

Elm Grove NEWS-INDEPENDENT

FREE

Vol. 14 No. 5

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

January 2024

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

Underwood Creek 'Daylighting' Presentation, Referendum to be Held



Photo courtesy: Village of Elm Grove

View of Underwood Creek under parking lot.

Proposed plan of new flow of Underwood Creek above ground.

=== January 14, 2024 ===
is the Village of Elm Grove's
69th Anniversary of Incorporation

By Janet Day

Many Elm Grove residents shop downtown in our quaint Village center without realizing that there is a creek under the parking lot. Water can do amazing things, but it does not like to be contained. Nature allows water to flow smoothly and always to the lowest spot. The lowest spot in Elm Grove is our Village center.

Those living in Elm Grove in 1997 and 1998 may remember the extraordinary damage caused by 100-year and 300-year floods. After those catastrophic events, the Village pursued a major multi-year flood mitigation project. In 2005, the Wisconsin DNR advised that the existing box culvert that Underwood Creek flows through in the downtown area would not be permitted for repair if structural failure were to occur.

Join us on Thursday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elm Grove Woman's Club (EGWC), 13885 Watertown Plank Road, to hear Village Trustee **John Schindler** explain the project. You will hear about the benefits of daylighting, design considerations, and engineering plans. Learn how the ecological makeup of a healthy, thriving waterway and the food chain provided by the various strata in open creeks allow microorganisms and fish to thrive. We may even see northern pike and salmon from Lake Michigan inhabit the creek.

This informational evening is presented FREE to all residents as a community service by the EGWC. Please RSVP at egwc.org to reserve your spot.

Editor's Note:

An Underwood Creek Daylighting Project Referendum question will be included on Elm Grove's April 2024 - Spring Election Ballot.

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MUSIC IN THE GROVE | **DAIRYLAND'S FINEST STRING BAND**

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain



READ THE WORK of 25 local students in our YOUNG WRITERS & REPORTERS feature. Pages 9 & 10

We Thank these valued Friends of The News:

*Geri Fotsch * Elm Grove Beautification Committee
*Elizabeth & James Lange *Lacey, Herbie, Gus Gus, Baby Meow
for their Sponsorship of this edition.

NOTE: If you appreciate this newspaper and want to help support it, see Friends of The News form – Page 4.

New Elm Grove Recreation Manager Welcomed

Logan Kein, a West Allis resident, has been serving the Village of Elm Grove as Recreation Manager since his appointment to that position on September 25, 2023.



Logan Kein

Logan has a Bachelors degree from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point in Resource Management and a minor in Environmental Law Enforcement. Additionally, he has professional certificates in Operations Management from Cornell University, IT Administration and Support from Google, and Emergency Management from FEMA.

Replying to a question about his special interests / hobbies, he said, "I am an avid outdoorsman who loves to travel and hike."

Logan's message to readers / community members about his new job and what he hopes to accomplish in that position is this: "I am committed to improving the quality of life for all residents of Elm Grove. This will be accomplished by providing high quality parks and open spaces, facilities, programs, and special events. Working with residents, organizations and businesses to offer opportunities for residents to enjoy recreation in the park and Village." Contact Logan at recreation@elmgrovewi.org

Public Safety Reports

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



Photo courtesy: Village of Elm Grove

Elm Grove's newest patrol officer, **Amy Heggie**, is sworn-in on December 4 by Village Manager **Tom Harrigan** at the Village Hall court room. Amy joins the Elm Grove Police Department after serving as a Sheriff's Deputy with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in the patrol and jail divisions for 16 years.

Officer Resigns

Police Officer **Sam Fisher** resigned from the Elm Grove Police Department in December 2023 after serving the Village for more than 3 years. He is leaving law enforcement to pursue an opportunity in the private sector.

The EGPD via a Facebook post thanked Officer Fisher for his "dedicated service to the Village of Elm Grove as a police officer and emergency medical technician (EMT)", and wished him well in his future endeavors.



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Police Dept.

Sam Fisher

Village Appoints New IT Director

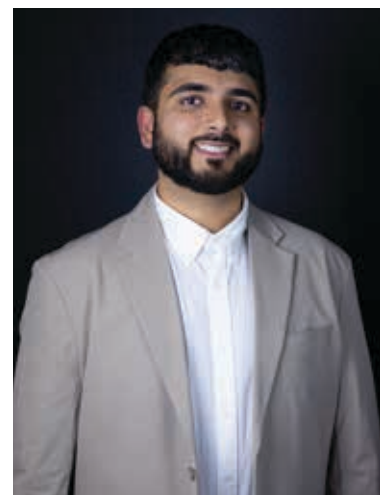
Iaqam Hans of Milwaukee was appointed to the position of IT Director for the Village of Elm Grove on August 28th, 2023.

He holds a Bachelors degree in Information Science and Technology.

His special interests / hobbies include: vinyl record collecting; shoe collector; working on cars; and tinkering with computers/electronics.

Iaqam's message to our community: "I appreciate being given the opportunity to work in the village of Elm Grove. I hope to aid in adopting and understanding new technology and how we can use it for the betterment of the village."

Contact Iaqam at ihans@elmgrovewi.org.



Iaqam Hans

Woman's Club to Present 'Music in the Grove'

(ELM GROVE) Cure those winter blues with old-time Bluegrass, Bourbon, and Barbeque!

On Thursday, January 25, enjoy the music of Dairyland's Finest String Band, with **Heather Lewin** on fiddle and vocals, **Brad Rochford** on banjo and vocals, **Ted Jorin** on guitar and vocals, and **Matt Krajewski** on string bass. Enjoy the close harmonies and toe-tapping rhythms of this old-time mountain music that combines blues, gospel, jazz, and folk music. This is not your straw hats and hay bales kind of bluegrass but a sophisticated, honest tradition of Americana available to us right here on stage at the Elm Grove Woman's Club, 13885 Watertown Plank Road.



After the presentation, the music continues as you enjoy delectable food from Noble Catering, specifically chosen for this bluegrass and whiskey event. There will be a cash bar throughout the evening.

Join us for this exciting winter event! Tickets are available at www.egwc.org.

(See AD – Page 1)

During intermission, delight in tasting a variety of top-shelf whiskeys and their signature drinks.



Village Update

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

The crisp clear weather is starting to take hold in Elm Grove. While a bit more challenging, I hope to see you out walking and enjoying the outdoors in the New Year!

***Congratulations and Welcome.** Please join me in welcoming two new members to the Elm Grove staff. The Police Department welcomed Officer **Amy Heggie** to the team in December at a swearing in ceremony. An experienced officer and former Sheriff's Deputy, Officer Heggie will be bringing over 16 years of experience to the Department. Also joining the staff is **Katie Panella** as Village Clerk and Deputy Treasurer. Katie joins the team after time as a Deputy Clerk/Treasurer in Waukesha. Please stop in and say hello to Katie the next time you visit Village Hall.

***Thank You.** A big thank you to residents who attended the Public Information Meeting on the Highland Pathway from North Avenue to Gebhardt. We appreciate your input and, as the engineering drawings are updated, we will try to incorporate your comments. The plans are currently 30% complete with updated drawings to be reviewed at the Public Works meeting January 8th with bidding documents expected to be completed by February 14th.

***2024 Budget.** I am pleased to report the 2024 budget was approved at the November Trustee Meeting. The budget included many investments to continue to provide excellent service to residents in the Village, including:
*Additional police officer position was added to begin July, 2024

*Pathway addition along the west side of Highland from North Avenue to Gebhardt
*Paving improvements amounting to \$800,000 to improve our roadways
*Continued support of our Paid-on-Call EMS and Fire Volunteer Service Providers
*Funding of wage and benefit increases in 2024 to recruit and retain the excellent Village Staff
The overall Property Tax Levy for the Village increased 2% from prior year.

***Snow Removal and Public Safety.** Inclement weather will be here before we know it. Please use extra caution as slippery roads present new challenges. Please watch out for children at bus stops and pedestrians in the early mornings. Additionally, please make sure to move all vehicles off the road to allow for efficient plowing by our Public Works team.

