



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 9 No. 7

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

September 2021

Our 11th Anniversary Edition!

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



Photo by S. Mariel Kreuziger, SSND

School Sisters of Notre Dame congregate along Watertown Plank Road in Elm Grove during a Japanese Lantern Event held in remembrance of the American bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II (August 1945).

(See Letters to the Editor – Page 10.)



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

A quartet of local men take the stage during the Elm Grove Community Foundation's first Oktoberfest event on October 8, 2016 at Village Park. The traditional German competition called Masskruggstemmen challenged participants to see who could hold glasses filled with beer the longest.

Oktoberfest Expands to Two Days of Fun

By Ted Wentzel

Elm Grove's biggest party is back, and we've upgraded it to a two-day event this year. The Annual Elm Grove Community Foundation Oktoberfest, presented by Annex Wealth Management, kicks off in Elm Grove Park on Friday, September 17 at 5 p.m. with a ceremonial keg tapping, German and local beers, live music by Julien Kozak, and a fish fry!

The party doesn't stop there. On Saturday, September 18 at 3:30 p.m. we pre-party with the 0.5K Fun Run, also presented by Annex Wealth Management. Official Auto Sponsor, Uptown Motors will provide a pace car to keep those boozy 'runners' on the course from Premier 0.5K Fun Run sponsor, O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, to the park.

The 'race' finishers will jump start the Oktoberfest celebration, which will offer local and German beer options in the Leinenkugel's Beer Tent, authentic live German music by the Jeff Winard Band on the Honest Teeth Alpine Yodeler Stage, delicious food from food trucks including Hue Asian Kitchen, Nothing Bundt Cake and others, and fun activities including Raise Your Pint, Hammerschlagen, and a lederhosen/dirndl contest. The Foundation is honored to be a small part of keeping Elm Grove a special place. 2021 will be the 3rd year for the 0.5K Fun Run and the 5th year for Oktoberfest.

Safety is our top priority so Uptown Motors will be providing a complimentary shuttle from satellite parking lots to O'Donoghue's Irish Pub beginning at 1:40 p.m. and to and from the park after the race finishes. Pick-ups will occur approximately every 15 minutes.

Admission to Oktoberfest is FREE! With big tents on hand for the beer, food, and entertainment, Oktoberfest will take place rain or shine... and with neither the Badgers nor Packers playing home games, the Community Foundation hopes to see all Elm Grove residents down at the park for Oktoberfest! For more information, please visit www.elmgrovefoundation.org.

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Elm Grove Woman’s Club to Publish New Village Directory

(ELM GROVE) Following a “COVID-compelled” hiatus, a 2022 – 2023 edition of the traditional *Elm Grove Village Directory* is underway. Published every two years by the Elm Grove Woman’s Club, the comprehensive directory is distributed free of charge to the more than 2,800 residents and 400 businesses in Elm Grove. Both groups are listed both alphabetically and by street address.

Elm Grove residents and businesses can anticipate a September mailing requesting residence and contact status for new residents as well as for listing changes and corrections. To ensure its historic success, replies from residents and businesses are essential and very much appreciated. Information for return and deadline will be found on the form. OR residents may contact <http://www.egwc.org/directory> to indicate a new or changed listing, to decline representation in the directory or to request additional information about the directory or club membership. No response will be required if your current listing in the 2019-2020 Directory is correct.

The Elm Grove Woman’s Club has been an active part of the village for more than eighty years, providing social events, outreach programs and charitable contributions for Elm Grove and surrounding communities.

“I Know Where You Live!”

Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

11 Years and counting...

With this edition we mark yet another milestone, and, as always, I am grateful for this country’s Freedom of the Press that has allowed me to publish *The Elm Grove News-Independent* and, thus, provide the LOCALLY-FOCUSED news and information that is so important to a community. My **THANKS** to staff, readers, and advertisers who have contributed to and supported this effort.

Photo by Elisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

The front pages of many past Elm Grove News-Independent editions.

About *The Elm Grove News-Independent*

- Current Press Run:** 5,000 copies per monthly edition (3,100+ mailed to every residence, business & P.O. Box in Elm Grove 53122; non-mailed copies are available for pick up at numerous locations in Elm Grove & Brookfield (Elm Grove Public Library, Brookfield Public Library, Sendik’s of Elm Grove, Ace hardware, etc.); copies are also distributed to community groups, schools, churches, and at area events. Copies are available by the 1st day of each month.
- READ THE NEWSPAPER ONLINE:** www.ElmGrove.news
- ADVERTISE!** Promote your business, community event, etc.

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DO YOU STAND OUT?

KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

Elmbrook Rotary Club announces their 5th Annual Business Person of the Year Award recognizing the accomplishments of a successful Brookfield or Elm Grove individual.

2021

Elmbrook Rotary BUSINESS PERSON

OF THE YEAR

A committee of Rotary members along with Brookfield and Elm Grove officials will review all nominations. The recipient will be honored at the Elmbrook Rotary Club meeting on October 29, 2021.

Visit ElmbrookRotary.org to submit your nominations by October 15, 2021.

Waukesha County News

An Inside Look at Waukesha County Government

By Thomas A. Michalski – Waukesha County Supervisor – District 8 tmichalski@waukeshacounty.gov

REDISTRICTING.

I’m sure you are aware that every ten years, the Federal Government performs a census that counts every person living in the United States. The purpose of the census is to identify the residents of our country and define Districts for representation to the Federal, State, and Local government.

