



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 14 No. 4

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

December 2023

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

On the Ballot

A 2024 Elections Preview
By **Lisabeth Passalis-Bain**
elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Village of Elm Grove ---

Residents who wish to take an active role regarding current and future issues of importance to our community may want to consider running for a seat on the Board of Trustees next year.

Village Board seats up for election on April 2, 2024 include those currently held by incumbents **Shawn Hillmann, John Schindler, and Jennifer Stuckert**. The two-year terms for those elected will begin on April 16, 2024.

A Primary Election, if needed, will be held on February 20, 2024, with the Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary set for Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

To qualify as a candidate, you must be a resident of the Village of Elm Grove for at least 28 days before any election, age 18 or older, and an eligible elector.

The first day for circulating nomination papers for office is December 1, 2023; 20-100 signatures are needed for all elected offices. A candidate may circulate their own nomination papers. A Registration Statement must be filed with the Village Clerk regardless of whether the candidate accepts contributions and/or makes disbursements. **The last day for filing nomination papers, Declaration of Candidacy, and Campaign registration Statements with the Village Clerk is not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.** Qualified electors of the Village of Elm Grove may sign as many nomination papers as there are vacancies for any office. Candidates' packets are available at Village Hall, 13600 Juneau Blvd.

School District of Elmbrook ---

The names of candidates for two school board seats, (one in Area IV, within the District's southeast quadrant, and one At-Large seat), will appear on the April 2, 2024 ballot. Successful candidates will serve three-year terms beginning on April 22, 2024. Those wishing to become a candidate and have their name appear on the 2024 Spring Election ballot must file all necessary forms at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Contact **Christy Westfall** with questions at westfal@elmbrookschoools.org or (262) 781-3030 x 11124. Any concerns can be relayed to Board Clerk **Preetha Kurudiyara** at kurudiyp@elmbrookschoools.org or (414) 559-6924. Additional information about school board elections is available at www.elmbrookschoools.org/elections.



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Green Team

Elm Grove Green Team members gather with John's Disposal employees in front of Village Hall.

A Big (Recycling) Win for the Village of Elm Grove!

By **Jennifer Studebaker**

Your **Elm Grove Green Team** has been recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with a 2023 Wisconsin Recycling Excellence Award. This award recognizes "a defined project or initiative that increases materials recycled or diverted, and/or improves the cost-effectiveness of a recycling/diversion program."

Elm Grove's 2023 Trash Audit led by the Green Team was a ground-breaking initiative to understand and quantify Elm Grove's residential trash stream. Based on the data, we've introduced several programs including home composting services for food waste, and textile and plastic bag recycling that make it easier for residents to keep these items out of the landfill.

The DNR made a special point to note that Elm Grove is contributing to its goal to reduce per-capita food waste disposed of in Wisconsin landfills by half by 2030. Find out more and see what other initiatives were recognized at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Awards.html>.

You can find out what recycling programs are available in the Village (in addition to what we recycle in our JOHN's blue cans) by following our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/547595469299363/>.

Waste Warriors: 5 Stars for 2 Neighbors

Are you doing an excellent job of recycling in Elm Grove's weekly trash pickup? If you are, you may be our next Waste Warrior!

Every month our JOHN'S trash pickup team of **Aaron, Greg, José and Nathan** determine the honors. In November, our **neighbors at 12435 Stephen Place and 1670 Berkshire Drive** did a 5-star job following the recycling guidelines. Great job!

Friends of the Elm Grove Library's
29th Annual

"LIGHTS OF LOVE"

Caroling, Tree Lighting & More
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall
All Welcome!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Presented by the Elm Grove Junior Guild & The Elm Grove Woman's Club

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16
9 AM & 11 AM

WWW.EGWC.ORG
Individual Ticket: \$20
Under age 2: Free

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Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain



We Thank these valued Friends of The News:

- *Kerstin Lanser (Elm Grove)
- *Mary & Merrill York (Elm Grove)
- Gerri Fotsch (Elm Grove)
- *Mark & Pat Westen (Elm Grove)
- *Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K
- *Elizabeth & James Lange (Elm Grove)
- *Brookfield Congregational United Church of Christ
- *Lacey, Herbie & Gus Gus (Elm Grove)

for their **Sponsorship** of this edition.

NOTE: If you appreciate this newspaper and want to help support it, see Friends of The News form - below.



Screenshot by by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

Friends (left to right) **Sara Murphy, Mike Dent, Jim Kline, Vee Laabs, Greg Reynolds,** and **Christos Passalis-Bain** celebrate at the end of their 25-hour video game marathon live-streamed on Twitch.

Friends Raise More Than \$100,000 to Benefit Children's Miracle Network

By Christos Passalis-Bain and Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

Every year in early November, groups of enthusiastic gamers take on the challenge of playing a myriad of video and other games for many, many hours, all to raise money in support of the Children's Miracle Network, an alliance helping hospitals around the country of which Children's Wisconsin is a part.

Locally, a marathon Extra-Life stream featuring The Friendly Goats team (aka lead organizers **Greg Reynolds, Vee Laabs, Christos Passalis-Bain**) and friends began on the morning of Saturday, November 4. Twenty-five hours later the group had raised more than \$10,000, and after an anonymous donor tripled the first \$10,000, the result was an impressive \$30,000+. This 10th Annual marathon, plus the previous nine, make a decade of fundraising events that have raised a combined total of more than \$100,000 for this community.

Greg noted that over the last ten years our efforts have helped put Children's Wisconsin (CW) in the top ten fundraisers in the nation out of 100s of Miracle Network hospitals. That success is due to friends, family, and determination, pushing to do better for the kids every year. (See Children's Miracle Network – Page 3)



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Friends of The News

Sponsor Coverage of **NEWS & INFORMATION** throughout your Hometown newspaper!

* See your name(s) published as a sponsor in upcoming editions.

QUESTIONS: E-mail: 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 following editions:**
Please circle which month(s).

*JANUARY *FEBRUARY *MARCH *APRIL *MAY *JUNE *JULY
*AUGUST *SEPTEMBER *OCTOBER *NOVEMBER *DECEMBER 2024

* \$10.00 per edition x _____ edition(s) = \$ _____
* Additional sponsorship contribution = \$ _____

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



Photo by Paul Ruffolo

Karen Estrada, J.T. Backes, Lachrisa Grandberry, Chase Stoeger, Michelle LoRizzo, and cast in **THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER: THE MUSICAL.** First Stage, 2023. Elm Grove residents in the production include **Pietja Dusek** (in yellow, behind the boy with cowboy hat) and her brother, **Sam Dusek**, at far right, wearing glasses.

Young Elm Grove Thespians in First Stage Musical



Niamh Mayne



Milo Eull

Elm Grove residents set to perform in the First Stage production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical" include **Pietja Dusek** (as Beth Bradley) and her brother **Sam Dusek** (as Teddy Shoemaker) in the Kerpow cast, and **Niamh Mayne** (as Alice Wendleken) and **Milo Eull** (as Teddy Shoemaker) in the Shazaam cast.

***Pietja**, an 8th grader at Pilgrim Park Middle School, has performed in multiple productions at First Stage and in PPMS's "Frozen Jr", a favorite role.

***Sam**, who is in the 6th grade at PPMS, noted that he "is excited to be in his first show."

***Niamh**, 13, has performed in previous First Stage productions and in Milwaukee Ballet's "The Nutcracker".

***Milo**, who has acted with other theatre companies is "super excited to make his First Stage debut." He's in the 4th grade and says that theatre is a favorite activity.

The musical is on stage at the Marcus Center's Todd Wehr Theatre through December 24.



Pietja Dusek



Sam Dusek

Village Update

By Jim Koleski, Village President / jkoleski@elmgrovewi.com

Winter has arrived in Elm Grove. With the ground covered in snow and the temperatures below freezing, new opportunities exist to fully enjoy the outdoors including sledding, snow shoeing, skiing and ice skating to name a few.