***Watertown Plank Road.** Road construction on Watertown Plank Road has wrapped up for 2023. As additional lateral work will be completed in 2024, only a patch layer was installed. Once the laterals are complete and the remainder of the water loop completed in the Spring of 2024, the road will be refinished. The Trustees have informed the Contractor that full closure of Watertown Plank Road in 2024 is not an option. Many thanks to all residents and businesses for their patience in 2023.

***Caroline Heights /Mandel Construction.** During the Board of Trustees meeting on November 28th representatives of Mandel and the Construction Firm were present before

the Board. Specific concerns related to truck traffic, dust mitigation, road cleanliness, support for local residents impacted by the construction process, protection of trees to be retained on site and overall noise and timing of construction hours were discussed. Subsequent to the meeting the Contractor has hired a third party to clean the adjacent streets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mandel has committed to respond to these concerns and will communicate directly with Village Staff. Please contact the Village with any concerns and we will relay them on to Mandel. For Weekly updates, please refer the Village website for updated information on the project. In addition, Mandel will be providing the Board quarterly updates with the next update scheduled for February, 2024.

***Daylighting of the Underwood Creek.** During the December Board meeting, discussions continued on the next steps to move the Daylighting project forward. Representatives of Stantec Engineering were present to review the Project, which is an extension of the work completed during the flood control project. Stantec was contracted by the Village in 2019 to engineer the final phase of the flood control project which consisted of Daylighting the Underwood Creek and provided initial cost estimates. The Board approved engaging Stantec to update the Project, including a review of estimated costs. The Committee of the Whole will be reviewing next steps on this project in January.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and peaceful 2024!

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
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Report from Madison

By Tom Michalski, Wisconsin State Assemblyman – District 13 / rep.michalski@legis.wisconsin.gov / (608) 237-9113

Recently, the news has been full of reports regarding a standoff between the Assembly and Wisconsin's University system. The standoff has centered on how the University system implemented DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) initiatives and their impact on conservative students.

Fortunately, the disagreement was settled when the UW-Regents accepted a compromise negotiated by UW-System President **Rothman** and the Assembly. Under the agreement, the University will continue to support DEI while placing a freeze on hiring DEI positions. Additionally, they will move 43 current DEI positions to focus on Student Success.

Over recent years, the number of administrators at UW-Madison has grown excessively, with DEI responsible for many of the new positions. The number of administrative positions has grown by over 9% since 2013. There is currently one administrator for every four undergraduate students. In contrast, the number of instructors and teaching staff has remained constant

at about one for every ten undergraduate students.

During hearings of the Committee on Colleges and Universities regarding DEI, several individuals reported going to premier universities like Stanford after being denied their first-choice school at UW-Madison. At the hearings, we asked why these individuals were not accepted. Unfortunately, UW-Madison staff would not provide an answer. We also asked to see their admission policy to help resolve the issue. Despite the Committee's responsibility for oversight over the University System, we received a heavily-redacted document, which you can see on my website.

As part of the negotiated agreement, the university will no longer require a statement on the student's commitment to DEI as part of the student application process. Additionally, UW-Madison will accept the application of every Wisconsin high school student who graduates in the top 5% of their class. The remaining UW Colleges will accept the application of every Wisconsin high school

student who graduates in the top 10% of their class.

Students who attend out-of-state schools are less likely to return to Wisconsin upon graduation. This creates a brain drain of Wisconsin talent, which (over the long term) negatively impacts the state's workforce. The compromise will address reports of highly-qualified Wisconsin high school students being denied acceptance at Wisconsin Universities.

Finally, a survey initiated by President Rothman uncovered a widespread belief among conservative students that their opinions were actively stifled. These students felt their grades were impacted if they didn't concur with their more liberal instructors' point of view. The negotiated agreement also addresses these concerns by ending affirmative action hiring of faculty and the practice of requiring a statement of DEI commitment during the instructor hiring process. The agreement also requires the University to create an office focused on conservative thought.

In exchange for these concessions, the assembly will deliver more than \$800 million for initiatives and projects (including \$198M for Madison's new engineering building); it will also release the 4% pay raise previously approved for employees.

I was a student in the Wisconsin University System in the late 60s to early 70s. I can remember protesting an administration that was unduly controlling and oppressive with its conservative agenda. It seems the pendulum has swung, and the University System is now unduly controlling and domineering with its liberal agenda. I hope this agreement has stopped the pendulum swing to the left and begun a move to the center. Where in the spirit of DEI, the University moves to Include all students, there is Equity in student treatment, and Diversity includes conservative thought.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns.

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

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS
WOULD BECOME THE WORLD'S FIRST ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER UPON ITS DEBUT ON MAY 13, 1842. AN INSTANT SUCCESS, ITS CREATION IS OWNED TO HERBERT GRAYSON WHO RECOGNIZED THAT NEWS-SHEETS ALSO M- PANIED WITH PICTURES. SALES EXPLODED. THE FIRST ISSUE WAS 16 PAGES LONG AND HAD 52 WOOD ENGRAVED PICTURES THAT REVEALED UNSEEN PARTS OF THE WORLD TO MOST OF ITS READERS.

WRITERS COVERED STORIES ON GOVERNMENT, FOREIGN LANDS AND EVERYTHING FROM THE ARTS AND SOCIETY TO BUSINESS. JOURNALISTS TENDED TO REFLECT THE WEALTHIER CLASS WHICH CON- STITUTED THE MAJORITY OF ITS READERSHIP.

FOR ARTISTS ENGRAVING DEADLINES WERE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND THE BRIEF TIME TO PRINT OFTEN REQUIRED SHORTCUTS. MOST IMAGES WERE CREATED BASED ON THE WRITER'S DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS AND RARELY WERE BASED ON ANY AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

THIS EARLY UNION OF IMAGE TO TEXT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TENTATIVE FOOTSTEPS INTO THE POWER- FULL INFLUENTIAL WORLD OF A MASS MULTI-MEDIA. HUMANITY WOULD EVENTUALLY FIND THEMSELVES DROWNING IN THE DESCENDANTS OF THIS MEDIA - A MEDIA FUELED BY THE NEED FOR WEALTH.

SOME FOUND THEMSELVES UNKNOWINGLY SWEPT INTO WAYS OF PERCEIVING THE WORLD. INDIVIDUAL, CAREFUL CRITICAL THINKING BENDS UNDER THE TORSION OF SUCH MANIPULATION, AND AS SUCH, BECAME AN INCREASINGLY RARE COMMODITY. FOR MANY OTHERS, A NUMBERS RUSHED THROUGH THE DIN - OVERWHELMED BY THE CADOPHONY.

Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*

Elm Grove's Early Catholic Churches, Cemeteries

By Stephen K. Hauser

My recent columns in *The News-Independent* have been headlined "Whatzit?", detailing interesting things and places found in our area. This one, however, might be better called a "Wherezit?" since there is nothing to see that would appear in a photograph. Instead, we have a photo of **Dr. Helmut Treis** of Aachen, Bavaria searching hopefully for gravesites and elusive stone remains of a church foundation in 1992. And herein lies the story.

As many readers already know, many of Elm Grove's earliest settlers were German Catholics from Bavaria. In 1849, sixteen such families, including the **Gebhardts, Woelfels, Ramstacks, and Dechants**, founded St. Ambrosius parish. In 1851, two acres of land were donated by farmer **Ulrich Woelfel** to **Bishop John Martin Henni** of Milwaukee (the city's first Catholic bishop).

Bishop Henni approved the property for the construction of a log church and ordered consecration of accompanying cemetery grounds. A 24' by 34' sanctuary was built by the parish members on the east side of Highland Drive near the present site of Hillside Road. The cemetery was placed both north and south of the church, with a children's burial ground on one side and the graves of adults on the other. Stillbirth and infant death being quite common in those times, both sides soon began to be utilized for the deceased. (A portion of the stone fence that surrounded one of the cemeteries could still be seen as late as 1976.)

The new church, originally served by traveling priests, was consecrated in honor of St. Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan in the 4th century. For 8 years between 1851 and 1859, local Catholics attended Mass at St. Ambrose Church, but in 1859, the School Sisters of Notre Dame began the construction of the original St. Mary's Visitation Church, located on their property on the south side of Watertown Plank Road where a portion of the Sisters' cemetery is now. They invited the families who worshipped at the little log church on Highland to attend their new, larger church. The offer was accepted, and the old building was abandoned. It was subsequently razed in 1872. Some of the old graves were recorded as moved to St. Mary's cemetery, but many graves were unmarked, or had been adorned only by wooden crosses which had long since rotted away. It is, therefore, quite possible that some remains were never removed.

