

Elvehjem Echo

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

Founded March 1968

Vol. 46, Issue 6

December 2014 & January 2015

Our Association's 46th Year



Words from the Wooden Steps

Use Your Voice, Get Connected, & BOOM!

Dear Elvehjem Neighbors,

As 2014 comes to a close, it always seems appropriate to take a few moments to reflect on where we've been and focus on where we're headed! There are several important neighborhood developments that serve as a great reminder of what can happen when good people bring forth valid concerns and get connected with the right City of Madison agencies and advocates.

Based on an inquiry from Elvehjem neighbor and volunteer **Mary Ellen Briggs-Pomo**, an accessible swing was installed at Droster Park in record time—17 days from the initial request to approval, logistical confirmation, and installation. BOOM!



At the Taste of Elvehjem event, Elvehjem Community Garden Organizer

Lynn Munsinger Brown was chatting with Mayor Paul Soglin about the hurdles and expense involved in getting a section of the sidewalk removed in order to bury the water line and avoid an above-ground tripping hazard. Call it magic, politics, or divine intervention; the conduit to prevent the hose from going over the sidewalk was installed by the City of Madison 18 days later free of charge. BOOM!

Neighbor and Wooden Steps Running Club Co-Leader **Paul Cusick** communicated a concern to myself and District 16 Alder Denise DeMarb about the lack of an accessible ramp at the west end of the Droster Park bike path. Fast forward two months, and we now have a functional ramp installed for all to enjoy. BOOM!



During the Droster Park planning process for new playground equipment, neighbors expressed interest in more "natural" elements (to get the general idea, visit <http://www.naturalplaygrounds.com/>). After extensive discussions with the landscape architect and Madison Parks Department, we compromised on contemporary playground equipment along with three mound features and the potential to add several rocks. In following up with the Parks Department, we were able to secure two rocks as it

was stated that we need to "start with two and see how it goes." So, neighbors, if you like the rocks, let's make good use of them, and perhaps we can make a push for a few more this spring. Stay tuned for the BOOM!!

These are just a few of many examples, but we need to hear from you, our neighbors and friends, to make sure we are staying on top of your concerns. Our District 16 Alder Denise DeMarb (district16@cityofmadison.com or 608-358-3195) has been communicative and supportive of our work. Let's make our voices heard in 2015 and keep adding to this list of what makes Elvehjem Neighborhood an awesome place to live, work, and play. BOOM!

Tiff Roltgen
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association President
608-513-9433

tiffani@elvehjemneighborhood.org

Secretary's Corner

By Jamie Meise

Below are a few highlights from recent ENA Board meetings, not covered elsewhere in the newsletter:

The ENA board is looking for people who are interested in getting more involved in the neighborhood. Depending on your availability and interest there are an abundance of volunteer opportunities available ranging from helping out at an event, planning and leading a current or new event for the neighborhood, organizing a club, or joining the board (we still have 3 openings). You can make a difference; help to make Elvehjem a great neighborhood to live in!

Board members are working to design a new website for the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association using Wordpress. The Wordpress format is compatible with our database software which will solve many of our behind the scenes data management issues. The new website will likely be rolled out in early 2015.

In light of recent controversial posts in the ENA Facebook group, the ENA board reviewed their role and determined that the Facebook page will remain self-governing but administrators would reserve the right to remove spammers and posts that violate common sense rules of civility (i.e. no profanity, bullying, name calling, and/or aggressive language).

A reminder to neighbors from police department: our neighborhood is serviced by a call for service team; if you see an issue, make sure to call it in so it can be addressed. The non-emergency dispatch phone number is 608-255-2345; the department would rather receive multiple calls than no calls at all.

Contact Jamie Meise at 608-477-3955 or secretary@elvehjemneighborhood.org to receive a copy of the minutes in full.

Everyone at
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
is invited to an
OPEN HOUSE!

December 19 – December 21
Friday 10 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Experience what Costco has to offer.
It's an exclusive event with an exciting offer for new members.
Please present this invitation at entrance.
Questions: Contact information is listed to the right.

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AT THIS EVENT:



Join as a new Executive Member and get a **\$20 Costco Cash Card**.