***Congratulations.** Special recognition to the Beautification Committee led by Nicci Sternitzky for the team's work on the Monarch Butterfly Pledge. In November, Elm Grove was recognized as a Monarch Pledge Leader for 2023. In 2022, only 75 communities in the United States achieved this honor. Well Done! I know plans are underway to reach for the stars in 2024!

***Lights of Love.** Please join the Friends of Elm Grove Library at Village Hall on Sunday, December 3rd from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. to ring in the start of the holiday season and illuminate the village tree. Caroling begins at 4:55 p.m.!

***Snow Removal.** Please use extra caution as winter and slippery roads become more the norm. The first time on snow use extra care when driving and allow extra distance for stopping and maneuvering around parked cars and pedestrians. Also, when snow events occur, please make sure to move all vehicles off the road to allow for efficient plowing by our Public Works team.

***Continued Appreciation for your patience.** Many thanks to all residents, especially those in southeast Elm Grove. The installation of the water main from Wauwatosa continues to progress. The contractor has had challenges passing water quality tests which have delayed the project. It is anticipated that repaving will be completed in the next two weeks. Detour signs will be removed as this work is completed. Unfortunately, due to these issues, the laterals will not be completed in 2023 and will be finished in 2024. This



will cause some isolated construction activities along Watertown Plank Road again in 2024. I asked the project team to provide an update at the Board of Trustees meeting on November 28th and anyone interested can watch the recording of the meeting from a link on the Village website www.elmgrovewi.org included in the Village Board Meeting. The update will include dust mitigation implementation and review of construction vehicle traffic patterns.

***Support for Local Businesses.** With the disruption of traffic and Watertown Plank Road detours, I would like to encourage all residents to keep our local businesses in mind as we shop during the Holiday Season.

***Recreation Activities for Winter.** The winter activity guide was recently released. The guide includes many fun activities to explore and try something new. The guide also includes many helpful updates from staff members on departmental activities and hours of operation. One of my favorites is the recycling center hours! Additionally, the

ice rink is under construction now and with the cold weather the team will be trying to lay down some ice soon.

***2024 Budget Update.** The final budget as approved by the Finance Committee is on the Village website for review. The staff and department leaders worked extremely hard to finalize a budget that provides the expected high level of services, while being fiscally responsible for not only 2024, but for years to come. My sincere appreciation to the Staff and Finance Committee for a job well done! The whole village board held a public hearing on November 28th and took up final approval at the same meeting.

***Review of Village Road Conditions.** The road ratings were completed in November and expected projects for 2024 were reviewed by the Public Works and Utilities Committee. The current plans are to commit \$800,000 for road work in 2024 in addition to a pathway from North Avenue to Gebhardt along Highland Road. These ratings are available for review as well as an expected 5- year plan for future projects.

Speaking of Projects, let's review other projects underway, including:

***Caroline Heights (Mandel) Construction.** The project is underway with many construction trades on site. Any interested residents can access weekly updates on the project from the Village website.

***Daylighting of the Underwood Creek.** The Committee of the Whole will be reviewing next steps on this project this month. Final Valuation reports have now been completed and discussions with CP Rail have commenced. Stay tuned – much to follow.

Wishing everyone a happy, joyous, and peaceful holiday 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
www.kiwaniselmgrove.org

* Insurance

Woller-Anger, a Relation Company

930 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122
(262) 789-2500
"Relationships Matter"

Classifieds

*Churches – Holiday Services

Brookfield Congregational UCC

***Christmas Eve Jazz Vespers**
December 23rd at 7 p.m.

***Christmas Eve Worship**
Sunday, December 24th at 3 p.m.

16350 Gebhardt Road, Brookfield
262-786-4155

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.

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CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK (Continued from Page 2)

CW as an organization, too, has changed for the better, providing more advanced care and tools for professionals than ever before.

"After many years putting on these 25-hour marathons I knew the spotlight we shined on CW was important, but it wasn't until becoming a secretary in CW's sleep clinic that I saw their essential work in action," Vee said. "CW provides far more than medical care. They work to combat food instability, finding kids/families rides to appointments, making calls to families before/after treatment to ease their anxiety. In some cases, kids form lifelong bonds with their NICU pediatrician based on the quality of care they received. It's quite the thing when an eight-year-old survives a difficult disease and can shake your hand at 27 with much life ahead of them."

Marathon supporter **Sara Murphy** said that the fundraiser was "nothing major, just standard insane accomplishment, tremendous dedication and commitment, not just playing video games but doing PR and engineering and people management, wonderful people, (I was) honored to help."

"It's been an honor to work with Greg, Vee, and so many clever, compassionate, and determined friends over the years to put this charity stream on," **Christos** added. "We'd like to encourage fresh faces to plan their own fundraising events in the future; to reach out and build up your own communities. Even something as simple as playing games with your family for an afternoon can make an impact. Every dollar counts immensely and the care given back by CW cannot be overstated. We should all want a society that looks after those in pain, with uncertain futures, to bring kindness and dignity to all."

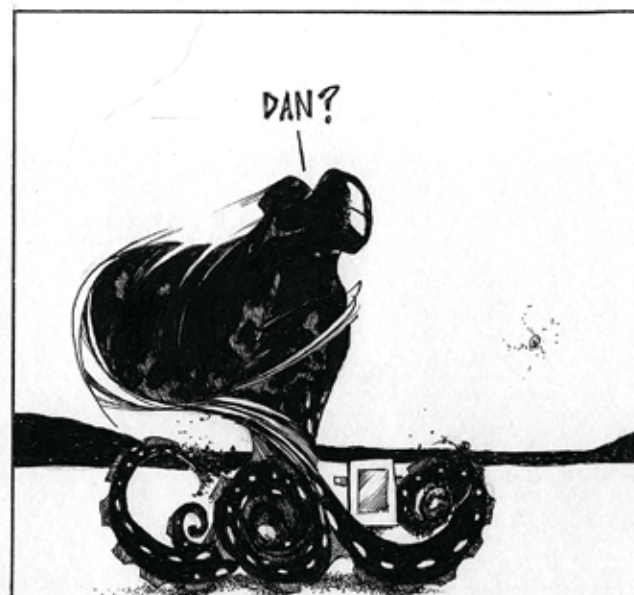
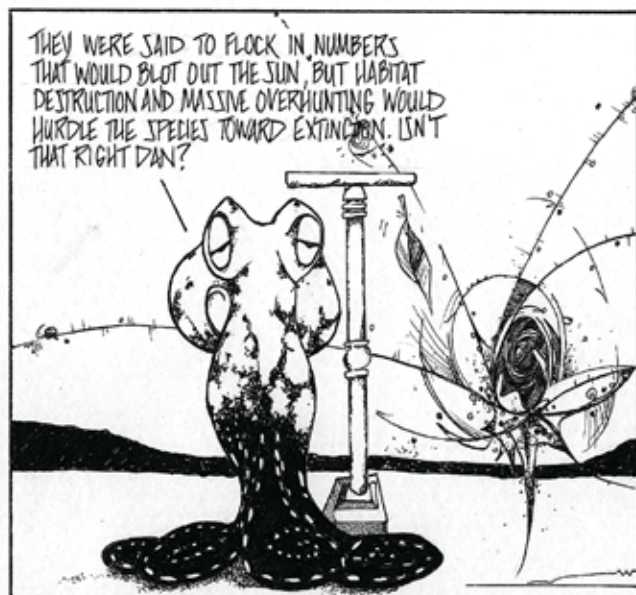


Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove

13425 Watertown Plank Road in the Elm Grove Park & Shop

(262) 784-4241

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



Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Community United Methodist Church

Community United Methodist Church as it looked in 1955, sans additions and landscaping.

Elm Grove Methodist's Early Years

By Stephen K. Hauser

Most village residents will quickly recognize the photo above as a picture of Elm Grove's Community United Methodist Church at 14700 Watertown Plank Road. In those days, it was Community Methodist Church and only the sanctuary, pastor's study and downstairs community room had been built. As can be seen in this 1955 photograph, landscaping was also lacking. This was the church's originally designed and used, and any additions were then merely hopes and dreams imagined for the future.

