



Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

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

Elvehjem Echo
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
Founded March 1968
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Our Association's 56th Year



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Neighbors,

Howdy, neighbors! 2024 is off to a warm start thanks to El Niño. As of mid-February, the 30°F average temperature this winter is our second warmest on record. I wouldn't put away your shovels quite yet though... March or April always find a way to surprise.

In this issue you'll see that the ENA is putting on a BUNCH of great events in 2024 including the upcoming Egg Hunt, Annual Meeting, and Earth Day Cleanup this March and April. Be sure to mark your calendars!

I should also mention that the board is brainstorming a few NEW events for this year including a trivia or bingo night, plus a potential "restaurant spotlight." We're in the early stages of planning one or multiple of these,

but if the sound of any of this piques your interest be sure to follow us on Facebook or join our monthly mailing list at theENA.org/extra.

In the spirit of asking "how can we help" I'd like to do two simple things in my letter this quarter:

1. Open my inbox to anybody in Elvehjem's boundaries who might have a question or concern about *anything* in our neighborhood. Do you see a need for traffic calming that's not being addressed? Having trouble finding or utilizing certain city resources? Wondering how you can get involved as a volunteer for your neighbors? Please send me an email or give me a call at the contact below - I love nothing more than connecting with my neighbors!

2. Direct you to a serving event detailed on pg. 5 in this issue. Teams of helpers from City Church on Buckeye Rd are volunteering their time and energy to the elderly, widows, and disabled persons of Elvehjem on April 27th. If you or someone you know could use some manpower for a project of any kind, please contact Andrew at the info on pg. 5.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT



Goodbye—sort of :)

I've served the ENA as Treasurer since 2018, and what a run it's been. I'm proud to have steered us through a pandemic that devastated so many organizations like ours, and of course, we could not have done it without your support. And now, the landscape for keeping financial

tabs on an organization like ours is completely different, from the explosion of online fundraising tools to the ongoing economic challenges we're facing as everyone's expenses continue to rise.

It's a perfect time to pass things on to someone with fresh ideas and energy, and come April, that's what we'll do. I'm so happy that Dylan Crye will be taking over as treasurer after our 2024 Annual Meeting. Please give him a warm welcome. He's been on our Board for some time now, and he's an all-around good guy. I can't wait to see where things go with him at the financial helm.

I'm staying on the Board, with a focus in 2024 on helping connect the neighborhood with candidates and voter advocacy groups. We're in for a busy election year, and I'm excited to do what I can to help keep our neighbors engaged. Forward!

Jacob Wright, Treasurer // jacob@theENA.org

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hi neighbors!

Later in this newsletter you'll read about the upcoming Annual Meeting. It's an event required by our bylaws - a time for the Board of Directors to report to members (that's you!) on the state of affairs and financial condition of

the Association. But more than that, it's a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors. Also: free pizza.

At the meeting we'll discuss the fun events planned for 2024, and we'd love your input! The Board wants to plan events that members want to attend, so come tell us what's important to you, any changes you'd make to existing events, and ideas you have for new events.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on April 13th!

Kristy Bark, Secretary // kristy@theENA.org

ALDER CURRIE'S COLUMN: BY JAELE CURRIE

Greetings friends & neighbors,

Information and discussions with the Council about the City's Operating Budget have commenced. This is due to projections that the City's 2025 structural (operating) deficit will be approximately \$27 million.

In response, the City's Finance Department has been sharing information about the budget conditions and providing some explanations for how we arrived here, and what limits we have to present and approve a balanced budget.

One of the most apparent issues is the fact that property taxes, local charges, and revenue from state aid to the City has grown slower than the cost of providing City services over the last few years. Access to COVID-19 related assistance funds provided the City with much needed relief but unfortunately, that money was temporary and is mostly depleted/won't be accessible past 2024.

Understanding the budget, its complexities and connections to staff and residents has been one of the steepest learning curves I've experienced during my time in office. Therefore, I'm pretty thrilled the City's Finance Director and staff has been actively engaging the Council and informing the public about the anticipated budget challenges ahead. I look forward to sharing information with the District about my personal budget priorities, those that come from discussions amongst the Council, as well as opportunities to share your input on budget priorities and strategies for approving a balanced budget.

