



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 14 No. 7

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

March 2024



On the Ballot: Election – April 2, 2024



Elm Grove TRUSTEE Candidates



Shawn HILLMANN



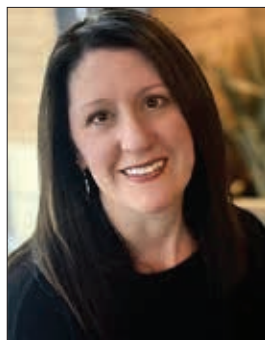
John SCHINDLER



Jennifer STUCKERT

Elmbrook SCHOOL BOARD Candidates

At-Large seat



Nicole HUNKER



Mary WACKER

Area IV seat



Jean LAMBERT



Peter MACHI

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MUSIC IN THE GROVE | **PADDYGRASS & TRINITY IRISH DANCE**

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024 - AT 6:00 PM
13885 WATERTOWN PLANK ROAD

Q & A with Trustee candidates – Page 3

School Board candidates – Page 9

*Also: An Elmbrook Parent Network School Board Candidates Survey will be published on March 8 at <https://www.elmbrookelection.org/>

Spring Election / Presidential Preference Vote

Elm Grove residents will cast their ballots on Tuesday, April 2nd (7 a.m. – 8 p.m. at Village Hall), selecting Presidential Primary candidates and electing candidates, for local, county and state-wide offices, including:

- (3) Village of Elm Grove Trustees
- (2) Elmbrook Board of Education members (Area IV Seat + At-Large Seat)
- Wisconsin Justice of the Supreme Court & Court of Appeal Judge – District II
- Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge – Branch 2 & Board Supervisor – District 12

Sample ballots will be available for review at <https://myvote.wi.gov> where voters can also sign up to receive Absentee Ballots.

SAVE THE DATE!

Elm Grove Celebrates **Earth Day & Arbor Day** APRIL 27th

See all the details in the April 2024 issue!



The Somatic Stretch Boutique

Grand Opening

March 1, 2024 - Elm Grove, WI

Experience Wellness with Personal Touch

Somatic stretching, refers to the release of muscular tension, through gentle movement and an awareness of how your muscles feel in various positions and movements. Somatic stretching, helps to strengthen the mind body connection, which can help people better manage stress and overall health.

Contact me Raul Rodriguez, somatic therapist and owner, for your **FREE** complementary somatic stretch session through March 2024 at 262-202-8443

Raul Rodriguez, Somatic Stretch Boutique Owner, DPT, CBT, CSCS



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The Elm Grove News-Independent

has been a Chronicler of Elm Grove / Brookfield / Waukesha County for more than 13 years!

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Elm Grove's Kanavas Landscape Management Celebrates 50 Years of Service

Getting to know Kanavas; a conversation with George N. Kanavas, owner and founder of Kanavas Landscape Management.



Why Landscaping?

I was inspired by my mother who was an avid gardener. I started helping her at a young age and my interest grew from there.

Did you go to school for horticulture?

Growing up, I was an enthusiastic student of horticulture, reading everything I could get my hands on. By the time I was in high school I could name practically every plant in the neighborhood and tell you what kind of care it needed. After high school, I graduated from MATC with a 2 year horticulture degree.

How old were you when you started your business?

I started out mowing lawns when I was around 12 years old...towing a lawn mower behind my bike. My mother saw the mower crash into my bike once too often and decided I needed a driver! So, in a way, she was not just my inspiration but my first employee as well.

When did you hire your first employee?

It didn't take long until I had more work than I could do myself. Customers also started asking if I was available for larger and more complex jobs such as planting, lawn care and landscape repairs. At first, I got help from my friends, but they weren't consistently available, so in 1974 at the age of 17, I officially started Kanavas Landscape Management. At that time the company consisted of 5 people including me.

What sort of resources did you have?

As I recall, between the 5 of us, we had 2 trucks and we operated out of a friend's shop on River Parkway in Wauwatosa.

And now?

We now have all the advanced equipment we need to get projects done right, including a fleet of 31 work trucks and a highly dedicated staff to keep everything running smoothly.

In 1982 we rented and later purchased the Juneau Blvd. property where Kanavas has operated from to this day. We're presently a mid-sized company; large enough to tackle ambitious projects but small enough to provide personalized care and attention to detail.

Your customer base has obviously grown over the years, but do you still service any of the properties you started off with 'back in the day'?

Actually, yes! In fact, there are quite a few 'generational' clients we've had the privilege of serving for decades. We're also extremely pleased to note that we enjoy a customer retention rate of approximately 90%.

What is your current role at Kanavas?

We've assembled a great team which allows me to confidently delegate more, but I still oversee the day-to-day operations of the company. I wear a lot of hats but am always available to employees and customers alike.

A lot of businesses don't last 50 days, let alone 50 years. To what do you attribute your success?

Hard work, perseverance, and dedicated employees all contribute to our success. However, none of it would be possible without our loyal customers.

What are the biggest changes you've seen in landscapes over the last 50 years?

There have been some especially exciting innovations in outdoor kitchens, water features, fire pits, night lighting, colorscaping and outdoor televisions; everything needed for relaxing or entertaining.

Best way to contact Kanavas for services?
kanavaslandscape.com or call 1.262.786.0050.

Any last words to the reader?
Yes. THANK YOU!

"I Know Where You Live!"



Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

We Thank these Friends of The News

- *Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove-Golden K
*Geri Fotsch
- * Elm Grove Beautification Committee
*Elizabeth & James Lange
- *Lacey, Herbie, Gus Gus & Toby
- *Bruce & Susan Davidson

for helping to Sponsor this edition.

Want to become a Friends of The News member?
Please complete the form on Page 5.



Photo courtesy School District of Elmbrook

Brookfield East Forensics Team members celebrate their award-winning performances.

Multiple Success Stories for BEHS Forensics Team

(BROOKFIELD) The Brookfield East Forensics Team won the Division III Championships at the Appleton East High School Forensics Tournament with half of their entries making it to the finals.

The team also won the Quality Award at the Greater Metro Conference Forensics Tournament in mid-February by breaking all of their entries into the finals.

Competitors brought home 9 Championships there, including Ava Hicks and Nora Brazauskas (Duo), Noah Ren (Extemp), Amoolya Mammual (Informative), Joshithal Senthil (Oratory), Sammy Ring and Violet Diderrich (Play Acting), Ambika Sundaresan (Prose),

Jake Zheng (Radio), Samika Sabesan (Solo Serious) and Isabelle Perry (Storytelling).

Second Place Wins went to Ananya Asokan (Expository), Johnny Chen (Informative), Callum Mayne (Moments in History), Laasya Ramachandrani (OIL), Hannah Yoo (Solo Humorous).

Other Spartans finalists included Ethan Zhang (Extemp), Mellynda Jia (Radio) and Elizabeth Zuniga-Meyer (Special Occasion).

Later, on February 24, they achieved a 3rd Place Win in Medium Schools at the Sheboygan South Forensics Tournament with a third of the team going to the finals.

American Association of University Women West Suburban-Milwaukee

Invites you to our

Spring Fling Style Show & Luncheon

Saturday - April 13, 2024

10:30 a.m. – Cocktails, shopping & raffles
11:45 a.m. – Lunch / 12:30 p.m. – Style Show

The Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee

- Check out the latest spring fashions
- Raise funds for local scholarships
- Support AAUW's mission to advance equity for all women.

Tickets \$75.00 / Table sponsorship available

Visit us at:

AAUW West Suburban-Milwaukee (WI)
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWMilwaukeeWestSuburban>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/89746996/admin/>



Jesus Christ SUPERSTAR

April 18 - May 5, 2024

LOVE ME DO:
Lennon & McCartney

April 22 - 23, 2024

SUNSET PLAYHOUSE

SunsetPlayhouse.com
262-782-4430

HITMAKERS & HEARTBREAKERS

May 9 - 12, 2024

Village Update

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

Welcome to March. Days are getting longer and spring is around the corner. I have seen Public Golf Courses are starting to open! It will be great to see everyone out walking and enjoying all that the Village of Elm Grove has to offer.

