



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,

I'm writing this on February 20th and we're getting a sneak peek of warmer weather - 51° and sunny is melting the dusting that we got from the novel "snow squall" earlier in the week. The forecast has us spending time with proper winter for at least a few more weeks, but like many of you, I'm eager to see the crocuses poke through and ring in spring as soon as possible.

Please join us this April 9th at 10am for our **Annual Meeting** at Our Saviour's Lutheran where we you can see what the ENA is up to this year! We're especially excited about the guest list which includes esteemed leaders like our mayor, alder, state representative, state senator, and others. Full details on page 3.

A few other events happening this spring that you might consider putting on your calendar:

1. Our annual **Membership Drive** will happen from April 9-May 9 this year. Prepare to see a friendly face strolling down your street, knocking on doors, spreading the word about what the ENA is doing this year and how you can help by paying membership dues or volunteering. You can always join the association online here: <https://www.theena.org/join>
2. The **Elvehjem Egg Hunt** will take place on Saturday, April 16th at 9:30am SHARP at Droster Park where children of all ages can collect Easter eggs and get a picture with the Easter bunny.
3. On Sunday, April 24th, join us at Elvehjem Shelter for an **Earth Day Cleanup** from 1-3pm where we'll find and remove any litter that may have found its way to the park since our last cleanup effort.
4. **No Mow May** - what is it?

[Details about all spring events in this issue.](#)

I've got my fingers & toes crossed that this spring is as normal as we've experienced since 2019, and I hope that we won't take for granted the beautiful things that come with such "normal." Very much looking forward to seeing you around the neighborhood as daylight grows longer and temperatures warm up.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT



A huge thank-you to all who have joined the ENA so far in 2022! If you've not joined yet, you can do so online, today, at theENA.org/join.

We are looking to boost our membership numbers this year—and to do that, we need volunteer Block Captains who are willing to go door-to-door to speak with their neighbors about the importance of joining ENA. If you have a little time to spare this Spring, please consider pitching in. Contact president@theENA.org for more information!

I can't wait to see many of you at our annual meeting on April 9! Stay warm until then.

Jacob Wright, Treasurer // jacob@theENA.org

MEET ELVEHJEM'S NEW NRO!



Hello everyone! My name is Alexa Graham and I am the Neighborhood Resource Officer for the City of Madison Police Department- East District. I have been with the department for four years and have spent the majority of that time working the Night Shift on the East Side. I grew up in Evansville, WI and I attended the UW Madison where I majored in

English and Criminal Justice.

In the department I am a member of the Black Officer Coalition (BOC). As a biracial person who passes as white I grew up with an interesting perception that I use to help guide my decision making when applied to policing. I have a few other certifications and am pursuing instructor certifications this month! I love my community and I am excited to serve the City of Madison. As the NRO I hope people of all backgrounds and beliefs feel comfortable reaching out to me and attending neighborhood meetings and I hope to make an inclusive environment. When not policing I truly try to disconnect from work and spend my time with my family, my pug fur-children, and cross-stitching. Thank you for the opportunity to be included in your meetings!

Officer Alexa Graham // agraham@cityofmadison.com

ALDER CURRIE'S COLUMN: BY JAELE CURRIE

Greetings! As you are likely aware Madison Metro will be undergoing a restructure of service in 2023. The recently released Transit Network Redesign Draft Plan focuses on fewer routes that are more direct and frequent, while providing coverage where it is needed most.

There are several opportunities to learn more about the plan, provide feedback and/or review resources:

- Visit the network redesign webpage
- Attend the upcoming community and neighborhood meetings
- Take the Draft Network Plan Survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y9YW2L2>

Alders Lemmer, Foster, Halverson and myself are finalizing dates to host a joint meeting about the proposed east side impacts of the current draft, to occur in March.

Are internet issues weighing you down? One of the issues identified by a broadband access task force are inaccurate service coverage maps. Residents are encouraged to complete an approximately [2 minute speed test](#).