The young Methodist congregation had begun meeting as a "mission church" in 1949 at Leland School on Sunny Slope Road. It was under the leadership of its first pastor, **Rev. Guy Nelson**. There were 63 original charter members. Fund-raising for a church building began almost immediately, after a short-lived (and half-hearted) attempt to buy the old Elm Grove Lutheran Church (now the Elm Grove Woman's Club). A beautiful 3 1/2 acre site at the northeast corner of Watertown Plank road and Highland Drive was purchased in 1950 for \$6,000, a more formidable sum than it would seem today.

Ground breaking for the new church occurred on October 10, 1954, and the first service was held in the sanctuary on October 16, 1955. Once installed in the new building, with individual memberships topping 500, an era of remarkable growth began. Rev. Nelson left in 1956 to begin duties as the Methodist Church's Milwaukee district superintendent, replaced by **Rev. Marlin E. Smith**. Two Sunday morning services were now required, and 250 youngsters were enrolled in Sunday school classes. In 1958, the eastern educational wing was added, something Rev. Smith remarked was "sorely needed". (My parents, **Karl and Helen Hauser**, joined that same year.)

The congregation called their first associate pastor, **Rev. Lincoln Hartford**, in 1962. **Dr. Dale E. Strong** was installed as the new

pastor in 1963, and **Rev. Thad Rutter, Jr.** was named the new associate pastor in 1964, fresh out of seminary. (Thad was the minister in charge of my 1966 confirmation class, and would become a lifelong friend.)

By the fall of 1965, Sunday attendance had grown so large that three morning services were required, and additional chairs were still sometimes employed. By the end of 1966, the membership rolls had grown to include 546 families, plus another 151 families who had not formally joined but were regular attendees. New members classes were held five times a year. My own confirmation class that year contained 61 students.

Dr. Strong was appointed district superintendent of the Green Bay district of the Wisconsin United Methodist Conference in 1968, and **Rev. L. Clarence Kelley** was called to the church's pulpit to replace him. In the same year, the northern addition to the educational unit was completed. **Rev. Rutter** was called in 1969 to pastor St. James United Methodist Church in Appleton, and **Rev. Stephen Foster** answered the call as the new associate pastor. It should be noted that during these years the other Elm Grove churches — St. Mary's Visitation, St. Edmund's Episcopal and Elm Grove Lutheran — all experienced similarly impressive spurts of growth.

Time and space both fail me in attempting to chronicle the various pastors and associate pastors who served the congregation in later years. It is also regrettable that names of the many fine parishioners who had participated in the earlier years of the congregation cannot be included here, but there is one thing of which I am quite certain: If they could all contribute to this column, they would be happy to join me in wishing all *News-Independent* readers a very merry and most blessed Christmas!

Stephen K. Hauser is a retired college history professor and a longtime Elm Grove resident.

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.

Public Safety Reports

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



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Police Department

Elm Grove Police, Fire, and Emergency Services at the scene of an Elm Grove fire in mid-November.

*NOVEMBER 17, 2023: Structure Fire: 630 Dunleith Circle, Elm Grove

At 1:20 p.m., Elm Grove Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services responded to a report of possible structure fire with smoke in a building. The building is a 4-family residential building assessed at \$631,000 with estimated damages exceeding \$150,000.

The first responding Police units and Fire Command arrived at 1:24 PM, noting heavy grey and white smoke. The interior of the building contained heavy black smoke and fire in one of the 4 units. Responding fire units extinguished the fire. Contractors were working on scene when the fire ignited. Three of the four units contained residents, all of which were able to exit the building on their own, with no injuries. One officer was transported to Elmbrook Hospital for smoke inhalation and later released. There were no other injuries reported.

The following agencies assisted Elm Grove Fire: City of Brookfield, City of Wauwatosa, City of New Berlin, Tess Corners, Village of Menomonee Falls, City of West Allis.

***NOVEMBER 10, 2023:** A 40-year-old Milwaukee man was charged in Waukesha County Circuit Court with **Burglary – Party to a Crime** resulting from a burglary that occurred in the 13400blk of Watertown Plank Rd between November 15-16, 2022. Officers received a complaint of a burglary to locked, enclosed, storage trailer in which entry was gained and over \$3000 in tools were stolen. After a lengthy investigation, Detectives were able to identify and arrest one of the individuals involved in this incident. The defendant was transported to the Waukesha County Jail.

***NOVEMBER 6, 2023:** A 50-year-old Elm Grove man was charged in Waukesha County Circuit Court with **First Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Strangulation, Battery, and Disorderly Conduct** resulting from an incident that occurred at 1:30 AM on Saturday morning. Officers received a complaint from a victim who reporting being awoken by his roommate, pinned to the floor and choked, before having a handgun pointed at him. The victim fled the residence and called 911 for help. Officers responded and quickly located the uncooperative suspect, taking him into custody. Officers conducted a search warrant and recovered evidence from the scene, including a loaded handgun.

53 one 22
Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovethefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Annual Appeal Letter

This month the Elm Grove Community Foundation will be mailing its annual appeal letter to all residents of Elm Grove. Please consider a tax-free donation to the Foundation to help us fund projects that enhance community life and make Elm Grove such a special place in which to live. In addition to our annual fundraisers, we count on community financial support to help us preserve the uniqueness of our village.

Enclosed in our letter, you will also find our Planned Gift brochure. Create a lasting legacy by making a Planned Gift to the Elm Grove Community Foundation, with options such as bequests, life insurance, retirement assets, securities, or real estate, allowing you to invest in the future and make a meaningful impact for generations to come. For more information, please contact us at elmgrovethefoundation@gmail.org.

Happy Holidays

As December unfolds its magical embrace, the EGCF Board would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May this festive season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your spirit with peace.

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 20 & 21, 2024

Calendar of Events – December 2023

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)

DECEMBER 2023

Open Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Closed December 23)

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

Friday – DECEMBER 1

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Frank Souk**, “The Insurance Industry Today”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – DECEMBER 3

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Contact: beautification@elmgrovi.org for details and to volunteer.

- Friends of the Elm Grove Library 29th Annual “Lights of Love” event to benefit the Elm Grove Public Library - 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall. From 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. – See a magic show in the O’Neill Room; Caroling and Tree Lighting Ceremony begins at 4:55 p.m., followed by refreshments in the Village Courtroom.



Monday – DECEMBER 4

- American Red Cross Blood Drive at Brookfield Central High School, 16900 Gebhardt Road, Brookfield from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visit: redcrossblood.org 1-800-733-2667.

Wednesday - DECEMBER 6

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee meeting at 6:30pm in the Park View Room at Village Hall. beautification@elmgrovi.org

Thursday – DECEMBER 7 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY



HANUKKAH begins at Sundown



Friday – DECEMBER 8

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Private Holiday Luncheon, members and guests only. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – DECEMBER 10

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Contact: beautification@elmgrovi.org for details and to volunteer.

Monday – DECEMBER 11

- School District of Elmbrook Board of Education meeting: 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 N. Calhoun Road, Brookfield. Live Stream: <https://www.youtube.com/user/elmbrookschoolsmedia>

Friday – DECEMBER 15

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Rhonda Deaver**, owner of Snapdragon Flowers, “How Core Values Helped Build a Flower Business”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – DECEMBER 17

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village park. Contact: beautification@elmgrovi.org for details and to volunteer.

Friday – DECEMBER 22

Elm Grove Village Hall - Closed

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **John Mobroydis**, “Estate Planning”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

NOTE: *Leave cookies for Santa!*

Monday – DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS

Elm Grove Village Hall – Closed

Tuesday – DECEMBER 26

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

Friday – DECEMBER 29

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Paul Timm**, Brookfield City Clerk, “The Lewis & Clark Expedition”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR’S EVE

Drive carefully, Stay safe!



