



# Elm Grove NEWS-

# INDEPENDENT



Vol. 15 No. 5

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

January 2025

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

**JANUARY 14, 2025**

*The Village of Elm Grove's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation*

## On the Ballot

### Candidates Sought for Village President, Trustee Seats

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

Attention Elm Grove residents: **THERE IS STILL TIME** to submit nomination papers, Declaration of Candidacy, and Campaign Registration Statements in order to secure a place on the spring 2025 election ballot.

The deadline to submit these items to the Village Clerk is no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025**. Stop by Village Hall, 13600 Juneau Blvd. or call (262) 782-6700 for details.

Village Board seats up for election include those currently held by **Village President Jim Koleski and Trustees Tom Castile, Kristina Sayas, and Thomas Shepherd**.

Of the above, Shepherd is the only incumbent who submitted a Notification of Non-Candidacy by the established deadline in late December.

By press time for this issue, **Village Clerk Katie Panella** confirmed that Koleski had already filed paperwork needed to seek re-election, and it was expected that Trustees Sayas and Castile would also file for re-election.

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

As verified by **Village Attorney Hector de la Mora** and conveyed to *The News-Independent* by **Village Manager Tom Harrigan**, State Statue 17.24 says, in essence: "If no additional nomination papers are submitted for a vacant Trustee seat, the Village Board may appoint, by majority vote, for the residue of the unexpired term, or until a special election is held."

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Photo by James L. W. Bain / *The News-Independent*

**Elm Grove Village Hall and the Elm Grove Library** are reflected in a gazing ball following a light, wintry snow.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ELM GROVE!

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

Elm Grove's official incorporation as a Village, on January 14, 1955, is a solid example of the old adage: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

To understand the events leading up to this, we must take a look back to 1838 when the territory of Wisconsin (which became a state in 1848) was divided into 36 square mile townships. At that time our present-day town and city of Brookfield and village of Elm Grove were all part of the town of Brookfield, an area known as Milwaukee Woods.

Until the late 1920s, when a few subdivisions were developed, it was primarily a farming community. In 1939, an attempt was made to incorporate Elm Grove, but failed.

After World War II, many veterans and their families moved here from Milwaukee. Amid concerns that this area might be annexed to Milwaukee, Elm Grove tried again to incorporate as a village in 1953. That attempt was invalidated because a required legal notice had not been published in the town's official newspaper: *The Elm Leaves*.

A 16-square-mile section of the town of Brookfield was incorporated as the City of Brookfield in 1954-- and, finally, in 1955, Elm Grove gained its status as a village.

The 1955 *Elm Grove Directory*, published by the Elm Grove Woman's Club, noted

the following Village Officials: President – **Kneeland Godfrey**; Clerk – **William O'Neill**; Treasurer – **Mrs. Lucy Sievert**; Trustees – **M.F. Beisber, Harry L. Kunze, George Happe, Edward Grede, William O'Brien, and L. N. Christiansen**.

A news story appearing on November 16, 1955 stated that: "No village taxes will be assessed residents of Elm Grove next year, the village board has decided."

On January 28, 1963, Elm Grove's Assistant Postmaster, **Edward De Lano**, was quoted in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* as saying: "We've had home delivery since 1955. But people can't get out of the habit of coming to the post office. They like to talk and read the bulletin board."

In that same issue, Village President **Harry L. Kunze** made comments about Elm Grove that are as timely now as they were then.

"One answer why this is such a good place to live is the good government participation we have by our citizens," Kunze said. "Our community is quite active in many things. Our work is carried on by the trustees and a large number of committees whose citizen members are volunteers."

(Read more about the Village's incorporation and early leadership in "OUR HISTORY" – Pages 4 and 10.)



Robyn Vining

### Vining to be Sworn in as Assembly District 13 Representative, January 6<sup>th</sup>

In the wake of her victory in the November 2024 election, Democrat **Robyn Vining** of Wauwatosa, who represented State Assembly District 14 for the past 6 years, will this month assume the District 13 seat held for the past 2 years by Republican **Tom Michalski**, of Elm Grove. Vining will now represent constituents in Elm Grove; a western portion of Wauwatosa; and an eastern part of Brookfield.

Rep. Vining says she looks forward to meeting more local residents, and plans to hold office hours during January at the Elm Grove Public Library.

The first of a series of monthly "Report from Madison" columns by Vining appears on Page 3.

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# "I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

## Happy New Year!

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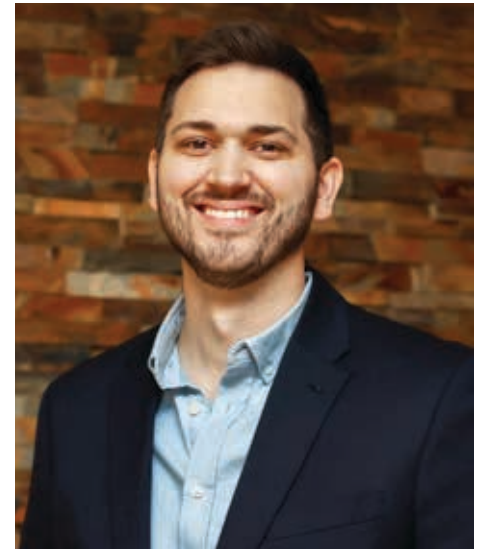
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## Profile: Brian Lahey Village of Elm Grove Finance Director



• *When did you begin work as the Village's Finance Director?*  
July 22, 2024

• *What is your background (education / previous relevant employment)?*  
Obtained my Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University (Major in Accounting, Minor in Economics). I worked for Lauterbach & Amen for 7 years prior to joining the Village. At Lauterbach & Amen, I worked in the financial services department which allowed me to work at multiple municipalities with roles varying from finance director, to preparing monthly financial reports, and processing payables.

• *What are the major duties of your work as Finance Director?*  
Human Resources including payroll, onboarding, benefit enrollment, etc. Monthly reconciliation of bank statements and creation of monthly financial reports; Annual Budget; Annual Audit.

• *Special interests / hobbies / family / community of residence*  
I have a wife **Emily** and two kids **Cooper** (2 ½) and **Madelyn** (11 Months). I grew up and lived in Illinois all my life. My family and I relocated to Wisconsin in August for this opportunity.

• *What message would you like to give to readers / community members?*  
This is a very welcoming and passionate community. That I look forward to meeting more of and serving for the years to come. Go Bears!

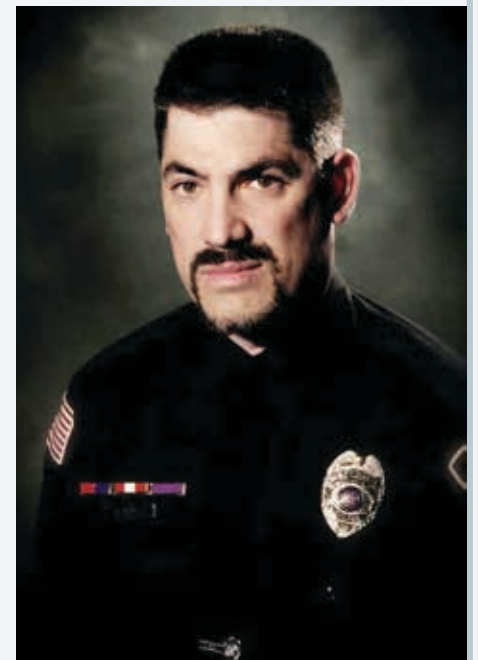
# In Memoriam

**John M. Krahn**

(September 23, 1967 - December 17, 2024)

*A statement by the Elm Grove Police Department...*

"It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of **Retired Officer John M. Krahn**, a dedicated retiree of the Elm Grove Police Department.



John served with honor and distinction for 19 years, upholding the values of integrity, service, and protection within our community. Throughout his career, John made a lasting impact on the lives of those he served and the students he taught in the DARE program, always going above and beyond to make our community a safer place. John was honored for his heroic actions during the Memorial Day Parade in 2009, receiving the department's Medal of Valor, Lifesaving, and Purple Heart awards. John was featured in the *Book of Man* by William Bennett for his heroic actions, he received the Carnegie Hero Award, the National Law Enforcement Award, and the Top Cop Award.

