



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 53rd Year



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a safe and relaxing holiday season with family and loved ones.

As I look forward to 2021, I think of election season. No, not another Presidential election, nor the Governor's race. I'm talking about the District 16 Alder primary and general elections. Contrary to popular belief, local officials and their actions affect the people of Elvehjem far more than those at the Federal and State level. Whether it's the safety of our neighborhood, connections with local police, or adding gutters and sidewalks to our streets, the District 16 Alder is our best resource for tangible change with the city.

This upcoming election will be important to continue the hard work done by past Alders. There are 4 candidates in the primary for District 16, the most competitive race in the city of Madison. It's important to educate yourself about these candidates in order to elect the right person to represent us at the city level. To help with this, we've featured a small write up for each of them in this Echo. There are also planned, online, live forums where candidates will answer questions submitted by the citizens of Madison. ENA will share these via email and our neighborhood FB page. I encourage all of you to take the time and vote in the primary (Feb 16th) and general elections (April 6th) for the District 16 Alder.

To wrap up this column I am signing off as President of the Board and the ENA. Dan Collins, our current Echo editor and active organizer, will be taking over. He has been critical to our Echo redesign, our website upgrade, and numerous other optimizations that will help ENA grow to the next level. Please welcome him to the Presidency with me as he takes over this role.

I joined the board on a whim some 5 years ago, riding along with a neighbor to a meeting about some "association." As I look back now at the wonderful memories of 4th of July Celebrations, Turkey Trots, and Halloween bonfires I realize how special they were to our neighborhood and community. No matter how small or large, each event reminded me how important communities like ours are to the city. The 50th anniversary celebration comes to mind as one of my favorites celebrating our history.

I want to thank all of you, neighbors and friends, for welcoming my family and I with open arms. The amount of connections and kind words I have received over the years will stay with me as I take on the next adventure. I hope to attend the next celebration, at our 100th, and see some familiar faces.

Sincerely,

Charles Donaldson, ENA President

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charles@elvehjemneighborhood.org

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 16 ALDER

Jael Currie



My name is Jael (pronounced JL) Currie. I was born and raised in Madison and have been a lifelong resident of the eastside. I attended Kennedy Elementary, Whitehorse Middle, and LaFollette High School. In 2011, I graduated with my Master of Social Work degree and moved to the East Buckeye neighborhood with my children, Malachi and Zhoie. Malachi, now 16, enjoys fishing, hunting, wrestling, and works at Metro Market. He is a sophomore at East High School. Zhoie, now 12, enjoys soccer, dance and babysitting. She is a 6th grade DLI (Dual Language Immersion) student at Sennett. For the past 5.5 years I have worked at YWCA Madison and currently serve as the Housing Director. In this role I oversee 10 housing departments, 11 staff members, and an annual budget that slightly exceeds \$3M. I am also the Chair of the HSC (Homeless Services Consortium of Dane County) where I facilitate a monthly meeting of our membership of over 500 individuals representing 75+ organizations devoted to serving those experiencing homelessness. In my free time I enjoy attending live music performances, spending time outdoors, and trying/cooking new foods.

I am running for Alder in order to enhance my service to our community and bring the concerns of ordinary people to the City Council. I have dedicated my career to providing resources that meet human and social needs as well as actively work towards eradicating injustices that are at the root of many of our societal issues. I am especially passionate about finding solutions for Madison's growing housing crisis and working towards ending homelessness. I bring invaluable perspectives for how to accomplish this work as a professional currently working within homeless services, as well as a former recipient of low-income and subsidized housing. I also seek to use my leadership and career to disrupt systems of oppression while centering the voices of marginalized people.

