



# Elm Grove NEWS- INDEPENDENT



Vol. 8 No. 12

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

February 2021

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



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

**SNOWMEN VILLAGE (Population:18)** in the front yard of a home on Westover Drive in Elm Grove, January 14, 2021.

## Elm Grove Family Challenged to Build Many, Many Snowmen

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

News tips are always welcome, but when I received messages from three people on the same day about the same thing, as I did on January 14, I knew it was time to chase that story. Within 10 minutes of hearing that the “population” of Elm Grove had increased by 18, *News-Independent* photographer **James L. W. Bain** was out the door, camera in hand to capture a delightfully snowy scene, a side-by-side

chorus line of snowmen, shown above in two images, so as to increase their size on the page.

Village resident **Andrea Hicks** explains why and how the snowmen were created in her yard: “Every year, we have a snowman building contest with some close family friends from the Lake Geneva area. No rules, just an excuse to get out and do

something fun with your kids. This year, our friends had us beat and we were behind on building. We decided to get back in the game and head out into the snow late one evening.

My two daughters, **Helen**, 17, and **Ava**, 12, and I started building a family of snowmen. What began as a handful of snowmen quickly turned into many, many

more with conditions that were perfect for packing snow. We only stopped when we ran out of yard space after a couple of hours. We added in a few decorations from the yard, snapped a quick picture to share with our friends and called it a night.

We certainly never anticipated or expected all the attention that our snowmen brought in the following days. Mother Nature seems to have gotten the best of them (days later), but hopefully our happy little snowmen brought some smiles and sunshine to Elm Grove for the start of 2021!”

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# Village Update

By Neil Palmer, President – Village of Elm Grove    [npalmer@elmgrovewi.org](mailto:npalmer@elmgrovewi.org)

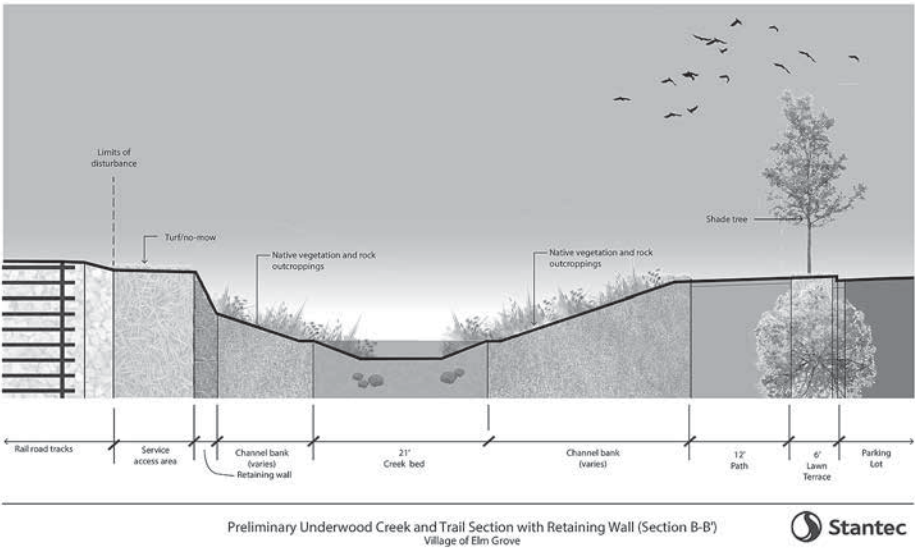
The new **Elm Grove Village Park skating rink** has been a big hit since opening in January. The weather has generally cooperated to keep the surface frozen and skaters have cooperated by following rules on rink use. The rink is a great addition to winter outdoor recreation opportunities in our Park for children and adults.

The Village Board recently took another step to evaluate the possible creation of a **“Transportation Utility”** to fund road and pathway construction and maintenance. An advisory consulting team including Ehlers Public Finance Advisors and raSmith Engineers were selected to help the Board evaluate options. Current state law restricts the methods and the amount of money any municipality can use to pay for local roads. A decade of declining state funding and increasing costs have made it impossible to maintain a quality transportation system without borrowing a large amount of money annually. The Village Board believes that borrowing to pay normal annual expenses is an imprudent budget policy which degrades Village financial rating and options over time.

**Expansion of the Village pathway system** has been an ongoing desire of many Village residents for years. The Village Board established a priority ranking of which new path should be built next. The addition of new pathways has been terribly slow due to funding difficulties. Most of the projects desired will likely exceed \$1 million each. Village Board members and residents agree that we need to re-evaluate the location of and priority list of new pathways along with investigating possible new funding options. At its January meeting, the Board agreed to form an Ad Hoc Pathway Committee. The new Committee will include existing members of the Public Safety, Public Works and Finance committees and members of the public. The Pathway Committee will be tasked with preparing recommendations in time for 2022 budget development this summer.

For 16 years the Village has been working on ways to fund the **daylighting of Underwood Creek** through the downtown area. This would address the deteriorating condition of the box culvert that goes through the Park and Shop parking lot and under the Sendik’s building to fulfill our obligations to our Memorandum of Understanding with the DNR. The MOU was part of the state permitting process for the Elm Grove flood control project. While many years have passed, we have made progress. We completed project engineering with grant money and have now received two additional grant awards. The Fund for Lake Michigan has granted the Village \$200,000 for general use on the project and the Sustain our Great Lakes (SOGI) program has awarded us \$300,000 for construction related expenses. Receipt of these grants is a major milestone. Years of work by staff and Board members seeking grants, in competition against hundreds of other projects, is being rewarded. The Village will continue to seek additional grant funding for construction and is beginning some land acquisition as well as continuing to work with site area landowners. While many more steps are needed to get this project done it is possible to see “the end of the tunnel” and a new pathway along a flowing Underwood Creek. (See the above graphic of the conceptual cross section facing south.)

The Village Board’s January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting lasted until midnight with much of the time devoted to a presentation by



**Mandel Development of the revised proposals to redevelop the School Sisters of Notre Dame campus** and also to public comments. Mandel described the proposal changes prompted by continued engagement with site neighbors and community members. Some neighbors and residents spoke in support and applauded the proposal changes. Some neighbors and residents continued to oppose the project as presented and cited various concerns such as density, high value rental versus condos, traffic and impact on schools.

The Village Board members supported the ongoing cooperative efforts of Mandel and community residents to address community concerns. The Board agreed that the project proposal is sufficiently developed to begin the detailed formal review proscribed in the Village code. The Village Planning Commission, Building Board and Public Works Committee will play key roles in evaluating various aspects. The Village will be hiring independent traffic engineering experts, financial consultants, engaging our Village engineers at Reukert & Mielke and hiring other consultants as needed. The project developer will be required to reimburse the Village for costs of project review.

