

Elm Grove NEWS-INDEPENDENT

FREE

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Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

February 2025

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



Elm Grove EMS, Paramedic Receive Top State Awards

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain
elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Elm Grove Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has received the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Association (WEMSA) 2024 Service of the Year Award, honoring their exceptional contributions, innovative practices, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

WEMSA noted that “Each day, Elm Grove EMS exemplifies the values of innovation, professionalism, and community service. Their proactive approach and commitment to advancing EMS make them a shining example for the entire field. This recognition is a testament to their leadership, dedication, and profound impact on their community and the EMS profession statewide.”

(See ELM GROVE EMS – Page 11.
Read about paramedic Michael Robinson’s award – Page 2.)

Photo by Rasika Viswanathan

ELM GROVE EMS MEMBERS gather near Village Hall following the announcement of the WEMSA awards. Shown (Left to right) are: **Bobby Heffernan, M.D./AEMT**; **Derrek Ellingson, EMT**; **Jeff Munson, Paramedic**; **Matt Springer, AEMT**; **Zach Petrov, Paramedic**; **John Schindler, Paramedic**; **Curt Waddell, Paramedic**; **Sue Robinson, RN**; **Paula Engleking, EMT**; **Michael Robinson, RN/Paramedic**; **Abby Sumiec, EMT**; **Jared Peterson, Police Officer**; **Rasika Viswanathan, M.D./EMT**; **Nathan Anhalt, Police Officer**; **Sonia Stowe, Paramedic**; and **Jon Robinson, M.D.** (Not pictured: additional EMS members)

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

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Michael Robinson Named 2024 Wisconsin EMS Association's Support Champion of the Year

WEMSA (Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Association) selected **Michael Robinson**, as the 2024 Support Champion of the Year for his exceptional dedication, innovative contributions, and tireless advocacy for EMS education and services in Milwaukee and Waukesha County communities.



Michael Robinson

WEMSA stated: "Michael bridges the worlds of EMS and nursing, serving as a seasoned emergency department nurse at Froedtert Hospital and a paramedic for the Village of Elm Grove. His dual expertise fosters collaboration between these critical fields, advancing patient care and professional development.

As an EMS Educator, Michael has introduced groundbreaking training initiatives, including Ultrasound-guided IV insertion and intubation training, utilizing tools that he ingeniously crafted in his own workshop. He goes beyond group instruction, offering individualized support to team members preparing for national registry exams, ensuring their success and confidence in the field.

Michael's influence extends to the next generation of EMS professionals as a state-certified adjunct instructor at Waukesha County Technical College. His dedication to mentoring and fostering growth in others exemplifies true leadership, ensuring the strength and resilience of the EMS profession for years to come.

Michael Robinson embodies the essence of a Support Champion—advancing skills, inspiring others, and driving the future of emergency care. WEMSA's 2024 Support Champion of the Year Award celebrates his unwavering commitment to serving his community, his patients, and his colleagues, making him a beacon of inspiration and excellence in the field."

"I am deeply honored and grateful to receive this award," Robinson said. "I have been with Elm Grove EMS since 2001 when I first graduated from Waukesha County Technical College as an EMT-Basic. Emergency Medical Services is my passion, and I am dedicated to advancing the EMS system through recruitment, education and training, research, and quality improvement. I want to acknowledge that my success would not be possible without the unwavering support and commitment of my colleagues at Elm Grove EMS, Police and Fire departments, Waukesha County Technical College, and Froedtert Hospital. Looking ahead, I am committed to addressing the significant challenges facing Emergency Services, particularly in areas such as public funding, recruitment, and training."

A CALL TO SERVICE...

Michael Robinson added, "We currently have 38 EMS members, and are always looking for more. Anyone interested in joining our team can find more information at <https://elmgrovewi.org/140/Emergency-Medical-Services>.

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2025 FUTURE PATHWAYS

PROJECT INFORMATION MEETING

Village of Elm Grove

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Village of Elm Grove is planning to expand its pathways infrastructure with the following proposed segments:

- Juneau Blvd**
 - Legion St - Watertown Plank
- Gremoor Drive**
 - Hollyhock Ln - Fairhaven Blvd
- Underwood River Pkwy**
 - San Fernando Dr - Hollyhock Ln

While all path segments are planned to reach full design, the Village may select specific segments, or portions of, for construction in the 2025 season. Portions constructed in 2025 will be contingent on estimated costs and available budget.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A public engagement meeting will be held to discuss community questions regarding proposed pathway alignments and design.

Thursday February 6, 2025
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

13600 Juneau Blvd
Elm Grove Court Room

The meeting will primarily follow an open-house format, featuring a brief presentation of the three proposed paths from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Contact Us:

Tom Harrigan
Village Manager
262-782-6700
tharrigan@elmgrovewi.org

Travis Brush, PE
KL Engineering
262-345-3363
travis.brush@klengineering.com



Juneau Blvd



Gremoor Drive



Underwood River Parkway



Village Update

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

As I write this letter, the temperatures are climbing from a recent brutal below zero cold stretch. What a welcome feeling for sure! Let's all celebrate the increasing daylight we will be experiencing in February.



Stay safe during these very cold temperatures and always drive carefully and pack extra layers of clothing in case your car stalls and will not restart.