He was not just a colleague, but a friend to all who knew him, and his loss will be felt deeply by the entire department and community. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.

In honor of John, we ask for your thoughts and prayers as we support one another through this tragic loss.

Memorial details can be found at Obituaries | Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral & Cremation Services <https://www.schmidtandbartelt.com/obituaries/detail.aspx...> Please join us in remembering and honoring John's legacy.

Rest in peace, Officer Krahn. Your service and sacrifice will never be forgotten."

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

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# Village Update

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

The trees are looking wonderful as they are covered in snow as I write this article.



It is time to get out and experience the fun activities winter brings to the Village.

I know **Logan Kein**, Recreation Manager, is watching the forecast to flood the ice rink as soon as possible. As always, please drive carefully as stopping quickly is a challenge these days. After the snow, a huge thank you to the Public Works team for clearing our streets for the Friday morning commute.

**Village turns 70!** The Village will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in January! Once part of the 36 square mile Town of Brookfield, the Village was officially incorporated on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1955 and has mostly retained the original municipal boundaries.

The Village has worked hard to retain its “small town” charm and urban/rural atmosphere that so many cherish. In fact, due to our excellent public and private schools, high median home values, great police, fire and emergency services, the Village is consistently ranked as one of the best places to live in Wisconsin. Please take a moment to reflect on the Village’s past by viewing the historical photos highlighted in the January Newsletter emailed to enrolled residents and included elsewhere in the newspaper. Here is to another great 70 years!

**Village Property Taxes and User Fees.** Everyone received their Property Tax Bill in December and after a few years of good news, taxes rose in 2024. The Property Tax Levy in 2024 has many moving pieces, including the revaluation of home values that happens every other year. On average home values increased 16% in 2024. However, the tax rate in the Village went down by 13%, which resulted in roughly a 2% (\$85) increase in taxes paid to the Village. User fees for sewer, waste/recycling and stormwater increased by \$47 to \$1,191 or 4%. All in the taxes controlled by the Village to fund its operations increased roughly 2.35% on average. Total property taxes increased at a much higher rate driven by the approximate increase of 13% (\$600) for Elmbrook Schools, 12% (\$28) for WCTC and 6% (\$77) for Waukesha County. While everyone’s Property Tax Levy will vary based on other factors, I wanted to share this overview to highlight the changes in 2024 property taxes.

**Elm Grove WinterFest.** Please join in the celebration of Winterfest on January 25<sup>th</sup> from noon till 3 P.M. in the Village Park. Local businesses, civic groups and food trucks will be on site. Check out the sledding hill and ice rink weather permitting.

**Public Works Contracting.** The Village Board and various committees have been discussing the contracting limit that was approved by referendum in April 2022, setting a \$1M cap. The limit applies to all contracts for road, sewer, stormwater, pathway and other infrastructure projects which occur annually in the Village. After extensive discussion over the past six months and recognizing the general increase in cost and potential water main projects, if supported by neighborhood petitions, the Board voted 6 to 1 to increase the spending limit to \$2.5M with an annual increase for cost of inflation per published data.

**Planning Commission Discussion.** The Planning Commission and Village Board have been discussing the Future Land Use Map for the Village for the past six months. Various public hearings have been held to seek input and comments from residents, school districts, religious organizations and businesses. The Commission has recommended that the Future Land Use Map be amended to indicate that current institutional land designations be changed to single family use, in event the current use is discontinued. The objective is to indicate the future use will be to increase single family homes and not some other commercial development. This will not impact the current landowners or the use that is enjoyed today. Village staff is currently reaching out to those property landowners impacted to review the proposed Village action. A future public hearing of the Plan Commission will be scheduled once discussions are completed.

**Caroline Heights (Mandel) Construction.** Mandel was in front of the Board in December and reviewed project activities. It is expected that the first building will achieve occupancy in February. Leasing activities are ongoing and about 70 of the 237 units have been leased to date. In February, the Board will begin discussing the borrowing required to support the \$8.6M financial incentives included in the March 28, 2022 Development Agreement.

**Daylighting of the Underwood Creek.** Public Works Committee received 90 percent complete drawings in December. Review will be taking place and any final design changes will be discussed over the next two Public Works committee meetings.

With best wishes for peace and happiness throughout the New Year!



# Report from Madison

## Common Ground for The Common Good

By Robyn Vining, State Representative – Assembly District 13

Dear Elm Grove,



It’s an honor to write to you today. One of the greatest joys of my job as a state representative is to get to know the people I’m trusted to represent.

In my 6 years in public service, I’m often asked what my favorite part of the job is and I’m always quick to answer, “the people!”. It is an honor to begin to get to know you.

As you might know, your Elm Grove neighbor and current state representative, **Tom Michalski**, will pass the torch to me on January 6th when I am sworn in for this new legislative term; but before that torch is passed, we have worked to ensure continuity of your constituent care. Continuity of constituent care was important to me in 2022 when districts were changed and I passed the torch for much of my Brookfield district to Tom, and I appreciate it’s also important to Tom now. As public servants we do not serve parties, we serve people, and I’m deeply committed to—and fiercely dedicated to—the people I serve.

Elm Grove is fairly “purple,” but it is not lost on me that Elm Grove is a majority Republican village. I’m not shy to represent Republican areas—I represented much of Brookfield for 4 years. And, as a public servant, I do not represent a party, I represent people. I’ve found that when we welcome each other as people first, we are quick, thoughtful, and creative to find common ground for the common good.

There is far more that unites us than divides us, and it’s that unity that I believe is key to our being a healthy state. I’m committed to uniting people and communities, and if I’m involved in politics, that’s how I’m going to operate. If I’m in a leadership role, that’s how I’m going to lead. We must love each other first—beyond partisan divisions—and we must reject that which seeks to divide us. When fear or hatred attempts to creep in, it is my hope that we would choose love for our neighbor instead. Love is a powerful force: love heals divisions, promotes creative

solutions, and unites communities. You may have seen my “Love wins” yard signs—I’ve always rejected “divide and conquer politics,” and that’s why Love Wins is our rally cry.

I look forward to welcoming all of you to my local constituent office hours, to the Capitol for school visits, advocacy days, and more. My office is committed to excellent constituent services, and we are eager to serve you as needs arise. You’ll likely meet **Bryce and Inez**, who are both extraordinary Capitol staffers, and I hope you’ll sense how much they each deeply care about caring for you and your family. As a team, we care about our work, and we care about the people we work for (that’s you!).

We plan to write monthly updates in the *Elm Grove News-Independent*. You can also find our weekly Forward Friday e-updates on our website, or request they be delivered to your email inbox. You can follow us on social media (Instagram and Facebook). And as I mentioned, you can join us for in-district office hours—January hours will be held at the Elm Grove Library, and you can sign up via the link below.

What I’ve learned so far about Elm Grove is that this Village is full of hard-working, kind, thoughtful people who value family and community, and I can’t wait to get to know more about all of you! May we commit ourselves to the great joy that it is to find common ground for the common good.

Forward together.

Instagram: @Rep.Robyn

Facebook: @RepRobynVining

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



Office Hours:

Phone Number: 608-237-9113

Email: [Rep.Vining@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Vining@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** The link to Rep. Vining’s website will be live as of January 6.

