



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 1, Spring 2023
Our Association's 55th Year



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Neighbors,

We're officially in our 55th year as a neighborhood association - did you know that the ENA is the **longest-running in Madison**?!

Elvehjem is highly respected in the city, enough so that the mayor and our state representatives all attend our **Annual Meeting**. You can catch them this year on April 15th at 10am at Our Saviour's Lutheran on Droster.

We're in the midst of another local election cycle and in addition to a contested Mayoral seat, our District 16 Alder seat is also being contested. Please consider hearing from the candidates at our **virtual forum**—hosted by the ENA Elections Subcommittee on March

22nd at 6:30pm on our official Facebook Page.

In this issue you'll find our 2023 calendar of events which includes dates & details for all the family-friendly happenings in our neighborhood this year. A couple new additions include a **Craft Fair** as a part of our July 1st 'Fourth of July Celebration' and a **Back to School Bash** hosted at The Life @ Madison Grove on August 19th.

In order to put on all of these events and maintain our status as a strong, active neighborhood association, we not only rely on volunteers (email me if you'd like to get involved!) but also **membership fees**. The Association asks for a \$20 tax-deductible donation from each household in our boundary.

If you'd like to help us reduce our paper footprint and save us from ringing your doorbell this April or May, **please make your donation quickly & easily at this link:** <https://www.theena.org/join>

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

A WORD FROM SUPERVISOR WRIGHT



On February 14, Senator Baldwin announced that Wisconsin will receive over \$25.2 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address emerging contaminants and forever chemicals, like PFAS, in drinking water. This is exciting news for us locally, and I am tracking what this will mean for our efforts in addressing PFAS plumes at and around the airport.

In March & April I'll be busy with a number of local items:

- On March 9, the County's Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee is set to receive our quarterly report from the Dane County Airport.
- Also in March, we are scheduled to receive the final cost estimate for construction of the new Dane County Jail.

I provide a monthly digest on the main [District 17 Blog](#) where you can sign up to have them delivered directly to your inbox! I also blog regularly at [wrightfordanecounty.com/blog](#), where the updates are more frequent and--it must be said--more opinionated. My goal is to provide multiple avenues of engagement that keep you informed based on your preferences.

You can email me anytime at wright.jacob@countyofdane.com, and calls or texts are welcome to (608) 338-3766. I hope to hear from you soon!

**Jacob Wright, District 17
Dane County Board of Supervisors**

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hello neighbors and friends, my time on the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board is ending soon.

I began as a Director-at-Large in 2018 and for the last four years, have been the ENA secretary. I've enjoyed being a part of such a great group of folks that really care about keeping Elvehjem a terrific place to live.

Whether it was organizing the Annual Egg Hunt, going door-to-door during the Membership Drive or helping out at events like the July 4th Celebration or Holiday in the Park, it's been a very rewarding experience.

I hope someone reading this will be inspired to get involved with ENA. Your neighborhood is what you make it. Email me if you'd like to learn more!

Kim Bolinder, Secretary // kim@theENA.org

ALDER CURRIE'S COLUMN: BY JAEI CURRIE

Greetings friends and neighbors! I hope you are looking forward to spring as much as I am. While always busy, I'd like to acknowledge I've been busier than usual lately. As you may be aware, I'm currently running a campaign to be re-elected to serve as District 16's alder for the next 2 years. I appreciate your patience and understanding during this time as I balance serving in this role while adding work to continue to keep it. 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 with additional questions or needs.



Advocacy with City Parks Staff

- After being alerted by the ENA Board of several issues and hold ups of projects, I've been meeting with staff to advocate for implementation of the All-Wheel project, enhancements to the Elvehjem nature play area, as well as connecting access to the Cap City bike trail. I am hoping to meet with the board soon to join efforts in this advocacy.

