

Elvehjem Echo

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

Vol. 47, Issue 1

Founded March 1968

February/March

Our Association's 47th Year



Words from the Wooden Steps

This is YOUR Neighborhood—We Need YOU in 2015!

Dear Elvehjem Neighbors,

Welcome to a new year in the neighborhood! We're so glad to have you as a good neighbor, association member, volunteer, and many other important roles. The spring housing market boom is here already; we look forward to offering a warm welcome to many new neighbors in the upcoming months. Our "Welcome Committee" under the direction of Board Vice President Isaac Semrow personally greets each household that moves into our neighborhood with an official welcome packet and homemade goodies, but please help us make Elvehjem *the friendliest neighborhood* in Madison by taking a few moments to introduce yourself when new residents move into your area!

On that same note, THE TIME IS NOW to get involved with YOUR neighborhood. The Elvehjem Neighborhood 2015 calendar and budget are being finalized; the committees working on those projects have determined that this year's focus is volunteer engagement. Due to a successful revitalized 2014 door-to-door membership drive and what we sincerely hope will be another solid membership drive in 2015, we have the financial resources to fund our activities and perhaps add new projects to our plan of work, but we are most in need of additional hands to help make these dreams reality. While it may feel like too much to commit to a two-year term on the Board, will YOU thoughtfully consider ways of sharing your time and talents as your schedule permits? We are looking for help with the following:

- Serve on a neighborhood committee: 50th Anniversary Planning Committee (2018 Celebration Year), City Grant Application Committee, Turkey Trot Planning Committee, or Neighborhood Safety Committee.
- Offer to talk to neighbors and deliver membership packets as a block captain during our May Membership Drive.
- Volunteer to be a monitor for one of our three neighborhood parks.
- Volunteer at or co-lead one of our annual events such as Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July Celebration, or Halloween Bonfire.
- Plan and host a gathering or activity during Neighborhood Week Out.
- Compile a neighborhood dog sitting list, mowing/shoveling/services list, or other list of your choice.
- Set up a "time bank" concept such as "This Old

Elvehjem House" (tool and home repair expertise exchange) or "Babysitting Co-op" (families rotate giving members of the group the opportunity for a night out or weekend morning break).

- Volunteer to assist with neighborhood sign watering and caring for plantings.
- Go for a family/household walk, and pick up trash.

The volunteer tasks noted above are simply a starting point. If you are passionate about an idea, we'd love to hear from you! This is YOUR neighborhood. What do YOU want it to look like in 2015 and beyond? Drop us a line at enaboard@elvehjemneighborhood.org, or give me a call to talk about your vision!

Tiff Roltgen
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association President
608-513-9433
tiffani@elvehjemneighborhood.org

Secretary's Corner

By Jamie Meise

Below are a few highlights from recent ENA Board meetings, not covered elsewhere in the newsletter:



In an effort to be as inclusive as possible and strengthen our community, the ENA board is meeting with managers of the apartment complexes located in our neighborhood to make introductions, learn about the residents, and share information about the association.

The ENA board was happy to be able to "Adopt a Camper" and sponsor a Sennett Middle School student's attendance at the annual outdoor adventure experience at Camp Upham Woods.

Recently we have been fortunate to have several visitors to our board meetings including City of Madison library planner Catherine Duarte, community police team officers Thai Xiong and Derrick Jones, Alder Denise DeMarb, Safety Coordinator Gail Good, and Social Media Coordinator Mona Everett. The Board meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Madison East District Police Station at 809 South Thompson Drive from 7 to 9 p.m. We encourage you to stop by, introduce yourself, and stay as long as you'd like!