April election is fast approaching. Please be aware of the April election which is right around the corner. Your participation and vote is a bedrock right that everyone should exercise. As it relates to the Village, shortly after the election, volunteer committee opportunities will be open to residents to participate in guiding the direction of the community. Please express your interest to serve using the on-line form available on the Village's website: www.elmgrovewi.org



Public Works and Utilities Committee

*Highland Road Activity ---

Design work continues on the Highland pathway and storm sewer culvert. The Pathway drawings are approximately 90% complete and were reviewed in February. We expect to issue bid documents in March to move these projects forward in 2024.

*We Energies Updates ---

The January snow and ice event impacted many residents. The committee reviewed a current draft of We Energies long-term project map for the Village. Village staff will continue to meet with We Energies to monitor upcoming projects.

*Underwood Creek Daylighting ---

Details of the Project Task timeline were reviewed in preparation for a future referendum. As shared previously, the project scope and detailed engineering drawings were not sufficiently complete to bring a referendum item forward for approval on the April Ballot.

*Extended Recycling Center Hours

Please check the Village website for updated hours of operation resulting from the January storm and impact on brush and trees.

Administrative & Personnel Committee

In January, our long serving and talented Finance Director, **Monica Hughes**, informed the Village of her intent to retire in June, 2024. It has been a pleasure to work closely with Monica these last 2 years. I appreciate her personal commitment to the Village and its residents. Monica has regularly shared her experience and guidance to the Finance Committee and the Board to improve the finances of the Village and we will miss her.

In February, the Administrative and Personnel Committee approved the job description and salary range for the next Finance Director, including consideration of a Request for Proposal for Services in connection with the search. A posting of the Position will be made shortly, and please share this opening with anyone interested in this opportunity. These actions were approved by the Board of Trustees in a special meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee

The Committee has been working aggressively to finalize the contract to replace the Basketball Court in the Village Park. This work will be completed in 2024 to revitalize this amenity in the Park which has outlived its useful life.

Additionally, the Committee has been drafting a request for proposal to complete a Comprehensive Outdoor Park and Recreation Plan ("CORP"). This Plan is the basis for quantifying all the recreation facilities within the Village and provide the capability for the Village to apply for grants to further expand the resources available to residents. This is a first step in the process and the team is excited to get rolling.

Comprehensive Downtown Master Plan Activities

The Village is kicking off its update to the Comprehensive Downtown Master Plan. The Village applied for and was admitted to the Connect Communities program. As a result, the Village can utilize the resources of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation ("WEDC") to help frame the project. A kick-off meeting was held on February 23rd which included a walking tour of the Village and a presentation from the WEDC to Village and business leaders. Please stay tuned for future updates as this project.

Caroline Heights /Mandel Construction

Mandel was invited to provide an update and progress report on the project at the February Board of Trustee meeting. Residents' questions presented to Trustees will be reviewed as well as the overall timing of work on the project. Of special interest is maintaining mature trees that are to be saved on the property. For Weekly updates, please refer the Village website for updated information on the project.

As we move through March, let's celebrate the longer days of sunlight and the arrival of Spring!

On the Ballot: Election – April 2, 2024

Candidates for Elm Grove Board of Trustees

(The candidates named below are current Trustees.)
(3 seats up for Election; 2-year terms)

#1. Tell us about yourself.

***Shawn Hillman –**
My wife Stephanie and I are nineteen-year residents of the Village. We have two kids. I'm a practicing attorney.

***John Schindler –**
I grew up in Elm Grove. I'm a retired Hydrogeologist and Flight Paramedic, and I've been an active volunteer in our community for many years.

***Jennifer Stuckert –**
An Elm Grove resident for over 30 years, retired from medical sales management, I'm committed to protecting our vibrant community where we raised our children.

#2. What have you contributed to the Board and our community during this past term?

***Shawn Hillman –**
We have a very talented, committed Board and I'm grateful to have contributed my legal and business background to the Village's recent challenges. I think my ability to analyze and ask honest but difficult questions have assisted us in making complex planning decisions for the community.

***John Schindler –**
I helped create the Sustainability Committee, and as chair of the Public Works committee have overseen more pedestrian pathways built along major arterial roads. As chair of the Fire and EMS futures committee I was able to assist in stabilizing the loss of Fire and EMS personnel due to the aging out of our workforce.

***Jennifer Stuckert –**
I'm thankful and honored to represent our residents. I serve as Chair of the Administration & Personnel Committee, the Legislative Committee, and the Pathways Committee and am a member of the Building Board and Planning Committees. I introduced concept of the Village Newsletter to enhance transparency and apply fiscal responsibility in decision-making.

#3. What are the 2 most significant issues/challenges facing Elm Grove within the next 5 years? What solutions / improvements would you suggest?

***Shawn Hillman –**
It is really all about the budget – every issue we face is constrained by our very difficult budget limitations that have been exacerbated by inflationary pressure for materials and labor. A related, but distant second for me is the challenge in finding staffing in all areas – that covers general village government, emergency response, police and public works. We have to find a way to find and pay good people to provide services to the community. There are many desirable projects and initiatives we all would like to proceed on, but we need good people to make them happen.

***John Schindler –**
1 - The development of our downtown. With Lake Michigan water being available to the downtown in the near future, development will occur. We need to manage this change and balance the needs and rights of both property owners and residents to ensure we have growth that positively affects the downtown area for decades to come.

2 - Finding a long-term solution to the loss of highly trained senior personnel on EMS and Fire. As this is a nationwide problem, we have been in active discussions with surrounding communities to find a solution that is best for our unique Village.

***Jennifer Stuckert –**
First, my focus is on redevelopment of our downtown to enhance its character while preserving its unique charm. Under this umbrella, I aim to control density of new development, daylight the creek, supply municipal water to downtown, improve pathways, and preserve green space. I will continue soliciting resident input and encourage transparency to develop a plan on the Planning Committee to ensure we meet resident needs, preserve community vibrancy, and maintain its charm. Critical to this process is grant application and fiscal responsibility.

Second, I will maintain and enhance our outstanding public services (Police, Fire, EMS, Public Works, & Recreation).



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



Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy Stephen K. Hauser

Shown here in early 1990, the twin stone gates at 12600 Blue Mound Road have stood at the roadside since 1929.

“The Twin Stone Gates” on Bluemound Road

By Stephen K. Hauser

Every day, hundreds of Elmbrook area residents drive past imposing twin stone gates at 12600 Blue Mound Road on the southeastern edge of Elm Grove. Most folks probably don't give these silent sentries a second thought, but a few must wonder what they were originally for, and why they are still here. An answer requires the telling of a story nearly one hundred years old.

During the Prohibition era of the 1920s, Milwaukee restaurateur **Sam Pick** decided to open a “speakeasy”, a lounge that served illegal beer and liquor to thirsty customers. The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1920, made the manufacture, transport, import or sale of beverage alcohol a violation of federal law. This measure was particularly unpopular in Wisconsin, with an ethnic makeup dominated by Germans, Irish, Italians and Poles. Many were first- or second-generation European immigrants who served alcoholic beverages as part of life's celebrations, such as holidays, weddings, funeral wakes or even a good Friday night fish fry.

Sam Pick found a location west of the Milwaukee County line, two blocks inside of Waukesha County in the Town of Brookfield. Elm Grove and the City of Brookfield were then unincorporated portions of the township. Neither had a police department. Instead, the area was sporadically patrolled by Waukesha County Sheriff's Department deputies who could often be persuaded to look the other way when it came to the serving of illegal drinks. In fact, there were already a number of establishments all along rural Blue Mound Road doing exactly that with seeming impunity.

