed for 2025 construction should be fully funded. This was in light of an updated estimated construction cost that came in higher than what was originally budgeted. The three pathway segments will all serve as a safe route to elementary schools. These include: Underwood River Parkway (San Fernando Drive to Hollyhock); Juneau Boulevard (Legion Drive to Crescent Drive); Gremoor Drive (Legion Drive to Fairhaven Boulevard).

• Welcome to Ethan Sowl: The Village is fortunate to have our new Assistant Village Manager / Zoning and Planning Administrator, Ethan Sowl! Ethan joins us from Riverside, IL where he spent the last four years serving as a Management Analyst. We are thankful for Ethan’s arrival and look forward to his positive contributions.

• Village Clerk Recruitment Campaign: Yes, it’s true, **Katie Panella** has accepted the position of Clerk at the City of Waukesha. We are thrilled for Katie to be taking the next step in her career, yet saddened to be losing a great colleague. The Village will be conducting our first review of applicants on April 4th and we are very optimistic with the candidate pool to date! Let’s face it, it is not easy being a municipal clerk, but Elm Grove is a wonderful community to provide this noble service in.

Here is to spring, new beginnings and getting your garden growing! Have a great month everyone.



Business & Club Directory

*** 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
www.kiwaniselmgrove.org

*** Insurance**

Woller-Anger, a Relation Company
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+ \$20 extra per photo or logo.

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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.



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Local 18 year old, 5+ years in business!
Valid through April 2025

20% off Spring Window Cleaning!
Call or text **ReNew Softwash, LLC** at **262-202-9413**
Insured, free quotes!
Valid through April 2025

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

The Blood Hunter

By Gary Kerslake

It moves in the night
This formless creation
No problems of foresight
For no destination

A mute born in hell
This unhuman being
For savage from hunger
It strikes without meaning

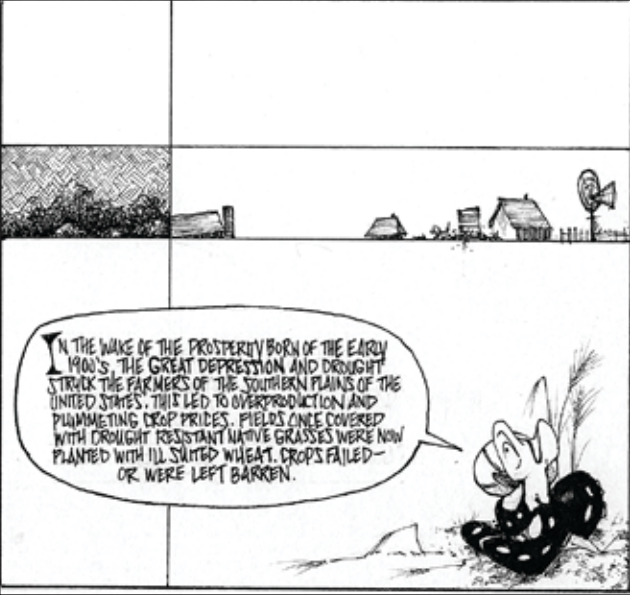
Its victim is helpless
No chance for escape
Not even to hide
Could stop the sure fate

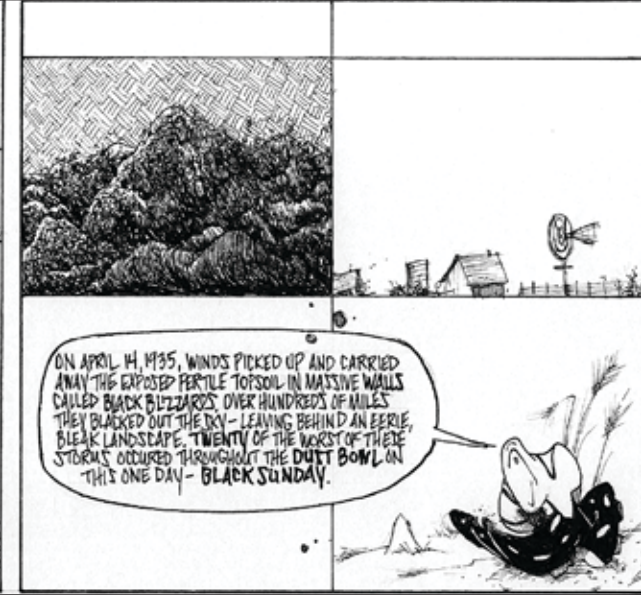
It strikes with no warning
From high in the sky
It lights on its prey
If not, it would die


As blood is its life
So, find and then steal
But such a mad demon
This ruthless mosquito

(Note: I read this one for a group of folks at the past home of Robert Frost in Derry, N.H.)

MR. HUGH’S HISTORY by Drew Sternitzky asternitzky@wi.rr.com







AGAIN, HISTORY OFFERS US AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INSIGHT AND A FAIR WARNING.

Elm Grove Recycling Center Hours

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

OPEN in April 2025:
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.elmgrovi.org / (262) 782-6700

Things You May Not Know About Your Village Recycle Center

By Richard Paul, Jr. – Village of Elm Grove Public Works Director

Your village recycle center, located at 900 Wall Street, not only provides a service to village residents, but also fulfills state and local laws prohibiting placing yard waste in regular trash or recycling bins. In order to help assist you during your next visit, here are a few fun facts that you may not know. When in doubt, simply ask the attendant present!

Piles -- There are only two piles for yard waste drop off—please be sure to place what you bring into the correct pile. All woody material should be placed into the branch pile for shredding, while all other compostable yard material goes into the other pile. Dirt, sod, fill, concrete, and asphalt are *not accepted*. Pile locations change based on the time of year and the space needed. Please be sure to *not* place any invasive species or non-compostable items in any pile (see below).

- **Single Sort Recycling Overflow** -- Have a party and your recycling container is overflowing? There is a container at the yard that you can place all of the same materials you put into your blue recycling can at home. Be sure to break down cardboard.
- **Used Motor Oil** -- Used motor oil and filter are accepted at the recycle center for proper disposal. Please be sure to check with the attendant to assure proper protocol being followed.
- **Textile recycling** -- There is one textile recycling bin outside the police station, and another at the recycle center. Please bag all items as the large white bin is NOT water proof. If you notice this is full when you drop off—please call the number listed on front so that the contracted company can come empty it.
- **Where Does it All Go?** -- Brush and wood are chipped and kept on site for residents to use or get delivered (see below). Yard clippings and leaves are loaded in dumpsters and taken by JOHNS Disposal to Johnson Nursery in Menomonee Falls for composting. Consider leaving the leaves to break down in place or creating a compost pile—just be sure to keep leaves out of stormwater drains, ditches, and culverts.
- **Staff** -- Please be kind and helpful—be prepared to stop and show your ID. Did you know that our DPW staff conduct a brush pick-up three times each year? There are very specific rules so be sure to check the village website and mark your calendar when your area will be serviced. Additionally, you can schedule a special pick-up for a fee.
- **Garlic mustard/invasive species** -- Because all of the yard waste is composted, it is recommended that any invasive species that has the potential to go to seed NOT be included in the piles and instead be bagged and sent to the landfill with your regular trash pick-up.
- **Metal recycling** -- Did you know you could bring metal to be recycled? Just be sure to check the village website for a list of acceptable and prohibited items. Let’s keep these items out of the landfill!
- **Wood Chips** -- Free to pick-up or can be delivered by filling out the online wood chip/mulch delivery form. Anyone wishing to have their trailer or vehicle loaded at the Recycle Center will need to complete a Hold Harmless Agreement in advance with availability of loading is based upon staffing and level of training of Attendant.
- **Furniture** -- All bulky items can be arranged to be picked up by our trash collection—please see the JOHNS Disposal website for up to date details. Better yet—donate or give it away for free!
- **Hazardous Waste** -- No hazardous waste is accepted at the village recycle center, but Waukesha County has two permanent collection sites and four one-time collection events scheduled in 2025 with the nearest one being in Brookfield. Check the county website (Waukesha County Recycles) for times, locations, instructions, and lots of other helpful information.



