



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 14 No. 11

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

July 2024

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



In Celebration of Our Nation's 248th Anniversary...

The Declaration of Independence

Action of Second Continental Congress – July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America. (Opening and closing paragraphs.)

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness --- That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and, accordingly, all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States...

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, and with a firm reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.



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"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain



Photo by Chriss Stump, CUMC

Past Presidents of OWLS include: (Seated: L to R) **Marlene Salek, Kathy Fuhr, Roy Uelner, Sandy Uelner, Pat Bardonner;** (Standing: L to R) **Mary Millard, Pat Pedersen, Anne Harberg, Ed Kirchner, Mitzi Kirchner, Harry Thiede, Mary Kelling, Jan Isbister, Nancy Wagner, Judy Meyer, Don Meyer, Don Bardonner, Sandy Pommerening, Judy Down.**

OWLS Mark 20th Anniversary of Friendship, Fellowship

By Don Down

At its May 2024 event the OWLS senior group, sponsored by Community United Methodist Church, Elm Grove, celebrated its 20th anniversary. The name OWLS, acronym for Older Wiser Livelier Seniors, was not

invented here. It was suggested by several church members whose parents belonged to similarly named groups in the 1980s. An internet search today shows that this name is widely used.

increased year by year by word of mouth, peaking before Covid at 190 members. Membership in June 2024 is 156, from 19 communities. Seventy-two percent of the current members are not affiliated with Community Church.

Rev. Chuck Harberg, visitation pastor in 2004, saw the need for a senior-oriented group for Elm Grove and Brookfield, open to those of any faith tradition, similar to other groups in the Milwaukee area.

The purpose of OWLS was "to provide friendship and fellowship to all its members through entertainment, fun, inspiration, adventure, and service to the community". The plan was for monthly events, some at the church and some away, all with lunch.

The target membership for the first year was 50. The target audience was Community Church members and their friends. Guess were invited. Membership afforded a discount for events and a monthly newsletter. Midway through the first year the 50-member goal was met. Membership

The list of events for the first year was varied: four lectures, two musical groups, four local or area tours, and two theater trips. Over time the event schedule became five in-church events, six coach trips, and a December holiday luncheon at a special venue. Coach trips are all-day affairs to destinations in Wisconsin and Illinois.

The mode of transportation changed over the years: trips to downtown Milwaukee were first by carpool, then school bus. Over time all away trips were by air-conditioned coaches.

All are welcome to attend an OWLS event as a guest. Information on events and reservation forms can be found at www.cumceg.org/owls.




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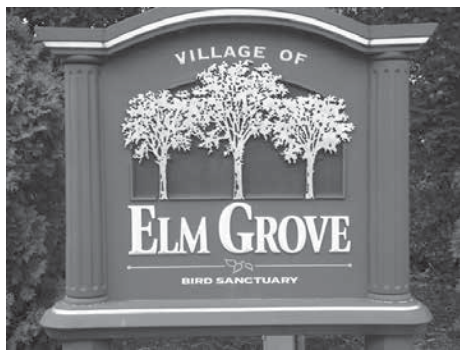
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Village Update

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

July 4th is here and the fireworks in the Village Park will be a highlight of the Independence Day celebration. The recently completed basketball court will be available as well. Please join fellow residents for a fun day. The Village website, www.elmgrovewi.org has complete further details. Thank you to the committee led by Logan Kein for coordinating this event.



***Public Works Update.** The Public Works Department is hard at work on many projects this summer, including the following:

***Highland Drive culvert replacement.** This project includes replacement of a very old culvert. Work is wrapping up and we appreciate resident patience during the full road closure as the contractors and WE Energy complete the project.

***Highland pathway update.** Most work is complete except for the Railroad crossing and pathway connection near North Avenue. Hearings are set in Madison with the railroad commission to move this forward in August and hopefully will allow completion in 2024.

***Daylighting of Underwood Creek.** The Village's engineering firm has been contracted to further detail the design and perform soil sampling to improve the bidding process and develop a cost estimate.

***Paving will commence** this summer addressing the most needy roads in the Village. As a result of favorable bid results, the 2024 paving plan has been expanded by 25% to accelerate the road updates required.

***Village staff is aggressively reviewing grant opportunities** to help fund pathway, storm water and other future projects with the help of outside parties.

***WE Energy outage updates and powerline burying projects.** The Board is actively seeking improved service from WE Energies to significantly reduce outages. We are sharing our challenges with the Public Service Commission, their regulator. In addition, easement approvals from residents to bury powerlines are underway for two large sections of the Village. Please work with WE Energies outside consultants who are seeking your assistance to move this project forward. Without everyone's cooperation, the projects start date will be delayed. Current estimates are for the projects to begin in 2024, if easements are timely received.

Needless to say, many thanks to the entire Village staff, especially the public works crew, for their attention to detail and commitment.



***Recreation Activities.** Summer in the Recreation Department is always a busy time and 2024 is no exception. In addition to the many programs offered by the department, a Comprehensive Outdoor Master Plan (CORP) is being launched in July. This study will inventory all the recreational resources currently available in the Village and provide a long-term view of upgrades/additions to facilities based on benchmarking throughout the nation. The CORP is also a key document to apply for possible grants to help fund improvements. Stay tuned as this project moves forward in 2024.

The team also faced the challenge of a broken pump in the pool house which required the closure of the pool. As a result of the quick action of many staff members, the pool was back in operation in less than week! Well Done!

***Police activities.** The Police & Fire Commission and Public Safety Committees are active in a few areas. Filling open police officer positions is a current priority. There is currently one open position as well as an additional officer position budgeted to be filled in July. Also, Chief Hennen has highlighted a new concern related to dogs at large, dogs off leash and aggressive dogs. Please be aware that in the Village Park, there are specific ordinances limiting where dogs are allowed while leashed. In addition, aggressive dogs have led to residents being bitten and one having to proceed with rabies treatment. Additional patrols have commenced in the park.