Finally, after a long delay due to Covid-19, the 2020 Census has been completed. As of September 16th, the Federal Government finally released the Census data, now State and local governments can begin redistricting.

The State of Wisconsin determines the boundaries for our State and Federal representatives. The State’s process to define their Districts is frankly above my pay grade and not a topic of this article.

In addition to the State, all the counties and municipalities in the State must accomplish a redistricting. Waukesha County is beginning the process to define the District boundaries for its County’s Supervisors.

Federal Law states that County Supervisor Districts be substantially equal in population, and when possible, municipalities should be kept whole.

Earlier this year, the County voted to keep the size of the Board at 25 Supervisors. Based on the 2010 Census,



each supervisor represented about 15,500 persons, the second-highest in the State. Only Milwaukee County’s Supervisors represented more constituents.

The 2020 Census shows Waukesha County’s Population now stands at 406,978. That is an increase of 17,087 (4.382%) since the 2010 Census. The process of redrawing Supervisor districts begins now. Each Supervisor district has a target of 16,279 persons/district. For reference, Elm Grove grew by 579 people (9.757) to 6,513, and Brookfield grew by 3,544 people (9.346%) to 41,464.

In 2010 the districts maps changed considerably and were drawn starting with the city of Oconomowoc because that city happened to have the right number of residents (15,759). The remaining districts were drawn around that starting point.

Technology has made the redistricting process more manageable than the days of drawing districts by hand. County staff will utilize a suite of computer-assisted mapping tools developed to help counties and municipalities with the redistricting process.

It is important to note that the County does not take County Board Supervisor’s residency into account when creating the maps. County staff will draw the districts with the following criteria in mind: (1) Districts be as compact geographically as possible (2) Districts should be demographically as equal in size as possible (3) District boundaries defined along major streets, railroads, or other natural features (4) Similar neighborhoods kept together whenever possible

It is fortunate Computer-aided mapping is in place. Covid-19 drastically reduced the time allotted to produce the new district maps. What usually would have been a six-month process must now be done in under one month. Tentative maps need initial approval by the middle of September. That gives municipalities enough time to add the voting wards and return them to the County by the middle of October. On November 9th, the Board will vote on the final maps.

For a detailed timetable of actions and a tentative map, see:

<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/county-board/redistricting/>

Rushed? Yes, but the local government’s spring elections can’t occur without the maps, and candidates need to collect nomination signatures in December.

As always, I welcome your comments.

Village Update

By Neil Palmer, President – Village of Elm Grove npalmer@elmgrovewi.org

Elm Grove residents suffered through days of having no electric power due to a severe windstorm that hit the area on August 10th. To make matters worse much of southeast Wisconsin was hit by almost daily strong storms and heavy rain during the rest of August. Living conditions in most of Elm Grove are worse than most area communities due to the lack of a municipal water supply. I guess we can only be thankful that it wasn’t an ice storm. WeEnergies reported 1,500 outages in Elm Grove and more than 240,000 outages across the system. System improvement projects for the Elm Grove area are scheduled to begin soon.

The Elm Grove Village police dispatch system, HVAC and computer systems suffered significant damage due to a nearby lighting ground strike. All damage costs are expected to be covered by insurance.

The Village has a no cost tree and brush cleanup effort Village wide. This special cleanup effort will take time to accomplish as the Public Works employees are busy on stormwater and paving work.

The Elm Grove Business Association is sponsoring a free “Shred Day” on Saturday, September 18th from 9:00 a.m. until Noon in the parking lot of the Park & Shop on Watertown Plank Road. Visitors are urged to enter from the parking area of Wall Street. The shred collection site will be next to the railroad tracks near the vacant One-Hour Martinizing store. Paper left for shredding must be free of metal and plastic.

Stormwater management system improvements are proceeding along Highland Drive to prepare for paving work in mid to late September.

The Village Board approved a new plan to address erosion issues in the Underwood Creek streambank causing problems for the large sewer interceptor buried nearby. This interceptor transports wastewater from Brookfield and Elm Grove to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. The new, more permanent solution to the Underwood Creek erosion putting the interceptor at risk is to realign/relocate a small stretch of the creek away from the interceptor. The project consultant, Interfluve, will prepare plans and permit documentation for required state and federal permissions.

Many Village residents recently received an anonymous postcard urging people to contact Village Board members to express opposition to the proposed redevelopment of the School Sisters of Notre Dame campus.

Unfortunately, the postcard contained misleading and inaccurate data about the proposed project.

*** The postcard states: *“\$11.5 million in tax subsidies could be better invested.”* This statement makes it sound like the Village has \$11.5 million of taxpayer money in a pile waiting for something to invest.” False.

The truth is that the developer has requested financing assistance called “Tax Increment Financing”, a very common state program used to assistant redevelopment and improvement of properties with unique problems or challenges. The requested TIF financing could be \$11.5 million. If the Village, County and Elmbrook School District agree to approve a TIF request the Village would borrow money to cover approved costs and the developer guarantees to repay the loan and interest

by committing the “new” property taxes of the development to repayment. Under the TIF program only select specific expenses qualify and the decision is entirely up to the Village to decide whether any TIF financing is to be provided. If there is no project, there is no \$11.5 million to “...be better invested.”

