

OUR TOWN

East Troy Wisconsin



2024-25

#1 Home Seller

in East Troy for 18 years straight!



Pam Burki
262-203-1812
PamBurki@RealtyExecutives.com



Gina Dingman
262-613-3898
Gina@RealtyExecutives.com



Sarah Alexander
262-745-7093
SarahAlexander@RealtyExecutives.com



Mindy Shaffer
262-379-0603
MindyShaffer@RealtyExecutives.com



Melissa Dooley
414-412-9595
MelissaD@RealtyExecutives.com



Nicole Orzel
262-470-6000
NicoleOrzel@RealtyExecutives.com



Martha Luna
262-215-3865
MarthaLuna@RealtyExecutives.com



Alexys Johnson
262-203-1213
LJohnson@RealtyExecutives.com



2887 Main St, East Troy, WI 53120

REIntegrity.com

(262) 642-3363



457935

Miss Nancy remembered

Bench, statue and 'Nancy's Nook' unveiled at library

By **Stephanie Jones**

CORRESPONDENT

When Miss Nancy - Nancy O'Connell - suddenly passed away last fall, her missing presence could be felt throughout the East Troy Lions Public Library, where she worked for 38 years.

Now with a new children's statue and bench in the front of library and dedicated "Nancy's Nook" in the basement, there is a place where future generations will be able to make memories with East Troy's beloved children's librarian.

The statue and newly renovated basement were unveiled to the public on June 8, with dozens of family, friends, and community members present.

In talking about O'Connell, her daughter Jenny Bergersen referenced the children's book "Charlotte's Web."

In the book, Charlotte the spider helps save Wilbur the pig by making creative webs with words in them.

When Wilbur asks why Charlotte helped him, she replies, "You have been my friend ... and that in itself is a tremendous thing," Bergersen said, quoting the book.

"You see Mom valued people, friendship, kindness, and community and



During the launch of the 2024 summer reading program in early June, a group of children pose with the new bench and statue placed outside the East Troy Lions Public Library in memory of children's librarian Nancy O'Connell.

STEPHANIE JONES *Our Town*

all of you," Bergersen said. "That in itself is a tremendous lesson for all of us. It doesn't take much to truly listen to someone and provide an act of kindness to check in with someone and help them and even retrieve their favorite book."

Working until the end

Even when O'Connell became ill, she couldn't imagine not coming in to work at the library, Bergersen said of her mother, who actively worked until the end when she died at age 79.

"She would tell me maybe I'll retire at the end of the year. But then she had commitments she needed to complete, programs to offer, and children who were counting on her summer activities, and of course her silly costumes and parties," Bergersen said.

She added, "The East Troy Lions Public Library is not just a building. It's filled with stories, adventures, and human connections. Mom loved access to stories, knowledge, and perspective of authors, as well as checking in with all of you, hearing about

your lives, and seeing your children grow."

It's a human desire to feel that we matter and that we add value to the world, Bergersen said. "This library, this community, and her dear friends and family have provided a place for my mother to do and feel valued."

Donations made

After O'Connell died last September, her family requested friends and family donate to the library in lieu of flowers. Approximately \$6,000 was collected, between donations to the family and library, and to the Friends of the Library group.

"Then donations kept coming in," said Tami Bartoli, the library director, who thanked the community for the donations as well as O'Connell's family for "sharing her with us" for 38 years.

Using that money, a new bench now sits in front of the library with a statue of a young boy and girl looking at a book. It's next to a plaque that reads, "Given in

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



The back of the bench and statue in honor of Nancy O'Connell shows two children reading a book together.

ERIC KRAMER *Our Town*

East Troy, Wisconsin

our town

2024-25

An annual publication of the East Troy News & Southern Lakes Newspapers
P.O. Box 274, East Troy, WI 53120 • (262) 642-7837 • www.mywalworthcounty.com

GENERAL MANAGER: Sue Z. Lange
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Heather Ruenz
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Heidi Schulz

PAGE DESIGN: Jen DeGroot
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR:
Vicki Vanderwerff

For advertising opportunities: call (262) 642-7837

on the cover: The East Troy and Troy Center Fire and Rescue departments held training at East Troy High School last fall. It involved several activities with students and staff. See more photos on page 7.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

Local man honored for his work with bluebirds

Ralph Konrath receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Ralph Konrath, of East Troy, received the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin last fall.

Konrath was cited for tirelessly



promoting bluebird awareness over the years.

This year, he put up and monitored a pair of successful nest boxes in the Oak Grove Cemetery, near the entrance to Old World Wisconsin in Eagle Township.

The retired Big Cat House and Bird Building employee of the Milwaukee County Zoo at one time monitored three dozen nest boxes at the Whitnall Park Golf Course, plus another 70 in Adams County.

Konrath's interest in birds started eight decades ago.

"My grandmother taught me how to monitor bluebird houses," said Konrath. "She also showed me how to discourage invasive species like house sparrows and starlings."

Growing up on a farm eventually led Konrath to become involved with taking care of animals and birds as a profession. In retirement, he focused on pigeon racing.

His main concern now, he said, is "that people take care of the environment for all plants and wildlife."



at left: Ralph Konrath holds the Lifetime Achievement Award he received from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin last year. **above:** A bluebird pair successfully nested in one of Konrath's nest boxes.

PHOTOS COURTESY MARY KIRSCHER *Our Town*

TRAIN RIDES

Experience the last 7.5 miles of Interurban Service in Wisconsin.

Take round-trip rides from East Troy to Mukwonago, or board at The Elegant Farmer.

Regular trains run Friday-Saturday-Sunday in June, July, and August. Saturday and Sunday only in April, May, September, and October.