***Major Construction in the Village. Caroline Heights Project.** The completion of the water and sewer mains and resident laterals continues. The amount of dust and road condition challenges continue. Having walked the area, I know the disruptions being experienced. Roads are cleaned three times a week by outside parties and any complaints should be forwarded to Village staff for follow-up. Road paving is expected to be completed in 2024.

Single Family construction in the Caroline Heights area will commence soon. The Building Board is actively reviewing construction plans for these residents. In total, 21 new single-family residences will be constructed.

Let's enjoy the longer days of summer and remember to hydrate often!

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.

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Elm Grove Recycling Center Hours

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

JULY 2024

OPEN: Tuesdays & Thursdays - 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

Our Village



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

A gaggle of geese gather at Elm Grove Village Park.

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

THE WORLD'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH MARK TWAIN'S THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN WOULD ARRIVE ON DECEMBER 10, 1884 (PRINTING ERRORS DELAYED U.S. RELEASE UNTIL FEB. 1985). A BOOK AS VAST AND WINDING AS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ON WHICH IT IS SET, IT HAS BEEN CALLED BY SOME THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL.

TWAIN'S COMMITMENT TO USE AUTHENTIC REGIONAL DIALECT, INCLUDING RACIAL SLURS, HAS ALSO MADE IT A CONTROVERSIAL BOOK. AT ITS HEART, IT CONFRONTS THE GREAT AMERICAN CONUNDRUM: A COUNTRY WHERE FREEDOM IS ITS MOST TREASURED IDEAL - AND ITS ORIGINAL SIN.

IT IS ALL AT ONCE A TRAVEL ADVENTURE, A SATIRE ON THE ARISTOCRACY AND RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY, AND AN ALLEGORY IN WHICH HUCK SHOWS US OUR PRODIGIOUS HUMAN POTENTIAL, OUR STUMBLING AND OUR FAILINGS. ALONGSIDE HIM, JIM'S FRIENDSHIP IS UNERRING - HIS HEART, VIRTUOUS. THE BOOK'S SIGNIFICANCE STILL REVERBERATES TODAY, AND TWAIN CONTINUES TO GIVE US A PLACE TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE... AND TO CONTINUE CONVERSATIONS.

Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*

Take a Walk in Elm Grove Park...

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

A collection of large boulders positioned beside the walking paths throughout Village Park each feature an engraved plaque with words and pictures offering permanent glimpses of days gone by.

This Community Foundation-led project was installed years ago and continues to provide an important link to early settlers and others who have come before us. So, take a stroll and learn something new about our past. Three of the informational boulders are shown below.

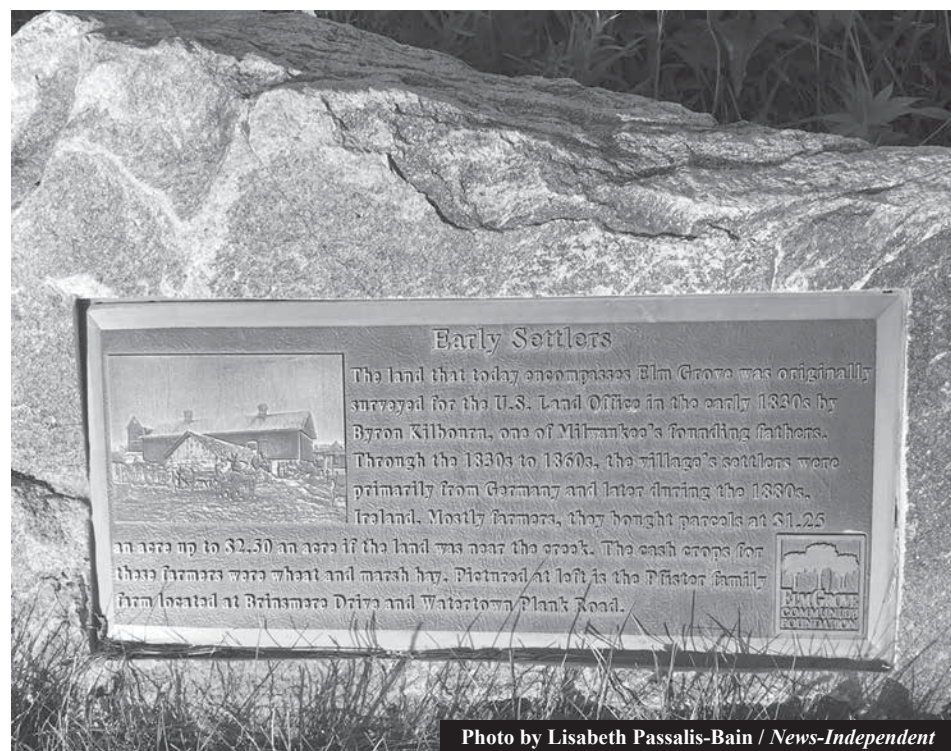


Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

"Early Settlers"



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

"Early Education"



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

"Early Transportation"

News Briefs

Versiti Blood Centers Urge Community to Donate, Prevent Blood Shortage

(MILWAUKEE) – Versiti is urging community members across its five-state footprint to donate blood. The blood and blood products provider to approximately 200 hospitals across Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, is experiencing an urgent need for donated blood.

Versiti's blood inventory was recently depleted due to several organ transplant surgeries at its partner hospitals; procedures that require a large volume of blood. Additionally, Versiti has seen a large quantity of blood donation appointment cancellations and no-shows, which can be common during the summer months.

