



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

**Elvehjem Echo**  
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association  
Founded March 1968  
Vol. 55, Issue 3, Fall 2023  
Our Association's 55th Year



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



### Dear Neighbors,

On June 12th my wife and I welcomed future bobcats, Charlotte and Lily to Elvehjem. The following summer days have been filled with memorable interactions from neighbors, family, and friends. As we stroll the sidewalks on our daily walks, I'm proud to have planted roots here six years ago.

I want to especially shout out the good people of Jaarsma Ct for their neighborliness and generosity. At a grill out last month we shared food, drinks, and stories the good old fashioned way. Thank you, Jaarsma folks!

This summer, the ENA put on **TWO major events**—our annual Fourth of July Celebration and an inaugural Community Resource Fair. I'm very excited about what we did with the Resource Fair behind lead efforts from board member CJ Rouse - read about it in this issue.

Speaking of new events... are we missing out on opportunities to reach neighbors in new ways, with new events? Please consider taking **our big 2023 neighborhood-wide survey** to share your sentiments and ideas about Elvehjem and its association: [theENA.org/survey-2023](https://theENA.org/survey-2023)

In this issue we introduce you to our 10th board member, Pastor Andrew. **This leaves one open board seat** - if you're interested in event planning, organizing, and want to make an impact at the neighborhood-level, send me an email and introduce yourself. We'd love to meet you!

Take a look at what's happening in Elvehjem this fall and early winter. From Halloween Bonfires to our highly-anticipated Turkey Trot and Holiday in the Park events - there's plenty to look forward to!

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Hi, neighbors! It was great to see so many of you at the Fourth of July party. It was another great year, and it's awesome to see how well our events have bounced back from COVID. We continue to break attendance records, enhance existing events in new ways (e.g., remember the time before food carts and crafts at the Fourth party!?), and even find room for new events like the Community Resource Fair. From

a treasurer's point of view, these are investments in the heart of our mission—bringing neighbors together and keeping our community strong.

Critically, none of this would be possible without your support. I've said this before, but 2023 is looking like a record-setting membership year. If you haven't joined yet, please join your neighbors in doing so!

Over the next few newsletters, you'll start to see a new face in this corner, as this term as your treasurer will be my last. I'm proud to have served in this role since 2018. The past 5 years have been interesting, to say the least. We've seen so many changes—a gradual-then-sudden move from paper to online to both, the launch of platforms like Venmo, new and evolving funding challenges... the list goes on. It's a perfect time for fresh ideas, and I can't wait to see what happens as the ENA's next chapter continues to unfold.

In the meantime, you know where to find me. Have an excellent Fall! **Jacob Wright, Treasurer // [jacob@theENA.org](mailto:jacob@theENA.org)**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hi neighbors! Although the calendar says we still have several weeks of summer left, I know many of us are already in back-to-school mode. And while I'm writing this column in the midst of a heatwave, I'm mindful that leaf-raking and snow-shoveling seasons are not that far off!

To help get us prepared, the ENA would like to assemble a **directory of neighbors** (similar to our Babysitter List) who are **available to assist others with their seasonal yard work**. This directory is for both commercial (paid) and volunteer services. Looking to earn some extra money raking leaves? Ready to volunteer your snow blower to help a neighbor in need? Visit our web page below, complete the linked form, and be added to our Helper List!

[theENA.org/helper-list](https://theENA.org/helper-list)

**Kristy Bark, Secretary // [kristy@theENA.org](mailto:kristy@theENA.org)**

## ALDER CURRIE'S COLUMN: BY JAEI CURRIE

Greetings friends and neighbors. I hope you all have been able to enjoy the summer and all that it's offered us this year.

Major shout-out to the Board who organized several amazing summer events for the neighborhood –2023 Garage Sales, Make Music Madison, 4th of July Celebration – especially the 1st ever Community Resource Fair that was held August 19th in Acewood Park! I continue to be honored to be the representative of the City's longest active neighborhood association and proud of all that is achieved through collaboration and shared love of our illustrious far eastside!

On a sadder note, I hope you all will join me in honoring the life and legacy of a D16 resident we recently lost, Nan Brien. Nan was a force and fierce advocate for MMSD, public schools, and progressivism; she will be missed immensely.

The following are updates I'd like to share about what I've been working on most recently. As always, please contact me at [district16@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district16@cityofmadison.com) with additional questions or needs.

### ● 2024 Budget Preparation

o As the Council heads into the season of approving next year's budget, I have been working to grow my understanding and knowledge of outstanding projects and needs, especially considering there will be no influx of additional funds like there was last budget season, by way of the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA).

### ● Common Council Leadership & 2023 Retreat

o I coordinated a retreat for alders, held on August 19th, in collaboration with YWCA Madison's Restorative Justice department. The retreat included an experiential workshop focused on how to incorporate aspects of restorative justice in policy creation and revision. I am excited to keep building upon this work as policy makers and influencers!