Pick, however, did not simply plan to build yet another tavern. Instead, he set his mind on erecting a nightclub and show lounge that would be the most beautiful entertainment venue in the Midwest. When he had finished in 1929, Pick's Club Madrid was exactly that. The entertainers were top-notch, the steaks were thick and business was good. Beer came from the (supposedly closed) Fox Head brewery in Waukesha and liquor arrived from Chicago. The infamous **Al Capone**, who owned a home several miles to the west on Brookfield Road, enjoyed several dinners at Club Madrid, as did some of his associates.

After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, Pick's Club Madrid continued on as a local dining and entertainment destination. Local celebrities could often be spotted there, including entertainers **Liberace**, **Hildegard** and band-leader **Woody Herman**. Local



Photo courtesy Stephen K. Hauser

Surrounded by debris, the old chimney from Sam Pick's Club Madrid still stood in August, 2005.

baseball players, including **Ken Keltner**, **Ralph Otto** and **Joe Hauser** stopped by, as did various radio personalities, businessmen and politicians. That all came to an end on April 9, 1953 when a fire started by a short in a wire in a neon sign instigated a blaze that destroyed the huge building. Pick decided the cost of rebuilding would prove prohibitive.

(For the full tale on Pick's Club Madrid, refer to my two-part story in the March and April, 2016 issues of *The Elm Grove News-Independent* at www.elmgrove.news. Click on Archive.)

The club's tall chimney remained standing, strong and secure, but the rest of the structure was in ruins, which remained on the property until developer **Carl Rohm** purchased the site in 1954. He built Sleepy Hollow Motel over the footprint of the club, utilizing the basement and sparing the towering chimney which he employed for his motel. He also spared the twin stone gates at the entryway. When the motel was later demolished in 2005, I contacted then-Elm Grove Village President **Susan Freedy**, requesting that the old sturdy gates be spared again. She quickly agreed, and today they guard the entrance to soccer fields and a parking lot, as well as a detention basin. I am glad they are still there, as they provide a unique character and a link to our past. If those stones could only speak, what a story they could tell.

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



Public Safety Reports

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

On **Wednesday, February 20, 2024**, at 11:42 p.m., Elm Grove Police officers responded to a suspicious vehicle complaint in the 1600 block of Longwood Ave. in the Village, after a resident observed a compact lighter-colored vehicle with a very loud exhaust circling the area. The vehicle left the area prior to our officers' arrival. Investigation determined that the vehicle occupants were involved in an attempted burglary to a construction trailer parked in the area.

This incident remains under investigation. If any residents have additional information or home surveillance video that could assist police with identifying the vehicle or its occupants, please contact **Asst. Police Chief Unger** at (262) 786-4141 or runger@elmgrovetwi.org.

Residents are reminded to remove valuables from their vehicles, always lock their homes and vehicles at night time, and make sure any exterior lights are turned on.

Business & Club Directory

* Community Organizations



Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club

Come Join with Us, Men & Women, to serve the children of our community. We meet each Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Mary's Senior Center in Elm Grove. We have stimulating speakers each week and offer socializing among all present.

See us on Facebook
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
www.kiwaniselmgrove.org

* Insurance

Woller-Anger, a Relation Company
 930 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122
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53 one 22

Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovetfoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Thank you Elm Grove Residents

The Board of the Elm Grove Community Foundation (EGCF) would like to thank all of the residents who made donations through the annual appeal campaign this winter. Your generous support allows us to fund grants for the following annual projects.

- Downtown Holiday Decorations
- EGPD Dispatch Appreciation Week
- EGPD Police Appreciation Week
- Elm Grove Public Works Appreciation Week
- Hanging Flower Baskets
- July 4th Fireworks
- July 4th Free Swim
- Tunes on Tuesday

Become an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run Sponsor

If you are interested in promoting your business to the Elm Grove community, an Oktoberfest or 0.5K Fun Run sponsorship is a great option. Your sponsorship will help us underwrite our biggest fundraiser so we can continue to enhance the quality of life in our village. We encourage you to contact us at www.elmgrovetfoundation.org/contact with any questions and to learn more about customizable sponsorship opportunities.

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 20 & 21, 2024

Calendar of Events – March 2024

Friday – MARCH 1

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH begins

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting:** 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center; Speakers: **Becky Tetzlaff**, Director of Special Projects, Elmbrook Humane Society and **Nicole Latus**, Volunteer Coordinator, Elmbrook Humane Society. Topic: "Celebrating 60 Years of Enhancing the Bond Between Humans and Animals". kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MARCH 3

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

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

Tuesday – MARCH 5

- **BLOOD DRIVE**, coordinated by Elm Grove Junior Guild and Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, 2 to 7 p.m. at Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. Set up an appointment at <https://elmgrovejuniorguild.org/blood-drives/>

Thursday – MARCH 7

- **USED BOOK SALE**, sponsored by **Friends of the Elm Grove Library**. (See AD below.)

Friday – MARCH 8

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting:** 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center; Speaker: **Suzanne Rasmussen**, Sales Director, New Perspective Senior Living – Waukesha; Topic: "Whole Person Well Being at Every Level". kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- **USED BOOK SALE**, sponsored by **Friends of the Elm Grove Library**. (See AD below.)

Saturday – MARCH 9

- **USED BOOK SALE**, sponsored by **Friends of the Elm Grove Library**. (See AD below.)

Sunday – MARCH 10

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee Invasive Species Task Force** meets at 11 a.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. beautification@elmgrove.org
- **USED BOOK SALE**, sponsored by **Friends of the Elm Grove Library**. (See AD below.)

Friday – MARCH 15

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting:** 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center; Speaker: **Johnny Koremenos**, Waukesha County Board Supervisor for District 8; Village of Elm Grove; City of Brookfield Wards 2, 7, 8, 13, 14 14. Topic: "Update on Waukesha County Government". kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MARCH 17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

Tuesday – MARCH 19

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

Thursday – MARCH 21

- **OWLS meeting** – 11:30 a.m. at Community United Methodist Church, Elm Grove; program: "Meet Mae West", presented by Martina Mathisen. www.cumceg.org/OWLS

Friday – MARCH 22

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

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)

MARCH 2024

Open Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Sunday – MARCH 24

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

Tuesday – MARCH 26

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

Friday – MARCH 29

- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K Meeting:** 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Senior Center; Speaker: **Angela Walters**, Chairwoman, Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors, Owner, Walters Realty Group at EXP Realty. Topic: "Professional Standards of Realtor Practices in the Public Interest". kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – MARCH 31

EASTER



American Association of University Women

Invites you to our Wednesday, March 13, Branch Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Social / 7:00 p.m. - Business Meeting
7:20 p.m. - Speaker

Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove

TOPIC & SPEAKER:

"Plastic: Breaking Up is Hard to Do"

Marissa Jablonski, PhD, an experienced water engineer, environmental advisor, plastics-reduction expert and Executive Director of the UWM's Freshwater Collaborative will share her passion for sustainability and living a plastics-free life.



Visit us at:

[AAUW West Suburban-Milwaukee \(WI\)](http://AAUW West Suburban-Milwaukee (WI))

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWMilwaukeeWestSuburban>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/89746996/admin/>

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QUESTIONS: E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com OR Call (262) 782-6193

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Name(s) _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

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* \$10.00 per issue x _____ issues = \$ _____
* Additional sponsorship contribution = \$ _____

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



Friends of the Elm Grove Library

37th Annual

Used Book Sale

March 7-10 2024

Elm Grove Public Library

Lower level
13600 W. Juneau Ave Elm Grove
262-786-6717



FOEGL MEMBER NIGHT

Thur. March 7: 6-9 pm

Free admission to FOEGL members, or \$10 admission at the door

OPEN TO PUBLIC No admission charge on the 8th-10th

Fri. March 8: 10am-7pm Best Selection!

