



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 4, Winter 2023
Our Association's 55th Year



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Neighbors,

We recently completed a neighborhood-wide survey and this is what your fellow neighbors said about our shared boundary when asked "**what do you like most about living in Elvehjem?**":

- The people. We have great neighbors and everyone is willing to help each other.
 - A well established, quiet neighborhood with a lot of history and natural space.
 - Wide age-range of people, Acewood forest and the goats, close to everything, safe and comfy.
 - Our elementary school is awesome and our neighbors are pretty cool too.
 - Parks, green spaces, mature trees.
- Community activism, well-kept homes, dogs/walkers.
 - Generally quiet hidden gem with good people and close to everything.
 - I like how much everyone cares about their garden, plantings, flowers, etc. I also like being able to take walks and greet everyone's dogs.
 - It's a very stable community - people move here and want to stay.
 - Feels like and is home.

There were 234 total responses to this question with similar sentiments, and it brings a smile to my face to read it all! See our summary of the survey in this issue.

The end of the year is approaching quickly and I'm eager to present the ENA's two final, major events this November and December: the **Turkey Trot** and **Holiday in the Park**. Full details in this issue.

The ENA still has **room for one additional board member** so if you're interested in sharing a bit of your time and energy at the neighborhood level, please reach out to me at the contact below! Enjoy your holidays and I'll see you out and about as we trudge through the snow-caked sidewalks this winter.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT



Thank you all for another record-breaking year! If you haven't joined yet, it's not too late: theENA.org/join

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Turkey Trot (sign up here: theENA.org/turkey-trot)

and at our Holiday in the Park celebration! Two fantastic events to finish our year strong.

Your support keeps us going — none of our work, including the newsletter you're reading — would be possible without YOU!

Jacob Wright, Treasurer // jacob@theENA.org

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hello neighbors! As I'm writing this article, the ENA is gearing up for Halloween, Turkey Trot, and Holiday in the Park. Such a fun (and busy) time of year! And then afterwards? A big blank on our communal calendar until spring.

That's part of the natural rhythm of the year - winter means slowing down, hibernation and hygge. But I'm wondering - in the absence of big neighborhood events - how else can we gather and stay connected during these coming winter months?

In our last Echo, we introduced you to the newly formed Garden Guild. Later in this newsletter, you'll read about a new club geared towards kids: the LVM Lego Club! What other clubs would you like to start or join? A soup group? Board game collective? Movie meet-up?

If you're interested in forming a club and would like help advertising it to other neighbors, please reach out to secretary@theena.org.

Kristy Bark, Secretary // kristy@theENA.org

ALDER CURRIE'S COLUMN: BY JAEI CURRIE

Greetings friends and neighbors,

I hope this message finds you well! The following are updates about what I've been working on most recently:

2024 Budget Prep and Approval

As shared in the last newsletter, I had been working to grow my understanding and knowledge of outstanding projects and needs, considering the anticipated budget constraints. I chose to focus my efforts in the following areas: affordable housing & homeless service funding allocations, violence prevention efforts, and traffic engineering/safety. I'm pleased to share an amendment I put forward with Alder Field (D3) to provide funding for apartment communities at/near risk of public nuisance declaration was unanimously passed by the Finance Committee and will be presented to the Council for final vote when budget deliberations begin next week, Tuesday 11/14.

Budget prep this year has involved significant collaboration with the County Board of Supervisors. The County Board just passed their 2024 budgets this week which included significant funding towards basic humans needs such as affordable housing, violence prevention and the opportunity to expand CARES outside the City of Madison. Of significance for D16 is significant support to continue the operation of the Dairy Drive Sheltered Campground.

Violence Prevention, Stabilization and Collaboration efforts

I have continued working closely with MPD, Public Health's Violence Prevention Unit and KCG on abating the nuisance activity at The Meadowlands. Part of that work included getting formal partnerships with a collective of local social service providers who are now on-site at The Meadowlands, and are hoping to expand these services to The Harmony Apartments. I have also attended and participated in several youth focused listening sessions, as youth have been at the center of recent gun violence and concerning incidents in the area.