The need for Type-O blood, the most universal blood type, is especially critical, but any blood type is accepted. If a donor does not know their blood type, the best way to find out is to sign up to donate. If Versiti does not improve its blood supply, it will be forced to issue an emergency appeal for blood.

The health and safety of patients who rely on life-saving blood becomes jeopardized when blood inventory levels are low. Hospitals are forced to delay surgeries and critical treatments to conserve its blood reserve. This puts victims of traumatic

accidents, patients battling cancer, and even mothers in labor at risk.

Versiti asks community members who are able, to sign up and donate blood. Opportunities to donate at Versiti mobile blood drives and at its blood centers can be found at Versiti.org. Anyone age 17 or older in good health who meets eligibility requirements is encouraged to give. Parental consent is required for donors who are 16 to donate blood. Donors should bring a photo ID that includes their birth date.

Blood Donation is Fast and Easy

The donation process, including registration and testing, takes about an hour. Because blood and fluids are constantly replaced by your body, blood donation doesn't take a major toll on the human body.

The need for blood is constant but currently only 3% of the population donates each year.

If just 1% more of Americans donates, experts estimate that the blood supply shortage would disappear.

One donation can save up to three lives.

There is no substitute for blood donation — blood cannot be manufactured.

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NEW at the Community Foundation

Wishing Elm Grove a Happy Fourth of July Celebration

The Elm Grove Community Foundation is honored to be sponsoring open swim at the Village of Elm Grove community pool and the fireworks display for the Fourth of July celebration in Village Park.

- Open Swim: 12:00pm – 5:00pm
- Food Trucks/Beer Garden open: 5:30pm – 9:30pm
- D.J. in the Park: 6:00pm – 9:30pm
- National Anthem: 9:30pm
- Fireworks Display: 9:35pm

Register Today for the Elm Grove Oktoberfest 0.5K Fun Run

Registration is now open for the 0.5K Fun Run held on Elm Grove's Annual Oktoberfest weekend. The 0.5K "race" is a walk/run beer parade that starts at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub at 3:30pm on Saturday, September 21 and finishes at Village Park. Early bird pricing is available until August 15. For more information and to register, please scan the QR code.



BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 20 & 21, 2024

Calendar of Events – July 2024

Monday – JULY 1

- "Cruisin' the Spur" Vintage & Classic Car, Truck & Cycle Show in the parking lot behind Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, 5 p.m. – dark. FREE to exhibit & attend.

Tuesday – JULY 2

- Elm Grove Building Board meeting - 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall. Agenda: www.elmgrove.org
- Elm Grove Sustainability Committee meeting - 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

Wednesday – JULY 3

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

Thursday – JULY 4

VILLAGE HALL CLOSED



- Family Fest at Elm Grove Village Park
- 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. – Fun Run/Walk Sign- In & Warm-Up
- 9:00 to 9:15 a.m. – Flag Raising Ceremony
- 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. – Fun Run/Walk
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Bike Decorating Contest
- Noon to 5:00 p.m. – Open Swim, sponsored by Elm Grove Community Foundation
- 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. – Food Trucks/Beer Garden open
- 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. – Baking Contest
- 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. – D.J. in the Park
- 9:30 p.m. – National Anthem
- 9:35 p.m. – Fireworks Show

Friday – JULY 5

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Private Club Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – JULY 7

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrove.org



Friday – JULY 12

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center; Speaker: Anna Bruhn, WIUM Key Leader Coordinator; Topic: "Key Leader Program for High School Key Club Members". kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- Friday Flicks – 8:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park, featuring the film "Elemental". FREE, all welcome.

Sunday – JULY 14

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrove.org

Monday – JULY 15

- "Cruisin' the Spur" Vintage & Classic Car, Truck & Cycle Show in the parking lot behind Silver Spur BBQ, 13275 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, 5 p.m. – dark. FREE to exhibit & attend.

Tuesday – JULY 16

- Tunes on Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park, featuring "Saturday June Band". FREE, all welcome.

Friday – JULY 19

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center; Speaker: Suzanne Stopek, Director of Family Services, National Centers for Learning Excellence; Topic: "Waukesha County Head Start Program". kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – JULY 21

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrove.org



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Tuesday – JULY 23

- Elm Grove Board of Trustees Public meeting – 7 p.m. at Village Hall Courtroom; Agenda & Live Stream: www.elmgrovetri.org (262) 782-6700

Thursday – JULY 25

- OWLS – Seniors' Group Geneva Lake Museum and Lake Geneva Boat tour luncheon. Guests are welcome. <http://www.cumceg.org/owl>

Friday – JULY 26

- Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center; Speaker: Elyse Gelinsky, Eras Senior Network, Volunteer Recruiter and Retention Coordinator; Topic: "Addressing Ageism by Supporting Seniors, Disabled Adults and Caregivers". kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- Friday Flicks – 8:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park, featuring the film "Kung Fu Panda 4". FREE, all welcome.

Sunday – JULY 28

- Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. Volunteers welcome. beautification@elmgrove.org

Tuesday – JULY 30

- Tunes on Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park, featuring "Kaleidoscope". FREE, all welcome.



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News Briefs



Junior Guild, Versiti Hold Successful Blood Drive

(ELM GROVE) The Elm Grove Junior Guild-coordinated blood drive with Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin on June 12 resulted in 56 blood units donated and 168 potential lives saved within Southeastern Wisconsin, according to a Guild spokesperson.

The Guild thanks volunteers and Pilgrim Park Middle School (PPMS) for donating the space.

Another drive will occur on Wednesday, August 7, from 2 to 7 p.m., again at PPMS, 1500 Pilgrim Parkway, Elm Grove.

The Guild notes, "Be part of this life-saving mission in our community! Make your appointment today:

https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/263311



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Junior Guild

\$2,000 Scholarship winner – **Lucy Heideman** with family members.



