

Brookfield & Elm Grove

THIS MONTH

APRIL 2020

Elm Grove landmark enters era of rebirth

School Sisters of Notre Dame property to become apartments

By Jake Ekdahl
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262-513-2657

ELM GROVE – The School Sisters of Notre Dame are set to leave Elm Grove after more than 150 years. The news comes after the announcement of a purchase agreement between the Sisters and Milwaukee-based Mandel Group.

In a letter addressed to village residents, the Sisters expressed confidence in the redevelopment plans.

“We are confident they will honor the SSND legacy, mission and core values as they develop the property in the months and years ahead,” wrote Sister Debra Sciano in her letter to Village residents.

Mandel said it anticipates the preservation of the historic buildings visible from Watertown Plank Road and the development of market-rate apartments in a manner sensitive to the surrounding neighborhood.

“We are excited to redevelop the Sister’s campus while respecting and honoring the Sister’s heritage and contributions to the community,” said Phillip Aiello, senior vice president of development for Mandel Group, in a statement.

“The press release from Mandel indicated that they most likely intend on submitting four apartments, but we don’t know whether or not those are going to be owner-occupied condominiums or they’re going to be all apartments,” said Elm Grove Zoning Administrator Tom Harrigan.

The Sisters’ campus is located at 13105 Watertown Plank Road, immediately east of the Elm Grove’s downtown.



Jake Ekdahl/Freeman Staff

The 30-acre School Sisters of Notre Dame campus in Elm Grove may be converted into apartments by Milwaukee-based Mandel Group.

“The walkability to the charm and convenience of downtown Elm Grove as well as quick access to downtown Milwaukee make it an ideal location for an apartment community,” said Aiello. “Preservation of historic buildings comes at the cross-section of purpose, function, and marketplace. Maria Hall and Notre Dame Hall on the Sisters’ campus appear to be well-suited for conversion to housing and associated amenities while providing distinct apartments in the marketplace.”

Mount Mary University will be the new home for

the Sisters. The 2021 relocation is part of the university’s \$45 million plan for intergenerational housing on the campus.

“The intent of this community is twofold: To provide a vibrant, intergenerational living environment for School Sisters of Notre Dame and seniors, and to provide an educational and supportive housing option for single mothers who are students at Mount Mary,” reads a press release on the university’s website.

Despite the changes, School Sisters will continue to live and work in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

and within the greater community.

The Schools Sisters of Notre Dame came to Wisconsin in 1850, primarily serving as a school for German immigrant children in the Milwaukee area. The effort was led by Mother Caroline Friess, SSND, who then purchased 40 acres of land in Elm Grove to build an orphanage for girls and a home for retired sisters. The property eventually increased in size and became known as Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

“The School Sisters of Notre Dame were here long before the village of Elm

Grove was established and have been an important part of the fabric of the Village,” said Neil Palmer, Elm Grove Village President, in a letter to constituents. “I know many of us will miss the Sisters when they move to their new home at Mount Mary University.”

Palmer said over the coming months the village board will work to be transparent about the process.

“We all want the best possible project that will continue to keep Elm Grove a great place to live,” he said.

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INSIDE



Distant replay:
'80s Brewers polka gets an update

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Local election previews

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Lobby mailbox still delivers

Page 4

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Roskopf, Wied vie for seat on Elmbrook School Board

By Jake Ekdahl
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262-513-2657

BROOKFIELD — Two candidates are competing for one seat on the Elmbrook School Board in the April 7 election. Jennifer Roskopf and Leanne Wied spoke with The Freeman and offered their views on what the direction of the district should be going forward.

The seat is open because Kathryn Wilson did not seek re-election

The FREEMAN: Why are you running for a seat on the school board?

ROSKOPF: My children are receiving an excellent education through Elmbrook and I want to ensure the district's reputation for excellence continues to grow. I believe ongoing excellence requires maintaining a strong foundation in core subject areas while adapting learning systems to evolving student needs, enrollment changes, and expectations of employers

and post-secondary institutions. Having engaged parent stakeholders on the board is important to continue this excellence and I am concerned the board has only one remaining member with children currently attending Elmbrook schools.