I look forward to meeting neighbors in the Elvehjem Neighborhood and through the 16th district. While the COVID pandemic is making this especially difficult, I am committed to hearing from individuals, families, and neighborhood(s) about what they would like to see from the next Alder of District 16 and Madison's City Council as a whole. Please feel free to visit my campaign website, currieforcitycouncil.com and my campaign Facebook page, facebook.com/FriendsofJael to stay updated on the campaign, what we're doing, and how to get involved. I would be honored to have your support of voting Jael Currie for District 16 February 16th!

Greg Dixon

The overlapping crises of the pandemic, racial strife and political divide have led to my run for alder. The City of Madison has not stepped up to meet our enormous challenges. I believe my competitors will offer "more of the same," when we desperately need new solutions.

My key goals spell SEE: Safe Neighborhoods, Equality of Opportunity and the Environment. I have walked through Elvehjem and asked people about their key goals. The first response is often, "I love my neighborhood." Then they tell me their wishes for the future.

The most common concern is neighborhood safety, with people driving fast, auto break-ins and thefts topping the list. With people out of work due to the pandemic, this is not surprising. When poverty increases, so does crime. I have not heard support for decreasing police funding when I talk to people, but that is what my opponents advocate. I think we should maintain police funding at current levels, at least through this crisis.

But police will not make our neighborhoods safe on their own. My second goal is Equality of Opportunity. Data show that when opportunity increases, crime decreases. There is exciting new data on how to increase opportunity in neighborhoods, which I discuss on gregformadison.com and Greg For Madison on Facebook. I also present ideas for the Environment, my third goal. I may be the old white guy in this race. But I offer experience and creative solutions, and these distinguish me from my competition.



MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 16 ALDER

Matt Tramel



Greetings Elvehjem neighbors! My name is Matt Tramel, and I'm proud to be running for District 16 Alder. My wife Heather and I live in the Glendale neighborhood – Heather is a nurse practitioner at UW Health University Hospital and I'm building a marketing communications company called Tiny Mighty Communications.

I'm particularly passionate about affordable, accessible transportation. Transportation, and the ability to move around our community safely and efficiently, can be a significant contributor to quality of life. As we move closer toward Bus Rapid Transit, we need to understand the options for bringing the route south to District 16 from the East Transfer Point. We also need to make sure it doesn't cut existing bus service areas. As Alder I would ensure that we have a strong voice throughout the planning process, and that BRT would have a positive effect on our neighborhoods.

And as we continue to turn the corner on Covid, the Common Council should work closely with the City and Dane County to accelerate recovery for all communities and businesses.

Economic health and public confidence won't be fully restored until the vaccine is efficiently and equitably distributed. Alders can coordinate between city/state/business officials to ensure community assets/facilities are integrated for fast, effective rollout.

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself! I'm running for Alder to help ensure that the 16th is a vibrant, growing, inclusive community on Madison's East Side, and that our issues and needs are a priority on Common Council. Learn more about my campaign at tramelfor16.com.

Tyson Vitale

As your Alder, I will work to invest in a future that celebrates every one of us – we need to ensure a safer, healthier, and more equitable community for all.

I grew up in a low-income, single-parent household on Vernon Avenue. I came to understand a strong sense of community because neighbors, family members, and teachers—you, residents of Elvehjem—chose to invest in me as an “at-risk” kid. It was by the strength of your embrace that I was able to break the cycle of poverty and bridge the opportunity gaps that hindered me and that so many of our residents experience today.

The fact is, crime, lack of safety, and the disparities we face as a city today are perpetuated by gaps in opportunity. We can bridge gaps in opportunities by advocating for investments in:

- housing initiatives to make it easier to rent, buy, and maintain housing security
- community assets like libraries, neighborhood centers, and greenspaces so that the east side is a place for personal and community growth
- violence prevention programs such as mentoring—to ensure that we are encouraging thoughtful and productive citizenry



We must target the root causes that underlie challenges of safety in order to move forward. I know first-hand that we make a tremendous difference in one another's lives when we foster that sense of belonging for all. As your Alder, I will work every day to invest in a future that celebrates every one of us. Please be in touch. Find me at tysonforalder.com.