# Business & Club Directory

<p><b>* Community Organizations</b></p>  <p><b>Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club</b></p> <p>Come Join with Us, Men &amp; 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.</p> <p>See us on Facebook  <a href="mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com">kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://www.kiwaniselmgrove.org">www.kiwaniselmgrove.org</a></p>	<p><b>* Insurance</b></p> <p><b>Woller-Anger, a Relation Company</b>                  930 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122                  (262) 789-2500                  “Relationships Matter”</p> <p><b>BUSINESS DIRECTORY &amp; CLASSIFIED</b>                  Listings are \$25 per issue (for up to 20 words)                  + 50 cents for each additional word.                  + \$20 extra per photo or logo.</p> <p>To place an AD...                  Email: <a href="mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com">elmgrovenews@yahoo.com</a>                  or Call: (262) 782-6193</p>
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## In Memoriam

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## Classifieds

Happy January Birthdays!  
Tom, David, and Jovelyn



# Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*

## The Path to the Village of Elm Grove's Incorporation

By Stephen K. Hauser

All of Elm Grove was originally part of the 36 square mile Town of Brookfield, extending from County Line Road (now 124<sup>th</sup> Street) on the east to Town Line (Springdale) Road on the west. The Town's northern border was Lisbon Road and its southern boundary was Greenfield Avenue. Elm Grove, like Goerke's Corners and Brookfield Junction, was an unincorporated settlement within the Town's perimeters which had developed its own localized identity over the years.

Early organizational meetings to study Elm Grove incorporation were held at Leland School on Sunnyslope Road, at the American Legion Post 449, at Sezon's Cat'n'Fiddle tavern on Bluemound Road, and in the homes of various Grove residents. Originally, Elm Grove's village limits were to include the properties south of Bluemound Road adjacent to Bishop's Woods. **Charlie Stackpole**, who worked on the original Elm Grove incorporation, later discovered that residents north of Bluemound had decided to exclude parcels south of the highway. He then joined in active efforts to incorporate the City of Brookfield, which received its municipal charter on August 8, 1954. (Stackpole is the only "founding father" who participated in both Elm Grove and Brookfield incorporation efforts). Of interest is the fact that Brookfield would actively oppose Elm Grove's separate incorporation efforts in the courts, believing that the village area should not become its own municipality.

In November of 1953, Elm Grove's first village elections were set for December 15, 1953, with voting to take place at Leland School.

The first candidate to publicly declare a run for a village position was attorney **Kneeland A. Godfrey**, who announced that he would campaign for village president. In addition, six village trustee positions were to be elected, along with the posts of treasurer, clerk, assessor, and justice of the peace. A village constable would also be sought. That search ended with the appointment of **Police Chief Theodore Fejnas**.

Along with the Town of Brookfield, some residents of the new village also opposed the impending incorporation. They organized a committee of several dozen members to plead their case. The group's effort would no doubt have come to nothing had not Waukesha County circuit court judge **Allen D. Young** ruled Elm Grove's 1953 incorporation invalid, as proper notification had not been placed in the *Elm Leaves*, the Town of Brookfield's official newspaper of record.

Elm Grove's 2,211 residents would have to wait awhile longer before becoming a village. Wisconsin state statute 61.075 stipulated that a new petition for incorporation could not be received until one year after a previous incorporation attempt had been rejected or overturned.

As for Chief Ted Fejnas, his tenure in office was short-lived. His small office, located in the Stenz Building (now the **Kurtz Realty** building) at 13545 Watertown Plank Road, was cleared out, and Chief Fejnas found himself looking for new employment.

Incorporation would ensure legally established borders, preventing later annexation by any adjoining cities or villages. In the attempt to gain approval, the would-be new municipality would need to show proof of adequate population and land mass and a tax base sufficient to support delivery of necessary services (police and fire protection, waste disposal, etc.) at a cost comparable to or less than what could be provided by an established municipality, if one was already in existence. Part of the goal of such a process was not only to ensure financial viability, but also to limit the growth of additional units of local government within close proximity, thus avoiding duplication of services.



Photo courtesy: Stephen K. Hauser

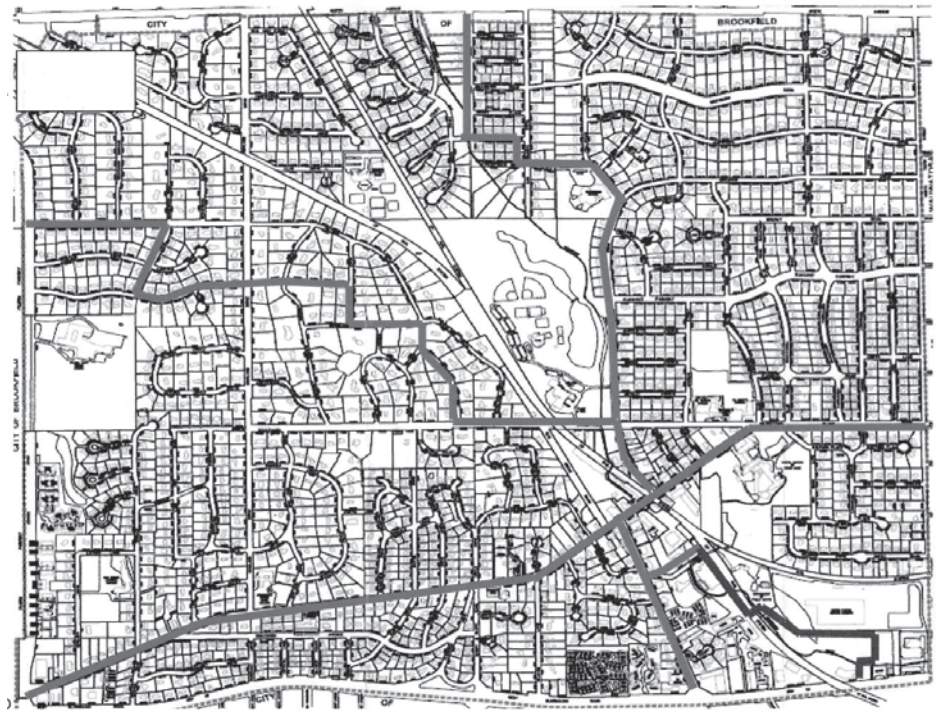
To forward to 1955 when the village of Elm Grove was incorporated, the primary motivating force in this case was the fear of annexation by one of two sources. The city of Milwaukee was pursuing a policy of rapid expansion in the mid-1950s under the leadership of **Mayor Frank P. Zeidler** (serving from 1948-1960) who had argued that the city was being strangled in its growth by "an iron ring" of suburbs.

It was only a remote possibility that Milwaukee's leaders would seek to cross into Waukesha County to attempt to add eastern portions of the Town of Brookfield to the city's holdings. A more immediate threat came from other residents of the Town of Brookfield, where leading citizens, such as **Rolland Ruby and Franklin Wirth**, were attempting to organize the town's more settled and suburbanized eastern portion into a new City of Brookfield. They counted on the population, businesses and property values in the Elm Grove area to be an important part of their new municipality.

Many Elm Grove residents felt differently, however. They believed that their portion of the town had a unique character and heritage all its own... and they feared that the cost of city services in Brookfield would result in higher property taxes and a bigger, more bureaucratic government. To be blunt: The village of Elm Grove was incorporated in 1955 to keep it from later being annexed by or being forced in some manner to become a part of the City of Brookfield. Others in Brookfield knew this full well, and rancor on both sides persisted for some years thereafter, with Franklin Wirth insisting at one point that Brookfield's fire department should not be expected to assist in battling fires in the Village of Elm Grove.

Nonetheless, Elm Grove was incorporated as a village of roughly four-square miles on January 14, 1955 with its present borders of North Avenue to the north, County Line Road (124<sup>th</sup> Street) to the east, Bluemound Road to the south, and present-day Pilgrim Parkway to the west. The boundaries then were basically the same as one sees them today, although a few stray parcels fronting onto North Avenue were added in the 1980s. It is interesting to note here in passing that an early effort to include the old Bluemound Heights subdivision south of Bluemound Road was aborted, even though some residents there had initially worked on Elm Grove's incorporation process. That neighborhood was shortly thereafter absorbed into the City of Brookfield.

Stephen K. Hauser is a long-time Elm Grove resident, a retired college history professor and the author of local history books and articles.



A map of the roughly four-square mile Village of Elm Grove, Wisconsin, celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of incorporation on January 14, 2025.



Check out books and a special dvd about Village history at the Elm Grove Public Library

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Learn more about Elm Grove's first Village Clerk (and his Hollywood and Broadway experiences).