*Village Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)

After a productive CORP draft review at the Recreation Committee meeting on January 23rd and speaking with **Merideth Perks** and Staff from our outside consulting firm, a public open house is being planned on February 20th. As a reminder, the CORP is an integral document to apply for grants to further our infrastructure in the Village. The objective of this meeting is to gather immediate feedback to have a document ready for final review at the March Recreation Committee meeting. After approval of the CORP by the Recreation Committee it will be presented to the Board of Trustees at its March Meeting for final approval. **Logan Kein**, the Village's Recreation Manager, is available to answer any questions and receive your feedback. Thanks to the Committee and community members for all the efforts invested to advance this important project.

*Elm Grove WinterFest

After consulting with staff, trustees and due to the weather, Winterfest has been rescheduled to Saturday, February 22nd. All parties agreed that this delay will allow for greater vendor and civic group participation. Please look for updates on the Village's website and other social media posts. Mark your calendars for a fun day at the Village Park from Noon to 3 p.m.

*Public Works Committee

The Committee was active in January reviewing 30% complete plans for pathways under consideration by the Village in 2025, budget permitting. These plans cover pathways on Juneau from Legion to Watertown Plank Road, East on Gremoor from Hollyhock and Underwood River Parkway near Tonawanda. KL Engineering has been retained to perform the design work and is working with staff and various constituents to advance the project.

Staff is the process of developing the bid package for road paving in 2025. The current plan is to address roads rated 3 and 4 on a scale of 10. The budget for 2025 is approximately \$600,000. Based on the bids received, the repaving plan will be finalized and expanded if the bids are favorable.

In addition, the 90% complete plans for the Underwood Creek Daylighting project were introduced. Committee members presented their input and feedback by January 17th, which were then accumulated and shared with Stantec, the Engineering Firm leading the design effort. In February, Stantec will review the feedback impact on the design as we move the project forward. A special meeting was held in January to advance the process of railroad land acquisition and easement updates. Thanks to all Trustees for opening their busy schedules to participate.

*Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed update to the Future Land Use Map on February 3rd. In addition, staff follow-up with impacted landowners will be presented to the Commission. The Commission will review next steps, which may include a recommendation to the Board.

*Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 24th

Agenda items to be discussed in the meeting include a review of the Village's borrowing options and financing plans for 2025. Included in the borrowing plan is payment of incentives for the Caroline Heights /Mandel project agreed to in March, 2022, once final occupancy of the last building is complete. This borrowing will be approximately \$8.6 million. Included in the discussion will be a comparison to the original cost assumptions. In addition, borrowing in support of the Underwood Creek daylighting construction project and refinancing existing borrowing used to construct pathways and road infrastructure to achieve more favorable financial terms will be reviewed.

The meeting will also review the Beer Garden contract with Third Space Brewing. This amenity has been well received by many residents. Third Space is looking for increased commitment from the Village in a draft renewal agreement presented and the Committee will review next steps.

Finally, the Committee will be updated on cost estimates for the Pathways being designed by KL Engineering which are expected to exceed funds budgeted in 2025. As a reminder, \$900,000 was budgeted for pathways in 2025.

As we enter February, let's enjoy the longer days of sunlight each day brings.

Report from Madison

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13

Mental Healthcare Is Healthcare



I want to begin by thanking those of you who have reached out after reading my first column in the *Elm Grove News-Independent*. (January 2025)

I am honored to represent the community, and I have enjoyed beginning to see new faces on social media and hearing new voices in my inbox. We had a fantastic day of in-district office hours at the Elm Grove Library in January!

As we begin to get to know each other I want to share with you some of my work at the Capitol, this month highlighting my "Mental Healthcare Is Healthcare" package of bills. I also want to invite your feedback on these bills as we consider whether we will introduce the same bills again, change them, and begin the process of writing new bills that haven't been written before.

I am passionate that every Wisconsinite has access to the mental healthcare that they need, and I am honored to serve as the Ranking Member on the Assembly Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Prevention. At a time when we have both a massive state surplus, and a tremendous rainy-day fund, the Wisconsin legislature has the opportunity—and I would propose the responsibility—to step up to meet this moment and address the mental health needs of Wisconsinites. We know the need is significant, affecting every corner of Wisconsin, and I believe we have the responsibility to do a better job connecting people with the mental healthcare that they need.

We know that there is a need for access to affordable mental health services in Wisconsin, and that includes growing the mental health workforce and expanding mental health services to Wisconsinites who need them. Last legislative session I introduced my "Mental Healthcare Is Healthcare" package of 10 bills to address the mental health needs of Wisconsinites.

The 10 bills are designed to require health insurance plans that provide coverage of mental health services to cover at least 28 annual visits; support mental healthcare access for UW students and veterans; invest in expanding mental health services available in schools as well as in the school mental health workforce (without raising taxes); increase the number of BIPOC mental health professionals in schools; and provide training to help LGBTQIA+ students.

Some of my bills were featured on PBS Newshour. Brookfield East is also featured. You can watch here: <https://tinyurl.com/ViningPBS>



LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

While I have spent years researching the legislation I have written, I know there is more work to do. I also know that a new assembly district brings with it new constituents and thus new expertise, and I'd love your feedback. We have created a Google form for your input and you'll find that at the end of this article. I'm inviting your personal stories (you are not required to share your name or contact information), your professional advice, and your general feedback. There's also a spot on the form if you'd like to be part of future conversations as we develop this legislative session's bills. Thank you for taking the time to share your perspective.