Contact Jamie Meise at secretary@elvehjemneighborhood.org or 608-477-3955 to receive a copy of the minutes in full.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Justin Martin

justin@elvehjemneighborhood.org



Our organization's balance at the close of 2014 was just a shade under \$13,000. Prior to last year, we had experienced a couple of down years that did a number on our finances. Around this time last year our budget committee made it a priority to put ENA on a financially sustainable path, and we made changes where we could. We cut back on Echo publications and set an aggressive goal for our upcoming membership drive. Our membership drive met those goals, and then some. The combination of the successful membership drive, our leaner expenses, and a well-attended Fourth of July event resulted in the banner year we just experienced. The upcoming year will tell us if that improvement can be sustained, or if it was temporary. If temporary, then we can simply relish in the fact that it took us just one year to recover from our low. If it is sustainable, then perhaps we can start to consider what else we as a neighborhood can do. In my six or so years in the neighborhood, I have already seen a lot of change, from the annual growth of the Turkey Trot to the establishment of a successful community garden. With our neighborhood's 50th anniversary approaching in a few

years, I'd like to think there is a lot more we can accomplish. Thanks to each and every one of you who made last year a success!

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Block Captains Needed for the 2015 ENA Membership Drive!

The ENA Annual Membership Drive will take place in May this year. Block Captains are needed by nearly every District Coordinator. Please volunteer to help!

We stopped doing a "door-to-door" membership drive in 2012 and membership dropped 10% that year. In 2013 we experienced another 10% decrease. So last year we went back to the door-to-door campaign and the difference was dramatic!

By going door-to-door in 2014, the number of member households increased from 343 to **445**; a whopping **29.7%**. So, it's very clear to the ENA Board that a door-to-door membership drive is well worth the effort.

Please consider joining the team by becoming a Block Captain for the ENA Membership Drive May 1-31, 2015. We will do our best to make sure you are knocking on doors of neighbors near you. Your job is as simple as dropping off a membership packet and asking the household to consider joining Elvehjem Neighborhood Association. Most Block Captains complete their assignment in an afternoon or two and often involve the whole family, including furry friends! A brief, low-key training will be provided on Saturday, April 11, from 9-9:30 a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Get to know your neighbors better and support the ENA! Contact Mike Digman at 469-8182 or email him at mike@elvehjemneighborhood.org for more info.

A Magical Evening at Holiday in the Park

By ENA Board Secretary Jamie Meise

On Saturday, December 6, neighbors from Elvehjem and East Buckeye joined together for a memorable evening celebrating the holiday season at Orlando Bell Park. Many people arrived early and anxiously awaited Santa's exciting arrival on a fire truck from our very own Station 5. Santa visited with many adoring children while giving out gifts and lots of hugs. Meanwhile, neighbors enjoyed rides on a beautiful horse drawn carriage provided by Rocking L Acres. The roaring bonfire kept us warm as we chatted with each other, sipping hot cocoa and munching homemade treats. A wonderful evening was had by all!



Special congratulations to Michele Scott and Peter Meyer, winners of the two \$40 Great Dane gift cards. Everyone who made a monetary donation to offset the cost of the event was entered into the drawing.



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THANKS FOR CASTING YOUR VOTE!

Update on the Amendment to the ENA Articles of Incorporation For 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status

By ENA Director at Large
Betsy Winterhack

In the last Echo, we asked ENA members to cast their vote on a proposed amendment to our Articles of Incorporation. The amendment is necessary for ENA to apply for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

ENA membership stepped up en masse! We received 141 electronic and paper ballots. 139 members voted to approve the amendment, with two members voting against it. Our next step is to file our amended Articles with the State Department of Financial Institutions and make our new language official. Thanks to all who made their mark on the future of our neighborhood association.

Member Corner

Notices are limited to 40 words and run on a first come, first-served, space-available basis. Youth ads are good for 3 months; all others are 1 month per request. ENA member notices have priority. Notices may be edited. Send requests to ENA, PO Box 14625, Madison, 53708-0625 or email newsletter@elvehjemneighborhood.org.