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.

Our History: Remembrances of Things Past

TWO *FREE* FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group (MPAFUG), a computer genealogy group dedicated to teaching how to use the internet for research.
Wednesday, April 9, 2025 – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)
Meeting at The Ale House (New Berlin Bowling Lanes), 16000 W. Cleveland Ave. New Berlin, Wisconsin (Please park in the East Parking Lot)

1. “**Book Research on the Internet.**” **Bob Heck**, Director of MPAFUG, will offer a look at 10 different websites for finding your ancestors in books and publications on the Internet. Millions of books and publications are available on-line and, in many cases, you can find entire books that can be viewed and/or downloaded to your computer for later use. Bob is a popular speaker at other Genealogical societies and volunteers to help others to find information on their ancestors.
2. “**Genealogy 101: Back to Basics.**” Whether you have been researching for many years or are a beginner, you will benefit from **Randy Ray’s** presentation. He has a passion for genealogy and historical preservation, and is dedicated to uncovering the stories of the past. Randy volunteers at the Ozaukee County Historical Society, where he assists in preserving local history and helping others connect with their roots. He and a co-host formed the Cedarburg Public Library Genealogy Club.

COUNTRY TRAVEL DISCOVERIES TRAVEL SHOW

When: Monday, April 28 • 10–11 a.m.
(Optional open house to follow)

Where: Elm Grove Woman’s Club
13885 Watertown Plank Rd
Elm Grove, WI 53122

Join us for a complimentary travel presentation and get inspired! Learn about our upcoming group tours, receive a free CTD catalog, and pick up expert travel tips from our experienced team.

Admission is free—bring a friend who has never traveled with us before and you will each receive **\$125.00 off** your next tour!

For more info or to RSVP,
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Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Community Foundation to Sponsor Tunes on Tuesday

The Elm Grove Community Foundation is proud to be the official sponsor of the annual concert series, "Tunes on Tuesday," held at the band shell in Elm Grove Village Park. All concerts start at 6:30 pm.

- Tuesday, June 10th - After Hours
Tuesday, June 24th - Saturday June Band
Tuesday, July 15th - Hungry Williams Band
Tuesday, July 29th - Andrea and the Mods
Tuesday, August 12th - Kaleidoscope

We hope to see you and your friends at these free kid-friendly concerts this summer!

Become an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run Sponsor

If you are interested in promoting your business to the Elm Grove community, an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run sponsorship is a great option. Your sponsorship will help us underwrite our biggest fundraiser so we can continue to enhance the quality of life in our village. We encourage you to contact us at www.elmgrovefoundation.org/contact with any questions and to learn more about customizable sponsorship opportunities.

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 19 & 20, 2025

Calendar of Events – April 2025

Tuesday – APRIL 1

ELECTION DAY

Vote 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Elm Grove Building Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall

Friday – APRIL 4

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Kathy Durner**, Kiwanis Governor 2024-2025; Topic: WIUM District Activities for the 2024/2025 Kiwanis Year. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Tuesday – APRIL 8

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

Friday – APRIL 11

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **David Demeir**; Topic: The Lumber Story, Past to Present kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday - APRIL 13

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK through April 19

Tuesday – APRIL 15

- Elm Grove Building Board Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall

Friday – APRIL 18

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Kim Lamansky**, President & CEO, Kathy’s House; Topic: Kathy’s House and Its Guests kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com



Sunday - APRIL 20

EASTER

Tuesday – APRIL 22

EARTH DAY

- Elm Grove Board of Trustees Meeting – 7 p.m. at Village Hall courtroom. Open to the Public. Agenda: www.elmgroviewi.org

Friday – APRIL 25

ARBOR DAY

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club - Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Gordon Dammann**; Topic: Civil War Medicine kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

GARY McWITHEY

CONCERT SERIES 2025

The public is invited to attend a free concert featuring organist James Grzadzinski and soprano Rachel Mallette-Grzadzinski.

Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m.

Brookfield Congregational UCC 16350 Gebhardt Road, Brookfield (262) 786-4155 www.brookccc.org

American Red Cross Training Services

SATURDAY MAY 3, 2025

Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED Basic Training

Registration \$125

10 am-noon OR 1 to 3pm

Requires 2 hr online course prior to the hands-on portion (included)

Community UMC Elm Grove 14700 Watertown Plank Rd www.cumceg.com/wellbeing Register: Call (262) 782-4060

GRAND HOTEL THE MUSICAL

April 24 - May 11, 2025

SUNSET PLAYHOUSE

SunsetPlayhouse.com 262-782-4430

BOY BANDS: BEATLES TO BACKSTREET April 28 - 29 2025

Hopelessly Devoted

May 8 - 11, 2025

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ELM GROVE CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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WARREN WIEGRATZ

APRIL 25, 2025 6PM

13885 Watertown Plank Rd Elm Grove

Food from Great Harvest Bread Co. and beverages available for purchase on site

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Get tickets here or visit egwc.org

O W L S

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Thursday, May 15, 2025

Luncheon Program:

“The Six Wives of Henry VIII”

Queen, lover, mother, victim, survivor... Meet the six wives of Henry VIII as presented by **Martina Mathisen** of Edu-tainment Living History in this one-of-a-kind program.

Hot lunch served at noon, program at 1:00 pm

OWLS members: \$23; OWLS Guests \$28

Program only: \$10

Reservation Form at www.cumceg.org/owl Deadline May 5, 2025

Thursday, June 19, 2025

"Mystery" Bus Trip

Community United Methodist Church Elm Grove

April 24th-27th at 7pm

April 28th at 2pm

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center

Call (262)-781-9520

www.wilson-center.com

Brookfield East High School Presents

The Musical

Comedy

Murders

of 1940

John Bishop

Green is Good!

Mark Your Calendars for the Next Elm Grove Recycling Day

By the Elm Grove Green Team and the Sustainability Committee

Now that the holidays are over, you can gather all the things collecting dust in your storage spaces and bring them to our 2025 Recycle Day. The Village’s Green Team along with the Sustainability Committee noted how popular the 2024 Recycle Day event was, so they have planned another event.