I look forward to working to find common ground for the common good and introducing bipartisan solutions to increase access to mental healthcare for all Wisconsinites.

Forward together,
Robyn Vining, State Representative

@Rep.Robyn
@RepRobynVining
608-237-9113
Rep.Vining@legis.wisconsin.gov
<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/13/vining>

Mental Healthcare Is Healthcare bills:

<https://tinyurl.com/ViningMHIH>



Your feedback on mental health legislation:
<https://tinyurl.com/MHIHFeedback>



RESOURCES FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Elm Grove is full of families with young children. The Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health is a great resource for youth mental health resources and coping skills, aiming to support Wisconsin's children in achieving their optimal social and emotional well-being. You can find coping strategies proposed by Wisconsin's youth to help combat anxiety, depression, and loneliness linked below. You can also sign up for their monthly newsletter, read their newly released 2024 Annual Report, and look around their website for additional resources: <https://children.wi.gov>

Youth Mental Health Coping Strategies:
<https://tinyurl.com/CopingOCMH>



READ
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online at:
www.elmgrove.news

Click on Archive.

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

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Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

The Toll Gate House (c. 1900).

When Watertown Plank was a “Toll Road”

By Tom Ramstack

Most of us are aware that in earlier days, the “Watertown Plank Road” literally was a road surfaced with oak planks. The plank road which ran through Brookfield Township (now Elm Grove, the city of Brookfield and the town of Brookfield) opened in September of 1849. To collect tolls, the gatekeeper dropped the gate across the road, while residing in a house built up close to the road to make it more convenient to collect tolls (cost 25 cents in 1878). Brookfield’s gate and toll gate house were located just to the west of today’s Penny Mustard Furnishings on the north side of Bluemound Road.

In the February 26, 1903 edition of the *Waukesha Freeman*, one reporter wrote a fascinating account, shown below, about one of our own “town” gate keepers.

Our Toll Gatekeeper

“Mrs. Marie Solomon was born in the city of Mainz, Germany, which is situated on the left bank of the beautiful Rhine River, on March 15, 1802. She received a fine education through schools and travel. While a young girl, she accompanied her father, who possessed a number of large vineyards, on his travels through France, Switzerland, Italy, England, and while in Belgium in the summer of 1815, they visited the battlefield of Waterloo, where she found a pretty silver buckle, which she prized highly, as a souvenir, until a few years ago when it was pinched by some relic hunter.

Mrs. Solomon was a good linguist and conversed fluently in several languages. She came to America in 1850 and settled in Wauwatosa, and lived there until 1867 when she came to Brookfield Township and took charge of the tollgate on the Watertown Plank Road here, which position she held until 1892, when she retired to live on her farm where she died.

It was always interesting to talk to the good lady and listen to her descriptions of the city of her nativity, the fortifications, the long railroad bridge over the Rhine, and the beautiful buildings, **Gutenberg’s** house and other buildings associated with the invention of printing, etc.”

“OUR HISTORY”

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Waukesha County

during the 1930s, ‘40s, ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s, etc.

E-mail stories (250 words maximum) + photos to:

elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

(Subject line: Our History)

or

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



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News Briefs



CORP PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Here is your opportunity to provide input on the future of the Village’s Parks and Open Space. Participate in the public open house with a presentation of the **Village’s 2025 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan** and public comment to follow. For more information on the planning process and other ways to provide input, **Contact:** Logan Kein, Elm Grove Recreation Manager
262-782-6700
Recreation@elmgrovewi.org



February 20, 2025

05:00 PM - 6:00 PM



13600 Juneau Blvd Elm Grove
Village Hall Court Room



53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovetfoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Support the Community Foundation with Planned Gifts

The mission of the Community Foundation is to provide quality of life enhancements to the Village of Elm Grove with projects for which tax dollars are unavailable.

Your current gift, or your planned future gift through your will or trust, can assist the community and provide a lasting legacy for you or a loved one and provide enjoyment for all present and future Village residents. You might also consider designating the Community Foundation a beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance policy, or a portion of appreciated stock.

In as little as one sentence, and with the assistance of your legal or financial advisor, you can complete a planned gift to the Foundation so that we can continue our mission for years to come.



BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 19 & 20, 2025

Calendar of Events – February 2025

Sunday – FEBRUARY 2 GROUNDHOG DAY

Tuesday – FEBRUARY 4

- **Elm Grove Building Board**
Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org
- **Elm Grove Sustainability Committee**
Meeting – 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org

Wednesday – FEBRUARY 5

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee**
Meeting – 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall, Park View Room.

Thursday – FEBRUARY 6

- **Elm Grove 2025 Future Pathways Project - Public Engagement Meeting:**
5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom, 13600 Juneau Blvd. to discuss community questions regarding proposed pathway alignments and design. The meeting will primarily follow an open-house format, featuring a brief presentation of the three proposed paths from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Questions? Contact: **Tom Harrigan**, Village Manager at (262) 782-6700 tharrigan@elmgrovewi.org or **Travis Brush**, PEKL Engineering at (262) 345-3363 travis.brush@klengineering.com

(See PATHWAYS PROJECT – Page 2)

Friday – FEBRUARY 7

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting** – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Dick Boulay**
Topic: Book Review, “What’s Gotten Into You” by Dan Levitt.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Tuesday – FEBRUARY 11

- **Elmbrook Board of Education**
Meeting: 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield. Community members are welcome to attend these open meetings.
www.elmbrookschoools.org
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee**
Winter Lecture Series – 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall, O’Neill Room; Speaker: **Jenna Biermann** from Waukesha County Recycling and Solid Waste Management; Topic: “Composting”.
(See Details – Page 8.)