BT Farms Agri-Community Proposal

- The BT Farms Foundation has put together a proposal for a 200+ acre urban-farming and housing development located at the intersection of E. Buckeye and Frankhauser roads. I've been in touch with the team and have been a participant in their visioning sessions. You can learn more about the proposal and ways to get involved by visiting their website, www.btfarms.org.

The Meadowlands Apartments Community

- I've been using my intersectional skills and knowledge to assist in efforts to provide services and support at a recently developed District 16 property, The Meadowlands Apartments. I am hopeful stability and community will be fostered due to current efforts I am a part of, in partnership with MPD, the Community Development Division, Mayor's Office, non-profit and community leaders.

All the best,
Jael

Event: Annual Meeting!

All residents of Elvehjem Neighborhood are invited to attend our Annual Meeting this year! Meet the ENA Board of Directors, vote on the 2023 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 the following distinguished guests:**

District 16 Alder Currie
District 16 Alder Candidate Kim Richman
County Board Supervisor Jacob Wright
Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
Mayoral Candidate Gloria Reyes
State Representative Samba Baldeh
State Senator Melissa Agard
NRO Alexa Graham

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.
Full details and updates: theena.org/annual-meeting

Membership Drive 2023

We may knock on your door between April 15-May 13! You can expect to see a smiling face making their way down your street with signup materials for our 2023 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 15, so thanks in advance to those who choose this option.**



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](https://theena.org/join) or greeting a door-knocker this spring to pay your \$20 annual membership dues. Thank you!

Event: Elvehjem Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 8th
9:30am
Droster Park

Join us at the Elvehjem Neighborhood Annual Egg Hunt!

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.

Contact Kim Bolinder at:
(608) 345-7258 or kim@theena.org
We look forward to seeing you there!

Event: Earth Day Cleanup

Saturday, April 22nd
1:00-3:00pm
Elvehjem Park Shelter

Mother Earth appreciates a good spring cleaning just as much as the rest of us! Meet up with Dylan and team to clean up the Elvehjem Sanctuary.



Interested in cleaning up Acewood Park or Droster Park? Please reach out to dylan@theena.org for help organizing and finding volunteers. Garbage bags and latex-free gloves will be provided.

Or if you'd like to clean up your favorite walking path or neighborhood nook instead, **send Dylan photos of your collected trash and we'll give you a shout out in the Echo or Extra!** Let's make our neighborhood shine to ensure it remains a welcoming, safe, clean space for all to enjoy. Thank you!

Event: District 16 Alder Election Forum

Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:30pm
Elvehjem Facebook Page [Virtual]

Our city council seat is contested this year, and the ENA Elections Subcommittee will be hosting a virtual forum on Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:30pm.

Tune in to hear from both current alder Jael Currie and candidate Kim Richman on issues facing our neighborhood and Madison at large. The forum will be livestreamed on our Facebook page.

The official ENA Facebook page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/elvehjemneighborhoodassociation> (not to be confused with the Elvehjem Neighborhood group)

Reminder to **VOTE in our spring election on Tuesday, April 4th** at Elvehjem Elementary!

Meet the Candidates for D16 Alder



Hello! My name is Jael Currie and I've had the honor of serving as your alder since April 2021! I was born and raised in Madison and have been a lifelong east side resident. The East Buckeye neighborhood has been home to my family for the past 12 years. In addition to my council role, I serve as YWCA Madison's Housing Director where I provide management and guidance for the provision of housing and supportive services for homeless women and families. When I'm not working, I enjoy attending my kids' sporting events, listening to live music/attending concerts, cycling on Madison's amazing bike paths, and singing karaoke.

I'm seeking re-election to continue building upon the work that's been accomplished during my first term. I want to continue this work to ensure all Madisonians have their basic needs met, we keep up with housing demand, services and other amenities as our city grows. I strive to bring perspectives of my lived and professional experiences to the Common Council along with the concerns of residents. I want to continue building coalitions to bring people together around solutions to problems. My overarching goal remains the advancement of progressive policies that move Madison forward.

