

Brookfield & Elm Grove

THIS MONTH

JANUARY 2018

Police cross jurisdictions to fight crime

Wauwatosa chief unveils new suburban crime-fighting effort

By Brandon Anderegg
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WAUKESHA — Wauwatosa Police Chief Barry Weber revealed a new crime-fighting task force during a press conference Dec. 19 called the “Suburban Violent Crimes Task Force,” a collaborative effort between Waukesha and Milwaukee counties’ law enforcement agencies that targets violent criminals in southeastern Wisconsin.

The task force comprises several police departments including Brookfield, Franklin, Glendale, Greenfield, Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, West Allis and the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office. The proactive crime-fighting initiative specially targets criminals involved in homicides, auto thefts, carjackings, armed robberies, burglaries and other weapons offenses, according to a press release. “The epidemic of car thefts and violent behavior is law enforcement’s focus,” said Milwaukee County Interim Sheriff Richard Schmidt. “The law-abiding citizen deserves to be protected from the lawless.”

The task force was created after many agencies collectively decided that more needed to be done to combat the recent wave of violent crimes, said Weber. In two and a half months, the task force made 50 arrests, recovered 12 firearms, engaged in 18 vehicle pursuits and recovered 17 stolen vehicles, according to a Suburban Violent Crimes Task Force document. Weber said the initiative has been a huge success.

“I think we’ve noticed a decrease in the violent crimes in Wauwatosa for sure and I think in some of the other jurisdictions because of the work the task force has done,” said Weber.

‘The word is out’

The task force mobilized every night over the two-and-a-half-month span of the operation, according to Wauwatosa Police Lieutenant James Mastrocola. He said officers were encouraged to bring their lists of suspects and stolen vehicles to the briefings. The task force would then divvy up assignments based on the lists and the number of available officers.

Now that the task force is in full swing, Mastrocola said, criminals have taken notice of the new initiative and have even referred to it by name.

“We’re getting some feedback that the word is out,” said Mastrocola. “Criminals are actually using the term ‘Suburban Violent Crimes Task Force.’”

Juvenile crime

Out of 50 arrests, 54 percent were juveniles. During the operation, officers found firearms on 25 percent of the days where an arrest was made — a juvenile possessed a firearm in seven out of the 12 recovered firearms incidents, according to the task force document.

The task force made two key arrests, including a 16-year-old wanted by the Milwaukee Police Department for homicide and attempted homicide of a law enforcement officer. The same individual was involved in 32 separate criminal incidents



Brandon Anderegg/Freeman Staff

Wauwatosa Police Chief Barry Weber describes how multiple law enforcement agencies from Milwaukee and Waukesha counties are working on a proactive initiative to reduce violent crime in southeastern Wisconsin called the Suburban Violent Crimes Task Force.

since 2016. Another highlight of the task force was the arrest of a 17-year-old who has been involved in 21 separate incidents since 2016, including attempted homicide of a law enforcement officer; motor vehicle theft, possession of narcotics, robbery and more, according to a task force document.

When people see young teens stealing cars and brandishing weapons, Weber said, “You want to say what in the world is going on in their families and why are they even out there,” but that’s what officers are dealing with daily, he said. In fact, Weber said, it’s a fair assessment to say that young brains on the streets committing crimes makes the job all the more dangerous.

“They don’t have the maturity to drive the cars the way they’re driving, and they don’t have the life experience to know what’s going to happen,” said Weber.

During one of the first nights of the task force, two officers from the Greenfield Police Department were ambushed by an individual with high-powered weapons, according to Greenfield Police Chief Brad Wentlandt.

“I sincerely believe these are juveniles only in terms of a date and birth certificate because they’re not acting like juveniles,” he said. “They’re out on the street acting like hardened criminals.”

Wentlandt said one of the most disappointing things the task force sees is when juvenile courts convict the same criminal multiple times, yet they’re back on the street victimizing communities. Instead of being sent to juvenile prison, juveniles are given probation or are on house arrest, he said. “Until they (juvenile

courts) take action to incarcerate these young people and get them off the streets for extended periods of time, our officers are going to continue to deal with them on a daily basis,” said Wentlandt.

Challenges

Weber said one of the biggest challenges with such operations is the cost and the necessary manpower to make an impact. While Weber said he has not communicated with law enforcement agencies not involved in the task force, he said other agencies might join the effort when they see the positive results.

“Sometimes I think people say because it’s so labor intensive and the money, ‘let’s see what kind of results these guys are getting,’” said Weber. “Because it’s been so successful, I can see where a lot more departments might want to do something like that.”

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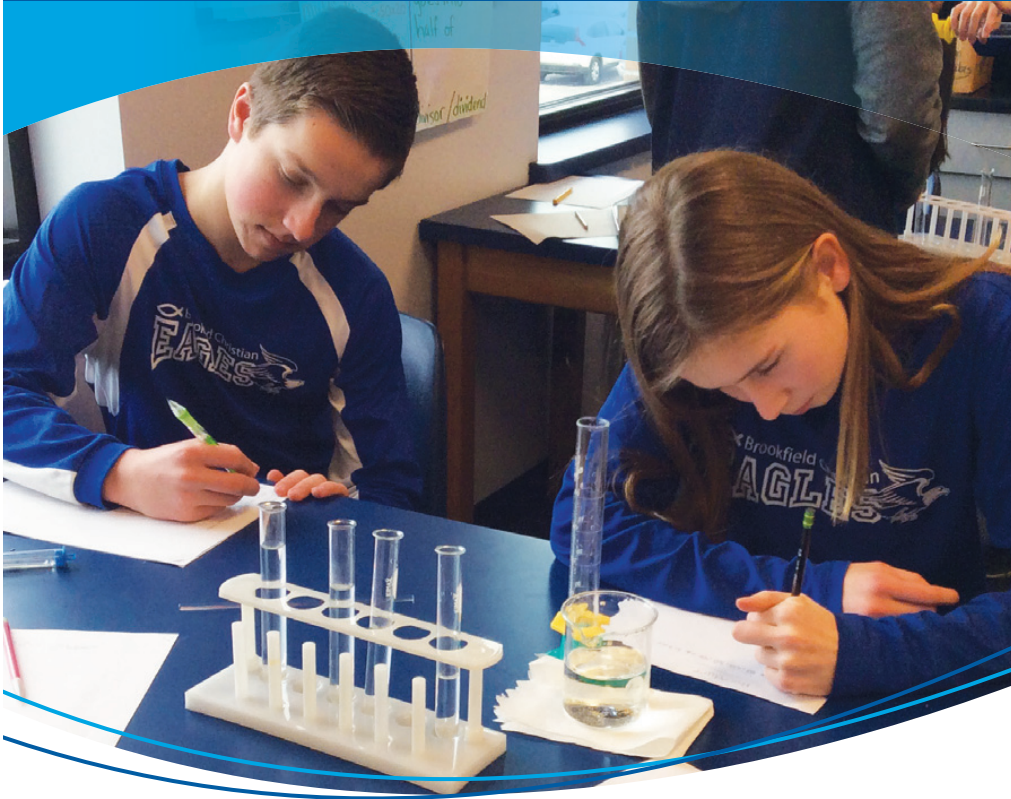
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Kramer hopes time is now for NFL Hall of Fame