VOTE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 at ELVEHJEM ELEMENTARY

New Board Member: Ashley Bleecker



Ashley and her family moved to the Elvehjem Neighborhood in the beginning of 2020. Although they are new to the neighborhood, their family has had ties to Elvehjem for over thirty years. Ashley attended MATC and achieved her CNA. She furthered her education at Rasmussen College in Minnesota where she graduated with her Medical Coding and

Billing degree.

Ashley, her boyfriend Bruce, and their daughter Nola (3) are avid sports fans—baseball is their favorite. Bruce was an Illinoisan until he became a Wisconsinite in 2013, so don't be alarmed if you walk by their house and hear them cheering for the Chicago Cubs—after all, it's the family's favorite team. Ashley and Bruce are passionate sports card and sports memorabilia collectors. In their spare time, you can catch this family playing in the yard with their dog Bonzo, gardening, grilling, crafting, or exploring the country. We look forward to meeting more neighbors and giving back to our community.

Treasurer's Report by Jacob Wright

I want to personally thank everyone who joined in 2020, probably the hardest year since our founding. While we were able to make it through with fun virtual events and a variety of charitable endeavors—including raising \$1,500 for the River Food Pantry and over \$500 for the Second Harvest Food Bank—we know it's not the same when we can't be together in person.



Here's hoping 2021 brings us together in-person. I encourage everyone to join at theENA.org/join—we rely on individual members to fund our events, newsletter, and charity. And as soon as we're able, we plan to go BIG on events, to promote the togetherness and neighborly bonding that we're all missing.

And, as your Treasurer, I am delighted and proud to work on the important Housing Crisis Fund initiative detailed on the following page.

If you have any questions or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out to me: treasurer@elvehjemneighborhood.org

Santa Toured Elvehjem!

Dan here to debrief on Santa's movement through our neighborhood on the evening of Saturday, December 5th. In lieu of normal traditions, he insisted that this would be the best way to safely reach every boy and girl of Elvehjem—select pictures below from your neighbors.



Special thanks to Santa Tom and Eclectic Shire!

Introducing the Elvehjem Neighborhood Housing Crisis Fund



Elvehjem Neighborhood Housing Crisis Fund

*A partnership between the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association and the Tenant Resource Center
Learn more and donate: theENA.org/housing*

As one of Madison's leading neighborhood associations, the ENA is deeply invested in improving and maintaining housing security for the people who buy and rent in our wonderful neighborhood. Especially given the unprecedented economic challenges presented by the COVID-19 epidemic, it is more important than ever to do everything we can to keep our neighbors safely in their homes.

Unfortunately, there are many households and families right here in Elvehjem who are housing-insecure. The Tenant Resource Center has worked tirelessly to try to help these families—but they need our help to continue this work.

This is why the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association has officially launched a neighborhood Housing Crisis Fund in cooperation with the Tenant Resource Center. This fund will provide support to individuals and families in Elvehjem who are at risk of losing their housing. It will be managed and allocated by the Tenant Resource Center to make the maximum impact through uses like rental assistance, utility payments and rental rights support.

In 2021, we have an ambitious goal for this fund—we'd like to raise \$10,000.

You can read more and donate directly to our Housing Fund here: theENA.org/housing

To kick off the effort, the ENA is making a special offer: **The Association will match each donation made, up to a total of \$1000, between now and March 15.**



Elvehjem Jig-Jog! – 5k Run, 1.5mi Walk

Come celebrate St. Patty's Day in LVM by breaking out your best jig and Leprechaun costume! Starting Saturday, March 13th through St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, March 17th, **Jig, Jog, or walk, beginning anywhere on the route, on your own time!**

Show us all the fun you had by snapping a picture of you and/or your family with a screenshot of your activity log (MapMyRun, Strava, Apple Watch, etc. if possible) and make a post onto the [Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Facebook page](#) to show you participated! The ENA board will select the best costume/outfit and will post to our Facebook Page- **the winner will receive a gift card!**



100% of your optional \$5 registration fee will help fund the events the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association is putting on throughout 2021.