The School Sisters will be vacating their facilities this summer. Redevelopment of the School Sister campus will have an impact on both the heritage and the future of the Village. Residents want great care to be applied to the project review, and the Board has pledged a detailed and comprehensive analysis before consideration of project approvals.

The Village Board and committee members will be investigating and evaluating dozens of specific issues. The public is invited to follow and provide comments and questions throughout the process. There will be numerous public meetings and public hearings to be held prior to any votes on the proposal. Project proposal materials and all Village information, including public input is available online at: <https://www.elmgrovewi.org/679/School-Sisters-of-Notre-Dame-Campus-Rede>

During the “Conceptual Review” process over the past year the Village Board has compiled a great deal of information and questions to inform investigations. The Village has also renewed efforts to bring municipal water, preferably from Lake Michigan, to the Village as part of the School Sisters campus redevelopment. Having the development pay for a significant portion of a new water extension would bring significant savings for residents.

Redevelopment of the School Sister Elm Grove campus will be the biggest project in Elm Grove Village history. **Consideration of redevelopment includes many big**

questions like:

- Can the two historic buildings be restored and preserved as desired by the Sisters?
- How is that effort paid for?
- How is demolition of the other site buildings accomplished and paid for?
- What is the best use of the site after the Sisters leave? Keep it zoned “Institutional” which permits hospitals and schools and like uses without seeking rezoning. Or, should we support a rezoning to residential use? What kind and how much of residential?
- What are the different possible impacts and benefits of each possible land use?
- How do we balance impacts versus benefits?

Each of the broad topics above produce numerous specific issues and challenges requiring detailed study.

The April Village election will feature six candidates for three Trustee spots and two candidates for Village President.

# 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.

[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)  
[www.kiwaniselmgrove.org](http://www.kiwaniselmgrove.org)

**Elmbrook Rotary**

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

## Retirement Story Appreciated

I would like to thank *News-Independent* Owner/Publisher **Lisabeth Passalis-Bain** for the wonderful article that was in the newspaper last month (“*My Favorite Barber Announces Retirement*” – January 2021 edition, Page 2). I hope that it was enjoyed by my friends and customers.

Thanks to all of my customers for their dedicated business throughout the years at Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove and several previous locations.

**Steve “The Barber” Wettstein**  
Menomonee Falls

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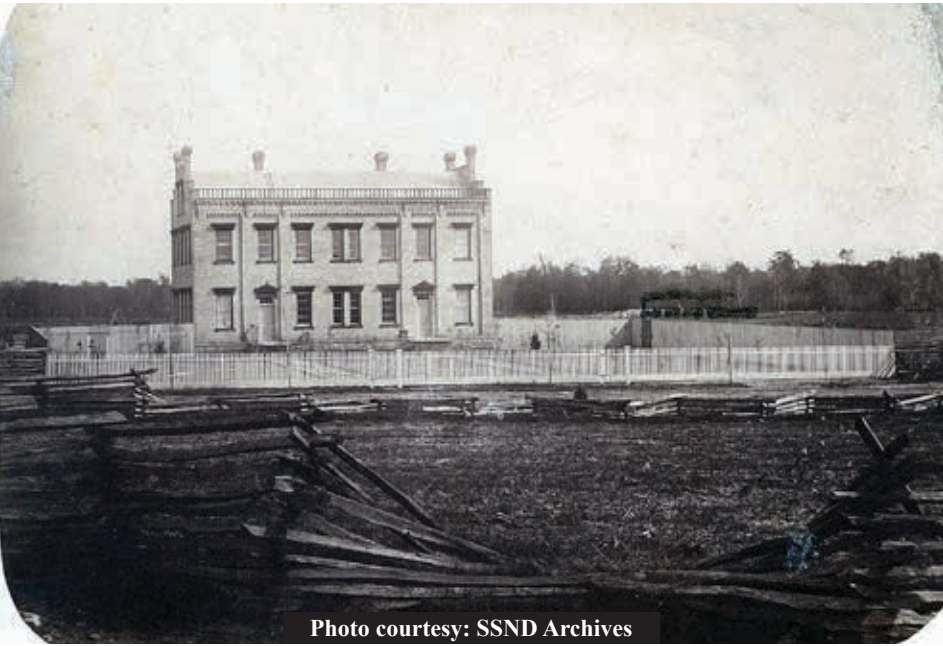
The **ELM GROVE NEWS-INDEPENDENT** provides news & information about Elm Grove, Elmbrook, Waukesha County & state-wide concerns via 5,000 printed copies of every FREE, monthly issue.

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To request a RATE SHEET,  
E-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) or Call: (262) 782-6193



# Past Times



The original 1859 building before any additions.



This convent and orphanage photo was taken after 1868, when the Sisters built a free standing church (far right of photo).

## The Founding of Notre Dame of Elm Grove

By Michele Levandoski  
Archivist, School Sisters of Notre Dame North American Archives

In the fall of 2021, the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) will start moving to their new home at Trinity Woods on the Mount Mary University campus, ending 162 years of continual residence in Elm Grove. The complex known today as Notre Dame of Elm Grove (NDEG), started with one building and over the years it grew to meet the ever-changing needs of the congregation. This article, the first of a six-part series, will look at how the SSND lived and ministered in Elm Grove.

Legend has it that in 1855, **Mother Caroline Friess**, superior of the SSND in North America, traveled on the Watertown Plank Road on her way to Watertown. When she was about nine miles west of Milwaukee, the horse pulling her carriage abruptly stopped and refused to go any further. Mother Caroline took this as a sign from God that this was the location where she would build a convent and orphanage.

While this is a good story, it is more likely that Mother Caroline learned about the area that is now Elm Grove from **George Betzolt**, a generous benefactor who had three daughters in the congregation (a fourth entered in 1861). In 1856, Mother Caroline bought 40 acres of land at the present-day site of NDEG from George.

She built a two-story brick building that served as a convent, female orphanage and small country school. The new mission opened on January 6, 1859 under the title “Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.” In July 1860, the convent chapel and cemetery were blessed.

In an undated letter, written about 1860, Mother Caroline described life at Elm Grove. The property had a small farm that raised mostly vegetables. According to Mother Caroline, the Sisters were unable to raise grains, because they could not afford to pay workers and they did not have the necessary buildings and tools.

The Sisters had a small cow barn located on their neighbor’s property, which included three cows, six pigs and chickens. The farm produced butter, cheese, eggs and vegetables, which were used to feed the residents of the convent and orphanage. Any extras were sent to the Milwaukee Motherhouse in exchange for things like meat, flour and sugar.

The orphan girls were kept busy in a variety of ways. In the winter they attended school and in the summer they helped the house Sister in the vegetable garden. They also helped with the animals, including leading the cows to the pasture in the nearby woods each day. The girls were also responsible for heating the building, by gathering branches in the woods, which were abundant, especially after a storm.