Review the 4-Part Budget Info Series: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/budget/2025-budget/2025-budget-outlook>

Email Finance Department with follow up questions: citybudget@cityofmadison.com

Email Alder Currie with input/feedback: district16@cityofmadison.com



EVENT: ENA ANNUAL MEETING 2024

**Saturday, April 13th at 10am
City Church, 4909 E Buckeye Rd**

All residents of Elvehjem Neighborhood are invited to attend our Annual Meeting this year! Meet the ENA Board of Directors, vote on the 2024 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 many distinguished guests** like our alder, neighborhood resource officer, and hopefully even the mayor again! (Pictured above speaking in 2023).



We're incredibly excited to fill City Church 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

EVENT: Elvehjem Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 30th at 9:30am SHARP
Droster Park, 1429 Droster Road**

The ENA is excited to hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30 at 9:30 AM sharp. All children 12 and under are invited to participate. The event will be held at Droster Park. In addition to hunting for eggs to be exchanged for treat bags, children can expect to see Maynard from the Madison Mallards, representatives from the Madison Fire Department, and (of course) the Easter Bunny. The event goes by quickly, so be sure to arrive early to get in on the fun!



Those who were at the hunt last year may remember that there were some glitches—it got off to an early start, and we ran out of treat bags. We will try to address those issues by creating a physical barrier at the starting line, and by providing more treat bags. Thank you for your part in making this a successful event for the neighborhood!

Email alice@theENA.org with questions.

EVENT: Earth Day Cleanup

**Saturday, April 20th
10am-12pm @ Acewood Park
1-3pm @ Elvehjem Park Shelter**

Celebrate Earth Day with your neighbors and friends by volunteering to clean up our local parks!

Two opportunities to make our neighborhood shine this year, with events at both Acewood Park and the Elvehjem Sanctuary (starting at the park shelter). Garbage bags and latex-free gloves will be provided.



Questions, comments, or want to let us know you're joining us? Contact Dylan@theena.org. Interested in cleaning 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 keep our neighborhood welcoming, safe, and a clean space for all to enjoy. Thank you and see you on the 20th!

ELECTIONS IN 2024

It's going to be a very busy election season. Here are some resources to help you get ready!

Key Election Dates—with educated guesses of what will be on the ballot:

- Spring Election – Tuesday, April 2 (municipal non-partisan e.g. County Board)
- Primary – August 13 (Presidential primary, likely primary for County Executive, and more)
- General Election – November 5 (President, County Executive, State Assembly, and more)

Sample ballots will be available before each election here: myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Whats-On-My-Ballot

Get Registered! Registration Deadlines for the Spring Election:

- March 13, 2024 - Deadline to register by mail or online.
- March 29, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m - Deadline to register in-person at the Clerk's office.

You can also register at your polling place on Election Day.

Everything you need to know—documents to bring, how to complete the process—is available here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

You can vote in-person or absentee! Learn more and request a ballot by mail here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Vote-Absentee-Guide>

For in-person voting, most recipients of this newsletter will go to Elvehjem School. To be sure, check here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Find-My-Polling-Place>

Finally—the ENA plans to hold at least one voter education forum—likely ahead of the August primary—with candidates for local office. Contact jacob@theENA.org if you can help!



EVENT: Membership Drive

April 13 – May 11 Neighborhood-wide

Every year, the ENA coordinates a door-knocking campaign to personally reach every household in Elvehjem with our membership materials.

Because it's an election season, we're trying to sign up AS MANY households ONLINE as possible to save you the hassle of having to answer the door (and to cut down on paper waste).

Scan the QR code above or open theENA.org/join on your phone or computer to join in less than 60 seconds.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Wondering if you joined online already this year? Search your inbox for "Elvehjem Receipt" to find out.



Calling All Music Fans!

Do you play in a band? Have a driveway?

Make Music Madison is a free, citywide day of music held annually on the summer solstice.

This year, the event falls on **Friday, June 21st** - a great way to ring in the weekend and the summer!

Performances take place in public spaces (parks, sidewalks, retail centers, etc). Last year, Elvehjem was home to two awesome Make Music events - one on Buckeye Rd and another at Elvehjem Shelter.

This year, we'd love to fill the neighborhood with music again. If you're interested in hosting a Make Music spot, visit www.makemusicmadison.org for registration info, important dates and to learn more.

Let us know if the ENA board can help you in any way - we'd love to promote your Make Music event to the neighborhood, assist with street permits as needed, etc. **Email board@theENA.org to get started!**



Recap: Holiday in the Park '23

On Saturday, December 9th, the ENA hosted our annual Holiday in the Park event.