We will have the same vendors as last year:

- Midwest Computer Recycling (<https://ez2recycle.com/>)
- Habitat for Humanity (<https://www.habitatwjc.org/>)
- Wisconsin Bike Federation (<https://wisconsinbikefed.org/>)
- Goodwill (<https://www.goodwillgreatermc.org/>)
- Milwaukee Textile Recycling (<http://www.milwaukee textilerecycling.com/>)
- Friends of Elm Grove Library (<https://www.friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org/>)

Furniture, old electronics, clothing, books, CDs, bikes and bike accessories (even if they’re in bad shape), old towels and sheets – bring it on down! Please check the websites above for any guidance on items these companies cannot accept. One important exception is that TVs recycled with Midwest Computer Recycling will have a surcharge (about \$10).

The Green Team and the Sustainability Committee are committed to reducing waste going to our landfills. Electronics, in particular, can release toxins and damage the environment. And for items in your home that are still in good shape: why not give them a new life with one of the organizations listed above? The 2020s are the new ‘70s, ‘80s, or ‘90s – take your pick. Thank you for keeping our landfills free of the items you can otherwise recycle!



Village of Elm Grove

Saturday, April 26, 2025

9 am to noon

Recycle Day in the Grove

Recycle Day is BACK! New Location!

Pilgrim Park Middle School

<div><div>Midwest Computer Recycling</div><div>Computers (and accessories and printers), home appliances (refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, etc.), home electronics, power tools, power supplies, grills, heat pumps, lawnmowers, snowblowers, eyeglasses, hearing aids, phones, car batteries, rechargeable batteries, scanners, cameras, circuit boards and servers.</div><div>TVs: \$20 charge CRTs: \$10 charge Exercise equipment and microwaves: \$5 charge</div></div>	<div><div>Habitat for Humanity</div><div>Wish list: end tables, coffee tables, night stands, console tables, lighting (not fluorescent), housewares, knick knacks, small appliances, art work, home décor, hand tools, power tools, vacuums, framed mirrors, books, dressers, dining sets, sofas, recliners, chairs (furniture should be free of rips, stains and sun damage and not have patterned upholstery)</div><div>Cannot accept: sleeper sofas, large entertainment centers, armoires, hospital beds, pool tables, pianos, marble vanity tops, mattresses and box springs, hazardous chemicals, paints and stains, window treatments, guns and ammunition, tires, infant and toddler items, TVs, granite, commercial doors, hollow core doors, unframed glass and mirrors, used light bulbs, fluorescent light bulbs, storm windows, ladders, low efficiency toilets, clothing, exercise equipment, broken electronics.</div></div>
<div><div>Goodwill</div><div>Home décor, functioning small appliances, housewares, tools, lamps, games, toys, sports equipment, DVDs, CDs, vinyl, clothing, lawn and garden equipment.</div><div>Cannot accept: Furniture, large exercise equipment, CRT TVs, CRT monitors, plumbing or building materials, pianos or organs, household chemical products, automotive hazardous waste, large appliances, personal care items, fragrance items, carpet/carpet padding, weapons, cribs, car seats, walkers or other baby products.</div></div>	<div><div>Wisconsin Bike Federation</div><div>All unwanted bikes and bike parts will be donated, repaired, repurposed, or used. Bring it all!</div></div>
<div><div>FOEGL</div><div>The Elm Grove Library is the ultimate recycler!</div><div>Wanted: books, CDs, DVDs, vinyl</div><div>Cannot accept: textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines</div></div>	<div><div>Milwaukee Textile Recycling</div><div>Bring all your textiles that need a new home (old sheets, towels, rags, worn-out clothing, etc.). Make sure they’re clean, dry and bagged.</div></div>

THANK YOU!



Report from Madison

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13

Common Ground for the Common Good: Wisconsin Mothers Deserve Healthcare

Wisconsin women deserve better than the Wisconsin State Legislature is doing for them right now. The Wisconsin State Legislature needs to pass postpartum medicaid expansion, and the good news is—we have the votes to do it.



(I just felt panic in my chest as I wrote that. So much is on the line. We have got to get this done.)

There is far more that unites us than divides us, and a mother’s need for affordable, accessible, quality healthcare in the year after a baby is born is certainly not partisan. **Co-sponsorship of this bill demonstrates not only the bipartisanship on this bill, but also that we have the votes!** Of the 33 Wisconsin state senators, 23 have co-sponsored this bill (14 Democrats, 9 Republicans). Of the 99 Wisconsin state representatives, 74 have co-sponsored this bill (45 Democrats and 29 Republicans). We clearly have the 17 votes needed to pass the Senate, and the 50 votes needed to pass the Assembly. So, why hasn’t this been swiftly signed into law?

Last legislative session the Senate passed postpartum medicaid expansion 32-1, and the only dissenting vote is no longer in the legislature. Instead, the woman now representing that seat is a co-sponsor! So, we expect this to pass through the Senate unanimously. However, even with 66 co-sponsors last session (50 votes is the threshold to pass a bill), the Assembly was never allowed to vote on the bill. **The Speaker controls what we vote on, and the Speaker opposes the bill, so he is refusing to allow for a vote.** He seems to be following a similar course this session.

Is this how a democracy is supposed to work? Should one man be able to hold up a vote on Wisconsin women’s access to healthcare?

We have done the work to find common ground for the common good. We have the votes. I urge you to contact the Speaker’s office and let them know that you support connecting Wisconsin mothers with the healthcare they need and deserve, and to call a vote. **Let’s get postpartum medicaid expansion signed into law and connect Wisconsin women, and their families, with the healthcare they deserve. Together we can get this across the finish line.**

Forward together,

Robyn Vining
State Representative,
13th Assembly District

**The co-sponsorship count was taken at the writing of this article in mid-March.*

We are living in a world where it seems harder and harder to get political parties to agree, but here’s a topic where we have found the common ground that serves the common good, where we have the votes and the governor’s agreement to get the legislation signed into law, and yet we have not been able to finish the job. What’s the holdup? Let’s dive in.

I want to begin by commending my colleague and friend across the aisle, **Rep. Pat Snyder**. Rep. Snyder and I often agree, and we often share frustration that we aren’t acting as a legislature on important issues. This is one of those times, and I am here to cheer Rep. Snyder on as he leads the way. This is not a moment to prioritize a partisan political win—it is a moment for the women of Wisconsin to get what they deserve.

Every single legislator who is eager to serve their constituents should be eager to link arms with their colleagues to get good work accomplished. That’s what former **Rep. Donna Rozar** and I did last session with this bill, and what Rep. Snyder and I are doing this year. We share a common goal—that Wisconsin women have access to the postpartum healthcare that they need.

Postpartum medicaid expansion (AB 97 / SB 23) provides the critical healthcare that postpartum moms desperately need and deserve in the 12 months post-childbirth. We know that in Wisconsin nearly 50 women died in 2023 due to causes related to childbirth, *and those are the postpartum deaths we know about. These deaths are largely preventable, and this extension from 60 days to 1 year has been shown to improve maternal outcomes. 48 other states that have already passed a version of this bill—only Wisconsin and Arkansas haven’t.*

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

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News Briefs

Woman’s Club’s 55th Annual Art Scholarship Competition to be Held, May 1st – 3rd, 2025

(ELM GROVE) The Elm Grove Woman’s Club (EGWC) invites all high school students who reside in Elm Grove OR attend high school in Brookfield to submit two pieces of original artwork to be judged for a chance to win. This year the Woman’s Club will award ONE \$2,000 scholarship to a high school senior artist and ONE \$500 art grant to a winning student artist in grades 9th - 11th. Each applicant will submit TWO pieces of original artwork. Artwork can include paintings, drawings, sculpture, and textile art.