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National Bakery & Deli comes to Brookfield

Newest location doing well
in former V. Richards storefront

By **Cara Spoto**
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262-513-2653

BROOKFIELD — It's a busy weekday morning at The Plaza shopping center in Brookfield.

People buzz about running errands, but inside National Bakery & Deli, 17165 W. Bluemound Road, customers are taking their time — studying the array of choices, from savory sandwiches and loaves of fresh bread to cookies and tart Cherry Nests gilded in frosting.

The fourth location for the popular Milwaukee-area chain, the bakery opened its doors in October and has been attracting customers new and old since then.

With the flagship operation at 3020 S. 16th in Milwaukee, and another Brookfield location, as well as one in Greendale, business partners Jeff Callen and Bryant Kraus decided to open another shop in Brookfield after the storefront, which long housed V. Richards Bakery, became available.

"We have customers in Waukesha, Pewaukee and Menomonee Falls, and our name recognition was already good, so we thought it would be good to tap into another market in Brookfield," Callen explained.

"With all the businesses in the area we've had a lot of people coming in for deli trays," he added. "Our lunch business has been

really good."

Steady business

That was certainly true on a recent Friday as more than a few customers came in looking to grab a bite to eat, or use their lunch hour to pick up a few treats — like a German stollen — for visiting relatives.

Kyler Volke, a Jehovah's Witness doing missionary work in the area, said he had been there more than a dozen times already.

Dawn Pethke, a longtime manager with the company who's often put in charge of new stores, said business has been steady since the store opened.

Founded in 1925 by Louis Wisniewski, National Bakery & Deli became a chain in 1996 when it opened its second store at 13820 W. Greenfield Ave.

Callen and Kraus bought the business about nine years ago, opening the third location in Greendale in 2009, and now the Bluemound store. Callen typically begins his days at 5:30 a.m. at the Milwaukee store, visiting the other locations throughout the day.

The bakery is famous for its paczki and pecan fingers, and enjoyed a busy season of making Christmas cookies and other pastries, from frosted snowmen to stollen, rum balls, and pfeffernusse spice cookies.

"Every day is different, which is pretty neat," Callen said. "There's lot of planning."



Photos by Cara Spoto/Freeman Staff

Manager Dawn Pethke talks to a customer at National Bakery & Deli, 17165 W. Bluemound Road. The Milwaukee-area chain opened the Brookfield location, its fourth, in October.



Self-described "doughnut diva" Lisa Pollack talks to a co-worker at National Bakery & Deli.



Manager Dawn Pethke pulls a doughnut from a display case at National Bakery & Deli.

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End of an era for Brookfield Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis Club disbands, following local Lions, Rotary clubs

By Chris Bennett
Special to The Freeman

BROOKFIELD — Bob Whitehouse will joke and tell you that if you want to make a million dollars in the aviation business, it is best to begin with \$2 million in hand. Whitehouse ran Capital Field in Brookfield in the early 1990s after an unexpected career switch led him away from being a police officer in Greenfield. He got wind of a plan being hatched by the Brookfield Kiwanis Club to raise money for a young girl with a muscle disorder. The Kiwanians wanted to put together enough cash to help the child get a service dog.

Whitehouse worked with the Brookfield Kiwanis, and a fly-in for the young girl raised about \$5,000. Whitehouse later flew the girl and her family to Ohio to get the dog.

“As a result of that, I was invited to a dinner with the Kiwanis Club in Brookfield,” Whitehouse said. “I liked what I saw, so I joined.”

Some 25 years later, Whitehouse was the last president of the Brookfield Kiwanis. The group disbanded as of Oct. 30. A total of eight members were part of the club, and of those eight, five were active.

Whitehouse said the Brookfield Lions Club and Rotary Club are also gone after folding in recent years, leaving a city of almost 50,000 without a service organization.

Treasurer Dennis Meyer said the Brookfield Kiwanis Club met in October and decided how to disperse its remaining funds. Some paperwork was filed with the national organization, and the Brookfield Kiwanis ceased to be.

“The camaraderie was nice,” Meyer said. “It was a big part of it. You got to meet some people. I enjoyed doing the volunteer work — going into the community, and doing the work.”

Meyer was a math and computer science teacher at Brookfield East High School, and supervised Key Club, the high school program run by Kiwanians.

The Brookfield Kiwanis began in the early 1950s as an offshoot of what was then the only Kiwanis Club in Waukesha. Kiwanis International — the parent organization of Kiwanians everywhere — came to be in 1915.

The club’s demise is part of a larger issue. Participation in service clubs is declining. In his landmark 2000 book “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community,” author Robert Putnam reported that participation in service clubs declined by 58 percent between 1975 and 2000.

These organizations helped form the backbone of the community. According to Kiwanis International, its roughly 8,000 clubs typically sponsor almost 150,000



Submitted photo

Kiwanis Club presents papers to Elmbrook Memorial

BROOKFIELD — Dennis Meyer, left, past treasurer of Kiwanis Club of Brookfield and Bob Whitehouse, right, past president of the Kiwanis Club of Brookfield present April Dethloff, supervisor of volunteer services at Elmbrook Memorial Hospital and Marie Thiebes, gift shop volunteer, with Freeman newspapers for distribution at the hospital. The service club has sponsored newspapers for delivery to patients recovering at Elmbrook hospital since 1969. During October, the club announced it was disbanding but did extend its newspaper sponsorship through the end of 2018.

service projects and raise more than \$100 million each year.