This was not the end of the story for the little pioneer cemetery, however. The so-called "Black Smallpox" epidemic of 1885 would afflict the Town of Brookfield. One of its victims was **Friedrich Gebhardt**, a Catholic farmer originally from Bavaria. It should be noted that deaths from Black Smallpox



Photo courtesy Tom Ramstack

Dr. Helmut Treis of Aachen, Bavaria searches for gravesites and remains of St. Ambrose Church at Highland Drive and Hillside Road in Elm Grove in 1992.

were sadly seen in those simpler times as a badge of shame. According to former village resident **Richard Groh** who researched this period, Gebhardt's body was surreptitiously wrapped in a blanket and hurriedly buried in the now semi-abandoned cemetery. Other area families, similarly afflicted, may have followed the biblical admonition to "go forth and do likewise". It is, therefore, possible that a few additional "unofficial" remains were also buried there. At least the grieving families had the comfort of knowing that the property on Highland was consecrated ground. (The cemetery property continued to be marked on Waukesha County's maps of the Town of Brookfield as late as 1873.)

In later years, some have confused the still visible cemetery located on Highland Drive and Lata Vista Drive to the south with the story of the congregation of St. Ambrose, while others have associated it with the Methodist church located only a block away.

Both assumptions are incorrect, however. In reality, it was a nonsectarian protestant cemetery loosely associated with several small area churches and includes remains even of those not identified with any formal denominational group. It is still lovingly maintained and serves to provide a link to those early residents who lived, worked and struggled to pass along a heritage for our community to share, much like those hardy pioneers who founded St. Ambrose Church so very long ago.

(I appreciated the help given to me in preparation of this story by **Richard Groh, Tom Ramstack, the late Charles Woelfel, and the late Marion Bruhn.**)

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



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NEW at the Community Foundation

Community Foundation Supports Elmbrook Senior Taxi
 Your contributions to the Community Foundation have a direct impact on improving the lives of people right here in our village. One of our new projects in 2023 was support for Elmbrook Senior Taxi, an organization that provides safe, reliable, and affordable transportation to seniors and adults with disabilities in the greater Waukesha County area.

In 2023, Elmbrook Senior Taxi provided 1,572 rides for 33 residents of Elm Grove. This was an increase of over 400 rides compared to 2022 and included 8 new customers from our community. Over 70% of the rides they provide are for disabled adults going to jobs or job training, which is a significant increase over the prior year. About 20% are for rides to medical appointments and the remainder are for personal reasons such as grocery shopping, to hair salons, etc. Both the Community Foundation and Elmbrook Taxi thank you for your ongoing support!

More About Elmbrook Senior Taxi
 For more information about Elmbrook Senior Taxi, visit their website at www.elmbrookseniortaxi.org or call their taxi office Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm at 262-785-1200.

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 20 & 21, 2024

Calendar of Events – January 2024

Monday – JANUARY 1



• **Blood Drive at Elm Grove Village Hall** coordinated by the Elm Grove Junior Guild and Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
elmgrovejuniorguild.org/blood-drives (608) 469-3941

Tuesday – JANUARY 2

• **Deadline (5 p.m.) for Candidates for the Village of Elm Grove Board of Trustees and Elmbrook School Board to file required paperwork in order to be listed on upcoming election ballots.**

Wednesday – JANUARY 3

• **Elm Grove Plan Commission**
Meeting: 6 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room; Agenda: www.elmgrovetribe.org

Friday – JANUARY 5

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Logan Kein**, Village of Elm Grove Recreation Manager, “Shaping Tradition for Future Generations”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – JANUARY 7

• **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park.
Contact: beautification@elmgrovetribe.org for information and to volunteer.

Thursday – JANUARY 11

• **Elm Grove Committee of the Whole**
Meeting: 5 p.m. at Village Hall – Park View Room;
Agenda: www.elmgrovetribe.org.

Friday – JANUARY 12

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speakers: **Deb Baesemann, Molly Salinas and Nicci Sternitzky** (Elm Grove Green Team) – “Elm Grove’s April 2023 Trash Audit”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – JANUARY 14

ELM GROVE’S 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION

• **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park.
Contact: beautification@elmgrovetribe.org for information and to volunteer.

Monday – JANUARY 15

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



Tuesday – JANUARY 16

• **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>

Thursday – JANUARY 18

• **OWLS meeting** – 11:30 a.m. at Community United Methodist Church, Elm Grove; Program: “Shen Yun: Discover a Divine Culture”. (See AD below)

Friday – JANUARY 19

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Tim Dittloff**, Full Sail Leadership Academy Strategist, “Unlocking Individual and Team Performance”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – JANUARY 21

• **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park.
Contact: beautification@elmgrovetribe.org for information and to volunteer.



Tuesday – JANUARY 23

• **Governor Tony Evers** will deliver his 2024 State of the State address at 7 p.m. from the Assembly Chamber of the Wisconsin State Capital in Madison.
• **Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
Public Meeting – 7 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room; Agenda and Live Stream www.elmgrovetribe.org (262) 782-6700

Thursday – JANUARY 25

• **Music in the Grove at Elm Grove Woman’s Club**, 6 p.m. (See AD – Page 1)

Friday – JANUARY 26

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Author **Tom Fehring**, “When Milwaukee Went to War”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – JANUARY 28

• **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park.
Contact: beautification@elmgrovetribe.org for information and to volunteer.



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



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
of Providing Entertaining and Educational Events.

Jan 18	11:30 AM - Community Church Program: “Shen Yun: Discover a Divine Culture” - Cathy Garton
Feb 15	11:30 AM - Community Church Program: “Has Wisconsin Politics Finally Hit Bottom or Will 2024 Be Even Worse?” A non-partisan overview & ‘2nd Choice’ voting presentation by Mordecai Lee, PhD, Professor Emeritus, UWM
Mar 21	11:30 AM—Community Church Program: “Meet Mae West” - Martina Mathisen
Apr 17	Trip—Northlight Theater—“Brooklyn Laundry” Lunch: Hackneys on Lake
May 16	11:30 AM - Community Church Program: OWLS 20th Anniversary Celebration and The See Team Improv Comedy
June 20	Trip—The Annual “Mystery Trip”
July 25	Trip — Geneva Lake Museum and Lake Geneva Boat Tour Luncheon
Aug 15	Trip—“Milwaukee Treasures” - Warehouse Art Museum and Milwaukee Public Library Rare Books Room. Lunch: Wisconsin Club
Sept 19	11:30 AM - Community Church Program: Leslie Goddard as “Julia Child”
Oct 17	Trip—Lake County, IL—Great Lakes Naval Museum & Base Tour, Shops of Long Grove, IL and Sock Monkey Museum. Lunch: Village Tavern
Nov 21	Trip—Oshkosh—Paine Art Center and Oshkosh Public Museum. Lunch: Fox River Brewing Co.
Dec 14	11:00 AM - Annual Holiday Luncheon — Westmoor Country Club Program: Musical Memories—Craig & Patty Siemsen

OWLS is open to anyone 50-years or older. One need not be a member of Community UMC or any church to be an OWLS member or guest.

For more information about the events, or for a membership or event reservation form please visit www.cumceg.org/OWLS.

OWLS is a non-sectarian program sponsored by Community UMC, Elm Grove, WI.

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News Briefs

Artist Talk to be Held at Wilson Center for the Arts

(BROOKFIELD) **Susan Falkman**, who has been an integral part of the Wilson Center, will give an artist talk on Friday, January 19, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 3270 Mitchell Park Drive, Brookfield.

Falkman is the talented sculptor who designed and installed the magnificent fireplace "Streaming" in the Kuttemperoor

Grand Hall as well as "Water's Way", located in the facility's back yard. She describes her work as, "The most challenging pieces of my career." Falkman will offer background into her career and offer insight into the process of creating the sculptures on display at the Wilson Center.

The event is free and open to the public.