Each student entrant will receive feedback from a credible professional artist. Student art drop off will be from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1st. The private judging will take place on Friday, May 2nd.

On Saturday, May 3rd from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. the public is invited to the clubhouse at 13885 Watertown Plank Road to view the works of art and vote for one piece of art to be awarded the People’s Choice Award, a \$300 monetary prize to be awarded directly to the winning artist. All participants are eligible for the People’s Choice Award.

Chairpersons for this year’s event are EGWC members **Sharie Sinson** and **Sara Megal**.
To register for this exciting scholarship opportunity, please visit the EGWC’s website: <https://www.egwc.org/events/2025-student-art-scholarship-competition>. Application deadline is April 22nd.



Guild’s 2025 Scholarship Essay Contest Announced

(ELM GROVE) The Elm Grove Junior Guild (EGJG) will hold its annual essay competition for eligible students who will graduate from high school in June 2025, reside in the Elmbrook School District or attend Brookfield Central or Brookfield East High School. Two awards, in the amounts of \$2,000 and \$500 will be presented.



ESSAY TOPIC: “Write about a person who has had a profound impact on your life as a mentor. How did they inspire you, and how did their guidance shape your contributions to your community? How do you hope to carry forward their influence in supporting and uplifting others around you?”

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

- All submissions should be 800 words or less.
- Applications and essays are currently being accepted through April 6, 2025.

Information and applications are available at local high school Student Services offices and on the EGJG website: <https://elmgrovejuniorguild.org/scholarship>

Immediate family members of EGJG members that serve on the scholarship committee are not eligible to apply. The winners will be notified no later than April 30, 2025.

Wisconsin Junior Classical League Convention Results

(BROOKFIELD) - Brookfield East High School Latin students competed at the 2025 Wisconsin Junior Classical League Convention in Madison. It was another banner year for B’EAST Latin. The Brookfield East delegation placed second overall in the qualitative sweepstakes. Three certamen (i.e. Latin Quiz Bowl) teams made the finals. Both the Latin I & Latin III teams took first place.

Ben Mueller and **Elisabeth Weisman** placed in the top ten for total points. These students earned more points than all but a handful of the more than 400 delegates at the convention and received medals for their efforts.

Two BEHS students were elected to the Wisconsin Junior Classical League executive board. **Agastya Bhadoria** and **Lucas Callies** will serve as the WJCL’s Parliamentarian and 1st VP, respectively.

News’ Hounds & other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society By Morgan Pelon

Meet **Shaday**, a sweet senior who’s ready to bring love and joy into your life! This lovable lady adores people and thrives on human companionship. Shaday must be the only dog in the home, as she prefers people over other pups. Shaday is a toy enthusiast—especially squeaky ones! She loves a good game of fetch, long walks, sniffing around outside, and burrowing under blankets. If you’re looking for an affectionate, adorable and loving companion, Shaday could be your perfect match. Shaday has been partially sponsored by Carly K! Her adoption fee is \$25+tax. The EBHS is at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield. Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society
Shaday

Local Sports



Photo by Sarah Wynia Smith

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS: Back Row: Coach **Brian Smith**, Coach **Ben Pliskie**, Coach **Dan Peterson**; Front Row: **Miriam Smith**, **Elizabeth DeLuca**, **Vera Pedriana**, **Mila Perifanos**, **Quinh Tieu**, **Evelyn Hermsen**, **Raleigh Pliskie**, and **Anna Peterson**.
Not pictured: Coach **Anne Daniels** and team member **Norah Daniels**.

A team of 5th and 6th grade girls from Tonawanda Elementary, Burleigh Elementary, and Pilgrim Park Middle School (shown above with their volunteer coaches) won the Brookfield Parks & Recreation Basketball League championship against the opposing team after tournament play with a score of 12-9, following an undefeated season.

Unified Sports Expands to Middle Schools

(ELM GROVE) - On March 12, at Pilgrim Park Middle School (PPMS), Elmbrook held its first-ever game for the Middle School Unified Sports program, which was cheered on by a packed gym. Wisconsin Hills Middle School and PPMS battled neck-and-neck in a heated basketball game that ended in a lightning round with a 21-21 tie.

Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program in which students, both with and without disabilities, are brought together to work as a team, form new relationships and compete in a friendly environment. The program was started in Elmbrook’s high schools in 2021 by Brookfield East’s **Hannah Christianson**.

In 1989, the Special Olympics adopted Unified Sports to expand sports opportunities for athletes seeking new challenges while achieving social inclusion. The Elmbrook School District noted: “Congratulations to all the student-athletes, advisors, and Unified Sports participants and advocates who made this possible.”

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News Briefs

Elm Grove Adopt Your Drain Heros

"Given our community's predilection to flooding, our DPW team works hard to keep drains clear!"
-DPW crew

"Keeping my drain clear is an easy part of my regular walking routine--and I'm helping to improve the quality of our watershed!" -K.F.

"I just want to help facilitate the water to where it is supposed to flow" -P.W.

"My drain is a high traffic drain that unfortunately is often filled with trash--it feels good to do my part within our community." -D.V.

"I keep my adopted drain clear of snow, leaves and debris to help my neighbors, prevent flooding, and contribute to the civic good of Elm Grove." -J.M.

"Since I drive by my grate to get home, its a convenient part of my daily routine. I like to see and make a positive impact within Elm Grove." -M.K.

"We adopted six drains to help the Elm Grove waters to flow free and clear...it's the "gratest" service we can offer as a volunteer!" A.T.&C.T.

"I had the drain in my yard added to the map because it wasn't originally on the map." -J.K.

Community Support Sought for Elm Grove’s “Adopt Your Drain” Project

By Nicci Sternitzky

Did you know that EVERY drain in Elm Grove leads to Lake Michigan? The Adopt Your Drain program provides residents the opportunity to protect their watershed and community without leaving their yard or street. There are over 200 drains in Elm Grove marked on the map ready to adopt!

What does it mean to Adopt Your Drain?

Whether it’s leaves, garbage, or another material blocking a drain, drains should be cleared to prevent street flooding and to prevent litter, fertilizers, leaves, and road salt from being washed down the drain and into local waterways. Through the Adopt Your Drain program, Sweet Water helps Wisconsinites clean and care for local storm drains. They also help “adopters” make their mark by formally registering their adoption with a simple mapping tool!

Visit <https://www.adoptyourdrain.com/> today to find the nearest drain to your house or on your walking route.

Together we can prevent flooding and improve water quality!

2025 Pull-a-thon

Join in this 8 county SE Wisconsin competition to protect our valuable woodlands from two aggressive spring blooming invasive species before they go to seed !

Garlic Mustard

Get outside early and experience the satisfaction of pulling it out by the tap root--before it goes to seed!

Rocket Booster!

Dame's Rocket can be included in our team's totals
Dame=4 letters/petals
phlox=5 letters/petals

Record your totals on this easy form--no amount is too small! Measure in weight or volume to include in our team's totals.
Can we surpass last year's 2415 pounds?

Don't have any to pull at your house? Join the Elm Grove Invasive Species Task Force weekly efforts whenever you have time!
ECBeautification@gmail.com to join

Looking for another way to support us?