Large, long legacy

In keeping with the motto of Kiwanis International — “Serving the Children of the World” — every Kiwanian reportedly impacts the lives of 200 children. The Brookfield Kiwanis members certainly did.

In the 1970s and into the 1980s the Brookfield Kiwanis put together a nature center behind Brookfield East High School that’s still in use. The club also did a lot of work with Fairview South, which is a school in the Elmbrook School District for those

with intellectual disabilities.

The work at the nature center and Fairview is in addition to the other, smaller projects that would arise every year — for example, the Kiwanians always provided food for National Night Out.

Can the tide be turned?

As membership dwindled, and those left in the group aged, Whitehouse said smaller projects are all the Brookfield Kiwanis could handle. The Kiwanians took steps to try stemming the inevitable tide. Membership drives went nowhere, and help

from the community did not come.

The feeder organizations — Key Club on the high school level and Circle K on the college level — also provided no new members.

“Members move on because they move, they get transferred, things change in their life,” Whitehouse said. “We had young guys that were married with no kids. They have kids, and then they can’t make the meetings.”

“Now, it’s the situation where it’s very hard to get people off the couch.”

“It doesn’t seem like young people are willing to make a commitment to be a member of a club,”

Meyer added. “You can often get them to volunteer and help with a project or two, but they don’t stay long-term.”

Both Whitehouse and Meyer both scratch their heads regarding the declining membership in service clubs. A handful of members from Brookfield are refusing to be part of the problem, though, and decided to be part of the Pewaukee Kiwanis Club.

“I don’t know what the answer is,” Whitehouse said. “I really don’t. If I did, I wouldn’t say I’d be a millionaire, but Kiwanis would be in a lot better shape than they are now.”

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Wilson Center CEO Sprangers announces retirement

Cites family's effort to honor late brother's memory



Schimel

BROOKFIELD — Lynn Sprangers, CEO and president of the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, retired at the end of 2017.

Sprangers, who joined the Wilson Center in the summer of 2016, stepped down Dec. 31, which she said she decided to do after the death of her brother last year.

“My brother Henry lived with a significant developmental disability and, while his life was much too short, it was filled by love and care of so many. His death hit close to home for me and was a reminder of the fragility of life. My family wants to determine

a means by which we can honor his memory and I am going to be a part of it. We are looking to memorialize his too-short life, support the people who contributed to his care, and advocate for people like Henry who cannot speak for themselves,” she said in a statement.

Sprangers came to Milwaukee in 1983, joining the WTMJ-TV news team. After nearly 20 years in broadcast journalism, in 1994, she worked as director of communications in the Milwaukee County Executive’s Office. In 2000, she joined the Milwaukee Brewers front office where she spent 10 years growing the club’s charitable arm. She was an executive at Mount Mary University from 2011-16 before taking

on her current role at the Wilson Center.

“Lynn helped tell our story and expanded our reach to more people in the community, especially the life-changing impact of our arts education program for thousands of area children,” said Fred Syrjanen, chairman of the Wilson Center board of directors. “She also worked closely with the board and our finance committee to reshape a budget that will put the Center on a stronger fiscal path. We thank her for her service and celebrate her retirement.”

The board has named Megan Huse, vice president of development, as interim executive director. She has more than a decade of development and fundraising experience, including six years at the Wilson Center.

— Freeman Staff

Managing Editor

Katherine Michalets



Have a news tip? Tell Katherine all about it.

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Submitted photo

To India, with love

Fourth-graders at Brookfield Christian Academy held a fundraiser Nov. 30 to help raise money for a little girl in India who has cerebral palsy. Students sold handmade goods, including baked goods, bath bombs, origami and play-doh to fellow students throughout the day. The successful event raised \$900. Here, from left, **Samantha Behling**, **Hailey Dooyema**, and **Isabelle Yttre** do their part to pitch in.



Photo courtesy John Troglia

Michigan Kiwanis governor-elect visits Wisconsin

ELM GROVE — Larry Memmer, Michigan Kiwanis governor-elect visited the Elm Grove Golden K Club recently. From left to right are: **Roy Uelner**, president Elm Grove Kiwanis; **June** and **Jim Buskel**, governor elect-Wisconsin; **Larry Memmer**, governor elect-Michigan; and **Nancy Memmer**. The Michigan District has 166 clubs with about 4,300 members.

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Seafood restaurant
FreshFin Poke to open
in The Corners

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — Milwaukee east side restaurant FreshFin Poke will open a 2,100-square-foot space in The Corners next spring.

The seafood-focused, fast-casual restaurant has grown in popularity since it opened early last year. A second location opened recently in the Third Ward area of Milwaukee.

In The Corners, FreshFin Poke will be located on the southwest corner of the Garrison Building north of Von Maur at The Corners.

The Corners FreshFin Poke restaurant will have a “build your own” and signature poke bowl menu offerings.

“We are thrilled to be joining The Corners of Brookfield,” said Nate Arkush, co-owner of FreshFin Poke, in a statement. “The location is perfect for our growing customer base and we are excited to bring our healthy and unique menu to a new community.” The restaurant’s location

Submitted photo

FreshFin Poke, specializing in seafood-focused food in a fast-casual environment, will open in The Corners during the spring.

at The Corners will offer dine-in, carry out and delivery options. “We are excited to welcome FreshFin Poké to The Corners of Brookfield,” said Robert Gould, CEO of Brookfield Corners, LLC, in a statement. “This growing local favorite is a great fit for

our lifestyle center and will offer a unique dining option for our guests.” Other restaurants open at The Corners include BelAir Cantina, Café Hollander, Grimaldi’s Pizzeria and Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt.

— Freeman Staff

Bill to address teen dating
violence introduced
in state Legislature

By Ashley Haynes
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WAUKESHA — A bill introduced in the Wisconsin State Legislature on Dec. 18 would, if passed, require public schools to adopt a curriculum for educating teenagers on dating violence.