The Motherhouse in Milwaukee would send clothes that had belonged to the Sisters before they took vows. These were taken apart and remade into dresses and other items for the orphans. The house Sister made their shoes, which the girls only wore in the winter. In the summer the girls went barefoot.

The Sisters were also able to earn a small income by opening a school for local



Mother Caroline  
children, who were taught in German and English. Sisters gladly accepted cash or firewood for tuition. Catholics in the area did not have a church, so the sisters opened their chapel to their neighbors and earned money by charging pew rent for those who attended Mass there.

In 1863, Mother Caroline bought a farm, which consisted of 90 acres, a frame house, barns and sheds. She bought more land in 1864 and 1865, which increased the size of the property from the original 40 acres to approximately 200 acres. The extra land allowed the Sisters to expand the farm, which will be the focus of next month’s article.

**Editor’s Note:** Readers may send questions or suggestions for topics about SSND history for possible discussion in upcoming *Past Times* columns to Michele at [mlevandoski@ssnd.org](mailto:mlevandoski@ssnd.org).

## A Reflection

By Sister Barbara Pfarr, SSND

Growing up in a strong Catholic family, it wasn’t much of a stretch for a pious girl to join the convent. I loved and admired my SSND teachers for their kindness, creativity and care for us and for each other.

Throughout my religious life I have loved going to Notre Dame of Elm Grove (NDEG) for meetings, visits with our sick and elderly Sisters, even to help clean in the summer.

A favorite memory is our celebration of the 150th anniversary of the location in Elm Grove in 2009. Sisters from all over Wisconsin, as well as those serving in other parts of the U.S., Guam and our missions in Africa and Latin America, gathered to celebrate and honor this important milestone. After prayer in the chapel, we processed with colorful banners and joyful music to the cemetery and the gravesites of our beloved Sisters.

When it became clear that NDEG was too big for our current needs, it broke our hearts, but knowing that the sale would mean more funds for our ministries, the decision was made to sell and move. Today, we celebrate the many sisters and ministries that went before us and prepare for our exciting future.

Elect

LEANNE WIED


Elmbrook School Board

VOTE:

Tuesday,

February 16<sup>th</sup>

My experience as an educator will allow the Board to make effective decisions for improving student learning, particularly post-Covid. I am not afraid to question and will address district concerns candidly, meticulously and transparently.



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**CORRECTION:** This 1968 photo, which ran in our January 2021 edition, was published with an incorrect photo credit. It is, in fact, the work of prolific aerial photographer **Robert T. McCoy** and the pilot of the plane was **Tom Kurtz** of Kurtz Realty. Read **Stephen K. Hauser’s** Past Times article at [www.elmgrove.news](http://www.elmgrove.news).



# Calendar of Events – February 2021

## Tuesday – FEBRUARY 2

### GROUNDHOG DAY

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

## Friday – FEBRUARY 5

- Elmbrook Rotary Club  
Meeting, 7 to 8:00 a.m. – Zoom online  
Program: Chelsea Budde & Denise Schamens, “Good Friends, Inc”  
Contact: [markzalewski8803@gmail.com](mailto:markzalewski8803@gmail.com)  
[www.elmbrookrotary.org](http://www.elmbrookrotary.org)  
(See AD – Page 3)
- Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club  
Meeting – 9:30 a.m.  
Speaker: Robert Laplander on “The Gangster couple in Wisconsin, 1932”.  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)  
(See AD – Page 3)

## Saturday – FEBRUARY 6

- Elm Grove Winter Fest  
2 to 8 p.m. at Village Park

## Friday – FEBRUARY 12

- Elmbrook Rotary Club  
Meeting, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.- Zoom online  
Program: Tom Plantenberg, “World Affairs Seminar”  
Contact: [markzalewski8803@gmail.com](mailto:markzalewski8803@gmail.com)  
[www.elmbrookrotary.org](http://www.elmbrookrotary.org)
- Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club  
Meeting, 9:30 a.m.  
Speaker: Rob Hutton, “Political Update on Wisconsin”.  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)  
(See AD – Page 3)

## Sunday – FEBRUARY 14

### VALENTINE’S DAY



## Monday – FEBRUARY 15

### PRESIDENTS’ DAY

## Tuesday – FEBRUARY 16

### SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION

- \*\* Elm Grove residents VOTE \*\*  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m. @ Village Hall
- Elm Grove Building Board  
Meeting – 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall

## Friday – FEBRUARY 19

- Elmbrook Rotary Club  
Meeting, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.-Zoom online  
Program: Dr. David Gaus, “Andean Health and Development”  
Contact: [markzalewski8803@gmail.com](mailto:markzalewski8803@gmail.com)  
[www.elmbrookrotary.org](http://www.elmbrookrotary.org)  
(See AD – page 3)
- Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club  
Meeting – 9:30 a.m.  
Speaker: Dave Fehlauer, “The history of the Pabst Mansion and its holdings of interesting art”.  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)  
(See AD – Page 3)

## Monday – FEBRUARY 22

- Elm Grove Board of Trustees  
Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room.  
Agenda: [www.elmgrovetri.org](http://www.elmgrovetri.org)  
Live Stream: <https://elmgrovetri.org/656/live-stream>

## Friday – FEBRUARY 26

- Elmbrook Rotary Club  
Meeting, 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.-Zoom online  
Program: Peggy Williams Smith, “Visit Milwaukee”  
Contact: [markzalewski8803@gmail.com](mailto:markzalewski8803@gmail.com)  
[www.elmbrookrotary.org](http://www.elmbrookrotary.org)
- Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club  
Meeting, 9:30 a.m.  
Speakers from VARIETY discuss this children’s charity of Wisconsin  
[kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com](mailto:kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com)  
(See AD – Page 3)

## Elmbrook School Board Candidate Forum to be Held – February 8

(BROOKFIELD) Candidates for the School District of Elmbrook Board of Education will participate in a candidate forum on Monday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, 3555 N. Calhoun Road, Brookfield. The forum will be hosted by the Elmbrook Parent Network and Leadership Council (EPLC).

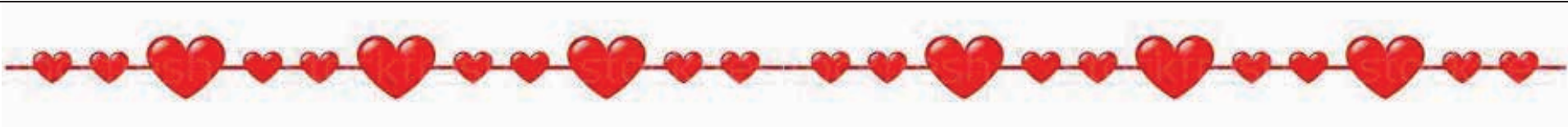
To accommodate social distancing requirements, seating is extremely limited and the forum will be broadcast via livestream at [elmbrookschools.org/live](http://elmbrookschools.org/live).