Scholarship Competition for Young Entrepreneurs

Contestants Will Vie for a \$10,000 Scholarship

(MILWAUKEE) Junior Achievement of Wisconsin is looking for student entrepreneurs to participate in the Young Entrepreneur (YE) competition to be held in Milwaukee on March 6, 2024. Wisconsin students who are between 10 and 18 years of age and opened their business on or before January 2023 are eligible to compete for scholarships against other young Wisconsin entrepreneurs.

The YE application can be downloaded from <https://wisconsin.ja.org/events/ja-young-entrepreneur-competition-statewide>. To be considered for the 2024 competition, students must submit a completed application, head shot, video pitching the student's business, a signed media release, and permission slip signed by a parent or guardian if the entrepreneur is under 18 years of age. The application deadline is midnight on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 11:59 PM CDT.

Four finalists will be selected to present their businesses live to a panel of celebrity judges in Milwaukee for a chance to win a \$10,000 scholarship. Smaller scholarships will be awarded to the other three finalists.



The YE competition winner will be chosen based on business success, growth potential, and social involvement. Other considerations will be the entrepreneur's age when the business was started, strategic direction, innovation, personal integrity, leadership, and any special challenges the young entrepreneur had to overcome.

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to providing young people with the mindset and skillset to build thriving communities. Junior Achievement's programs - in the core pathways of career readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy - ignite the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and realities of tomorrow's workplace. Junior Achievement of Wisconsin impacted 121,606 students in the 2022-23 school year. More information can be found at [Wisconsin.ja.org](https://wisconsin.ja.org).



Photo courtesy: Rob King

Eagle Scout **Marina King** with (standing - left to right) **Bruce Prange**, District Chair; **Mike Jahner**, Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 156G; **Rob King**, Scoutmaster and father of Marina; **Dennis Gignac**, Board of Review member; **Mark Feurbringer**, main member of the Board of Review.



Photo courtesy: John Kuenzle



Eagle Scout **Addison Jahner** with her parents, Assistant Scoutmaster **Mike Jahner** (also an Eagle Scout) and Troop Committee member **Jessica Jahner**.

Marina King & Addison Jahner Become Eagle Scouts

By Rob King

Scout Troop 156G started in February of 2019. **Marina King** was one of those scouts that started on day 1. Her Eagle Board of Review was on May 26, 2023. She had turned 18 in April 2023, so she had just 4 years to complete her Eagle. Marina went through National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) in 2022 and was also on staff at Camp Long Lake in the summer of that year.

Marina's Eagle Project was to restore the trails at the Nature Center at Brookfield East High School. She remains part of the troop as a junior leader.

Addison Jahner completed her Eagle Board of Review in December 2023.

Addison joined the Troop in June of 2020 and completed her Eagle in just over 3 years. She has also earned 3 Eagle Palms, which you earn for every 5 extra merit badges beyond what she needed for Eagle. Addison plans to continue with the troop for a few years to earn more merit badges and help to guide the younger scouts.

Addison's Eagle project was to reconstruct a crushed-stone pathway at her church to connect the parking area to their prayer garden. She had to match existing paths to her new path. She had to make the path accessible for elderly and disabled parishioners and had to consider environmental aspects of where the path was installed.



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 (200 words max) must include the writer's name, community & phone #.

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

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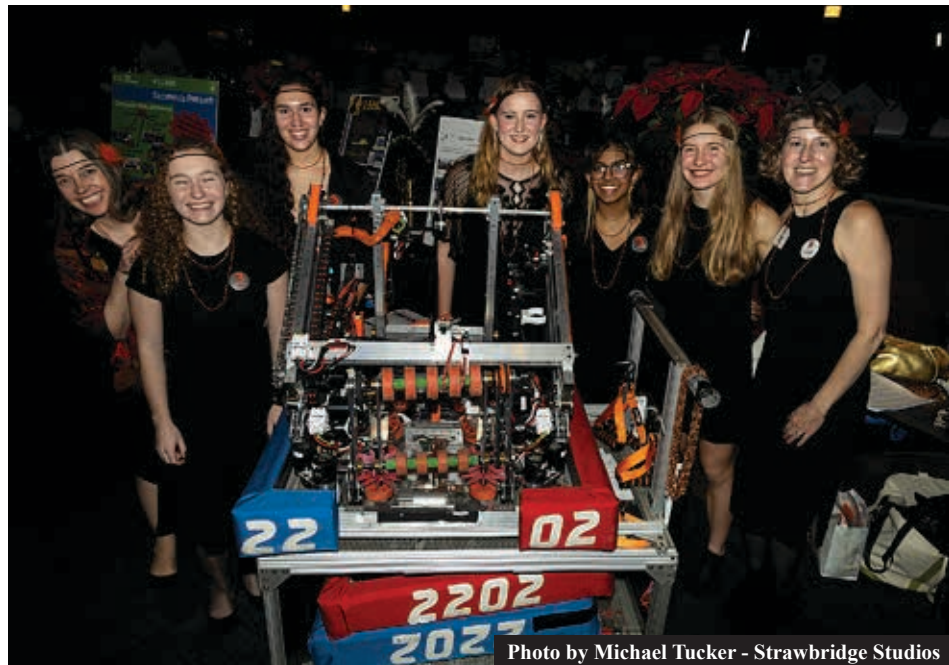
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News Briefs



Robotics students and their mentors at the Elmbrook Education Foundation's Ladies Night (left to right): Mentor **Sara Lieske, Elle Hillmann, Amari Siegfried, Sophia Hart-Liepert, Riyana Expedith, Emily Enright,** and Mentor **Kristin Rothe**

Elmbrook Education Foundation Event Raises \$70,000+ for Scholarships, Grants

(BROOKFIELD) The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) hosted the 20th Annual Ladies Night, presented by Craig Husar Fine Diamonds, on November 29, 2023 at the Milwaukee IMPROV. More than 250 women attended and enjoyed an evening of shopping and socializing while participating in raffles, silent auction and more.

"We're grateful for the overwhelming community support at Ladies Night. The energy was amazing as we celebrated the Roaring 20s. This was a great experience enjoyed by all!", said **Jessica Gonzalez**, Ladies Night Co-Chair.

More than \$70,000 was raised at the event. Proceeds will support the EEF's \$100,000 commitment to the Robotics and Automation space at Brookfield East, available to all high school students in the Elmbrook district, and impacting thousands of students for years to come.

EEF was organized in 1958 to award scholarships to select Brookfield High School graduates. In 1999, the Foundation's mission expanded to include teacher grants for innovative projects that benefit all students and raise money to support and strengthen outstanding learning ideas that improve the overall educational quality of our public schools. EEF has awarded more than \$1,600,000 in scholarships and in excess of \$625,000 in grants which enhance and extend the established curriculum and support projects that are beyond the district's budget.

For more information, please contact **Beth Dobrzynski**, Executive Director, at elmbrookeducationfoundation@gmail.com. www.elmbrookschoools.org/elmbrook-education-foundation.

Green is Good!

Textile Recycling in the Grove



Photos courtesy: Elm Grove Sustainability Committee

(At left) Textile bin at Elm Grove Police Department parking lot; (at right) Textile bin at Department of Public Works / Recycling Center.

Do you have old clothes piling up in the basement somewhere? Wondering what to do with old towels and sheets? The average American throws away more than 80 pounds of clothes a year. These items end up moldering in landfills for hundreds of years, contributing to off-gassing, leaching of microplastics, and other pollution. Using data from the Elm Grove 2023 trash audit, we can calculate that 115,000 pounds of textiles are being thrown away in Elm Grove every year. Time to start recycling!

The Elm Grove Sustainability Committee has an answer for you. In September, Elm Grove partnered with Milwaukee Textile Recycling for textile recycling made convenient to you. Two textile collection bins were installed in Elm Grove, one in front of the Village police station, and the other at the recycle center. Already in Elm Grove, we have collected more than 1,300 pounds of textiles! Go Elm Grove! As part of the partnership, Elm Grove earns about 10 cents per pound collected. This money will be used to promote additional sustainability efforts within the village.

Here's what you do: Just drive up to the bin and drop your textiles inside—ideally bagged for convenient pick up and to assure they stay dry. All sorts of textiles are accepted, including clothes, blankets, sheets, curtains, and towels. Please no sleeping bags or other items that contain filling. If the bin is full, please text the number listed on the bin and pickup will be arranged.