WIED: I am running because I believe my unique understanding of both the classroom environment and board budgets and policies will allow me to contribute immediately to our continued success. I have worked collaboratively with the school board and administration for 10 years on each of the four school board committees, including finance and operations, and on several different task forces. The Elmbrook School Board is losing two experienced members this year. Through my work with the board, I have learned that it takes a full term for a new board member to become knowledgeable and effective.

The FREEMAN: What

do you believe is the most important issue facing the Elmbrook district?

ROSKOPF: Our district's growing enrollment and the potential to exceed our elementary schools' capacity is the most important issue for families and taxpayers. To successfully address the enrollment issue and make appropriate facility decisions, the facility and enrollment committee, made up of community and district members, should continue to monitor and analyze enrollment forecasts, understand student and family impact, and provide transparency to stakeholders. I am honored to serve on this committee as well as to have provided analytic leadership for the 2016 Enrollment Balancing Task Force.

WIED: Elmbrook is an excellent school district but all institutions can improve. These are some of the issues I want to tackle immediately as a board member: improving our instructional model of inclusion to meet the needs

of all children in a more flexible, responsive and effective manner; increasing teacher, aide and staff retention; and taking a more conservative, critical and analytical approach to budget expenditures that better improve and impact student learning outcomes.

The FREEMAN: What do you believe can be done to improve the education of students in the district?

ROSKOPF: In this unprecedented global crisis requiring an at-home learning environment, the value of technology has been clear. Our district was extremely well prepared with technology infrastructure and tools as well as having staff equipped with the necessary knowledge and flexibility to quickly shift to an at-home learning environment. Technology is being used to support communication, instruction, practice, and classroom connection (and) projecting forward to the return to classroom learning,


one improvement area where our district can focus is to more clearly define and communicate the specific role of technology in our education processes.

WIED: Elmbrook has a well-deserved reputation for excellence, opportunity and innovation. Our challenge is maintaining that reputation. We can continue to improve the education of students in our district by working with those whom our decisions directly impact. Parent, student and teacher input on the implementation of inclusion would result in an improved model. We have hired over 100 new teachers in the last two years and we struggle to attract and retain paraprofessionals as well. This directly impacts the education of our students. The district can improve staff retention without incurring additional costs.

As a classroom teacher for 33 years, I have seen trends come and go and I know what will stand the test of time.


ELMBROOK SCHOOL BOARD

Name: Jennifer Roskopf
Age: 48



Occupation: Homemaker and community volunteer, formerly management consultant
Years in district: 18 years
Prior elected experience: none
Address: 2225 Derrin Lane, Brookfield

Name: Leanne Wied
Age: 57



Occupation: High school math teacher
Years in district: 20 years
Prior elected experience: none
Address: 1800 Dundee Road, Brookfield

BROOKFIELD COMMON COUNCIL

Incumbent Jurken facing challenger Hallquist for District 4 seat

By Darryl Enriquez
Special to The Freeman
denriquez@wi.rr.com

BROOKFIELD — Political newcomer Mike Hallquist is challenging incumbent Buck Jurken for his District 4 aldermanic seat in the April 7 election.

The term of office is four years. The annual pay is about \$9,900.

The FREEMAN: Why are you running for a seat on the Brookfield Common Council?

JURKEN: I am running for re-election to help keep Brookfield a safe and prosperous city that we are all proud to live in. I feel that as a 36-year resident of our district I know what is important to my neighbors and friends. I have listened to your concerns and helped make changes that improved our district, one example being the stop signs on Brookfield and Calhoun roads.

HALLQUIST: I'm running to make sure Brookfield remains a premier community to raise a family, retire, or start a business. We need a voice in Brookfield that is willing to challenge current thinking, ask tougher questions, and better represent the community. Brookfield needs to protect its first-class services. It can provide greater equity to homeowners by encouraging smarter development.

The FREEMAN: What do you believe are the most important issues

facing the city of Brookfield?

JURKEN: I feel that redevelopment is still an important challenge that Brookfield faces. You can see how the south side of Brookfield Square has changed into a true entertainment destination. Transformations like this are vital to the strength of the city. Another important issue is keeping property taxes in line while keeping the types of service and safety we currently expect and enjoy in Brookfield.