Or, join as a new Gold Star Member and get a **\$10 Costco Cash Card**.



2850 Hoopster Road
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Ericka Perez
(608) 825-4020
011121mk03@costco.com

The Barbershop
A Hair Salon for Men

Our Standard Service Includes:
Haircut • Shampoo • Condition • Hot towel
Stache and brow trim • Shoulder massage

ALL FOR ONLY
\$12 CASH
\$12.50 Credit

ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

WALK-INS WELCOME!

1934 S. Stoughton Road
Madison, WI • 608.467.2288

4261 Lien Road Madison, WI • 608.709.5575
515 Junction Road Madison, WI • 608.203.6481

Member Corner

Cookie Exchange: The first-ever (as far as we know) LVM Holiday Cookie Exchange is set for Saturday, December 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. There will be a notice and sign-up form on the [Elvehjem Neighborhood Facebook page](#), or you may RSVP by contacting Mona Everett at cowpost@gmail.com or 334-5669 by December 11. All are welcome!

LVM Book Club: A neighborhood book club is being formed by Elvehjem neighbor Cristi Carlson. The first book is "Change of Heart" by Jodi Piccolt. To sign up, please contact Cristi via email cris-ti.carlson.home@gmail.com or phone 630-2157 with your name, phone number, and email address. The first meeting will be at Pinney Library in December. Subsequent books and meetings will be planned at that time.

Treasurer's Corner

By Justin Martin

treasurer@elvehjemneighborhood.org

In this final Treasurer's Corner for 2014, I am happy to report that we will be ending the year in strong financial condition. While we have a number of expenses yet before the year is out I expect that our year-end account balance will end up just under \$13,000 - a 55% increase over our 2013 year-end balance.

The dramatic turn-around in our finances can be chalked up in large part to the great success of this year's membership drive and the cost-cutting efforts of our Board and Budget Committee. I am confident that we have turned a corner toward long-term financial sustainability.

CAST YOUR VOTE!

**Amendment to Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
Articles of Incorporation
For 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status**

Over the past several months, Elvehjem Neighborhood Association (ENA) Board has been conducting research and discussing the possibility of filing for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. We are pleased with the benefits this classification would offer and would like to share two of them with you: 1) since all our events are offered "for the good of the neighborhood," 501(c)(3) status would ensure Elvehjem Neighborhood Association is officially recognized as a true non-profit organization and 2) 501(c)(3) status would exempt Elvehjem Neighborhood Association from various tax burdens and allow members' and other donors' contributions to the organization to be tax-deductible.

The first step in becoming a 501(c)(3) organization is updating Elvehjem Neighborhood Association's Articles of Incorporation to ensure compliance with federal requirements. However, we need approval of the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association membership to make that update. Please make your mark on the future of our neighborhood association by casting your vote no later than December 31, 2014.

You may vote by mailing the enclosed ballot to:
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 14625, Madison, WI 53708

Or you may vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JDPCM6Q>. If you are on the ENA email list, you have also received an email with this link.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Board Director at Large Betsy Winterhack at betsy@elvehjemneighborhood.org

Cookie Decorating: Friday, December 5, everyone is welcome to decorate cookies to donate to Saturday's Holiday in the Park event. From 10 a.m. to 12 noon at 4721 Steinhauer Trail, Madison WI. Sour cream cookies, sprinkles, and frosting provided, as well as some extra cookies for nibbling! Hosted by Elvehjem neighbor Sarah O'Callaghan. RSVP to smocallaghan@yahoo.com.