The Village has hired two different expert consultants to review the Mandel request for TIF funding assistance. Ehlers, the main consultant is evaluating the financial plans for the complete project including what costs might be eligible for financing if desired by the Village. The second consultant is evaluating all the materials and construction costs included in the project to determine their reasonableness in our marketplace. The Village Finance Committee, Plan Commission and finally the Board will review the consultant studies before deciding on whether any TIF financing will be granted. A typical a TIF agreement requires the developer provide security for repayment.

*** The postcard states that *“the development should pay its fair share toward Village services for police, fire, EMS and general operations from day ONE, not after decades under TIF.”*

The fact is the Village can offer a TIF financing plan which dedicates part of the new development property taxes to paying Village operating expenses and debt repayment. The Mandel TIF describes one such alternative for Village consideration.

(See **VILLAGE UPDATE** – Page 10.)

Business Directory

* Community Organizations



Kiwanis – Golden K of Elm Grove Wisconsin

Come Join 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 wonderful speakers each week, and we have lots of fun.

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&
Saturday:
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Questions:
Call the Village at **(262) 782-6700**

Our History: Remembrances of Things Past



DIXON SCHOOL, 1925. The entire enrollment for Dixon School during the 1924-1925 school year. (Left to right) **Dave Hahm, Joseph Bobrowitz, Jr., George Kleinschmidt, Gladys Geinke, Janny Hahm, Beatrice Anski** (the teacher), **Harold Hahm, Elsie Kleinschmidt, Elizabeth Hahm, and Andrew Bobrowitz.** The students are facing North Avenue on the north side of the building.



DIXON SCHOOL, 1952. Graphics, pictures, sentences, projects, and a lesson which, on this occasion, included a cat (at middle foreground) were part of the curriculum for a first-grade class at Dixon School, located on North Avenue in Brookfield. While remodeling the building during the 1950s, workmen discovered a wall that revealed a written lesson dated 1882 under a slate blackboard.



ST. MARY'S GRADE SCHOOL, 1935. The 7th and 8th graders at St. Mary's in Elm Grove during the 1934-1935 school year. (Front row, left to right) **Lucy Marks, Mildred Rademacher, Betsy Rohr, Ruth Reinders, Jane Svehlek, and Catherine Sanders;** (Middle row, left to right) **Bob Witterholt, Joe Ramstack, Catherine Bobrowitz, Barbara Becker, Bob Jaques, and Gilbert Michel;** (Top row, left to right) **Clement Reusch, Clarence Blaszyk, Paul Bobrowitz, Harold Gebhardt, Richard Smith, Robert Guiesell, Peter Boos, and Ed Frieberg.**



LELAND SCHOOL, 1961. Miss Faltz's 3rd Grade class at Leland School poses for a group photo in May of 1961 following a tree planting ceremony on the front lawn. Sunny Slope Road is directly behind the students. Leland School, a more modern brick structure, replaced Gregg School in 1930 and was built on land donated by Charles Leland. A victim of declining enrollment, the school was razed in 1983. A residential development now occupies the site.

Accounts of Our Area's Early Days

By Tom Ramstack

If you recall Leland school in Elm Grove which still stood in the 1980s on the west side of Elm Grove Road, this was the very location of the early “Elm Grove School” attended by a young 6-year-old **Kate Gregg**, who’s first year in school provided a not so delightful experience.

Three very young boys play on top of an uprooted tree on the south side of the Elm Grove School House. (Circa. 1898)



bumble bees would flit through the open windows and an occasional “Devils Darning Needle” would create no little excitement, for fear he would sew up our ears.”

KATE GREGG GOES TO SCHOOL:

Kate’s first year in school (c. 1860).



“The Elm Grove school was a typical country school with an entry on one side for the boys and on the other for the girls with a platform in the middle. Two rows of high straight backed, blue wooden benches on either side of the center aisle and a box stove pipe running full to meet the chimney in the rear.

The ceiling on the boy’s side was covered with spit balls and it is needless to say their desks were hand carved. This was an uninteresting place for a little girl to sit all day on a seat so high that her toes could not touch the floor and only recite four times in the whole day. The remainder of the time was spent in printing on the slate. The blue bottle flies and

“The Devils Darning Needle”

“Despite their beauty, dragonflies somehow seem to have received bad press along the way and become associated with the Devil. They were also reputed to sew up the mouths of naughty children, hence the Devil’s darning needles.” Credit: simonleather.wordpress.com

STORIES & PHOTOS WANTED!

News-Independent readers are invited to submit items for this section.

What’s YOUR story?

What was life like in Elm Grove / Brookfield during World War II or earlier? How about the 1950s, ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s, or ‘90s?

E-mail stories (200 words maximum) + photos (include caption & identify individuals shown, left to right) to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Our History)

OR, Mail them to: EGNI “Our History” P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372



The Elm Grove News-Independent

has been a Chronicler of Elm Grove / Brookfield / Waukesha County for more than 11 years!

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Calendar of Events – September 2021

Friday – SEPTEMBER 3

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting – 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Western Racquet Club; Program: Speaker TBA <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Bob Anger “Insurance Today”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

Monday – SEPTEMBER 6 LABOR DAY

Wednesday – SEPTEMBER 8

- **Elm Grove Building Board**
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall

Thursday – SEPTEMBER 9

- **Elm Grove Plan Commission**
Meeting 6 p.m. at Village Hall.
Noted on Agenda: “Continued review and discussion on the request for approval of a Certified Survey Map, Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Rezoning and Redevelopment Plan for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Campus... More specifically, review and discussion and possible action the required PDO review criteria found within §335-30. See project webpage for a comprehensive detail of the redevelopment application to date: <https://www.elmgrovewi.org/679/School-Sisters-of-Notre-Dame-Campus-Rede>”



Friday – SEPTEMBER 10

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Western Racquet Club; Program: Speaker TBA <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis - Golden K Club**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker: Tom Bentley, “Antarctica”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – SEPTEMBER 11 PATRIOT DAY



Monday – SEPTEMBER 13

- **Elm Grove School for Lifelong Learning:** In-Person Registration at Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove.