American Association of University Women West Suburban Milwaukee

Join members of AAUW on **Saturday, January 13, 2024**, to attend the branch meeting, buffet lunch, and program.

We begin at **11:00 a.m.** at **Alioto’s** on Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa.

The Program is “Pave Your Own Path,” presented by **Dr. Kristina Ropella**, Dean of Marquette’s Opus College of Engineering.

The Cost is \$30.00

For additional information and reservations, please email

aauwsmembership@gmail.com



EVERY SUNDAY **WORSHIP SERVICE** 9:30AM

{SUN} DEC 17 **SONGS OF JUSTICE, SONGS OF HOPE, SONGS OF JOY**

JOIN COMMUNITY FOR AN AMAZING AND MOVING MUSICAL JOURNEY OF JUSTICE, HOPE & JOY IN A WEARY WORLD - 9:30AM

{SUN} DEC 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

9:30AM - SERVICE OF JOY FEATURING THE COMMUNITY PRAISE TEAM

4:30PM - TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE FEATURING COMMUNITY’S CHANCEL CHOIR AND CLARION HANDBELLS

COMMUNITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ELM GROVE, WISCONSIN EST. 1949
www.CUMCEG.org/Advent
14700 WATERTOWN PLANK ROAD ELM GROVE, WI 53122
262.782.4060

----- COMING NEXT MONTH -----

Monday – JANUARY 1

- Blood Drive – coordinated by the Elm Grove Junior Guild and Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin at Village Hall, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. elmgrovejuniorguild.org/blood-drives

Tuesday – JANUARY 2

- Deadline for Candidates for Elm Grove Village Board of Trustees and Elmbrook School Board to file required paperwork in order to be listed on upcoming election ballot. (See Page 1 for details.)

News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Woman's Club

Santa Claus reads to children during a past 'Breakfast with Santa'.

Santa Claus is coming to...the Elm Grove Woman's Club

By Lisa Becker

The Elm Grove Woman's Club welcomes back Santa Claus for the annual Breakfast with Santa event, co-hosted with the Elm Grove Junior Guild, on Saturday, December 16th. Attendees will enjoy an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast buffet, live entertainment and an opportunity to take some great holiday photos with Santa.

Seatings are at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.egwc.org.



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Photo by Tara Schmalz

Pictured (from left to right) are: **Brian Naylor**, Elm Grove Fire Chief; **Tom Harrigan**, Elm Grove Village Manager; **Sarah Wynia Smith**, Elm Grove Junior Guild Co-Chair.

Elm Grove Junior Guild Donates \$16,000+ to the Village of Elm Grove

Defibrillator, Police Camera, Electric Vehicle Fire Safety, and Movies in the Park among funded projects

By **Tara Schmalz**, Elm Grove Junior Guild Communications

The Elm Grove Junior Guild raises money throughout the year to support our mission of education, wellness and protection of women and children within and beyond our community. Every year, a portion of those funds is allocated to the needs of the Village of Elm Grove. We are overjoyed to be able to donate \$16,106 to the village in 2023, nearly twice our grant last year. Thanks to our generous local business partners, this wonderful community and the efforts of our members.

This grant will fund both a Single-Use Fire Blanket, which wraps the vehicle in order to take oxygen away from the batteries, and an Emergency Plug, which disables the power from the electric vehicle when on an accident scene. Additionally, this grant funds a Fire Hose Test Pump, allowing the department to safely test the fire hose for annual required inspections in house, rather than contract out for a 3rd party. Additional funds will support fire safety prevention materials for children in the community.

*\$3,400 Grant - Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for Elm Grove EMS

This AED will serve as an important life-saving tool for the Police Supervisor squad car. Oftentimes, the Police Sergeant/Supervisor may be the first or second responding officer to an EMS call. Early defibrillation is one of the most significant interventions in cardiac arrest situations. Having the proper equipment available will give first-arriving officers the opportunity to intervene prior to ambulance arrival, saving precious time.

*\$1,000 Grant - Movies in the Park Summer Series

These funds will help cover licensing fees for free outdoor family movies at the Elm Grove Village Park for summer 2024. Broadcast on an outdoor screen and accompanied by popcorn and the stars, this movie series in the past has included Disney movie favorites and great summer flicks.

*\$4,000 Grant - Flock Camera and Outreach for Elm Grove Police Department

With this grant, Village police will be able to add an additional Flock Camera, a license plate reader system that assists officers in investigating various types of crimes such as thefts, burglaries, robberies, and hit and runs. The camera also serves as a deterrent to those who are intending to commit a crime. Additional funds will support officers with outreach efforts with children in the community.

*\$800 Grant - Fish Pond Restocking for the Village Park

This program helps keep the pond freshly stocked with a variety of fish and feeder fish for local anglers and kids. This is especially good timing with the recent installation of the second fishing dock in the park, donated in honor of recently-retired and long-serving Village President Neil Palmer.

*\$5,850 Grant - Electrical Vehicle Fire Blanket & Emergency Plug, Fire Hose Testing Pump, and Fire Prevention Training Materials for Elm Grove Fire Department

With the increase of electric cars, the village fire department needs help protecting against the dangers of electric car batteries reigniting themselves after a vehicle crash.

*\$556 Grant - Trees for the Village Park

These funds support the continued efforts to plant new trees, replacing the numerous diseased ash trees that have needed to be removed from the park over the past years.

*\$500 Grant - Invasive Species Eradication Plan for Village green spaces

This plan will provide a report of the current invasive species situation and how to improve the situation, not only helping to beautify our Village, but to boost ecosystem health, assist stormwater management and increase pollinator (and subsequently avian) diversity.

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News Briefs



Photo by Kristin Walters

Eagle Scouts (from left) **Joe Walters, Harrison Filber, and Nick Brown.**

99th, 100th, 101st Eagle Scouts of Troop 156 Named

(ELM GROVE) Troop 156, founded in 1968 and currently chartered by the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club, installed three new Eagle Scouts this past year, hitting the century mark in the process. **Harrison Filber** (a junior at Brookfield East), **Joe Walters** (a sophomore at Marquette High), and **Nick Brown** (a senior at Brookfield East) attained the Eagle rank after having earned many merit badges, taking on leadership positions within the Troop, and completing a comprehensive service project in our community. Many other Scouts with Troop 156 helped the Eagle Scouts with their service projects.

- **Harrison** installed a Bee Hotel in the northwest part of Village Park. This project lines up well with Elm Grove being named the 105th Bee City USA.
- **Joe** planted a rain garden in Village Park near the gazebo. The rain garden takes advantage of the runoff from the parking lot and has moisture-loving native plants.

- **Nick** built two large signs and a bench for the North Prairie Butterfly Garden. As with Elm Grove, North Prairie is committed to supporting habitats for Monarch Butterflies.

“Even though the boys have completed all the requirements for Eagle Scout, their commitment to Scouts and service has not ended. The Scout oath and law pervade nearly every aspect of these boys’ lives. They are courteous members of their communities, and their love of service will carry them through college and beyond. Furthermore, they remain loyal to their activities and responsibilities,” noted **Kristin Walters**.

The Eagle Scouts presented mentor pins to Scoutmaster **John Kuenzle**, Committee Chair **Mark Ehlinger**, and Assistant Scoutmaster **Scott Gosnell**.

Only 4% of all Scouts BSA earn the Eagle rank; 2.5 million people have earned Eagle since 1912.

Lego League Challenge Regionals Held

(ELM GROVE) Five Elmbrook teams participated in the Lego League Challenge Regionals on November 11 and 12.

On MU Regional Saturday...

Veteran team BUILD 44199 (**Saranya B, Elizabeth B, Jonathan B, Aylin C, Levi D, Alexander K, Sullivan K, Eythan K, Alexandra W**) won the 1st Place Champions Award and 1st place in the robot game. This team created an interactive bowling art sculpture and bowling scavenger hunt activity to encourage participation in bowling amongst elementary and middle school students.