LVM Book Club: A neighborhood book club has formed under the direction of Elvehjem neighbor Cristi Carlson. The first books read by the club were *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult and *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. The group is currently reading *Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen. To join the fun and get to know your neighbors, please contact Cristi via email cristi.carlson.home@gmail.com or phone 630-2157 with your name, phone number, and email address. The club meets the third Monday of the month at 7:45 p.m. at 1222 Woodvale Drive.



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Contact Denise!

DeniseforDistrict16@gmail.com

608-358-3195

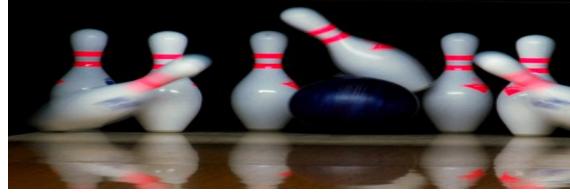
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Vote April 7th

Authorized and Paid for by Friends of Denise DeMarb,
Joan Dickrell, Treasurer

Elvehjem Neighborhood Bowling Party Reminder



Save the date and grab your ball – we're going bowling! Join

us at Dream Lanes (just off Atlas Ave) on February 8 from 12 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$8.00/person for 2 games of bowling and shoes. All ages are welcome. There will also be pizza specials available.

RSVPs can be directed to ENA Board Secretary Jamie Meise at jamie@elvehjemneighborhood.org or 477-3955. While RSVPs are preferred, you can still walk in the day of the event and partake in the fun! Questions? Please contact ENA Board Director at Large Faye Reber at faye@elvehjemneighborhood.org or 989-621-5202.

Mayor's Neighborhood Conference: Get Off the Sidelines and Into the Game

By ENA Vice President Isaac Semrow

On September 13, 2014, five residents of Elvehjem Neighborhood attended the Mayor's Neighborhood Conference at the Monona Terrace to connect with City officials and neighborhood leaders, attend informational sessions, gather ideas, and get inspired by what has worked in other areas of the city and beyond. Key themes highlighted were capacity building, fostering racial equity in neighborhoods, building civic infrastructure, neighborhoods for people, and growing neighborhood businesses and food systems. Workshops featuring local neighborhood leaders provided valuable information about successful projects and important lessons learned.

In almost all cases, no matter the subject, the overall theme of the conference was to GET OFF THE SIDELINES and INTO THE GAME in any way, shape, or form that you can. Consider joining the neighborhood association, volunteering at a neighborhood event, engaging in a discussion or movement you are passionate about or one that may affect you or your family, or frequenting a local business you enjoy and telling others about it.

A question that comes up often during our monthly board meetings is, "How do we keep/get people engaged in the neighborhood?" It's very easy these days to "status" the things that bother us, "share" the ideas we like, and "comment" with our opinions. The reality is that it takes real action by humans to create change and real action by humans to maintain the current state. I personally feel Elvehjem Neighborhood is one of the best in the city; however, there is always room for improvement. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, please get in touch with the ENA Board at enaboard@elvehjemneighborhood.org We are here to facilitate in any way we can, but be prepared to help us develop and execute a winning game plan!



Authorized and Paid for by Friends of Bridget for Madison, Janet Larson Treasurer.

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Primary VOTE February 17

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Elvehjem Community Garden Welcomes New Leader



In spite of the loss of Elvehjem Community Garden founder and champion Lynn Munsinger-Brown, our neighborhood garden is preparing for the opening of its third season later this spring. We know the best way to honor Lynn's work is to keep the garden progressing toward the goal of being a go-to community gathering place.