Four individuals have declared candidacy for the April 6, 2021 election, with three At-Large candidates taking part in the February 16, 2021 primary election.

Candidates for the At-Large seat are **James Thomas Gunsalus, Mushir Hassan (Incumbent) and Leanne Wied. Jean Lambert** (Incumbent) is running unopposed for the Area IV seat. Each Board member represents the entire school district; therefore, residents should select one candidate for each seat.

During the forum each candidate will present opening and closing comments, answers to predetermined questions from a moderator, and answers to questions pre-submitted from the public as time permits.

The forum will be recorded and posted to the district’s [Video-on-Demand](#) page following the livestream.



# Community Crossword #9

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

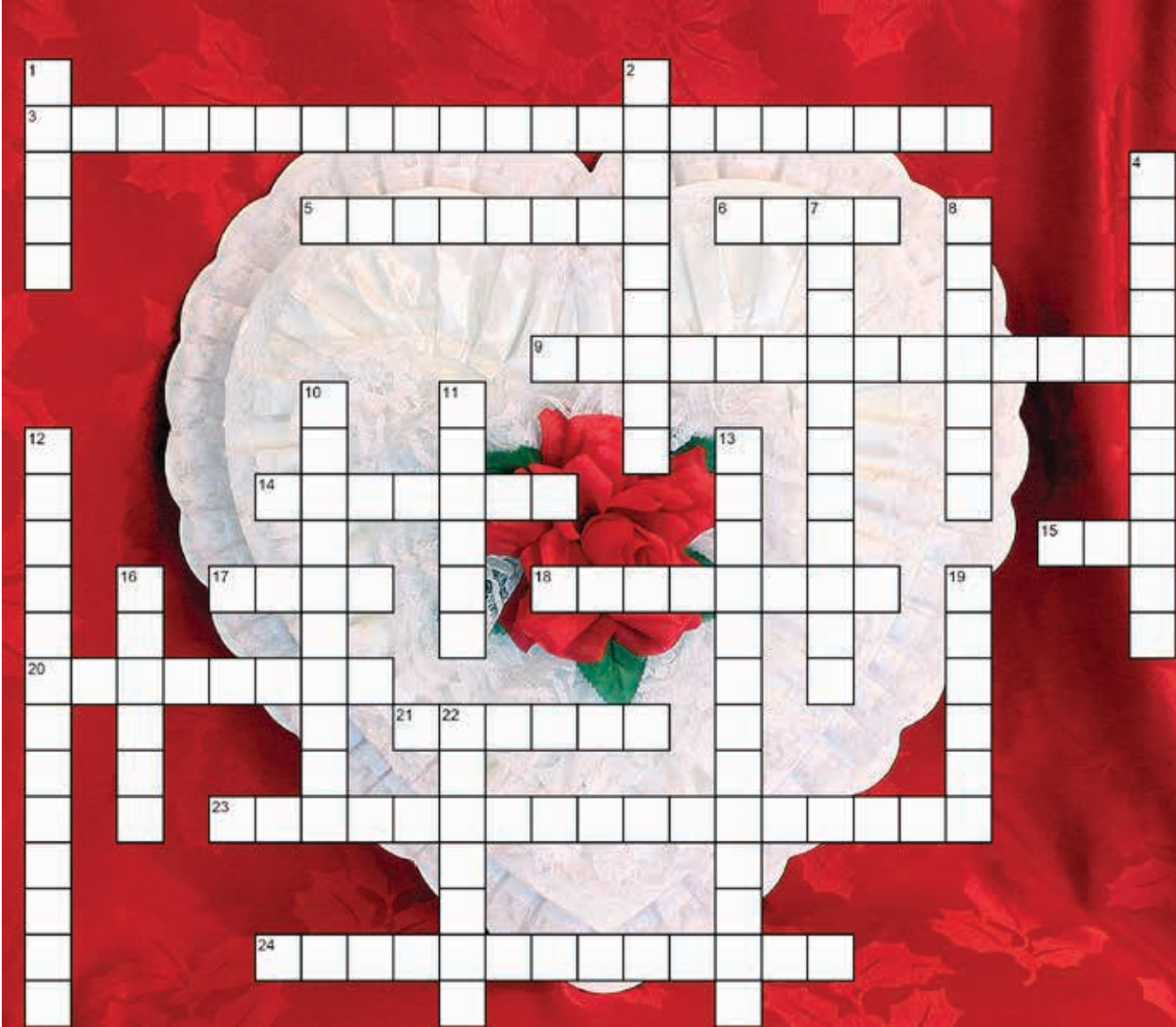


Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

## ACROSS

3. Tonawanda Elementary is located on this street (3 words)
5. Our Wisconsin County
6. Strong affection
9. Library feature on Page 8 (4 words)
14. The early part of the day
15. Embrace
17. Top part of a building
18. A short private road leading from the street to a house
20. Church on Terrace Drive in Elm Grove
21. An opening in a wall of a building to let in light & air
23. Advertising section on Page 3 (2 words)
24. Election to be held on February 16th (2 words)

## DOWN

1. A young dog
2. The first meal of the day
4. In 2021, February has this number of days (2 words)
7. Elm Grove’s court room is located in this building (2 words)
8. To alter the structure of a building
10. Give your sweetie a box of this type of candy for Valentine’s Day
11. Express your opinion, send a Letter to the \_\_\_\_.
12. Wisconsin’s Lt. Governor (2 words)
13. Celebrated on February 14th each year (2 words)
16. A young cat
19. The News-Independent’s Postal Permit number, printed on Page 1.
22. New place for winter skating at Village Park (2 words)

SOLUTION – Page 10



# Clubs & Organizations



Doctors in Ecuador care for a baby being aided by a neonatal ventilator.

## Elmbrook Rotary Club Receives Rotary Foundation Global Grant

(ELM GROVE) The Elmbrook Rotary Club (ERC) has received approval for a Global Grant of nearly \$98,000 from The Rotary Foundation.

The grant will purchase one neonatal and two pediatric ventilators in Santo Domingo, Ecuador, for Andean Health & Development’s (AHD’s) locally-staffed teaching hospital. A woman from the area expressed her joy after hearing of the ventilators’ arrival. Previously, she experienced the tragedy of losing a child due to a lack of ventilator availability.

AHD is a Madison-based non-profit with Milwaukee roots. Elmbrook Rotary has supported their physician residency program for several years. Now the ventilators from the Global Grant will be utilized in AHD’s hospital’s Neonatal ICU, which is one of the only such units in the country of Ecuador. Although the equipment purchase will generate immediate impact for the community, it is actually part of a greater investment in a healthcare model for Ecuador and beyond.