There is a lot more happening but only so much space here. Please be on the lookout for a new blog from me as well as sharing of information on social media. As always, please contact me at district16@cityofmadison.com with additional questions or needs.

All the best,
Jael



EVENT: HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

Saturday, December 9th from 4-7pm
Elvehjem Park Shelter / 1202 Painted Post

Join us for an enchanting event featuring the following attractions:

HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES

Small groups are carted around Elvehjem with horses leading the way—a fun experience for both young and old! Rides are first-come-first-serve so arrive early if you'd like to get on the list!

We're raising funds this year to keep the horse & carriage a part of our annual event - you can **make a donation at theENA.org/holiday-in-the-park**



BIG BONFIRE!

We safely burn pallet wood and gather around a circle of warmth. This is a great place for conversation with familiar faces or new neighbors.

FOOD & DRINK

We provide sweet snacking and piping hot chocolate for you to enjoy as you socialize in the park. The Mexsal Mobile Food Truck will be there as well!

If you're a baker and would like to **bring a batch of baked goods to share** with the neighborhood, please email

holiday@theENA.org with your anticipated contribution so we can plan for it!

SANTA CLAUS

Santa will be there! Your kiddos will get their first glimpse of Santa this year in his festive getup. Pictures encouraged.

HOLIDAY MUSIC

The Yahara River Women's Chorus will kick off the event with a 4pm performance of holiday tunes. Carolers will be strolling the grounds for the remainder of the event.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL!

Enjoy a game of light-up cornhole, a silent Christmas movie on the big screen, and other attractions!



Bring friends, bring family, but most importantly bring your holiday spirit! Any updates will be posted to theENA.org/holiday-in-the-park. Looking to volunteer? We could use your help! Email dan@theENA.org if you're interested.

EVENT: TURKEY TROT

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

Madison's favorite calorie burning pre-feast fun run returns for another year as the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association is again starting off **Thanksgiving morning** by bringing you our annual Turkey Trot. Last year over 160 people took to the streets as part of the race, and we're hoping for another stellar turnout this year!

Runners, joggers, walkers and strollers of all ages are asked to join us at Droster Park for the pace and distance of your choice. We'll be **offering both the 5K and the 1.5mi run/walk** so you can choose the amount of sunrise fitness that suits you. The 5K will start at 8:30am sharp with the run/walk starting off at 8:35. Both events will start on the path through Droster Park.

If your Thanksgiving weekend is too crowded already, you are welcome to choose any time that weekend to run the route and share your time on the Elvehjem Neighborhood Facebook page. The route begins on the Droster Park pathway the day of, but if you're running on your own time feel free to start anywhere on the route!

Registration is \$5 and can be done in advance by visiting our website at theENA.org/turkey-trot

If you wake up Thanksgiving morning inspired, you are welcome to register at the race itself.

We'll also ask you to consider **bringing a nonperishable donation** for the Second Harvest Foodbank to help out families in need and we will also be collecting winter clothes for the Elvehjem Elementary Hats and Mittens Drive! Drop it off the morning of the race at Droster Park or any time that weekend at 1614 Brynwood Drive.

Interested in helping make the event a success? We are always **in need of volunteers** to help with providing snacks for the finish line, setting up, directing participants along the course, and cleaning up. If you are able to help please email Pete at pete@theena.org



EVENT RECAP: HALLOWEEN BONFIRES

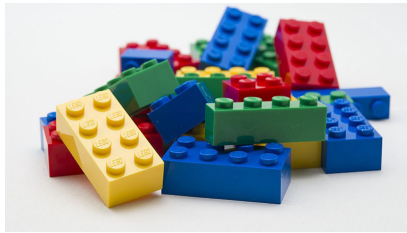
The weather was brisk and blustery, but that never stops the families of Elvehjem from taking to the streets on All Hallows' Eve to parade from house to house on a quest to claim their fill of treats. Over 50 houses lit their fires; beacons of light and warmth along the odyssey of the becostumed. Atop Starker Hill the parade was in full swing at twilight. Families stopped along their path to enjoy witchy performances and seasonal cinema. Decorations spared no expense as skeletons galore lightly menaced the walkers on their paths. As dark settled in, the oldest among the youth ran the final routes and the neighborhood fell silent once more. Another Halloween in the books and a palpable excitement for a bigger and grander 2024.