Meet Cheryl Francis, Elvehjem and East Buckeye Neighborhood Crossing Guard

By Tiff Roltgen, ENA President

If you commute or travel East Buckeye Road in the morning or afternoon, you probably recognize Cheryl Francis. Cheryl lives in Elvehjem Neighborhood and serves as the friendly face who greets hundreds of cars and heavy equipment at the intersection of East Buckeye Road and Droster Road every Monday through Friday morning from 7:25 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. and Tuesday through Friday afternoons from 3 to 4 p.m. On early release Mondays, Cheryl is there from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. Don't be fooled by the smiles and waves, however, as Cheryl takes her job very seriously. She has shared with us stories of several close encounters with vehicles, and she's not afraid to protect herself and school children crossing the road at this busy intersection. In fact, she's invested in a hands-free tape recorder to make recording vehicle information easier. City of Madison crossing guards are trained to record dangerous driving behaviors that put children at risk. The Madison Police Department picks things up from there and issues tickets accordingly. The Wisconsin State Journal recently reported that "a ticket — 'failure to yield to an adult school crossing guard' — will cost you \$98.80." The Journal also noted, "Guards are giving the citations out at more than twice the rate they did in years past — from 141 tickets in 2011 to 284 so far in 2014." Let's give Cheryl and our school kids a break. Slow down and respect the stop sign!



Cheryl's position was on the agenda of the Pedestrian-Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Commission's October meeting. The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board submitted a letter of support asking for the crossing guard to be maintained in the name of safety and wellness. After receiving a variety of correspondence and hearing testimony, the Commission decided to maintain the crossing guard through the end of the 2014-2015 school year. At the suggestion of District 16 Alder Denise DeMarb,

the criteria for determining crossing guard locations will be re-examined (the criteria is 24 years old), which will likely take into account the

unique situations and dangers neighborhoods face on the periphery of the city. The East Buckeye Road/Droster Road location will be re-evaluated by June. There are 60 children who could potentially use this crosswalk to get to Elvehjem Elementary School. If we'd like the City to continue staffing this crosswalk and avoid always being on the cusp of closure, we need to let parents know about this option, encourage participation in the walking school bus, and get young families excited about the idea of their children walking to school, well before they even reach school age. If this is an important issue to you, please help spread the word!



Saturday, December 6, 2014

Bonfire 4-7pm, Sleigh/Hay Rides and Visit with Santa 4-6pm

Orlando Bell Park 2274 S Thompson Drive

Bring the family and join your neighbors in celebrating the holiday season in the park! Gather 'round the fire and warm up with a cup of hot chocolate, take a horse drawn sleigh/hay ride through the neighborhood, and visit with Santa. Remember to bring your camera; this is sure to be a memory filled

All activities are free of charge. Please bring a non-perishable donation for Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin.



responsibleenergy

turn it down when you're not around



Save energy and money this winter. Turn back your thermostat while asleep or at work. Each degree can save 1% on your heating bill. If we all set back 1°, we'll save enough gas for 3,100 homes. Bigger setbacks save even more. That's the power of working together.

Visit mge.com/setback or call 252-7117.



your community energy company

Grab Your Ball, We're Going Bowling!

Come one, come all and join your neighbors for a bowling social! We welcome youngsters, oldsters, and everyone in-between to join us on Sunday, February 8, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm at Dream Lanes, located at 13 Atlas Court, just off Atlas Avenue. We have secured a great deal and now we just need YOU to bring the fun!

Cost:

\$8/Bowler for 2 games and shoe rental (up to 5 bowlers per lane)

Optional Food Special:

\$12 for 1 large one-topping pizza and 1 pitcher of soda

RSVP's can be directed to ENA Board Secretary Jamie Meise at jamie@elvehjemneighborhood.org or 477-3955. While RSVP's are preferred, you can still walk-in the day of the event and partake in the fun!

Questions? Please contact ENA Board Director at Large Faye Reber at faye@elvehjemneighborhood.org or 989-621-5202.



Mayor's Neighborhood Conference: What We Learned

On September 13, 2014, five residents of Elvehjem Neighborhood attended the Mayor's Neighborhood Conference at Monona Terrace to connect with City officials and neighborhood leaders, attend informational sessions, gather ideas, and get inspired by what has worked in other areas. Over the next few Echo Newsletters, attendees will be sharing their take aways, thoughts, and next steps that might encourage all of us to get involved in Elvehjem Neighborhood and continue making good things happen in 2015!