2nd year team Alpha Geek 55696 (**Liam O, Nandana P, Vibha C, Sara A, Owen N, Lincoln L, Zaynab M, Akshaya T, Hugo K**) won the 2nd place Champions Award and placed 3rd in the robot game. This team created an immersive geocaching story quest that uses the art form of sound design and geofencing technology to encourage families to participate in geocaching.

Rookie team Power Voltage 60095 (**Vedant S, Aaron F, Bill W, Brayden K, Chris I, Nate D, Abhayvir K**) was nominated for a project award. This team created a project related to music.

On MU Regional Sunday...

2nd year team Motion Masters 57906 (**Abhayaditya S, Akshaj S, Khizer S,**



Rayhan K, Shaurya T, and Thanishq K) placed 1st in the Robot performance game. They were among the nominees for the Best Innovation Project and are “on deck” for the sectionals. As part of their TechHoops project, the team created a framework for a fully immersive Virtual Reality (VR) app designed for learning basketball at home. The team researched the technical feasibility of the project, exploring various VR headsets, sensors, and application development platforms.

Rookie Team Technobots 60302 (**Avishai V, Arovn M, Srishti S, Preethika P, Anagha P, Trijal V, Ayan B, Rishabh M, Anuj N, Parth K**) placed 4th in the Robot performance game. They were also nominated for the “Rising All-Star” award. This team created a virtual platform called “Elmbrook Students Virtual Cricket Club” which is a one-stop shop for all our local cricket enthusiasts.

Birders of the Grove Mission, Meetings Update

(ELM GROVE) The Elm Grove Birders of the Grove group has set their 2024 meeting schedule (3rd Monday, odd months at 9 a.m. at Village Hall) and hope you’ll be adding these dates to your calendars: January 15, March 18, May 20, July 15, September 16, November 18.

The group’s mission is to support our year-round and migrating feathered friends through a variety of educational, outreach, and legislative activities. All of these activities are endorsed by the Bird City Wisconsin.

The top 10 reasons to support our Bird City designation:

- 1-COMMUNITY PRIDE:** Present the positive image that people want for the place where they live and conduct business.
- 2-CONSERVATION REPUTATION:** Promote and grow your community’s environmental reputation by participating in a state-wide conservation program and by displaying our beautiful Bird City Wisconsin signs in your community.
- 3-SAVE MONEY:** Without birds, we would have to spend more money on pest control and keeping natural systems in balance.
- 4-MAKE MONEY:** In 2011, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimated that spending by birders generated \$107 billion in industry output, 666,000 jobs, and \$13 billion in tax revenue!
- 5-ECOSYSTEM HEALTH:** Sustain healthy natural ecosystems by helping to maximize the number of native species in your community.
- 6-FAMILY AND EXERCISE:** Birding



and spending time in nature gets the whole family outside for fresh air, exercise, and relaxation!

7-UNDERSTAND NATURE: Birds teach us about the interconnectedness of humans and nature and show how vulnerable wildlife can be to human actions.

8-IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT: Managing green space to benefit birds not only creates better habitat for birds but also improves conditions for a host of other species... including people!

9-DO IT FOR PEOPLE: Build community spirit, foster new public-private sector partnerships, and make your community a nicer place to live.

10-DO IT FOR BIRDS: Conservation actions combat population declines in Wisconsin’s birds and the other species that use the same habitats.

Reach out to EGBeautification@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested in learning more.

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Young Writers

Christmas

By Trenton Jackson, Quynh Tieu and Jamez Kaizer
4th Grade - Tonawanda

- Christmas
- Holiday
- Reindeer
- Icey
- Snow
- Tree
- Miracle
- Angel
- Santa



December Delight

By Vera P. and Arie B.

December night was such a delight
hot chocolate in the candle light.
The stars above were so bright,
the snow that fell was pure white.
The Christmas tree lit at night,
the star on top was so bright.
Christmas time has lots of cheer to
celebrate a wonderful year! ❄️

News Briefs



Photo by Sarah Wynia-Smith

Local students volunteer during a summer Blood Drive at Tonawanda Elementary.

Elm Grove Junior Guild Blood Drives Save Lives

Next Drive to Be Held January 1, 2024

By Sarah Wynia-Smith, Elm Grove Junior Guild Blood Drive Committee

Over the past three years, the Elm Grove Junior Guild has coordinated eight lifesaving blood drives. An astounding 380 donations have been given across these drives! Blood products cannot be created in a lab, so these donations are incredibly important. All drives have been partnerships with Southeast Wisconsin's sole supplying blood bank, Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin. Additionally, Tonawanda Elementary, Brookfield Central High School, Elmbrook Facilities, and the Village of Elm Grove have provided the necessary space to host these drives.

The history of the Junior Guild blood drives began in early 2021. With many of the usual community-focused in-person events canceled, Guild leadership brainstormed specific ways we could make a huge impact. Luckily, Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin has all of the infrastructure available to pop up on site to put on local blood drives. The Elm Grove Junior Guild recruits donors to come to the drives and volunteers for setup, teardown, and child watch during the drive. A number of volunteers are local tweens and teens who are too young to give blood themselves, but have shown up ready to

watch kids, move tables around, and set up signs. It is amazing to see their budding volunteer spirit in action.

At all these mobile blood drives, Versiti staff collected many units of whole blood. Whole blood can be separated into three individual components: red blood cells, platelets, and plasma. Each donation then multiplies three ways to possibly impact three patients. If the 380 units collected across all our blood drives is multiplied three ways, that is an amazing 1,140 possible lives saved! Most donors at these drives were local Elm Grove residents; this is an amazing positive cumulative donation to our local hospital systems.

During the holiday season, blood donations often drop, putting supplies into an emergency need status. We hope to make an impact with our upcoming blood drive at the Elm Grove Village Hall Courtroom on New Year's Day 2024. Appointments are strongly preferred and are available from 8 am - 1 pm. Make an appointment by visiting <https://bit.ly/ElmGroveJuniorGuild010124>. All donors successfully donating at this drive will receive a \$15 e-gift card as a small token of appreciation.



Library News and Programs

December 2023

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

Coming Away With Winslow Homer / Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.

Winslow Homer captures the very spirit of rocky coastlines with their backdrops of dramatic blustery skies and shimmering sands. His paintings have a rugged authenticity, emphasizing the dynamic struggle between humanity and the natural world. They illustrate a forthrightness and a direct, comprehensive way of telling a story – an American story – the strength and nobility of working men and women in their timeless heroic pose against “horizons both beckoning and foreboding.”



This program will survey the life and art of perhaps the greatest American painter of the nineteenth century, best known for his seascape and maritime works. Presented by Professor Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone History Symposium.

Join us for the third lecture in a five part series, “The Great Awakening: Painters of America.” Mark your calendars for the remaining presentations (1/9: Edward Hopper, 2/6: Wolf Kahn). Free to attend. No registration required.

Family Holiday Event
Wednesday, December 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



This year's annual family Christmas evening will include crafts for all ages, refreshments, and a visit from your favorite Frozen princesses! The meet-and-greet with the princesses will be 6:00-7:00 p.m., so bring your camera. Please register in advance at elmgrovelibrary.org.

Find Your Creative Bliss!

Thanks to a gift from the Friends of the Elm Grove Library, Creativebug is free to explore, exclusive to Elm Grove residents with an active library card. Creativebug is online video arts and crafts workshops and techniques; learn how to paint, knit, crochet, sew, screen print, and more. Visit creativebug.com/lib/elmgrovewi, enter your library card number and pin, and create an account to get started. Happy crafting!

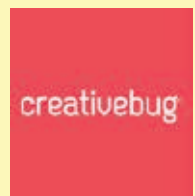


Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Dixon Elementary students practice printmaking techniques.