Elvehjem neighbor **Chris Brockel** has graciously agreed to try to fill Lynn's work boots and fill the position of garden coordinator this year. Chris and his partner Melody live across the street from the garden on Painted Post Drive and have been gardening at Elvehjem since it opened two years ago as well as working with Lynn on the garden leadership committee. Chris also worked at Community Action Coalition for 10 years running the community gardens program serving all of Dane County, so he has lots of experience with the technical aspects of running a community garden. As a member of the City of Madison Food Policy Council and as an Elvehjem Community Garden representative, Chris has been working with the City to help plan the new configuration of the community gardens program since Community Action Coalition gave it up last year. The great news is that community gardening will continue in Madison giving neighborhoods a wonderful community development tool as well as residents the ability to grow

their own healthy food!

Chris and the wonderful team of Elvehjem Neighborhood garden leaders will be busy planning the garden year including registration, events, and garden improvements, so watch for announcements via Facebook, email, and the April-May Echo Newsletter. In the meantime if you have questions about the garden or would like to check on plot availability, please contact Chris at garden@elvehjemneighborhood.org or 608-630-3453.

As the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association prepares for spring leadership transition, the association is seeking a **TREASURER**. Can YOU help the neighborhood in this way? Two-year term on the Board, training provided, experience with QuickBooks helpful. Contact ENA Treasurer Justin Martin at 608-219-2060 or justin@elvehjemneighborhood.org with questions or to express interest. We'd love to welcome a new member to our executive leadership team as several current members transition to new roles within the association!



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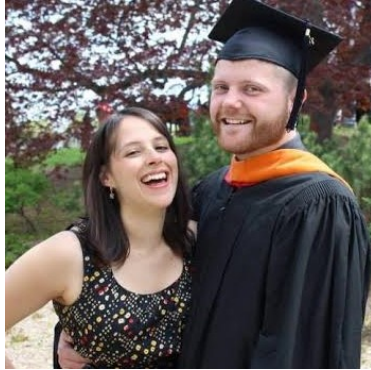
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Welcome Aboard!

The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board warmly welcomes **Charles Donaldson** to the team. Charles and his fiancée Aubrey have lived on Eldorado Lane since fall of 2013. They bought the house as a foreclosure, fixed it up over 3 months with the help close family members, and have made it their own ever since. Four chickens in the backyard supply fresh eggs every day, and a new cat, Peeps, keeps them entertained. Charles completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biomedical Engineering at UW-Madison. He works as a Regulatory and Quality Assurance Engineer at Propeller Health, a small digital health company in Madison. Charles brings a new homeowner's perspective to the Board and is excited to contribute to the Elvehjem community. He can be reached by email at charles@elvehjemneighborhood.org.



Note: There are still three open Board seats. If you are interested in learning more about what being a Board member involves, plan to attend an upcoming ENA meeting on the first Wednesday evening of the month at the East District Police Station (809 South Thompson Drive) from 7 to 9 p.m.

Congratulations to our 2014 Turkey Trot Winners

Overall Male Champion: Jason Penticoff (20:19)

Overall Female Champion: Glenda Adams (21:21)

Age Division Winners:

Male Youth:	Rauan Pritchard (28:26)	Female Youth:	Krystan Fosdick (42:12)
Male 13-39:	Ben Lipanot (20:21)	Female 13-39:	Kristin Brown (23:08)
Male 40-59:	Ron Ofstun (21:31)	Female 40-59:	Jenny Wedvick (27:48)
Male Masters:	Steve Reusser (23:58)	Female Masters:	Bonnie Benson (32:36)

*Course records still stand with Ron Ofstun's 18:10 (2011) and Sara Monson's 21:18 (2013).

Volunteers: The 2014 Turkey Trot would have not have been possible without the support of our outstanding, talented, and generous neighbors including Mona Everett; Brent, Danielle, and Carter Hoffman; Rodney Benson; Lou Jellings; Mason Jellings; Steve & Danielle Taber; Gene Taylor; Geoffrey Hoffman; Jeanne Rotter; Tiff Roltgen; Karl Leas; Justin Martin; Paul Cusick; Joel Stone and Georgine Price; Jennifer Defren; Jamie Meise; Shelly Thompson; Yvonne Sorge; Linda Fonger; AND our official starter, Olympian Craig Brown! We appreciate your contributions to an event that promotes a healthy and neighborly start to Thanksgiving Day. Special kudos to our race director Emily Leas, who not only led an outstanding event but was also featured on Channel 27 News in her famous "roast turkey" hat.

