

# Elvehjem Echo

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

Vol. 46, Issue 4

Founded March 1968

August-September 2014

*Our Association's 46th Year*



## Words from the Wooden Steps: LEAN IN to Elvehjem Neighborhood

Dear Elvehjem Neighbors, I'd like to take a moment to thank our hard working Elvehjem Neighborhood Association (ENA) Board members. These individuals and their supportive spouses, partners, and families are some of the most amazing team members I've ever had the chance to work with, and

they deserve our heartfelt appreciation for their time, effort, and commitment to the neighborhood. Thank you, **Lynn Munsinger Brown, Mike Digman, Rod Gennrich, Justin Martin, Jamie Meise, Faye Reber, Isaac Semrow, and Betsy Winterhack**, for continually saying "yes" and "leaning in," especially at our Fourth of July Celebration!

It probably seems like we are continually asking for volunteers, and that's because we are always on the lookout for a few good neighbors to assist with activities and events they feel passionate about and would like to see continue from year to year. I often hear statements like, "I don't have time to volunteer," or "I've done my share, and it's time for others to step up to the plate."

While I don't know all the circumstances of each individual case, I will say that ten years of experience with non-profits and volunteer-based organizations has taught me that **busy people are actually the ones who DO have time to volunteer**, as they prioritize things they feel very strongly about and find creative ways to get it done. As for the idea that it's "someone else's turn," perhaps that is the case, but if we shift our mindset and instead think of being in this together, then it's actually "everyone's turn" to "lean in" and get involved. When I look at our current Board, I see in "12 Days of Christmas" style, 6 furry friends, 5 full-time jobs, 4 newborn babies (if that doesn't boggle your mind, I don't know what will!), 3 toddlers, 2 school age kiddos, 2 in-home daycares, 1 new small business owner, and a guy who can't stop selling cars in his retirement because he's simply too good at it!

**My challenge to you, Elvehjem Neighbors, is to consider how you might "lean in" to the neighborhood this year.** And I'll borrow a page from Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg's bestseller and quote, "Don't put on the brakes. Accelerate. Keep a foot on the gas pedal until a decision must be made. That's the only way to ensure that when that day comes, there will be a real decision to make." So we're looking for you, expectant and current parents, retired neighbors, corporate jungle gym climbers, state workers, teachers, shift workers, and yes, even Epic employees. We can find a role that will work

for you, from a formal Board position to a ten-minute-a-week neighborhood improvement task. The time is now. I look forward to the email deluge!

Sincerely,  
Tiff Roltgen  
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association President  
608-513-9433  
[tiffani@elvehjemneighborhood.org](mailto:tiffani@elvehjemneighborhood.org)

## Welcome to the ENA Board, Faye Reber!

Faye Reber and her family have been in Madison for just about 2.5 years and in Elvehjem Neighborhood since September 2013. Originally from Indiana and after spending some time in Michigan and Minnesota, she now calls Madison home. Faye works for UW-Madison in the Division of University Housing making arrangements for summer camps and conferences. In her spare time, Faye enjoys most things outdoors including running, walking her dog Indigo, fostering dogs in need, camping, and kayaking. We warmly welcome Faye as our newest Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board Director-at-Large and thank her for jumping right in as a volunteer at our Annual Fourth of July Celebration.

*NOTE: We have two more board seats open. We're especially looking for neighbors with leadership, technological, and/or financial experience to fill upcoming officer positions. If interested, email [enaboard@elvehjemneighborhood.org](mailto:enaboard@elvehjemneighborhood.org)*



## Member Corner

**PIANO LESSONS** -- Lesson taught in your home! Experienced neighborhood teacher with agendas customized to a student's level and ambitions. Member of Madison Area Piano Teacher's Association since 2003. Friendly approach, and recitals included. Contact Brian Hagen at (608) 223-1677 and/or [bdhagen@jvlnet.com](mailto:bdhagen@jvlnet.com).

## Secretary's Corner

By Jamie Meise

This month's Secretary's Corner features a guest author, our District 16 Alder Denise DeMarb, with important updates on Elvehjem Neighborhood issues.

### From the Desk of Denise DeMarb, District 16 Alder

Dear Elvehjem Neighbors,

Together with Elvehjem leadership, there are four specific items I have been working on for you:

**1) New Playground Equipment at Droster Park:** If you have had the opportunity to travel past Droster Park, you will be delighted to see Madison Parks' work on new playground equipment. Playground equipment is on a rotation for replacement, and Droster came to the top of the list this year. Parks held a couple of meetings over the winter where neighbors were invited to choose between options of playground equipment. We were even able to add in some natural features to the playground area. Come play and enjoy!