The objective of purchasing the ventilators is primarily to provide high quality care right now to some of the country’s poorest people, those living on less than \$4/day. The direct beneficiaries are the newborns and their very low-income families who cannot afford services. Children and adults with COVID-19 will also benefit, as Ecuador was one of the hardest hit countries by the pandemic in Latin America.

The Rotary Area of Focus for the Global Grant is “Maternal and Child Health.” Elmbrook Rotary provided \$51,820 for the project, which included direct support from the club and its foundation along with donations from both Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike. The Rotary Foundation (TRF) paid out \$47,300 in matching funds from its World Fund in support of the Global Grant (which includes \$11,000 of District Designated Funds—DDF—from local Rotary District 6270).

A TRF Global Grant entails partnership with a Rotary Club in another country. Through champion **Daniel Leon** and club members, the Rotary Club of Tsachila de



Santo Domingo, Ecuador, served as the Host Club, provided much support for the local details, and continues to coordinate the implementation of the grant.

In addition, the project was spearheaded by ERC Rotarian **Jim Dunn**, who also serves on the Advisory Board of Andean Health & Development. Mr. Dunn reports the following about the Global Grant: “Against all odds, and despite my co-leadership, we have succeeded. Daniel, his club in Santo Domingo, and I enjoyed working together. We will even more when we raise a glass the next time I visit Ecuador.”

Dunn continued: “I extend special gratitude to The Rotary Foundation, to Rotary International District 6270, to the great generosity of the members of the Elmbrook Rotary Club, and to many others for their fantastic support. Special thanks go also to the Rotary Club of Tsachila de Santo Domingo for its tremendous support and leadership. I had the pleasure of meeting their members in person when I traveled to Ecuador to see the grand opening of this hospital. This Global Grant demonstrates one of the many ways in which Rotarians are making a difference throughout the world. It also is a clear example of Rotary’s exemplary teamwork. It’s a combination of efforts by Elmbrook Rotary, Rotary District 6270, the Santo Domingo Rotarians, TRF, and AHD. I have no doubt that the new ventilators will go a long way toward providing quality, sustainable services to one of Latin America’s lowest resource settings. Thanks to all who made this happen!”



The Caroline Bell formerly located in the tower at Notre Dame of Elm Grove

## Caroline Bell Moved from Notre Dame of Elm Grove

By Sister Mary Kay Brooks SSND

On December 11, 2020, the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) held a prayer service to mark the removal of the Caroline Bell, which will be taken down from the tower at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Wisconsin, for its journey to Trinity Woods, the future home of the sisters in the fall of 2021.

The Caroline Bell (also known as the Mother Caroline Memorial Bell, Carolus and the Adoration Chapel Bell) has been on many journeys since the first time it rang on the morning of July 22, 1892, to announce the death of **Mother Caroline Friess**, foundress of the SSND in North America. In memory of that occasion, the bell bears the words, “The mother I mourn, the daughters I call.”

The bell rang out over the east side of the city until the Milwaukee Street

Motherhouse was closed in 1959. It began a new life almost immediately in the bell tower of Notre Dame of the Lake in Mequon, Wisconsin, where it rang out until 1983, when the motherhouse was moved back to Milwaukee, just four blocks from the original site.

For 13 years, the bell was silenced as it rested in storage at the Marshall Street location. In June 1996, the bell was restored on the grounds of Notre Dame of Elm Grove, where it served the sisters until today. Mother Caroline is buried at Notre Dame of Elm Grove along with many other sisters.

The bell was originally cast by the Centennial Bell Foundry of Milwaukee Gardner Campbell and Sons, Proprietors. The bell was a gift given to Mother Caroline Friess.



Jon Kahle



Jamie O'Donoghue

## Variety – the Children’s Charity of Wisconsin Announces New Board Members

(ELM GROVE) The Board of Directors of Variety – the Children’s Charity of Wisconsin announces the appointment two new board members for the organization.

**Jon Kahle**, of Elm Grove, is the Athletic Director at Brookfield Academy, where he also teaches History and serves as the Head Football Coach. “I am passionate about helping children and want to give back to Variety as a family who has benefitted from their support.”

Also joining the board is businessman **Jamie O’Donoghue**, from Wauwatosa. O’Donoghue operates O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub in Elm Grove. He supports several causes through his business and is heavily involved in many charities in the Greater Metro area as a volunteer and fundraiser.

Both gentlemen join the board for an initial 3-year term. The board is led by President **Lois Trongard**, a resident of Pewaukee and State Business Manager for Bryant and Stratton College.

**About Variety:** Variety – the Children’s Charity of Wisconsin began in 1935. Our mission is enriching the lives of children with physical or developmental special needs and their families. Variety serves children age 21 or younger who have a diagnosed or demonstrated physical or developmental special need. Our vision is that Variety’s children can actively participate and experience the joys of childhood. We believe that all children should have a limitless future. Visit: [www.varietywiscconsin.org](http://www.varietywiscconsin.org).

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# News Briefs



Woller-Anger employees (Left to right) **Jon Grandelis, B.J. Doyle, Brad Anger, Tom Weber** and **Terry Steiner** at the Soles For Jesus warehouse.

## Successful Shoe Drive Benefits Soles For Jesus

By Terri Steine

For the fourth quarter of 2020, Soles For Jesus was the spotlight charity recipient of the **Woller-Anger** Community “Pay-It-Forward” Referral Program. During that period, Woller-Anger also facilitated a shoe drive at their office, and the community responded with generosity that exceeded expectations.

The shoe drive, which began in mid-November, concluded at the end of 2020. Woller-Anger is happy to announce that they collected over 700 pairs of shoes. There were also cash donations from employees and community members that will help to pay for shipping the shoes.

Recently, the shoes and cash donations were delivered to Soles for Jesus. A team of Woller-Anger employees volunteered in their warehouse, where they sorted shoes and prepared them for shipment.

Soles for Jesus provides new and gently used shoes to the people of Africa who desperately need them. Why shoes? They are a basic luxury that we take for granted every day as we choose our favorite pair. Many of us are unaware that millions of people across our globe live barefoot lives. By providing shoes to children and adults



**Terry Steiner** (at left) presents a check to **Diane Studer**, the Executive Director and Founder of Soles For Jesus.

who have none, many are able to move forward in their educational and economic pursuits. Being shoeless should not keep someone from learning or earning an income. Soles For Jesus is committed to enabling change through giving shoes!

Information on the Pay-It-Forward referral program can be found at [WollerAnger.com/client-portal/pay-it-forward](http://WollerAnger.com/client-portal/pay-it-forward). To learn more about Soles for Jesus, visit: [SolesForJesus.org](http://SolesForJesus.org).



Elm Grove neighbors gather on New Year's Eve.