### ● The Meadowlands Apartments Community

o I hosted a meeting on August 30 to provide an update on what's been done and what's on the horizon regarding The Meadowlands Apartments. The meeting was recorded and will be available on my blog for playback. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district16/blog>

All the best, Jael



## EVENT: TURKEY TROT

**Thursday, November 23rd**  
**8:30AM SHARP**  
**@ Droster Park**  
**1429 Droster Rd**

The time for giving thanks will be upon us earlier than you think, so it's time to get out your running shoes and start preparing to earn those calories at the annual Elvehjem Turkey Trot! As always we will feature both a 5k and a 1.5 mile run/walk so that you can choose the amount of pre-feast exertion that fits your fancy!



Last year over 160 people participated, and we're excited to keep seeing so many out to celebrate the start of the holiday weekend with us. Through rain, snow, or wind, we always manage to bring out the best of the neighborhood!

You can already sign up by registering at the following link: [theENA.org/turkey-trot](https://theENA.org/turkey-trot)

## EVENT: HALLOWEEN BONFIRES

**Tuesday, October 31st from 4-8PM**  
**Neighborhood-wide**

Last year saw a wonderful night of trick or treating as the families of the ENA took to the streets for a festive night of costumes and candy. We're going to once again be building on that energy and build camaraderie 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! Just a bonfire is plenty, but last year people pulled out all the stops with movies, games, and all sorts of fun activities.



These driveway pit stops are a nice way for our neighbors to get to know one another while supporting a growing Elvehjem tradition. We'll compile a list of bonfire locations so that you can plan your route to hit the stops and socialize with your neighbors. You can view the current map at [theENA.org/halloween-bonfires](https://theENA.org/halloween-bonfires). Let's help have a fun and safe Halloween night! 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](mailto:halloween@theena.org). Happy Halloween!



# Calling all gardeners!

## Make an impact with your green thumb!

Do you have a green thumb, a passion for perennials, or a need to weed? We're looking for volunteer gardeners who can donate their time to help keep the areas around our neighborhood entrance signs beautiful and healthy.



The signs on Acewood Blvd, S. Thompson and E. Buckeye will be getting a refresher over the coming year, making it an excellent time to refresh our landscaping process as well. While in recent years this has been more of a solo undertaking (thank you, Amy!), **we're hoping to organize a team of gardeners - in partnership with the ENA Board - to share responsibilities and make the work load more manageable.**

The ENA will supply the funding for these garden spaces; we're looking for neighbors who can share their gardening know-how and some spare time. If you're interested in volunteering, please fill out the form at <https://www.theena.org/sign-garden>. Thank you!

Questions or comments? Email [dylan@theena.org](mailto:dylan@theena.org)

## New board member!

### Meet Pastor Andrew Henderson

*Associate Pastor  
City Church  
4909 E. Buckeye Rd*



My wife Lisa and I have lived in Madison since 1989. We have two young adult children, our son Drew and daughter Dareon.

Before becoming a Pastor at City Church I was on staff at Mad City Church on the East side of Madison. I have been an Associate Pastor at City Church since 2010 until the present.

I enjoy fishing, spending time with family, and most of all barbecuing ribs and cooking briskets on the smoker.

I joined the ENA because of my role as a local Pastor with the philosophy that while we are a church, we are and should be neighborly to the community around us.

## EVENT RECAP: FOURTH!

The rain threatened, but on Saturday, July 1st the neighborhood gathered outside the entrance to the elementary school and lined up as was tradition for the bike parade that signals the kickoff of our annual 4th of July celebration.



Mother Nature rewarded our spirit of ceremony and as the parade reached Our Saviour's the masses were greeted with sunny skies and a festive atmosphere.

Face painting and temporary tattoos added a decorative flair as neighbors enjoyed the food carts and spread across the lawn to enjoy the music. Inside the building, a craft fair added a new element to the conviviality as the gatherers perused the wares of some of our local artisans.

The silent auction sent many home with their own prizes, once again successfully marking the summer holiday weekend a triumph.

# EVENT: Holiday in the Park

## Saturday, December 9th from 4-7PM Elvehjem Park Shelter

Join us for one of the most memorable neighborhood events in our calendar, featuring the following attractions.

1. **Horse & carriage rides.** Small groups are carted around Elvehjem with horses leading the way—an enchanting experience for both young and old!
2. **Big bonfire!** We safely burn pallet wood and gather around what becomes a magical circle of entrancement. This is a great place for conversation with familiar faces or new neighbors.
3. **Food & drink.** We provide sweet snacking and piping hot chocolate for you to enjoy as you socialize in the park. Email [dan@theENA.org](mailto:dan@theENA.org) to contribute a baked good of your own!
4. **Santa will be there!** Your kiddos will get their first glimpse of Santa this year in his festive getup. Pictures encouraged.
5. **Holiday music.** The sound system will be playing Christmastime tunes throughout the evening.



Because we're still three months out from this event, be sure to stay tuned for changes and additions at [theENA.org/holiday-in-the-park](https://theENA.org/holiday-in-the-park)

## Goats!

The neighborhood's favorite park staff took two shifts this year as our beloved goats chomped and munched their way through Acewood Conservation Park for a couple weeks in June and just recently this August.