Sat. March 9: 9am-5pm Half price sale!

Sun. March 10: Noon-4pm \$6 a bag sale!

Cash or checks only

Huge Selection * Special Interest Book Table * Most Items \$1- \$3

Follow us: Friends of the Elm Grove Library

News Briefs

Local Student to Participate in Bill of Rights Program

By Melissa Ericksen

Anvesha Guru, a Brookfield Academy senior, was selected as one of 25 students from around the nation to participate in the Bill of Rights Institute 2024 Student Fellowship program. The Bill of Rights Institute is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to advance civics and history education.



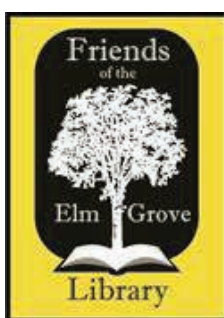
Anvesha Guru

Through its student fellowship program, cohorts of students take part in robust educational programming throughout the school year and have the opportunity to attend capstone educational trips to Philadelphia, Penn. and Washington D.C. During these trips, past Student Fellows have met with members of Congress, toured some of America's most historic sites, and even published their work in leading newspapers.

Leap into Books at the Friends of Elm Grove Library's Used Book Sale

By Janet Wintersberger

It's one of the region's largest, best organized, and friendliest book sales. Leap into the vast array of books to read or listen to; DVDs to view; music to enjoy on vinyl or CDs; and the "Special Table" of individually priced rare and unique items. Find puzzles, games, board books and more for young children and books for all ages.



Stop and shop all three-and-a-half days. Each day's schedule varies. (See AD – page 5)

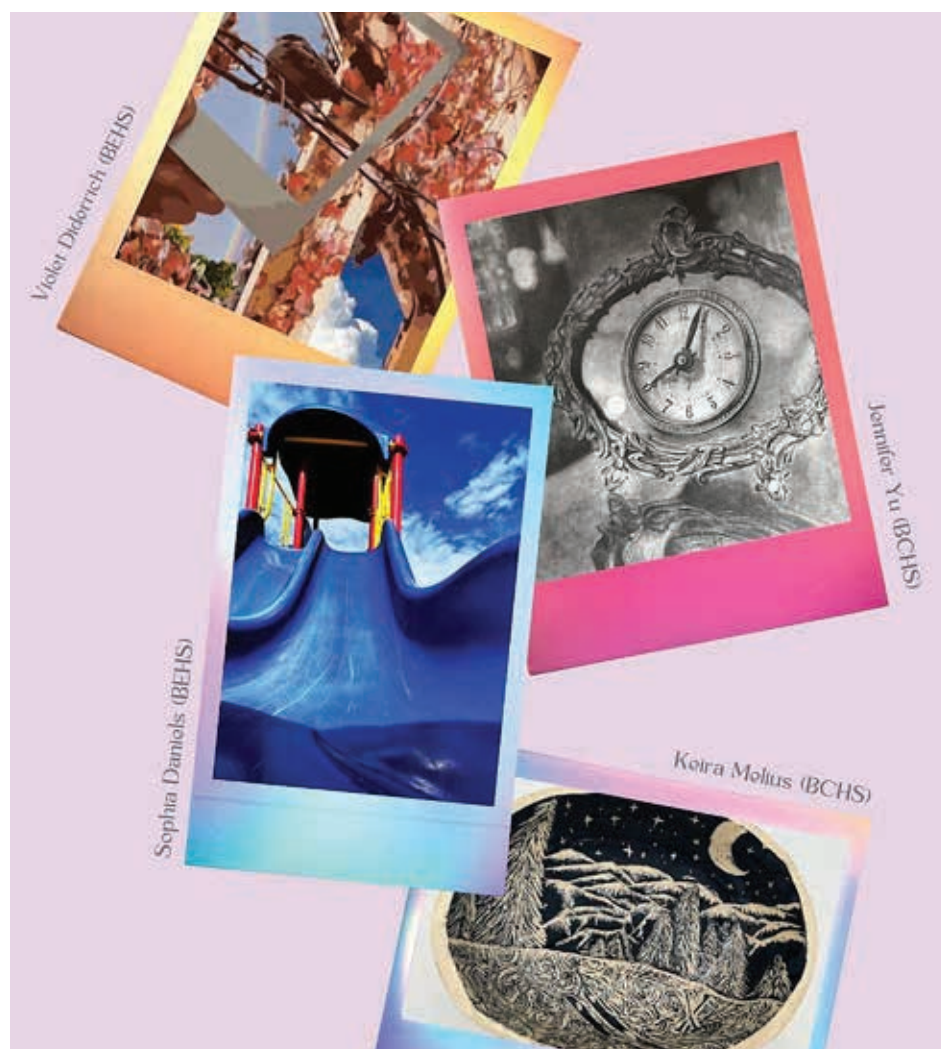
On Thursday evening, March 7, there's a pre-sale for FOEGL members (or \$10 admission at the door). You'll be first at the sale. The sale is open to the public on Friday and throughout the weekend.

On Friday, March 8, you'll find the best selection.

On Saturday, March 9, shop the half-price sale.

On Sunday, March 10 (from Noon to 4 pm), fill a full-size grocery bag for \$6. There's no limit to the number of bags.

Be sure to tell your friends, family, and neighbors. The Friends of Elm Grove Library host the sale. All proceeds benefit our community library, 3600 Juneau Boulevard, Elm Grove. (262) 782-6717. Find us on Instagram and Facebook.



Elmbrook Students Receive Scholastic Art Awards

(BROOKFIELD) The School District of Elmbrook is proud to recognize the work of student-artists from Brookfield Central and Brookfield East High Schools that have been honored by the 2024 Scholastic Art Awards.

The program acknowledges excellence in the visual arts and encourages the artistic endeavors of young people throughout the United States. The Silver Key Award denotes statewide recognition. Artworks with a Gold Key later compete for Silver and Gold Medals at the national level, in New York.

The original artworks of all regional Silver and Gold Key winners will be exhibited at the Milwaukee Art Museum from February 24 through April 7, 2024.

Gold Keys

- **Sophia Ammar** (BCHS): (2) Drawing & Illustration, Painting
- **Tanvi Bharadwaj** (BCHS): Painting, Figure Drawing
- **Sophia Daniels** (BEHS): Photography
- **Eiman Mir** (BEHS): Photography
- **Siena Stull** (BCHS): Painting
- **Jennifer Yu** (BCHS): (3) Painting, Drawing & Illustration

Silver Keys

- **Sophia Ammar** (BCHS): Painting
- **Jayden Anderson** (BEHS): Drawing & Illustration
- **Andrew Behring** (BEHS): Digital Art
- **Tanvi Bharadwaj** (BCHS): Ceramics & Glass
- **Pluto Cortazar** (BEHS): Painting
- **Katie Foley** (BCHS): Portfolio Category (Art) - AP Art Portfolio
- **Bess George** (BCHS): Sculpture
- **Alaina Gomez** (BCHS): Drawing & Illustration
- **Claire McNallie** (BEHS): Photography
- **Addie Murphy** (BCHS): Drawing & Illustration

- **Iris Ornek** (BEHS): Sculpture
- **Callie Pagel** (BCHS): (2) Drawing & Illustration
- **Aether Valmond-Blanks** (BCHS): Mixed Media
- **Stephanie VanHaren** (BCHS): Jewelry
- **Jessica Yehle** (BCHS): Jewelry
- **Jennifer Yu** (BCHS): (3) Painting