We are so happy to offer this convenient no-cost option to Elm Grove residents! While recycling textiles you have is great, decreasing consumption of textiles is important. Americans only wear items 7-10 times on average before throwing them away. Consider before you buy something how many times you can see yourself wearing it. If you have something that's just not quite right, can the local tailor help you adjust it? Is there something else the fabric could be used for such as a dog blanket or kids art project? In the long run, we will all benefit from-creating less waste. In the short term, cleaning out your closet just got easier!

Local Drive to Benefit Homeless Community

By Terry Steiner

Woller-Anger, A Relation Company is collecting long underwear, hats, gloves and mittens to help **Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge** provide these much-needed items to Milwaukee's homeless during the holiday and winter season. Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge is an outreach based in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, serving the homeless community in the City of Milwaukee and surrounding communities.

Every Saturday Morning, **Mr. Bob (Bob Burmeister)** and dozens of volunteers gather at Kosciuszko Park in Milwaukee where they distribute a variety of essentials to men, women and children. Mr. Bob's also provides warm coffee and snacks, encouraging fellowship and creating a sense of community.

Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge started in September 2007 with six backpacks and



open hearts for distribution to their friends in the city. In 2012, Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge became a non-profit to better serve the community. The vision of Mr. Bob's is to create a community in which every person receives basic necessities, guidance and hope. As the winter months are upon us, we ask that you open your hearts, so our friends have what they need to stay warm.

Please consider donating new or used long underwear, hats, gloves and mittens for men, women and children! We will be collecting at our office: 930 Elm Grove Road, Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It's Time for a Quest!

(ELM GROVE) Pilgrim Park Middle School's Team Alpha Geek has created an immersive geocaching story quest at Elm Grove Village Park.

Geocaching is a treasure hunt where tubes and containers called caches are hidden outside and people search for them. There are millions of geocaches hidden around the world including some right here in our community.

Use the free Geocaching App to go on the team's story quest where you can find and collect all seven pieces of a sword to turn the evil dragon Geopoxe good!

Geocaching is a family-friendly activity that can be done year-round. For more information visit the team's website <https://sites.google.com/elmbrookstudents.org/team-alpha-geek>.



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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Swanson Elementary held their 2023-2024 Swanson School Spelling Bee competition on December 11th. After 20 rounds of the spelling bee, the three students who will be advancing to the School District Bee include (as shown above) School Champion **Prapya Pattnaikis** (5th grade) 2nd place winner, **Vihaan Putta** (5th grade), and **Krishna Karody** (5th grade) who finished 3rd. (Not pictured is) **Prateek Uvaraj**, who came in 4th place and will be the school's Alternate Speller for the Elmbrook School District Bee on January 17th.



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

This year, Burleigh's 2nd grade team was awarded a plaque from the Noetic Learning Math Contest for achieving the top 10% of 2nd grade teams nationwide with a combined score of 470. The Noetic Learning Math Contest is a biannual math competition designed for elementary and middle school students.

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Library News and Programs

January 2024

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

Preservation of Everyday Strangers Framed by Edward Hopper
Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.



Edward Hopper, with his simplicity of form and blocked flat colors, captured the emotional character of his subjects, whether they be a customer sitting in a diner, a midnight streetscape in Greenwich Village, or a Victorian Painted Lady mansion on the shores of Maine. His métier is famous for emphasizing its emptiness and lonely isolation.

This program will survey the life and works of the most important realist painter of 20th century America, known for his keen observations and interpretations of the everyday. Presented by Professor Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone History Symposium.

Getting Ready for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse / Saturday, January 20, 11:00 a.m.



On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Join us as amateur astronomer Ted Schaar prepares us for the big day! This event will cover information about when, where, and how to view the eclipse safely.

Presenter Ted Schaar is a writer and amateur astronomer with a lifelong interest in science. Since 2000, he has occasionally set up a telescope at local libraries for visitors to view objects such as the Sun; lunar craters, mountains, and plains; and the planets Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus.

Experience Passes Are Available!

Your library card is now your ticket to adventure! The Elm Grove Library is proud to offer its first-ever Experience Pass collection. These passes can be checked out from the library and utilized for free admission to unique Milwaukee-area attractions. Currently, the library offers passes to three different destinations (with more to come):

- Milwaukee County Zoo (two circulating passes)
- Schlitz Audubon Nature Center (one circulating pass)
- Riveredge Nature Center (two circulating passes)



Experience Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All passes circulate for three days from the day of checkout and are not renewable. Late fees apply. A borrower must be at least 18 years of age with a valid library card within the Bridges Library System and a matching driver's license or state ID. All borrowers will need to sign an Experience Pass Agreement prior to each check out. So get out there and explore, courtesy of your Elm Grove Library Card!

Winter Reading Program is Underway!

The official activity of "Stay Inside Season" is at your library! The 2024 Winter Reading Program runs until March 18. Pick up your game card at the library, track your reading, and stack up entries all season long. Where else can you win prizes just for reading!? Open to everyone ages 16 and up.

Winter Word Search

Let it snow!

BLIZZARD
COAT
COLD
DECEMBER
EARMUFFS
FEBRUARY
FIREPLACE
FLURRIES
FROZEN
GLOVES
HOT CHOCOLATE
ICE
ICE SKATES
ICICLE
JANUARY
MITTENS
SCARF
SHOVEL
SLED
SLUSH
SNOWBALL
SNOWFLAKE
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SWEATER
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H A H D S
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 I A S T J O J
 Q N L C S V J
 N U E H B E D
 A D O L L
 H F R M C I T W F
 M X L Y H O Z L O O M
 U F K U W Q L Z R H E L U
 P C A R O F A A W G A B V
 P L M R J E T R U J R M Q
 X K S I Z B E D J S M U J
 J T N E P R C S S W U M X
 F O S D U Q N N E F Z
 W T E A F O O A F
 O C M G C R I W W T S U Z
 H M L A L E Y R F B E V X N P
 I W Y N O M K E L A R U Y V U
 V Y F C S V B S P A L S L U S H U
 V R R O W E E C L K L I C I C L E
 T L O L N S R A A E W F Y G Q D U
 E Z Z D C P W R C Y S V H X W K M
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 E K N X A W I N T E R O W D Q T R
 J L Q T A I C E S K A T E S L
 M M N V P J Q Q A X P B J

Name: _____

Young Writers & Reporters

New Year!

By Sakshi Kodgi
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Never stop being good
Effort is key to success
Wondering always leads to answers

Year 2024 will be a great year
Everyone belongs
Attitude never helps
Rarely say mean things

Countdown to 2024

By Abigail Davidson
4th Grade - Tonawanda

10,9,8, Almost time to celebrate,
7,6,5, what a great day to be alive,
4, only three seconds more,
3,2,1, Now the party has begun.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Year's Day

By Mila Webb, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

New Year's Day is coming soon.
Eating sugar all afternoon.
I had a sugar rush all night.
I could not fall asleep. It was such a fright.
Counting down 3, 2, 1
Happy New Year's
2024 has just begun.
This year will be so fun!

January Snow

By Lilly R. and Vera P.
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Halloween, Christmas all in a row
But all January has is Snow.
Fights, Forts, and more,
But it is still kind of a bore.
I am sick, it's not that fun
So, all this holiday drama should be done.

Here Comes January

By Miliyah, 4th Grade- Tonawanda

Here comes January.
Let's have some fun.
I'm so excited.
Here comes some snow.
I can't wait to have so much fun.
Because it's January,
It's time for some fun.

My First Tooth

By Anna Pechman, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

I was walking in my 5k classroom, "Bang!"
All of a sudden, I bumped into one of my
friends! I felt my tooth, it wiggled!! "Sorry"
I gestured. I felt like I won \$5,000,000!!!
"Mom, I have a loose tooth," I said.

When I got home, I wiggled and jiggled
my tooth. Finally, my tooth came out! I was
so amazed. I tasted lots of blood. It was sort
of tasty. I grabbed my tooth and wrote the
tooth fairy a note. It said: *Dear tooth fairy,
can I please keep my tooth?* From: Anna.

