



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

Elvehjem Echo
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
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Our Association's 54th Year



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Neighbors,

At our Fourth of July event earlier this summer I met two ladies who told me that they've lived in Elvehjem for over 50 years. They are each other's next-door neighbor and best friend; briefly getting to know them was one of the sweeter encounters I've had at a neighborhood gathering.

One of the gals told me that she'd brought something to give to me, and my eyes widened wondering what it could be. In her cleaning out some old files, she came across some old artifacts from Elvehjem's earlier years. Specifically, she'd saved an article from 1994 profiling our neighborhood.

It's amazing how little has changed about Elvehjem in the last 28 years. One particular quote that got my attention given our current park projects (more on pg. 4): "New playground equipment will be installed in Elvehjem Park this month." And how lovely and current is this statement still: "...the Elvehjem neighborhood will remain an oasis of calm."

I've taken picture of the full article should you want to read it: theENA.org/s/1994-article

There are a couple folks that I wanted to shout out in my column this issue for their selfless contributions to our neighborhood and city. Larry Dobie (prolific volunteer, scoutmaster, poll worker, relentless quipster) and Mona Everett (animal advocate, queen of public discourse / question-asker, loyal helper, tomato-sharer, quick wit). Thank you, Larry and Mona, for all of the many ways that you help make Elvehjem and Madison a great place to live.

Those two individuals were once ENA board members. I'm excited to report that we saw several new faces at our most recent board meeting—the months and years ahead are sure to be strong, productive ones for the ENA Board and thus our prized neighborhood. If you have a hunger to serve at the neighborhood level, please email an introduction to board@theENA.org or attend an upcoming meeting (calendar on pg. 8). Happy fall, all!

Sincerely,
Dan Collins, ENA President
(608) 218-4515
dan@theENA.org

TREASURER'S REPORT



Two main updates this quarter, and both of them are great news!

Memberships: The ENA is sitting at close to 250 active memberships for 2022—far surpassing our pandemic membership levels, and exceeding our numbers since at least 2019. At our Annual Meeting this Spring, I stressed the importance of recovering our membership numbers in order to ensure

our ongoing solvency—and wow, did you all deliver. Everyone deserves a huge Thank You for this—my fellow Board members, block captains, and all who have joined or encouraged others to do so. If you haven't joined yet, there's still time to join your neighbors in doing so! >> theENA.org/join

Fourth of July: We had a banner year for our Fourth of July gathering. It was great to see so many of you there, and we raised nearly \$2,000—a record for as far back as I can find. Because this is our largest fundraiser, it's key that it goes well from that perspective. And it did! Thank you all for your support.

We are—like everyone else—experiencing cost increases nearly everywhere, and your support has been critical as we navigate that. We're so happy to keep communication lines open and neighbors connected. It's a great time to be in Elvehjem!

Jacob Wright, Treasurer // jacob@theENA.org

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Do you know the difference between yard waste and brush? I thought I did. Surprise! Not all yard stuff is created equal and the city of Madison doesn't want us to get it wrong. Here are the basics:

YARD WASTE VS. BRUSH

Please separate yard waste & leaves from brush. City will not collect mixed piles.

WHAT IS BRUSH? Brush includes:

- Woody material trimmed from trees, shrubs or bushes.
- Tree and shrub trimmings over 18" in length

WHAT IS YARD WASTE?

Yard waste is a separate collection. Yard waste includes:

- Leaves, weeds, garden trimmings, and other plant debris.
- Twigs less than 18" long.
- Pumpkins, crab apples, pine cones, etc.

For more information or to search for pick up dates by your address, follow this link <https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/yardWaste/Brush/>. On the right side of the page under Fact Sheets, there's even a handy guide you can print for your fridge.

Kim Bolinder, Secretary // kim@theENA.org

ALDER CURRIE'S COLUMN: BY JAEI CURRIE

Greetings friends & neighbors,

I have been extremely busy since becoming Council Vice-President! Currently my areas of focus have been:

- Support of the (currently understaffed) Council office, which includes the recently appointed Chief of Staff.
- Chairing CCEC's Subcommittee to Establish a Common Council Code of Conduct. It is my intent to create standards for the Council with a great emphasis on providing resources to increase knowledge & sustainability among the Council.
- Beginning work to develop New Alder Orientations for the next CC cohort.

I'd also like to acknowledge that I haven't resumed or held office hours in quite some time. I am not sure if I will resume them due to my schedule but do have the ability to schedule (individual and/or group) meetings with advance planning. Currently, email or text is the most efficient way to connect with me and if the issue is not complex, you should expect a response within 24-48 hrs.