The bill requires the Department of Public Instruction to prepare, by the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, a policy governing the prevention of and appropriate responses to teen dating violence and sexual violence when students are at school or while they are under the supervision of a school authority. School boards would have until the beginning of the 2019-20 school year to either adopt the DPI’s policy and curriculum or create their own.

Bill LRB-5038 maintains that schools must adopt policies prohibiting teen dating violence at schools or school activities, model age-appropriate instruction about responding to and preventing teen dating violence in grades seven-12, and specify training and procedures for school employees to identify and handle teen dating violence incident reports.

“Studies increasingly show that to truly end domestic and other forms of

interpersonal violence, prevention efforts need to begin as early as middle school,” said Chase Tarrier, coordinator with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. “Working with both youth victims and offenders to break cycles of dangerous or abusive behavior is a key part of preventing abuse for future generations.”

Data from the 2017 Wisconsin Youth Behavior Survey shows that 15 percent of all female high school students reported experiencing dating violence of a sexual nature, and 9 percent experienced dating violence of a physical nature. Representative Melissa Sargent, D-Madison, one of the co-authors of the legislation, says that through her research, she found out 1 in 5 female students and 1 in 10 male students will experience dating violence.

Throughout three sessions of working on the bill, one of Sargent’s own young interns shared her personal story of dating violence.

“I’ve had so many people come to me,” said Sargent. “I had an intern, she was in high school, and she had been a victim of dating violence. She didn’t report it because she didn’t even know it was actually happening.”

Sargent said it’s very common for youths to be

unaware of unhealthy relationships, especially if abuse has been modeled for them in other relationships, such as between parents. Another abuse survivor who shared who her story with Sargent mentioned that she believed she wouldn’t have been put in such a difficult situation if she had learned about dating violence in school.

The topic of dating violence has transcended party lines and there is bipartisan support for LRB-5038, with Sen. Jerry Petrowski, R-Madison, also being a co-author.

“This material has been covered in seminars for every college freshman for more than two decades,” said Petrowski. “We believe that by getting this material to teens before they start dating we can help them make better choices and prevent life-altering traumas.”

Both Petrowski and Sargent believe teen dating violence curriculum would be instrumental in preventing potentially life-altering trauma.

“I think it’s fair to say that by starting these conversations, by hearing the voices of survivors, it’s providing them with strength,” said Sargent. “Teen dating violence is absolutely a pervasive problem.”

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Brookfield & Elm Grove
THIS MONTH

Antique chairs built to last and they have

Dollhouse more than mere child’s play

Q.: We look forward to your column and hope you can tell us more about this pair of chairs that was given to us from family. A few years ago we had them re-upholstered.
— H.A.C., Pewaukee

A.: Your pair of chairs (only one pictured), is composed of two styles that merged in late 19th century. An English architect turned designer, Charles Locke Eastlake published a book titled, “Hints on Household Taste.” This book was only a decorating guide but people were looking and ready to receive a new, modern furniture style. Eastlake wrote that overly decorative Victorian furniture was, “senseless with detestable ornamentation.” His designs could be made cheaper by using mass production and were welcomed by American manufacturers. Also, the basic style could be modified into different forms and generally, no upholstery was needed. As consumer demand grew, over 400 different furniture workshops made Eastlake-style furniture, but often without benchmark quality. To this day the Eastlake movement is credited to both excellent and inferior workmanship. The irony is that Eastlake only published design drawings and never built one piece of furniture.

Your fine pair of open-arm chairs was made for comfort with padded backs, armrests and wide seats. The clove feet on these parlor chairs have front casters for mobility. They could be brought to the hearth or shifted when different configurations of seating arrangements were needed. The straight rectangular back has a carved crowned top. Good workmanship is on the replaced upholstery padding and original re-tied springs honor the period. The

carved incised decorations are crisp and the chairs are structurally stable. Your antique chairs have been well cared for over 100 years, with a value of \$2,000 for the pair.

Mid-century style dollhouse

Dollhouses from the 18th century were only in estates of the noble born. In the 19th century, dollhouses were found in wealthy homes but small fingers were discouraged from touching. These “touch with your eyes only” examples spared no expense and were accurate in every exquisite detail. The multistory houses had custom wallpaper, hand-made rugs, grand stairways and doors with working hinges. Hundreds of miniature, inlaid furniture pieces filled the rooms and glass chandeliers were often added.

Fast forward another 100 years to the early 20th century. Dollhouses were made especially for the middle class with the purpose of teaching domestic duties. By the 1960s, baby boomers were becoming parents and wanted their children to have modern toys. The toy industry was forced to redesign for a new market demand. The Louis Marx Toy Co. of New York produced hundreds of dollhouses with updated architecture and they were designed with child-friendly furnishings. The Rooster tin lithograph house was one of the final models made by the famous toy manufacturer. This one-level ranch (Rambler) was the miniature version of the most popular house-plan style that attracted buyers. The box graphics projected not wife duties, but “Be Your Own Interior Decorator.”

Adding to the ease of designing rooms, the entire roof is removable. The



BARBARA EASH

Antiques Appraised

molded modern furniture is updated and the walls inside and out are lithograph decorated. Most 20th century dollhouses sell for under \$50.00. This dollhouse, with all original furniture, (scale-family and storage box not shown), can sell for upward of \$300.

(Barbara Eash is a member of the Certified Appraisers Guild of America, specializing in appraisals of antiques and collectibles and has extensive experience writing and speaking about antiques.)

Submit an item for consideration

Do you have an item or collection of items that could be shared in a future newspaper column? Let Barbara Eash hear about it!

To have your item or collection considered send the following information: up to three, sharp, well-lit photos of front & back of the item(s), measurements as well as any history or hearsay, length of ownership and your full name, address and daytime phone number. Mail: Waukesha Antique Shop, ATTN: Barbara Eash, 1427 E. Racine, Ave. Unit E-2, Waukesha, WI 53186 or email: beappraisals@gmail.com. If your item(s) are considered for a future column, we will contact you. No photos can be returned and no purchase of items will occur.



Passion in full bloom for Elm Grove Garden Club

By Chris Bennett
Special to The Freeman

Members of the Elm Grove Garden Club played a hand in rebuilding a world ravaged by war.