Then I sat down in my bed, it felt like a
marshmallow. I imagined lots of money
raining on me. Then I got up, I looked under
my pillow, and I got \$1!!!!!! My tooth was
there!!!! Suddenly, I dropped my tooth!! "Oh
no" I cried! Called my mom. Then we found
it, "yay" I cried.

Warning to the reader! When you have a
loose tooth, don't put a big carpet under
your bed.



Team BUILD 44199 Creates an Innovative Solution to Increase Bowling Population

By Elizabeth Black and
Saranya Bhagavatula
5th Grade - Burleigh Elementary

Bowling is a sport that can have amazing health and education benefits, but the bowling population is dying down! First Lego League Challenge Team BUILD 44199 has invented an interactive sculpture and scavenger hunt solution to increase the number of people who bowl. The sculpture has many interactive features including a Python coded game board set up on a Raspberry Pi and a bowling ball with many hidden features inside. As part of the solution, they created a scavenger hunt (<https://tinyurl.com/3yt8uj6x>) to help increase interest in bowling. There are 10 bowling alleys in the Milwaukee area to go to, each with an artistic, unique bowling pin, inspired by a different artist, at each bowling alley.

If you take a picture of yourself with the bowling pin and send it to replaybuildchallenge@gmail.com, you have a chance at winning a special prize! The more bowling pins you find and take a picture with, the higher the chance you'll get a prize. All of this is FREE! Join our scavenger hunt today!!!



Violin

By Addison Smith
7th Grade, Pilgrim Park Middle School

With bow in hand and wrist held back,
I play a downbow, light a match.
One measure gives way to the next,
then another,
I let out a breath then breathe in to recover.

I play and play and play,
The song my heart had longed to say.
Through violin, I express my thoughts,
Giving my all, through music wrought.

For music, the uniting melody,
Of the nations broad and wide,
Brings peace, and hope to people,
And place where they confide.

Few measures keep me from the end,
Of the song in which I play,
For every song must come to rest,
For others to have a say.

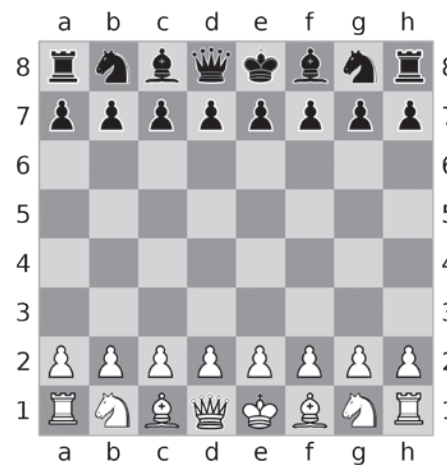
And so, I put it back in case,
Bow in top, violin in base.
This melody, my heart did sing,
Will soon sing once again.

The Perfect PB&J

By Aubrey Reuter
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

You'll Need: peanut butter, jelly, 1 spoon, 1 knife, 1 plate, 2 pieces of bread

Have you ever been very hungry? Well I have a solution: a PB&J sandwich! First grab a plate. **PRO TIP:** If you are making it for a child it should be a plastic plate. Second, put the bread on the plate safely. **PRO TIP:** If you put it on the plate quickly or you slam it down, the bread could crumble. Third, spread some peanut butter on one side of the bread and jelly on the other side. **PRO TIP:** Put the two pieces of bread together nicely, so it fits perfectly. Great job, you made the best p.b.&j sandwich ever.



Chess to Impress

Written and Illustrated
By Jacob Joseph Zechlinski
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Do you not have any games to play? Do you ever think you have played them all? You should try chess! This article can teach you how to be a master at chess! You'll need: a chess board, chess pieces, a flat surface, a friend to play against.

1 The queen is the most powerful piece on the chess board, it can move as many spaces as it wants in any direction. Tip: Use queens to be offensive.

2 The king is the most important piece on the board. If your king gets captured, the game ends and you lose the game! The king can move one space in any direction. Tip: Keep your king in the back of the board.

3 The bishop can move diagonally in any direction as far as it wants. They have to stay on their color. One bishop is on black and the other on white.

4 Knights can move in an L shape 2 spaces forward and 1 to the side or 1 forward and 2 to the side. Also, knights are the only piece that can jump over other pieces, for example. At the beginning of the game a knight can jump over the pawn in front of it, no other pieces can do that. Tip: Use knights at the beginning of the game

5 You will get 2 Rooks or castles. They can move as many spaces as they want vertically or horizontally. Rooks and castles are two names for the same piece.

6 Pawns can move one space forward, but on their first move they can move two spaces forward. Pawns have to move diagonally to capture other pieces.

Alright now that you know where the pieces can move look at where they go on the chess board. The goal of chess is to capture the other person's king. If you do that, you win the game.

Congratulations, you learned how to play chess. Here are some tips on how to play:

- *Be creative
- *Be offensive
- *Use bishops later in the game

Winter

By Marshall Leppla
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

With fun
Icicles
New year
Today will be cold
Entering freezing zone
Ramadan

Murphy

By Lincoln McGraw
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

It was a really hot day in Oregon in 2021. I wanted a pet. I couldn't stop thinking about what I was going to get. I wanted a snake but we decided to get a dog!

I wondered what he would look like. When I saw him, he was so cute! We moved to Wisconsin with our new dog, named Murphy.

When we got to our new home, I played with him. I showed him his food and we played more. When I went up the stairs, he followed me up the stairs. Then I left him alone, because I wanted him to explore. Murphy was the best pet I ever had!

The New Year

By Kavya Sanathanan
7th Grade - Pilgrim Park Middle School

Ice cracked,
the fire crackled,
fireworks exploded into the night sky
So beautiful; the disarrangement of colors
through the snowfall
it glittered like diamonds in the sky
musing through our memories,
like goldfish in a tank
Cold numbing the senses
fighting to hold on,
you could soar through the sky
Love turns to ashes,
and ashes turn to dust
enveloping the sky once more,
rather,
in dark gray
When I'm awake,
you will all disappear
A whisp[er],
quiet as the rise of the sun,
warms my cold heart
in envy of the brightness it held
The cheerfulness,
New Year

How to be the Coolest Pet Owner

By Lincoln McGraw
3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever felt lonely? Well you're in luck! I am here to help you be the happiest dog owner around town. Get a dog! It will make your life a lot easier. I will teach you how to take care of a dog in 4 easy steps!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: leash, treats, harness, dog, dog food, toys, collar, 2 dog bowls.

First purchase a dog. Put the harness and the collar on the dog. Then attach the leash to the harness. This will help you when you want to take your dog outside!

Next you should ALWAYS take your dog out every 45 minutes! You should also feed your dog every 3 hours. This will help make your dog happy and full. If you're trying to make your dog lose weight, feed your dog 2 times a day only!

Play with your dog a lot! You can buy him or her toys. A tennis ball and an old rope are great toys. You can use the tennis ball to play fetch and the rope for tug o' war. Your dog will now be really happy! If your dog is acting nice or being good you can give your dog a treat! This will make your dog a lot happier.

Congratulations! You took care of a dog! (Dogs are my favorite pets! I have a Boston Terrier named Murphy.) Pro tip: Try training your dog to be really good!

Facts about dogs: Did you know that dogs are more popular than cats? Dogs live to about 15-30 years! There is a stuff toy called dog vs. squirrels.

The Perfect Bracelet

By Avery Bolger, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Have you ever wondered how to make a bracelet? Do you ever feel bored on a bad day? I know how to make a pretty bracelet. I can teach you. I know what to do!

You'll need: colorful beads, string, scissors

*Step 1: First, get some beads. You will need about 24. You can pick any colors you want.

*Step 2: Second, get some string. **PRO TIP:** You want to find a stretchy string.

*Step 3: Then, get the beads and put them on the string. **PRO TIP:** Work slowly, and be patient. It is ok if some beads fall off, just don't give up.

*Step 4: When you put all the beads on that you want, tie the string in a knot. **PRO TIP:** Make extra sure it will fit your wrist.

Congratulations you made your first pretty bracelet. Wasn't that easy? Now you can make extras for your friends too. **PRO TIP:** A rainbow colored bracelet is fun to make.

Young Writers & Reporters

The Amazing Lunch!

