



Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
-Helen Keller

Elvehjem Echo
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
Founded March 1968
Vol. 52, Issue 6 December 2020/January 2021
Our Association's 52nd Year



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Neighbors,

Last year, when I wrote this column for 2019, the country was in a drastically different place. We were planning our annual Turkey Trot, ramping up for the first annual Holiday in the Park at the Elvehjem shelter, and all of us were looking forward to family visits for the holidays.

That time seems like a lifetime ago. In 3 short months, we would be on lockdown and under the stay-at-home order to flatten the curve and stop the spread of COVID-19. As a nation, state, city and neighborhood, we were shut indoors for weeks. Away from family, friends, and our usual social lives.

When I look back on this time, I remember those trying times, but also the inspiring actions and stories that resulted from the lockdown. Our neighborhood sprung into action. We created neighborhood scavenger hunts with shamrocks, dinosaurs, and animals. Our driveways become art canvases

as we decorated them with chalk and shared them on the FB page. Neighbors volunteered to bring groceries to other neighbors who could not visit high risk places like the grocery store or pharmacy. We didn't hide as a community during this lock down, we became closer together.

As we look towards these cold winter months, ENA will seek to keep this momentum going. We are bringing back the Holiday Lights contest in December, doing a Santa parade route through the neighborhood on Dec. 5th, starting a Little Free Library book drive in January, and doing a temporary art contest in spring for the newly renovated Elvehjem Shelter.

If any of you have additional ideas, I encourage you to keep this positive momentum going as well. Share inspiring stories, keep an eye on your neighbors, and most importantly, stay safe and healthy so we can truly enjoy next year to the fullest.

I wish you all Happy Holidays, a Happy New Year, and a safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Charles Donaldson, ENA President

(651) 353-8523

charles@elvehjemneighborhood.org

ELVEHJEM & ACEWOOD PARK UPDATES

Changes are coming to two of our neighborhood's parks!

Acewood Conservation Park

In 2020, the Parks Department made a lot of progress in the fight against invasive plant species (with the help of Operation Fresh Start and, of course, the goats!). In 2021, the work will continue. There are two controlled burns planned as well as return visits from the goats—all with the goals of fighting the growth of invasive species and allowing native species to flourish in our conservatory.

With invasive undergrowth out of the way, and more light shining on the forest floor, Parks will be able to sow seedlings of native tree species such as black walnut, hickory, oak, and hackberry. There are other improvements in the works too: along with the trail improvements completed in 2020, Parks plans to install a bridge connecting the two new trails!

You can help:

- Pick up litter as you see it, and clean up after yourself.
- Keep dogs out of the woods (their scent disturbs the natural fauna)
- Use eBird to log your birdwatching observations. Many of you already do this—it's very helpful! Our little kettle pond is much healthier than other area urban wetlands, and it is an important stopover for migrating birds.
- If you want a workout... pull buckthorn and honeysuckle, particularly from the southeastern corner of the park.
- Volunteer opportunities on the Parks website: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/volunteer/>
- Stay in touch at **Friends of Acewood Conservation Park** on Facebook and at theENA.org.

"Acewood is worth this investment because neighbors showed they care about the park by using it, cleaning it up, and communicating with the conservation staff." –Paul Quinlan, Conservation Parks Supervisor



Elvehjem

BIG changes are coming to Elvehjem Park! Many of you participated in meetings over the course of 2019 to construct the Master Plan for this park, which was approved by the Board of Parks Commissioners in early 2020. The plan is available on the Parks website, at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/elvehjem-park-master-plan>

Shelter improvements – Some of you have already noticed some work being done around the shelter. This is to prepare for renovations and improvements this winter into 2021 (better lighting, increased accessibility, and restroom updates).

New places to play – In Summer 2021, two big improvements are planned:

- A Nature Play Area themed playground will be installed adjacent to the shelter. This theme and location were based on public input. People wanted something that would fit in with the conservatory backdrop and give kids a place to play that is closer to the shelter—making family reunions, parties, and neighborhood events more fun for the kids!
- A Bicycle Playground & Pump Track near the Academy Drive end of the park. This, too, was based on public input. A first of its kind in Madison, it is essentially a playground for bikes and will be a unique and wonderful draw to the park.