Tuesday – SEPTEMBER 14

- **Elm Grove School for Lifelong Learning:** In-Person Registration at Community United Methodist Church, 14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove.

Friday – SEPTEMBER 17

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Western Racquet Club; Program: Kathy Thornton-Bias, “Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee” <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club**
President’s Inauguration Luncheon – Members Only. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- **Oktoberfest at Elm Grove Park**

Saturday – SEPTEMBER 18

- **Oktoberfest at Elm Grove Park**

Tuesday – SEPTEMBER 21

- **Peace Day Celebration at Notre Dame of Elm Grove – 1:30 p.m.**
- **Elm Grove Building Board**
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall

Wednesday – SEPTEMBER 22 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN



Friday – SEPTEMBER 24

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Western Racquet Club; Program: Brian Sonderman, “Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity” www.elmbrookrotary.org
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis - Golden K Club**
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center; Speaker Steven Ponto, Mayor of Brookfield, “Brookfield Update”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

Monday – SEPTEMBER 27

- **Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org

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Cruisin' the Grove 2021

Thanks to all our exhibitors for an exciting show!
Presented for the enjoyment of Elm Grove Residents and Car Enthusiasts
Thanks to all our Sponsors and Donors for supporting our wonderful causes!
Thanks to our dedicated members who worked so hard to organize this event!

See sponsor listing on the Elm Grove Golden K website: kiwaniselmgrove.org

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News Briefs



ELMBROOK LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM (Front row, left to right) **Matt Carnell, Zach Steichen, Ryan Runnells, Colton Liebert, Willem Sniadecki, Nelson Raciti, Hayden Hakes, Jameson Braatz, Connor Mitchell, Blake Schmitt;**
(Back row, left to right) **Steve Brunner** (asst. coach), **Jacob Brunner, Blake Bastjan, Bennett Fryjoff, Brian Mitchell** (asst. coach), **Jason Steichen** (head coach).

Elmbrook Little League U12 All-Stars Win Wisconsin State Championship, Compete at Great Lakes Regional

(BROOKFIELD) For the first time in league history, Elmbrook Little League won the Wisconsin Little League State Championship and qualified for the Little League World Series Great Lakes Regional Tournament in Whitestown, Indiana.

With a 5-2 victory over a stellar team from Glendale, Elmbrook finished the State Tournament in West bend with a 5-1 record. In the July 30 championship game, pitcher **Zach Steichen** lasted four and two-thirds innings, striking out nine. **Nelson Raciti** came in relief to seal the victory. **Colton Liebert, Hayden Hakes, Matt Carnell, Willem Sniadecki, Ryan Runnells, Blake Bastjan, Blake Schmitt, and Bennett Fryjoff** each collected one hit in the final contest.

“This is a complete team,” said head coach **Jason Steichen**. “All 13 players contribute in meaningful ways to our success. This is a historic moment for our organization, and these fine young men demonstrate the very best of what Little league is all about: teamwork, citizenship, respect for others and, of course, a love for the game.”



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Car enthusiasts gather around a 1957 Ford Thunderbird during the 2021 Cruisin’ the Grove Car & Motorcycle Show in downtown Elm Grove.

“Cruisin’ the Grove” Event Deemed a Success

By Larry De Longe

It was a pleasant, sunny day with a gentle breeze as the registration line formed shortly after seven in the morning. Anticipation was high by the classic car owners as they lined up to get in. The Elm Grove Golden K members were finishing set up for their first presentation of the annual car show. Attendance, by exhibitors, presenters and the public, was in question as the pandemic influence prevails differently in all.

As I, Larry De Longe, President Elect of the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club, look west from Church Street the exhibitor cars are parked front bumpers toward the middle of Watertown Plank Road. Exhibitors are talking with each other. The community guests are arriving and taking stares at the classic gems. It truly is an atmosphere of a festival. Everyone appears to be enjoying being out in public for a while. And that’s how the show went on until about 2 p.m.

The purpose of presenting the classic car show is to raise money for the Elm Grove Golden K members to continue funding their many projects and Leadership Training of high school age kids. Many community members and friends were contacted and did sponsor the show. Please see our website, kiwaniselmgrove.org, for a complete listing of sponsors. Registration donations were also received from exhibitors. A “Help Kiwanis Help the Kids” raffle was conducted with a \$1,000.00 prize being drawn and awarded to an Elm Grove resident. The result of all these activities is \$13,000.00 of funding becoming available for Kiwanis members to continue and enhance projects for kids.

A special thanks to the Woller-Anger Company who worked with the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club to become the presenter of the “2021 Cruisin’ the Grove” Classic Car show. Many thanks to the sponsors and those who made donations to make the 2021 car show very successful.

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Elm Grove Community Foundation

News Briefs

Nominations Sought for Elmbrook Rotary Club’s 2021 Business Person of the Year Award

(BROOKFIELD) The Elmbrook Rotary Club (ERC) is seeking nominations for its 5th annual Business Person of the Year Award. ERC will present the award to a majority owner and/or operating head of a successful for-profit business or non-profit organization located in the City/Town of Brookfield or Village of Elm Grove.