Honorable Mentions

- **Sophia Ammar** (BCHS) - Drawing & Illustration
- **Sam Anderson** (BCHS) - Drawing & Illustration
- **Tanvi Bharadwaj** (BCHS) Painting, Portfolio Category (Art)
- **Ava Burr** (BCHS): Drawing & Illustration
- **Pluto Cortazar** (BEHS): Ceramics & Glass
- **Natalie D'Amato** (BCHS): Drawing & Illustration
- **Navya Dadepogu** (BEHS): Portfolio Category (Art)
- **Violet Diederich** (BEHS): Digital Art
- **Lucie Fisher** (BEHS): Ceramics & Glass
- **Katie Foley** (BCHS): (6) Digital Art
- **Soleil Forney** (BCHS): Ceramics & Glass
- **Rachel Gasser** (BEHS): Digital Art
- **Alaina Gomez** (BCHS): (2) Ceramics & Glass
- **Braedyn Hafemann** (BEHS): Digital Art
- **Shreya Hegde** (BCHS): Drawing & Illustration
- **Ruby Himsel** (BEHS): Sculpture
- **Lari Kons** (BEHS): Sculpture
- **Amoolya Mammula** (BEHS): Sculpture
- **Keira Melius** (BCHS): Ceramics & Glass
- **Eiman Mir** (BEHS): Photography
- **Callie Pagel** (BCHS): Drawing & Illustration, Photography
- **Siena Stull** (BCHS): Drawing & Illustration
- **Paeton Ulrich** (BEHS): Printmaking
- **Maggie Wiedower** (BEHS): Digital Art
- **Jennifer Yu** (BCHS): Painting

Pre-ordering open March 4th - March 24th

Relax...

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Just Got Easier!**

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Versiti Blood Drive Scheduled

(BROOKFIELD) Local residents are encouraged to "Give the Gift of Life" during a Versiti Blood Drive to be held at Dixon Elementary School, 2400 Pilgrim Square Drive, Brookfield on April 2, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The goal is to collect 17 blood products.

Appointments can be scheduled at https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/263415



Green is Good!

Does Recycling Single-Use Plastic Bags Actually Help?

By Deb Baesemann

As your Elm Grove Green Team is learning, this is a complex question. By now you've seen the single-use plastic bag recycle bins in place around the Village. We have collected more than 700 lbs. of plastic! Our goal was to keep these bags out of our household recycling bins, trash, and environment. However, we have been astounded by the high volume we've collected each week.

Recycling plastic is an imperfect solution. Recycling gives us all the false sense that there's no harm. However, many plastic items are not actually recyclable, and the process of recycling can release toxic chemicals in the air. Plastic in the landfills ends up in our food and water. Therefore, making a real difference depends on reducing and ending our use of plastic bags. This means **Refusing** single-use plastic bags. If you already have some, **Reuse** them - at the store, around the home - the options are endless. But don't take more or buy new!

Bottom line - we encourage you to stop using new single-use plastic bags. Here's how you can do that:

- Say no thanks to plastic bags at store checkouts.
- Look for items that are not in plastic packaging. Grape bags, for example, are not recyclable.
- Keep your reusable bags in your car/next to your door so you bring them when you shop anywhere.
- If you forget your reusable bags, fear not! Simply carry your loose items and remember your reusable bags next time.

Changing habits isn't always easy! But it's worth the effort.

Waste Warriors: 15225 Briaridge Court, 12900 Dunwoody Drive, 1925 Hawthorne Drive

It's Time to Get Ready for Garlic Mustard Season!

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Have you ever experienced the deep satisfaction that results from pulling garlic mustard when it comes out root and all? If not, this is your year! We are calling on all residents to help Elm Grove bring home the SEWISC (Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium) annual Garlic Mustard Pull-a-thon traveling trophy!


Each spring, Pull-A-Thon Teams form throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. A trophy and bragging rights will be awarded to the team that pulls the most garlic mustard/dame's rocket and pulls in the most donations by June 30.

The pull-a-thon is a competition and a way

for people to join together to impact their environment positively. Our natural areas need your help to avoid the damage that invasive species cause.

Please consider joining our team—you can participate in one of our organized pulls or work on your own and submit your totals via an easy, Google form on the village website (<https://elmgrovetwi.org/707/Invasive-Species-Task-Force>). Submissions can be by volume or weight pulled—no amount is too small!

For more information, or with any questions, please reach out at EGBeautification@gmail.com.



Library News and Programs

March 2024

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

Cuba After Castro / Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.

Elm Grove resident Dr. Raul Galvan discusses Cuba after the death of Fidel Castro, and the precarious economic state the island finds itself. Galvan will also talk about the 60+ year economic embargo facing the island, as well as Cuba's inclusion into the US's Lists of State Sponsors of Terrorism, two key components of the US's Cuba Foreign Policy.



Galvan was born in Cuba and has been there twice in the last 6 months. He teaches Latin American and Caribbean Studies and is retired from Milwaukee PBS, where he worked for 19 years. He's lived in Elm Grove since 2001.

Maximize Your Medicare Benefits / Thursday, March 14, 1:00 p.m.



Learn about your Medicare options. This presentation will provide an overview of Medicare Parts A, B, C and D as well as supplemental insurance and an explanation of how they fit together. Presented in conjunction with the ADRC of Waukesha County and GWAAR (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.). Advance registration appreciated at elmgrovelibrary.org.

Meet Marie Antoinette / Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.

The Queen of France visits the library to talk about her life, loves, and intrigues. History comes to life in the character of Marie Antoinette, who engages the audience with a costumed first-person narrative for an interactive presentation. Dramatist Martina Mathisen will reveal the truth behind this very much misunderstood queen, from a teen bride enveloped in pure opulence to the most hated woman in France. What actually happened? Shall she live, or shall she die? This time you will decide her fate. Free to attend. Because space is limited, advance registration is required at elmgrovelibrary.org.



Winter Reading Challenge – Final Month

Pick up your reading card at the Elm Grove Library to begin. Nine hours of reading equals one prize entry. Return your completed cards to the library and place in the prize box. No entry limit! The deadline to enter is March 18, and four lucky winners will receive a \$50 gift card to Half Price Books! Open to ages 16+. Sponsored by the Friends of the Elm Grove Library.

Eclipse Glasses Available

Get ready for the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8! Beginning March 1, free eclipse glasses will be available at the library information desk upon request. Because supply is limited, there will be a strict limit of two pairs of glasses per requestee. While supplies last





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- Insect/Grub Control
- Bush/Shrub Trimming
 - Core Aeration
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- Fine Turf Mowing
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Word Search

Easter



EASTER
APRIL
CHOCOLATE EGG
CHICKS
SPRING
BASKET
EGG HUNT
BUNNY
GRASS
SUNDAY
LILY
HOLIDAY



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Spring is coming... **ADVERTISE!**

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On the Ballot: Election – April 2, 2024



Candidates for Elmbrook Board of Education

Each Board member represents the entire district. Residents can vote for one candidate for each seat. Three-year terms.

#1. Discuss your background, education, occupation, years in Elmbrook District, family.

==== **AT LARGE SEAT** ====

• Nicole L. Hunker -
My husband, children, and I moved to Brookfield in 2020 in large part for the schools. I worked as an ICU nurse for 14 years, now as a Cardiology Nurse Practitioner. BSN: UW-Milwaukee; MSN: UW- Madison.

• Mary Wacker -
• Elmbrook resident 1959 – 1977, 1988 - 2024
• B.A. in Speech and Theatre Education and M.A. in Communication, Marquette University
• Communication Director at Swingtide, Inc. Past employment: Forensics coach at Brookfield East H.S., preschool director, school librarian, university instructor and recruiter.