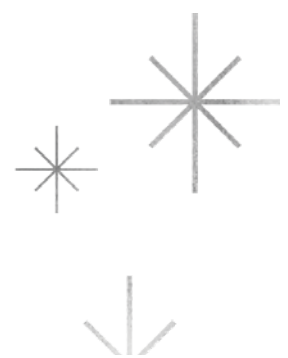
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Elm Grove Community Foundation

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

**NEW at the Community Foundation**

*Happy New Year*



**Thank You for an Incredible 2024. Here's to 2025!**

The Community Foundation board, along with all our dedicated volunteers, extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who generously contributed their time, talents, or resources this past year. Your support has been instrumental in making a positive impact on our Village.

As we move forward from the year's longest night, we're excited for all the wonderful events ahead in 2025! From the Memorial Day Parade and Tunes on Tuesday to the Fourth of July fireworks and our beloved Oktoberfest in the Village Park come September, we can't wait to celebrate our vibrant community with you.

Thank you for being part of what makes Elm Grove so special. Here's to another fantastic year together!

**BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 19 & 20, 2025**



# Calendar of Events – January 2025

**Wednesday – JANUARY 1**  
Village Hall & Library closed.



**Friday – JANUARY 3**

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Mark Ehlinger**  
Topic: Kiwanis Annual Youth Protection Training. [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – JANUARY 5**

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. [beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org)

**Monday – JANUARY 6**

- **Elm Grove Plan Commission**  
Meeting: 6 p.m. at Village Hall  
Agenda: [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)

**Tuesday – JANUARY 7**

- **Candidates for Elm Grove Board of Trustees and Elmbrook School Board must file necessary paperwork to appear on the Primary Election / Spring Election ballot. Deadline 5 p.m.**
- **Elm Grove Building Board**  
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall  
Agenda: [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)
- **Elm Grove Sustainability Committee**  
Meeting: 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall

**Friday – JANUARY 10**

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Michael Beiermeister**  
Topic: Meet WTMJ’s New Field Reporter  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – JANUARY 12**

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. [beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org)

**Monday – JANUARY 13**

- **Elm Grove Public Works & Utilities**  
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall  
Agenda: [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)

**Tuesday – JANUARY 14**

- **Elm Grove Recreation Committee**  
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall  
Agenda: [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)

**Thursday – JANUARY 16**

- **OWLS – Seniors’ Group**  
Luncheon Meeting: 11:30 AM at Community United Methodist Church “Photo Journey to Nature’s Wonders”  
**Jeff Engel**, world-renown photographer  
Signup deadline: January 6, 2024  
Guests are welcome.  
<http://www.cumceg.org/owl>

**Friday – JANUARY 17**

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Sean Clark**; Topic: War Memorial Center, Exhibits and Displays.  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Sunday – JANUARY 19**

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome.  
[beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org)

**Monday – JANUARY 20**

**Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**



- **Birders of the Grove**  
Meets 9 a.m. at Village Hall – Park View Room.

**Tuesday – JANUARY 21**

- **Elm Grove Building Board**  
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall  
Agenda: [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)

**Friday – JANUARY 24**

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker and Topic: (to be announced). [kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)

**Saturday – JANUARY 25**

- **Village of Elm Grove’s WINTERFEST**  
• Noon to 3 p.m. at Elm Grove Park (by pavilion, south of the pool)
- Visit with civic groups, businesses, vendors
- Winter activities (sledding hill and more) weather permitting



**Sunday – JANUARY 26**

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force**  
Meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. [beautification@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:beautification@elmgrovewi.org)

**Tuesday – JANUARY 28**

- **Elm Grove Board of Trustees**  
Public meeting: 7 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom. (262) 782-6700  
Agenda: [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org)

**Friday – JANUARY 31**

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**  
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: **Alanna Sullivan**; Topic: The Eye and Its Functions  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)



## Upcoming class...

### Minutes count!

(ELM GROVE) - Someone who is severely bleeding can bleed to death in as little as 5 minutes. That’s why bleeding control—keeping the blood inside the body—is the purpose of **STOP THE BLEED®** training. **With 3 quick actions, you can be trained to save a life.**



Community United Methodist Church will be hosting a free **STOP THE BLEED** training on Saturday January 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

The **free one-hour class** will be in the Revelation Room. Use the main parking lot at 14700 Watertown Plank Rd. and go to the Courtyard entrance.

Registration is required. Please call the church office at 262-782-4060.

Neil Simon's **The Odd Couple**

January 16 - February 2, 2025

**SUNSET PLAYHOUSE**  
SunsetPlayhouse.com  
262-782-4430

**'90s COUNTRY:**  
Shania, Garth, Reba...

January 20 - 21, 2025

**SAILING**  
Cool Grooves of the 70s & 80s

February 13 - 16, 2025

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**COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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



# Green is Good!

## Make 2025 Your Greenest Year Yet

By the Elm Grove Green Team

Your Elm Grove Green Team is off to a strong start! Here are a few of the projects we're undertaking to help Elm Grove adopt sustainable practices:

- Saturday, April 26, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Elm Grove Recycle Day – mark your calendars now for this drive-through opportunity to recycle everything from electronics to bikes to household items to clothes and textiles. Watch for details to come.
- We're partnering with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee students on a spring 2025 project. The team will provide sustainability recommendations for us to consider. Join us in their community engagement activity – news coming soon.
- We continue to explore sustainability opportunities at the municipal level.

### What will you do?

- To make 2025 your greenest year yet, pick everyday actions you can commit to and build up to your goal.

### Some ideas:

- Consume less – look for ways to reuse items, buy less, and reduce waste when it comes to food and clothing. Use less energy and water.
- Join the Green Team – Choose activities that fit your schedule. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/547595469299363/>
- Reduce emissions with 2025 travel by staying longer in fewer places and using public transportation or electric vehicles. You can also reduce emissions everyday at home by avoiding idling your vehicle in your driveway.

### Waste Warriors Start 2025 Right

Cleaning out containers placed in blue recycle bins, breaking down cardboard boxes, having a good ratio of recycling to trash – our neighbors at 13906 Watertown Plank Road, 12450 Wrayburn Road, and 1650 Sunset Drive are doing it all. They're this month's Waste Warriors!

# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

The Elmbrook Schools Food Service Department partnered with Fork Farms to begin growing their own lettuce to stock in school kitchens across the District. Students from Fairview South School and the Brookfield Central High School Garden Club have also been involved in the planting and harvesting, giving them something to look forward to and be a part of. Community members are invited to donate to this initiative at:

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/ELMBROOKFARMS>

# Community Needs

## Blood Donations

### \*American Red Cross of Wisconsin

Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call (800) 733-2767 to schedule an appointment or locate a nearby blood drive.

### \*Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin

Donor Centers:  
8733 Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa  
638 N. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee  
2111 Springdale Rd., Waukesha  
Call 1-877-BE-A-HERO  
1 (877) 232-4376  
or visit: [versiti.org/Wisconsin](http://versiti.org/Wisconsin).

## Food Banks / Pantries

### \* Food Pantry of Waukesha County

1301 Sentry Dr., Waukesha 53186  
[www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/donate/](http://www.waukeshafoodpantry.org/donate/)  
(262) 542-5300  
Needs donations of food, volunteer time & money.

### \*New Berlin Food Pantry

14750 W. Cleveland Ave. 53151  
(Serves residents of Elm Grove, Brookfield & New Berlin)  
(262) 789-8040

### \*Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin

1700 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee  
Call (414) 931-7400 for ways to help.  
Drop food donations in local store barrels.

### \*Hunger Task Force

201 S. Hawley Court, Milwaukee  
Call (414) 777-0483. Cash donations & volunteers are needed to help build "stockboxes" for seniors and do other work. E-mail: [info@hungertaskforce.org](mailto:info@hungertaskforce.org).



## The Women's Center

Since 1977, The Women's Center has provided adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, abuse, and/or trafficking with safe shelter and empowerment programming. As Waukesha County's only agency of its kind, they provide a wide range of life-saving and life-changing programs and services that heal and empower survivors on their paths to build a future free from violence.