Donate to our Pull-a-thon team!

Half of all money collected comes back to the village to further our efforts in invasive species control!

Library News and Programs

April 2025

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

Youth Program with Musician David Landau

Friday, April 4, 10:30 a.m.

Young children will enjoy this blend of silly jokes, active songs and familiar music. Kids of all ages and their caregivers are welcome. Recommended for ages 2-7. Come celebrate National Library Week!

First Friday Films: Conclave / Friday, April 4, 1:00 p.m.

First Friday films are back! On the first Friday of every month, a new release movie is screened in the O'Neill Room at 1:00 p.m. Skip the wait list and see it on a big screen! Everyone's invited, and bring a friend. Popcorn and water provided. April's move is *Conclave*. Rated PG, 120 min.

Build It Club / Wednesday, April 9, 4:15 p.m.

A club for kids with imagination! Participants will spend time designing and building with Legos, Keva Planks, Ozobots and more. No registration required and the library will provide all materials. Recommended for kindergarten to grade 5.

Brain Hack: The Science of Influence / Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

Are you ready for a truly mind-blowing experience? William Pack returns with an all new program full of interactive games and experiments designed to mess with your mind and reveal the inner-workings of your brain. Learn how our brains distinguish fact from fiction, how our brains make decisions, and the subtle tactics that advertisers, marketers and con men can use to get you to do what they want, without you noticing. For adults, but teens welcome. Registration required at elmgrovelibrary.org.

- ### Bright Beginnings Story Time and Play Group

Ages 1-3 years / Meets Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Dates: April 8, 15, 22.

Meets in the O'Neill Room downstairs for 15 – 20 minutes of interactive stories, rhymes and songs, followed by playtime with special toys.
- ### Morning Break Story Time

Ages 3-5 years / Meets Fridays, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Dates: April 11, 25.

Meets in the story room at the library for 30 minutes of stories, songs and other early literacy activities.
- ### Therapy Pet Reading Program

Grades 1-5 / You may choose to read with a certified therapy pet for 25 minutes, once per month. Register at the library.

Pets include **Marty** (cat), **Clover** (dog), and **Blumi** (dog).
Appointments are all after school. Check the library website or call the library for specific dates and times.

Homebound? Get your books delivered!

Let us bring some books to you! Thanks to volunteers from the Friends of the Elm Grove Library, delivery of materials is available to Elm Grove residents and registered cardholders who are unable to visit the library due to disability or long-term illness.

For more information, contact:

Sarah Muench (Library Director)
(262) 782-6717



Young Writers & Reporters

My Hero: My Dad
By Sloane Bulgrin, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

My dad is my hero because he is fun, kind, funny and he likes sports. I love my dad because he likes sports like basketball, soccer, tennis, pickleball, and much more! I love sports too! I play basketball like my dad did. I love my dad because he is fun. He is fun because he lets me have friends over and he lets me go on vacation. I love my dad because he is kind and he helps other people like at my ski hill someone fell! My dad helped him. I love my dad because he is funny because he tickles me and my sister and makes us laugh! I love my dad because he is brave because he has broken his leg and got surgery. I’m incredibly lucky to have a hero like my dad!

My Hero: My Twin
By Elizabeth Allen, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

My hero is my twin and she is my BFF. Well we weren’t really born on the same day, but we always dress the same. She even decorates my room perfectly for me. She is kind to everybody. I hope I’m just like her when I grow up. She is enthusiastic and always ready to lend a helping hand. I love her so much. I hope she knows that. She is so caring and is always watching out for me. We always have the best sleepovers. My hero is **Shawna Muren**.

My Hero: Jane Goodall
By Ella, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Did you know Jane Goodall helped animals her whole life? Yes, she helped animals, she helped wild animals and I want to help animals some time, too. She also helped people. She donated plants to stores. We need plants to survive. She was also really kind to people. She mostly spent her whole day in the wild. She gave lost pets to their owners. She mostly helped animals. I’m so incredibly lucky to have a hero like Jane Goodall.

My Hero: My Mom
By Nora Remington
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Would you believe that my mom taught while pregnant with her first child! My hero is my mom, she was a teacher and now that inspired me to be one too. Another reason my mom is my hero is because she is so helpful when I need her. My mom is so helpful from always making me dinner so I can stay very healthy. The last reason my mom is my hero is because when I am going through tough times she always listens and gives me hugs! My mom is the most loving mom ever and that will always stay the same!

I Am a Flower
By Sasha D’Souza
Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

I’m a flower. The seasons go by so fast. In the fall I start to lose my petals. In the winter I’m buried under heaps of snow. In the spring I awaken, bees swarming around me. My petals finally bloom as they do for my fellow flowers. In the summer, I yearn for water with children rolling around me. Then a child picks me up to make a wish because I’m not just any flower but a sunflower.

My Hero: Luke Holland
By Henry Dorrington
3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Have you ever had a hero before? Well I have and his name is Luke Arthur Holland. Luke Holland is my best friend but also my cousin. He is very kind, athletic, and tough. Luke Holland is the best and closest cousin to me. He will always be part of the center of my heart. Luke Holland has inspired me to play outside more, use my imagination, and to be kind to the people around me. Luke is great at basketball, baseball, soccer and being a great friend to people. He is also a great cousin to me and the rest of my family. No matter what Luke Holland will always be there for me and my friends. Luke Holland is the greatest cousin I will ever have. Luke Arthur Holland is the center of my heart and that will never change.

My Hero: Great Grandma
By Luke Ronin Haight
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Can you believe my Great Grandma has nine kids? My Great Grandma is 100 years old. I think that is COOL!

She loves sports. Here are some sports she played - softball, tennis, volleyball. That made me play sports. She got a reward from a famous baseball player. That made me like the reward. She is very kind and she goes to church. She helps the family get through problems.

I am so grateful to her and she is brave. I think that she is the best Great Grandma ever.

First Lego League
By Nandana Pramod and Sara Asad, 7th Grade – Pilgrim Park Middle School

We’re Team Alpha Geek, a group of 4th to 8th graders from Burleigh and PPMS. We are super excited because we won 2nd place at the Wisconsin State Competition! Now, for the second year in a row, we’re going to the Houston World Championship!

Our robot is really cool—it has attachments on all four sides and can complete 13 out of 15 missions in just 2 minutes and 30 seconds. We’re always aiming for our maximum score of 455 points. But First Lego League isn’t just about robots. Every season, we also work on a project to solve a real problem. This year’s theme is about ocean exploration, so we picked ocean acidification as our project.

Ocean acidification occurs when too much carbon dioxide makes the ocean more acidic, which hurts coral reefs. To help solve this, we invented the “Kelper Helper Buoy.” It helps restore coral reefs by using kelp to absorb carbon dioxide and it plays sounds of healthy reefs to attract coral larvae.

You can help too! At home, you can compost, use less energy, and teach your family and friends about ocean acidification. Together, we can protect the ocean and make the world a better place!

Hero: My Grandma
By Riley Blong, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

My grandma is a hero to me because she does so many kind things. She taught me how to play cool and different games and now I teach people how to play the games. Other than that, when the house is a mess, she always helps clean it up and she helps us with things we need. She also is a good cook. I love what she makes, especially I love her chili! She lives in Illinois and that is about 1 or 2 hours away. But she still comes and visits a lot. She is cool and I am lucky to have her as a grandma! That is why she is my hero.