Dixon Art Students Experiment with Printmaking

(BROOKFIELD) Dixon artists have been diligently exploring the art of printmaking, progressing through various levels of difficulty and showcasing a range of materials. Kindergartners experimented with found object printing, utilizing CDs, leaves, and Q-tips. First graders were inspired by Jasper Johns and used sponges, as well as letter and number stencils. Second graders explored printing leaves in watercolor to create beautiful backgrounds for their leaf drawing. Third graders tried their hand at Styrofoam printing with a single ink choice. Fourth graders expanded their skills by using Styrofoam and multiple ink colors, even exploring the reversal technique with their

names. Lastly, fifth graders carved intricate designs into printing material, creating captivating two-layer relief prints of leaves.

The following students had their artwork on display at the District Office building during the month of November 2023:

- *Cassandra Pagedas & Alexandra Mamayek (Kindergarten)
- *Laith Hamdan & Elle Harwood (1st)
- *Lucas Abreu & Ava Schlieve (2nd)
- *Emily Armstrong & Simon Sonnetag (3rd)
- *David Bartowitz & Norah McBride (4th)
- *Lexie Vang & Corinne Becker (5th)

Young Writers & Reporters

How to Make Someone Feel Special

By Marlowe Klement
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Have you ever seen someone who was feeling sad during recess? I have seen this and I can help. I will teach you how to make someone else feel special.

- What you need: yourself, a friend, a smile
What to do:
If you see someone who feels sad or is left out at recess you can help.
1. First, walk up to them.
 2. Second, try to smile and make them laugh.
 3. Think of a joke or tell them a silly story.
 4. If they feel comfortable, you can give them a hug.
 5. Last, invite them to play with you.

Have fun with your new friend! It is easy to make someone feel special.

How to Make a Pork Belly Sandwich

By Marshall Leppla
3rd Grade – Tonawanda Elementary

Imagine you are STARVING! With the help of a pork belly sandwich you'll drive away your hunger. Here is how!

- You'll need: burger buns, apple sauce
1/2 pound of ground pork
a plate a spoon

- *Step 1: Get all the ingredients out and ready. First, microwave a bowl of pork until it is super hot. PRO TIP: Don't burn yourself!
- *Step 2: Then, put the pork on the bun. Add the apple sauce on top of the pork. PRO TIP: Add 2- 3 big spoonfuls of applesauce.
- *Step 3: ENJOY your pork sandwich. YUM!

Congratulations you graduated from Awesome Sandwich School! Are you ready to be a sophomore cook? Are you ready to try to make your first buffet? If you are- try my newest How To: How to Make a Breakfast Buffet!

How to Make the Perfect French Toast

By Autumn Nilsen, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Let's make the best breakfast ever! It is healthy, good and sweet. Let's go!

- Ingredients: 2 eggs, 1 cup milk, toast
+ spoon, plate, bowl, pan, stove
Topping options: whip cream, syrup, sugar

- Step 1:** Mix eggs and milk together in a bowl.
- Step 2:** Use toast and dip it in the milk mix. Then, put it on the pan on the stove.
- Step 3:** Flip the toast when ready. It will look brown when it is ready to be flipped. Put it on the plate and top it with your favorite toppings.
- Step 4:** ENJOY!!!

Hope you enjoyed the amazing French toast. Make it again if you like it.

Christmas Stars

By Trenton Jackson
4th Grade - Tonawanda

The golden Christmas stars shine down
With a cheerful Christmas glow,
And twinkle a Yuletide message
To the busy world below;
They tell of the peace and good will
All should feel
At this season of joy and mirth.

Christmas

By Norah Daniels, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

Children caroling, having fun in the snow,
wrapping presents
Icicles, snow falling, tinsel around trees
Making snowman, a lot of presents
Santa Claus

Santa

By Emma Hintz, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

- Super cool
- A good person
- Not bad
- Travels to different places
- A happy, happy man

Winter

By Cece Ratajczyk, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

- Weather is so cold
- In the winter
- Now let's play in the snow!
- Tasted of hot cocoa
- Exciting to open presents
- Run through the SNOW!

Snow

By Kennedy Small, 4th Grade- Tonawanda

- So cold
- Nothing like snow
- Oh wow, snow is falling
- What a sight to see

Perfect Christmas Day

By Joy Kim and Abigail Davidson
4th Grade - Tonawanda

- Snow is on the ground,
- Soon the elf will be found,
- Decorating Christmas Trees,
- Having fun with families,
- Opening Presents on Christmas Day,
- Then with my toys I will play,
- Going out in the freezing snow,
- And letting my spirit glow!!

IT'S A PERFECT CHRISTMAS DAY!!!

Christmas 2022

By Miles Glassman, 3rd Grade -Tonawanda

It was the night before Christmas. We watched Home Alone 2. It was time to go to bed. Me and my sister Ruby woke up at 5.00 am! We woke up mom and dad. Mom announced, "Merry Christmas!"

We went down stairs to open presents. "It looks like Santa came!" I yelled. "It looks like about 25 presents!" "Santa got me a toy dinosaur!" I screamed. Mom and dad got me the big-sized Lego Millennium falcon. And they also got me the Mandalorian nerf gun! It was the best Christmas ever!

The Day I Got Goldie

By Marloe Klement, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

It was a hot September day. I was at school. It was so exciting for me because I was going to dance at a football field. I was just so excited!

My Dad surprised us at the football field with a NEW DOG! We named her Goldie. When I saw Goldie, she was so small. "I love you," I yelled to her.

I could hardly believe it. She was my new dog. Then we had to go in and practice our dance. I was starving. It took a very long time to learn the dance. Then we had to go outside and dance on the football field. When it was done, we went home and snuggled with Goldie! I was so happy!

The Day I Got My First Dog

By Michael Lough, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

It was a cold day with a blistering cold snowstorm. We were driving to Clintonville. We had 50 miles left of our 100-mile road trip. After what felt like FOREVER we finally arrived at our destination, Clintonville.

We finally got our dog. We named him Buddy from Buddy the Elf. When it was Christmas Eve, we even dressed him up as an elf and we all watched the Buddy the Elf movie. It was such a special memory with our dog Buddy. Buddy is so cute! He's the best dog I've ever had!

3rd Graders at St. Mary's Visitation School Considered:

"If I could give a Christmas gift to anyone, who would I give one to and why?"

If I could give a gift to anyone, I would give a gift to **Santa Claus**. I would give him a snow globe because he is always giving gifts to us and he never gets any gifts. – **Max**

If I could give anybody a Christmas gift, I would give a gift to **Taylor Swift**. I would buy her a new guitar because she plays the guitar and it sounds really beautiful. - **Eloise**

If I could give a gift to anyone, I would give a gift to **the Grinch**. I would give him a ticket to my home so I could ask how he is doing because I would not want him to be by himself for Christmas. It is lonely when you are by yourself at Christmas. - **Louisa**

I would give a gift to my teacher, **Mrs. Perez**, because she is so nice and she does a lot of work. I would give her a vacation to Disney World. - **Alison**

If I could give a gift to anyone, I would give a gift to each of **my cousins** because I only get to see them once or twice a year. I would give them a LEGO set because they like Legos. I would also buy them another game because they like to play games. - **Miles**

If I could give a gift to anyone, I would give **money to the poor** so they can use it to buy their needs and maybe some wants, too. - **Vince**

If I could give a gift to someone It would be **Santa Claus!** I would give him a new reindeer with new jet packs and a teleporter. I would give him these gifts because then he could give people presents faster. - **Thomas**

Trees

By Lilly R., 4th Grade - Tonawanda

Trees are important for many reasons because we use them for many things. For example, we use trees for paper, pencils, wood buildings and much more. But people are wasting trees. For example, 1 roll of paper towels can waste 17 trees. Ways to conserve trees: every time you chop down a tree you can plant a new tree, you can also use every corner on a piece of paper. That is a couple of reasons for how to save trees.