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Junior Guild

\$500 Scholarship winner – **Eden Tan** with family members.

Elm Grove Junior Guild Awards Essay Contest Scholarships

(ELM GROVE) – The Elm Grove Junior Guild (EGJG) holds an annual scholarship essay contest for high school Seniors attending school in or residing in the Elmbrook school district. After the EGJG carefully reviewed 44 submissions, two deserving students: **Lucy Heideman** and **Eden Tan**, both recent graduates of Brookfield Central High School, were awarded scholarships this year.

(Read their winning essays – Page 9.)

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3 Cruisin' the SPUR Events Set for Mondays in July

(ELM GROVE) Antique, classic, vintage, collectible, modified, customized, foreign, domestic, rare, unusual, old and even new Cars, Trucks, Hot Rods, Rat Rods, Sports Cars, Cycles and Scooters. You name it! If it has wheels, it is welcome at... "Cruisin' the SPUR".



Photo courtesy: Ray Shannon

These informal gatherings are located behind the Silver Spur BBQ and will start at 5 p.m. on alternate Mondays this summer.

The scene at a past Cruisin' the Spur gathering in Elm Grove.

The July dates are Monday the 1st, Monday the 15th and Monday the 29th.

And as always, there will be hot food, cold drinks and cool music. So, bring your family and friends and enjoy the show.

Cruisin' the Grove? Not This Year...

By Ray Shannon

The popular "Cruisin' the Grove" classic car shows have been hosted by the Elm Grove KIWANIS Club for the past 3 years. There was no show in 2020 due to the Covid outbreak. But prior to that, the show was hosted by the Woller-Anger Insurance Agency for 7 years.



Photo courtesy: Ray Shannon

However here in 2024, there is uncertainty regarding the availability of and access to Watertown Plank Road in front of the Notre Dame construction project in August.

So, given the extensive workload involved in producing the show and the limited workforce available, the KIWANIS Club has decided to forego this great community event.

Watertown Plank Road between Legion Drive and Juneau Blvd. is crowded with car, truck, and motorcycle enthusiasts during a previous Cruisin' the Grove.

Hopefully, the situation will be different in 2025



News Briefs



Photos courtesy: Community United Methodist Church

Enthusiastic community members celebrate their wins during a game of Bingo.



Local Church Holds ‘Pizza + Games + Bingo’ Night

By Debra Clark

Laughter and shouts of “Bingo” could be heard at Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank, Elm Grove on May 9th when the Intergenerational Service Opportunities Team and Life Navigators shared a fun-filled night of pizza and games!

Life Navigators was founded in 1949 by parents who sought to provide opportunities, disability resources, and services for their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For 75 years, the mission of Life Navigators is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Around 60 people joined together for a night of “Everyone Wins” Bingo, pizza, and then numerous board games that included, checkers, Monopoly, Connect Four, and Uno.

The glee and laughter were contagious as everyone made new friends. A wonderful partnership began that evening!



Elm Grove Woman’s Club

TAILGATE TRIVIA

<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">JULY 31</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">6:00 PM</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">EGWC Parking Lot</p> <p style="color: red;">13885 Watertown Plank Rd.</p>
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Gather your friends, family, and fellow trivia enthusiasts for an exciting night of tailgating and trivia!

Food and drink vendors open at 6:00.
Trivia kicks off at 7:00!

Tickets and more info at www.egwc.org



Green is Good!

Make Your Summer Picnics & Parties Sustainable

By the Elm Grove Green Team

It’s al fresco dining season in Wisconsin! With the warm weather, lots of local beer gardens, and the rising cost of restaurant fare, 2024 may be The Summer of Picnics and Backyard Parties. If you aim to spend more time dining al fresco or will be hosting friends and family, try these tips to make summer celebrations greener:

- Skip plastic bottles and cups – Serve cocktails in glass, choose sodas and water that come in cans, and upgrade your red Solo cups to reusable/recyclable Ball Aluminum (\$25/30 cups on Amazon). A set of aluminum cups plus a water jug is also handy for tailgating and kids’ softball and soccer games.
- Use a cloth tablecloth and napkins – Instead of a disposable tablecloth and paper napkins that will end up in the landfill, use cloth. When you’re done, shake them out, wash and repeat for next time

- Pick sustainable food storage – Try beeswax or silicone bags for food storage instead of plastic wrap before and after your event.
- Pay attention to portioning – Limit food waste by tailoring the amount of food you prepare to your guest count. Eat or freeze leftovers, and compost what you can’t. There’s a list of composting services available in Elm Grove at the Sustainability Committee webpage: <https://elmgrovewi.org/790/Composting>

Have a happy – and green – summer!

JOHNS Picks July’s Waste Warriors

This just in: Our JOHNS Elm Grove-dedicated waste management professionals **Greg, Nathan, Aaron and José** say our neighbors at 1785 Wedgewood Drive East, 14735 Crestwood Court, and 1010 San Jose Drive have recently done very well in their recycling efforts, getting the correct items in the big blue bins. If you know these folks, compliment them on being July’s Waste Warriors!



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Library News and Programs

July 2024

13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122

262-782-6717 / elmgrovelibrary.org

Mind Games: The Science of Perception Deception / Tuesday, July 30, 7:00 p.m.



Our brain decides how we perceive everything around us. It finds patterns and solves problems efficiently, except for when it lies to us. In this engaging program, William Pack explores the real science of how our brains trick us into seeing and believing things that don't exist. You'll experience how optical illusions work, why people fall for scams, and how we make thousands of choices every day that are influenced subconsciously.

You will also learn proven, scientific, actionable techniques to preserve brain health. By the end, you may be left wondering if your brain has a mind of its own! Free to attend. No registration required. This program is sponsored by the Elm Grove Public Library, with funding support from the Bridges Library System.