Generous Sponsors: Special thanks to neighbors Bonnie and Rodney Benson, Tom & Donna Berg, Mona and Leonard Everett, and Tiff and Mike Roltgen for their contributions. When you patronize Catalyst Active Store, Complete Family Dentistry, Culvers, Habanero's Mexican Grill, Metro Market, Road ID, and Willy Street Co-op, be sure to thank them for their support of Elvehjem Neighborhood!



Sign up to "Adopt-a-Hydrant" at <http://hydrants.hackingmadison.org/>, and keep the fire hydrant on your block free from snow. Madison Fire Department and your neighbors thank you in advance!

Holiday Lights Contest Winners Announced

By ENA Board Director at Large Faye Reber

This year was an exceptional year for holiday lights and decorations in the Elvehjem neighborhood! Thank you to all of our neighbors who showed their holiday spirit and our judges who had some very tough decisions to make. The winners this year's contest were:

Inflatables: 1617 National

Best Overall: 5606 Kalas



Contemporary/Natural: 1009 Bay Ridge



First Ever LVM Cookie Swap a Sweet Success

The FIRST-EVER (as far as we know) LVM Cookie Swap, was held Saturday, December 13, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1201 Droster Road (a member of Elvehjem Neighborhood Association). Several members of the congregation and neighborhood attended, bringing a wide variety of yummy cookies to swap. Volunteers also provided mulled cider and hot cocoa, along with snack trays, which were enjoyed over conversation. Everyone also donated cookies to fill two large trays for the East District Police Station and Fire Station 5, which were delivered with thank you cards and gratefully received. Recipes were collected and will eventually be available on our neighborhood Facebook page. There is interest in a second cookie swap next year. Thank you to all attendees, volunteers, and the church for making this event a success. ~ Submitted by Mona Everett, ENA Social Media Coordinator

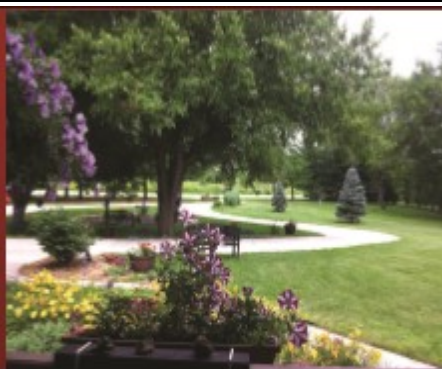


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ENA Calendar of Events

February 4	Board Meeting <i>3 open seats</i>	East District Police Station 809 S. Thompson Dr., Madison Community Meeting Room	7:00-9:00 p.m.
February 8	Neighborhood Bowling Party <i>All ages welcome.</i>	Dream Lanes 13 Atlas Court, Madison	12:00-2:00 p.m.
March 4	Board Meeting <i>3 open seats</i>	East District Police Station 809 S. Thompson Dr., Madison Community Meeting Room	7:00-9:00 p.m.
April 4	Annual Easter Egg Hunt	Droster Park 1429 Droster Road, Madison	9:30 a.m. SHARP
April 11	Block Captain Training Neighborhood Social Annual Meeting	Messiah Lutheran Church 5202 Cottage Grove Road Upper Community Room	9:00-9:30 a.m. 9:30-10:00 a.m. 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Mark Your Summer Calendars!

May 1-31	May Membership Drive
May 3	Neighborhood Pottery Painting Day
June 19-20	Neighborhood Garage Sales
July 4	Annual Neighborhood Fourth of July Celebration
August 3-7	Neighborhood Week Out
September 13	Taste of Elvehjem Neighborhood

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