A life-long Eastsider, I've lived in my current home in Elvehjem for 41 years. I know the people and the neighborhoods. Most important, I listen and communicate with people. I have a track record of reaching out to bring people together to discuss neighborhood issues, and what we can do about them. I will meet (and always have) with anybody, anytime, anywhere at their convenience. There's a lack of community engagement between the 16th district residents and city government. I want to be the bridge that encourages community engagement in the city process to bring all voices to the table. I will advocate for our marginalized communities and together we can make Madison a better place for all residents.

One of the most important roles of a common council is to keep the community safe. I support appropriately funded first responders, which include the Madison Fire Department & Fire Paramedics, the Madison Police Department, and CARES which falls under the MFD. I will continue to oppose any budget amendments that attempt to redirect, reimagine, or reallocate, any funding from one first responder to another.

The BRT in its current form is a concern. The city has always worked hard on transportation, but many older adults and those with disabilities can't walk 20



ENA Sign & Garden Maintenance

Our beloved Elvehjem signs on Buckeye, Acewood, and S Thompson are a symbol for our neighborhood - they serve as a physical representation of our community.

We're proud to have well-kempt signage to welcome others into our boundary, but it's not magic that keeps things looking tidy.

The ENA board has historically liaised with local gardeners to beautify the signs' surroundings, and one of these faithful gardeners—Amy Baitinger—has a message and some requests for the 2023 season.

Just a note of thanks to those who have helped weed, and the gentlemen who helped dig a large hole so the tall grass could fit. My vision for the garden is for connection to the community. If you see me there, please continue stopping to say hello.

Your ideas are welcome, and so are donations of plants and bulbs from your house and offers of bottled water and snacks. The labor at times was daunting because the ground is so hard—I cannot turn the soil or dig deeply. If you can, please help, the garden will benefit and my shovel will not break... For example manure needs to be turned into the soil for bushes to be planted, holes need to be dug. Thanks to those who help with weeding, and to the Elvehjem community for your financial support.

Amy has been overseeing both the Acewood and Buckeye sign gardens but she's **looking for someone to step in and take over Acewood - who would like to step into this honorable role!?**

Email garden@theENA.org to volunteer your gardening talents or resources to keep our spaces lush!



Recap: Holiday in the Park

On Saturday, December 3rd, the ENA hosted our third Holiday in the Park event at Elvehjem Park from 4-7pm.



We kicked off the holiday season with cookies, cocoa and carols, and we lit up the (very cold!) night with twinkle lights, glow sticks, and a roaring bonfire.

Many thanks to Eclectic Shire Farms for bringing the horse & carriage; Chuck Risler & Ferrellgas for providing pallet wood for the fire; Bassett Street Brunch Club for the tasty hot chocolate; and to our very own Santa for bringing some of the magic of the season. A big thank-you to our volunteers and to all neighbors who came out to celebrate with us!

Photo by Marc Decarli

Recap: Turkey Trot

Sunny skies made a wonderful change from the snow of the previous year as a lovely Thanksgiving morning brought the Elvehjem neighborhood out in force this year as over 180 people descended on Droster Park to earn their feast at the 2022 Turkey Trot. Both the 5k and the Run/Walk were well attended.

For the 5K, Chris Wolfe crossed with the best time of 20:50, and Madison Stevens had the best female time at 22:08.

Ryan Rysewyk won the Adult 31-50 division at 21:04 and Daithi Wolfe won the Masters division at 24:38.



All recorded results are available at theena.org/turkey-trot

2023 Elvehjem Neighborhood Calendar of Events

The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association (ENA) Board meets monthly; see the theENA.org/meeting for current schedule. All neighbors are welcome to attend!