An Evening with Connie Berry / Thursday, August 1, 7:00 p.m.

In conjunction with Boswell Book Company, the Elm Grove Library welcomes *USA Today* bestselling author Connie Berry, celebrating the fifth installment of the Kate Hamilton mystery series. In *A Collection of Lies*, American antiques dealer Kate Hamilton follows blood-stained clues to discover the truth about the murder of a modern-day Victorian gentleman.



Join us at the library for a discussion, Q&A, and signing of a book praised as "a Scottish delight that will keep you on your toes until the very end." (Carlene O'Connor). This event is free to attend. **Please register in advance at elmgrovelibrary.org.** Books will be available for sale.

Connie Berry is the author of the Kate Hamilton mysteries, set in the UK and featuring an American antiques dealer with a gift for solving crimes. Like her protagonist, In 2019 Connie won the IPPY Gold Medal for Mystery and was a finalist for the Agatha Award's Best Debut. She lives in Ohio with her husband and adorable Shih Tzu, Emmie.



Bookopoly



The Adult Summer Reading Program is underway through August 10! Pick up your "Bookopoly" game board at the library to start playing.

How to Play:

- Check out and read items that check off spaces on the Bookopoly board.
- Complete color sets and write book reviews to earn prize entries.
- End of summer gift card prizes include Milwaukee Brewers, Board Game Barrister, Marcus Theaters, and Culver's.

The deadline for all entries is August 10. Prizes drawn August 12. Sponsored by the Friends of the Elm Grove Library.



Therapy Pet Reading Time

Summer 2024



This is a reading program for students in grades 1-5 who would like extra practice reading aloud to a well-behaved furry friend.

- Marty (cat): Tuesday, June 11, July 2, August 6
 - Blumi (dog): Tuesday, June 18, July 16, August 13
 - Clover (dog): Thursday, June 20, July 11, August 8
- Registration Required.

Elm Grove Library
13600 Juneau Blvd.
262-782-6717
elmgrovelibrary.org



New Musical Written by Elm Grove Native

By Karen Grishaber

Robert Grede, who grew up in Elm Grove, has written a play, *RIP – A Musical Comedy of Life & Death*, that premieres in Milwaukee this July.



Robert Grede

Set in the fictitious McCobb (macabre?) Mortuary, five living and five dead characters speak about their regrets and what chance they may have for redemption. The plot is a fun frolic with love, laughter, and suspense. And there's an interesting surprise at the end.

"When I retired, I began thinking about what comes next," says Grede. "That led me to wonder what comes after that." The answer to the first question was *RIP*. Grede admits he isn't sure about the answer to the second.

There are 16 songs in the show, including such scary-sounding numbers as "Dead End Job," "Midnight at the Morgue," and "Doing the Zombie Dance."

"Rob's done an amazing job of defining the 'rules' of how The Living and The Dead can and can't interact," says the show's director, **Alan Piotrowicz**. "During an earlier workshop, we learned that the music serves as the connective thread between them."

Although better known as a business consultant and best-selling author, Grede has been a composer most of his life. A music major with an MBA, he combined his ear for music with his business acumen to create award-winning jingles before building a career as a consultant, educator, and writer.

Grede is also a well-known name in Elm Grove history. His father, **Edward**, was among the founders of the Village back in 1955, and served as its first Village Trustee. His mother **Mary Jane** founded Elm Grove Travel Service, and later, Grede World Travel.

The world premiere of *RIP – A Musical Comedy of Life & Death* runs July 17 to 28 at Next Act Theatre's performance space, 255 S. Water Street. For more information, visit RIP-TheMusical.com.

(See AD – Page 5)



Photo courtesy: Jennifer Black

FIRST™ Lego League Team B.U.I.L.D. 44199 from Burleigh/PPMS competed at the Western Edge Invitational in Long Beach, California.

Pilgrim Park Middle School, Burleigh Elementary Students Compete at International Event

By Jennifer Black

Team B.U.I.L.D. was one of two teams representing Wisconsin, competing against 85 teams from around the world at the event. The team presented their interactive bowling sculpture, robot design strategy, and core values/outreach to a judging team at the event. The team placed 22nd overall in the robot game (440pts) and came home with a gracious professionalism nod for their "Deeds for Daniel" outreach at the event, collecting 147 acts of kindness from teams and spectators to gift to Daniel Gives Back, honoring the memory of **Daniel Perelman**. www.danielgivesback.org

Read Current & many past editions of *The Elm Grove News-Independent* at www.elmgrove.news Click on Archive.



Young Writers & Reporters

ELM GROVE JUNIOR GUILD – SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY PROMPT:

“Discuss how you have been a leader in your community. What have you learned and how will you use that knowledge in your future communities?”

Essay - \$2,000 Scholarship

By Lucy Heideman, Brookfield Central

I used to believe that leadership was a trait reserved for the most outgoing and bold; that a leader was completely fearless and always knew what to do. However, as I moved through high school and came across unexpected opportunities, I learned that true leadership often means quietly leading by example and doing what’s right. I have learned that real leaders are imperfect but open-minded people who listen to and advocate for others. Armed with this knowledge, I am excited to join new communities and add to my leadership skill set.

To date, my most impactful leadership experience has come through Hope Squad. Hope Squad is a peer-nominated suicide prevention group that is integrated into our Elmbrook middle and high schools. In our weekly meetings, topics range from QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training for suicide prevention to self-care and boundaries. Although it is easy to be complacent in the realm of mental health, I have learned through Hope Squad that a true leader never shirks responsibility. It is not enough to assume that someone is joking when they mention suicide. It is not enough to know the facts about mental health: a leader must act, even when it is uncomfortable, intimidating, and difficult. I know that my practice having these difficult conversations will serve my community in college and beyond. One organization I am interested in is the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI has collaborated with my Hope Squad to host several panels and events in the Brookfield and Elm Grove communities. NAMI on Campus, their college-level program, works to educate about mental illness and advocate for improved mental health services on campus. In college, I hope to join a chapter of NAMI on Campus or a similar organization and continue my advocacy for suicide prevention.