## Neighbors Build Snow Wall, Celebrate New Year

By Sandy Pommerening

We have a group of 5 or 6 neighbors that love to get together. It has been difficult during Covid, but a creative group got together the day prior to New Year's Eve. They and their children built a wall of snow using buckets full of packed snow to make the forms to build the wall. It was at least 20 ft. long. Then they planned an outdoor New Year's Eve party that was fun and festive. There were lights around the patio, 3 fire pits blazing to keep us warm and food and beverage galore. It was such a special evening and enjoyed by all. Adults gathered in conversation



and children played in the snow. The wall insulated us from the wind and provided an amazing backdrop.

## 2021 Women of Distinction & Young Woman of Tomorrow Nominations Sought

(WAUKESHA) The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County has, for 37 years, celebrated the extraordinary accomplishment and leadership of the women of Waukesha County with two awards. The Women of Distinction Award recognizes a woman who has demonstrated their passion and commitment to improving the quality of life in Waukesha County while inspiring other women and girls to do the same.

in Waukesha County, under the age of 25, who has demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of life in Waukesha County through extracurricular and academic involvement.

Honorees will be selected by a panel of Waukesha County community leaders.

Nominations must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

The Young Woman of Tomorrow Award recognizes a young woman currently in high school, college or advanced training

Further information and nomination forms are available at [www.wgfwaukeshacounty.org](http://www.wgfwaukeshacounty.org).





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# News Briefs

## WaterStone Bank Announces 100 Year Anniversary Giving Campaign

Nonprofit Nominations Sought from Community

(WAUWATOSA) WaterStone Bank announced that it will donate a total of \$100,000 back into the local community this year as part of its 100 Year Anniversary Giving Campaign.

The \$100,000 donation will be split among five local nonprofits to be selected by the WaterStone Bank Foundation based on nominations received from the community.

“For 100 years WaterStone Bank has been a strong supporter of the local community,” said **Doug Gordon**, President/CEO of WaterStone Bank. “This Giving Campaign is another opportunity to thank our local nonprofits for all they do to make our community safe and strong.”

Nominations should focus on nonprofits who have made a positive impact on the lives of individuals in the local community. To keep the campaign community-driven, it is encouraged that nominations

be submitted on behalf of individuals involved with or supported by nonprofit organizations.

Five nonprofit finalists will be selected and announced to the public in March, with a community voting period to follow in April. Individuals will be able to vote for their favorite finalist each day during the month of April, ultimately determining the final donation amounts for each finalist – first place: \$30,000; second place: \$25,000; third place: \$20,000; fourth place: \$15,000; fifth place: \$10,000.

Individuals interested in nominating a nonprofit can visit: [wsbonline.com](http://wsbonline.com) for more details. Nominations will be accepted until February 28, 2021. In order to be eligible for the donation, nominated nonprofits must be 501c3 organizations and headquartered or have a local chapter in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee or Washington counties.

## Students Participate in National Championships

(BROOKFIELD) In December 2020, many Wisconsin Hills Middle School (WHMS) students participated in the 2019-2020 National Championships hosted by the International Academic Competitions. Usually held in person, the competition was delayed and then held virtually. Students competed at their grade level from the 2019-2020 academic year. These competitions use buzzers to test knowledge and speed, like Jeopardy. The results are as follows:

**National Science Bee:**  
<https://ems.iacnationals.com/sciencebee/>

- 7th GRADE**
- **Joshua Wang** - 1st place out of 54. (National Champion Award)
  - **Kartik Ramachandrupa**- 2nd place

- **Saathvik Gowda**- Semi-Finalist (Top 21)
- **Swar Khopkar**- Sem- Finalist (Top 21)
- **Avaneesh Muralidharan**- Semi-Finalist (Top 21)

- 6th GRADE**
- **Matthew Wang**- 3rd place out of 49
  - **Vaidehi Ramachandrupa**- Finalist (Top 6)

**Academic Bowl:**  
<https://ems.iacnationals.com/academicbowl/>

- WHMS Team- 3rd place out of 23.
- **Joshua Wang, Saathvik Gowda, Avaneesh Muralidharan, Arnab Nandakumar, and Jay Gummadi.**


## Elmbrook to Offer Universal 4K Program in Fall

(BROOKFIELD) The School District of Elmbrook’s Board of Education on January 12 approved adding 4-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) for the 2021-2022 school year by a vote of 5-2. The 4K offering will be tuition-free and hosted at each District elementary school. Prior to the approval, Elmbrook was one of only five Districts across the state to not offer this half-day, educational program to our community.

“There are many reasons to support this program,” said **Superintendent Mark Hansen**. “It responds to data that demonstrates a 4-year-old school experience has a statistically significant impact on student achievement, it may help qualify the District for additional state aid, and it stabilizes enrollment growth and our operating budget as we exit the pandemic.”

**School Board President Scott Wheeler** voiced his support by noting, “4-Year-Old Kindergarten will help us achieve our early literacy goals and provide equitable access to an early childhood learning experience for all students and families in our community.”

While the District currently offers a private, tuition-based, 4-year-old preschool program, that program will be replaced this Fall (Sept 2021) by a universal 4K program available to all 4-year-old community residents. This half-day program will include transportation to and



from school, and will offer a private, fee-based wraparound childcare service at each elementary school. 4K programs have been in place in most Districts across the state for many years, recognized as an opportunity to teach students early literacy and math skills, as well as social and emotional skills needed to be successful in school.

In 2006-2007, Elmbrook Schools participated in a 4K pilot with 50 students attending. That pilot expanded in 2007-08 to 200 students, but the program ended in 2008 after the Board of Education voted to end the pilot rather than pursue a full implementation in 2008-09. 4K has been discussed by several Boards of Education over the years, without a Board discussion and action sequence. In addition to discussing 4K at two Teaching and Learning Board Committee Meetings, the entire Board of Education participated in two work sessions in November and January, as well as the traditional Discussion (December 8) and Action (January 12) sequence that led to the decision.

Details about Elmbrook’s 4K offering are available at the District’s website: [www.elmbrookschoools.org](http://www.elmbrookschoools.org).

# Read All About It!



**Library Programs and Services – February 2021**  
**13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122**  
**262-782-6717 / [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org)**

**Identity Theft: Protect and Prevent**  
**Thursday, February 25, 1:00 PM, Online via Zoom**  
Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States. The more you learn about it, the less vulnerable you are. In this virtual seminar, you will learn the different types of identity theft and how to recognize and prevent them, including information about Fraud Alerts and Security Freezes. Receive tips for safeguarding personal information and spotting the red flags of a scam. Presented by Francesca Johnson, Liaison for the Bureau of Consumer Protection within the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Pre-registration is required to receive the zoom program link. Go to [elmgrovelibrary.org](http://elmgrovelibrary.org) or call 262-782-6717 to register.