To support The Women's Center's work, please consider making a monetary donation online at <https://twcwaukesha.org/donate> or by providing new, unopened items on their Donation Wish List, which is updated weekly with the highest priority items at <https://twcwaukesha.org/donation-wish-list>.

Call the 24-HOUR HOTLINE with questions or to be connected to services: (262) 542-3828.





# News Briefs



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

Many needed items were collected for distribution at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

## Elmbrook School District ‘Purse Project’ Drive Benefits Milwaukee Rescue Mission

(BROOKFIELD) During December 2024, hundreds of purses, bags, and essential supplies were generously donated to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission’s Joy House as part of Elmbrook’s annual Purse Project drive. The bags were filled with clothes, blankets, shoes, hats, scarves, and personal care items to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness this winter.

The effort was a true community collaboration. At Brookfield Central, the Key Club rallied students to contribute, resulting in a particularly large donation. Additionally, **Cindi Gordon**, a dedicated member of the food service team, hand-crocheted 30 beanie hats, several blankets, and prepared 30 personal hygiene “to-go packs” to support the cause.

Custodian **Kim Zahn and her team** played an essential role by gathering and re-bagging donations from buildings across the District before loading them into a district truck for

delivery. On December 6, the donations were delivered to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, where they will be distributed to those in need throughout the cold winter months.

**Pastor Tom Griffey** from the Rescue Mission shared heartfelt gratitude, noting how much these donations mean to the individuals and families they serve.

“This annual project highlights the incredible generosity and kindness of the Elmbrook community,” reflected organizer **Jean Loepfe**. “We are so grateful to all the staff, students, and families who contributed to this effort.”

The Purse Project continues to be a meaningful tradition for Elmbrook, bringing warmth, comfort, and hope to our Milwaukee neighbors during the winter season. The school district “thanks everyone who made this year’s drive a success!”

## News’ Hounds

& other beloved animals

### Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Pelon

Meet **Francesca**! This stunning girl is working on building trust with humans. While she’s still figuring things out, her love for pipe cleaners and snacks makes bonding a little easier. With a patient and understanding home, Francesca is sure to blossom into her best self.

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



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Francesca



## 2024 BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE YEAR IN REVIEW

- 862 MORE NATIVE SPRING EPHEMERALS BROUGHT INTO THE COMMUNITY
- 15 NATIVE TREES, 38 NATIVE SHRUBS, 30 MORE PERENNIALS INTRODUCED INTO THE COMMUNITY FROM OUR JOHNSON NURSERY SALE
- HELD THE 4TH ANNUAL EARTH AND ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION WITH 23 VENDORS
- 1305 MORE NATIVE PERENNIALS ADDED VIA OUR JUNE 7TH PERENNIAL PLANT SALE
- 305 DOTS ON THE ELM GROVE MONARCH MILKWEED MAP
- RECEIVED A 2024 WISCONSIN DNR INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION AWARD!
- A 2024 RECIPIENT OF A \$1000 SEWISC GRANT TO HELP IN THE CONTROL OF INVASIVE SPECIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY
- THE GROUP’S BOOK CLUB HAS READ A TOTAL OF 27 BOOKS SO FAR—FIVE IN 2024!
- 5 EXPERTS SPEAKERS BROUGHT TO COMMUNITY ON TOPICS RELATED TO OUR MISSION WITH THE WINTER LECTURE SERIES
- 3 MASSIVE LIBRARY DISPLAY WINDOWS COMPLETED
- 2345 POUNDS OF GARLIC MUSTARD AND DAME’S ROCKET PULLED
- INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE—MET 33 TIMES WITH 304 VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED
- 30 BAGS OF MILKWEED PODS COLLECTED IN SUPPORT OF THE WAUWATOSA MONARCH TRAIL POD PALOOZA
- RECERTIFIED AS THE ONLY NWF COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
- SUCCESSFULLY “TAGGED” WAUWATOSA, BROOKFIELD, NEW BERLIN, PEWAUKEE FOR NWF COMMUNITY HABITAT REGISTRATION
- ACHIEVED BIRD CITY ‘HIGH FLYER’ STATUS FOR 3RD YEAR IN A ROW: AMONG ONLY 34 IN THE ENTIRE STATE OF WISCONSIN
- TOOK PART IN THE NWF BIRDATHON FOR THE 3RD YEAR: HALF OF PROCEEDS RETURNED TO ELM GROVE FOR BIRD CONSERVATION
- BEE CITY USA CERTIFICATION—4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR
- SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED THE MAYORS’ MONARCH PLEDGE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE FOR 2ND YEAR



## Feathered Fundraiser

Visit Wild Birds Unlimited - Brookfield any time in January and a percentage of your purchase will support the Waukesha County Land Conservancy.

This is a great opportunity to make a meaningful impact on local conservation efforts, helping to protect and nurture the environmentally significant land and water that our birds depend on! Join us in giving back to both our community and the beautiful birds of Wisconsin!

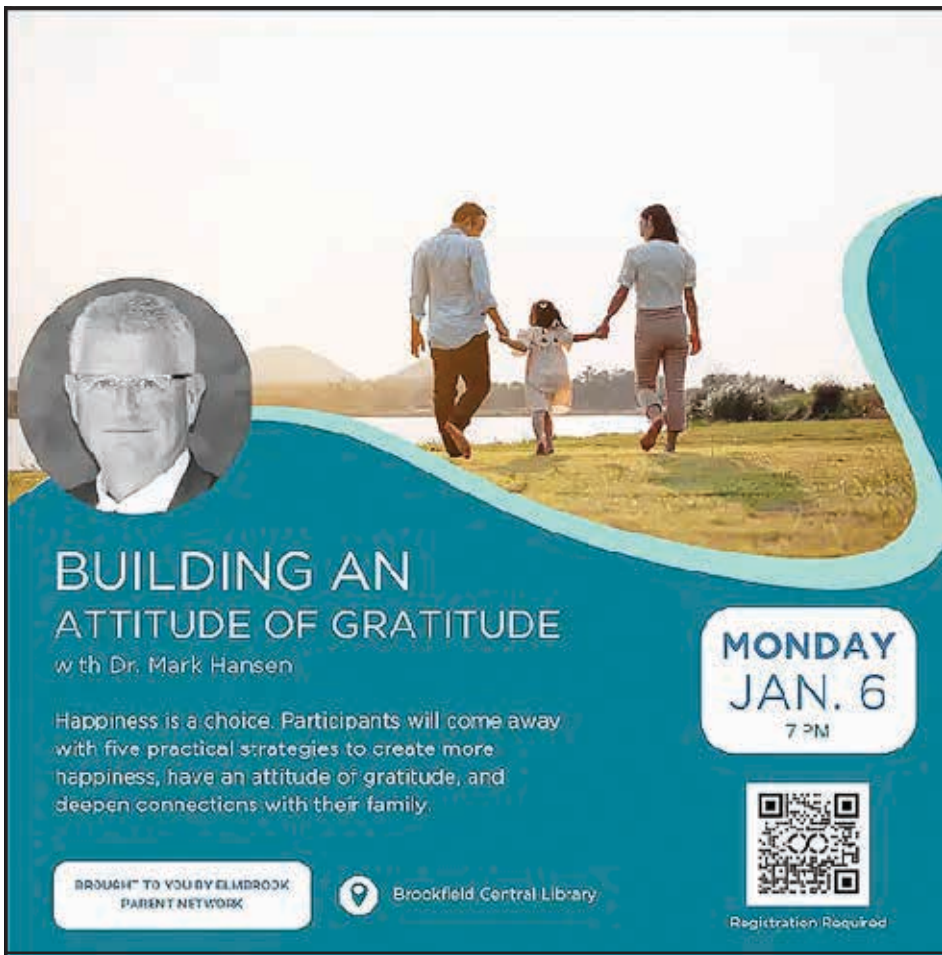
**Wild Birds Unlimited**  
Nature Shop  
19555 W Bluemound Rd, STE 4, Brookfield, WI  
262-789-8226



LAND CONSERVANCY



# News Briefs



**BUILDING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**  
with Dr. Mark Hansen

Happiness is a choice. Participants will come away with five practical strategies to create more happiness, have an attitude of gratitude, and deepen connections with their family.