Since I was young, I was taught that there was value in diversity, but I witnessed this firsthand at the Wisconsin Leadership Seminar (WILS). In 2022, Brookfield Central’s Student Services team nominated me as the sole BC student to attend WILS. Throughout the 3-day seminar, students from across the state developed our leadership skills through panel discussions, volunteering, community building, and self-reflection. By far the most impactful part of this experience was an activity called Pick a Side. In this activity, someone would read a statement and everyone had to step one way if they agreed, and the other way if they disagreed. Then, we discussed our positions with a focus on keeping an open mind. The topics started out light, but soon dove into questions about gun ownership, gender equality, school shootings, and abortion. Some of my fellow students’ positions shocked me, but by intentionally keeping an open mind, I was able to hear their words as they were, not as I was told to interpret them by the media or politicians. In the absence of partisan values and the pressure to stand my ground, I found my opinions becoming more nuanced as I listened to points of view I had never even considered. This activity taught me the value of mutual respect and listening with an open mind, especially in a leadership role. As I join more diverse communities in college, I plan to seek out people who hold different political and spiritual beliefs from my own. I hope to contribute to a classroom and community culture where opinions interact and flow, rather than being restricted.

As I enter college next year, I am excited to discover opportunities to lead by example and learn from different perspectives. My leadership in high school has taught me the importance of quiet leadership and open-minded communication, and I am excited to carry those values on.

Essay - \$500 Scholarship

By Eden Tan, Brookfield Central

I wandered through the bustling hallways of my high school, eager to develop something meaningful that would leave a lasting effect. Guided by my enthusiasm for humanitarian pursuits and a desire to improve the lives of those suffering, I became the founder and president of the Red Cross Club.

As the leader, I fostered an inclusive environment, valuing each member’s perspective and encouraging active participation. Empathy guided my interactions, recognizing the importance of understanding my peers’ unique strengths and aspirations. Fueled by a shared purpose, we set out to make a difference through impactful fundraisers and events. Crafting creative and compelling initiatives, we publicized our programs, inspiring our community to join us in our noble cause. I coordinated with Red Cross headquarters, advisors, school administrators, and volunteers and orchestrated annual community fundraisers that drew hundreds of attendees. Together, we raised an astounding \$2500 yearly, a testament to the power of united action and collective effort.

The heart of our endeavors was in our blood drives, where I ran and managed these life-saving events. Encouraging student and staff participation, we sought to meet the constant demand for blood donations. The impact of these events extended beyond numbers and statistics; they represented a lifeline for those in need, a gift of hope and healing.

But our journey was not confined within school walls; we sought to extend our reach to the broader community, touching the lives of those facing difficult circumstances. Partnering with a local homeless shelter, the Hope Center, we addressed their needs by volunteering and collecting canned foods, hygiene products, and toys. Witnessing the smiles of those we helped, we understood the positive effect of small acts of kindness. Compassion directed our drive, encouraging us to delve deeper into the issues faced by the marginalized and underserved.

Inspiring our members to be active agents of change became an essential facet of my leadership. Empowerment came from within, and I sought to instill in each member a sense of purpose and dedication to our humanitarian mission. By leading by example and participating wholeheartedly in our ventures, I ignited a fire of service within each member’s soul.

I learned invaluable skills that transcended the boundaries of our club. Effective communication became my most potent tool, connecting people and fostering a sense of unity. Organization and time management were pillars of our success, ensuring our campaigns ran smoothly and efficiently. Yet, in the face of challenges, I recognized my weaknesses. My sense of responsibility sometimes led me to carry an overwhelming workload, inadvertently limiting the growth and involvement of my teammates. I realized I needed to trust my team members and delegate tasks more effectively, empowering them to take ownership and responsibility. This evolution epitomized the essence of my growth mindset, where every mistake became an opportunity for learning and refinement.

I furthered my involvement and leadership by becoming the Red Cross Field Ambassador of Wisconsin, where I was given the chance to continue promoting young adult participation on a greater scale. I utilized my individual project as a way to create resources and initiatives on daunting topics for the newest Red Cross volunteers.

My Red Cross journey reflected my larger quest for personal and professional development, providing me with invaluable lessons in leadership. The ability to lead, empathize, encourage, and motivate has proven crucial in this journey. Reflecting on my path, I feel thankful for the deep imprint my experiences have left. Our Red Cross Club now represents a beacon of empathy and compassion, firmly grounded in the belief that our deeds can genuinely transform lives.



WANTED!

Young Writers & Reporters

Students in grades K-12 are invited to submit items for possible publication in an upcoming edition.

INTERVIEWS & REPORTING

About Family, Friends, Neighbors, School, Clubs, Church, Scouting, Community Service Projects, Traveling, Hobbies, etc.

SHORT STORIES & POETRY

*** about 200 words maximum ***

Email submissions as Word files to:

elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

(subject line: YOUNG WRITERS)

(Note the writer’s name, school/homeschool & grade.)



Photo courtesy: Janavi Wagle

Area residents participate in a yoga class.

International Yoga Day

By Janavi Wagle, 10th Grade – Brookfield East High School

On Saturday, June 22, residents from the Brookfield area participated in the International Yoga Day celebration at Brookfield Senior Center. The event was co-sponsored by Sewa Milwaukee and Milwaukee Nepali Pariwar. The session was led by certified yoga instructor and biomedical researcher Dr. Chintamani

Joshi. It was attended by more than thirty local residents who had the opportunity to learn yoga poses. The event focused on the basics of yoga and its benefit on the physical and mental well-being. Sewa Milwaukee successfully completed this community event with support from parents and youth volunteers.

Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

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

Make A Paper Hat!

1. Fold Newspaper in Half. (Like it comes.)
2. Fold top down to meet bottom.
3. Fold right and left sides towards the middle to form a point.
4. Open bottom, and fold bottom up on back and front.
5. You may use a piece of elastic to hold the hat in place, if needed.

Public Safety Reports

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

Multiple Dog Bite Complaints at Elm Grove Village Park

In early June the EGPD had three separate complaints of dogs biting people. Two of the three dog bites occurred in the Village Park and involved owners who left the incident and did not provide any information to the victim. Many of our dog bite complaints also involved unregistered dogs.

Other common complaints the Village has received are dogs at large, dogs off leash in the park, dogs on leashes exceeding 6 feet, and dogs in unauthorized areas of the park.

The pathways (shown in thick black) on the attached map are those where dogs are allowed. They are limited to the perimeter pathways around the park and pond. No dogs are allowed on any other pathways in the Village Park.



We appreciate your cooperation with our efforts to keep our park safe for everyone to visit and enjoy.

For additional information regarding restrictions on dogs in the park, please click on the following link. <https://elmgrovewi.org/DocumentCenter/View/253>

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.

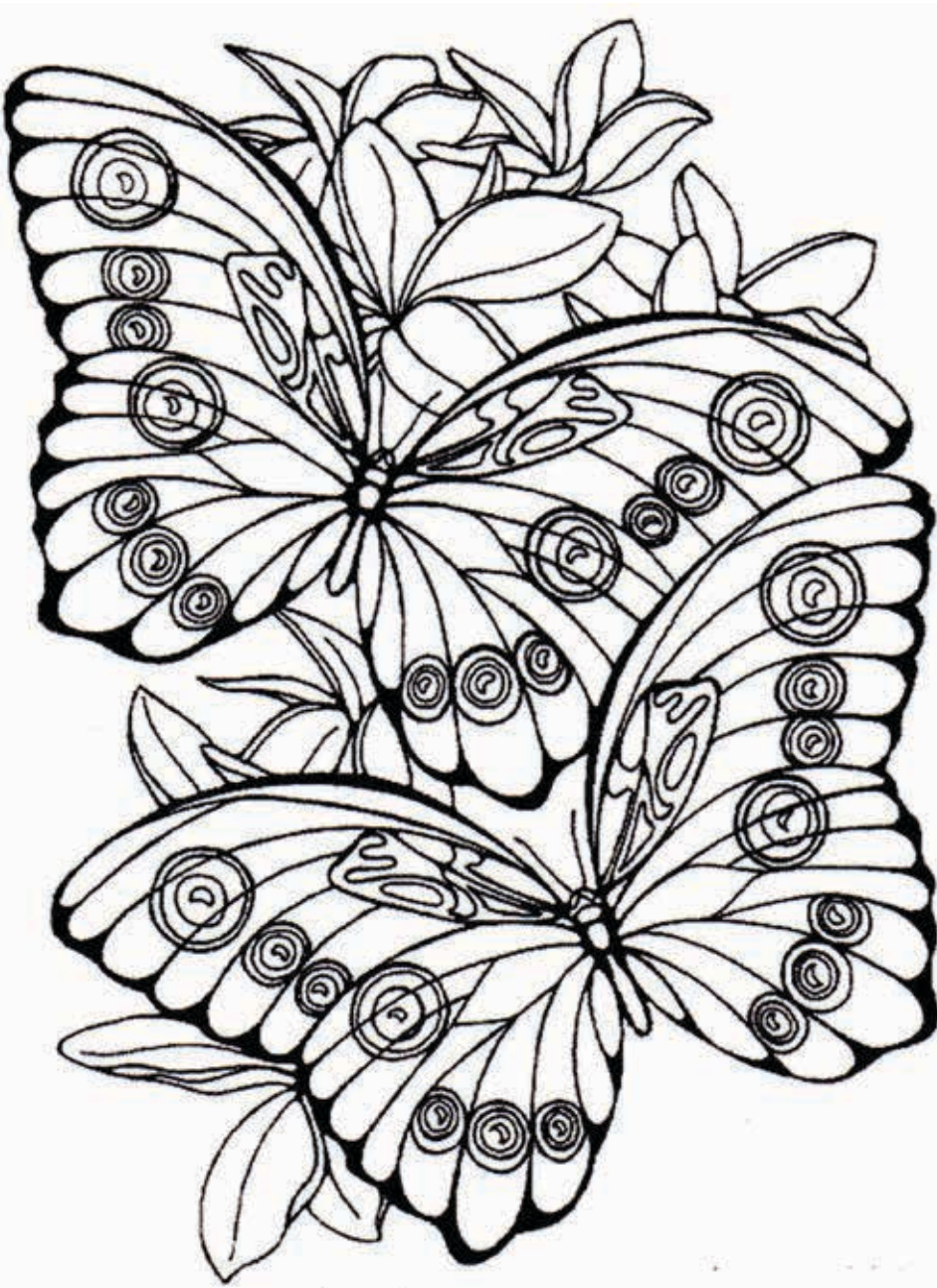
Local Sports

U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS SWIMMING

Photo Credit: Scott Ash

MAGGIE WANEZEK
Brookfield East | Class of 2024

 STUART SEYMOUR Brookfield Central Class of 2023	 LUCY THOMAS Brookfield East Class of 2023	 MICHAEL LONG Brookfield Central Class of 2022
 RESSE TILTMANN Brookfield East Class of 2023	 ABBY WANEZEK Brookfield East Class of 2022	 REILLY TILTMANN Brookfield East Class of 2021



In Memoriam

Honor the Life of a beloved family member or friend.