HALLQUIST: The number one priority is the city's emergency response to the coronavirus. The city needs to work together with federal, state, and county officials to help keep residents safe and the city's core services operating. Longer term, the city needs to address its three-year growing budget deficit and manage its increasing expansion and development.

The FREEMAN: How are you qualified to serve the residents of Brookfield?

JURKEN: I have served our community over the last 20 years as your alderman as well as 5 years prior to that I was a member of the Police and Fire Commission. I bring 45 years of business leadership to each and every meeting I attend as your alderman. This experience helps me ask the right questions to help me make the right decisions for Brookfield and the 4th District.

ALDERMAN, DISTRICT 4

Name: Buck Jurken (I)
Age: 66
Address: 2040 Erin Court
Occupation: CFO at Majic Productions
Years in district/city: 36 years district; 44 years city
Elected/appointed experience: 10 years Common Council; five years Police & Fire Commission



Name: Mike Hallquist
Age: 34
Address: 21500 Hollycrest Drive
Occupation: Senior enterprise data architect, GE Healthcare
Years in city: 6
Prior elected/appointed experience: None



HALLQUIST: I've spent the last five months knocking on doors and meeting residents to hear their concerns for Brookfield and to demonstrate my desire and willingness to truly listen to all voices in the district. I'd be ready day one to provide a new perspective to the city that represents that effort. My unique professional background is also an asset.

Veteran politicians vie for Brookfield aldermanic seat

School board member and County Board supervisor seek District 7 spot

By Darryl Enriquez
Special to The Freeman
denriquez@wi.rr.com

BROOKFIELD — Two veteran elected officials are competing for the District 7 aldermanic seat on the Common Council.

Kathryn Wilson, Elmbrook School Board president, and Waukesha County Board Supervisor Thomas Schellinger are vying for the seat being vacated by Renee Lowerr. She has chosen not to run for another term.

Both Schellinger, who had served previously on the council, and Wilson say they would bring their vast experiences in governing to the council.

The term of office is four years and the annual pay is about \$9,900.

Wilson and Schellinger answered several questions posed by the Freeman.

THE FREEMAN: Why are you running for a seat on the Brookfield Common Council?


WILSON: In a time of political polarization, local government can be a model of cooperation and serving the public good. I knew I would continue community service in some fashion after stepping away from the school board. When the mayor asked me to consider an upcoming vacancy on the Common Council, I said yes. Local government gets things done.

SHELLINGER: Many people desire to make their community a better place to live. This spirit of volunteerism, generosity and goodwill is what creates "community". My chosen path is as a public servant, advocating for citizen-raised issues and seeking at every turn to create opportunities for interaction and involvement by citizens to better their communities.


FREEMAN: What do you believe are the most important issues facing the city of Brookfield?

ALDERMAN, DISTRICT 7

Name: Thomas J. Schellinger
Age: 67
Address: 240 Leamore Lane
Occupation: Sales AOB
Years in district: 37
Elected/appointed experience: alderman 2000-06 serving on water and sewer and public works boards; forestation, finance, park and recreation and greenway committees. Waukesha County Board supervisor 2006-20 serving on land use, parks and environment, public works, human resources and health and human services committees.



Name: Kathryn Wilson
Age: 56
Address: 1185 Simon Drive
Occupation: homemaker
Years in city: 23
Elected/appointed experience: Elmbrook School Board president; Servant Leadership Team member at Community United Methodist Church of Elm Grove; Brookfield-Elm Grove Interfaith Network past co-convenor



WILSON: Public health is the obvious priority during this crisis. Like all communities, Brookfield also has new behavioral health concerns to address. On the plus side, Brookfield is a premier community for doing business and raising a family. We can retain that advantage through smart development. Helping schools and busi-

nesses to control costs while maintaining community standards would benefit everyone.

SHELLINGER: Controlling spending and taxation is a never-ending mission for me. The goal is to provide quality services at a reasonable cost and this year with the anticipated downturn will have serious consequences for local budgets cities face the prospect of severe budget shortfalls because most revenue sources that government rely on — personal income, corporate income, sales, capital gains and gas taxes — is bound to take a hit. Traditional during a recession, demand on government services — and thus their expenses — will go up at the same time that revenues are coming down.