“ERC presents the Business Person of the Year Award to honor a strong local leader who has entrepreneurial skills and strategic vision,” said Award Program Chair, Ralph Gould. “This award helps ERC shine a spotlight on a successful business owner or non-profit director who is making a difference in our community.”

Prior winners of the award include: **Lisabeth Passalis-Bain** of *The Elm Grove News-Independent*; **Mark Mirsberger**, of Dana Investment Advisors; **Jamie O’Donoghue**, of O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub; and **Bill Selzer**, retired Elm Grove Fire Chief.

Award nominations will be accepted on-line only through Friday, October 15, 2021 via the Elbrook Rotary Club website at: <https://elmbrookrotary.org/sitepage/2021-business-person-of-the-year/>



A selection committee of ERC members and local government officials will review all nominations and select the award recipient. ERC members are not eligible for the award. The 2021 Business Person of the Year award winner will be honored on Friday morning, October 29, at the Elmbrook Rotary Club meeting. ERC will also make a \$200 donation to a charity specified by, and in the name of, the person who has nominated the award winner.

Established in 1983, the Elmbrook Rotary Club has been active in our community for 38 years. We are a part of Rotary International, founded in 1905. ERC is an energetic group of more than 80 individuals with a wide range of backgrounds, from business professionals to community leaders to those dedicated to public service. The Rotary International official motto is “Service above Self,” and our Club slogan is “We rise & Shine,” referencing our being the first breakfast club in Rotary District 6270.

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Library News and Programs

September 2021

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262-782-6717 / elmgrovelibrary.org

First Friday Films / Friday, September 3, 1:00 p.m.

After a lengthy delay, First Friday Films is back! First Friday Films is a matinee film series for adults. On the first Friday of every month, a new release movie is screened in the O'Neill Room at 1:00 p.m. Popcorn and water provided. Free admission, no RSVP needed. Visit elmgrovelibrary.org or call 262-782-6717 for September's featured film.

Scams & Frauds Targeting Seniors

Wednesday, September 8, 1:00 p.m. O'Neill Room

Francesca Johnson from the Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection will discuss the details of scams that target seniors, the warning signs of a scam, and what to do if you or someone you know falls victim to a scam or fraud. As Wisconsin's lead agency for consumer protection, the Bureau of Consumer Protection provides information and education, mediates complaints, investigates cases, and takes enforcement actions to fight fraudulent and deceptive practices that harm consumers and honest businesses. Free to attend. No registration required.

Fall Programs for Preschoolers!

Bright Beginnings Story Time / Tuesdays, 10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

For ages 1-3. Stories, rhymes, and songs for the youngest children with a caregiver followed by play time. Stay for Toddler Play Group for additional time and interaction with others.

Program Dates

- September 14, 21, October 5, 12, 19, November 2, 9, 16

Toddler Play Group / Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy playtime with special toys, including age-appropriate early literacy toys, and interaction with other toddlers and their caregivers. Come for story time first or just the play time. This is an unstructured group, so play group will meet even on weeks when story time is not scheduled.

Program Dates

- Every Tuesday beginning September 14

Evening Story Time with Kathy Luck / Mondays, 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

A story time for families will be presented one evening per month. Join Kathy for a lively mixture of stories, puppets, and music for ages 3-7.

Program Dates

- September 27, October 18, November 15

Morning Break Story Time / Fridays, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Ages 3-5. Early literacy activities for children who have not started 5K yet, including stories, rhymes, and songs.

Program Dates

- September 17, 24, October 8, 15, 22, November 5, 12, 19

Meet the New Librarian!

Name
Jay Robillard

Job Title
Reference Librarian

Education
Undergrad: Knox College (Theatre/Creative Writing)
Graduate: Dominican University (School of Information Studies)

The Strangest Job I Ever Had
Front Doorman at an apartment building in the Gold Coast of Chicago. We were a few doors down the street from a nightclub, so there was always a line stretching down the block in front of the door. We also had lots of “confused” people trying to get into the apartment building because they thought we were the nightclub!

Favorite Aspect of Being a Librarian
My favorite aspect of being a librarian is making book recommendations and the intrigued looks on patrons’ faces when they ask me what I am reading.

Special Interests/Hobbies/Talents/Community Service/Volunteering
Now that I’ve finished grad school and finally have my master’s degree, I have free time to get back into reading for fun instead of for class! I also enjoy video games and writing stories, as I am an amateur novelist.

Favorite or Recommended Books
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, and *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson.

If You Could Time-Travel, Where Would You Like To Go, Who Would You Like To Meet, and Why?
I would travel back to England in December of 1926 and meet Agatha Christie. This was during her infamous disappearance, which garnered international attention. She was a brilliant literary mind, and for a brief while, she held the entire world in the spell of a real-life mystery of her own making.

Young Writers & Reporters

Book: *The Forbidden Wish*
Author: Jessica Khoury
Reviewed by Caroline Scholz, Age 12 - Pilgrim Park Middle School

This book is a thrilling retelling of the folk tale Aladdin. Except there is one major twist, the genie, Zahra, is a girl. The genie king’s son has been captured by a jinn (genie) charmer, and Zahra has to find him, while granting Aladdin’s three wishes. But wishes always have a price. Filled with disguise, rich descriptions, and romance, there is no doubt you’ll love this book.