More on the horizon – A paved path and seating area are also in the works. This would provide improved access from Painted Post and an improved resting place in a shaded area. Parks also plans to expand the Community Garden space. Finally, the ENA is contemplating an Art Installation at Elvehjem Shelter as a sort of “grand re-opening” as the improvements are made. This could occur in the Spring or Summer of 2021. Please be in touch if you can help us bring this idea to fruition!

Holiday Lights Contest 2020!

Who else remembers the Holiday Lights Contest from years past!? In December 2020, we are bringing it back!

To enter your home into the contest:

- DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS! (by Saturday, December 5... Santa is coming!).
- Enter your home into the contest via email: holidaylights@elvehjemneighborhood.org with your address and a photo or two, and we'll add you to the map. For eligibility, we must receive this by Monday, December 7. (If you do not use e-mail, call Jacob at (608) 338-3766 and leave a message with your address.)

To participate and vote:

- Check out the map and plan your tour at theENA.org/holidaylights
- You can also view the pictures on our website, Instagram @[elvehjem.madison](https://www.instagram.com/elvehjem.madison), or Facebook @[elvehjemneighborhoodassociation](https://www.facebook.com/elvehjemneighborhoodassociation)
- Send your vote (a ranking of multiple is fine if you can't decide on one!) to holidaylights@elvehjemneighborhood.org
- Votes must be received by Sunday, December 22.

*** Top 3 winners will receive Metro Market gift cards! ***

Santa is Traveling through Elvehjem!

Saturday, December 5th 4-7pm on our streets!

We got news from Santa's PR team that instead of their usual "sit on my lap and tell me what you'd like for Christmas" campaign, they're doing something a bit more pandemic-safe.

Between 4-7pm on Saturday, December 5th Santa will be riding through Elvehjem on horse & carriage.

The official timetable and route will be posted at this link on December 1st: <http://theENA.org/santa>

We're encouraging neighbors to—if possible—**make a bonfire in your driveway so that you can wave to Santa and let him know that you're home.** We wouldn't want him to think you're on vacation this year!

Unfortunately we're unable to host Holiday in the Park, but that means next year's will be bigger and better than ever! We're thankful that Santa can still make the trip down from the North Pole for a fly by.

Email Dan with any questions or direct messages for Mr. Claus. dan@elvehjemneighborhood.org



Need assistance during these challenging times?

Consider the following resources. If you have other needs that aren't being met, please email jacob@elvehjemneighborhood.org for more direct assistance.

The United Way of Dane County - income assistance, childcare, healthcare, and other needs
Call 2-1-1 or visit unitedwaydanecounty.org/united-way-of-dane-county-covid-19-response/resources

The City of Madison - childcare, food, housing, and healthcare
cityofmadison.com/health-safety/coronavirus/community-resources

Tenant Resource Center - rental rights and possible assistance
tenantresourcecenter.org/contact

Madison Gas and Electric
mge.com/customer-service/payment-and-billing/energy-assistance

Madison Water Utility
cityofmadison.com/water/billing-rates/madison-water-utility-covid-19-response

Low Income Internet Options - spectrum.com/browse/content/spectrum-internet-assist?opredirect=SIA.pdf and att.com/internet/access/



Members of the LVM community are coming together to share joy and love this holiday season through an Adopt a Family Gift Drive, with the goal of helping neighborhood families who are unable to provide gifts for any reason.

To receive gifts

Please send information to lvm.adopt.a.family@gmail.com

- Parent name
- Child(ren) age & gender [gender optional, age required]
- Wish list for child(ren)
- Wish list for family
- Tell us a little about each child & any additional info such as clothing size, shoe size, etc to help purchase gifts
- Best method of contact & address for contact-free delivery

We are unable to wrap gifts for safety reasons, please let us know if you would like a roll of wrapping paper with your delivery.

To give gifts

Email lvm.adopt.a.family@gmail.com with your contact info and we will follow up with more details. Cash donations accepted. Excess cash will be donated to a charity that serves LVM residents. Gifts must be delivered to the organizing committee by 12/18/2020 to ensure timely delivery to recipients.