Friday – FEBRUARY 14 VALENTINES DAY



- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting** – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Mike Ingrilli**, Ingrilli Plumbing; Topic: Trends in Plumbing
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- **Great Backyard Bird Count**
Through February 17
(Details at birdcount.org)

Monday – FEBRUARY 17 PRESIDENTS’ DAY

Tuesday – FEBRUARY 18 PRIMARY ELECTION



- **Elm Grove Building Board**
Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org

Thursday – FEBRUARY 20

- **OWLS – Seniors’ Group**
Luncheon Meeting at Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove
“What’s the Weather Going to Be?”
Presented by **Mark Baden**, WISN12 Chief Meteorologist;
Doors open 11:30 a.m., Lunch: Noon
Program: 1:00 p.m.; Guests are welcome.
Reservation & payment by Feb. 10
<http://www.cumceg.org/owls>

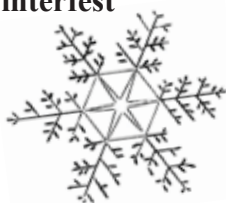
Friday – FEBRUARY 21

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting** – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker & topic to be announced.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – FEBRUARY 22

Elm Grove’s Winterfest

- Noon to 3 p.m. at Village Park pavilion



Tuesday – FEBRUARY 25

- **Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
Public Meeting – 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom. Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org

Friday – FEBRUARY 28

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting** – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Rebecca Shumway**; Topic: The Slave Trade
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com



News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Kiwanis Club

A FOCUS ON CHILDREN: Lyndsay Johnson (at left), Executive Director of The Food Pantry, accepts a donation check from Kiwanis member Jim Kieso.

Elm Grove Kiwanis Club Donates Food, Funding in Support of Area Food Pantry

By Larry De Longe

Supporting The Food Pantry of Waukesha County in its mission of food for needy Waukesha families is a key activity of the Elm Grove Kiwanis Club. Kiwanians conduct a cereal drive each month to benefit the food pantry. These donations represent the Club's primary focus on children and children having a good start to their day.

In addition to the monthly food donation the club recently presented a donation check to Executive Director, Lyndsay Johnson. Kiwanian members contribute monetary donations via a weekly donation program at Club meetings. These funds are used by The Food Pantry to purchase items not donated. For the year ending October 31, 2024, Club members donated \$699.00.

Monthly food collections and the annual monetary donations have been a core activity for Elm Grove Kiwanians for over twenty-five years. A tabulation of the food items delivered to the Food Pantry identifies 5087 boxes of cereal and 38 jars of peanut butter during 2018 to present. During the years 2006 to the present \$16,809.00 has been donated to the Food Pantry.

The public is invited to one of our Friday morning meeting to hear a great speaker and learn about other activities Elm Grove Kiwanis Club is involved with.

(See Business / Club Directory AD – Page 3 & Calendar – Page 5 for details.)

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.



Green is Good!

Tonawanda's Cafeteria Composting is Student-Powered

By the Elm Grove Green Team

At Tonawanda Elementary, lunchtime is more than a break—it's a daily opportunity for 525+ students to make our planet greener. "Our school's work to reduce waste started eight years ago when we switched from plastic to metal utensils and eliminated straws," said Tonawanda Principal Kristin Olson. "Then, parent Lyndley Woodd brought the idea of composting in the cafeteria to me."

Now, composting is a lunchtime routine for all Tonawanda students, 4K to 5th grade. As students finish their lunch periods, they sort their compostable food items, leftover milk and milk cartons, and trash into specific bins. "Our Green Team cleans up the composting stations each day by emptying and washing the bins," said Norah, a fifth-grader and Tonawanda Green Team volunteer.



Photo courtesy Elm Grove Green Team

Five days a week, the Tonawanda Green Team takes on a messy job for an important cause, turning lunch leftovers into rich compost, diverting waste from the landfill.

"Composting is important for sending less to the landfill, and pretty much everyone does it," said fifth-grader Evelyn. "We've been doing it for years now, and it's a good habit."

"4K starts composting when they are four years old, and it's easy. Anyone can do it," said Danny, a fourth-grade student. As these students continue to compost, they're creating a future where sustainability is second nature.

Learn more about composting on February 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Hall's lower level, when the Elm Grove Beautification Committee welcomes Jenna Biermann, Waukesha County Recycling Specialist. (See details below)

Composting from Start to Finish

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
6:30PM
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O'NEILL ROOM

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THIS IS THE 4TH PROGRAM IN THE 2024-2025 ELM GROVE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE WINTER LECTURE SERIES, WITH PARTNER SUPPORT FROM THE ELM GROVE LIBRARY. FREE TO ATTEND, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

THE FINAL PROGRAM OF 2024-2025:
MARCH 19, 2025: MARIETTE NOWAK (AUTHOR, PAST WEHR DIRECTOR)
BIRDSCAPING IN THE MIDWEST

News Briefs



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

THE BROOKFIELD EAST FORENSICS TEAM were the Champions of Medium Teams at the Lake County Invitational Forensics Tournament held in early January at Arrowhead High School with 2/3 of entries going to the finals. Leading the team with Championships were **Isabelle Perry** (Informative), **Hannah Zhang** (Expository), **Madeline Gerbyshak** and **Hannah Koepsell** (Play Acting) and **Teghan Schuttta** (Prose). 2nd place wins went to **Adi Sangowdar** (Expository) and **Elizabeth Zuniga-Meyer** (Special Occasion). 3rd place finishers included **Mallory Eggert** (Moments) and **Violet Diderrich** and **Sammy Ring** (Play Acting).