Great Grandma

Feather / Why
By Anya Chandel
Brookfield Academy, Level 6

Feather
Slowly drifting down
Onto the ground
It falls

Why
Why is such a short word
But packed with so much power
An invention perhaps
Or maybe just a question
So, don't be afraid to ask why



The Titanic
By Caroline Segel, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Would you believe that this luxurious ship would be no more in four days? Lela and her mom boarded the Titanic, and they didn’t leave anyone behind. They left from England and they were third class passengers. Lela and her mom were excited to be on the Titanic!

Then they hit an iceberg! The ground rumbled, and nobody knew why! Lela thought the bunk bed had fallen over, but it was the iceberg. Lela stayed in her room, she felt scared. She ran to find her mom. She went to the grand staircase, she took five steps down and found her. Together, they ran up to the deck, and they saw that there were two spots left on a lifeboat.

They got on that lifeboat. They felt sad that the Titanic sank, but they felt happy that they were saved. On the lifeboat, the other passengers felt sad. Lela and her mom were so relieved that they were able to land a spot on a lifeboat. Then, they had to call a rescue ship. The captain of the rescue ship asked where they were going on the Titanic, and they said America.

The captain of the rescue ship brought them to America, they were all filled with joy. Even though they were happy, they also felt sad that the Titanic was gone, and even sadder that lots of people died.

Titanic
By Miles McFadden, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Cole and his mom boarded the Titanic on April 10th, 1912, but they did not know that just four days later the ship that was thought to be unsinkable would sink. They waved goodbye to their family and left for America. They were very rich and they could afford two first-class tickets. On the way to their room Cole met a kid named Miles and they became fast friends.

One night they stayed up late at a fun costume party. The party was for first-class passengers but one third-class boy tried to sneak in and got caught. The next day Cole was in his room playing a game when he heard a BOOM and screams! Cole heard a man yelling, “WE ARE SINKING!”

Cole and his mom ran as fast as they could to the top deck. Cole realized Miles was missing, so Cole ran down to find Miles. When he found Miles, he said he was looking for his mom. They looked everywhere but they could not find Miles’ mom.

So, they went to second class and they found her. Her shirt was stuck on a railing. Miles got her shirt unstuck and then Cole ran to get on a lifeboat with his mom. They got on a lifeboat and saw the Titanic sink.

Bloom
By Hebela Ayalew and Sanvitha Madireddi
Brookfield Academy, Level 6

Flowers bloom early in the morning
They thrive
They strive
And they survive
Early morning as the morning sun peeps out
behind the clouds
Petals spread across
Refreshed with morning dew
The winter nearly wore them down
But in the spring, they claimed their crown
And when the sun warms them with sunlight
They smile
The flowers bloom

My Hero: My Grandma
By Katie Wood, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

My grandma had 3 children, worked at 2 different schools and now she is 78 years old! She volunteers for good deeds and that inspires me to do the same. When it’s Sunday she always goes to church to help people learn. She is a big person in the family and I’m so lucky to have her. She is my one and only hero and that will never change.

Phases of the Moon
By Leo A. and Max F.
1st Grade – St. Mary’s Visitation

In our Science class we are learning about the Phases of the Moon. We learned a lot of things. The moon takes a month to complete its cycle. It is slow. There will be a full moon on April 12th. New moons you cannot see. The first quarter and last quarter moons are actually half. Our class used Oreo’s to make the Phases of the Moon. It was very, very fun.

St. Camillus
By Greta Gehl, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

My class at Tonawanda went to St. Camillus for a second time. It was so fun we did lots of fun activities. Here are a couple: we played keep away and a game about how we are similar and different. My class will go back to St. Camillus and I can’t wait. It is a great place to visit.

Spring Break
By Joel De St Aubin,
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Staying up	Blossoms
Party	Rain
Rest	Explore
Ignore School	Awesome
Nest	Kites
Grass	

Spring
By Jonah Cawrse
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Frogs croak
Rain soaks
Chicks peep
Crickets leap
Bees hum
Robins come
Birds sing
It’s Spring!



My Hero: My Brother, Gus
By Greta Williams, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

My hero is younger than me! His name is Gus. He is my little brother. He is SO sweet! I love him so, so much. He is always there for me when I feel sad or like giving up. When I am near him, I feel good inside. When he sees that I have nothing to do, he always asks me to play with him. Another reason that he is my hero is that he always asks me my thoughts. He is also very creative. He always finds something to do. There has never been a time that he said to mom or dad that he is bored. He is also resilient. Whenever there is a problem, He tries to solve it. And that is why I love my little brother very, very much.

Letters to the Editor



NOTE: Letters (100 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.

Editor’s Note - CORRECTION:

Due to a proofreading error, a Letter to the Editor in the MARCH 2025 edition by Dr. Matt Gibson should have stated that he served as “Elmbrook School Superintendent, 1995-2012” (rather than another writer to whom this was attributed).

Candidates Committed, Informed

In a community where we value strong public schools, I am thrilled to vote for two committed and informed candidates for Elmbrook School Board --- Liz Beaudoin and Wes Sylla. These top candidates have first-hand understanding of our schools, a vested interest in strengthening them, and are stakeholders who volunteer, attend, and enroll (or soon will) their children in Elmbrook Schools. Other candidates simply cannot make the same claim. Liz Beaudoin and Wes Sylla are well-poised to protect and enhance our great community schools. Vote Liz and Wes to uphold educational excellence on April 1st.

Katie Rasoul, Brookfield

Vote Liz + Wes for School Board

As parents of Tonawanda and PPMS students, we are thrilled to support the two candidates for school board who are non-partisan, deeply connected with the school district and dedicated to the success of Elmbrook students: Liz Beaudoin and Wes Sylla. We moved here in part for the excellent schools, and our children and niece are thriving. Strong public schools support strong communities and strong democracy, and we encourage our friends and neighbors to support Liz Beaudoin and Wes Sylla in the April 1st election to continue the tradition of excellence in Elmbrook Schools.

Pedro and Molly Salinas, Elm Grove

Keep Board Elections Nonpartisan

School board elections are fundamental to our children’s education and should remain nonpartisan to ensure decisions are made in the best interest of students, free from political agendas. However, recent trends indicate increasing partisan involvement in these elections. For instance, in Florida, a GOP-backed amendment sought to make school board races partisan, though it was ultimately rejected by voters. Similarly, in California, evangelical leaders have endorsed candidates promoting specific ideological stances, influencing school board policies. Such developments risk prioritizing political ideologies over educational excellence. It’s imperative that we uphold the nonpartisan nature of school board elections to focus solely on providing quality education for all students.

Martha Kelley Koenig, Brookfield

Beaudoin Outstanding Team Member

As any business owner can attest, your business is only as good as your team. As the prior CEO of Kathy’s House, I had the honor of leading an outstanding team. Collectively, we tripled revenues and significantly grew services during my tenure. A key member of that team was Liz Beaudoin, Marketing Director. Despite a very limited budget, Liz consistently exceeded goals and worked adeptly with her large team of volunteer community professionals to leverage their talents. Her transparency, project management skills, and fiscal stewardship were integral to Kathy’s House success. I strongly endorse Liz for Elmbrook School Board.