The club came to be in 1934. During World War II, seed companies contacted garden clubs nationwide and enlisted their help to test-grow seeds.

The seeds were cultivated and grown by garden club members to see which would work best in various parts of the country, and potentially throughout the world. Current EGGC President Cheryl Lausten said members sent seeds overseas.

“The countries overseas, where all the fighting was taking place, they didn’t have seeds,” Lausten said. “Our garden club members were shipping seeds overseas to help those people grow their own food.”

Lausten said the seed work performed by the EGGC in World War II is one of the club’s first large projects, and helped jump-start interest in the organization.

Move forward more than 70 years, and it is evident the EGGC is does not at all fit the mental stereotype attached to garden clubs. The group is committed to the future, but Lausten said it constantly fights preconceived notions.

“We don’t wear white gloves and we don’t wear big hats,” Lausten said. “We are trying to attract some younger members, which is why we have a website and a Facebook page.”

“We tell them we don’t just sit around and smell flowers,” Lausten got involved in the club through her mother, Mary Ricklefs, and Lausten admits she became more involved as the years went on. She’s been president of the EGGC for three years, and a member for 10.

Lausten is also a master gardener through the UW-Extension System, as are several other members of GC.

The EGGC is not a stand-

alone organization. The club is a member of the Milwaukee District Garden Clubs, the Central Region of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

“It’s all about education and conservation,” Lausten said. “We try to educate the public on conservation methods and beautification.”

Lausten said the EGGC takes the lead on some of its focus from what is taking place nationally in the world of garden clubs. The National Garden Clubs theme for 2018 is “Plant America.”

According to the NGC, the focus and goal is to engage in planting and gardening projects on a local level that will benefit the community. The NGC is making grants available for that purpose for its intentionally broad initiative.

“Anything,” Lausten said about what Plant America entails. “Either actually planting plants, or teaching the importance of planting, or the importance of plant-

ing and pollination — it’s all connected.”

One of the EGGC’s most visible projects is the Blue Star Marker at the corner of Legion Drive and Juneau Boulevard. This site was chosen to commemorate the former home of the Stenz-Griessell-Smith Post 449 of the American Legion.

The club also sponsors a garden walk — Tour le Jardine. The walk is always held on a Saturday in July, and typically features six or more gardens maintained by local residents. Lausten said the walk is one of the group’s main fundraisers, along with its annual tea event in the fall.

“We pick a theme every year, and everyone designs their own table,” Lausten said. “At our last tea in October, it was fairy gardens — we tried to hone in on that a little bit.”

Fairy gardens are mini-gardens that feature both plants and small structures, like toadstools or houses, and are meant to add a touch of whimsy to garden-



Submitted photo

Elm Grove Garden Club member Jan Thelaner and her husband, Bill, with their entry in the Elm Grove Memorial Day Parade. Every year club members help decorate their antique delivery van for the parade.

classified as an invasive species.

The club also spends time touring garden centers and other famous gardens. Lausten said the club recently held a program at the Elm Grove Public Library on jumping worms, which were discovered in Wisconsin in 2013 and are gardenclub.com.

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The case for cursive

Does the skill still have a place in 21st-century learning?

By Ashley Haynes
ahaynes@conley.net.com
262-513-2681

Thinking back to the last time many of us wrote in cursive, the separate occasions may very well be few and far between. But just because the new generation of students has embraced the shift towards using technology for just about everything, including notetaking doesn't mean the skill is no longer useful. Without it, we couldn't sign our names or read some of the noteworthy historical documents this country has produced.

With only so much time in a school year, however, and so many new skills for students to learn, it's inevitable that some areas of learning may disappear from the curriculum.

For school districts in Waukesha County, cursive isn't a skill that will be vanishing.

"Technology hasn't taken over everything," said Waukesha School District Superintendent Todd Gray. "There will always be a need to be able to read and write in cursive."

In Waukesha schools, students learn cursive in third grade under the larger umbrella of handwriting, which also includes general penmanship and writing legibility. They are taught through example, as teachers model how to write cursive letters and then students emulate it on pen and paper. The district aims to apply 21st-century learning that incorporates critical thinking and problem solving to thrive in the real world. Within that framework, in the School District of Waukesha, handwriting and cursive are purposefully embedded in literacy workshops to support fluency in writing and reading words. For older students, notetaking is used to stabilize whatever knowledge they're gaining in the classroom. While students learn cursive early on, at the high school level,

"Technology hasn't taken over everything. There will always be a need to be able to read and write in cursive."

— Todd Gray
Waukesha School District superintendent

"Things are always and evolving in education. We can't predict if cursive will ever go away; however, we are seeing that students are choosing it less as a tool to communicate."

— Melinda Mueller,
director of public information and community engagement,
Kettle Moraine School District

there isn't as much emphasis on what students are taking notes on as how effective their notes are.

A CollegeBoard study from back in 2006 found that 15 percent of SAT essays were written in cursive, while the other 85 percent were printed. The essays that were written in cursive received a slightly higher score (7.2 for cursive, compared to 7.0 for printed exams).

Another study completed in 2014 by Laura H. Dinehart from the Department of Teaching and Learning at Florida International University found that writing by hand in grade school supports the development of reading skills and can increase the likelihood of academic success in later years.

Lifelong benefits

The Pewaukee School District, which similarly provides instruction on cursive handwriting in third grade, is aware of these benefits.

"We recognize we live in an increasingly digital world, but also recognize the benefits to handwriting including cognitive processing and fine motor skill



Kettle Moraine School District third-grade student Jackson Losenegger practices writing in cursive.

development," said Danielle Bosanec, chief academic officer. "We feel it is important to take a balanced approach in the many important educational goals for our students and this is one example of how we do this."

The Oconomowoc Area School District continually evaluates current research that connects brain activity to the physical act of the cursive writing process through a literacy leadership team. While current elementary standards don't require cursive writing, it remains a benchmark in the OASD curriculum, embedded as part of the writing process.

"Cursive writing in the elementary grade levels then

progresses into keyboarding during our third- and fourth-grade curriculum," explained Jenni Holland, OASD communications and marketing manager in an email.