Scholarships Awarded to Student Golf Caddies

(GLENVIEW, IL) – Recently, more than 20 Wisconsin high school seniors were awarded the **Western Golf Association’s** Chick Evans Scholarship, a full, four-year housing and tuition scholarship for golf caddies and the nation’s largest privately funded scholarship program, including **Waukesha County residents Robert Koehne** (*Elm Grove, Marquette University HS*) and **Brian Hayes** (*New Berlin, Marquette University HS*).



Robert Koehne



Brian Hayes

Each caddie has a unique story to tell, that reflects the scholarship’s four selection criteria: a strong caddie record; excellent academics; demonstrated financial need; and outstanding character. They will begin college in the fall of 2025 as Evans Scholars, with awarded universities to be finalized this spring. Most are expected to attend the University of Wisconsin in Madison. The full tuition and housing college scholarship is valued at an estimated \$125,000 over four years.

Currently, a record 1,190 caddies are enrolled at 24 universities across the country as Evans Scholars – including 81 at the University of Wisconsin. More than 12,285 caddies have graduated as Evans Scholars since the Program was founded by famed Chicago amateur golfer **Charles “Chick” Evans Jr.** in 1930.

The Western Golf Association (WGA), headquartered in Glenview, Illinois, oversees the Evans Scholars Program, one of golf’s favorite charities and the nation’s largest scholarship program for caddies.

Elmbrook Spelling Bee Winners Advance to Regional Bee

(BROOKFIELD) On January 16th, 21 students from Tonawanda, Dixon, Swanson, Burleigh and Brookfield Elementary schools, and Pilgrim Park and Wisconsin Hills middle schools participated in the School District of Elmbrook Spelling Bee.

After 22 rounds, the top district speller was: **Keshav Karun**, a 7th grader from Wisconsin Hills Middle School.

Other top spots went to the following students:

- 6th grader **Krishna Karody** from Wisconsin Hills Middle School
- 4th grader **Phoebe Gast** from Dixon Elementary
- 5th grader **Charlie Livingston** from from Brookfield Elementary
- 5th grader **Harini Gokulakrishnan** from Burleigh Elementary
- 3rd grader **Adhrith Nareshkumar** from Swanson Elementary

All six students will move on to the regional bee at CESA 1 in February.

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Call: (262) 782-6193

The Elm Grove Beautification Committee, Friends of the Elm Grove Library, Elm Grove Green Team, Elm Grove Junior Guild and Elm Grove Woman’s Club together bring you

VILLAGE-WIDE EVENT!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 AT 6:30PM

Elm Grove Woman’s Club | 13885 Watertown Plank Rd.

The theme of the evening is **connections** -- bringing together community by helping people form relationships with others and a connection to the natural world.

Presenters **Neil Diboll**, president of Prairie Nursery and **Michael Yanny** of Johnson Nursery will provide an interactive conversation *Nature’s Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy.

Booths open at 5:30pm:

Native Roots, Johnson Nursery, EGBC, FOEGL, EGWC, The Monarch Trail, SEWISC, Wild Ones, ECNI, Save Our Songbirds, and more!

Great door prizes!

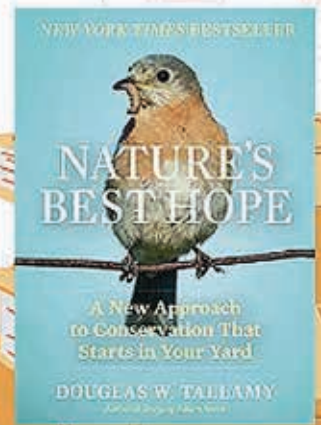
Plus, all attendees will get a coupon for a free plant with purchase at the EGBC plant sale



Scan code or visit <https://friendsoftheelmgrovelibrary.wildapricot.org/event-6016680>

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

All ticket sales will be donated to The Monarch Trail



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In Memoriam

Carol Ann Benner

Carol Ann Benner aged 89, passed away peacefully at home in Forest Grove, Oregon on December 31, 2024. Carol lived in the Brookfield / Elm Grove area from the early 1970s until she moved to Forest Grove in 2012.

Carol is survived by children Steve (Janet) Benner of Lakeville, MN; Teri (Curtis) Friedl of Forest Grove, OR; her six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Carol was preceded in death by her son Craig.

Services were held in Plymouth, MI with burial in Troy, MI.



Linda Boucher

Educator / School Board Member

Elmbrook School Board Member **Linda Boucher** passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, January 12. Linda was in her 9th year of service to Elmbrook's Board of Education, and had recently announced she would not seek a fourth term when her seat expired this Spring.

"I have had the privilege of working with Linda over the past nine years. Her commitment to the Elmbrook Community is reflected in both her service and in her advocacy for all students," reflected **Scott Wheeler**, Board President. "Linda was always willing to listen to different perspectives on issues at hand, but her true north was guided by her experience in education and passion for supporting the needs of students with disabilities and their families."