**2) Quarry Blasting:** In response to emails I received concerning the strength of the blasting from Yahara Quarry, I coordinated a meeting to understand legal jurisdiction governing quarries. Last month, Alder Cnare and I hosted a meeting with Homberg, Yahara, Wingra (Quarries); County Board Supervisors; State Representatives; and Neighborhood Leadership. I understood from that meeting that quarries reside under state mining laws, which supersede any and all City ordinance(s). These particular quarries have existed for approximately 40 years, even before current law, so they operate under grandfather clauses. They have elected to follow current law but are not technically mandated to do so. They are monitored, and their seismographs are tested and calibrated on a regular basis. All blasts have fallen within the boundaries of permissible blasts. I understand this doesn't help your experience of the blasts. I have worked with Madison Fire Department and have set up a second meeting with the quarries to talk about process/procedure for recording complaints. More to come...

**3) Dump Trucks on East Buckeye Road:** In response to emails I received stating concern about dump trucks speeding on Buckeye, I contacted Yahara Quarry. I have emailed with Tim Gagon, and he has talked to the employees of Yahara and businesses Yahara contracts with for gravel/cement delivery. Mr. Gagon told me all dump truck drivers have been told to monitor their speed on Buckeye. I asked Mr. Gagon if they would consider using an alternate route, traveling east on AB and using Femrite or 12/18 to travel to Stoughton Rd. He informed me that AB is a truck route, it is the shortest distance (which it is as I checked it out myself), and therefore is the least amount of cost to the quarry. It is not their intention to change the route. AB is a county road and is a designated truck route; therefore, they are under no "obligation" to change their route. I was hopeful they would understand safety concerns of neighbors and act as a "great neighbor;" unfortunately, at this time, that is not possible. I also spoke with Captain Schauf of the East Madison Police

District and Scott Langer from City Traffic Engineering Department. A traffic study has been ordered as a means of gathering baseline data, to understand numbers of vehicles, time, direction, and speed of travel. Unfortunately, the counters cannot measure weight, so we have no way of differentiating heavy from light vehicles. Once the baseline data is gathered, we will have a clear indication of what we are dealing with, and police may have further involvement with ticketing traffic on AB. Hopefully, Mr. Gagon's communication with the drivers/companies will have a positive effect. More to come....

**4) Mowing the Acewood Bike Path:** Tiff Roltgen, Elvehjem Neighborhood President, contacted me to ask if I could help with "cleaning up" the bike path for the Elvehjem Fourth of July Celebration. The grass was growing over the path and she was hoping to have it trimmed for runners. Parks said they would have someone come before the celebration and trim the path. Unfortunately, the person who came to trim brought a large tractor/mower and mowed the entire area, destroying the beauty of the path and habitat for the creatures that lived there. It is horribly sad that this happened. Parks is well aware of the mishap and has spoken to the employee. I spoke with Parks, and they apologize for this error; unfortunately this will not bring back the beauty of the path for this season.

Madison is great City! Thank you for allowing me serve. Stay well and enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Denise DeMarb, Alder District 16

Please join my blog at

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district16/blog/>

To access the minutes in full, please visit <http://www.elvehjemneighborhood.org/minutes.html> or if you would prefer to have a printed copy mailed to your home, contact Jamie Meise at 608-477-3955 or [secretary@elvehjemneighborhood.org](mailto:secretary@elvehjemneighborhood.org).

## Treasurer's Corner

By Justin Martin

[treasurer@elvehjemneighborhood.org](mailto:treasurer@elvehjemneighborhood.org)

Even if the year is only just over half complete, over 70% of all annual expenses, and almost 90% percent of our annual income, are accounted for. Now that the membership drive and 4th of July Celebration are in the past, we can step back and get a good idea of how our finances will look going into 2015. We had another great turnout this year at the picnic, resulting in brisk food sales and a very successful raffle and silent auction which raised \$712 thanks to very generous donations by our many sponsors and neighbors. As I noted in the last issue, this year's membership drive was also a great success. We are entering the second half of 2014 on a very strong financial footing with a balance of \$14,884 compared to a balance of \$9,458 at this time last year. Human capital has now, in my view, surpassed financial concerns as the main limiting factor on our organization. Please consider giving some of your time, as a Board member or volunteer, to ensure that many hands continue to make light work.





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### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Firecracker 5K a Blazing Success!