Questions: Email lvm.adopt.a.family@gmail.com

Conducting an Election during a Pandemic

Below are firsthand reports from your Elvehjem neighbors who volunteered their time at the polls.

LVM voters were awesome and almost 100% mask compliant. I felt very safe. -Larry D.

There was plexi-glass in proper areas. Hand sanitizer everywhere. Voting tables were cleaned after every voter. Pens were sanitized and re-used. The previous shift had put down X's with blue tape 6' apart in the waiting lines. The voters were very good. -Kim R.

One welcome feature on Election Day was the weather [...] it allowed us to prop the outside doors open for the entire election time so that there was no need to touch door handles or the handicap door operators. I will continue to say, that voting in-person is sooooo much safer than going to any grocery or big box store. -Larry D.

I was surprised at how "human" the whole thing felt. Dozens of Madisonians working together to guarantee that our paramount civic mission ran smoothly, safely, and transparently. It was a treat to be having—albeit they masked—conversations with strangers for the first time in eight months -Dan C.

I had 30 great people on my shift... no personality conflicts whatsoever. We CAN get along. There is great leadership with Robin in charge. -Kim R.

With Larry and Robin at the helm, I've always enjoyed voting at LVM School, and I was honored to join their ranks as a poll worker this year. Larry and Robin kept things running smoothly and safely. We're lucky to have them! -Jacob C.W.

With all the absentee voting, I missed seeing many of you. I sure hope we can get over this COVID-19 and back to normal so I can see you in person in greater numbers on future elections. -Larry D.



Our Not-So-Little Free Libraries!

Did you know that we have at least eight Little Free Libraries in the Elvehjem neighborhood?

Little Free Libraries are book-sharing boxes where neighbors can pick up books to read and drop off books to share with others. The goal of these book exchanges is to inspire a love of reading and increase access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds. You can find a map of our neighborhood's Little Free Libraries on the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Facebook page (@elvehjemneighborhoodassociation).

During the months of December and January, **the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association will be holding a book drive for our Little Free Libraries.** It is important to keep these book exchanges well-stocked with a wide range of reading material for both children and adults.

Cleaning out your bookshelves as part of a New Year's Resolution? Need to make space for the boatload of new books you or your kids got for the holidays? Please consider donating to keep our neighborhood readers busy this winter!



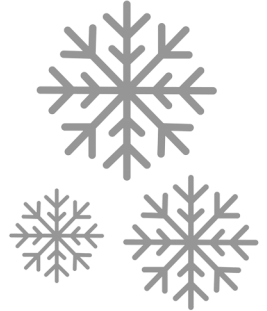
You can **drop off books at 1505 Woodvale Drive.** A tote box with a lid will be set out on the driveway during December and January for no-contact book collection. Thank you for helping us maintain this invaluable neighborhood resource!



WINTER

P E C C Y F X G J Y W P B W V K X U K
 S Y O W X B N F R O S T Y D E Z U A J
 K X C S N O W B A L L F I G H T R H Q
 I F O C X E R W I B L I Z Z A R D S J
 I H A T V A Z J N E U G M I T T E N S
 N O C V F R G N L O N G J O H N S G T
 G C D L S M O Q U R A T L T K G W R Q
 Z K V G T U M N D G R R E Y W T W Q S
 J E N A C F O D M F A V C K V X Q D K
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 S T O O B V M W L G A W A R P J O M F

ARCTIC JACKET
 BLIZZARD LONGJOHNS
 BOOTS MITTENS
 COAT PINECONE
 COCOA POLAR
 EARMUFFS SCARF
 FIREPLACE SHOVEL
 FROSTY SKATE
 FROZEN SKIING
 GLOVES SLED
 HAT SNOW
 HOCKEY SNOWBALLFIGHT
 ICICLE WINDCHILL



FEATURED RECIPE: ROASTED STUFFED SQUASH

Submitted by Claire Koenig, adapted from thekitchn.com

Stuffed squash makes a delicious and filling winter meal. This versatile recipe can be adjusted to suit your tastes and to use up ingredients you already have! When I last made this, I stuffed acorn squash with sweet Italian pork sausage, panko breadcrumbs, mushrooms, onions, and shredded parmesan cheese.