**Harvest Fest is Saturdays and Sundays
Sept. 7 to Oct. 27**

Educational Museum inside Depot
90 Minute Round Trip Rides
15 Miles North of Lake Geneva, 35 Miles Southwest of Milwaukee

2002 Church Street, East Troy, WI 53120 • www.easttroyrr.org

OUR GOVERNMENT

*Elected officials, committees,
community organizations and
other key personnel*

LIBRARY

East Troy Lions Public Library

3094 Graydon Ave.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-6262
Tami Bartoli – director
Hours: Monday: 10 a.m. – 5
p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday: 10 a.m. – 7p.m.,
Friday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
www.easttroy.lib.wi.us
bartoli@easttroy.lib.wi.us

AIRPORT

East Troy Municipal Airport

2085 Highway L
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-5008
Doug Gauger –
airport manager
airportmanager@easttroywi.gov

EMERGENCY SERVICES

East Troy Fire and Rescue

Chief Joe DeGaro
N8406 Highway ES
P.O. Box 644
East Troy, WI 53120
Non-emergency
262-642-7439
www.easttroyfire.org

Troy Center Fire Department

N8870 Briggs St.
East Troy, WI 53120
www.troywalworthwi.gov/
fire-department
Chief Don Schell
Non-Emergency
262-642-5294
tcfed@troywalworthwi.gov
Lake Patrol Supervisor
Bill Musolf
262-581-7010
waterpatrol@townoftroy.com

VILLAGE OF EAST TROY

Village Hall

2015 Energy Drive
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-6255
Fax: (262) 642-6259
www.easttroywi.gov
voet@easttroywi.gov

Village Administrator/ Treasurer/CDA Executive Director

Eileen Suhm
esuhm@easttroywi.gov
Clerk

Lorri Alexander
lalexander@easttroywi.gov

Deputy Treasurer/ Accounting Assistant

Kathleen Strebe
kstrebe@easttroywi.gov

Utility Clerk

Chelsey Nagl
cnagl@easttroywi.gov

Benefits Coordinator

Karen Hall
khall@easttroywi.gov

Building Inspector

Scott Johnson
262-352-4433

Parks and Recreation

Vickie Muszynski
262-642-6255
vmuszynski@easttroywi.gov

Department of Public Works

Jason Equitz, Director of
Public Works & Utilities
262-642-6255
jequitz@easttroywi.gov

Police Chief

Jeremy Swendrowski
262-642-6250
jswendrowski@easttroywi.gov

Utility Bills

262-684-5479

VILLAGE BOARD

Village President

Matt Johnson
president@easttroywi.gov
414-477-7798

Village Trustees

John Alexander
414-745-4052
jalexander@easttroywi.gov

Jim Holm

262-559-6235
jholm@easttroywi.gov

Mary Hubbard Nugent
262-470-8570

mnugent@easttroywi.gov
Fortune "Forty" Renucci
262-642-3897

Jason Smalley
262-770-6520

jsmalley@easttroywi.gov
Joe Wisniewski
262-441-7983

jwisniewski@easttroywi.gov

Municipal Judge

Michael Cotter
262-642-6252
fax: 262-684-5502
court@easttroywi.gov

TOWN OF EAST TROY

Town Hall

N9330 Stewart School Rd.
P.O. Box 872
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-5386
fax: 262-642-9701
www.townofeasttroy.com

Clerk/Treasurer

Kim Buchanan
tetclerk@townofeasttroywi.gov

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and Police Clerk

Jean Loth
262-642-3700
tetdepclerk@
townofeasttroywi.gov

Building Inspector

Vince Budiac
262-366-2400

Police Chief

Alan Gorecki
262-642-3716

tetpd@townofeasttroywi.gov

Court Clerk

Jennifer Olson
262-642-5376
tetcourt@townofeasttroywi.gov

Municipal Judge

Daniel J. Heidelmeier
Assessor

Associated Appraisal
Consultants, Inc.
920-749-1995

Chairman

jklawkowski@
townofeasttroywi.gov

TOWN OF EAST TROY BOARD

Chairman

Joseph Klarkowski
jklarkowski@townofeasttroy.com

Supervisors

Barbara Church
bchurch@townofeasttroy.com
Michele Reyes
mreyes@townofeasttroy.com

Ty Leonard
tleonard@townofeasttroywi.gov
Joe Jahner

jjahner@townofeasttroywi.gov

Department of Public Works

Superintendent
Todd Scheel
262-642-5386
toddscheel@
townofeasttroywi.gov

Plan Commission

Chairman Joel Cook

TOWN OF TROY

Town Hall

N8870 Briggs St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-5292
Fax: 262-642-5227
Town Garage: 262-642-5293
www.troywalworthwi.gov

TOWN OF TROY BOARD

Chairman

Jerry Arntson
262-642-9810
chair@troywalworthwi.com

Supervisors

Thomas Lorden
sup1@troywalworthwi.com
Roger Bord
sup2@troywalworthwi.com

Clerk/Treasurer

Michael Ramps
262-642-5292
clerktreas@townoftroy.com

Building Inspector

Jason Chromy
262-364-6969

Administrative Assistant

Kristie Barber
262-642-5292
deputy@troywalworthwi.gov

Sanitary District #1

Darrel Markham – Manager
262-642-2748

Lake Patrol Supervisor

Bill Musolf
262-581-7010
waterpatrol@troywalworthwi.gov

Park Supervisor

262-642-5046
supervisor@
boothlakememorialpark.com

Waste/Recycling Service

Johns Disposal Service
(262) 473-4700

Public Works

Nick Gruling
262-642-5293
dpwsup@troywalworthwi.gov

Assessor

Associated Appraisal
920-749-1995



www.mukwonagoanimalhospital.com

SERVICES WE OFFER:

Preventative Medicine • Vaccinations • Surgery
Diagnostics • Dentistry • Laser Therapy
Acupuncture/VSMT • Urgent Care

NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Call Today To Make An Appointment

(262) 363-4557

Wonago Play?



Doggy Daycare and Pet Boarding

**Schedule play days
in our spacious
indoor/outdoor facility!**

Packages available

CALL TODAY

to reserve your spot!