2023 budget preparation is in full swing. Budget Hearings—the first introduction of department budget proposals the Council will receive—will take place at the 9/13 Finance Committee. I am paying special attention to Traffic Engineering's budgets as I'd like to be able to have funding for much-needed traffic enhancements (ie: speed humps, traffic circles) be completed in D16 next year. Please reach out to me ASAP if you have priorities/services you'd like to see included, increased and/or reduced at district16@cityofmadison.com.

The Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB) is getting closer to hiring Madison's 1st ever Independent Police Monitor. The final candidates—Robert Copley, Rodney Saunders Jr, John Tate II and Joel Wing—were introduced at a recent PCOB meeting. A recording of this forum as well as the candidates' 1st Oral Board interviews can be viewed on the Office of Independent Monitor website: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/independent-police-monitor/about>.

All the best!



EVENT: Halloween Bonfires

Monday, October 31st at 4pm Neighborhood-wide

We all know that our neighborhood is a fantastic place for kids to trick or treat on Halloween, due to an abundance of enthusiastic and generous neighbors. For the past few years we've taken things up a notch by encouraging neighbors to host driveway bonfires during trick-or-treating hours. Several members of the ENA Board will be hosting bonfires and we would like others to do the same! A simple bonfire and friendly face is enough, but your driveway can also include special treats, kid activities, music, etc. These driveway pit stops are a nice way for our neighbors to get to know one another while supporting a growing Elvehjem tradition.



We're compiling a list of bonfire locations so that neighbors can plan routes to hit the stops and socialize with neighbors. You can view the current map at theENA.org/halloween-bonfires. The ENA is encouraging everyone to have fun and stay safe. Questions, comments? Already know you'll be hosting?

SIGN UP: ADD YOUR HOUSE TO THE MAP

If you would like to host a stop on the ENA Halloween Bonfire map, please **email your name & address to halloween@theena.org**. Happy Halloween!

EVENT: Turkey Trot

Thursday, November 24th at 8:30am Droster Park

Thanksgiving feels like a long way away doesn't it? It always gets here faster than we think, and it's for that reason that we're reminding you that our annual Turkey Trot will again take place on that morning.

Runners and walkers should begin training for the 5k run or 1.5mi walk. Your legs will thank you later!

This is one of our bigger events of the year (rain, wind, or snow) and always manages to bring out Elvehjem's best – plus usually a local news crew!



Feel free to get a head start by registering at the following link: theENA.org/turkey-trot

EVENT RECAP: FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

This year's Fourth of July Celebration was a true delight. Over 200 Elvehjem residents came out to enjoy a beautiful day filled with a parade, ice cream, grilled cheese, a silent auction, and all sorts of entertainment and fellowship.

27 News even made an appearance! Watch their video at this [link](#).

Enjoy a few photos from the event. Click [here](#) to see a TON more, maybe you'll see yourself in one!



ELVEHJEM PARK UPDATE

The City of Madison Parks Department has started work on the **Nature Nook**, which is a new play area at LVM Park.

The play area will include structures to encourage imaginative play, such as a small shop window and menu board and hidden "fossils" that kids can dig for under a layer of pea gravel. Large boulders will provide space for seating and further unstructured play. There will be an asphalt loop to make the Nature Nook accessible for bikes, trikes, strollers, and wheelchairs. This play area will provide yet another way for families to enjoy our beautiful park. After much anticipation, we're excited to see the Nature Nook come to life!



In semi-related news, we're eagerly awaiting an update from the Madison Skate Fund on the status of the All-Wheel Spot groundbreaking that was anticipated for this summer. Stay tuned at theENA.org/all-wheel-spot!

EVENT RECAP: GARAGE SALES

The Elvehjem Garages Sales on June 16-18 this summer were a smashing success! Although it started out very warm, the temps cooled toward Saturday, and the rain held off for the sales.

There were 29 sales that registered at theENA.org, which was down a bit from 2021's bump because of COVID cancellations in 2020, but there were more "unregistered" sales throughout the neighborhood as well!

Many thanks to the ENA for setting up the very easy registration system and for waiving the fee. Take note for next year unregistered sales, it's free and you get advertised on the list (and map as seen below)! We hope our neighbors had a chance to find or rehome some fabulous treasures!

Diana Winter, Elvehjem Resident and Coordinator



A message from our County Board Supervisor

Jacob Wright, District 17 Supervisor

Ways to Keep in Touch

Fall is almost here, and I'm finally able to launch a Monthly Newsletter for District 17 and County news. This is just one more way to stay in touch. The first issue should be ready in early September.