Book: *Princess of the Midnight Ball*
Author: Jessica Day George
Reviewed by Caroline Scholz

This book is based on the fairy tale of the Twelve Dancing Princesses. It starts out with a soldier, named Galen, starting a job as a gardener of the palace. One day, Galen bumps into one of the princesses, Rose. Little does he know, Rose, along with her eleven other sisters are cursed to dance for an evil king. If you’re someone who’s into magic, adventure, and a little romance, I’m sure this book is for you.

Book: *The Sun is Also a Star*; Author: Nicola Yoon
Reviewed by: Alexis Wilson, age 14, Brookfield Academy

Natasha and Daniel are almost complete opposites. Natasha does not believe in fate or love, and she prefers science and logic. Daniel, on the other hand, loves poetry and the idea of destiny. Although they seem extremely different, at the end of the day they both are able to bond over a shared interest in music, and they can relate to the struggles that they have each faced. Sadly, Daniel knows that today is his final day for chasing his childhood dreams due to a life-changing interview he has scheduled, and Natasha understands that this could possibly be her last day in the United States for a very long time. With the odds stacked against him, Daniel tries to form a true connection in the limited time that he has with Natasha.

“*The Sun is Also a Star*” by Nicola Yoon is a realistic fiction novel that also contains parts of a romance and many interesting true facts along the way about different aspects of the world (mainly shown through Natasha’s interest in science). This story has two main points of view, which are Daniel and Natasha’s, as well as a few other interesting perspectives.

I really liked this book because of all the entertaining side characters, and I enjoyed how even the most minor of details impacted the story’s conclusion. All in all, I would recommend this book to anyone who loves stories about life-changing moments and pursuing dreams.

News Briefs

Peace Day to be Celebrated in Elm Grove

By Tim Dewane

This year’s Public Prayer for Peace will be held on Tuesday, September 21 at 1:30 p.m. outside in the Notre Dame of Elm Grove Peace Pole Courtyard, along Watertown Plank Road. Once again students from St. Mary’s Visitation School and Notre Dame School of Milwaukee are expected to join sisters, campus employees and our friends for this prayer. All who wish to join us in our public prayer for peace are welcome! We anticipate the prayer will last approximately 40 minutes.

September 21 is the International Day of Peace, a day to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. In 1981, the United Nations established the International Day of Peace to be observed as a day of global ceasefire and nonviolence, devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. It is one of the international social justice days designated for special commemoration by the international congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

About the Notre Dame of Elm Grove Peace Pole:

On September 21, 2003, the School Sisters of Notre Dame planted a peace pole symbolizing their on-going commitment to pursuing peace and justice in their lives and in their ministries. Their hope was that the greater Elm Grove Community would come to see the Peace Pole and garden area as a community site for reflection and prayer for peace. Given the number of groups and individuals that have visited the peace pole garden over the past several years - the community seems to be embracing this idea.



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

Peace Pole at Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

The Peace Pole is a four-sided western red cedar pole which stands 6 feet tall. The message “*May Peace Prevail on Earth*” is inscribed on the pole in eight languages - each reflecting some aspect of the heritage of our province.

- **German** - In recognition of the birthplace of our order and the number of German sisters we have.
- **Polish** - Reflecting the heritage of many sisters in this province and throughout the congregation as a whole
- **Chamorro** - Reflecting our relationship with Guam
- **Potawatomi** - Reflecting the native culture of this area
- **Spanish** - Reflecting our connection to Latin America and involvements with the Spanish speaking populations here in the province.
- **Swahili** - Reflecting our connection and involvements in parts of Africa
- **Hmong** - Reflecting our involvements with this and other immigrant populations
- **English** - Primary language of the province



Elm Grove Junior Guild Hosts Two Community Blood Drives

By Sarah Wynia-Smit

In June and August, the Elm Grove Junior Guild started a new partnership with Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin to host blood drives in Elm Grove. Hosting these drives arose from a desire by Junior Guild members to do more to give back to the local community in a year when numerous annual events were canceled or downsized. Junior Guild leadership was partnered with a team from Versiti, who educated members about how great the need was for blood and blood products. Versiti is the sole supplier of blood and blood products for all of southeast Wisconsin. This means donations stay local and benefit local community members. An average cancer patient may need multiple infusions of blood products during chemotherapy, transplant recipients may need many tens of units during surgery, and motor vehicle accidents can spark a need for up to 100 units of blood. Blood cannot be produced in a lab, and therefore blood donors are a very valuable resource. All of these facts shed light on the critical need for eligible donors to donate.

Seeing this need, the Elm Grove Junior Guild partnered with Tonawanda Elementary School to secure space in the newly-constructed gymnasium to host two blood drives, with invaluable help from Versiti and the Elm Grove Woman’s Club to promote and staff drives with volunteers.

On June 15th, more than 100 potential donors registered and 85 units of blood were collected. With each blood donation able to be partitioned into plasma, platelets, and red blood cells, this multiplies to 255 units to infuse to patients in need.

The second blood drive of the summer was scheduled for August 11th at Tonawanda, again in the new gym. However, the planning team was thrown a giant curveball by the unprecedented thunderstorms on August 10th that left 200,000 people without power. Tonawanda remained without power the morning of the drive, so the leadership team scrambled to relocate, knowing there had been 72 appointments scheduled in advance. Elmbrook School District employees were incredibly helpful in helping secure the Brookfield Central High School cafeteria, and the drive-planning teams spent all morning communicating the word to potential blood donors apprising them of the venue change, despite many of them still dealing with the fallout from the storms in their own personal lives. The team was overjoyed to still accommodate 52 blood donors despite all the obstacles.