HOURS:

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday Closed

**1065 N. Rochester Street
Mukwonago, Wisconsin 53149**



440537



Teaming up for training

The East Troy and Troy Center Fire and Rescue departments held training at East Troy High School last fall. National Honor Society and AVID students served as “victims,” acting out a variety of injuries and illnesses so fire and rescue personnel could remove them from danger and perform mock triage procedures. Students and staff also participated in fire extinguisher training. The Family, Foods & Society students catered dinner for the first responders and volunteers. “Thank you to everyone that made this training partnership possible,” department officials said.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Our Town*

Leading the way

East Troy Police Chief Jeremy Swendrowski, on a scooter, leads a children’s Independence Day parade in the village July 1. The parade was organized by the East Troy Lions Public Library, which had decorations available. The parade of many participants – traveling via scooters, bikes, and wagons – started at the library and then to the high school and middle school.

STEPHANIE JONES *Our Town*



**PROUD SUPPORTER
OF EAST TROY!**

RESLER & ASSOCIATES, LLC



3238 Main St.
East Troy, WI 53120
(Piggly Wiggly Shopping Center)

(262) 642-3283
www.reslerandassociates.com



399689

**KOSKINEN
EYE CLINIC, LLC**

A MEMBER OF *Vision Source*

**WE BELIEVE LIFE IS ALL
ABOUT YOUR VISION**

**JERRY KOSKINEN, OPTOMETRIST
SANDRA HUENINK, OPTOMETRIST**

3278 W MAIN ST, PO BOX 165
EAST TROY, WI 53120

T: 262-642-9719

F: 262-642-2228

www.visionsource-koskineneye.com

421262



FIRST
CITIZENS **STATE BANK**
EAST TROY OFFICE

Sound Ratings • Stability You Can Rely On

2546 E. Main Street • P.O. Box 866 • East Troy, WI 53120-0866

Phone: (262) 642-2530 • (800) 236-8766 • Fax: (262) 642-7727

www.firstcitizensww.com

LOBBY OPEN: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. to Noon

DRIVE-UP OPEN: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. • Saturday 8 a.m. to Noon



Make memories aboard a railcar



Among the special events hosted by the railroad each year are several dinner trains.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

Dinner trains

The East Troy Railroad offers numerous dinner trains. Below are themes and dates on remaining events for 2024.

For more information, including prices, menus and to make reservations – which are required, visit the railroad’s website at easttroyrr.org.

Surf & Turf July 27

Wine & Cheese Aug. 10

Southern Delight Aug. 17

Beer Tasting Aug. 31

Fall Harvest Sept. 14

Autumn Glow Sept. 21

Oktoberfest Oct. 5

Epicurian Express Oct. 12

Gourmet Lunch Oct. 12

Sweetest Day Oct. 19

Adult Halloween Oct. 26

Plan an outing with the East Troy Electric Railroad to visit a time when life was a little simpler. The historic interurban railroad cars and trolleys take a scenic 14-mile round trip in the East Troy-Mukwonago areas.

The museum in the depot is a place where kids can be trolley motormen, discover the joy of model railroads, and learn about electricity. The gift shop features a unique selection of railroad souvenirs for people of all ages.

Make a stop at Lauber’s Ice Cream Parlor across the tracks from the depot, enjoy coffee, pastries, or a sandwich at 2894 On Main, or go out for a delicious meal at East Troy House or East Troy Brewery – all of which are on the square in East Troy.

Tickets can be purchased in advance on the website, but walk-up tickets are generally available, too. Trains can be boarded at the depot in East Troy or at the depot behind the Elegant Farmer.

Train schedules, ticket prices, and equipment are subject to change without notice.

Amenities include the following: parking is free at the railroad museum; smoke-free trains run rain or shine; Discover, Visa, and MasterCard are accepted; public restrooms are available.

2024 schedule

Fridays thru Aug. 30

- Eastbound
Departs East Troy Depot 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m.
- Westbound
Departs Elegant Farmer 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.
(3 p.m. is not a round-trip)

Saturdays thru Oct. 26

- Eastbound
Departs East Troy Depot 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m.
- Westbound
Departs Elegant Farmer 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.
(3 p.m. and 4 p.m. are not round-trips)

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



Children excitedly await the arrival of a train at the Elegant Farmer station, led by Chicago Elevated Car 4420.

PHOTO COURTESY JENNY MCCARTHY *Our Town*



Car 761 makes its way along the East Troy Electric Railroad route, which travels between East Troy and Mukwonago.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

Enjoy a Sunday Brunch train

Among the special events offered by the East Troy Railroad is the Sunday Brunch Train.

Enjoy a two-hour round trip on the railroad’s beautiful dining cars with views of the Kettle Moraine countryside outside on the Sunday Brunch Train on Sept. 8.

The three-course meal will begin with a breakfast charcuterie board, followed by a crustless cheese and spinach quiche, and finishing with a braided maple and pecan Danish. Coffee and or juice are included.

The dress code is casual, and restrooms are on board.

For more information and to book reservations for these and other special events, visit the East Troy Railroad Museum website at www.easttroyrr.org.

SAME DAY DELIVERY!

1-22 YARD LOADS

TOPSOIL-MULCH



We have indoor stored, dry pulverized and screened topsoil.



Hardwood Mulch Brown Enviro Mulch Pine Mulch

**ORDER BEFORE 11am Monday-Saturday,
GET SAME DAY DELIVERY!**

CALL (262) 662-0201

SERVICE YOU CAN DEPEND ON.