==== **AREA IV SEAT** ====

• Jean Lambert -
• Married to Roger; 7 children
• Elmbrook Resident 49 years
• RN with an MBA Marquette University
• Employed large local health system: clinical/financial data analytics
• Current board member 15 years; elected by peers to board officer roles 11 of the 15 years

• Peter Machi -
• Tech entrepreneur, attorney
• First moved to Elmbrook in 1998
• Married a teacher
• Father to four children, aged 10 and under
• Since 2008, represented, in court, the best interests of hundreds of individuals with special needs

#2. What has motivated you to run for election / reelection? What are your qualifications to be a board member?

==== **AT LARGE SEAT** ====

• Nicole L. Hunker -
I am driven by the belief that every student deserves the opportunity to thrive academically, develop critical thinking skills, and cultivate a passion for lifelong learning. Being a parent to 3 children in this district enhances my drive to assure a bright and successful future.

• Mary Wacker -
As a district student, parent, grandparent, educator, and active citizen, I bring a lifetime of service to this job. I am ready on day one to work collaboratively in a climate of mutual trust to sustain our excellent public schools and serve every child, because great public schools benefit everyone.

==== **AREA IV SEAT** ====

• Jean Lambert -
During my board service this past 15 years, Elmbrook has risen to the #1 public school district in Wisconsin 5 years running and #42 nationwide. My key focus areas are:
• Reading and math proficiencies
• Rising healthcare expenses
• Declining applicant pool for teaching positions
• Facilities decisions
• Potential future superintendent selection

• Peter Machi -
This is my home. My children are growing up as part of the Elmbrook community. Elmbrook schools impact our community far beyond classroom walls; they shape the fabric of our society. To sustain excellence, we need innovation expertise, and we must fill legal and other talent gaps on the board.

#3. Identify a significant issue facing the district within the next 3 years. What solutions / improvements would you suggest?

==== **AT LARGE SEAT** ====

• Nicole L. Hunker -
It continues to be of concern, the minimal improvement in our district ELA proficiency over the past years. I propose a shift in emphasis by reducing the reliance on technology at the elementary level. Instead, let's focus on traditional strategies such as handwriting, phonics, and in-classroom reading aloud to foster more profound reading comprehension. While acknowledging the value of technology, it's essential to strike a balance by weighing the risks against the benefits.

• Mary Wacker -
Public schools have a primary goal: to open the doors and welcome every child to a top-notch education on the road to healthy adulthood and responsible citizenship. The shrinking pool of teacher candidates is one of several significant challenges Elmbrook faces in the next few years. We must make a priority of recruiting, retaining, and respecting our teachers and staff if we want to maintain and improve our excellent public schools.

==== **AREA IV SEAT** ====

• Jean Lambert -
As is common in districts across Wisconsin, Elmbrook's forecast is projecting budget challenges on the horizon. We need to ensure optimal facilities utilization, healthcare expense management, and staff retention with a focus on respect for administrators and educators and a competitive compensation system. Elmbrook currently has a team of extraordinary leaders and staff. As a governance team, the board needs to set clear strategy and KPIs, then defer to the experts to make it happen.

• Peter Machi -
Since 2016, our district's DPI report cards have fallen 1.7% in reading and 6.2% in math. We must turn these scores around quickly. Globally it's predicted that 800 million jobs will be displaced by artificial intelligence and 97% will require digital skills. Before 2016, math scores were 99.6%! Let's reclaim that excellence! We have a history of greatness, especially in STEM. We must increase offerings for artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies.

#4. If you have children, at which school(s) do or did they attend grades K-12?

==== **AT LARGE SEAT** ====

• Nicole L. Hunker -
All of our children attend Elmbrook District schools. Out of respect for their privacy, I prefer not to specify which schools they attend.

• Mary Wacker -
I have three grown daughters who attended Tonawanda, Pilgrim Park, and Brookfield East HS. I now have two grandchildren attending Dixon.

==== **AREA IV SEAT** ====

• Jean Lambert -
Most of the Lambert children attended and graduated from Swanson, Wisconsin Hills Middle School and Brookfield Central High School.

• Peter Machi -
All of my school-aged children attend public school. I have a first, third, and fourth grader.

#5. Discuss your current and past involvements with the School District of Elmbrook. In which projects and school activities have you participated / volunteered and when?

==== **AT LARGE SEAT** ====

• Nicole L. Hunker -
Due to the unavailability of volunteer options in the first years we lived here and my current work schedule, I have not had the opportunity to volunteer in person. My husband and I support school fundraisers monetarily.

• Mary Wacker -
• 1988-2008: Room parent, Brownie leader, Friends of Fine Arts Treasurer, NHS Advisor, choir trip chaperone, fundraiser, Swanson/Wisconsin Hills Task Force, Gifted and Talented planning committee, interview team member for administrators.
• 1991-2012: Coach of the award-winning BEHS Forensics and Debate teams.
• 1988-2024: Tireless advocate for students.

==== **AREA IV SEAT** ====

• Jean Lambert -
• Board of education service – 2009 to present
• Room parent Swanson Elementary
• 8th grade graduation planning team WHMS
• Project graduation BCHS
• Led a Girl Scout Troop and Cub Scout Den of Elmbrook students for 11 and 4 years respectively
• Served as team manager for many Elmbrook students' sports teams

• Peter Machi -
Did you know virtual learning was patented? As the licensing director for the organization that held that patent, I was intimately involved in the decision not to enforce the patent so that the technology could freely grow. Zoom uses this technology. Elmbrook's virtual learning was made possible through that decision.

#6. How will you, as a board member, work to ensure that students (of ALL races and ethnic backgrounds, and those who identify as LGBTQIA+) feel like they belong, feel safe, and are not marginalized in our schools?

==== **AT LARGE SEAT** ====

• Nicole L. Hunker -
All students and staff should be showing kindness to those around them. Bullying issues need to be addressed swiftly and appropriately by the school staff. All schools and grounds should be considered a safe area for students, staff, and community.

• Mary Wacker -
We must model and teach cooperation, respect, and mutual trust. In public schools, we welcome every child. Every child deserves a safe environment to learn and succeed on their journey to healthy adulthood and responsible citizenship. That is our job.

==== **AREA IV SEAT** ====

• Jean Lambert -
The Board sets and expects adherence to policy with respect to non-discrimination, anti-harassment and bullying. Further, the Board sets the tone with District Leadership for belonging, safety and non-marginalization with the expectation that it will permeate the organization.

• Peter Machi -
Protecting human dignity drove me to represent marginalized individuals as an attorney. I believe board members should support and encourage everyone in grounding Elmbrook education in a culture of respect for every person. Bullying, including cyberbullying, must not be tolerated.

#7. What is your position regarding the banning of certain books/materials in Public School libraries? For or against? Why?

==== **AT LARGE SEAT** ====

• Nicole L. Hunker -
Assuring age-appropriate content is accessible our school libraries is not banning books. Rather it's about ensuring the books and materials provided in our schools are suitable for their intended audience.

• Mary Wacker -
A great deal of care and expertise goes into building the collection in our school libraries. I trust our library teams and oppose censorship. It is not the role of the school board to micromanage the library collection.

==== **AREA IV SEAT** ====

• Jean Lambert -
Board should set a books/materials acquisition policy that addresses acquisition/distribution of age-appropriate materials and clearly states that parents decide for their children the materials available to them. A process should be set for complaints to be made. Elmbrook has both.

• Peter Machi -
We have an abundant collection but recently books not following policy were added. This shouldn't happen. I aim to keep an abundance of choice while ensuring materials are age appropriate and align with the curriculum laid out by the board.



Young Writers & Reporters

Youth STEM Scholars

By Samika Sabesan

11th Grade – Brookfield East High School

Science is everywhere. It makes up every part of our living environment, including ourselves, which is why I believe that science should be a fundamental part of every child's learning experience. This belief led me to start Wisconsin's student-led organization called Youth STEM Scholars, a club dedicated to promoting STEM experiences to young audiences ages 5-11. Led by passionate high-school leaders, our club works with elementary-level children and conducts experiments such as balloon-powered cars, sustainable life rafts, and marshmallow towers. Through these various experiments, club leaders were able to incorporate scientific lessons such as buoyancy and sustainability in order to promote scientific discoveries on a deeper level. One of the organization's key targets is to bridge the gender gap in the STEM field and by promoting a welcoming and collaborative environment, both young boys and girls work with one another to develop experimental designs, and efficiently hypothesize and carry out solutions to problems.