December

By Lena J., 4th Grade - Tonawanda

- Dancing to Christmas songs
- Eating sugar cookies
- Candy canes
- Enjoying tasty treats
- Merry Christmas* everyone yells
- Best holiday ever!
- Elegant ornaments and normal ones to
- Riding sleds down a hill

If I could buy a Christmas gift for someone, I would buy the gift for **the poor and the hungry**. I would give them food, water, clothes, a rosary, and a home so they will be safe if a natural disaster happens like a tornado or a hurricane. I would give them food and water because then they have something to eat and drink. I would give them a rosary so they can pray. I will give them clothes so when cold weather comes, they will be warm. I would give the poor and hungry people a Christmas gift because I think it is important to care about other people more than yourself. - **Rose**

I would give a gift to **people in the hospital** because they can't come home for Christmas. I want to give it to them because I want kids that are sick or hurt to still have fun on Christmas day. I would give them some candy, toys and a rosary. I want everyone in the whole world to have fun on special holidays. Especially Christmas because it is about love, being with your loved ones and giving. - **Emily**

If I could give anyone a gift, I would buy a bunch of agates and citrean and some amenities for **my grandpa** because he is a geologist, and he loves rocks. - **Fitz**

If I could give anyone a gift, I would give a gift to **Mrs. Claus and Santa Claus**. I would give them 10 puppies and I would train them so that they could help them do their work. I would give them puppies because I bet it is really hard to deliver gifts, and make gifts for kids. - **Grace**

Christmas

By Sakshi K., 4th Grade - Tonawanda

- Carols
- Happy families
- Reindeer
- Igloo
- Snowmen
- Terrific gifts
- Merry days
- All people under the tree
- Star

Snowman

By Ty Holland
4th Grade
Tonawanda

- Snow
- North pole
- Olof
- Winter
- Mary
- Angel
- Note



Christmas Word Search

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

- CHRISTMAS
- HOLLY
- ORNAMENT
- MISTLETOE
- GREEN
- RED
- SILVER
- BELLS
- JINGLE
- HOOHO
- STAR
- SANTA
- HOLIDAY
- STOCKING
- JOY
- MERRY
- CARD
- PRESENT
- BOW
- SNOWFLAKE
- TREE
- GINGERBREAD
- WREATH
- SNOWMAN
- CANDLE



News Briefs

Free COVID-19 Tests Available

Every U.S. household can order 4 more free COVID-19 self-tests. Also called at-home tests and over-the-counter tests, these are one of several tools that protect you and others by reducing the chances of spreading COVID-19.

Self-tests can be taken at home or anywhere, are easy to use, and produce rapid results.

You can place an order in these ways:

- Online at [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.COVIDTests.gov)
- By calling 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489)
- By calling or emailing the Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) at 1-888-677-1199 or DIAL@usaginganddisability.org (for people with disabilities)

Local Sports

BEHS, BCHS Girls Swim Take Top WIAA Spots

(BROOKFIELD) The WIAA Girls Swim and Dive State Championship was held in mid-November in Waukesha. Student-athletes from both Brookfield Central and Brookfield East took top spots on the podium, and BEHS Senior **Maggie Wanezek** broke another state record.

For Brookfield East, **Maggie Wanezek** broke her previous state (for a third time) and school record of 51.09 seconds in the 100 Yard Backstroke with a time of 50.97 seconds. Maggie also took first in the 200 Yard Individual Medley. The East Girls team of **Maggie Wanezek**, **Caroline Wanezek**, **Paris Fullerton**, and **Audrey Olen** placed first in the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay, and second in the 200 Yard Medley Relay. Additionally, **Audrey Olen** (Senior) placed second in the 200 Yard Freestyle and fourth in the 100 Yard Freestyle, **Clara Newman** (Senior) placed fourth in diving, and **Caroline Wanezek** (Sophomore) took fifth in the 100 Yard Butterfly. Brookfield

East's team finished fourth overall in the competition.

For Brookfield Central, **Sophia Brueggeman** (Junior) took second in the 100 Yard Butterfly, and **Kennedy Rainwater** (Senior) placed third in the 500 Yard Freestyle. The 400 Yard Freestyle Relay team of **Sophia Brueggeman**, **Baleigh Miller** (Sophomore), **Kennedy Rainwater**, and **Anya Brueggeman** (Junior) took fifth place and set a new school record of 3:29:94. The 200 Medley Relay team of **Katie Geske** (Sophomore), **Kennedy Rainwater**, **Sophia Brueggeman**, and **Anya Brueggeman** also broke a school record for BC with a time of 1:47.15. Brookfield Central's team finished tenth overall in the competition.

Team coaches include: **Mike Rose** (BEHS - Head), **Carol Rose** (BEHS / BCHS - Dive), **Anne Leupold** (BEHS - Assistant), **Carissa Donkersgoed** (BCHS - Head), and **Jillian Schemenauer** (BCHS - Assistant).

Legal Issues

Estate Planning: Choosing Your Representatives

By Attorney Isabell Mueller

Choosing someone to be your financial power of attorney, personal representative, or the successor trustee for your trust is one of the most difficult aspects of estate planning. Often you end up choosing the same person for each role.

Other times there might not be a good choice and a trust company is most appropriate. These are highly personal decisions and there is no right or wrong way to go about it. There are, however, some qualities that you should keep in mind:

Integrity: These should be people in whom you have complete trust and confidence as they will have access to your finances, and control over your assets after your death.

Experience: While they do not have to be experts themselves, some solid financial experience is necessary. Your agents will be making significant financial decisions for you or your beneficiaries. Also, they have to have the experience to know when and how to hire the right professionals,

such as accountants, attorneys or realtors.

Impartiality: If possible, choose someone who will be viewed by family or beneficiaries as impartial and fair. This will help if disagreements arise and the person you name has to step in to settle the matter. Depending on family dynamics, your best choice may be a trusted friend, or an outside person or entity, to act in this role to maintain impartiality.

Patience: The agents you name will have to act during some of the most stressful times in your family's life. Because they are in a position of authority, your agent may become the most obvious target when emotions run high. Consider naming someone who understands this and can remain calm.

After choosing someone for each role, you should also try to designate a successor to serve in the place of your first choice if your first choice is unavailable for one reason or another.

The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County

Donations can be dropped off at The Food Pantry, 1301 Sentry Drive, Waukesha, 53186. Donations by check are also welcome. Call (262) 542-5300. Top of Form

Hosting a food drive with your congregation, school, community group, neighborhood, or workplace is easy to do and makes a big impact. Call the Food Resource Manager at (262) 522-2374.

BEHS, BCHS Receive Gold Recognition on AP School Honor Roll

(BROOKFIELD) Brookfield Central and Brookfield East High Schools have both received Gold distinction on the Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll for 2023. The Honor Roll metrics account for criteria in three categories: College Culture, College Credit, and College Optimization - of which both schools received the distinction of Gold, Platinum, and Platinum respectively.

"These distinctions further highlight the importance that we place on our students being good consumers of their education," stated **Dr. Tanya Fredrich**, Assistant

Superintendent for Teaching & Learning. "By taking advantage of our vast AP course offerings, students are able to avoid rising tuition costs and start their higher education career ahead of their peers."

As of 2023, Elmbrook offers a total of 25 AP courses to students in areas from mathematics to art. Even prior to their senior year, the class of 2023 took a total of 1,116 AP exams that received a score of 3 or higher, which is approximately equivalent to \$1.3 million in tuition cost savings.

Winter Weather Awareness

The coldest temperature recorded in Wisconsin last winter was -29 degrees Fahrenheit. During the winter of 2022-2023, there were 94 deaths in the state attributed to cold-related illnesses.

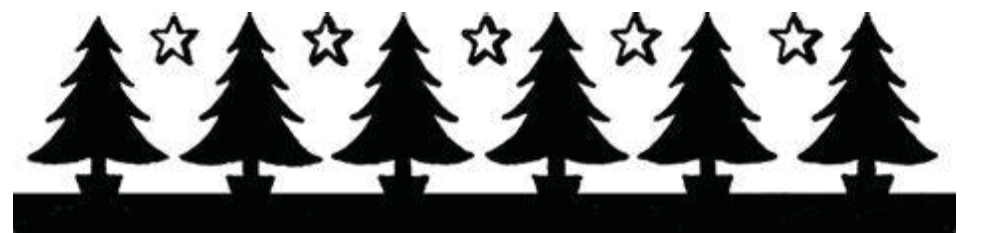
Know the Signs of Cold-related Illness

***Frostbite** is damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear tips, or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, seek medical care immediately!