Landscape Design and Construction:

- 🌿 Creative Solutions, Low Maintenance Landscapes
- 🌿 Natural Stone & Pre-cast Block Retaining Walls
- 🌿 Brick and Natural Stone Patios & Walkways
- 🌿 Grading
- 🌿 Seed & Sod Installation
- 🌿 Low Voltage Landscape Lighting
- 🌿 Outdoor Kitchens & Fireplaces
- 🌿 Seat Walls & Fire Pits



We Are Hiring!

f Careers @ Createscape



With You Every Season

Createscape
LANDSCAPING SERVICE INC.

www.createscapelandscaping.com



East Troy High School held its Junior Prom April 6, 2024, with the traditional Grand March at the high school, dinner and dancing at The Ingleside Hotel, and post-prom activities at Urban Air. The Class of 2025 Prom Court is, from the left (front row) Hannah Feyen, Queen Makaya Anderson, Isabel Halbesma, Khloie Hernandez, Amya Pluess, and Amber Greenlees; (back row) Jacob Hydusek, Jonah Feyen, Lucas Hendrickson, King Joshua Beitz, Zachary Cesar, and Logan Redlin. The theme for prom was "Hollywood Glamour."

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

OUR SCHOOLS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

East Troy Community School District Board of Education

Ted Zess, president*
Home: 262-642-2026
Work: 262-642-7800

Anna Janusz, vice-president
262-903-6965
Adam Witkiewicz, treasurer*
414-975-2741

Stephen Lambrechts, clerk
262-642-7775
Kevin Bong, member at large
262-678-1783
**Term expires in 2025*

Administration Offices

2040 Beulah Ave.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-6710
Fax: 262-642-6712
www.easttroy.k12.wi.us

Administration

Dr. Christopher Hibner, Superintendent
262-642-6710 x1222
Amy Foszpanczyk
Director of Teaching and Continuous Improvement of Student Learning
262-642-6710 x1227

East Troy High School (Grades 9-12)

3128 Graydon Ave.
East Troy, WI 53120
(262) 642-6760 x5221
fax: 262-642-6776
Stacy Kuehn, principal
262-642-6760 x5240

Aaron Judd, assistant principal
262-642-6760 x5222

East Troy Middle School (Grades 6-8)

3143 Graydon Ave.
East Troy, WI 53120
(262) 642-6740 x4221
fax: 262-642-6743
Adam Trindl, principal
(262) 642-6740 x4222

Prairie View Elementary School (Grades 2-5)

2131 Townline Road
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-6720 x3221
fax: 262-642-6720 x3222
Mark Weerts, principal
262-642-6720 x3222

Little Prairie Primary School

2109 Townline Road
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-6730 x2221
fax: 262-642-2724
Lindsey Harris, principal
(262) 642-6730 x2222

Lakeland School of Walworth County

W3905 Highway NN
Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-741-4118
fax: 262-741-4135
co.walworth.wi.us/1168/
Lakeland-School
Holly Smith, principal

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Bright Beginnings Day Care, LLC (3-year-old preschool)

2541 Main St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3904
fax: 262-642-3906
brightbeginnings-daycare.com

Climbing Tree Child Care and Family Education Center (3- to 6-year-old preschool)

3147 W. Main St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-5001
climbingtreechildcare.com
blossom@climbingtreechildcare.com
Curriculum Coordinator
Jodi Fitzgerald
Director
Colleen Anderson

Good Shepherd Lutheran School (Preschool-grade 7)

1936 Emery St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3310
www.gslet.org/school

Little Angels LearningCenter Inc. (3- and 4-year-old preschool)

2141 Mill St.
P.O. Box 603
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-7002
littleangelswi@gmail.com

Mukwonago Baptist Academy (K-12)

1610 Honeywell Road
Mukwonago, WI 53149
262-363-4167
mukwonagobaptist.org/mba
mukwonagobaptist.org/
acadmy-staff

Nature's Classroom Montessori School (3-12 years)

W336 S8455 Highway E
P.O. Box 660
Mukwonago, WI 53149
262-363-2815
Geoffrey Bishop, executive

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

ETHS elevates esports with dedicated lab

East Troy High School has transformed a once humble breakout room into a cutting-edge esports lab, marking a significant step forward in the school's involvement in the world of competitive gaming.

This dedicated space will not only provide a platform for students to explore and excel in esports, but will also open doors to a myriad of opportunities for personal and academic growth.

The journey of ETHS into the realm of esports began in the 2018-19 school year when Nolan Pawelski, ETHS computer science teacher, initiated the esports club. The very first season focused on the popular game, Rocket League, as part of the Wisconsin High School Esports Association.

What initially started as a small gathering in a classroom soon evolved into a thriving esports community, prompting the need for a dedicated space.

Thanks to a grant, ETHS was able to secure the necessary funding to establish the esports lab, complete with state-of-the-art gaming equipment and computers. The physical



Celebrating the official unveiling of the esports lab at East Troy High School during the ribbon-cutting ceremony in January 2024 are esports members Adam Bielke and Coen Taylor and coaches Nolan Pawelski and Jake Brown.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

space underwent a remarkable transformation, featuring updated elements such as carpet tiles, new baseboards,

and a ceiling painted to match the school's color scheme. A trophy display, already showcasing several titles, adds

a touch of pride to the esports accomplishments at ETHS.

The esports program at ETHS operates across fall, winter, and spring seasons, providing students with year-round opportunities to engage in competitive gaming. The dedicated space and upgraded equipment have allowed the esports community to expand its horizons, with numerous ETHS teams qualifying for State competitions.

While many esports competitions are conducted remotely, teams that qualify for state have the unique experience of traveling to college campuses for high-stakes matches. This not only provides an exciting competitive environment, but also serves as a networking opportunity for students aspiring to pursue esports at the collegiate level.