A recent cold January morning got a little warmer when the Elm Grove Library celebrated Nancy Arevalo for her 20 years with the library. Nancy has been and continues to be the first line of friendliness for many who come to the library. On your next visit, be sure to congratulate Nancy on 20 years of dedicated service!



# News’ Hounds

& other beloved creatures

## Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Heather Gehrke

**Sadie** found her way to us as a result of her former owner developing health concerns. As you can imagine, this was very hard for both Sadie and her previous home to say goodbye to each other. Sadie is an incredible girl – sweet, smart, and just adores human friends! She enjoys playing with toys, exploring outdoors, and learning new things. If you would like to learn more about Sadie, call 262-782-9261 or visit <https://ebhs.org/dogs/>.

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



Photos Courtesy Elmbrook Humane Society

Sadie



# Young Writers & Reporters

**Valentine’s Day**  
**By Jake Warren**  
5th Grade, St. Mary’s Visitation

This Valentine’s Day will be one to remember. Many of us won’t be able to see all of our friends, family, and loved ones but we can still share our love by sending cards to them or Zoom chat. Valentine’s Day started in the year 496! It is named after St. Valentine, a Catholic priest who lived in Rome in the 3rd century. Valentine married young couples in secret because a law was passed in Rome that if anyone got married the groom would go to jail. That law was made to try to recruit more people for the Roman army because everyone wanted to stay with their family.

Once when Valentine was marrying a couple, two Roman soldiers found him and took him to the emperor who sentenced him to death. When he was in jail waiting for his execution, the jailer asked Valentine to teach his blind daughter the Word of the Lord and Valentine agreed. The jailer’s daughter prayed every night that she could see, but when Valentine prayed, a light filled the room and she could see. Before he died, he wrote her a letter which was considered the first valentine. Hope you learned something, and Happy Valentine’s Day!

**My Dad**  
**By Felicity Swietlik**  
5th Grade, St. Mary’s Visitation

There are many reasons that I love my dad, and here are a few of them. He is a great doctor who takes care of many kids. Next, he plays a lot of fun games with me and my siblings. I enjoy reading and playing sports with him. Last, he is a generous person. He gives us a lot of his free time to do fun things with my family. That is why I love my dad.

**What it Means to Be a Girl Scout**  
**By Clare C. Kelly**  
Kindergarten, Tonawanda Elementary

A Girl Scout is helpful, kind and strong. We help others and just have fun. I am a Girl Scout Daisy. We learn about recycling, selling cookies, and being kind. We do lots of crafts. We wrote down and drew pictures of cookies we like. My favorite cookie is lemon and thin mint. I love to play with all the girls in my troop. I sold lots of nuts and chocolates and I think that I’ll be good at selling cookies too. All girls are welcome to join.

**Hot Chocolate**  
**By Cecelia Hurst**-5th grade, Homeschool

On a cold, snowy day in Wisconsin, do you know what you need?... A warm cup of hot chocolate. If you don’t know how to make it, you came to the right place! To begin with, you will need a mug.



Then, you will need to heat up your kettle with water or milk. Once it is all warmed up, pour it in your mug and add hot chocolate powder. To add a little fun in there, add marshmallows, whip cream or sprinkles. Enjoy with a book or a Hallmark movie!!

**My LOVE for Gymnastics**  
**By Bristol Hurst**  
2nd grade, Homeschool

It all started with a somersault. I fell in love with gymnastics! I was three years old when I learned my first cartwheel. When a song came on, I just wanted to do gymnastics. I did them everywhere I went. My mom said, “I think you walk on your hands more than your feet.” I still love gymnastics today.

**A Haiku**  
**By Joe McDevitt**  
5th Grade, St. Mary’s Visitation

The night is silent  
The pretty sky is shining  
The wind blew past me

**Cookies**  
**By Elizabeth Schmidt**  
7th Grade, St. Mary’s Visitation  
Girl Scout Cadette Troop 8971

Girl Scout Cookie Season is here  
Look for your local Girl Scouts spreading good cheer  
With Thin Mints and Shortbread, we’ve got them all  
Go to the Girl Scouts, big and small  
Try the toast-yay!; it’s new  
When you try it you certainly won’t be blue  
Full of French toast flavor and sweet icing  
Five dollars a box is the pricing  
There are so many flavors to choose from  
You will eat everything down to the last crumb  
You can order them in-person or online  
All of the cookies are truly sublime  
So go and order your Girl Scout Cookies today  
We’ll get them to you without a delay

**The Joy of Valentine’s Day**  
**By Nora and Lucille**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tonawanda

Very Loving  
Amazing teachers  
Love  
Excellent Times  
Neat Friends  
Trustworthy  
Intelligent  
Nice as Love  
Exquisite  
Sharing with family  
*Happy Valentine’s Day!*

## Young Writers Wanted!

Students in Kindergarten – Grade 12 are invited to submit the following:

**REPORTING:** about Family, School, Club, Neighborhood, Church, Scouting, Athletic & Community Service activities.

**CREATIVE WRITING:** Short Stories / **POETRY:** Free Verse, Rhyming, Haiku (200 words maximum)

**E-mail submissions (note the writer’s name, school / home-school & grade) to:**  
[elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com) (subject line: Young Writers)

• Read more Young Writers & Reporters on Page 10 •

# Coloring for Kids (and Adults)!









# News Briefs



Photos courtesy of Brookfield Academy

A graphic showing an interior view of Brookfield Academy's new fitness center.

## Brookfield Academy Student Fitness Center to Open in February

By Marie O'Brien

Brookfield Academy is pleased to announce the completion of a new fitness center for students. Construction on the project, which included an expansion and renovation, began in June 2020 and is scheduled to open in February 2021. The 6,000 square foot, state-of-the art fitness center is located in a newly-built addition on the north side of the current Upper School building. The Upper School's existing weight room was transformed into multi-use classrooms and a new Economics Learning Center to support Brookfield Academy's nationally recognized Economics Department.

The Fitness Center will accommodate students of all ages and will provide an exceptional workout space and equipment including weight machines, treadmills, and a mini rock-climbing wall for younger students. "We have faced many challenges in the past months, but not only have we

kept our students learning in-person, we have stayed on course to finish this remarkable facility for our students," said **Sharon Koenings**, Head of School.

Completing the large project against the backdrop of an unusual year posed challenges, but with the help of many individuals, the facility is scheduled to open in February. "Right now, we are preparing protocols, to allow all our students to safely use the facility when it opens," said Mrs. Koenings. "We extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous donors, construction crews, and our faculty and staff for their teamwork to make this addition a reality."

The facility was constructed by Stier Construction, Inc., of Waukesha, and funded through private donations from the BA community. Total cost of the project will be \$2.2 million.