Announcing: LVM Lego Club!

by Brenna and Jeremiah Marsicek, club organizers

We are so excited to have launched a new club in the Elvehjem neighborhood designed just for kids: LVM Lego Club! This club is geared for kids who attend Elvehjem Elementary School (grades K-5), but siblings can also participate with parental supervision. **Our goal is to create a team-like environment focusing on the creative, challenging, and problem-solving benefits of working with Legos.** Each week features a new theme and set of challenges for kids to work toward, either independent or collaboratively.



The club meets most Wednesdays at Messiah Lutheran Church on Cottage Grove Road (no religious activities involved in this club). There is no cost to participate, thanks to generous donations made by the family and friends of this community. **If you have Legos you'd like to donate, please email us at LVMlegoclub@gmail.com.**

Beware of Porch Pirates!

Very soon, it will be that time of year for giving... AND taking.

With so many people shopping online, we expect to have another record-breaking year for home deliveries and Porch Pirates this holiday season.



Here are some package theft prevention tips from Madison Area Crime Stoppers:

- Have your packages held at your local carrier facility for pickup.
- Take advantage of "Ship to Store" for curbside pickup or Amazon's "Locker" feature.
- Request that your package has a signature confirmation upon delivery.
- Ask your carrier to place packages in an area out of plain view.
- Have packages delivered to your work.
- Schedule delivery for times you will be home.
- Track your packages by signing up for alerts.

EVENT RECAP: Craft Fair

Our annual Fourth of July celebration on July 1, 2023 included the inaugural Craft Fair. Spearheaded by Elvehjem's Bob Washburn, of Washburn Laser Works, the fair included seven vendors. The vendors were Washburn, with his laser-cut decorative wooden pieces, as well as others who made custom clothing for American Girl dolls, customizable goods such as mugs, and novelty gift items.



The fair was moved indoors due to uncertain weather, but Our Saviour's gathering space proved to be an ideal location, with access to the outdoors as well as shelter from the rain.

Seen shopping at the fair were Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and Alder Jael Currie, as well as of course many Elvehjem residents.

We hope to make this an annual event!

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MGNS is a State Licensed & Accredited Parent Coop



Open House Event!

February 10, 2024 • 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Check out our [Open House](#) then enroll for 2024-2025!

MGNS.org

a perfect place to learn through play



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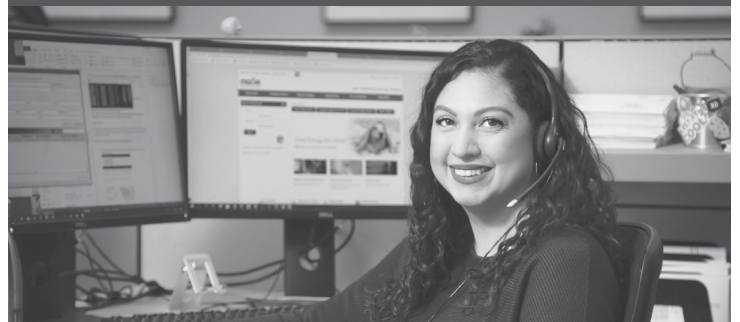
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Your community energy company



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

ENA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, November 23

Turkey Trot

Details in this issue
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

Wednesday, January 3

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Wednesday, February 7

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

Wednesday, March 6

ENA Board Meeting

6:30-8:30pm @ Pinney Library

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