Esports players at ETHS are not just playing for glory. They are actively scouted by colleges and universities, often receiving scholarship offers based on their skills and achievements. This recognition not only

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

SCHOOLS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

director
info@discovernci.org
discovernci.org

St. Peter's Catholic School (3- and 4-year-old pre-kindergarten to grade 8)

3001 Elm St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-5533
Joe MacDonald, principal
stpeterset.org/school

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School (Preschool-grade 8)

2665 North St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3202
schooloffice@stpaulset.net
Ken White, principal
stpaulset.org/our-school

Bloom360 Learning Community (neurodiverse learning)

N8921 Stone School Road
East Troy, WI 53120

262-935-6360
bloom360.org
info@bloom360.org
Laura Rauman, founder &
presidnet

OTHER AREA SCHOOLS

Gateway Technical College

400 Highway H
Elkhorn, WI 53120
262-247-7422
www.gtc.edu

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute

N8030 Townline Road,
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3303
michaelfields.org
web@michaelfields.org

DAY CARE CENTERS

**Bright Beginnings
Day Care, LLC**
(4 weeks to 12 years)
2541 Main St.

East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3904
fax: 262-642-3906
brightbeginnings-daycare.com

Climbing Tree Child Care and Family

Education Center (12 weeks to 12 years)

3147 W. Main St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-5001
climbingtreechildcare.com
blossom@
climbingtreechildcare.com
Curriculum Coordinator

Jodi Fitzgerald
Director
Colleen Anderson

Good Shepherd Lutheran Child Care (3- 12 years)

1936 Emery St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3310
gslet.org/child-care

Little Angels Learning Center Inc. (6 weeks to 12 years)

2141 Mill St.
P.O. Box 603
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-7002
littleangetswi@gmail.com

Noah's Ark Christian Day Care Center (4 weeks to 12 years)

2942 Austin St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-4046
noahsarket.weebly.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Child Care (3 years to 12 years)

2665 North St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3202
schooloffice@stpaulset.net
stpaulset.org/child-care

Celebrating our independence



The East Troy Lions hosted its 2024 Fourth of July Celebration June 28-30, which featured live music, a parade, a carnival, food and drink vendors, fireworks, and more. The parade included appearances by a trishaw bike from Dementia Friendly Community Initiative, WWII Veteran and parade marshal John Frymark, a tow truck with some creative seating for ride-alongs, and construction "work" on-the-go by a fun crew. Bella Cain was one of the groups to pack the beer tent.

STEPHANIE JONES PHOTOS *Our Town*



**LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR,
STATE FARM IS THERE.®**

Tim Werwie, Agent
STATE FARM AGENT



**2104 Church St.
East Troy, WI 53120
Business:
262-642-2038**



399728

*To those we serve,
thank you for
your trust.*

Legacy
Funeral Services

Dana Rygiewicz
owner/director

*Pre-arrangement and cremation
services also available.*

642-5057

2974 Main St., East Troy WI

legacyfuneralservices@gmail.com
www.legacyfuneralservices.com

399695

IMAGINE everything that comes next.



Two convenient locations in East Troy:

2541 East Main Street
with drive-up banking
262-642-8456

3238 West Main Street
inside Hansen's IGA Market
262-642-6700

www.CitizenBank.bank

CITIZENS BANK



Follow | Like | Review
Citizens Bank – WI

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender

440539

‘Remember where we came from’

Humble Oak offers learning opportunities to people of all ages

By **Callie Koehne**
CORRESPONDENT

What started out as a backyard school has turned into a movement for a small but passionate group of people who believe that our culture has become too disconnected from nature, and that our exposure and experiences with the natural world are an essential part of our growth.

Jodie Janovec, Erin Houlihan, and Anna Zinga are the co-directors of Humble Oak Outdoor Learning & Arts Collective in East Troy. The outdoor-based educational program is made up of two branches – a Living School and a Folk School – and serves both children and adults.

While enrollment for the non-profit began as a start up in 2022, the idea for the learning center formed in all three women’s hearts long before that time.

Erin ran a small backyard program called Violet Glen that Anna helped with and Jodie’s children attended. It grew into a dream to be able to have the space to welcome more children, and to nurture those children into adulthood and beyond.

Along with teaching at Violet Glen, Anna taught middle school and said she believed the kids needed something more than was able to be provided in a public school setting.

“Working at Violet Glen, it was so easy to see how the kids thrived when their days were spent in nature,” she said. “I wanted to be able to give that to as many kids as possible.”

During the Covid-19 pandemic, when the world was shut down and so many parents were struggling to help their children through the unprecedented crisis, Jodie said she knew they could make those community connections happen.

“We started to explode with requests to join during that time. Erin taught my youngest when he was in preschool, Anna had a background in education, too, and we all had a passion for incorporating daily learning into the practice of mindful living, so it felt like it was meant to be,” she said.

An ideal place to grow

Finding land where they could carry out their vision was crucial. They approached Living Lands Land Trust, which had an 80-acre lot in East Troy. They were looking for someone to help them steward the land.

“It happened totally organically,” Anna said. “The land is an important piece to us, and we all have a connection to it.”

In exchange for use of the land, Humble Oak helps take care of the woods, clear the trails, and assists with conservation work, when needed.



above: Humble Oak Outdoor Learning and Arts Collective in East Troy has two branches – a Living School and a Folk School. **below, left:** A variety of fun, creative projects are taught at Humble Oaks, and when the weather is cooperative, students and campers enjoy working on them outside. **below, right:** The Folk School provides weekend classes and workshops for adults and youth, taught by a diverse group of artists and craftspeople serving as instructors, including Dan O’Leary, a local beekeeper.

PHOTOS COURTESY HUMBLE OAK *Our Town*



They began with the Living School, also known as a Forest School, for children 3 to 14 years old in the fall of and have added summer programs for children 4 to 16 years of age.

The trio of co-directors said they’ve had countless supporters along the way – especially in the beginning when they were hoping to fill the Living School with enough students.

“When we need something, it just seems to appear, and I think a lot of that is just

having that trust and belief that if we keep moving forward, good things will happen,” Jodie said.

The Living School consists of three groups: Squirrels (ages 3-6), Beavers (7-10), and Hawks (11-14).