**MONDAY JAN. 6**  
7 PM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ELM GROVE PARENT NETWORK

Brookfield Central Library

Registration Required



Cash Prizes for High School Artists

## POSTER CONTEST


"In gratitude for saving a life through the selfless act of organ donation."

- Open to all Wisconsin students in grades 9-12
- Educational materials available at [KidneyWI.org/postercontest](http://KidneyWI.org/postercontest)
- Grand Prize: \$1,000
- Deadline: January 16, 2025

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION of Wisconsin

UWHealth Transplant Center

**Happy Here!**



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Poems about small town life

Many choose a different life that takes them far away.  
While others will look for a thrill,  
Then come back home to stay.



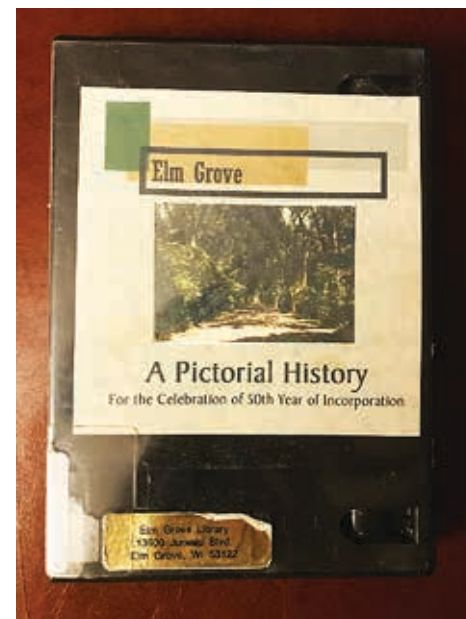
## Elm Grove Public Library Programs

13600 Juneau Blvd, Elm Grove, WI 53122  
262.782.6193 / [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org)

- **Bright Beginnings Story Time and Play Group**  
Ages 1-3 years / Meets Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Dates: January 14, 21, 28; 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: January 17, 24, 31; 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 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.  
Dates: January 15, 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.

For those interested in learning more about Village history, take a look at "Elm Grove --- A Pictorial History for the Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of Incorporation", produced in 2005 by long-time (former) resident and past Village Trustee **Jan Schoenecker**.

It's available on DVD for check out at the Elm Grove Public Library.



Also, read these books:

- "Following the Trail" by **Stephen K. Hauser and Jean R. Stackpole**
- "Images of America – Brookfield and Elm Grove" by **Thomas Ramstack**

## Coloring for Kids (of ALL ages!)





# Young Writers & Reporters

## Winter Storms

By Greta Gehl, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Blowing wind in a snowstorm.  
Thick snow on the ground!  
It seems like it will never end!  
But safe in our homes we are WARM.  
Nowhere to go.  
So, we turn on our fires.  
We don't care about the snow.

## Winter

By Amelia Davidson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Wonderful Wonderland  
Igloos to make  
Nothing to stop you from going outside  
Terrific season  
Exciting  
Remember to put a coat, mittens,  
hat and scarf on

## How to Build a Snowman

By Ella Lough, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

How would you like to build a snowman?  
You will need a carrot stick, a hat and rocks.  
It is easier to build a snowman when you  
go step by step. First, roll 3 balls and stack  
them. Next, put a carrot on for its nose. Then  
put rocks for its eyes and its smile. Then add  
buttons. Last, put a stick for its arms and a  
hat for its hat. Congrats, now you know how  
to build a snowman. You can follow similar  
steps for an igloo.

## How to Calm Down

By Victoria Holtz, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tonawanda

Would you like to calm down? Now you  
can. You will need fresh air, a fidget and  
yourself. Calming down can help from  
frustration. Pro tip: Fresh air can calm you  
down. First, go outside and get fresh air.  
Next grab a fidget and go outside. Move it  
safely. A fidget is something such as a toy that  
is designed to be held and manipulated as it  
decreases stress and anxiety. Pro tip: Go  
in a comfortable area and play with your  
fidget for 5-10 minutes. Third, take 3-4  
deep breaths and go and try again. This is a  
strategy to try over and over again.

## The third graders at St. Mary's Visitation School wrote about what it would be like to get snowed in and stuck AT SCHOOL overnight!

If we were snowed in at school for the night, it would be the best day because we could make a tunnel under our desks and have a snowball fight and make an igloo. We can make snow houses around Mrs. Perez's desk. It will be so much fun! - George

If we were snowed in at school for the night, it would be amazing. First, I would sneak into the teacher's lounge because there's treats in there. Next, I would get my bed ready in the classroom. Next, I would get hot chocolate. Then, I would turn on the TV and I would fall asleep. That's what I would do. - Madeline

If we were snowed in at school for the night, it would be very cool. My first reason is that we could pick where we slept. My second reason is that we would have to move all the desks. This would give us exercise. My last reason is we could watch «Holy Heroes» which are videos about God's stories and prophets. - Veronica

If we were snowed in at school for the night, I would watch a movie on the Clevertouch. Then, I would jump out of the window and the snow would catch me. Then, I would run home. - James

If we were snowed in at school for the night, I think it would be fun because I would be with my friends. We could play games and it would be like a sleepover. We could also play games on my Chromebook. We could also watch a movie on the Clevertouch. That is why it would be fun. - Abby

If we were snowed in at school for the night, I would finish reading all my books. I would go to the gym every hour and go to music every hour. That is what I would do if I got snowed in. - Graham

If we were snowed in at school for the night, I would like it! I would like to get snowed in class because then we could build an igloo on the desk and build a tunnel. So, at night we could have a sleepover in the igloo. That's what I would do if I got snowed in at school. - Joey



If we were snowed in at school for the night, it would be terrible because it would not be fun. It would not be fun because we would get loads of work to do. Then worst of all we would have to sleep on the floor! - Mary

If we were snowed in at school for the night, I would sleep in the reading corner. But before that I would watch a movie on the Clevertouch. Then, I would read a book and go to sleep. That is what I would do if I spent the night in class. - Frank

If we were snowed in at school for the night, we could make an igloo. It would be so much fun. We could go to other classrooms and play with other kids. We would watch a movie and eat all of the Dum Dums and Smarties in the classroom. That's what I would do if I were snowed in at school. - Elaina

## The Wind

By Sophia File  
Brookfield Academy, 6th Grade

The wind, like life  
Finds its way  
Into every nook,  
Every cranny,  
Into every secret,  
Every rumor,  
Into every truth,  
Every lie  
To the hermit's house,  
To the wayfinder's path,  
In the low valley,  
On the high mountain  
Ripples the still pond  
Moves the stormy seas.  
The wind is free, like a bird  
Like humans wish they could be,  
Free from every mundane part of life,  
Every hard part,  
Every embarrassing part.  
The wind is like life.  
Sometimes calm like a gentle breeze,  
Sometimes rough like a hurricane wind,  
Sometimes hard to go through,  
Sometimes still and peaceful.  
Life is always going, going, going  
Just like the wind is always  
blowing, blowing, blowing.

## The Snow That Disappeared

By Charlie Mikolajczyk  
1st Grade, Brookfield Christian School

It's been gone for a long time  
Will it ever come back?  
It's crazy!  
Squirrels climbing on trees  
Will the squirrels ever go away?  
Or will the snow come back?  
Hey, hey, hey!



## The Word

By Hebela Ayalew  
6th Grade, Brookfield Academy

It all began with a word.

An ordinary word.

I was five at the time. I can't tell you what the word was. All I can tell you is that it made me feel exhilarated. I was made to create worlds out of my imagination.

Pretty soon, I had ideas for my own novels to write. I wanted to write about dashing princes and beautiful princesses, just as I saw in movies. My mind was a bomb of ideas, waiting to explode.