Data from the test results will help present a more complete picture of access issues and be used to expand access. In addition, virtual public hearings will be held in the near future. Registering for these meetings is required to provide comments. Details & registration: <https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>

MPD is hosting a series of discussions to talk about the impact Body Worn Cameras have on policing. There are upcoming virtual meetings on this subject, details and registration here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/youre-invited-mpd-hosting-roundtable-discussion-on-body-worn-cameras>



E.N.A. ANNUAL MEETING 2022

All residents of Elvehjem Neighborhood are invited and encouraged to attend our in-person Annual Meeting this year! Meet the ENA Board of Directors, vote on the 2022 budget, learn about neighborhood events and initiatives, and have the opportunity to join or renew your annual membership dues!

Enjoy free pizza, coffee, & refreshments after the meeting and have an opportunity to meet & greet some of our distinguished guests:

- Alder Jael Currie
- Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
- State Senator Melissa Agard
- State Representative Samba Baldeh
- MPD NRO Alexa Graham
- MMSD Board President Ali Muldrow
- MMSD Board Member Maia Pearson

We're incredibly excited to fill Our Saviour's with so many important voices—please consider joining us in making a meaningful, lasting impression on behalf of Elvehjem.

Email president@theENA.org with any questions.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2022

We may knock on your door this spring! From April 9-May 9 you can expect to see a smiling face making his or her way down your street with signup materials for our 2022 Membership Drive. This "block captain" will tell you about all of the cool things that we do and why we need your support. You're welcome to sign up with cash or check with these door-knockers, **or...**

If you'd like to help us the quick & easy way, go to theena.org/join today and pay your dues on our website. **We will do our best to "skip" any households that pay online before April 9, so thanks in advance to those who choose this option.**

Whether you're new to the area or have lived here for decades, we all share a common boundary that we call Elvehjem. Here we are fortunate to have an active neighborhood association (the longest-active-running in Madison!) that works hard throughout the year to bring neighbors together and strengthen our community.

If you can volunteer as a block captain for door-knocking, email president@theena.org!

It is our hope that you appreciate the ENA's work and are proud to call Elvehjem your home. Please show your support by signing up [online](#) or greeting a door-knocker this spring to pay your \$15 annual membership dues. Thank you!



EVENT: ELVEHJEM EGG HUNT



Join us at the Elvehjem Neighborhood Annual Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 16, 2021 @ Droster Park, 1501 Droster Rd.** Be sure to bring your own basket and get there early - we start at 9:30 AM SHARP.

Children of all ages and their parents/guardians are welcome. We'll have a separate area for kids age 4 and under. Treat bags will be given to all participants.

Afterward, line up for a photo with the Easter Bunny or meet some firefighters and explore the fire engine.

Your help is needed to make this event successful. Volunteers are needed to scatter eggs and pass out treat bags. Also, we'd like someone to take pictures of the event for posting on Facebook and in the Echo. Contact Kim Bolinder at (608) 345-7258 or kim@theena.org to sign up. We look forward to seeing you there!

EVENT: EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Sunday, April 24th 1-3PM
Elvehjem Park Shelter

Join us in our efforts to clear the Elvehjem Sanctuary of litter that has accumulated over the past year. Meet up with Ashley at the Elvehjem Shelter at 1pm.

Garbage bags and latex-free gloves will be provided.

If you're feeling inspired by this event and would like to lead a clean-up at either Acewood Park or Droster Park, please reach out to ashley@theena.org so we can help you organize and find volunteers to help.

Let's make our parks shine to ensure that they remain a welcoming, safe, clean space for all to enjoy. Thank you!



FYI: NO MOW MAY

Dan here. Some of your neighbors' grass might be a bit longer in early spring... this is why.

I went to the PBS Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center on February 12th and attended a seminar on "No Mow May" that I thought many of my Elvehjem neighbors might be curious to learn about. Article adapted from WRN.com.