Students focus on engaging in nature through play and learning in ways that suit their age and capabilities, while also being activities that correlate with the seasons.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

OUR CHURCHES

East Troy Bible Church

2660 North St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-7604

www.etbc.church

Worship services: Sunday at 9 a.m., in person and online on Facebook and YouTube

First Congregational Church of East Troy, UCC

Michael Fields
Agricultural Institute
N8030 Townline Rd.
P.O. Box 302

East Troy, WI 53120
262-258-8376

www.ucc.org/church/

first-congregational-church-of-east-troy-ucc/

fcceasttroy@gmail.com

Find the church on Facebook.

Worship services: Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at Michael Fields.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

1936 Emery St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3310

www.gslet.org

Worship services: Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m.

Mukwonago Baptist Church

1610 Honeywell Rd.
Mukwonago, WI 53149
262-363-4197

www.mukwonagobaptist.org

Worship services: Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.;

Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Bible study and prayer:

Wednesday prayer, 7 p.m.

Orchard Hill,

Assembly of God

N9590 Highway ES
Mukwonago, WI 53149
262-363-5443

www.orchardhillchurch.life

micah@orchardhillchurch.life

Worship service: Sunday at 10 a.m. with Kids' Church and nursery, both in person and online on their website.

St. James United Methodist Church

2945 Main St.
East Troy, WI 53120

262-642-7642

church@easttroyumc.org
www.easttroyumc.org
Worship services: Sunday at 9 a.m. in person and on Facebook.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(Wisconsin Synod)

2665 North St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-3200

www.stpaulset.net

churchoffice@stpaulset.net

Worship services: Sunday at 9 a.m. and Monday at 6:30 p.m.

St. Peter the Apostle Parish Church

1981 Beulah Ave.
East Troy, WI 53120
Parish Office

1975 Beulah Ave.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-7225

School Office

3001 Elm St.

East Troy, WI 53120

262-642-5533

www.stpeterset.org

Mass times: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9 a.m., Saturday – 5:30 p.m.

Troy Center United Methodist Community Church

N8801 Briggs St.
East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-7320

www.troycenterwiumc.weebly.com/

Worship services:

Sunday at 9 a.m.

Valley View Community Church

Member, Willow Creek Association

2951 Union St.

East Troy, WI 53120
262-642-5392

Worship services: 10 a.m. in the East Troy Middle School auditorium at 3143 Graydon Ave., East Troy, WI 53120.



VILLAGE

AUTOMOTIVE & TIRE LLC

We would like to take a moment to thank our community for all of the support in the last 9 years.

Also, a special thank you to our outstanding staff.

Our business is a continued success and we couldn't have done it without you!

NICK AND BECKY BRUSS

HOURS: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

447 Bay View Road
Mukwonago, WI 53149

262-363-9450

www.villageautoandtire.com

10% OFF
LABOR

on any service work

Discounts applies to labor up to \$100

Good only at Village Automotive & Tire.

Coupon expires Dec. 31, 2024



ERIC KRAMER *Our Town*

Never forget

below: The '24 Memorial Day parade in East Troy was led by the American Legion and VFW color guard. **above:** among the participants was the East Troy Middle School band. **at left:** Following a remembrance ceremony, brothers William Lilly, 7, and Caleb Lilly, 13, both scouts, enjoy lunch at the East Troy Corn & Brat Roast.



STEPHANIE JONES *Our Town*



Special delivery

GFWC Woman's Club of East Troy members Carol Henningfeld and Marge Datka delivered a bench to Booth Lake Memorial Park in December 2023, with supervisors Bonnie and Shawn Merath present to accept it. "Our club collected 500 pounds of plastic bags to have this particular bench fabricated. We were able to keep those bags out of a landfill and are presently collecting bags for a second bench," club representatives said.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*



ERIC KRAMER *Our Town*



A helping hand

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

The East Troy Knights of Columbus support local people and causes. Last year, the group raised funds during the annual Tootsie Roll drive. Chairman of the event, Pat Whiting (right), is shown presenting the funds to the family of Autumn Giese and James Losik and their son, Alexander. The money was given to the family to help with costs related to Alexander's care.

MISS NANCY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

memory of Nancy O'Connell. East Troy loves Miss Nancy. 1944-2023." East Troy based Benchmark Landscape donated the labor for the landscaping around the bench along with the paving stones.

Also, in the basement of the library, where summer programs are held, there is a rocking chair in her memory, along with a photo of O'Connell surrounded by kids and a plaque on the wall naming the area "Nancy's Nook." There is also new paint on the walls and new furniture coming soon to complete the basement renovation.

Youngest readers

Among those in attendance at the ceremony was 3-year-old Teaghya and her grandmother.

"She came every Friday," her grandma said. "She is shy, but she opened up with Miss Nancy. She loved Miss Nancy."

Eight-year-old Daniel Kosloske, who is from East Troy, was also there to check out the new Nancy Nook.

When he learned about Miss Nancy's death, he knew what he wanted to do - build a floral arrangement Lego set for her after all her years hosting a Lego club for East Troy.

"I really loved Miss Nancy and she was a great librarian," Daniel said. "I wanted



This plaque near the memorial shares a fitting sentiment in memory of "Miss Nancy," who touched many lives, at the library and beyond.

ERIC KRAMER *Our Town*

to thank her in some way, so I thought of Legos."

That arrangement now sits permanently mounted on the basement wall of the library overlooking the Lego corner right next to "Nancy's Nook."

ESPORTS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

validates the dedication of the players, but also highlights the growing importance of esports in the academic landscape.

The official unveiling of the esports lab was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 24, attended by members Adam Bielke and Coen Taylor and coaches Nolan Pawelski and Jake Brown.

Currently boasting 25 members spread across seven different teams - with some students participating in multiple teams - the ETHS esports community is a testament to the inclusive and collaborative nature of the program.

Looking ahead, the school is finishing the winter season strong with hopes of qualifying for State in Rocket League, Overwatch, and Fortnite.