A District release to media noted that "Linda was a lifelong educator, supporting students with disabilities as a special educator for the majority of her teaching career. She received her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, with a dual certification in Elementary Education and Special Education. Later, she completed her Master's Degree in Special Education and her Administration and Director of Special Education certificates, also at UW-Whitewater.

As a member of the Board of Education, Linda served in several capacities including Board Clerk, Chairperson of the Community and Legislative Committee, and a member of various other committees, and as the representative delegate to the Wisconsin School Board Convention."

Added Superintendent **Dr. Mark Hansen**, "My work with Linda was always grounded in our shared commitment to service in education. As lifelong educators, I was always impressed with Linda's willingness to find a way to serve students and families educational needs after her teaching career was complete. I am grateful for her work on behalf of the Elmbrook Community as a member of our Board of Education."

The family requests those wishing to make memorials to consider making them to Friends of Fairview South.

News Briefs

BEHS Scholastic Art, Writing Awards Announced

(BROOKFIELD) The BEHS Art Department would love to celebrate and share with you our 2025 winners of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is a nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying students with remarkable artistic talent and presenting their works globally. It is a very prestigious honor to be acknowledged for these awards, and we are so proud of all our students' hard work and dedication.

Here are our winners:

Gold Keys:

- * **Hannah Koepsell** (Grade 10) - Printmaking – *Marigolden*
- * **Lucy Schick** (11) - Painting - *Self-Portrait*

Silver Keys:

- * **Lucy Schick** (11) - Mixed Media - *Soul Garden*

Honorable Mentions:

- * **Mia Di Marco** (9) - Drawing & Illustration - *Macro Photography Eye*
- * **Wren Gerbyshak** (12) - Digital Art - *D.V.D.*
- * **Eden Kassulke** (10) - Drawing & Illustration - *Magazine Collage*
- * **Mateo Llamazares** (10) - Ceramics & Glass - *Jaded Vessel*
- * **Emery Paschke** (9) - Ceramics & Glass - *Eclipse Howl*

Please check out pictures of all our winners on our Instagram ([@behs.art](https://www.instagram.com/behs.art)). The original artworks of all regional Silver and Gold Key winners will be exhibited at the Milwaukee Art Museum from February 1 through March 16, 2025, with an awards ceremony for student winners on February 8.



Elm Grove Public Library Programs

13600 Juneau Blvd, Elm Grove, WI 53122
262.782.6193 / elmgrovelibrary.org

- **Bright Beginnings Story Time and Play Group**

Ages 1-3 years / Meets Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Dates: February 11, 18, 25; March 11, 18, 25; April 8, 15, 22.

This story time 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: February 14, 21, 28; March 14, 21, 28; April 11, 25.

This story time 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.

- **Build It Club**

Grades K through 5
Meets Wednesdays,
4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Dates: February 12
March 12
April 9

Participants will spend time designing and building with Legos, Keva Planks, Ozobots and more. No registration is required and the library will provide all materials.



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2025 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

This years theme is focused on:
**Transforming the Future of Alzheimer's Disease
and Other Related Dementias.**

**Thursday, March 6, 2025
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m**

Italian Community Center
631 E. Chicago Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Featured Speaker
Dr. Margaret Flanagan, M.D.

Dr. Margaret Flanagan's keynote speech will examine the prediction, prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's and other dementias.

**Event is free.
Registration is required.
Use the QR to register.**



Young Writers & Reporters

Valentine's Day

By Oreoluwa Oladeji, Brookfield Academy

Valentine's Day
 The most romantic holiday
 A time of gifts
 Where people's hearts are uplifted
 Gifts like chocolates, candy
 and so much more
 The time where you spend
 with your love ones
 The time when the birds truly sing
 When flowers truly bloom
 When the bride meets her groom
 It is the loveliest holiday of the year
 The time of true love
 No one is ever down
 They will never show a frown
 Because this is a holiday of joy
 When you're with your loved ones

Learning and Remembering Our Past

Inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr Day

By Sophia File

6th Grade, Brookfield Academy

Our past is important.
 It is remembering who we are as a people.
 It can help us learn from mistakes.
 And teach us.
 Our children and our children's children,
 Will rise to the occasion
 To learn.
 Learn from our mistakes,
 Our wrongs,
 And our rights.
 The past is important.
 It gives us strength,
 Unity,
 Togetherness.
 We, as a people,
 Must learn from the past,
 To make the future a better place
 For everyone.
 That is what has made us
 The United States,
 America.
 We learn from our past,
 And honor it.
 We remember it,
 So we can learn.
 We can remember
 Those who shed blood,
 So that we may be free.
 Free to speak
 Free to learn,
 Free to remember.

My Hijab

By Amal Iqbal

6th Grade, Pilgrim Park Middle School

It was 5:30 in the morning and I was laying wide awake thinking about which way I should use to fake being sick for school. You would think that I am being over dramatic—and I probably am! I was going to start middle school in 2 hours, and even though I knew that all my friends would be there, I was still as terrified as a chicken before it was tossed onto the grill.

I hopped out of bed and changed, spun my messy hair into a bun and slipped my hijab on. There would be kids from 3 schools that I didn't know at all. What would they think of my hijab?