Patty Metropulos, 1984 Elmbrook Alumni

Liz Ensures Every Voice is Heard

I encourage voters to elect Liz Beaudoin for the Elmbrook School Board. I have worked alongside Liz in many volunteer positions, and witnessed both children and adults grow in confidence and abilities under Liz’s guidance. As a leader, she utilizes not only her inquisitive mind and listening skills, but brings compassion and understanding to a situation, ensuring every voice is heard. Currently having children in the district, she has first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing our students and schools. You can trust that Liz speaks her truth, and will fight for what is right for our district.

Julie Vees, Brookfield

Liz Well Qualified for School Board

It is important to have qualified, exceptional representation on our School Board, and Liz Beaudoin is that person. Not only is Liz the ONLY candidate with children in the Elmbrook School District, she has volunteered tirelessly at those schools where her children attend and in the District as a whole. Parent Network, PTO President positions, Girl Scouts, have all benefited from Liz’s volunteer wisdom, thoughtful leadership and calm demeanor. She is extremely well respected throughout the District as a “doer,” and wants nothing more but to give back. We are lucky to have a powerful, enthusiastic, objective parent, who cares about our students, schools, and community. Liz Beaudoin, will help shape Elmbrook School District for the better.

Leslie Dehn, Past Executive Director
Elmbrook Education Foundation

Elect Elmbrook Alum Wes Sylla

I am writing as an educator in support of Wes Sylla for Elmbrook School Board. How great for one of our home-grown alums to return to the district wanting to serve. His experience as an attorney and his knowledge of our community will serve us all well. He will have a huge stake in the game as he sends his youngest child to Elmbrook schools this fall. It is time to embrace quality and community and turn away from divisiveness in the leadership of our schools. Please vote for Wes Sylla on April 1st.

Laurie Leahy, Elm Grove

Vote Liz for School Board

I want to urge my neighbors to vote for Liz Beaudoin in the upcoming school board election on April 1. Our kids have attended Wisconsin Hills and Brookfield Central together. Liz is an engaged and committed community volunteer who works well with multiple segments of our district. She is thoughtful and collaborative and would bring an experienced, informed, and reasoned perspective to the board. I have appreciated her insights and perspectives during my time on the board. Her years of involvement with the district will be an asset to the board. Vote for Liz on April 1.

Mushir Hassan, MD

Elmbrook School Board Member, 2020-2024

Liz Beaudoin for School Board

I urge voters to support Liz Beaudoin for Elmbrook School Board on April 1st. Through her extensive volunteer history in district elementary, middle and high school positions, Liz brings a vital perspective and deep commitment to our schools. This experience—including roles as PTO President and Elmbrook Parent Network board member—demonstrates her dedication to district excellence. Liz’s background in nonprofit leadership and strategic communications will foster collaboration and transparency on the board. Finally, her commitment to service, integrity and prioritizing students aligns with Elmbrook’s values. Liz’s fresh perspective and dedication to excellence makes her ideal for guiding Elmbrook’s future.

Scott Lynch, Elm Grove

Milnes Strong Choice for Board

Cheryl Milnes’ extensive leadership and board experience would bring essential financial expertise and strategic decision-making skills to the Elmbrook school board. She can ensure responsible budgeting, optimize resource allocation, and enhance financial transparency, ultimately benefiting students and teachers. Additionally, her experience in leadership fosters collaboration among board members, administrators, and the community, promoting effective governance. As a grandmother to an elementary school student in the district, and a 27-year resident of the community, she has a personal stake in the schools’ success, adding a valuable perspective. Her background in risk management and compliance ensures financial stability and accountability, making her a strong choice for guiding the district toward fiscal and academic excellence.

Bethany Nevermann

Thank You Elm Grove!

It certainly was raining books at FOEGL’S 38th Annual Book Sale! We raised almost \$23,000 which will go to support the collection and services of our library. We couldn’t have done it without the entire community. Many of you came out to shop, set up, put out yard signs, took shifts, and helped take it down! The Used Book Sale Committee sends many thanks to all who support our work to make the library a special place for everyone!

We take donations all year long. Drop them off at the library. We hope to see everyone at the 39th sale, March 6-8, 2026!

Carla Stensberg and Kathy Tusing

Sylla & Beaudoin for School Board

I am supporting Wes Sylla and Liz Beaudoin for Elmbrook School Board because they are two smart people invested in our Elmbrook community, with current knowledge of education today, not twenty, thirty years ago. They pledge to represent our whole, diverse community, not just a segment. I’m proud to cast my vote for Sylla and Beaudoin and I urge you to do the same.

Pat Ruttum, Elm Grove

Keep Culture Wars Out of Our Schools

When a small group pushes to ban books and censor educators, they don’t just limit what students can read—they limit every parent’s right to decide how their child learns. Schools should be places where young people engage with complex ideas, ask tough questions, and learn history as it happened—not a whitewashed version. Shielding students from uncomfortable topics doesn’t protect them; it leaves them unprepared for the real world. That’s why I’m voting for Wes Sylla—because we need leaders who will stand up for real education, not political agendas. Let’s empower our kids with knowledge, not fear.

Laura Swenson, Brookfield

Milnes & Singh for School Board

Cheryl Milnes and Amit Singh are exemplary candidates for the Elmbrook School Board, each bringing extensive professional expertise, leadership experience, and a deep commitment to our community. Cheryl, a CPA and fractional CFO, has over 37 years of cumulative board experience. She has served as PTO President at BCHS and as a board member of the EEF. Amit, an immigrant who benefited from public education, holds medical degrees and an MBA. He is a practicing physician, serves on the boards of multiple medical societies, and mentors medical students. Both are dedicated to educational excellence, community engagement, and taxpayer accountability.

Paul and Rebeka Sinclair

Liz Cares About All Kids

I am an enthusiastic supporter of Liz Beaudoin for Elmbrook School Board. We met over 10 years ago in a playgroup of St. Dominic Parish. I am a parent volunteer of BEHS Friends of Fine Arts whose 3 children benefit greatly from BEHS. I find Liz to be an attentive listener who cares about all kids and wants them to feel heard and valued. She is an incredible “boots on the ground” volunteer in a multitude of roles throughout the district. This selfless commitment as a volunteer and passion for our school district makes Liz an incredible asset to the board.

Glenda Prom-Stanlick, MSW, LCSW
BEHS FFA Board Secretary, City of Brookfield

Elmbrook School Board Needs Liz

I’m encouraged by Liz Beaudoin’s active engagement in the community, and experience working with the board as a leader in parent groups like the Parent Network. Our board needs more members who are familiar with school operations and contemporary policies. So much time is wasted when board members aren’t sufficiently familiar with the existing policies and practices of the district.

Amy Zimmerman, Brookfield

Nonpartisan School Boards Best

Local school boards should be nonpartisan to ensure that education decisions prioritize the needs of students, not political agendas. School boards should foster collaboration and focus on what is best for the community, such as improving academic outcomes and ensuring equitable opportunities for all students. Nonpartisan boards encourage diverse viewpoints and reduce divisiveness, allowing for more effective problem-solving. Education should be about students’ growth, not political maneuvering, and nonpartisan boards help maintain that focus, ensuring that the interests of children come first, regardless of political ideology. Please consider this when you vote on April 1st.