Additionally, monthly Community Titles are organized, providing students with opportunities to explore and compete in games less recognized at the collegiate level, fostering a sense of community within the esports program.

According to school officials, the development of the Esports Lab reflects a commitment to innovation, education, and providing students with a platform to thrive in the rapidly evolving world of competitive gaming.

Local business gets grant for expansion

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**

STAFF WRITER

With the help of a state grant, a local business will be expanding its operations. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection announced its annual Meat Processor Grant recipients in late June.

While 38 grants were ultimately awarded, one of the recipients is local.

Kelly's Pot Pies received a grant to complete a building expansion and additional cooler space. Located at 3268 Main St., East Troy, next to Hansen's, Kelly's Pot Pies offers a variety of handmade products.

Pat and Kelly McGinnis started the business about four years ago, with Kelly having grown up around the food business. Her family owned the Patio Club in Milwaukee, and Pat said it was Kelly's idea to start the pot pie business.

"She had worked in numerous food production situations," he explained, but decided it was "time to do her own thing."

Now a few years later, the business has two locations – the one in East Troy as well as a site in Greenfield – and is doing robust sales in its variety of pot pies as well as Kelly's homemade cheesecake.

The business now offers pot pies in beef, chicken, turkey, and vegetable, as well as

additional desserts to the cheesecake.

In addition, the site has begun offering quiche and shepherd's pie.

"Really, the growth has far exceeded our expectations," Pat explained, adding that initially, he'd wondered, "how many pot pies are we going to sell?"

"Pretty much everyone one of our products has become pretty popular," he added. "It's difficult to keep up with demand."

Since the store offers its pies and desserts wholesale and those products contain meat, it has a meat processing license. That qualified the business for the DATCP grant. Pat said the money will go toward hiring additional employees, expanding the current East Troy space, and purchasing more freezers and coolers.

In addition to selling wholesale in the state, Kelly's Pot Pies is now expanding to sell in other parts of the country. They also have a booth at numerous local farmers markets.

Kelly's Pot Pies is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The business is closed Sunday and Monday.

For more information, go to kellyspotpies.com or the business's Facebook page by the same name. The phone number is 262-592-1900.



Kelly McGinnis works in the kitchen at Kelly's Pot Pies, which is located in East Troy.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*



Pat (left) and Kelly McGinnis have a thriving local food venture, Kelly's Pot Pies and more. The couple is shown at a local market selling pot pies and desserts.

Their business is a grant recipient, which they plan to use to hire additional employees, expand the space in East Troy and add more freezers and coolers.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Our Town



And they're off

Ducks take off downstream after being released for the 24th annual East Troy Kiwanis Club duck race last fall. The duck race event takes place on Honey Creek and offers prizes to those who are chosen as the winners in a variety of different categories.

ERIC KRAMER *Our Town*



Top Drivers Can Earn Up To \$100K!

Veteran's Truck Line INC.
in Burlington, Wis is now accepting applications for:

TRUCK DRIVERS

- Home most nights/every weekend
- Paid health benefits • Competitive Hourly Wages
- Time & 1/2 over 40 hours • 401(k) w/contribution
- Drive newer equipment • Paid vacations/holidays
- Paid life/disability
- Must have a Class A CDL and pass medical/drug screen

262-539-4460

Go to:
www.vetstruck.com
for applications

440298



The HERITAGE
INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR SENIORS | EAST TROY, WI

*Independent Senior living at its best...
with a personal touch.
Where an active lifestyle is affordable.*

SMALL PETS WELCOME!

*For an appointment, call Sarah Halbesma
at (262) 642-4800*

3223 North Street • East Troy, WI 53120

 heritageeasttroy@oakbrookcorp.com
heritageeasttroy.com

 440660



This is one of a trio of Chicago trains the railroad operates. They're generally used for charters.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

Lineup of events

There are several East Troy Electric Railroad events slated through the end of 2024.

Milwaukee Day • Aug. 3

Celebrate Milwaukee's electric railroading history with a chance to see and ride on a historic Milwaukee Streetcar or a newly-restored Chicago North Shore and Milwaukee Silverliner car. Work cars from The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company (TMER&L) will be on display, too, along with historic tickets and timetables.

Beer Tasting Train • Aug. 31

Join a fun and educational beer tasting train. Enjoy five different beers while traveling the route of the East Troy Electric Railroad.

The train is a joint event with Black Point Estate on Geneva Lake. A historian and beer aficionado from Black Point serves as the host, and Toothpicks, the railroad's caterer, provides the hors d'oeuvres.

This 2 1/2-hour event starts and finishes at the East Troy Depot. Book seats online under the Dinner Trains section at easttroyrr.org.

Harvest Fest Trains Sept. 7 through Oct. 27

The railroad's regular season ends on Sept. 7. They then offer round-trip rides to the Elegant Farmer, where guests can enjoy apple picking, a corn maze, and hayrides.

Railroad representatives suggest visiting the website to see the schedule

and purchase tickets online in advance. Trains will not travel to Indianhead Park in Mukwonago during this time.

Tickets can also be purchased on a walk-up basis, subject to availability.

Trick or Treat Trains Oct. 4, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

Bring the kids or grandkids in costume and take a train from the Depot in East Troy to Town Hall Park, where kids can go "Trick-or-Treating," play games, and enjoy the playground equipment before the trip back to East Troy.

Christmas Parade Train • Dec. 7

This train brings Santa on his sleigh from Indianhead Park to East Troy for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in Village Square.

The train – which carries on a tradition started by Milwaukee Schuster's Department Stores – is lit up like a fireworks show and plays Christmas music while Santa stops to greet kids and their parents at each railroad crossing.

Christmas Trains • Nov. 29 and 30 Dec. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 21

This magical outing will take guest on a 1/2-hour ride from the East Troy Depot to Santa's workshop located at the Elegant Farmer.

At Elegant Farmer, children can visit Santa and get a photo taken with the jolly elf himself.