I will never forget the day I was told I couldn't do it.

I was in an after-school program, where some older kids looked at the book I was trying to write. "What is it?" They asked.

I told them it was a book. I also told them I wanted it to have a hundred pages. They laughed and told me books were four pages long. I couldn't write anything like that, they said.

However, nothing can stop the growing need in me to create.

Now, I'm twelve and working on two novels I hope to publish someday. Being an author is my dream.

And it began with a word.



## New Year

By Caroline Heerey  
4th Grade - Tonawanda

It is a new day of the new year 2025  
Christmas just passed, so many presents  
New year resolutions being made  
Another whole year

## A New Year

By Lainey Jacobs  
4th Grade - Tonawanda

A new year, a new generation  
Now time for some new organization!  
Many new places to go  
And maybe try flying solo!  
A new year means a new age,  
But try not to go into an outrage!  
A new teacher, a new grade,  
Good thing the teachers stayed!  
Many places to stay,  
But make sure you have time today!  
Your family and friends  
are counting on you,  
Good thing you have a good crew!  
But soon the year will come to an end,  
But be ready to make a new friend!

## Sports Poem

By Hayes Neubauer  
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Soccer  
Position  
Outs  
Running  
Training  
Sportsmanship

## Word Search By Vidyut Nair

5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Burleigh Elementary School



### FLL - Challenge Submerged Word Search!

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

### Word List

ILLUMINATION TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTER ACOUSTICS MARINE  
AQUACULTURE SPECTROGRAM HYDROPHONE SUBMERGED BUOYS  
TRANSDUCERS HYDROPHOBIC UNDERWATER PROTOTYPE OCEAN

Wordsearch Built at ABCYA.com



## MR. HUGH'S HISTORY by Drew Sternitzky [asternitzky@wi.rr.com](mailto:asternitzky@wi.rr.com)



## Young Writers & Reporters

### Mountains

By **Saya Masters**, Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

Sharp peaks sprinkled with snow,  
seen from the village far below.  
Between two mountains, a river flows,  
next to the pine trees covered with snow.  
Above the river, a gondola moves,  
between two mountains covered in snow.  
On one mountain a cabin sits near the forest dusted in snow.  
The jagged peaks a mile high seem to touch the silvery sky.  
From the top the scenery is wondrous, like nothing else,  
the villages and forests below,  
the shorter peaks and little creeks.  
The abundance of wildlife within the forests  
is a nice sight on a snowy night.  
Down the mountain, through the trees,  
back to the village far far below.



### A Winter Wonderland

By **Soren Masters**, Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

Spinning, spinning down you go fluttering flying,  
You touch the ground, and trees and all,  
You a wonderland out of it all,  
Wintertime becomes a joy for me and you celebrated,  
Deer come out and squirrels play tag  
in your cold white drifts,  
You are a snowflake down you go flying down  
to the white fluffy ground,  
A winter wonderland you made for me and you and all of us.

### Mastering Lives Through Martial Arts

By **Janavi Wagle**, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade - Brookfield East High School

It wasn't long ago when an eight-year-old girl stepped into JK Lee's Black Belt Academy. She was exuberant yet lacked confidence. Guided into a small room, she was introduced to an art that would change her life. She learned not only how to strike but also how to become her best self.

In the beginning, walking into public spaces with a uniform on felt awkward as people stared. But she didn't care—that was who she was. When instructors handed students their first sparring bags, some ran away. But those who stayed, despite bruises and tears, knew it was worth it. Martial arts wasn't just about kicking and punching; it was about discipline, confidence, and self-growth.

That eight-year-old girl grew into a sixteen-year-old Tae Kwon Do enthusiast who diligently trained to earn her first- and then second-degree black belt. By then, she felt unstoppable. Over the past eight years, she trained harder, aiming to achieve her goals. Through hours of rigorous practice and multiple nine-hour belt tests, she transformed into a confident young adult ready to face the world.

That day, she stood ready to break two thick boards stacked into one, held by the same instructor who guided her first attempt years ago. The nervous eight-year-old inside her might've run away, but the sixteen-year-old used all her adrenaline, which turned into strength, to succeed.

Martial arts gave her more than power—it gave her the character filled with strong values of perseverance, confidence, leadership, selfless service and how to reflect strength both on and off the mat. Now, she projects her voice, starts conversations, and tackles challenges without fail. It's not just a sport; it's about becoming the best version of yourself and carrying that mindset into every part of life to make a positive impact in this world.

### Flurries

By **Sanvitha**, Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

Crystals hang from bare branches of trees.  
The sleepy green grass is tucked in with a white cushion.  
Small snowflakes as gentle as a mother's tender hand.  
Winter is a great time of year!  
A time for joy and pleasantness  
Where children play outside, making snowmen  
Or staying inside drinking hot chocolate.  
A velvet blanket of snow,  
Oh, it feels so cold but you can't stop smiling  
at the beauty all around you.

### Sledding

By **Eli Visor**, Level 6 - Brookfield Academy

As I look outside the window on Main Street,  
I see snowflakes falling endlessly,  
I grab my coat and my sled,  
And go to the hill where my friend and I met.  
We go down the hill with super-fast speed,  
Even the deer cannot compete!  
We are the best sledders in the town,  
We fly past the losers, who wear a frown,  
Next the ramp, which is dangerous,  
But we can do it, I believe in us!  
Some times we fell, but we got back up,  
Finally, we did the ramp!  
I was suspended in mid-air, with nowhere to go,  
Except that huge mound of snow.  
I dove into it face first.  
"Ouch! It hurts!"  
But I got up, ready to do it again.

## Our History: *(Continued from Page 4)*

### Elm Grove's First Village Clerk: William J. "Pat" O'Neill

By **Stephen K. Hauser**

For those who lived in Elm Grove from the 1950s through the 1980s, Pat O'Neill was a familiar figure. The former professional entertainer had been born in Madison in 1902. He settled in Elm Grove in the 1950s with his wife, "Peggy", a former Ziegfeld Girl. In between, he enjoyed enough adventures to fill a couple of lifetimes.

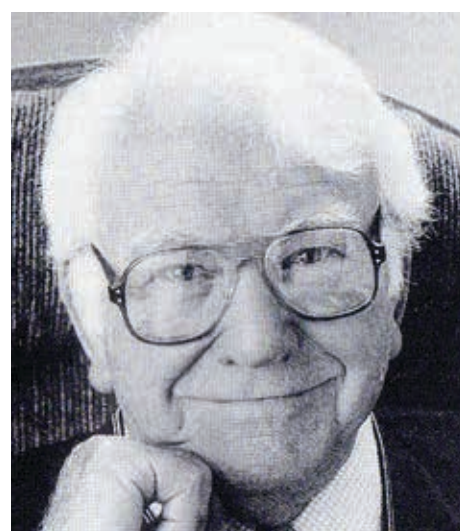
Pat had journeyed west during the Great Depression of the 1930s, ending up in Hollywood as an actor playing bit parts in movies for M.G.M. In addition to his film work, he performed in several Broadway productions and joined the famed Ziegfeld Follies as a dancer. It was there that he met his future wife. Peggy was a chorus girl who later remembered **Mr. Flo Ziegfeld** as "the best boss a girl could have." After leaving the glamour of stage and screen behind, Pat and Peggy eventually made their way to Elm Grove and built a home on Lone Tree Road. Some may remember that Pat planted the young evergreen tree that grew for many years in the intersection of Lone Tree and Watertown Plank roads.

Peggy O'Neill's sister, **Harriet**, had married **Leonard Sheehan**, and they made their home on Florence Drive from the 1950s

to the mid-1960s. Leonard was one of the first employees of the village department of public works. The O'Neills and Sheehans were friendly, gregarious folks and soon had many friends in the village. Pat was elected president of the local Kiwanis club chapter.

When Elm Grove successfully incorporated in 1955, Pat O'Neill was elected village clerk. He was subsequently appointed to the position until he retired in 1984. (He had tried to resign in 1983, but the village board tabled his resignation until a replacement could be found.) During his time as clerk, Pat worked for little or no money. He did odd jobs around the village hall and grounds and served as a sort of ombudsman for residents with problems, complaints and concerns. He soothed many a ruffled feather.