By Emily Leas, Race Director

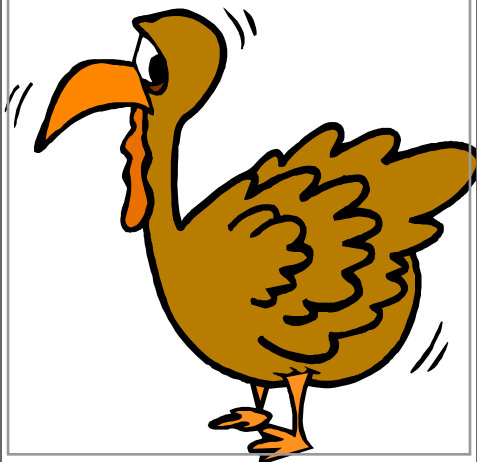
Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped direct, feed, time, and register participants at this year's event: Bonnie and Rodney Benson, Dave Bernhard, Craig Brown, Carrie and Paul Cusick, Jennifer Defren, Mona Everett, Jessica Kennedy, Janet Kuehl, Karl Leas, Justin Martin, Dan Murphy, Andrea Nichols, Georgine Price, Mike and Tiff Roltgen, Patti Ross, Jeanne & Jay Rotter, Joel Stone, Debbie & Steve Taber, and Gene Taylor. Special thanks to neighborhood resident David Crary for singing the national anthem and Mark Wendricks for directing Boy Scouts Pack 132 in the flag raising ceremony. The beautiful, mild weather brought out 85 participants...a record number for this event!



#### **Congratulations, Firecracker 5K Overall and Division Winners!**

Adult Division Winners: Tiff Roltgen (21:40) and Nick Oftsun (18:06).  
Overall Winners: Glenda Adams (20:19) and David Eichenberger (15:20\*)  
Masters Division Winners: Steve Reusser (21:52) and Shelly Bouffiou (29:06)  
Youth Division Winners: Amelia Zadrazil (26:17), and Gabe Murphy (24:19)  
\*New men's course record

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual ENA Turkey Trot  
November 27, 2014  
Start training now!



### Beautiful Weather and Neighborhood Camaraderie Celebrated at Elvehjem Neighborhood Fourth of July

By Isaac Semrow, ENA Vice President



Our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth of July Celebration was a great event for neighbors, family, and friends! Blessed with amazing weather and a committed team of volunteers, the stage was set. Neighbor David Crary sang the national anthem while Boy Scout Pack 132 raised the flag. The Kids Fun Run was a hit, and we had a record number of participants in the Firecracker 5k. The Black Knights Color Guard from our local VFW Day Post 7591 and Madison Fire Department Engine 5 and ambulance lead a huge bike parade around Elvehjem Elementary and into Elvehjem Park. By noon the park was busy and energetic with something for everyone to do. The youngsters really enjoyed the bounce house while older kids and kids at heart played a variety of games and sports throughout the park. Groups of neighbors, old and new, gathered to chat and enjoy the delicious BBQ lunch. The spread of raffle prizes and silent

auction items was impressive (I really wanted that Packer football). Congrats to all who won! Eventually we had to drag a few kids out of the bounce house and pull the plug. As the park emptied out, there was still plenty of work to be done, and although many of the volunteers were exhausted from a hard day of work, there were smiles all around. Special thanks to the ENA Board members, their families, and the following "neighbors at large" who made this event a huge success: Emily Leas, Diane Amundson, Dave Bernhard, Tom Purnell & family, Kate Strom Hiorns, Jennifer Defren, Barb Jull, Pat Leary, Jim Polewski, Mary Ellen Briggs-Pomo, Scot Whitney, Diane Amundson & family, and Julie Salt



responsibleenergy

## Recycle your old refrigerator or freezer



Chances are the older refrigerator or freezer in your basement or garage is running up your utility bill by an average of \$150 a year. Recycle it, reduce your energy use and keep harmful materials out of landfills. We'll pick it up for free, and you'll pick up a \$40 reward.

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### Update to 2014 ENA Calendar of Events

Please note that the Solskinn Music Festival will still be held on Saturday, August 16, but it is no longer an Elvehjem Neighborhood event. We extend our sincere thanks to Elvehjem resident Chris Winterhack of [Jonk Music](#) who made a valiant effort to bring this event back to the neighborhood for its second year. Due to permitting issues and financial obstacles, it was not feasible. If you are interested in this year's Solskinn event in Spring Green, WI, please check out the website at <http://www.solskinnfestival.com/#2014> For an updated 2014 ENA Calendar of Events, visit [http://www.elvehjemneighborhood.org/files/ENA\\_Calendar\\_of\\_Events\\_2014.pdf](http://www.elvehjemneighborhood.org/files/ENA_Calendar_of_Events_2014.pdf)

*Dear Friend of Elvehjem School,*

*We sincerely appreciate and thank you for your gifts to the teachers at LVM. We are touched by your kindness!*

*Best Wishes,  
Craig Campbell and the  
Staff at Elvehjem Elementary*



### Please Offer Your Support and Thanks to the Following Businesses!

We are so fortunate to have such generous businesses and individuals in our greater neighborhood area, especially those who recently donated to our Elvehjem Neighborhood Fourth of July Celebration Firecracker 5K, raffle, silent auction, and upcoming events. When you frequent these businesses, please take a moment to offer your thanks for their support of Elvehjem Neighborhood activities and community!