See full details, maps, and donate (optional) at theENA.org/jig-jog

FEATURED RECIPE: LENTIL SOUP

Submitted by Claire Koenig, from foolproofliving.com – It may not sound that exciting, but (trust me!) this simple lentil soup recipe is packed with flavor and healthy ingredients. It can be made in under an hour and, paired with your favorite bread, it makes a cozy, complete winter meal.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 medium carrots, peeled and chopped
- 3 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon thyme leaves, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups lentils (any kind will work), rinsed and picked over
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 6 cups vegetable or chicken broth/stock
- 2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup fresh Italian parsley chopped

Directions

1. Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add onions, carrots, and celery and cook until they are softened, 5-7 minutes.
2. Stir in the tomato paste and cook for a minute.
3. Add garlic and cook for 1 more minute.
4. Stir in the tomatoes, bay leaf, and thyme. Cook until fragrant, 1-2 minutes.
5. Add lentils, salt and pepper. Give it a big stir to make sure that everything is mixed evenly.
6. Pour in the broth/stock, turn the heat up to medium-high, put the lid on and bring it to a boil. Once boiled, turn down the heat to low and let it simmer for 30-35 minutes.
7. Right before serving, take out the bay leaf and stir in the balsamic vinegar and chopped parsley.



"The Highground" Veteran's Memorial

(Submitted by CJ of Elvehjem) – Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall Need a great day trip? Need to get away from it all? Visit "The Highground", Wisconsin's greatest memorial to all of our Veterans – Military K-9s included. Just over 3 hours north up I-90/94 and it's FREE!

Our veterans are in need. Every day 22 veterans commit suicide. We can help. Donate online, over the phone, or via mail, see details below.

Any donation goes to expanding this beautiful memorial park and funding 2 full time, 24/7 psychiatrists available to every veteran in need.

"A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Let's give them back their well-earned honor and well-deserved peace of mind.

For more info and to donate, go to:

- www.thehighground.us
- Email: info@thehighground.us
- Phone: (715) 743-4224
- Address: The Highground, W7031 Ridge Rd, Neillsville, WI

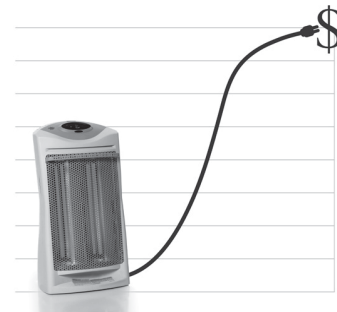


Little Free Library Book Drive: Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who donated books for our Little Free Library Book Drive during December and January. We received hundreds of books and have started distributing them to the ten Little Free Libraries in our neighborhood. Thanks to your generosity, our little libraries will be stocked with months of quality reading material for both kids and adults!

You can find a map of our neighborhood's Little Free Libraries on the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association [Facebook page](#) (@elvehjemneighborhoodassociation). Take a stroll and find something new to read!



plug and pay

Using a portable electric space heater is one of the most expensive ways to heat your home.

You will not save money with an electric space heater unless you turn your central heating system down many degrees and use the space heater to warm a small area.

Visit mge.com/heater to learn more.

mge[®]
your community energy company

GS1759 1/13/2021



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

ENA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ongoing through 2021
Membership Drive

theENA.org/join

Wednesday, February 3

ENA Board Meeting

7-9pm, link at theENA.org/meeting

Wednesday, March 3

ENA Board Meeting

7-9pm, link at theENA.org/meeting

March 13-17

Jig Jog 5k/1.5mi

Details at theENA.org/jig-jog

Donation Match Now through March 15th

Tenant Resource Fundraiser

Details in this newsletter

theENA.org/housing