If you are interested in learning more information about becoming a blood donor, or finding a convenient location to donate, please visit www.versiti.org.

Community Wish List

The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County

Donations can be dropped off at the Food Pantry, 1301 Sentry Drive, Waukesha, 53186. Donations by check are also welcome. Call (262) 542-5300.

Hosting a food drive with your congregation, school, community group, neighborhood, or workplace is easy to do and makes a big impact. Call the Food Resource Manager at (262) 522-2374.

***Donation Hours:** Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Additional evening hours: Thur., 5 to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

***Service Hours:** Mon. – Fri., 1 – 3 p.m.; Additional evening hours: Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.



Legal Issues

What is a SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST, and What Makes Them So Special? (Part 1 of a 2-part Series)

By Attorney Joanne Leifheit, Pewaukee, WI
Ask@LawOfficeofJL.com (262) 347-2820

For persons with a disability, special needs trusts allow such persons to keep their much-needed public benefits while also retaining extra funds for their personal living needs. As a result, a family member or person with a disability can retain inherited funds or funds of their own they have accumulated, and not lose certain important public benefits due to holding excess assets (i.e. greater than \$2,000.00 in most public benefit programs).

As a starting point, persons with disabilities may apply for and receive numerous public benefits funded by the federal government and/or the state that allow the person to receive checks or to receive benefits that help provide for many aspects of their life. Examples of benefits include long-term health care, housing, and monthly funds to pay for rent, food, and daily maintenance. Common examples of public benefits are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. Many public benefits programs only allow a person with a disability to qualify for the benefit if he or she demonstrates that his or her assets total no more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00). Can you imagine

how difficult it would be to live with no more than two thousand dollars at your disposal for needs over and above what public benefit programs provide? This is a struggle than many persons with disabilities face daily.

As of result of this low asset limit, many families are reluctant to provide for such family members or friends in their estate planning. Nearly all inherited funds are likely to total more than two thousand dollars. Therefore, families and persons with disabilities have been left with a scenario that is hard to navigate: how to help a family member with a disability without causing them to lose much-needed public benefits due to the asset limit. Thankfully the federal government recognized the need for changes in the law to help families and persons with a disability to give, receive, and hold funds in excess of the asset limit. The answer was “special needs trusts,” which allow a person with a disability to hold extra funds and use the funds in a way that improves their quality of life. In Part 2 of this series, I will explain how special needs trust are established and how they work.

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Announcements

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Village Update

(Continued from Page 3.)

*** The postcard also states that 237 apartments on Watertown Plank Road will increase traffic and congestion. It is understandable that this bare statement can seem dramatic if 237 plus vehicles would leave or return to the site together.

The fact is that two separate traffic impact analysis studies have been completed on the proposed project and both have found only minimal impacts. One of the reasons for this result is that many anticipated apartment residents are expected to be retirees.

Another helpful way to understand how this low impact can happen is to think of your current neighborhood. When you leave your home for work or errands and get to the first stop sign on your route, are all your neighbors lined at the same stop sign? Of course, the answer is no. A difference of a mere 30 or 60 seconds in departure or arrival time of apartment (or neighborhood) residents allows for smooth traffic flow for all traffic. Incidentally, successive years of traffic data collection in Elm Grove have shown decreasing traffic on Watertown Plank Road.

*** On a smaller issue, the postcard also says, “having one company own 10% of the housing in Elm Grove is a cause for concern.”

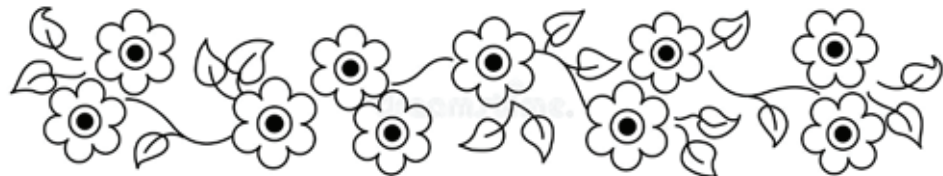
First, the accurate percentage is 8% not 10%. Facts matter. But also, what is the concern?

The Village Board members, citizen committee, commission and Building Board members have dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours, slowly and carefully reviewing and challenging information about the redevelopment proposal for more than a year. The overall application review and action on the requests will come in the next couple of months. Everyone who has been part of these reviews has worked hard, been free to ask any question and free to challenge any assumption. I for one trust the work done by all these people.

As we all evaluate the redevelopment proposal, I ask you to also consider an aspect that Village Board members must consider and that is: **If not this proposal, then what?** The School Sisters will be leaving the facility for their new home soon. The campus will be empty. Costs to demolish the unusable buildings, remediate their sites and renovate and protect (in perpetuity) the two buildings slated for preservation are high. The site will remain zoned “Institutional” which allows uses with more dense development and impactful than the current proposal.

Don't forget to enjoy the upcoming 5th annual Elm Grove Oktoberfest celebration, September 17 and 18!

Coloring for Kids (and Adults)!