As a recap, here's a quick list of communication pathways for all things Dane County District 17:

1. Monthly Newsletter: Subscribe here, first issue September 2022: <https://board.countyofdane.com/supervisors/Detail/17>
2. Blog: News, opinion, updated regularly: <https://www.wrightfordanecounty.com/blog>
3. Reach out: You're always welcome to contact me directly with questions, comments, or concerns:
 - wright.jacob@countyofdane.com
 - (608) 338-3766 (calls or texts are ok)!



Budget Season is Coming

Board meetings become more frequent in the Fall since it's budget season. Here's a round-up of our evening meetings scheduled:

September 8, 14, 21, 22
October 6, 19, 20
November 3, 7-10 (yes, every evening), 17
December 15

You can sign up to provide public comment here: <https://dane.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

EVENT: Holiday in the Park

Saturday, December 3rd at 4pm Elvehjem Park

Consider this our official Save The Date for the annual Holiday in the Park Event at the Elvehjem Park Shelter.

This year we're planning to pre-schedule "sleigh rides" on horse & carriage so stay on the lookout for that signup list in the next issue of the newsletter (likely going to limit this experience to ~ 20 groups of 5 people).



Otherwise you can expect more of the usual celebration: Santa will be there, big bonfire to keep everyone warm, free hot cocoa and sweet treats, live carols, holiday music, and a great time ringing in the holidays with your fellow neighbors.

If you're interested in volunteering for this event (and any others!) feel free to drop us a line here: theENA.org/volunteer

A word from County Executive Joe Parisi

Dane County Government Stands Ready for Tough Economic Times

County government is heavily reliant on revenues directly related to the health of the economy. When the economy is doing well, we are better able to enhance services, create new programs, provide wage increases, and support non-profits. As we begin work on the 2023 Dane County budget, families across the country are paying record high prices for fuel and groceries, some local employers have announced layoffs, and economists are projecting a possible recession.

When I was first elected County Executive in 2011, the nation was in the midst of the Great Recession. County government had fully depleted its reserves or “rainy day” fund. Departments brought forward scenarios to reduce spending. We faced many difficult choices on the best means of maintaining county services while minimizing the impacts of reductions.

Today, we have greater means to insulate against a downturn due to deliberate budget decisions on right-sizing expenditure and revenue lines. We forged partnerships, built revenue generating enterprise, and bolstered public services in a way that has allowed our “rainy day” fund to re-grow. It sits at its highest level ever—around \$60 million. While that’s leaps and bounds better than a decade ago, a substantial economic emergency would place the county back on the precipice of severe financial difficulty.

It's important that investments made during good economic times can be sustained through the rockier budget waters ahead. Cuts similar to what we made in the midst of the recession a decade ago would no doubt stunt important gains we’ve made in treating mental health, caring for our most vulnerable, addressing climate change, enhancing conservation, and cleaning our lakes.

Our goals for this budget are clear. **Protect the comprehensive system of service delivery we’ve built. Sustain core public services. Prevent layoffs. And make sure our “rainy day” fund is ready for the “rain” economists say is nearing.** I’m confident we will craft a 2023 budget that protects the vital work and services county government provides our community, while ensuring the safety net we’ve worked so hard over the years to rebuild can weather whatever the looming economic downturn may bring



Monona Grove Nursery School

Programs for kids 0-5!

MMSD 4K, Part-day am or pm Preschool,
Lunch Bunch, and Toddler Time
for kids 0-3 with a grown up!



Contact us for a Tour
Call (608) 222-4633 or visit MGNS.org

MGNS is a State Licensed & Accredited Parent Coop

MGNS.org

a perfect place to learn through play



MSCR FALL PROGRAMS

Fun for All Ages!



Arts & Enrichment
Dance • Fitness Dance • Fitness
Family Workshops • Outdoors
Sports • Swimming
Adapted Rec & More!

View the Fall 2022 Program Guide & Register at mscr.org

Check out our classes at MSCR East,
4620 Cottage Grove Rd

Net-Zero

CARBON ELECTRICITY BY 2050

Let's work together toward
a more sustainable future.

Visit Madison Gas and
Electric online.

- Support clean energy for your home or business.
- Find energy-saving tips and resources.
- Explore electric vehicles.
- Access online bill payment, safety information and more.

MGE.COM
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GS3385 5/9/2022



Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 14625
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-0625

ENA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 6

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Tuesday, October 4

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Monday, October 31

Halloween Bonfires

theENA.org/halloween-bonfires

Tuesday, November 1

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ TBA

Thursday, November 24

Turkey Trot

theENA.org/turkey-trot

Saturday, December 3

Holiday in the Park

4:00-7:00pm @ Elvehjem Park

... See all event at theENA.org/events