Youth STEM Scholars has been described by parents as a "rewarding, engaging, quality experience firmly rooted in science" and by hosting a youth-led summer camp in June, Youth STEM Scholars aims to continue to empower the next generation of scientists and mathematicians one experiment at a time.

Mr. Jamie,

Our Tonawanda Hero

By Xander Kehr, Marlowe Klement & Lucy McWey, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

We chose Mr. Jamie as our Tonawanda hero because he inspires us to work harder. While he was in the United States Air Force, he worked hard to save the lives of other people.

Mr. Jamie is also quite the fan of saying, "Here you go!" when he gives us something, which is actually pretty often because he is super generous.

Mr. Jamie is special and kind. We are so thankful to have him here at Tonawanda!

First Time in a Tent

By Auggie Anton, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Once I was at school I was waiting and waiting. I couldn't wait to go camping. Finally, it was time to go.

First, my mom quickly picked up my brothers Will and Louie. We were so excited. Second, we drove back home so we could get ready. We started to drive there but I was worried about my dog because it was 3 hours before we would get there. "When will we get there?" I asked. "Fifteen more minutes," my Dad yelled. "Ok," I said.

We were so excited, we were there! I could barely wait to see the campsite. The campsite was so cool. It was down a little hill. On the other side was a river and a waterfall. When we are done unpacking, I asked my dad, "can I go fishing in the river?" He said no because he was so tired.

It became dinner time so my mom and dad decided to take us to a bar that they have been to. When we were there, we watched the Packer game and got hamburgers.

Next, we went back to our campsite, we watched a movie and went to bed. The next morning my mom and dog went on a walk and my brothers (Will and Louie), my Dad and I went fishing. It was a good idea that my dad brought his boat with us so we could go deeper out into the water. We didn't catch anything that night.

That night we all had bad sleep. The next morning, we went fishing but we didn't catch anything the rest of the day. We still had fun. The next 2 days were fun, too. Then one day I woke up and went fishing in the river and caught a northern pike. On the last day we had to go. Camping was so fun!

The Mascots of March

By Abigail Davidson and Evelyn Hermsen

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Scurrying around on their little feet,
their mission to find gold
is almost complete.
They are very small,
and dressed in all green,
they are very tricky, and clever,
and yet to be seen.

They hide in tree trunks, flowers and pots,
They like to hide gold; lots and lots.
They travel on rainbows,
They jump high and low.
They leave you candy so all will know,
they are leprechauns
and they are here to say...

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!

Saint Patrick's Day

By Giselle M., 4th Grade- Tonawanda

Four leaf clovers are lucky
hear leprechauns running in fear
Running from what you ask
people who seek the gold they have
no one has caught these little creators yet
but maybe your trap
will have a little more snap.

March

By Hudson R. and Eli R.

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Marvelous weather
Amazing stuff
Rainy days
Cheerful
Happy people

March

By Sophie, Alexandra and Joy

4th Grade - Tonawanda

March is here
Oh, how much cheer
Green clovers sprouting
Naughty leprechauns shouting
Leprechauns are here and running in fear
Spring is now here
It's the best time of year

March Fun

By Norah Daniels, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

Monarch Butterflies
Acting Crazy
Robins Chirping
Chasing Leprechauns
Hanging up Traps

March

By Giselle and Dani, 4th Grade-Tonawanda

March is the time of year
when leprechauns are skipping in cheer
They steal your coins
And give you candy
One of these days it will come in handy.
It's only a fair trade for the leprechauns tho.

Spring

By Grace and Dani

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Sun is shining bright
Pretty flowers are blooming
Rainbows are appearing
I love spring so much
New spring every year
Growing flowers for the honey bees

Our Hero, Mrs. Gray

By Robin Cervero Vrab, Cece Ratajczyk & Aarna Kulkarni, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Mrs. Gray is our Tonawanda hero. She does many things. She volunteers to be a sub for teachers. For example, she subbed for Ms. Watenpuhl. She is a great helper.

She directs people. For example, she goes on the announcements and tells everyone what is expected for the day. She makes people proud and happy. She handles things nicely.

There are many ways that Mrs. Gray helps us. We should all be grateful for her. Thank you, Mrs. Gray for being our hero!



Your Earth

By Kavya Sanathanar

7th Grade,

Pilgrim Park Middle School

Small buds slowly bloom
in the warmth of spring forth,
It cradles us in its open arms,
engulfing us in a beautiful Light
shone for a season solely for Us;
The rare spring rain,
refreshing to the touch,
we Dance in the rain
Never ending Happiness
we reside from the depths
of our Huts,
as vegetation reappears once more
A new Year,
a beautiful Life;
Saltation of sand over the shallow water,
bouncing light off one another,
winter lacking the fount of Spring
In the darkness,
amidst the rays of moonlight
Viewing the mountains
reigning snow up north
The warmth
defrosts the Cold hearts
of deer
Their peculiar eyes
staring at you, wide
Pale tan dots
cover their fair brown coat
In the woods,
they dash happily
As the sun shone brightly in their
Homes
Where is Home
is never a question to ask
when you're standing right in front of it
On top of it
Where the sun Shines brightly,
awaiting your arrival once more
on this grassy field
Children run around happily,
swinging around with cheerful smiles
On this spherical life-filled destiny,
your Smile
is just as bright as the Sun
through the slightly chilly
Spring
Your Earth

How to Draw a Marvelous Bunny

By Aarna Kulkarni, 3rd Grade-Tonawanda

Are you just OK at drawing bunnies but you want to be great? I got you! I will teach you how to draw a marvelous bunny, in five easy steps! What you will need: colored pencils, eraser, pencil, crayons, paper.

* Step 1: Chin - First, draw the chin round and smooth with a pencil. Then, carefully add the head in the middle because later we will sketch the body.

* Step 2: Then sketch the ears wisely and carefully. Now, color the ears any shade of pink. Pro tip: Make it as even as possible-nothing is perfect!

* Step 3: Drawing the mouth is really easy. First, decide where the mouth will go. You'll probably want it in the middle of the face. Next draw a line curving up and do the same thing on the other side. PRO TIP: Draw the nose if you want.

* Step 4: Eyes - Now it is time to draw the eyes. They can be glittery or plain. (The plain will look a little creepy) but it's great if you want to draw a creepy rabbit. The eyes should be above the nose on either side.

* Step 5: Body - It's time for fur (the hard part). Make a circle on the right touching the head. Next draw arms stretching but not quite touching the head. PRO TIP: Add coloring to spice it up!

Conclusion: Congratulations you have passed drawing a bunny! Now show you artwork to the world! YOU have successfully completed this how to DRAW a MARVELOUS BUNNY!

Team Alpha Geek

By Nandana Pramod and Sara Asad

We are Team Alpha Geek, you may remember us from the October 2023 newspaper (Young Writers – Page 9) and the February 2024 issue (Page 11).

We are an FLL (FIRST® Lego League) Challenge Team of 5th, 6th, and 7th graders from Burleigh Elementary and Pilgrim Park Middle School (**Zaynab, Vibha, Lincoln, Nandana, Sara, Akshaya, Liam, Hugo, Owen**). Every year FLL shares a theme, this year the theme was "how can we spread a hobby that we love to do?" The hobby we chose is geocaching, an outdoor scavenger hunt where you search for caches other people have hidden. Our team won the Wisconsin State Championship, and we will be representing the state of Wisconsin at the FIRST® World Championship in Houston, Texas.