Santa's workshop wouldn't be complete without hot chocolate and cookies, and children receive a special gift on the return trip to East Troy.

Sundays thru Oct. 27

• Eastbound
Departs East Troy Depot
10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m.

• Westbound
Departs Elegant Farmer
11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.
(3 p.m. is not a round-trip)

All trains go to Indianhead Park thru Sept 1.

During Harvest Fest all trains stop at the Elegant Farmer.

Fares

Adults \$17 • Seniors (65+) \$14.50 • Children (3-14 years of age) \$11 (all fares are plus tax) • Children 2 and younger ride for free.

Railroad representatives recommend purchasing tickets online in advance for specific departures.

A complete list of train schedules can be found on the website.

The East Troy Railroad Museum is at 2002 Church St., East Troy, WI.

For more information, call 262-642-3263 or visit www.easttroyrr.org.



Passengers are shown riding on Car #846, the historic Milwaukee Streetcar that's among the numerous trains in the railroad's fleet.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*



PLUMBING & HEATING INC

65+ years of experience in your neighborhood!

**COMPLETE
BATHROOM
REMODELING**

117 MacArthur Drive, Mukwonago, WI
262-363-7146
www.martensplumbing.com
MP # 134384

458174



Giving big

The East Troy Lions held a "Stuff the Bus" event for the East Troy Food Pantry in May at Hansen's IGA. Club members collected a total of 1,620 pounds of food and \$1,113.00, shown being unloaded and delivered to the Food Pantry.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Our Town

JAY'S LANES

INC.

**HOMEMADE
PIZZA • SANDWICHES
AND APPETIZERS**

Carry Outs Available



Come join us at Jay's Lanes for:

- Birthday Parties • Cosmic Bowling
- League Bowling • Open Bowling
- Bumper Bowling

**326 Atkinson St., Mukwonago, WI 53149
(262) 363-7230**

457984

Do you have a disability?

Society's Assets can help increase your independence at home and in the community with these services.

- Advocacy • Assistive Technology
- Benefits Counseling • Daily Living Skills
- Home & Vehicle Modifications • Aging in Place
- Avoiding the Nursing Home
- Peer Support • Life After High School

Are you helping someone who is on Medicaid? Or could be?

We train and pay you to be an in-home caregiver as part of our Familiar Faces, Familiar Places program.



Call us. 800-378-9128



www.societysassets.org
A resource for people with disabilities.

457986



above: Classes suited for outside learning are held at the Woods of Humble Oak, while other classes are held at the Honey Creek Collective.
at left: In an Introductory to Spinning class, Kora Adam (left) and Mo Storey (front) are learning to use prepared wool roving and a top whorl spindle – by putting the spindle in motion, it will draft the fiber to create yarn.

PHOTOS COURTESY HUMBLE OAK *Our Town*

HUMBLE OAK • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Younger students sing, explore, and learn through crafting and activities that help them grow in confidence. Following the seasonal program as the students age, older ones have the opportunity to express their natural gifts while learning skills and crafts that ground them to the earth and remind them of their role in it.

Lessons for life

“We believe that our well being is directly related to how close we are to nature,” Anna said. “Not just as children, but throughout our whole lives.”

That’s why the goal of the Humble Oak Outdoor Learning & Arts Collective is to open a space where people of all ages can have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the natural world, and hopefully more people will come to a greater understanding of how we’re connected to it, and how important that connection is.

The Folk School was born from that belief along with the knowledge that learning never ends.

“We have it set up where a person can grow and evolve throughout their whole life,” Jodie said.

The classes are presented by instructors, most of whom are local, who aim to “empower the community to craft, move, and interact with fellow beings in ways that

are in harmony with the reciprocal energy of life on Earth.”

Many of the classes are held at the Honey Creek Collective, a space in East Troy that brings together a wide variety of wellness practitioners.

Focused on those from 16 years old to adult, the Folk School offers a wide variety of classes from woodcarving, beekeeping, fiber arts, and spinning, to field botany, mushroom foraging, and ceramics.

In a recent farm-to-yarn immersion course, students were able to go to a local farm, learn how to shear sheep, then go back to Honey Creek Collective and learn the art of spinning it into yarn.

The students aren’t just learning valuable skills, either. Many of them are also finding a deeper meaning at the same time.

“We’ve seen how much people crave this kind of connectedness,” Anna said. “We’re all connected... and to have experiences where we witness that, and learn from it, is powerful.”

Remaining humble key

One of Humble Oak’s core beliefs is to remember where we came from, which is how the group’s name evolved.

“We always want to remain humble in what we’re doing,” Jodie said. “There’s a beautiful, huge grandmother oak tree on the property. We call her Humble Oak and

we walk by her every day with the kids and bring her little gifts.”

More than a year ago, when the trio was working to decide where they would host their programs, Erin spent time walking in the woods carrying that very question with her. On one of those walks she remembers that it felt like the woods were reaching out.

“I had a strong sense that they were waiting for the invitation to be of service and share their healing gifts with us,” she said.

Erin said she believes that this relationship with nature is mutual, and when all of us are given the room to let our own nature unfurl and exist as we are meant to, we resemble the woods.

Ultimately, that is what Humble Oak hopes for those who step into their space and learn from their instructors – that what is intrinsic in us comes to life when we make a connection with the earth, and that we use it to bring healing to the communities around us.

“Having an authentic, intimate relationship with the woods invites us to retain and integrate our full capacities and responsibilities as humans in our Earth community. This practice and understanding is essential for us all at this time,” Erin said.

For more information about Humble Oak, including classes offered, visit the website at humbleoak.org.



James R. Taylor and Sons INC.

*Family Owned & Operated
For 3 Generations*

*Free Estimates &
Fully Insured*

**ROOFING, REMODELING, SIDING, WINDOWS,
KITCHENS & BATHS, ADDITIONS & FLAT ROOFS**

262-642-7970

WWW.JRTAYLORANDSONS.COM