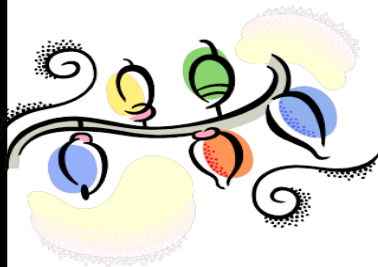
Reflection by Faye Reber, ENA Board Director at Large:

I really appreciated the opportunity to attend the Mayor's Conference through the support of our neighborhood association. It was an excellent chance to meet and speak with community and neighborhood leaders about important issues such as community relations, parks, race and equity, as well as traffic and master planning. We have a strong, thriving neighborhood and association and taking advantage of these opportunities allows us as neighbors to keep that going. Based on the information learned, we've already started to look at things a little differently: is our calendar of events meeting a broad enough neighbor base, are we out reaching out as broadly as we can, etc.? I also feel that those of us who attended are that much more connected with other community leaders which makes to easier to reach out and ask for ideas and assistance.

Reflection by Sarah O'Callaghan, Elvehjem Neighbor:

After attending the conference as a neighbor, I was left with many questions to ponder. How do we keep people engaged in the neighborhood? How do we give everyone a voice, and how do we let the whole of the community know we are asking for their voice? I've noticed here in Elvehjem that it seems as though there is a core group of people at neighborhood events, but so many of the faces that have become familiar from walks and school pick-up are absent. I heard many good ideas that we can sift through in our minds and perhaps apply in our community. Face to face time and individual conversation with civic leaders and engaged neighbors is important to get people out of their houses and to events where they can meet others. It is very difficult to show up and see no familiar faces and to feel even more isolated than if you had stayed home. Also having places to voice our opinions in a format that we are familiar with is critical. For some that is a physical drop box, a meeting over coffee, a phone number to call and leave a message or hear a voice, an e-mail, or a Facebook group. Creating deliberate opportunities for people to share their voices is a wonderful way to build their engagement. I met many wonderful people who shared their City projects and a few stood out as something we could possibly try or use a a jumping board for ideas here in Elvehjem. These all embrace the idea of

Get Ready for the Annual Holiday Lights Contest



Believe it or not, the holidays are right around the corner! With that comes our neighborhood's annual tradition of the Holiday Lights Contest. So grab the lights, the ladder, and some creative plans. Judges will stroll through the neighborhood from December 15-

19 (during daytime and evening hours) and tally their votes with time for all to enjoy the sights after the winners are announced. All you need to do to enter is decorate, and we'll take care of the rest! If you have questions regarding the Holiday Lights Contest, please contact ENA Director at Large Faye Reber at 989-621-5202 or faye@elvehjemneighborhood.org.

"Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper," which I heard a lot from the City in terms of events and community solutions to problems like traffic, bored teenagers, and lack of gathering spaces.

Basketball in the Street: Police block off an area for local teens, kids, and community members to play a few games.

Boombox Party: Gather at a local park with music.

Outdoor Cafe: Invite food carts or local businesses to sell food in the park and gather.

Parklet: Get a permit to close off a parking lot for a time as a gathering space (great opportunity to use that empty Sentry space).

Intersection Painting: Gather and paint some beauty into our well-walked spaces.

Place Making Project: Frame iconic or beautiful spaces in the neighborhood with an empty picture frame and take a photo. See more info at: <https://www.kickstarter.com/pages/placemakingmadison>

-BALLOT-

**Amendment to Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Articles of Incorporation
For 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status**

1) Article 3 of the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association's Articles of Incorporation currently states, in its entirety: "The purposes shall be only lawful activities authorized by Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes." In order to apply for 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status, the Articles of Incorporation must be amended to include additional specific details about the organization, which have been taken directly from the association bylaws as follows:

The purposes shall be only lawful activities authorized by chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The purposes include promoting a spirit of camaraderie among the residents of the area; providing opportunities for cooperation among these residents in projects which are in the interest of the community; providing a conduit for a flow of information to the neighborhood; and providing one voice in expressing opinions in matters that affect the citizens of this community.

The Association is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; nor shall the corporation participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

This corporation's earnings shall not inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. The corporation shall not operate for the benefit of private interests such as those of its founder, the founder's family, its shareholders or persons controlled by such interests. The corporation shall not operate for the primary purpose of conducting a trade or business that is not related to its exempt purpose.