During this time, Pat also kept a hand in the acting profession. He often donned red suit and beard to portray **Santa Claus** for a variety of advertising campaigns. His last film role was as a street dancer outside of **Ray Charles'** music shop in *The Blues Brothers* in 1980. The scene was shot in Chicago. Pat told me he had a ball in the part, but then added: "But I always do."



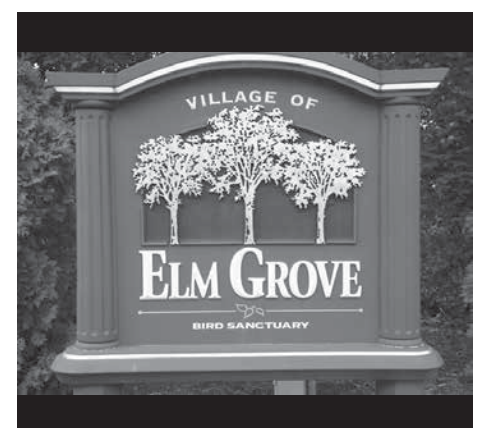
Pat O'Neill

Pat, Peg, Leonard and Harriet were friends of my family and were present at Christmas parties at my parents' home. I also recall Pat organizing the polling place for the 1962 gubernatorial election at Leland School. He took a break from his work and joined me and my fifth-grade friends in the school cafeteria. He told us a couple of jokes, ate half of my chicken sandwich, and went back to the

polls. That event typifies the mischievous merriment with which Pat O'Neil met daily life. He was truly one of a kind.

Pat passed away at home at age 89 on January 28, 1992. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Mary's Visitation Church. His *Milwaukee Journal* obituary noted: "Pat's twinkling Irish eyes will always sparkle in his friends' memories." Indeed.

Stephen K. Hauser is a long-time Elm Grove resident, retired college history professor, and the author of books and articles about local history.





# 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](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) (Subject line: Letters to the Editor)

# News Briefs

## How to Volunteer in Elmbrook Schools

(BROOKFIELD) - The School District of Elmbrook welcomes family and community volunteers to support our students and staff throughout the year. Volunteer opportunities exist in school classrooms and libraries, as well as through participation in school and district committees, focus groups, athletic or performing arts events, and several parent organizations.



Volunteers provide supervision on field trips, plan school community events, offer fundraising and donation support, and actively engage in classrooms to support student learning. Each year, Elmbrook families and community members contribute thousands of hours of service and raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of our students, programs and schools.

For more information visit [www.elmbrookschoools.org](http://www.elmbrookschoools.org) or call (262) 781-3030.

# Public Safety Reports

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

## Calling 911 from a Cell Phone vs. a Land-line

*Elm Grove Emergency Services Recommendations*

When you call 911 from your cell phone, the call is sent to a centralized dispatch center in either Waukesha County or Milwaukee County, depending on what cell tower picks up your call. Before the call taker can transfer your call, they need to determine your location for transfer to the proper dispatch center.

In most cases, the county dispatcher will not be familiar with landmarks and business locations by name, and they will need an exact address before they can transfer the call to our Elm Grove Dispatch Center.

**We strongly suggest that you program our direct emergency line, 262-786-4141, into your cell phone to avoid delays in service for emergencies happening in Elm Grove.**

Our dispatchers have intimate knowledge of our geography and are capable of discerning your location quickly, with limited information. When it is your emergency, you will want to be speaking to the person who is talking directly to the responding fire, ambulance, or police unit that is coming to your aid.

**There are no changes to your current land-line 911 service. All land-line 911 calls continue to be answered by Elm Grove dispatch personnel.**

- BLANKETS, MITTENS, HATS, AND OTHER WINTER CLOTHES
- ICE SCRAPER AND SNOW BRUSH
- FLASHLIGHT AND EXTRA BATTERIES
- JUMPER CABLES
- FIRST AID KIT
- WATER AND NON-PERISHABLE SNACKS
- BAG OF SAND OR NON-CLUMPING KITTLY LITTER
- CELL PHONE CHARGER AND ADAPTER
- SNOW SHOVEL

**WINTER VEHICLE EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT**

## CONCERNED ABOUT MEMORY LOSS?

Waukesha County Public Health offers **FREE Memory Screening!**

Location: Public Health Clinic  
514 Riverview Ave. Waukesha, WI

**By Appt**  
262-896-8430  
Approx 30 minutes

**Who should consider memory screening?**

- Anyone concerned about memory loss or cognitive health
- Those noticing recent memory changes

**Why get screened?**

- Identify early signs of memory issues
- Peace of mind and helpful resources
- Quick and easy process

**What to expect?**

- A brief interview and questionnaire
- Simple memory tests
- Immediate feedback provided
- Scores can be sent to your doctor

Scan for healthy brain resources!

**THINK FIRST**  
HEALTHY BRAIN INITIATIVE  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

[waukeshacounty.gov/publichealth](http://waukeshacounty.gov/publichealth)

# Our Village



A flock of colorfully-dressed pink plastic flamingoes gather in an Elm Grove yard on a snowy Winter's night.

Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / The News-Independent



## ADVERTISE!

Promote your Business, Organization, Event, School, Church, Items for Sale, Job Opportunities, Candidacy for Public Office, etc.

Request a Rate Sheet & Reserve Space  
E-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)  
OR  
Call: (262) 782-6193







## Fire Safety during Winter Storms

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

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

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**  
There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.  
As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!

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

**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards.

For more than 14 years...  
**The Elm Grove News-Independent**  
 has celebrated our nation's First Amendment right to "Freedom of the Press" by publishing locally-focused news & information in every **FREE** monthly edition, supported by advertising & sponsorship revenue from individuals, families, community groups & businesses, large & small who, while promoting their own concerns, acknowledge the intrinsic **VALUE** of having an informed public.

So, whether you are reading one of the 5,000 printed copies of this edition, or perusing this & some of our past editions online at [www.elmgrove.news](http://www.elmgrove.news)

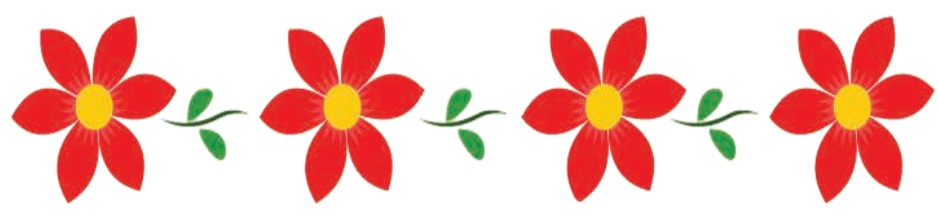
### Thank You for reading!

Please join me in expressing gratitude to our many loyal advertisers & Friends of *The News* sponsors for making this **INDEPENDENT**, Elm Grove resident-owned & -operated newspaper possible.

Sincerely,  
 Lisabeth Passalis-Bain,  
 Founder / Owner / Publisher / Editor  
 Elm Grove News-Independent LLC

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# RECYCLE

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:



**Cans**



**Aluminum and Steel Cans**  
empty and rinse



**Cartons**



**Food and Beverage Cartons**  
empty and replace cap



**Glass**



**Bottles and Jars**  
empty and rinse



**Paper**



**Cereal Boxes, Newspaper, Magazines & Mail, Flattened Cardboard, and Paper Tubes**



**Plastic**



**Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers**  
empty and replace cap (#1, #2, #5)



Whitewater & Franksville, WI

**DO NOT RECYCLE THESE CURBSIDE:**

**Scrap Metal**



No car parts or scrap metal

**Plastic Bags**



Do not bag recyclables; return plastic bags and wrap to retail stores

**Hazards**



No flammables, compressed cylinders, batteries, electronics, or sharps

**Garbage**



Empty all containers, no food, liquids, diapers, or garbage

**Tanglers**



No hoses, wires, or chains



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