For the Kettle Moraine School District, teaching cursive to students isn't priority number one, but important to the district's mission of making sure pupils have options during their educational journey.

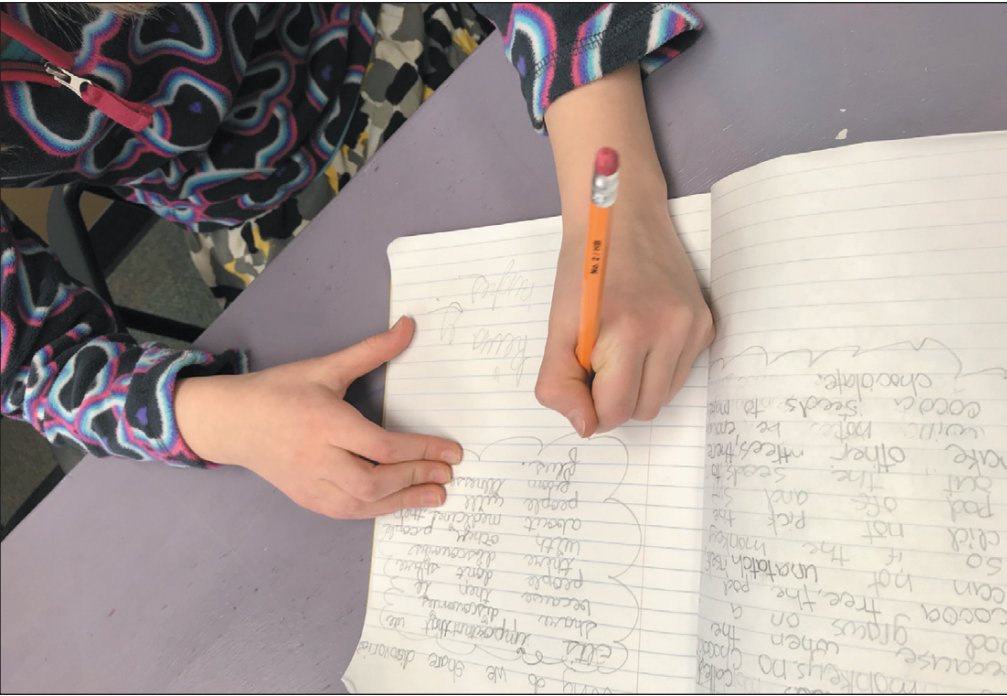
"It's seen as another tool students can use as written

communication," said Melinda Mueller, director of public information and community engagement. "We align it with our personalized learning approach, where students have a voice and choice."

Mueller says the Kettle Moraine School District absolutely believes that cursive is a skill students should be introduced to, and it is through parts of second and third grade. Folding into the idea of student choice, she explained that pupils should

have the option to write notes in either print or cursive. While teachers continue to introduce the skill to students, KMSD aims to make sure students are literate in skills that are versatile enough to be useful in any job of the future.

"Things are always changing and evolving in education," said Mueller. "We can't predict if cursive will ever go away; however, we are seeing that students are choosing it less as a tool to communicate."



In the Waukesha School District, cursive is integrated within the daily curriculum. Here, a student is writing in a Literacy Thoughtful Log. Thoughtful logs are responses to a discussion on discoveries and are used to capture student thinking and strategies within literacy and math.

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Community Care celebrates 40th anniversary

BROOKFIELD — Over 150 people gathered Nov. 7 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Community Care Inc., which is headquartered in Brookfield. Speakers for the event included Kenneth Munson, current chief executive officer of Community Care Inc., Kirby Shoaf, founder and former CEO of Community Care Inc., and Linda Seemeyer, the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Community Care Inc. is a private nonprofit organization that serves the long-term care and health needs of more than 11,000 older adults and adults with physical or intellectual disabilities in 14 eastern Wisconsin counties including: Calumet, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca and Winnebago. For more information about Community Care, visit www.community-careinc.org.

Submitted photos



From left: Kirby Shoaf, founder of Community Care Inc.; Robert P. Goldstein, chairman of the board of Community Care Inc.; Linda Seemeyer, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services; and Kenneth Munson, CEO of Community Care Inc.



Mary Parish-Gavinski, M.D., chief medical officer for Community Care Inc., left, enjoys the anniversary event with Toni Kesler, Vitas, center, and Julie Erdmann, Community Care Inc.



Sherrice Gilcreast, chief administrative officer for Community Care, Inc., left, chats with Frank Gumina, partner Husch Blackwell, center, and Thomas Jackson, M.D., former Community Care Board member.



Juan Ruiz, deputy director at United Community Center, left, joins Ed Kohl, chief program officer, Community Care, Inc., center, and James A. Terantino, Terantino and Company, at the celebration.



Lukie Christy, owner Sunvale Homes, left, celebrates Community Care Inc.'s 40th anniversary with Reginald Newson, vice president chief advocacy officer at Ascension WI.



Ricardo Diaz, executive director of United Community Center, left, talks with Mark Thomas, Community Care board member; center, and Lori Stortz, Community Care board member.



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Prep coverage remains Freeman’s identity

Paper more dedicated than ever to high school sports

I was a senior at Waukesha North and our first football game was before the school year even started. I got decent playing time in football, basketball and baseball my junior year on the varsity level, but I was just a guy. So in that first football game of the year against Hamilton, I was called on to play a much more important role as a senior.

I had a good game. I kicked two field goals, had two interceptions and we beat the Chargers 8-6. It was probably my best game of the season, but I'm not trying to boast about my glory days. What happened after the game was the coolest part of it all.

I get home from the game and the telephone rings — the one on the wall with a cord because I didn't have a cellphone yet. My dad told

me it was for me, which I thought was weird. Who would be calling me right as I walk in the door after a game?

It was Tom Badger from the Waukesha Freeman. Yes, the same Tom Badger who is still a freelancer in our sports section. He apologized that he couldn't find me after the game, but wanted to interview me about the game. It was so on the spot and I wasn't prepared, but it was cool to be interviewed. The headline of the story even featured my name. It was by far one of the coolest things in my life up until then.

This is what the Waukesha Freeman sports coverage is all about. The newspaper industry has evolved over the years. However, we at The Freeman have a good grasp

of our identity. As more and more media outlets put their resources toward other things, I want to assure you we are committed to prep coverage.