#### Signature Sponsors (\$100+) and Contacts:

Aramark – Jim Garrett  
Artful Escapes – Arlene Welcher  
Associated Bank – Mike Solt  
A to Z RentAll – Greg Goke  
Fired Up Pottery – Kim Stanfill-McMillan  
Green Valley Campground – Dan and Donna Meise  
Habaneros – Jose Garcia  
Lisa Johnson  
Metro Market – Tony Kuchinsky  
PDQ – Rachel Lareau  
SMART Motors – Blane Einbeck  
Willy Street Co-op – Serenity Voss



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### Celebrate with Neighbors and Mayor Paul Soglin at the Second Annual "Taste of Elvehjem" Neighborhood



It's time for our second annual "Taste of Elvehjem" event at the Elvehjem Community Garden (1202 Painted Post Drive) on Sunday, September 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will truly be something for everyone, so mark your calendars and plan to attend with family, friends, neighbors, and guests of honor including \*Madison Mayor Paul Soglin!

What is the "Taste of Elvehjem?" You may be familiar with the "Taste of Madison," the Downtown event featuring cuisine samples from a wide variety of Madison restaurants. Now what do you get when you move that event close to home, make it free of charge, and erase any parking headaches? Answer: The "Taste of Elvehjem!"

Here's the tentative schedule of events:

- 11:00 AM.** Neighborhood Social, Garden Tours, and Cookbook Exchange
- 11:30 AM** Storytime in the Garden – Special Guest Readers include Madison Mayor Paul Soglin and new Elvehjem Principal Sarah Larson
- 11:50 AM** Mayor Paul Soglin Welcome
- Noon** "Taste of Elvehjem" Healthy(ier) Recipe Contest and Potluck Lunch
- 12:45 PM** Contest Winners Announced
- 1:00 PM** Free Activities for All Ages

Calling all neighborhood chefs! The food for this event is provided by YOU. We encourage all attendees to bring a garden fresh, healthy dish to pass. All dishes are eligible to compete in this year's "Taste of Elvehjem" Healthy (ier) Recipe Contest. There will be two fantastic prizes awarded, one for "Neighbors' Choice" and the other for "Mayor's Choice." Water, plates, and eating utensils will be provided. Please bring other preferred beverages in non-glass containers, per Madison Parks rules. If you wish to participate in our Cookbook Exchange, bring a one or more gently used cookbooks and then "shop" the exchange to find a "new to you" cookbook to take home.



**Elvehjem Neighborhood Association**  
**PO Box 14625**  
**Madison, Wisconsin**  
**53708-0625**

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*The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association presents its third annual...*

## **Neighborhood Night Out**

**Tuesday August 5th**

### **What is National Night Out?**

National Night Out (<http://www.natw.org>) is an annual event designed to strengthen communities by encouraging neighborhoods to engage in stronger relationships with each other and with their local law enforcement partners. The goal is to heighten crime-prevention awareness, build support and participation in local anti-crime programs, and most importantly, send a message that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. It's also the perfect opportunity to get to know your neighbors even better.

### **How Can I Get Involved?**

We are encouraging all residents of Elvehjem Neighborhood to do something to improve relationships with their neighbors on August 5 or any day that works best for you! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- *Sit outside on your porch or lawn.*
- *Go for a walk or run.*
- *Introduce yourself to a new neighbor or one you have not met.*
- *Host a cookout, ice cream social, or bonfire.*
- *Create a directory of your immediate neighbors.*
- *Pick up litter.*
- *Organize a block party.*
- *Talk about starting a neighborhood watch.*
- *Work together on a landscaping or home improvement project.*
- *Set up a childcare or meal exchange.*
- *Bake cookies for your neighbors.*



**Please consider submitting a picture and/or description of how you celebrated National Night Out in your immediate neighborhood to the ECHO Newsletter Editor at [newsletter@elvehjemneighborhood.org](mailto:newsletter@elvehjemneighborhood.org) by Sept. 15 for publication in the October/November issue.**