*Sharing our solution ---

We created a Geocaching Story Quest at Elm Grove Village Park which consists of 8 caches and multiple audio tracks to listen to while finding the caches. In our family-friendly Story Quest, you travel through magical kingdoms in search of sword pieces. When they are reunited you can defeat the evil dragon Geopoxe. After many rigorous months of writing stories and recording audio tracks, our Story Quest is finally ready!! For more information, please visit our website!!

<https://sites.google.com/elmbrookstudents.org/team-alpha-geek>



Mrs. Bond is a Hero!

By Bennett Schulta, Jacob Zechlinski & Jack Welsh, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

We think Mrs. Bond is a hero. She is helpful, understanding and respectful.

She is always making stuff fun and educational. She does not overwork us and lets us stop if we need a break. We really think that Mrs. Bond is a Tonawanda hero. She inspires us to try our best!

Winter Days in the Cabin

By Ellen Cordell, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

One cold winter day in Wisconsin, I looked out the window of the cabin. I lived with Ma, Pa, my big sister Callie, my little sister Tilly, my pet bunny Poppy, and my good 'ole bulldogs Joan and Jilly.

"Dinner time," called Ma. For dinner Ma made bread with strawberries. Yum! When everyone was seated Pa said that he would be going to Grandpa's house. When dinner was over Ma told Callie and me to get in bed. "Winter is coming, we need to get ready for it tomorrow," said Ma.

The next morning, I looked out the window. "Wow," I murmured to myself. A thick blanket of fresh snow covered the prairie fields. "Girls late last night your father and I gathered up corn, berries, and bread," said Ma.

Later that night at dinner time Pa was not there. I was feeling frantic inside. What if Pa was missing, I worried to myself. Ma started to get worried too. "Jilly Joan go and find Pa," she gave the dogs Pa's pillow to sniff and 3 seconds later they dashed out the door to find Pa, I started to cry. Pa was missing. After dinner, I heard a knock knock, knock at the door. I raced to the door but Callie beat me to it. Callie opened the door to what to my watering eyes should appear but Pa was standing there, "Pa" I said. "Pa!" everyone said.

After everyone was settled around the fire Pa told us about what happened. He explained that he tripped on a stump and couldn't walk. He got stuck in the snow. Grandpa heard Pa's calls of help and brought him to his house. Then the dogs helped him walk back home. Everyone hugged. Pa was back home.

News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary Club

Rotarian **Jack Nelson** stands with Scholarship winner **Maya Pagel**.

Elmbrook Rotary Names ‘First Responder’ Scholarship Recipient

In 2020, Rotarian **Jack Nelson** spearheaded, along with fellow member **Dan Roads**, the creation of the Elmbrook Rotary First Responder Scholarship in recognition of retired Elm Grove Fire Chief **William “Bill” Selzer’s** years of service. This scholarship provides a full-time student with \$1,000 towards tuition in Protective Services studies at the college level. The recipient is eligible

for an additional \$1,000 for their second year of coursework.

At a recent meeting, **Maya Pagel** was awarded the scholarship by Nelson and Selzer.

The Rotary noted: “Congratulations Maya, and the best to you in your quest in becoming a fire service professional.”

Elmbrook Students Take Top Spots in History, Geography and Science Bees

(BROOKFIELD) International Academic Competitions (IAC) hosted Wisconsin Regional competitions for History Bee, Geography Bee, and Science Bee at Brookfield Central High School on January 27. Several Students from the Elmbrook Schools across all grade levels participated in this tournament with great enthusiasm.

The national competition will be held in Orlando, Florida in May 2024. Details of the students who won prizes and qualified for nationals are as below (by competition/grade level):

Science Bee Winners & National Qualifiers (by Grade):

- **Sixth Grade:** **Youssef Abdelkader** (Pilgrim Park Middle School), 2nd Place
- **Fifth Grade:** **Anirudh Sai Muralidharan** (Brookfield Elementary), 1st place; **Cameron Drees** (Dixon), 2nd place; **Saranya Bhagavatula** (Burleigh), 3rd place Other 5th Grade finalists (qualified for Nationals) **Prapya Pattnaik** (Swanson); **Micah Sayner** (Dixon), **Krishna Karody** (Swanson) & **Sanvi Thakur** (Dixon)
- **Fourth Grade:** **Pradyumna Rao** (Swanson), 2nd Place; **Abhishikth Vinod** (Swanson), 3rd place Other 4th grade finalists (qualified for Nationals): **Shayna Luthra** (Brookfield Elementary); **Philip Choi** (Swanson)
- **Third Grade & Under:** **Iris Wang** (Brookfield Elementary), 1st place **Sritha Bhagavatula** (Burleigh), 2nd place

History Bee Winners & National Qualifiers (by Grade):

- **Eighth Grade:** **Joseph Lawlor** (Wisconsin Hills Middle School), 2nd Place
- **Seventh Grade:** **Caleb Stiles** (Wisconsin Hills Middle School), 1st Place
- **Fifth Grade:** **Micah Sayner** (Dixon), 1st place; **Prapya Pattnaik** (Swanson), 2nd place; **Prisha Gupta** (Burleigh), 3rd place
- **Fourth Grade:** **Alishba Asghar** (Swanson), 1st place; **Ayaan Agarwal** (Swanson), 2nd place

Geography Bee Winners & National Qualifiers (by Grade):

- **Seventh Grade:** **Raghavan Arunkumar** (Pilgrim Park Middle School), 1st place; **Caleb Stiles** (Wisconsin Hills Middle School), 2nd Place; **Rayhan Kamal** (Wisconsin Hills Middle School), 3rd Place
- **Fifth Grade:** **Micah Sayner** (Dixon), 2nd place; **Brady McGuire** (Dixon), 3rd place
- **Fourth Grade:** **Noah George** (Burleigh), 1st place; **Ayaan Agarwal** (Swanson); 3rd place; **Ved Agarwal** (Swanson), Finalist & qualified for Nationals
- **Third Grade and Under:** **Shuban Chintalapati** (Burleigh), 1st place **Anwita Singh** (Burleigh), 2nd place



News’ Hounds

& other beloved animals

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Gourley

Hi! I’m **Mocha Cookie Crumble**! I am a shy guy and am adjusting to all things around me. Please go slow and be patient with me! I do enjoy treats and playing with mice toys (but most likely wait until you are not looking) I would love to come out of my shell and flourish in a nice quiet home. Am I the right kitty for you? Meet me today at Elmbrook!

To help continue their socialization and learn proper manners, we recommend adopting kittens in pairs. Follow the link for more information: <https://ebhs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Adopting-Kittens-In-Pairs-12-2017.pdf>

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



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Mocha Cookie Crumble

Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

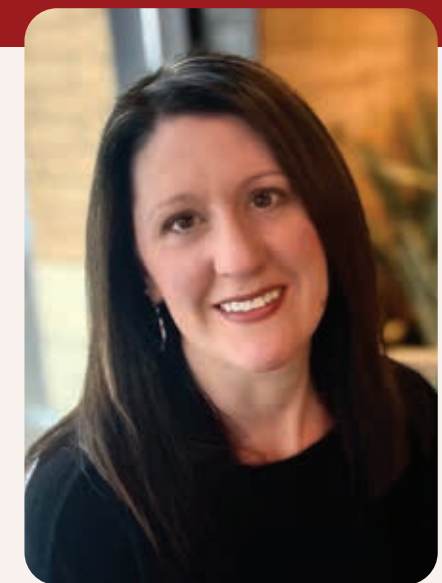
*E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Letters to the Editor)



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APRIL 2ND VOTE

SEE PETER'S CANDIDATE Q&A IN THIS ISSUE!

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*Messaging and data rates may apply. Paid for by Peter for Elmbrook