By Mae Ladwig, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Did you ever feel that your Mom needs a break from making lunch? Maybe she went on a trip and can't make you lunch? Well now I'm going to tell you how to make the most amazing lunch by yourself!

What you need: lunch box, two pieces of bread, jelly, peanut butter, a tiny snack, a special treat, knife, a plate, a bag, toaster.

First, select your lunch box and open it. Then put your two pieces of bread in the toaster. While the bread is in the toaster, get out the jelly and peanut butter. Then, if the bread still has not popped out of the toaster, go get a knife. Pro tip: Unplug the toaster before you use the knife to get the bread out. Next, take out the bread from the toaster and put it on a plate. Put the jelly on one piece of bread. Put the peanut butter on the other piece of bread. Then put the peanut butter and jelly sandwich in a bag, then put it in your lunch box. Then don't forget a special treat and a little snack. Pro tip: little snack options are Chex mix, fruit, vegetables, Bugles, a bar, or fruit snacks. Enjoy!

The Best Cheeseburger

By Benedict Still, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

I'm all hungry. I should make a cheeseburger! This is how you make a cheese burger. It will be delicious!

What you need: buns, patties, cheese, mustard, ketchup

Make a round patty with your hands. Put the patty on the grill. You can set the timer for 10 minutes and 30 seconds and then you can flip it with your spatula. Make sure it's not red anymore. Take the patty and put it between 2 buns. Add cheese, ketchup and mustard, if you want. Grab a cup of milk and enjoy your meal. Now you are done! I hope you enjoy your cheeseburger.

My favorite food is cheeseburgers. My dad just makes them and I make them. Now eat all up!

The Greatest Guacamole

By Lucy McWey, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Hello! I'm Lucy and you, yes, you are about to learn how to make one of my favorite recipes... CHIPS AND GUACAMOLE! Excited? You should be. This is a family favorite in my house and guess what? You are learning it from the girl who makes it for her family. Well, I think it's time for you to get learning!

What You'll Need: 2 Avocados, Salt, Lime, Cumin, Cilantro, Garlic Powder, Chips, knife, juicer, fork, 2 bowls, and a spoon.

Step 1: Cut the avocados with a knife. Pro tip: *Don't* cut yourself! (Seriously, it hurts!) Then, scoop the pit out with a spoon.

Step 2: Put the lime in the juicer and push down to juice. After that, add all the other ingredients I listed to the bowl.

Step 3: Immediately stir! If you don't stir immediately, the spices will soak in, then some people will only get one spice, and trust me, it's better when you get the full package. Now, fill the second bowl with chips.

Step 4: This is my favorite step, and I'm 100% sure it will be yours too. Take a chip, dip it in the guacamole, and eat it. Enjoy! Here's a pro tip: add diced peppers or diced onions for a pop of flavor.

How to Make a Tasty Pretzel

By Henry Meier, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Do you have nothing for lunch? Do you like pretzels? You are in luck! Here is the best pretzel recipe EVER!!! You'll Need: purchase a Milwaukee pretzel box from the grocery store, an oven, cooking spray, a tray, a freezer

First, get the pretzel out of the freezer. Then, put the pretzel on a tray. Next, spray the pretzel with cooking spray. Pro Tip: Only spray the pretzel once.

Next thing, put toppings on the Milwaukee pretzel. For example, you could add salt or cheese on your pretzel. Put the pretzel in the oven and set a timer for 20 minutes.

Yum, yum!

All About Poppy

By Cece Ratajczyk,

3rd Grade - Tonawanda

It was a hot sunny day and it was Wednesday. We went to the store to get Poppy, our new dog! "Are we there yet?" I asked Mom.

"Not yet!" replied Mom. I was super excited! The puppy store was in Florida and I was in Wisconsin. So, we had a LONG drive in the car all the way to Florida to get Poppy!

It took several hours to get to Florida, like a whole day! When we got her, I figured out she was a woodle, that means she is a poodle mixed with a wheaten terrier. "I think she was perfect," I said to Mom. "Let's name her Poppy!" I said.

Suddenly, I remembered I had to drive ALL THE WAY HOME back to Wisconsin. Finally, we got home, and I could play with her. I LOVE POPPY!

The Perfect Ham Sandwich

By Michael J. Lough

3rd Grade-Tonawanda

Introduction: If you are ever starving on a hot summer day this is a perfect healthy snack for you! I will teach you how to make a ham sandwich that you'll never forget! This snack is so healthy your Mom and Dad will be impressed that you're eating a healthy snack!

You'll need: bread, ham, cheese, a knife

Step 1: Select your piece of bread. Put the ham on the bread.

Step 2: Second, put the cheese on the ham. I would prefer cheddar cheese myself, but some people might prefer other types of cheese like swiss, provolone or cottage cheese.

Step 3: Then, put the ham and cheese on the bread.

Step 4: Then, put the second piece of bread on top of the sandwich.

Step 5: Finally, take your knife and cut it.

Conclusion: Congrats you have the best sandwich.

Excellent Banana Bites

By Ellen Cordell, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Do you like bananas or strawberries? Maybe both? Take it from me, a lot of people like both. So, that's why you should try the best, the excellent, and the MOST tasty BANANA BITES!

You'll Need: fresh strawberries (about 20), ripe bananas (about 2), a knife and a plate, whip cream, sprinkles of your choice

***Step 1:** First, you need to get your plate, banana and a knife. When you have those things, you can start chopping the bananas into slices. PRO TIP: Have your parents' supervision so you don't cut yourself!

***Step 2:** Get out the whip cream. Put a little on each banana. PRO TIP: Make sure you don't put too much on!

***Step 3:** After that get out some sprinkles (sprinkles of your choice) and put 1-7 sprinkles on each slice. PRO TIP: To make it more colorful, put rainbow sprinkles on them.

***Step 4:** Last, eat and enjoy! PRO TIP: It is really good in the morning or anytime!

Well done, you finished making BANANA BITES! You are now ready to try my Oreo Fluff!

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Statistics + A Review of the book "Hidden Girl"

By Janavi Wagle, 9th Grade - Brookfield East High School

Human trafficking is trafficking of humans where force, fraud or coercion is used. The purpose is usually for providing labor, services or commercial sexual activity. Human trafficking and forced labor/ slavery is a crime in the U.S.A. but still exists in today's day and age. Well it is unbelievable but true. January is Human Trafficking Prevention month. Since 2010, the President has dedicated this month to raise awareness about human trafficking and to educate the community about how to identify and prevent this crime. Discussing the subject of Human Trafficking is vital to promote awareness about this timely and relevant topic. According to the Department of Defense, in 2023, \$99 billion dollars is estimated to be made through sex trafficking and \$51 billion per year is made through forced labor. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, out of 24.9 million people trapped in forced labor in the United States, 16 million people are exploited in domestic work and 4.8 million are forced into sexual exploitation. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline reports, since 2007 Wisconsin has had 796 human trafficking cases, involving 1,640 victims.

The book *Hidden Girl* by Shyima Hall and Lisa Wysocky is a memoir of a young woman who lived a life under slavery during her childhood. Through this book Shyima Hall bravely shares her experience as a modern-day slave and the challenges she faces on the path to a new life in America.

The book starts off with a young 8-year-old Shyima living in Cairo, Egypt with a family with multiple siblings who were combating poverty. Although her family didn't have

much money, or a nice house, she still felt loved and cared for by her family. Her childhood was good until one day, when her parents sold her into slavery to work for a rich Egyptian family so she could make money for them. When her captor's family decides to move to the United States, they smuggle Shyima illegally so that she could continue working for them. Shyima completely dreads this as her captors are abusive and don't give her any resources that a child of her age deserves, including education or medical care. They don't provide her with good food, clothes or medical care but instead rely on her for all household duties including cooking, cleaning their house, watching their kids and obeying their instructions. She was forced to live in the garage of the house and had to work 16 hours every day. A few years later in 2002, a concerned neighbor got suspicious and called the police. This anonymous phone call led to her rescue. She was put in foster care systems and finally got adopted. Her captors were convicted and sent to prison followed by deportation. Shyima didn't know English and had never been to a school. However, after the rescue she went to school and despite all challenges managed to become a strong and independent woman. Today, Shyima continues to share her story of being trafficked and being enslaved at a young age. She volunteers at a Police Department in California serving the community and ensuring nobody goes through what she went through. The book not only shares the perspective of a survivor but also provides resources to identify individuals who have been trafficked or under forced labor and ways to help.