Spending a few days in four different sections of the park, these noble creatures chomp their way through invasive species like buckthorn, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard with an incredible effectiveness.

Using goats instead of conventional management strategies reduces the need for chemicals, minimizes erosion risks, and makes it easier to access difficult terrain. It's always great to see our friendly flora-controlling friends along the path, and it was fun to see families paying a visit to the herd throughout the summer.

## RECAP: Garage Sales 2023

The 2023 LVM Garage Sales were a great success again this year, with 44 registered sales, plus more households inspired by the absolutely beautiful weather to drag their gently-used treasures into the driveway!

Hopefully the street chip sealing scheduled for the same weekend didn't cause more than minor hiccups for our neighbors. Thanks to everyone that participated!

And a special shout-out to organizer Diana W. who oversees this event each year. We're lucky to have your leadership!

# GARAGE SALE



# EVENT RECAP: COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

## An inaugural event with great success!

On Saturday, August 19th we hosted our first Community Resource Fair at Acewood Park. Wonderful weather and participation from many groups led to a healthy turnout. Pictures of the event and links to all the groups in attendance can be found on our Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/elvehjemneighborhoodassociation>

The sound of children playing could be heard throughout the entire event while neighbors gathered information and connected with resources from one of the many groups, departments, and nonprofits in attendance. In addition to the helpful resources, there was plenty of fun to be had with free ice cream, snacks & water, zoo animals, the interactive trash lab, visits from a squad car & fire truck, disc golf with a park ranger, and delicious food from food trucks Mexsal Mobile and Paddy's Patties.



Thanks to the donation of 2,000 flyers by Insty-Prints on Monona Dr we were able to get flyers out to every door in the neighborhood and even extend our outreach to areas such as the Harmony, Ace, and Meadowlands apartments.

This event was made possible by the hard work of the volunteers, groups, and by those who join the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association: <https://www.theENA.org/join>

Thank you all for helping make our inaugural ENA Community Resource Fair a fun and successful event we hope to bring it back next year with even more to offer.

## LVM Walking School Bus

After a successful year of the Walking School Bus we are looking to expand to 4 routes this year. For this to work we need help from the community! Those looking to help our elementary students thrive should reach out to [cj@theena.org](mailto:cj@theena.org), (262) 939-8990.



Volunteers will work in pairs to meet students outside their homes in the morning and walk to school picking up more students along the way, then at the end of the school day volunteers meet at the school and help guide students back home. Routes start at 7:10am and are about .5 miles long. Afternoon routes start at 2:40pm (1:15 on Mondays)

All volunteers must clear background checks and follow MMSD's volunteer sign up: <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/partnerships/volunteering>

## EVENT RECAP: Make Music

This year for the city-sponsored "day of music" on June 21st, Elvehjem featured live music at two venues. One on Buckeye Rd and another at Elvehjem Shelter.



150+ music lovers showed up to catch some tunes and enjoy the fresh summer air with their neighbors.

The ENA would like to thank Sarah G. and Maya H. for leading the event-planning at those respective venues. We're grateful to have neighbors like you who showcase the arts for everyone to enjoy.

Next year the ENA board intends to more directly assist in planning *Make Music Madison* so that these events can be even bigger and better. Rock on!

# Monona Grove Nursery School

## Programs for Ages 0 to 5!

MMSD 4K, Part-day a.m. or p.m. Preschool,  
Toddler Time for kids 0-3 with a grown up!

Call (608) 222-4633 or visit [MGNS.org](http://MGNS.org)



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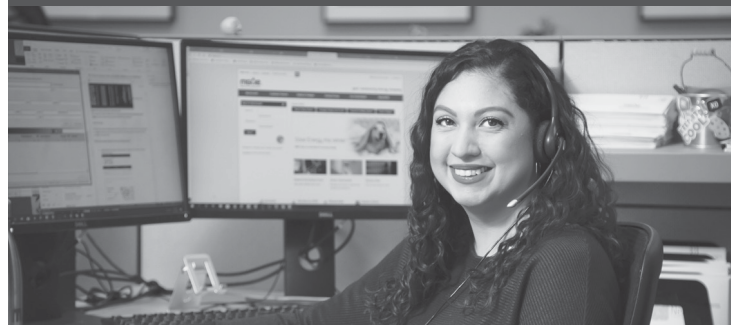
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Your community energy company



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

## ENA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, September 6  
**ENA Board Meeting**  
6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Wednesday, October 4  
**ENA Board Meeting**  
6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Tuesday, October 31  
**Halloween Bonfires**  
Details at: [theena.org/halloween-bonfires](http://theena.org/halloween-bonfires)

Wednesday, November 1  
**ENA Board Meeting**  
6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Thursday, November 23  
**Turkey Trot**  
Details at: [theena.org/turkey-trot](http://theena.org/turkey-trot)

Wednesday, December 6  
**ENA Board Meeting**  
6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Saturday, December 9  
**Holiday in the Park**  
4:00-7:00pm @ Elvehjem Park  
Details at: [theena.org/holiday-in-the-park](http://theena.org/holiday-in-the-park)

... See all events at [theENA.org/events](http://theENA.org/events)