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No Mow May (NMM) is something you may want to consider for your yard this year. Official NMM Communities (of which Madison is not yet a member) suspend enforcement of long-grass ordinances for the month of May. This allows owners to promote a pollinator-friendly habitat early in the growing season.

"It's kind of like 'no shave November' for your yard," said Mark Konlok, Director of Horticulture at Green Bay Botanical Garden, who explains that bees and other pollinators can really benefit from leaving it be.

"And when we mow our lawn, if we have weeds and other things like that in there, we cut off all those flowers. Even dandelions are used by these newly emerging insects," Konlok said.

[Appleton adopted No Mow May in 2020](#), and was joined in 2021 by De Pere, Fort Atkinson, Fox Crossing, Hortonville, Kaukauna, Oshkosh, Stevens Point and Wausau.

Konlok said that in addition to being good for beneficial insects, NMM can encourage us to [think about our lawns](#).

"And start to think about, maybe we should transition some of that lawn to more plants, maybe native plants or things we don't spend so much resources, time, energy, carbon dioxide, emissions, mowing, and maybe transition our yard to more of a habitat than just a turf grass area."

When Appleton adopted NMM last year, increases in bee populations and diversity were documented in the yards of participants.

VOTE ON APRIL 5th!

Which election is this?

Spring election

Which seats are up for election?

- MMSD School Board
- County Board of Supervisors (we are now in District 17)

Where do I vote?

Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church
1201 Droster Rd



When do I vote?

Tuesday, April 5th
7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

More info: myvote.wi.gov

Consider participating in
No Mow May this year!



A word from County Executive Joe Parisi

We may be in the first few months of the New Year, but Dane County's effort to embrace clean, green renewable energy is already set to reach a significant milestone in 2022. In a matter of months, Dane County will be the first public entity of its size in the region to power its facilities with 100% renewable electricity. This means Dane County government will produce more renewable energy than the total amount of electricity it consumes for its operations.

Through a partnership with Alliant Energy and SunVest Solar, construction is slated to begin this spring on a 90-acre solar farm on county land near our renewable natural gas production facility off Highway 12. When complete, this project will generate over 17 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power 3,100 homes per year. The renewable electricity generated from this new project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an amount equivalent to the emissions produced by over 4,000 vehicles or the burning of 14,000 tons of coal per year.

Dane County currently receives about 45% of its electricity from renewable sources. The new installation – combined with our 9-megawatt solar project with MGE at the Dane County Regional Airport and nearly 20 other solar installations at county facilities – will push us to our goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity status. This milestone has been years in the making and will mark significant progress in our ongoing effort to combat climate change.

Simply put: if we want to move the dial on the climate crisis, this kind of work cannot wait.

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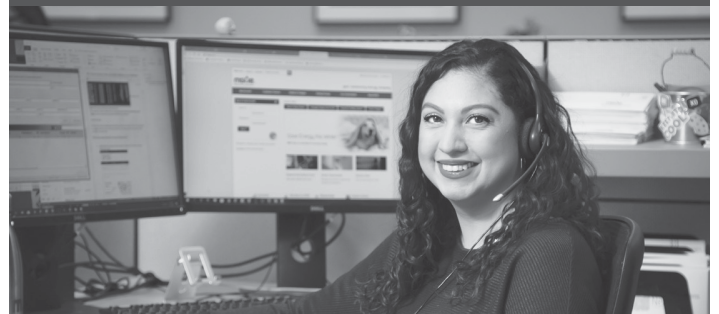


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Your community energy company

GS3351 9/3/2020



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

ENA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, April 5

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Saturday, April 9

ANNUAL MEETING

10:00am @ Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

April 9 - May 9

Membership Drive

Greeters will go door-to-door

Saturday, April 16

Easter Egg Hunt

9:30am @ Droster Park

Sunday, April 24

Earth Day Cleanup

1:00pm @ Droster Park

Tuesday, May 3

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ TBA

Tuesday, June 7

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ TBA

Thursday, June 16-18

Neighborhood Garage Sales

Details at theENA.org

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