News Briefs

American Red Cross Blood Donation Opportunities

*Brookfield

1/8/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Sendik's Towne Centre, 18905 W Capitol Dr, Suite C101
1/9/2024: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Brookfield East High School, 3305 North Lilly Rd
1/15/2024: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., The Corners of Brookfield, 270 Lord Street

*Menomonee Falls

1/5/2024: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Legion Post 382, N88 W16652 Main St

*New Berlin

1/4/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., New Berlin Public Library, 15105 Library Ln

*Butler

1/9/2024: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Butler Village Hall, 12621 W Hampton Ave

Making and keeping appointments throughout the month can help safeguard the national blood supply into the new year. Schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcross.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](https://www.cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross)

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



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

In December 2023, Elmbrook held a Unified Sports game between the Brookfield Central High School and Brookfield East High School varsity boys and girls games. The school district notes that "It was an awesome event full of fun and thunderous applause in a packed gym." The Unified Sports program, which began in 2022 in Elmbrook, brings together students with and without disabilities as they work together as a team through fun sporting events.

News' Hounds & other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Gourley

Meet **Brownie**, the epitome of feline affection and trust. Despite never having a family, he showers everyone he meets with boundless love. His eyes, brimming with trust, captivate hearts instantly. Brownie yearns for a place to call his own, a haven where his love can flourish. His favorite spot? Any welcoming lap, where he nestles in, purring contentedly. Adored by both staff and volunteers, Brownie's gentle nature leaves a lasting impression. In a world starved for unconditional love, he embodies the transformative power of kindness. Brownie teaches us that home is not a place but a feeling, reminding us all that love knows no boundaries.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Brownie

Brownie has tested positive for Feline Leukemia and FIV. FeLV is not a type of cancer. Both FIV and FeLV are viruses that cause a weaker immune system. While cats with FIV can often be asymptomatic during their lifetime, cats with FeLV typically have a shortened lifespan. For the most part, 'FeLVies' are just like any other cat. Brownie can only live with other FeLV+ cats, but dogs and other animals are just fine! Any questions? We'd love to talk with you about FeLV care.

For more information on FIV and FeLV, follow these links:

FIV: <https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/fiv-cats-faqs-feline-immunodeficiency-virus>

FeLV: <https://catfriendly.com/feline-diseases/felv/>

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



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News Briefs



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Nolan Scott, (center) winner of the December 2023 Pilgrim Park Middle School Spelling Bee, poses with 2nd and 3rd place finishers **Sada Aref** and **Abhika Singh**, and PPMS Principal **Kelly Szeszterniak**. The trio of students will represent their school at the District Spelling Bee to be held at Wisconsin Hills Middle School in January.



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Swanson Elementary 4th grade students participated in the national Noetic Learning Math Contest (NLMC). The purpose of the contest is to inspire young students to excel in math and convey the message 'It is COOL to be good at math!'.

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.



The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. We're committed to improving crisis services and advancing suicide prevention by empowering individuals, advancing professional best practices, and building awareness.

Green is Good!

Make This Easy New Year's Resolution

By Jennifer Studebaker

Your Green Team is here to help all of us in Elm Grove develop habits that are better for ourselves and our planet. We've come up with an easy 2024 New Year's resolution you can make! Below is a chart with a sustainability goal for every week in 2024 – can you commit to achieving some or all?

Snip and post this handy list on your fridge and check off goals as you complete them. If you find a great way to accomplish a goal, we'd love to hear it – email us at elmgrovegreenteam@gmail.com. Or better yet, join the Elm Grove Green Team [Facebook page](#) and share what you've learned with us all!

In other news, JOHNS G-men Aaron, José, Nathan and Greg tell us our neighbors at 13105 Wrayburn Road, 15205 Briaridge Court, and 1373 Victoria Circle are getting it right with choosing the correct items to recycle in the big blue bins. Join us in congratulating these Waste Warriors!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, sustainable 2024!

Elm Grove Beautification Committee 2023 Year in Review

January Bird City Wisconsin High Flyer status for 2nd year, in cooperation with Birders of the Grove	1/27/23 Became Wisconsin's FIRST certified NWF Community Habitat	February Achieved Bee City USA status for 2nd year
4/27/23 3rd annual Earth and Arbor Day celebration with LT Governor presenting Commendation from Governor's office	April Sold 200 native shrubs of 6 varieties enhancing bird habitat and food sources	440 Native spring woodland perennials sold at inaugural spring ephemeral sale
214 Elm Grove homes officially recognized as growing milkweed	May 76 participants in No Mow May	1006 Native perennials sold at the annual plant sale in June
29 Number of Sunday's the ISTF met to remove invasive species from our community	4 Library window displays created and installed	6 Books read and discussed at our wine and cheese Book Club
October 11 species of native trees in the tree sale	67 Native trees sold and added to our community	November 285 volunteer hours contributed to Invasive Species Task Force to date

We are looking forward to 2024!

EGBeautification@gmail.com
<https://elmgrovewi.org/294/Beautification-Committee>



VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE

2024 SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

HOW MANY CAN YOU ACHIEVE THIS YEAR?

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Attend an Elm Grove Green Team event	27 <input type="checkbox"/> Add a rain barrel to your property
2 <input type="checkbox"/> Turn water off when brushing teeth	28 <input type="checkbox"/> Consider native bees when landscaping
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to reading a sustainability book	29 <input type="checkbox"/> Go solar!
4 <input type="checkbox"/> No plastic bags in the recycling bin	30 <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off the lights when you leave the room
5 <input type="checkbox"/> Buy local instead of online	31 <input type="checkbox"/> No car idling in school pick up lines
6 <input type="checkbox"/> Start composting!	32 <input type="checkbox"/> Pull the shades on sunny days to conserve energy
7 <input type="checkbox"/> Cold water washing machine rinse	33 <input type="checkbox"/> Set your heat to 68 or lower
8 <input type="checkbox"/> Use reusable shopping bags	34 <input type="checkbox"/> Remove invasive species from your property
9 <input type="checkbox"/> Go meatless at least once a week	35 <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the impact of gifts you buy
10 <input type="checkbox"/> Walk or bike whenever possible	36 <input type="checkbox"/> Check your carbon footprint
11 <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase only ENERGY STAR appliances	37 <input type="checkbox"/> Organize shopping and errands to save trips
12 <input type="checkbox"/> Join WE Energies Energy for Tomorrow	38 <input type="checkbox"/> Do you know what numbers are recyclable?
13 <input type="checkbox"/> Grow some of your own food	39 <input type="checkbox"/> Buy in glass vs plastic--milk for example
14 <input type="checkbox"/> Join the Green Team	40 <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a walk and pick up trash
15 <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle all unwanted textiles	41 <input type="checkbox"/> Reimagine a current outfit rather than buying new
16 <input type="checkbox"/> Properly recycle rechargeable batteries	42 <input type="checkbox"/> Shop second hand
17 <input type="checkbox"/> Review Elm Grove recycling guidelines	43 <input type="checkbox"/> Leave the leaves
18 <input type="checkbox"/> Carry reusable utensils	44 <input type="checkbox"/> Convert lawn to native plants or grasses
19 <input type="checkbox"/> Breakdown all cardboard for recycling	45 <input type="checkbox"/> Patch a torn item rather than tossing
20 <input type="checkbox"/> Meal plan to decrease food waste	46 <input type="checkbox"/> Reference online recycling guidelines if unsure
21 <input type="checkbox"/> Look for plastic free packaging options	47 <input type="checkbox"/> Get an energy audit done on your home
22 <input type="checkbox"/> Plant native plants	48 <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer with the Invasive Species Task Force
23 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't water your lawn	49 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't wash after every wear--only if dirty
24 <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid cutting lawn during drought	50 <input type="checkbox"/> Make or purchase cloth napkins
25 <input type="checkbox"/> Upcycle something	51 <input type="checkbox"/> Always refuse a straw and plastic utensils
26 <input type="checkbox"/> Join Elm Grove Green Team Facebook page and share a post	52 <input type="checkbox"/> Work to decrease food waste

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