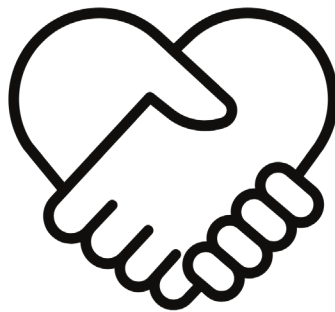
We lit up Elvehjem Park with a roaring bonfire, twinkle lights, and glow-in-the-dark lawn games. In addition to the old favorites (cocoa, cookies & carriage rides), we added a new feature this year - the Mexsal Mobile food truck! And we were delighted to welcome back the Yahara River Chorus (pictured), who serenaded us with seasonal songs.



Many thanks to Eclectic Shire Farms for the horse & carriage rides; Chuck Risler & Ferrellgas for donating pallet wood for the fire; City Church for helping us provide the tasty hot chocolate; and to our very own Santa Claus for always bringing the holiday magic. A big thank-you to our volunteers and to all neighbors who came out to celebrate with us!

Help Available!

Saturday, April 27th, City Church is having a **service day for the elderly, widows, and disabled persons**, in the Elvehjem neighborhood who may need assistance.



The service day will consist of teams of youth and adults assembled to perform acts of service such as spring-cleaning garages, yard work, and window washing.

Time: Morning session of service is 9am-12pm. Afternoon session 12:30-3:30pm.

If you are interested in scheduling a service team for you or someone you know in Elvehjem, **please email ahenderson@citychurchonline.org or call (608) 335-8774**

Recap: Turkey Trot '23

It was sunny but blustery on Thanksgiving morning as the neighborhood gathered in Droster Park for the exciting pre-feast exertion that was the 2023 ENA Turkey Trot. Running gear and costumes were both well represented at this year's affair as over 160 people took part between the 5k and the run/walk.

Ryan Rysewyk glided across the finish in a blistering 18:28 to

record the fastest time for 2023, with Jessica Murphy claiming the women's crown at 23:19. Jack Houseman was our youth champion at 23:37, and the Masters division was well-represented by Dave Mullen's 25:12.



All recorded results are available on the Turkey Trot page at theena.org/turkey-trot

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608-285-2127





2024 Calendar of Events

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

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Spring TBA	TBA Election Forum	TBA	TBA
Sat, March 30	Elvehjem Egg Hunt	9:30am SHARP	Droster Park 1429 Droster Rd
Sat, April 13	Annual Neighborhood Meeting	10-11am	City Church 4909 E Buckeye Rd
Apr 13 – May 11	Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Spring Membership Drive		
Sat, April 20	Earth Day Clean-Up	10am-12pm 1-3pm	Acewood Park Elvehjem Park Shelter
June 13-15	Neighborhood Garage Sales	8am-4pm	See the theENA.org/garage-sales for registration and map
Fri, June 21	Make Music Madison	All Day	Details: theENA.org
Sat, June 29	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 17	Community Resource Fair	11am-1pm	Acewood Park 1402 Acewood
Thu, October 31	Neighborhood Halloween Bonfires	6-8pm	Elvehjem Neighborhood, map: theENA.org/halloween-bonfires
Thurs, Nov 28	5K Turkey Trot & 1.5-Mile Walk	8:30am SHARP	Droster Park 1429 Droster Rd
Sat, Dec 14	Holiday in the Park	4-7pm <i>Potentially earlier</i>	Elvehjem Park Shelter 1202 Painted Post Dr

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

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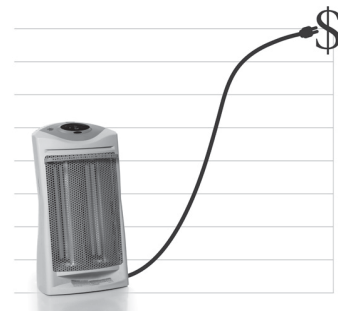
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Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 14625
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-0625

ENA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 6

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Saturday, March 30

Elvehjem Egg Hunt

9:30am SHARP @ Droster Park

Details at: theena.org/egg-hunt

Wednesday, April 3

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Saturday, April 13

ENA Annual Meeting 2024

10-11am @ City Church

Details at: theena.org/annual-meeting

April 13 - May 11

Membership Drive

Join today: theena.org/join

Saturday, April 20

Earth Day Cleanup

10am-12pm @ Acewood Park

1-3pm @ Elvehjem Park Shelter

Details at: theena.org/earth-day

Wednesday, May 1

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

June 13-15

Neighborhood Garage Sales

Details and map at: theena.org/garage-sales

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