I didn't even realize when the clock ticked 6:00 — my bus would come in 10 minutes. I scurried down the stairs, threw a toast into my mouth and slipped my shoes on just in time. Randomly, I remember what Zola, my BFF, had said the day before. Layla, you are so confident. I don't think I could ever have the courage to do that. It immediately popped into my mind. You know what? I miss 100% of the shots you don't take.

Eternal

By Hebela Ayalew

6th Grade - Brookfield Academy

Not much lasts
 Life is like glass
 You drop it once
 And it's gone

Materials are broken
 Lost, damaged, stolen
 They come and go
 Follow their own flow

But one thing you should know
 Most things come and go
 The one thing I know for sure
 Love is eternal

It's the whisper in the trees
 The ground beneath my feet
 It won't say goodbye
 Even if I tried

It keeps me awake at night
 And in the days, it holds me tight
 It's how I know I'm alive
 How I know I can feel

One thing I've learned
 Most things come and go
 But I know for sure
 Love is eternal

Why High School Students Should Volunteer

By Janavi Wagle

10th Grade, Brookfield East High School

Volunteering offers high school students unique opportunities for personal growth while benefiting the communities they serve. It allows them to give back, gain new experiences, and enhance their resumes for college or job applications.

Research emphasizes the positive impact of service-learning. For instance, a study by **Celio, Durlak, and Dymnicki** (2011) found that service-learning enhances academic achievement, personal growth, and social responsibility, contributing to overall development. Similarly, an article written by **Cole Claybourn** (2022) highlights how volunteering benefits both students and their communities.

One benefit of volunteering is community engagement. By working with local organizations, students connect with their communities and gain insight into social issues and diverse cultures. Additionally, volunteering provides career exploration and mentorship opportunities by exposing students to various fields, such as office work, healthcare, or business, while allowing them to develop skills like leadership, responsibility, and teamwork.

Volunteering also fosters personal growth and empathy. Interacting with individuals from different backgrounds helps students build a well-rounded worldview and develop life skills and character. Experiences in places like memory care units, shelters, food pantries, or hospitals can promote compassion, accountability and leadership.

Above all, these experiences promote a sense of wellbeing, and satisfaction among youth volunteers, creating a society with strong leaders and team players.

Love

By Sanvitha Madireddi

Brookfield Academy

Love, what a beautiful word
 But what does it mean?
 One day I think I found my answer!
 When you love someone
 you understand them.
 You are always ready to help them.
 You trust them.
 You care about them.
 So, who do you understand, help, trust,
 and care about?
 Then you love them.

LOVE

By Nattie Odoro

Grade 7, Brookfield Academy

Love is a fickle thing,
 Sweet,
 Delicate,
 Cute-as-a-button,
 No.
 Love is
 Tragedy,
 Drama,
 Chaos,
 Dangerous.
 It always ends in Death.
 Sadness,
 A heart torn in two.
 Love is a thing to fear.
 Helen of Troy,
 Romeo and Juliet,
 They knew.
 Love is the thing that gets
 Your teeth chattering,
 Your spine tingling
 Your heart beating.
 Love is about taking
 Risks.
 Once there is someone to adore,
 Admire,
 cherish;
 The world seems
 Brighter almost.
 The flowers smell nicer,
 The day feels warmer.
 But like a warm summer's day,
 They're gone.
 The wind howls,
 Lightning flashes and thunder booms,
 Nothing is right.
 Love is a fickle thing.
 Sweet and cute-as-a-button one day,
 Disastrous and chaotic the next.

Always with me

By Leah Mathew, Brookfield Academy

I find myself drowning in the ocean
 Struggling, I look around,
 but find no one near
 No one could reach me
 Everyone has left me
 Everybody but one
 A giant hand pulled me from the waters
 and lifted me up
 He gently placed me by the shore
 His soft, soothing voice spoke to me
 "I will always be with you"
 He then left, but didn't leave me

News Briefs

Elmbrook's Hillside Elementary Property Sold to Residential Builder

(BROOKFIELD) The Elmbrook Board of Education voted unanimously to sell the former Hillside Elementary School and property at their monthly board meeting on January 14. After two community listening sessions and several planning meetings, the Board's decision was rooted in the community's feedback as they sold the property to a single-family home residential builder. The process of the sale will likely be completed in the next 120 days and will save the District money in demolition costs as well as future maintenance costs that can now be invested in other District facilities.

This sale marks the completion of a 2023 strategic goal in facility planning targeting two District properties; the Hillside property and Fairview South, which will be renovated this summer. More information on the sale and background on the facility planning process can be found at www.elmbrookschoools.org.

"District efforts have already turned to completing a Master Facility Plan for our active facilities, and we look forward to sharing updates and engaging the community as the plan is developed," the District noted.

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.

Coloring for Kids (of ALL ages!)



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



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

Thought of a Stranger By Gary Kerslake

Her skin is soft and smooth, and fair.
With simple grace she fixed her hair.
Her features pose a lovely sight,
To speak with her, I wish I might.

And I shall hope to know right then,
If what I see is matched within.



Happy Here By Tom Fobbe

Elders who grew up here, too
Have got great stories to tell,
Of how things were
In times less sure.
Just listen for a spell.

Meditation

By S. Jean Paul Zagorski, SSND

Do we really know
beneath the snow
which seeds and roots
and bulbs will grow

Can we tell at all
what died last fall
now sprouts and shoots
at spring's soft call

Don't we see the face
under icy lace
of life and beauty
in mud and grace?