News Briefs



Photo by Matt Schultz - Rockrose Productions

Groundbreaking event participants (L to R): **Katy Cornell**, Elm Grove Village Trustee; **Tom Harrigan**, Elm Grove Zoning & Planning Administrator; **Tom Domaszek**, Elm Grove Village Trustee; **Laura Goranson** and **Heather Weber**, of G. Home; **Jesse Niederbaumer**, **Jeremy Gardner**, and **Andy Meyer** of Vantage Financial; **Lauren Hess** and **Casey Wendt**, of Wintrust.

Vantage Financial, G. Home Partner on Elm Grove Redevelopment Project

(ELM GROVE) Ownership groups from Vantage Financial and G. Home, joined by Elm Grove Village President **Neil Palmer**, Trustees **Katy Cornell** and **John Domaszek** and Village Zoning & Planning Administrator **Tom Harrigan**, broke ground August 12, on a development in Elm Grove that will be home to both businesses. The former Ray’s Auto Body, 13230 Watertown Plank Road, will be renovated and become Vantage Financial’s headquarters.

Vantage owners **Jesse Niederbaumer**, **Jeremy Gardner** and **Andy Meyer** are all enthusiastic about the project. “Living, working and contributing to our community is very important to us and we have been looking for the right opportunity to find the permanent home for Vantage. We love the history of Ray’s in Elm Grove and look forward to being here for many

years,” Niederbaumer said.

G. Home’s new design center and showroom will occupy a 3,000 square foot addition on the east side of the property. **Laura Goranson**, G. Home owner said, “As a local Elm Grove business, with deep roots in the community, we are thrilled to be partnering with the group from Vantage Financial on this project.” As business owner and Elm Grove Business Association President, **Heather Weber** added, “we are excited to continue to grow our business in the heart of the Village and hope that our investment in the community will further inspire additional businesses to call Elm Grove home.”

Construction on the project has commenced and is slated for completion in early 2022.

‘Black Lives Are Sacred’ Event to be Held in Village

By Tim Dewane

The evening of Thursday, September 9, School Sisters of Notre Dame will host and join Black Lives are Sacred in standing along Watertown Plank Road to give witness to the sacredness of Black lives. Black Lives are Sacred events are organized by an informal group of Catholic lay people, who warmly welcome all who want to stand up for the sacredness of Black lives. Each event lasts 1 hour, starting with prayer.

CDC guidelines regarding masking and social distancing are observed. The September 9 witnessing will take place at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. All are welcome! You can learn more about the Black Lives are Sacred initiative on their Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/blacklivesaresacredmke>.

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 (max: 200 words) must include the writer’s name, community & phone #
- Mail to: Elm Grove News-Independent, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.
- E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: Letters to the Editor)

Pay for War or Plan for Peace?

On August 9, in remembrance of the American bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan (1945), after having been rained out twice, the School Sisters of Notre Dame held their Japanese Lantern Event on Watertown Plank Road in Elm Grove.

Why do we remember? The words of **George Santayana** are pertinent now. He said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

Note three current challenges. First, the signing of the ‘Start Treaty’ with Russia is overdue. Second, since we are the party who broke off negotiations with

Iran regarding nuclear bombs, where are we with resuming talks? Finally, and closer to home is the plan to place F-35s on Truax Field in Madison. These planes are designed to carry nuclear bombs. This is illegal (International Law) and immoral. Why are we putting money into war, rather than planning for peace? Do we not see the horrors of war?

How many more years of Japanese Lantern Remembrances must pass before we realize the futility of war?

S. Paul-Mary, SSND
Elm Grove

News’ Hounds & other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Heather Gehrke

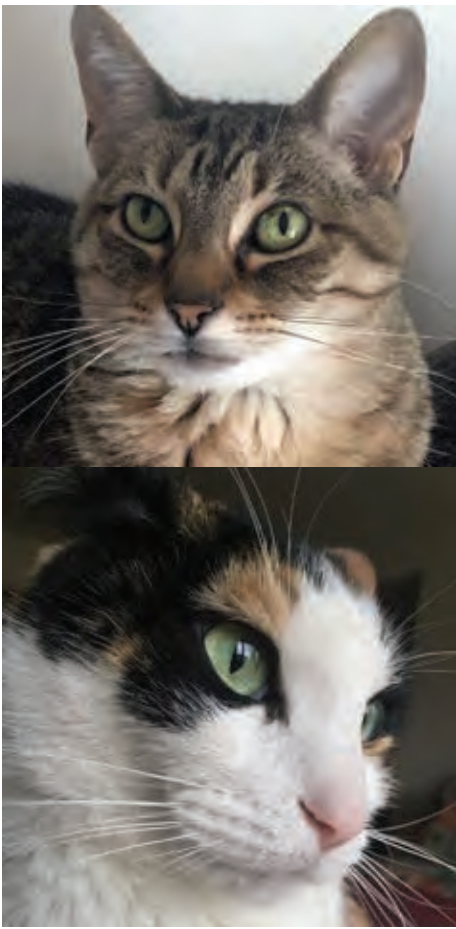
Two lovely ladies in search of a new home that will adore, love, and care for them both! **Chloe and Mi’ette** (aka as **Mimi**) are sisters who have shared one home together their entire lives. Their lives were abruptly changed when their previous owner lost their job as a result of the pandemic and had to find a new home; sadly, housing could not be found that included them. Both girls are quiet, laid back, affectionate, and very low maintenance. They likely would do best in a quieter home. They will be exceptional feline companions both to each other and their new human(s).

If you would like to learn more about them, please call 262.782.9261 or visit <https://ebhs.org/cats/>.



Photos courtesy: Elmbrook Humane Society

Chloe and Mi’ette



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