***Hypothermia** is a condition that develops when the body temperature drops below 95°F. It is very deadly. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, disorientation, slurred speech, and drowsiness. Seek medical care immediately!

***Overexertion** is dangerous. Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make an existing medical condition worse.

***Pets also need extra care** when the temperatures fall. They should be brought inside when the temperature reaches 30°F with wind chill. Dogs and cats can get frost-bitten ears, nose, and feet if left outside during bitter-cold weather. Chemicals used to melt snow and ice can also irritate pets' paws – be sure to keep anti-freeze, salt, and other poisons away from pets.



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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Pilgrim Park Middle School Science Olympiad Team members.

PPMS Science Olympiad Team Competition Results

(ELM GROVE) Pilgrim Park Middle School's Science Olympiad team competed at the Bellville Invitational on November 11.

The following students medaled in their events:

- *Fossils, 1st place - **Raghavan and Anshul**
- *Disease Detectives, 2nd place - **Krishiva**
- *Meteorology, 4th place - **Rohan**
- *Optics, 3rd place - **Anson and Vedh**
- *Picture This, 2nd place **Kruthi and Rishitha**
- *Reach for the Stars, 2nd place - **Krishiva**
- *Roller Coaster, 4th place – **Vedh and Harish**
- *Anatomy and Physiology, 2nd place – **Adi and Hannah**



- *Air Trajectory, 1st place – **Anshul and Harish**
- *Fast Facts, 1st place - **Adi & Anson**
- *Forestry, 4th place - **Rag & Anshul**
- *Wheeled Vehicle, 3rd place – **Rohan and Vedh**
- *Tower, 3rd place - **Prathik and Riyan**

News' Hounds

& other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Gourley

Hello, my name is **Everest**, and I am one gorgeous girl looking for her perfect home! I am very curious, but still shy and hesitant when it comes to new people and experiences, so I do take some time to warm up (or some tasty treats!). That's where another dog can help me come out of my shell and teach me the ropes.

I've been blessed with some of the finest squeaky toys the shelter has to offer, and let me tell you, tossing them around is my favorite way to spend my day. So, wherever I end up, I really hope that it's a home with lots of plushies!

Although I will require some time to get to know you, I promise I'm worth the time and effort.

My friends here at EBHS, who have helped teach me that people bring good things, all say that I am a sweetheart once you gain my trust and that they can't wait to see me find my forever home. Maybe that'll be you?

Meet me at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, (off Barker Road) Brookfield. www.ebhs.org. (262) 782-9261.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society
Everest

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Young Writers

My Journey Towards 100+ Hours of Serving the Community

By Gargi Kelkar, 9th Grade - Brookfield Central High School

The moment I saw the starving, untidy, impoverished kids, I knew I had to do whatever it took to help them. A few years ago, my family and I visited a school in the slum sector of Mumbai, India. Through an organization called Ekal USA, our community of volunteers raised over \$74,000 to improve the curriculum, infrastructure, and teachers' salaries of impoverished schools. My family and I got to visit the schools and the students. Seeing their plight truly allowed me to understand how necessary it is for privileged people to help and make a difference. It doesn't matter how successful you are in life; what matters is how many lives you touched and made a positive difference in their life.

Seeing those underprivileged children inspired me to start volunteering and now it's a super important part of my life. I have been volunteering for several years since then. This year so far, I volunteered for 78 hours, and my goal is to serve 100 hours to help kids get a good education so they can lead a life free of poverty. Through my volunteering, not only do I get to participate in community service activities, but I also get to plan and lead some activities which have helped me learn valuable life skills.

I take this opportunity to share my learnings and rewarding experiences with you to encourage everyone to make community service a part of their lives in an effort to make a difference and help out.

*At **WISSFest**, a local fair, I organized and conducted games at a game booth. By interacting with kids and their parents, and explaining how to play the games, I improved upon my communication skills. While this was challenging at first, I quickly got the hang of it, and having these skills has been very beneficial to me at school, and in other social settings, as I use them to help me convey my message.

*I helped in the planning and execution of the **SewaUSA Funfest**. All the proceeds from this funfest went to Sewa International's Sponsor-a-Child program. During the planning of the funfest, I was able to enhance my leadership skills by helping plan performances, food arrangements, marketing strategies, and game booth ideas.



Photo courtesy: Kelkar family
Gargi Kelkar receives an award from City of Brookfield Mayor **Steve Ponto**.

***American Red Cross Blood Drive** - I helped with the sign-in table and snack table. During the 4 hours of volunteering, I had to talk with many people I didn't know. This helped me build upon my communication skills while having fun volunteering with my friends.

***WISS Sandwich/Milk Project** - I helped make lunch packs that would be donated to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission through the Wisconsin Shirdi Sai Temple. I had a lot of fun, while also making a difference in my community. In all, we made over 100 lunch packs, and they benefited a lot of people.

***Adopt-A-Highway Road Cleanup** - I participated in a highway cleanup through the Adopt-A-Highway program. In total, my team of volunteers and I cleaned 2 miles of Calhoun Road and Capitol Drive. From this experience, I learned about teamwork, and I had a blast.

* My team of volunteers and I got together to make lunch for the **Hebron Homeless Shelter**. We made 2 trays of quesadillas, 1 tray of mashed potatoes, 1 tray of pasta, and 1 tray of green beans. I learned a lot about cooking, and it was super fun.

I have been volunteering for multiple years, and for 2022 I was awarded the Gold Presidential Volunteers Service Award. I am thankful to receive it through the hands of **Mayor Ponto** of City of Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Sewa Diwali 2023

By Janavi Wagle 9th Grade – Brookfield East High School

Diwali is the celebration of lights and the victory of goodness over evil. Every year, Sewa Milwaukee collaborates with multiple community organizations like Wisconsin Shirdi Sai (WISS), Key Club, and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh to conduct a food and hygiene products drive. Multiple Sewa Leads actively collected donations for local food pantries and shelters under the leadership of **Mr. Raghav Kondapalli** and youth lead **Avaneesh Muralidharan**.

This year, as a Sewa Lead, I collaborated with Milwaukee Nepali Pariwar (MNP). As part of promotion of this community event, I reached out to many Nepali families through text, phone calls, and in-person meetings during Dussehra social events. I also distributed the flyers to local Nepali-owned businesses and my neighborhood. I received multiple donations from our generous community members. The collected items were donated to Waukesha Food Pantry, and Hebron Homes Shelter. Around 200 pounds of food items, and 150 hygiene products were donated from my side. Similarly, many Sewa youth volunteers successfully



Photo courtesy: Janavi Wagle

Janavi Wagle, a Sewa Lead, with donations collected for The Food Pantry Serving Waukesha County and Juno Hebron Homes, a shelter for those experiencing homelessness.

contributed to the missions of Sewa Diwali drive. Additionally, this year, we were able to donate to an organization called Pathfinders that supports homeless youths in the Milwaukee area.

I am grateful to our generous community for supporting this great effort of sharing the joy of Diwali.



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*All New Years Day donors, with a valid email address on-file with Versiti, will receive a \$15.00 e-gift card to be used in so many ways. Thank you!

*FIRST-TIME DONORS needed, so ask others please. Please MAKE BLOOD DONATION your NEW YEARS RESOLUTION for 2024!

Helpful tip: Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating. Photo ID is required. 16 YO donors need a signed parental consent form(see Nurse Nikki)

Blood is essential to Life. There is No Substitute.

Fire Safety during Winter Storms


Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.


IMPORTANT REMINDER

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Fact
Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



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