To place an Obituary Notice in this newspaper, e-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com or call: (262) 782-6193 for Rate information.

News Briefs



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

BEHS Scholarship winners - Row 1 (Front): Alie Hess, Callie Buczek, Emily Miner, Kathy Sun, Joshitha Senthil, Tristan Viljevac, Ella Kelsey, Hanah Kroening, Camryn Phillips, Natalie Herkowski, Anna Castello, Angelo Rosa, Ryan Brown; **Row 2 (Middle):** Camryn Hays, Savanah Matola, Mary Swietlik, Rana Essa, Suraksha Kodgi, Jackie Hicks, Cooper Schwartz; **Row 3 (Back):** Josie Matel, Kendall Wilkes, Sarah Dressler, Maggie Stapel, Ashley Bongard, Ryan Dybro, Jack Currier, Shiv Muthupandiyar, Joe Guhl, John Tsalalis, Ryan Doman, George Kotsonis.



BCBS Scholarship winners - Front row (L-R): Charlie Staves, Amelia Stalter, Angelina Casale, Colleen Durham, Grace Coraggio, Michaela Niggeman, Eden Tan, Lillian Martin, Rishika Ghosh, Tatiana Mamalakis, Abigail Walter, Sabirah Benslimane, Inzal Sharwani, Eleanor Zgonc, Linnea Weber; **Back row (L-R):** Ryan Logan, Elijah Kiel, Sirat Mokha, Yamato Tokuda, Joseph Harmeyer, Keegan Maslowski, Juan Bautista Presas, Jacob Alexander, Caden Hoffman, Zayna Gillani, Gracie Shaikh, Elia Trochelman, Sophia Hart-Liepert.

Elmbrook Education Foundation Awards Scholarships

(BROOKFIELD) – The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) is proud to award 61 scholarships, on behalf of our generous donors, to graduating seniors at Brookfield East and Brookfield Central High Schools. These scholarships are made possible through the generosity of honorary and memorial funds, community groups, businesses and school PTOs. These students exhibit not only educational excellence, but also leadership and service to their school and community.

“A very special thank you to our scholarship donors. Their generosity leaves a lasting impact on our Elmbrook students for years to come”, said **Beth Dobrzynski**, EEF Executive Director.

The EEF takes great care to select recipients that meet the criteria provided by our scholarship sponsors. More than \$1.7 million in scholarships has been awarded to our community’s graduating seniors. Students were recognized at graduation ceremonies on June 11th.

“The Elmbrook Education Foundation is inspired by the class of 2024 and privileged to be able to honor 61 graduates for their academic, athletic and community achievements. Congratulations Class of 2024! We look forward to hearing of your future successes,” said **Carrie Bown**, EEF Scholarship Chair.

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 \$1,700,000 in scholarships and more than \$745,000 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.

RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS!

Look for this recycling bin in the lobby of Sendik’s at the Park & Shop in Elm Grove.



Tell us about your **GOOD NEIGHBORS** (300 words or less)

How they help you, your neighborhood, the community (even the World at Large) and the **Good News** might be featured in an upcoming edition.

E-mail your story + a photo of your neighbor(s), if available to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: “Good Neighbors”) OR Mail it to: EGNI “Good Neighbors” 14420 Watertown Plank Road Elm Grove, WI 53122-2423.



New Emergency Contact Option for Wisconsin Drivers Announced

(MADISON) The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) will now allow Wisconsin drivers to add an emergency contact to their driver’s license record. This information will be accessible to law enforcement and will be used for notifications of emergencies. The DOT notes, “Adding an emergency contact is quick and easy. (Go to) the link below to add yours.”

<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drivs/how-to-apply/Emergency-contact.aspx>

News’ Hounds & other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Gourley

Hi there, I’m Sage, the sweetest wigglybutt you’ll ever meet! I have a special talent for stealing hearts, whether it’s dogs or people. My friendly and loving nature makes me an instant favorite with everyone I meet.

Right now, I’m undergoing treatment for heartworm, so I’m looking for a calm and quiet home where I can relax and recover. I need a loving place to rest while I finish my treatment, but don’t worry, once I’m healthy again, I’ll be ready for all the playtime and fun we can handle!

If you’re looking for a loyal and affectionate companion to brighten your days and share endless cuddles, I’m your girl. Let’s get through this together and look forward to many happy, playful days ahead!

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

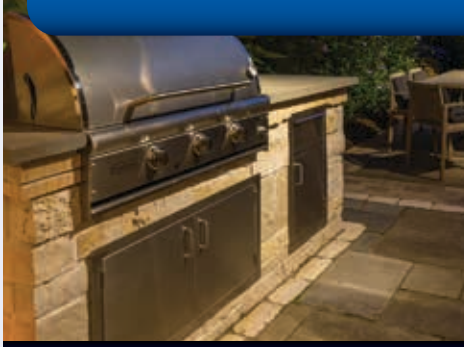


Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Sage

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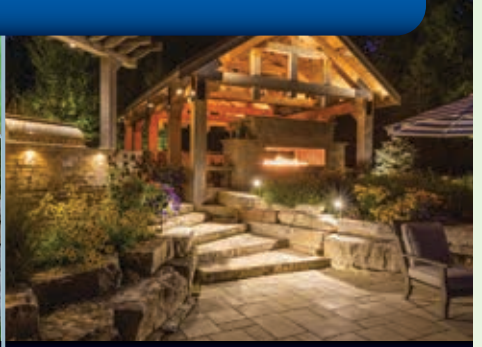
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July 4th
Word Search Puzzle

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

LIBERTY
DECLARATION
FAMILY
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NATION
SUMMER
PATRIOTISM
FREEDOM



For almost 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

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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