FREEMAN: How are you qualified to serve the residents of Brookfield?

WILSON: I have been a member of the Elmbrook School Board for 10 years. I learned from strong leaders. Becoming a leader myself has given me greater understanding of the strengths and challenges facing our city and the region. Community collaboration will be important in keeping our community strong and moving forward. I would be honored to contribute to that outcome.

SHELLINGER: In 20 years as an elected official in Waukesha County, I have developed a thorough understanding of local government on many levels, from the perspectives of both a taxpaying citizen, and a public servant participating in the day-to-day management of a city or county. Residents should expect high standards and accountability from their elected representatives; I welcome and embrace this expectation and constantly strive to learn about and advocate for constituents' interests and concerns.



Photo courtesy of Greater Brookfield Chamber of Commerce

Brookfield chamber welcomes The Doctor's Office

BROOKFIELD — The Greater Brookfield Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Doctor's Office on Feb. 25.

The Doctor's Office provides quality health care at an affordable price. They do not accept insurance, instead there is up-front pricing with payment by cash, debit or credit collected at the time of service. It is located at 3315 N. 124th St, Suite K. For more information visit <http://www.visittthedoctorsoffice.com>.

Pictured in the front row, from left to right are: Robert Feest/Robert J. Feest Insurance Agency and Brookfield chamber board member; Anna Antoine/Brookfield chamber member services coordinator; Carol White/Brookfield chamber president; Scott Heins, Paul McGraw, Dr. Matthew Waro — all from The Doctor's Office; Melisa Maroo/Brookfield chamber investor relations manager; Judi Murphy/Murphy Associates; and LORI CHOINSKI/Gerald Nell.



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Post from the past: Lobby mailbox still delivers

Porcelain vase
a rare beauty;
cake molds vary



BARBARA EASH

Antiques Appraised

Q.: In early 20th century, my uncle had managed the Edward Patton Building in Milwaukee. This mailbox has been in storage and now passed to me with little history and photographs. Could you tell me more about it and a value?
— N.E.K. Pewaukee



A.: The urbanization of the U.S. postal system in early 20th century introduced new methods of service. One addition was the placing of letter collection boxes throughout large communities. The Cutler Mfg. firm of Rochester, N.Y., patented and manufactured this “Cutler Mailing System.” These secure and well-constructed boxes would be wall-mounted near the front desk or elevator of progressive high-rise buildings. A drop-slot chute was positioned on every floor that funneled letters downward to the main lobby box.

It didn't take long for the public to embrace this new idea of collection boxes. Americans favored the elaborately embossed symbols of patriotism in the design. Dropping a letter in the mail slot bordered on a ceremony of grandeur! However, the elongated drop chutes proved to be the demise. All-too-slender metal shafts became clogged from items that were never intended to be mailed.

Your heavy 2-foot by 3-foot postal box was originally mounted near the lobby elevator in the Edward Patton Building in Milwaukee. When city progress dictated the building for demolition, this postal box was removed in a proper manner. Today a new appreciation is being given to antique architecture items, especially those that provided a specific function. The excellent condition along with the local history connection places your box at museum quality.
Value: \$2,900.

Family keepsake vase a porcelain beauty

Q.: My mother was from the Stevens Point area and thought highly of this family keepsake. We thank you for any information and value, please.
— Pat, Thiensville

A.: This “Royal Nippon” porcelain vase was imported from Hinode, Japan, before 1891. The city was well-known for ceramic manufacturing and decorating techniques. Exports were shipped to high-level department and jewelry stores. Hinode workers were well-known for mak-



ing tapestry background shading equal in beauty to the center motif. The number, “84” stamped on the underside is the pattern number. This bulbous shape ornamental vase could stand alone. Hard to tell, did a single large blossom present the vase, or did the vase present the flower? Some have used these vessels as an ewer pitcher, but the narrow neck and arch handle impedes controlled pouring. Coralene beading technique elevates this beauty further. The minor gilt loss on the handle was created by moisture.
Value: \$150.

Ceramic reproduction methods used today:
New pieces will have altered marks or decals. The porcelain will feel rough. Any gilding will be overly shiny, almost a mirror-like reflection.