## Scholastic Art Award Winners Announced

(BROOKFIELD) The following Brookfield East High School art students earned Scholastic Art Awards for the 2020-2021 school year:

- **Julian Robinson** - Gold Key - Photography - "The Oculus"
- **Miranda Berger** - Honorable Mention - Digital Art - "The Panpipe"
- **Sophia Breest** - Honorable Mention – Painting - "Shellshock"
- \***Zoe Kung** - Honorable Mention – Digital Art - "Camellia - A Graceful Death"
- **Therese Raster** - Honorable Mention – Painting - "Self Portrait"
- **Joy Zhang** - Honorable Mention – Comic Art - "Pg. 2"



The 45th Scholastic Art Awards - Wisconsin Exhibition will be on view virtually at [mam.org](http://mam.org) from February 6 through March 21, 2021. It will feature all works receiving a Gold or Silver Key.

## Attention Skaters! Elm Grove Ice Rink Now Available

(ELM GROVE) A few weeks ago, the Village of Elm Grove completed the installation of a temporary ice rink located on Tennis Courts 1-3 at Elm Grove Village Park. The status of the ice rink will be updated daily. "Open" means that the ice rink is open to skaters. "Closed" means that the ice rink is closed to skaters due to inclement weather and or maintenance. The Elm Grove Recreation Department asks area residents to "Please follow all rules and regulations posted and have FUN!"

The Village of Elm Grove recently expressed its thanks to the **Elm Grove Junior Guild** and the **Elm Grove Community Foundation** for their generous donations to create the ice rink!

### Hours of Operation (Subject to Change):

#### Public Skate:

- Monday- Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Friday: 10:00 a.m.- 11:00 p.m.

(Hockey sticks or pucks are prohibited on the ice during Public Skate times.)

#### Hockey:

- Monday-Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 8:00 p. m. -11:00 p.m.



## SSND to Present Annual Women's Leadership Luncheon, On-line

(ELM GROVE) The School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province has announced that its annual Women's Leadership Luncheon set for Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be virtual due to the pandemic. "Care of Creation", the theme of this year's event, is not a new idea, but the urgency of the topic seems to grow every year. From recycling to using solar power, there are many ways to help protect the world in which we live. Our 2021 speakers are innovators and leaders in their communities, committed to caring for creation. Those who attend will learn more about Care of Creation and the many ways women lead the way in protecting the Earth.

The Featured Speaker will be **Dr. Marissa Jablonski**, Ph.D. Executive Director of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin with the topic: "*Be the Change: A Better Planet Starts With You*". She is an accomplished water engineer, environmental advisor and plastics-reduction expert who has worked in more than 45 countries.



Photo courtesy: SSND

Marissa Jablonski

Registration is required by February 25, 2021 at [www.ssndcentralpacific.org](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org). For more information, call **La Donna Borth** at (262) 787-1033. Email: [lborth@ssndcp.org](mailto:lborth@ssndcp.org)

## District Spelling Bee Winners Named

(BROOKFIELD) On Wednesday, January 13, 2021, twenty-two students from the five District of Elmbrook elementary schools, Pilgrim Park, and Wisconsin Hills participated in the District Spelling Bee.

After 19 rounds, the top district speller was **Kashvi Singh**, a 3rd grader from Swanson Elementary. Congratulations also to 8th grader **Aarav Vikram** and 6th grader **Janavi Wagle** from Wisconsin Hills, **Keshav Karun** from Swanson Elementary, **Nolan Scott** from Dixon Elementary and **Michelle Yeboah** from Burleigh Elementary.

These top six spellers will move on to the Regional Spelling Bee to be held virtually in mid-February 2021 using the Scripps online platform.



### Badger State Spelling Bee

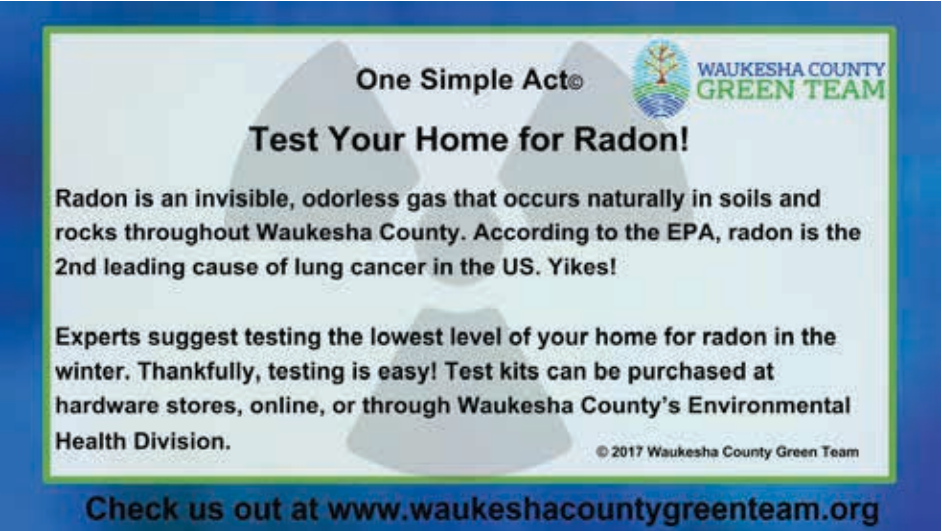
The top five spellers from the CESA #1 region will advance to the Badger State Spelling Bee, which will be held virtually in March 2021.

### Scripps National Spelling Bee

The top speller from Wisconsin will advance to the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will be held June 1-3, 2021. Check the FAQ section of the Scripps website for additional details and updates.

## "Green" is Good!

Ideas courtesy of The Waukesha County Green Team  
[www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org](http://www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org)





# PRUNING: Essential for Healthy Plants

## Dormant Pruning FAQ

**Q: Pruning helps plants, but does a lack of pruning actually harm them?**

**A:** Yes, it can. Lack of pruning can impact the structural integrity of the plant, making it much more susceptible to broken branches and disease.

**Q: Why hire a professional?**


**A:** Our trained crew understands the pruning requirements for each individual plant.

**Q: How can I save money on Dormant Pruning?**

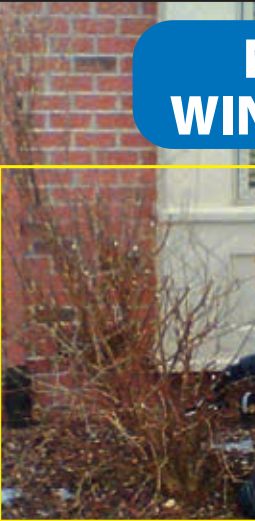
**A:** Sign up TODAY for reduced winter rates.

### Long-Term Benefits:


- Prolong the life of the plant
- Improve the appearance and quality of the plant
- Reduce, thin and reshape overgrown plants
- Remove deadwood and diseased branches



Before Pruning



Intermediate Pruning



Final Pruning

**NECESSARY WINTER PRUNING**

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