Friend

By Marie LeClerc Laux, SSND
*from her book "Reflections" © 2006
by the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Wrap me warm in friendship
Sit with me and tell me of your days.

Tell me of the threads of joy
or strains of pain
that weave your days
of homespun tapestry.

Tell me of your singing times, and if the
song turns somber, let me softly sing a
descant
To harmonize the melody.

Tell me of your heart-held space
Where quickened hopes
Flutter like baby wrens,
Or of your pebbles of regret that choke the
telling.

Share your life with me, my friend.
I'll keep it safe each time.
Wrapped warm in friendship
Such as yours
I'll wrap you warm in mine.

News' Hounds

& other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Meet Lola Marie, a sweet and energetic young girl looking for her forever home! Lola is full of life and loves to play, making her the perfect companion for an active family or individual who enjoys outdoor adventures. She has plenty of energy to burn, but after a fun day of play, she'll happily settle down and snuggle up for some cozy cuddle time.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Lola Marie

While Lola can be a little shy at first with new people and places, once she warms up, she is incredibly loving and loyal. She is great with other dogs and would be a wonderful addition to a home with furry friends to keep her company. Lola is also very smart and eager to learn, making her a quick study when it comes to training.

If you're looking for a sweet, playful, and loyal companion who loves to snuggle, Lola Marie could be the perfect fit for you. Come meet this beautiful girl today and let her show you just how wonderful she is!

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



Public Safety Reports

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



The Elm Grove Police Department has welcomed back the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program to St. Mary's Visitation school. **Officer Heggie** (shown above) is teaching this program about empowering students with the knowledge and skills they need to make safe, healthy choices.

Elm Grove EMS *(Continued from Page 1)*

Dr. Jon Robinson, responded: "As the Medical Director for Elm Grove EMS, I am incredibly proud of our dedicated Police, Fire, and EMS teams whose commitment and expertise have earned this remarkable honor. Receiving the Wisconsin EMS Association's 2024 Service of the Year Award is a testament to the hard work and passion of every member of our team.



Elm Grove EMS has established itself as a leader in pre-hospital care, continually raising the standard for EMS across Wisconsin. By integrating advanced tools such as onboard nitrous oxide for effective pain management and portable ultrasound for enhanced diagnostics, we have set a new benchmark in patient care and outcomes. These innovations ensure our community receives cutting-edge medical support when they need it most."

Dr. Robinson added, "Beyond patient care, Elm Grove EMS invests deeply in education and training, equipping our responders with the skills and confidence to handle emergencies with exceptional professionalism. This dedication to continuous improvement reflects our commitment to innovation, excellence, and serving the community with distinction.

The recognition as Service of the Year highlights the profound impact of Elm Grove EMS not only on our local community but also on the EMS profession statewide. I am honored to work alongside such an extraordinary team and excited to see how we will continue to lead and inspire the field of emergency medical services."

Letters to the Editor

*Letters regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space-available basis.

*Submissions (**about 200 words max**) must include the writer's name, community of residence & phone #.

*Mail to: EGNI, 14420 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423.

*E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Letters to the Editor)



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* Additional contribution = \$ _____

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




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Arrow	Cupid	Hugs
Chocolate	Candy	Flowers
Hearts	Cards	Purple
Pink	Valentine	Kiss
Red	Love	





BA AFTER HOURS

OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 4-6 PM

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For more information visit brookfieldacademy.org/Open-House

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An Independent College Preparatory School K3 – Grade 12

ELM GROVE VILLAGE TRUSTEE



VOTE ERIC PETER

ELM GROVE FIRST

Dear Voter,

Elm Grove is approaching an inflection point. We are in need of **upgrades** and **enhancements** to infrastructure and local amenities while at the same time adapting to a massive new rental property in our central Village. There will be challenges to safety, traffic, security and budgets. All of this will require truthful and open **communication** with our residents and business owners. **Putting Elm Grove first** in facing all these challenges will be paramount. The team of professionals who manage and protect our beautiful Village are all excellent people who need our support.

I can honestly say in this role I will have no agenda other than what is **best for Elm Grove**, its taxpayers and its residents. I intend to act **truthfully** and **transparently** in addressing Elm Grove issues and improvements. Being a Trustee implies that you have invested your trust, and I intend to do my best to honor that trust.

BIOGRAPHY

- Third generation Elm Grove resident
- Raised my family in Elm Grove
- Elm Grove Board of Appeals Member
- Milwaukee Rescue Mission Director
- Served on corporate & social boards
- SE Wisconsin business owner




friendsofericpeter.com

Vote on April 1, 2025



Jamie Niederbaumer



Ben Mullikin



Bob Starchevich



Jennifer Mullikin



Sue Lucas



Niko Marlis



Ryan Lucas



Gail Braatz



Jennifer Yogurtian



Bill & Barb Fagerland

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

In Elm Grove

Starting out in 2015 as a family business of THREE, M3 Realty has grown into a solid team of 21 seasoned real estate professionals, many of whom reside right here in Elm Grove. You will recognize many names and faces, so when you are ready to sell or buy, trust the local, family-owned M3 Realty with all of your real estate needs.


Happy Anniversary



M3Realty.com | 262.787.8995 | 890 Elm Grove Rd




Pat Mullikin




Dave Eyrisse



Carl Carran




Ruth Robertson




Aimee Holt




Ryan Guthrie




Dan Baker



Evelyn Shevey



Becky Grossman



Nathan Shevey