In fact, I feel we've even expanded on our prep coverage. I'm trying to send more reporters out to games. Covering a sporting event is unique. It's always different and we want to eloquently tell you what happened. Athletes shine on the brightest of stages.

What makes it easy is our county has the best prep athletes in the state. I can't remember the last state tournament the area was shut out of.

And we are committed to the travel. Even take out the state tournaments in places like Green Bay and Madison. We travelled to places like

Sun Prairie, Franklin, Racine and Clinton for football. But we don't just focus on football. We covered a doubleheader soccer sectional in Shorewood for two different divisions, went to Jackson for sectional tennis and drove to Whitnall High School to see two area teams fight it out for a trip to state in girls volleyball.

Expect more of the same this winter. It's events that drive sports. It's the games that people talk about. And when we do travel — near or far — you as the reader will read what the coaches and players were thinking during some intense moments. Our talented staff and freelance writers do an amazing job of letting the players and coaches tell the story by asking intelligent questions. It's always important to get the



PAT NEUMUTH

perspective of the game from the athlete playing during some heated moments.

What I think separates us from our competitors in prep sports coverage is our balance between game coverage and feature stories. We will tell you about the games, but then we will also tell you the story about the player who played in the games. Our balance of features is all over the spectrum, from prep athletes, collegians from Waukesha County, to adults who are still doing amazing things.

We can't do this ourselves, though. We cover 20 high schools in the county. No

matter the expanded coverage, we can't be everywhere. When we can't be there, let us know what happened. It's usually up to the coaches to somehow send us results. But I've had a few parents and grandparents step up to send in their teams' game results.

If it gets sent in, it will be printed.

My parents saved all the articles that my name appeared in The Freeman when I was a prep athlete. In fact, I still have that article of us beating Hamilton, and the player profile story former assistant sports editor Tony Mooren (who is still on our staff as a freelancer) wrote on me, too. I know other parents do, too, because they've told me in person or via email.

High school is a special time in a kid's life and we are committed to documenting those special times.

Packers great Kramer hoping Canton will call this time

Former lineman only member of NFL’s 50th anniversary team not in Hall of Fame

By Mark Hutchinson
mhutchinson@conley.net.com
262-513-2693

WAUKESHA — Jerry Kramer is one of those individuals who believes in pay-back, though not of the vengeful variety.

Hopefully the Pro Football Hall of Fame's board of selectors will believe in it, too — on Kramer's behalf — when it meets in Minneapolis a day before Super Bowl LII to determine its next induction class.

Kramer has been described as one of the fulcrums of the vaunted power sweep, which was designed and implemented by the legendary Vince Lombardi after he became the coach of the Green Bay Packers in 1959. It became the most potent weapon in the game for the ensuing decade.

Kramer, a 6 foot-3, 245-pound offensive guard, was a Packers mainstay for 11 seasons, helping them win five National Football League championships and the first two Super Bowls. He also served as Green Bay's place-kicker in 1962, '63 and part of '68, converting 29 field goals and 90 extra points for a total of 177 points.

He booted three field goals and an extra point amid a 13-degree temperature reading and 40-mph winds as the Packers defeated the New York Giants 16-7 in the 1962 NFL Championship Game at Yankee Stadium.

Kramer was named All-Pro five times and was selected to the NFL's 50th anniversary team in 1969, yet even after being a finalist 10 times since he became eligible, the iconic right guard has not joined Lombardi and 10 of his 1960s Packers teammates in the Hall.

The only member of the 50th anniversary team who is not enshrined in Canton, Kramer was ranked No. 1 on the NFL Network's top 10 list of players not in the Hall of Fame.

Mark Mayfield, who owns and operates Mayfield Sports Marketing out of his home in Oconomowoc, met Kramer a couple of years ago. The two men have formed a partnership, with Mayfield arranging a series of public appearances and endorsements for Kramer as his Hall-of-Fame campaign wages on.

Many of Kramer's engagements have been in Wisconsin small towns, for which Kramer has developed a great affinity during his years with the Packers and beyond.

"It's kind of amazing," Kramer said. "I grew up in a small town (Sandpoint, population around 4,200 in the late 1940s) in northern Idaho. I figured I'd be remembered there for a few years and then go into the lumber business or something.

"Fifty years later, I still have this great relationship with the fans. The whole ride has been a special treat for me. It's gone way beyond any dreams, with the books, the dinners and the autograph sessions, not to mention the games and the championships.

"I really developed an understanding of Packers fans and have great respect for them. I've always felt I owed them a great debt, and I've been trying to do things to pay back that debt."

Several Oconomowoc residents who have been devoted

Packers fans dating back to the 1960s were asked to put Kramer's importance to those Green Bay teams into context.

One of them, Gale Douglas, was an outstanding semi-pro football player during his early years as a coach and teacher at Oconomowoc High School.

Douglas compiled a 292-49-2 record as head wrestling coach at OHS from 1967 through 1991 and was inducted into the Wisconsin Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1995. He was also a valued member of Hall of Famer Ed Rux's OHS football coaching staff for many years.

"Those 1960s Packers teams had a tremendous line," Douglas said. "Those pulling guards — Jerry Kramer and Fuzzy Thurston — really made that a potent offense blocking for Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung. That power sweep was so difficult to stop.

"That Packers offensive line, which also included Forrest Gregg and Bob Skoronski, also gave Bart Starr a lot of time to pass."

Kramer left an indelible impression on Douglas.

"Kramer was so tough and mobile," Douglas said. "He could pull around the defensive end or linebacker, and he had strong forearms and shoulders. His blocks were usually picture-perfect blocks.

"There have been so many pictures over the years of Kramer and Thurston, those two pulling guards. Kramer was an iron man, too. He was in there all the time. I can't remember him missing a game."

Dan Heiden has been one of the area's most passionate Packers fans for parts of seven decades. He is easy to spot driving the streets of Oconomowoc in his second "Packermobile," which is colorfully decorated in green and gold detail.

"I started following the team closely in 1958," Heiden said. "Jerry Kramer and Fuzzy Thurston were the main cogs in that Green Bay power sweep. That was a heck of a weapon for many years.