Alissa Estrada, Brookfield

Vote Cheryl Milnes for School Board

I am privileged to have known Cheryl for over 27 years and strongly support her candidacy for the school board. I have served with Cheryl on the boards of the Brookfield Elementary, Wisconsin Hills, and Brookfield Central PTOs as well as many school clubs and district committees. As a CPA and experienced non-profit and corporate leader, Cheryl will bring a wealth of knowledge and professional acumen to the board. She believes in rigorous academics and in the continued excellence of our schools. Cheryl is a servant leader and a proven consensus builder. Vote Cheryl for Elmbrook schools!

Kim Nordstrom, Brookfield

Beaudoin Best Choice for Board

Please join me in supporting Liz Beaudoin for Elmbrook School Board. Our schools deserve board candidates that have already done the hard work of understanding and addressing challenges that our district faces – Liz has been gaining that insight and expertise for more than a decade. Among other roles, Liz was President of both the Brookfield Elementary and Wisconsin Hills PTO. She remains involved in leadership roles with the Girl Scouts. She remains actively involved in her church and her children’s Elmbrook schools. I can’t imagine

anyone better suited to the job.

Beth Rousseau, Elm Grove

Young Voters: Use Your Voices

Hello my name is Gabriella Zamansky and I’m a new voter. I’m voting for Liz Beaudoin for school board because she’s genuine and deserving of being elected. I have seen her volunteer at many school events like solo ensemble, musicals, PTO meetings, concerts, sporting events, and many more. Her children are enrolled in Elmbrook schools and she’s familiar with what makes our schools successful. I’m voting for Liz because of her dedication to helping the students and school district continue to grow. I encourage all young voters to go out and use your voice.

Gabriella Zamansky, Brookfield

Cheryl is Demonstrated Leader

As a resident since 1999 and parent of five who attended Elmbrook schools, I endorse Cheryl Milnes for the School Board! She is a demonstrated leader as former President of the Elmbrook PTO, excellent financial stewardship as a CPA and faithful service on a Christian non-profit board. Working alongside Cheryl on this non-profit board, her thoughtful leadership style and Christian values are impressive. As a mother of four who attended Elmbrook schools and now grandmother of current and soon-to-be Elmbrook students, Cheryl is committed to serve and support the students, families and staff of Elmbrook Schools!

Chuck Hirsch, Brookfield



Letters to the Editor

Vote Cheryl & Amit for School Board

Both Cheryl Milnes and Amit Singh have extensive leadership, administrative and financial backgrounds that they will bring to the Elmbrook School Board. This skill set will allow them to serve on the Board with a professional approach and bring common sense back into school district management and restore Elmbrook’s academic merit-based excellence. I support Cheryl and Amit. Please vote for them on April 1.

Diane Schlosser

Beaudoin Would Be an Excellent School Board Member

I have known Liz Beaudoin as a neighbor and friend for over 10 years. Her children attend Elmbrook Schools, and I have watched them grow and flourish. Through her professional skills and experience as an excellent communicator and collaborator, she will be a positive force on the School Board. She brings parental experience navigating the very difficult educational landscape of the past few years and knows the challenges and issues today’s children face, thanks to her significant involvement though her own children’s activities. She is open minded and fair, and will make an excellent School Board member.

Mike Hirsch, City of Brookfield

Liz Has Character, Integrity

Liz Beaudoin is a true public servant who has served our community for over a decade and deserves our support for the Elmbrook School Board. She has served as the PTO President for Brookfield Elementary and Wisconsin Hills, volunteered as a Girl Scout Camp Director, is an active member at St. Dominic Catholic Parish, and a dedicated non-profit professional. Liz has demonstrated what it means to be a leader. As a public servant, I know firsthand the importance of character and integrity, Liz has both and will put our children and schools first over Partisan politics.

Mike Hallquist, Brookfield

Prioritize Students Over Politics

Our children’s education should not be a political party battleground. Elmbrook is an amazing district, but we have plenty of room for growth. We need non-partisan school board candidates who prioritize students over party agendas, focus on evidence-based policies, and work collaboratively to support teachers and students. Education should be about learning, not politics. In this election, Wes and Liz are the clear choice. The only candidates not working political parties. Our schools—and our kids—deserve leaders focused on Elmbrook, not politics.

Elissa, Brookfield

Liz and Wes for School Board

I support Liz Beaudoin and Wes Sylla for school board. Both have direct experience with our public schools including as an alumni (Wes), as parents of current/future Elmbrook students (Liz/Wes), as a baseball coach (Wes), as a PTO president (Liz), as volunteers, and more. Both have experience with professional governance, Wes as a lawyer and Liz as a nonprofit executive. Integrity matters. Today I received a postcard from a political party pushing the other candidates. Might be hard to listen to local concerns with outside money muffling your ears. Support local values and nonpartisanship—vote Liz and Wes.

Elizabeth Dumbauld, Brookfield



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STRAMPE

FOR WAUKESHA COUNTY JUDGE




★ **VOTE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1** ★

Fred Strampe is the **only candidate in this race who has served as a Circuit Court Judge** and has **25+ years of attorney experience**. He presided over 600+ criminal cases to uphold justice and keep Waukesha County safe. As a **U.S. Army Veteran**, he will lead the charge to establish a **Veterans Treatment Court**, ensuring those who served our country receive the resources and support they’ve earned. **Experienced and ready to serve — Fred Strampe is the clear choice for Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge on April 1st.**

★ Graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point & served in the U.S. Army Infantry (1990-1994).

★ Obtained a law degree from UW Madison, was President of his law firm, and mentors students & young attorneys across WI.


★ Proud Waukesha County High School Football Referee, ensuring fairness on and off the field.



Fred Strampe is running to return to the bench, **protect our community**, and establish a **Veterans Treatment Court** in Waukesha County. Vote on **April 1st.**

PAID FOR BY STRAMPE FOR JUDGE

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE





HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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Community United Methodist Church is building a community of people who love God and neighbor through a focus on Intergenerational Community Service and Overall Health and Wellbeing.

COMMUNITY - UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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9:30am Every Sunday

WWW.CUMCEG.ORG

SUN 13 APR	PALM SUNDAY 9:30AM CANTATA
THUR 17 APR	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00PM HOLY COMMUNION
FRI 18 APR	GOOD FRIDAY 12:00PM
SUN 20 APR	EASTER SUNDAY 9:30AM

Save THE Date

Start Planning Now...

DRIVE-THRU RECYCLE EVENT

It's Back!

New Location!

Pilgrim Park Middle School
1500 Pilgrim Parkway, Elm Grove

Saturday, April 26th
9:00am – 12:00pm

Save time and reduce emissions by recycling all in one place!

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EHO

WES SYLLA

FOR ELMBROOK SCHOOL BOARD

Elmbrook Alum • Attorney • Parent to 3 Future Elmbrook Students

Wes Sylla is committed to bringing **experience**, **fiscal stewardship**, and **transparency** to our schools. As an attorney and proud Elmbrook graduate, he understands the values of our community and will work tirelessly to support students, parents, and educators.



VOTE SYLLA TUESDAY APRIL 1ST

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