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Wed, Mar 22	Spring Election D16 Forum	6:30pm	Virtual
Sat, April 8	Elvehjem Egg Hunt	9:30am SHARP	Droster Park, 1429 Droster Rd
Sat, April 15	Annual Neighborhood Meeting	10-11am	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Apr 15 – May 13	Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Spring Membership Drive		
Sat, April 22	Earth Day Clean-up	1-3pm	Elvehjem Park, 1202 Painted Post Dr
June 15-17	Neighborhood Garage Sales	8am-4pm	See the theENA.org/garage-sales for registration and map
Sat, July 1	Fourth of July Celebration: Kids Fun Run Firecracker 5K Bike Parade Fourth of July Celebration Craft Fair	8:00am 8:30am 11:00am 11am-1pm	Elvehjem Elementary, 5106 Academy Dr Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1201 Droster Rd.
Sat, Aug 19	Back to School Bash	11am-1pm	The Life @ Madison Grove
Tue, October 31	Neighborhood Halloween Bonfires	6-8pm	Elvehjem Neighborhood, map at: theENA.org/halloween-bonfires
Thurs, Nov 23	5K Turkey Trot & 2-Mile Walk	8:30am SHARP	Droster Park, 1429 Droster Rd
Sat, December 9	Holiday in the Park	4-7pm	Elvehjem Park Shelter, 1202 Painted Post Dr
December	Holiday Lights Showcase	Details at: theENA.org/holiday-lights	

*Additional events may be added throughout the year. Check the theENA.org/events for the latest.

*Note, any events are subject to rescheduling due to public health orders.



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 SUMMER PROGRAMS

Fun for
All Ages!



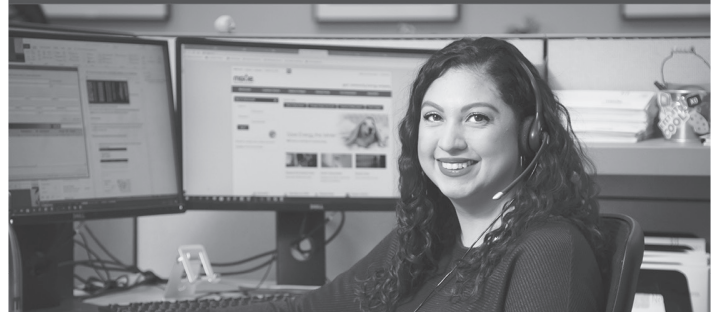
Now Hiring! Go to mscr.org

Summer Camps

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

View the Summer 2023 Program Guide & Register at mscr.org

Behind on your bill? MGE is here to help.



We're here to work with you.

MGE representatives are here to help households and businesses that may need help. If you need assistance or have questions about your account, please visit the Customer Service section of mge.com or call us at (608) 252-7144.

Scams are on the rise. Make sure it's us.

If you receive a call, email or visit that you suspect is fraudulent, please call MGE at (608) 252-7222.

Get free energy-saving advice.

MGE can provide expert advice on how to assess and manage your energy use. Email our Energy Experts at AskExperts@mge.com.

MGE is committed to safe and reliable service.

Lights out, power line down or other emergency? Call us at (608) 252-7111. Smell gas? Leave immediately and call us at (608) 252-1111.



Your community energy company

GS3351 9/3/2020



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

ENA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 22

D16 Alder Forum

6:30pm on the ENA Facebook Page
Details in this issue (link to [stream](#))

Saturday, April 8

Elvehjem Egg Hunt

9:30am SHARP @ Droster Park
Details in this issue (and [website](#))

Saturday, April 15

Annual Meeting

10:00-11:00am @ Our Saviour's Lutheran
Details in this issue (and [website](#))

April 15-May 13

Membership Drive

Become a member: theena.org/join

Saturday, April 22

Earth Day Cleanup

1:00-3:00pm @ Elvehjem Park (1202 Painted Post)
Details in this issue (and [website](#))

June 15-17

Neighborhood Garage Sales

Neighborhood-wide, details [here](#)

Saturday, July 1

Fourth of July Celebration

11:00am-1:00pm @ Our Saviour's Lutheran

Saturday, August 19

Elvehjem Back to School Bash

11:00am-1:00pm @ The Life at Madison Grove

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