Molding a memory

Remember the bunny or lamb cake? The odds are high that it really didn't turn out perfect!

This 1950s cast, two-piece aluminum cake mold has a **value of \$35.** Earlier cast-iron lamb molds: **\$60.** Bunny examples run higher in value. Aluminum: **\$40,** and cast-iron: **\$95.** Very early glazed earthenware examples, in perfect condition, can go much higher.

Have an item for appraisal?

If you have an item you'd like to be appraised, mail entries to Waukesha Antique Shop, 1427 E. Racine Ave., Unit E-2, Waukesha, WI 53186. Send sharp, well-lit photos of front, back and underside of your item, and measurements are important. List any known history or even hearsay, length of ownership and all markings, even partial ones. Include your name, address and phone number. No photos can be returned and no purchase of antiques will occur.

(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.)

BROOKFIELD

Taxes, development tagged as top issues in alderman race

Balzer challenged by newcomer for District 3 seat

By Darryl Enriquez
Special to The Freeman
denriquez@wi.rr.com

BROOKFIELD — Incumbent District 3 Alderman Ron Balzer is facing first-time political candidate Jenna Meza in a race for his seat in the April 7 election.

Balzer, a 16-year veteran of the Common Council, sees holding the line on property taxes as an issue while Meza identified the city's use of tax money as a contention.

The term of office is four years. The annual pay is about \$9,900.

Balzer and Meza addressed questions posed by The Freeman.

fresh perspective to the board. If elected, I may be the only woman and mother on the Common Council.

FREEMAN: What do you believe are the most important issues facing the city of Brookfield?

BALZER: Development and holding the line on property taxes.

MEZA: After speaking directly to my constituents, the most important issues include how the tax dollars are being spent. I would like to see more property development and redevelopment to existing properties to add value to our city without raising the taxes already in place.

The FREEMAN: Why are you running for a seat on the Brookfield Common Council?

BALZER: I am running for council because I like helping constituents with concerns and provide help and support whenever needed. With my years of experience, I am very helpful and know the city inside out.

MEZA: I am running for a seat on the Common Council because our district and community needs someone who is passionate and driven to serve the hardworking taxpayers of Brookfield. As a young and involved parent and member of the historic village area, I will bring a

FREEMAN: How are you qualified to serve the residents of Brookfield?

BALZER: My experience working as a lead operator of the (Brookfield) water utility and 35 years as a resident of Brookfield, a community leader and volunteer. I have served on the Water and Sewer Board and the Legislative and Licensing, Public Works, Human Resources and Public Safety committees. I am a U.S. Army veteran.

MEZA: I am driven, passionate, young and hardworking. I look to represent the newer generation of people and families who have moved into Brookfield while still

ALDERMAN DISTRICT 3

Name: Ron Balzer (I)

Age: 70

Address:

16425 Luella

Drive

Occupation:

retired lead

operator of

Brookfield

Water Utility

Years in city: 35

Elected/appointed experience: 16 years Common Council

Name: Jenna L. Meza

Age: 24

Address:

18665 Pleasant St.

Occupation:

full-time mom,

Realtor's assistant

Years in city/district:

24 in Brookfield; nearly four in district

Elected/appointed experience: student council

preserving the city's quaintness and history that makes Brookfield so undeniably desirable in the first place. Being born and raised here and now starting my own family in Brookfield gives me the knowledge and experience to understand how to bring our neighbors together and add value to our community as a whole.

Lou Malnati's to open in former Stir Crazy in Brookfield

BROOKFIELD — Chicago-style pizza maker Lou Malnati's has announced its Brookfield location will be in the building that formerly housed Stir Crazy near Brookfield Square mall.

Famous for its deep-dish pizza, Lou Malnati's was started in 1971. It's now head-

quartered in Northbrook, Illinois and has 56 Chicagoland locations, plus three in Arizona, one in Fox Point and soon the 7,750-square-foot location in Brookfield at 15795 W. Blue-mound Road.

The restaurant is planned to open this summer.

The restaurant will be able to seat over 180 dine-in customers. The pizzeria will also include a full bar, an outdoor patio and private party rooms where guests can host special occasions. Carryout, delivery and drop-off catering services will also be available.

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