Do you approve the preceding amendment to Article 3, for the purpose of applying for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status?

Yes

No

2) Per applicable rules and laws, only votes of members of the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association may be counted. To be a member, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Live in a household that has paid 2014 annual dues, and
- Meet one of the following: a) Live in the Elvehjem Neighborhood boundaries (East Boundary-I-90; West Boundary-S. Stoughton Road; North Boundary-Cottage Grove Road; South Boundary-Buckeye Road); b) Own improved real estate in the Elvehjem Neighborhood boundaries; c) Formerly resided in the Elvehjem Neighborhood boundaries and was an Association member while you resided there; or d) live in a neighborhood bordering the Elvehjem Neighborhood boundaries (at the discretion of the ENA Board).

Are you a member of the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association?

Yes

No

Grace Bible Church Bids Farewell to Elvehjem Neighborhood

Since 1963, Grace Bible Church has been a part of the Elvehjem Neighborhood, and we have watched it grow up around us. I'm told that when the church was built, Painted Post Drive ended shortly after the church property. It is with a touch of sadness that our congregation made the decision to sell our building and move to a new location. Throughout our 51 years on Painted Post Drive, we tried to be good neighbors and to reach out to those around us. We trust that you will welcome the new church as they settle in.

If you'd care to visit us, we have moved to 3120 Edmonton Drive Suite 100 in Sun Prairie. Our schedule remains the same with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Worship at 10:30 a.m. We also have Wednesday evening Bible Study and Prayer time at 6:00 p.m. Please call us at 834-4111 with any questions or email sunprairiegbc@frontier.com. Thanks for your kind words to us and for allowing us to serve you. We'll be praying for you.

Halloween Decorating Contest Winners Announced

Thank you to all of our neighbors who shared some cheer and scare with their Halloween decorations this year! In case you missed the announcement on Facebook, below are the 2014 Elvehjem Neighborhood Halloween Decorating Contest Winners (and some honorable mentions, too)!

- 1st Place:** 4810 Steinhauer
- Modern:** 1618 National
- Natural:** 5002 Starker

Honorable Mentions: 5110 Starker, 1106 Thompson, 18 Coffey, 1605 Brynwood, 1122 Woodvale, 22 Dinauer, 5202 Starker



Pastor Wes Barteck, Grace Bible Church



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

ENA Calendar of Events

December 3	Board Meeting <i>3 open seats</i>	East District Police Station 809 S. Thompson Dr., Madison	7:00-9:00 p.m.
December 5	Cookie Decorating for Littles <i>Frosting, cookies, and fun!</i>	Hosted by Sarah O'Callaghan 4721 Steinhauer Trail, Madison	10:00 a.m.
December 6	Holiday in the Park <i>Santa, hay rides, bonfire, & treats!</i>	Orlando Bell Park 2274 S. Thompson Dr., Madison	4:00-7:00 p.m.
December 15-19	Holiday Lights Contest	Show your holiday spirit. Prizes to be awarded!	
December 19-21	Neighborhood Open House <i>See shopping pass in this Echo.</i>	Costco 2850 Hoepker Road, Sun Prairie	
January 7	Board Meeting <i>3 open seats</i>	East District Police Station 809 S. Thompson Dr., Madison	7:00-9:00 p.m.
February 8	Neighborhood Bowling Party <i>All ages welcome.</i>	Dream Lanes 13 Atlas Court, Madison	12:00-2:00 p.m.

Member Corner

Send requests to ENA, PO Box 14625, Madison, 53708-0625 or email newsletter@elvehjemneighborhood.org.

Occasional Companion for disabled female: \$12/hr.

Any or all of: Weekdays, 3:00 to 6:00; Occasional can be arranged on regular schedule, almost always known beforehand. Two or three evenings a year as concert companion, Christian rock. Tickets and transport provided. Weekdays 3:00 to 6:00 every day for a week or so in Jan. or Feb. Dates not chosen yet, but I'd like to make plans, order plane tickets soon. Contact Terry Anne 223-9807 or taylor.thereasa@gmail.com