Ingredients

- 1 medium winter squash such as acorn, kabocha, delicata, or spaghetti
 - 2 to 3 cups filling (see below)
 - Olive oil, S&P
- Filling, equal to 2 to 3 cups total:
- ½ to 1 cup protein - sausage, chicken, pork, tempeh, baked tofu, black beans
 - 1 to 2 cups vegetables - onions, mushrooms, zucchini, peppers, greens
 - ½ cup cooked grains and/or nuts (barley, quinoa, rice, breadcrumbs, walnuts, almonds, pecans)
 - ½ to 1 cup shredded cheese
 - 1 to 3 teaspoons herbs or spices

Directions

- 1.) Preheat oven to 375°F. Cut squash in half and scoop out seeds.
- 2.) Place the squash halves cut-side-down in a baking dish and pour in enough water to fill the pan by about 1/4 inch.
- 3.) Roast the squash until very soft and tender when poked with a fork or paring knife, 30 to 50 minutes. Exact roasting time will depend on the size and variety of your squash. While the squash is roasting, prepare the filling.
- 4.) You can combine leftovers from other meals (cooked chicken, roasted vegetables, etc.) or you can prepare a fresh filling. Cook any raw meats and raw vegetables and combine all the ingredients in a bowl. Drizzle with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Taste and adjust the spices, S&P to your liking.
- 5.) Flip the cooked squash halves so they form bowls. Divide the filling between the halves – it's fine to really stuff the wells and also to mound the filling on top. Top with extra cheese if desired.
- 6.) Roast until heated through and bubbly, 15 to 20 minutes. Serve.



31 Holidays in December!

Have some good, safe fun to kick off this winter.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 12/1 Eat an Apple Day | 12/16 Chocolate-Covered Anything Day |
| 12/2 Mutt Day | 12/17 Maple Syrup Day |
| 12/3 Cat Day | 12/18 Bake Cookies Day |
| 12/4 Sock Day | 12/19 Oatmeal Muffin Day |
| 12/5 Take a Bath Day | 12/20 Sangria Day |
| 12/6 Play a Board Game Day | 12/21 Crossword Puzzle Day |
| 12/7 Cotton Candy Day | 12/22 Date Nut Bread Day |
| 12/8 Brownie Day | 12/23 Festivus |
| 12/9 Pastry Day | 12/24 Egg Nog Day |
| 12/10 Dewey Decimal System Day | 12/25 Pumpkin Pie Day |
| 12/11 Have a Bagel Day | 12/26 Thank You Note Day |
| 12/12 Poinsettia Day | 12/27 Fruitcake Day |
| 12/13 Violin Day | 12/28 Play Cards Day |
| 12/14 Monkey Day | 12/29 Make a Snowman Day |
| 12/15 Watch a Family Movie Day | 12/30 Bacon Day |
| | 12/31 Champagne Day |



Have something to share?



We're always interested in hearing from our neighbors on various topics.

- Maybe there's a cause close to you that you'd like to bring attention to?
- Perhaps you want to promote an event or movement?
- Own a local business and looking to spread the word?

Email Dan with your idea(s) and we'll find a way to get your message heard! dan@elvehjemneighborhood.org

Power your home or business with community solar from MGE.

Shared Solar is easy to join with minimal upfront cost.



MGE's new Morey Field Solar array at Middleton Municipal Airport serves Shared Solar customers.

Learn more and sign up at mge.com/SharedSolar2020



GS3359 11/10/2020



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Madison, Wisconsin 53708-0625

ENA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ongoing through 2020
Membership Drive
theENA.org/join

Sunday, December 6
ENA Board Meeting
7-8pm, link at theENA.org/meeting

Saturday, December 5
Santa Comes through Elvehjem!
Details at theENA.org/santa

December 5-22
Holiday Lights Contest
Details in this newsletter

Wednesday, January 6
ENA Board Meeting
7-8pm, link at theENA.org/meeting

December 2020-January 2021
Little Library Book Drive
Details in this newsletter

Membership Form Inside – Join the Association Today!