"Jerry Kramer definitely belongs in the Hall of Fame, and I hope he gets inducted. It's long overdue, no matter what the circumstances are. He played a lot of great football."

LeRoy Schumacher, a former Oconomowoc resident who now lives in the Madison suburb of Oregon, agreed.

"The success of the Packers' power sweep was a team thing, but Jerry Kramer and Fuzzy Thurston were always the guys who were out in front of that," Schumacher said. "The play was a huge weapon for Vince Lombardi's Packers teams, and there's no question Jerry Kramer played an extremely important role in that."

"What Jerry Kramer and those 1960s Packers teams accomplished really sticks with you, especially if you were a young person at the time. The Packers became my team, and that will never change."

Schumacher became an avid collector of Packers memorabilia. One of his most prized keepsakes features Kramer.

"One of my favorite items in my Packers collection is a photo of the winning touch-

down from the Ice Bowl," Schumacher said. "Jerry Kramer was right in the middle of that play. ... It would give me chills if Jerry Kramer gets into the Hall of Fame."

One of the many great friends Kramer made during his Packers heyday was Hall-of-Fame defensive tackle Henry Jordan, who made his home in Oconomowoc. Jordan suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 42.

"One of my sons is named Jordan," Kramer said. "There were several reasons for that. I have a couple of friends named Jordan. I was born in Jordan, Montana. And I always liked the name.

"I had a great relationship with Henry Jordan. I was always so impressed with his intellect, energy and can-do attitude."

News of Jordan's passing hit Kramer hard.

"Henry was running Summerfest at the time he died," Kramer said. "I was in Costa Rica fishing for tarpon at the mouth of the Colorado River. I didn't get the information that he had passed until two or three days later, and I missed his funeral.

"Hearing of his passing was a terrible shock."

The 1960s Packers made several appearances in Oconomowoc to play basketball games against local all-star teams. Kramer enjoyed participating in those games as often as he could.

"We played 20 games a year, and I'd play about 15 or so," Kramer said. "Those were fun ... always great events. We'd sit around the scorer's bench and sign autographs for anyone who wanted them afterwards.

"Ray Nitschke was a very good basketball player. Fuzzy Thurston went to Valparaiso to play basketball, and he was a good ballhandler. He'd throw no-look passes and hit you in the head. After that, you made sure you kept your eye on him."

Kramer and his teammates enjoyed mingling with Wisconsinites year-round.

"We had a hunting camp up in Crivitz," he said. "The guys would go up there and hunt pheasant Mondays, then go to Winchester and hunt deer.

"I've attended hundreds of school functions, business dinners and gatherings in small towns across the state over the years. It's hard for me to quantify.

"I've always had an appreciation and respect for people. I got that from my parents. I put myself in others' shoes, try to make them feel comfortable and make them feel good about something. I've always felt that was important."

Kramer will never forget a couple of the earliest impressions he had of Packers fans after

Green Bay selected him in the fourth round of the 1958 NFL Draft with the 39th overall pick.

"I had a really interesting introduction to Packers fans," Kramer said. "Shortly after my arrival in Green Bay, I went to a magazine store and bought a couple of magazines. I was walking out alongside a lovely grandmother type.

"She said, 'Are you a football player?'"

"I said, 'Yes, ma'am.'"

"She said, 'Are we ready for those SOB Bears?'"

"My jaw dropped and I said, 'Yes, ma'am, I think we



Submitted photo

Former Green Bay Packers guard Jerry Kramer displays five of his championship rings and other memorabilia from his 11 seasons in the National Football League. Kramer is a senior nominee for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

are."

"I didn't realize until then that professional football fans would be so passionate. I had only seen that sort of passion from college or high-school football fans."

An on-field moment gave Kramer an unforgettable memory of Green Bay fans' loyalty.

"I remember when I really began to understand the Packers fan," he said. "We were playing Baltimore at Lambeau. We had the ball across the 50 and were down three points. I figured we were going to go, 'Bing, bang, bing' and score, win the game and still be alive for the playoffs.

"We got to the 35, we fumbled, and the Colts recovered. There were only about 2 minutes left in the game, so I thought, 'It's over. We're not gonna be in the playoffs.'"

"I started trotting toward our bench, and I heard applause coming from the stands. It started to grow, then people stood up. Pretty soon, everyone in the stadium

was standing up, applauding us after the fumble.

"I thought to myself, 'They knew it was over. They knew before I did.' At that point, I really understood the Packers fans and had great respect for them."

Kramer has enjoyed his partnership with Mayfield. The feeling is mutual.

"Jerry's appearances have been awesome to observe," Mayfield said. "He's pretty famous not only in Wisconsin, but wherever he goes. We were in Dallas for a tailgate party that was held indoors, just north of AT&T Stadium, and the line of people was as long as you could see. Judging by the crowd, if you didn't know it was 86 degrees and we were in Dallas, you'd have thought we were in Green Bay.

"Rayfield Wright and Bob Lilly (former Cowboys who are in the Hall of Fame) were there. When they finished what they were doing, they made a beeline over to Jerry Kramer.

"As much respect as people have for Jerry, he has for other people. Wherever we go or whoever we're with, he always tries to make time for every last person, even when we're in a hurry to be somewhere else."

Following 10 unsuccessful nominations for induction into the Hall of Fame, Kramer is a senior nominee for the first time. He'll need 80 percent of the vote from the entire selection committee when it convenes on Super Bowl LII weekend.

Kramer was asked what is running through his mind as that time draws nearer.

"I have nothing on my mind," he said. "I refuse to get involved in possibilities. This is my 11th time as a finalist. To think about planning my day is silly. I just don't want to be disappointed again.

"The whole experience has been wonderful, complimentary and flattering. I've enjoyed it. If nothing else happens, it's been a wonderful time."



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20%-70% Off & More

on our original prices on Furs, Leathers, Cloth Coats and Shearlings

You'll find tremendous savings on our huge selection of winter coats to help you keep warm for the rest of the season. All winter coats are sale priced to move quickly. So if you want a fine quality winter coat at a great sale price, now is the time to shop A.J. Ugent Furs. A huge selection of coats will be marked down for this once a year sale.

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Sale prices do not apply on prior purchases.

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