

Elvehjem Echo

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

Vol. 47, Issue 4

Founded March 1968

August/September 2015

Our Association's 47th Year



Views from the Tree House

Dear Neighbors,

Another Fourth of July Celebration has come and gone. This year's event was a mixture of old and new, with familiar favorites like the bike parade led by Fire Station 5 and the VFW Black Knights and Dayettes, the bounce house (sponsored this year by Pure Integrity Homes), and a jam-packed raffle and silent auction, as well as new treats such as free ice cream and live entertainment provided by touring musician and Elvehjem neighbor Jason Moon. The event was well-attended and graced once again with beautiful weather. We had considered a change in schedule from July 4 to the weekend preceding the Fourth and ultimately decided against it, but it is still something we are considering for the future.

If you have any comments or suggestions about this year's event or future celebrations, please contact me.

Coming up in the next couple months we have some more great neighborhood activities. In the past, we have recognized the first Tuesday in August as National Night Out, but the Elvehjem Neighborhood has too much going on to limit ourselves to just one night. So this year we decided to expand it to Neighborhood Week Out. Join in the fun August 2 - 8 by hosting an event and inviting your neighbors, attending a neighbor's event, or even just walking the neighborhood and taking the opportunity to get to



know each other a little better. Good neighbors make safer communities! And don't forget to mark your calendars for the Taste of Elvehjem on September 13, a garden-fresh potluck at the Elvehjem Community Garden with prizes awarded to the best (healthy) recipes, as well as garden tours and activities for kids.

While much of our energy goes toward organizing our regular annual events, I hope to spend the rest of the year identifying ways in which we can make our Association more responsive to the needs of all of our neighbors. I am reminded that as we approach the 50th Anniversary of ENA in 2018, many of you have been here since the very beginning. What can we as a neighborhood do to facilitate a greater sense of community and create more social opportunities for our long-time residents who might not have any interest in our regular family-friendly events but might love the chance at a weekly card

game, Scrabble match, movie outing, or coffee social? As a volunteer-run organization, we have limited ability to initiate new events and activities on our own, but we can help start the conversation. If you have any ideas, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Justin Martin
ENA President
608/219-2060
justin@elvehjemneighborhood.org

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Stacy Wellford

stacy@elvehjemneighborhood.org

With \$1,880 received year-to-date in Echo newsletter advertising income, we continue to do significantly better than the prior year and budget. However, at the time this report was submitted, membership income is down about \$1,750 dollars from last year and budget. We currently have 317 out of 1,726 total households signed up for 2015; our goal was to sign up 500 households, so if you haven't done so, please help support your neighborhood by becoming a member for only \$15 per year. Join online today at www.elvehjemneighborhood.org/join. Once again, we had a successful 4th of July Celebration netting about \$1,160, which is up about \$50 from the prior year. Overall expenses are down about \$355 from the prior year; these savings are from a reduction in the cost of printing and mailing the Echo newsletter, mainly due to increased numbers of neighbors choosing to receive their Echo via email. We continue to have a strong cash position of about \$18,000, which is up about \$3,000 from the previous year.



Secretary's Corner

By Jamie Meise

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



- The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board still has two open seats! If you are interested in getting more involved in the neighborhood, we encourage you to attend a meeting and consider joining us as a Director at Large.
- We would like to thank everyone who supported our Annual Pottery Painting Day as well as Fired Up Pottery for hosting the fundraiser and generously donating 30% of proceeds. Not only was it a fun time but it was also a huge success raising a grand total of \$149.40 which will be invested right back into Elvehjem Neighborhood!
- Our federal application was approved and ENA now has 501(c)(3) tax status! Donations to ENA are now eligible for tax exemption
- New board member Audra Johnson has been working to increase our online presence through fun Facebook games and contests as well as a new blog on the ENA Website. Watch for her next post entitled "Famous Foxes in Popular Culture."

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

Save the Date for the Good Neighbor Day Adult Kickball Game

In celebration of "National Good Neighbor Day," mark your calendars for the Second Annual Good Neighbor Day Kickball Game and Optional Picnic at Elvehjem Park on Sunday, September 28, starting at 2 p.m. Last year's event drew 25 participants and featured the Ballbarians v. the Ballbusters, with the Ballbusters ending the day as neighborhood kickball champions. However, the Ballbarians have been spotted drilling in the neighborhood, so this year's title game will be fun yet hard-fought battle. Depending on interest, we may split up into multiple teams and follow more of a round robin format. The kickball game is designed for adults; high school students can play with parent permission. If you care to eat afterward, everyone is responsible for bringing whatever utensils, seating, drinks, grills, etc. needed for dinner. If you have a dish to share, that's awesome; if not, that's okay, too. Just come on out and embrace your inner 1980's kickball-loving self. Questions? Contact Neighborhood Kickball Coordinator Jaren Christianson at kickball@elvehjemneighborhood.org or 608-658-1478. GAME ON!

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ENA Board Welcomes New Director at Large

The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board warmly welcomes **Audra Johnson** to the team. Audra has lived in Madison since 1996 but moved to Starker Avenue in March 2007. Her dog Wilma, a Doberman Pinscher mix, came home to live with her on Thanksgiving of 2007. Currently, Audra is an Account Executive at C. Blohm & Associates, a public relations agency located in Monona on Monona Drive. She has almost 20 years experience in advertising, marketing, and public relations. She's writing the monthly Elvehjem Neighborhood Association blog for the website and is always looking for tips and ideas for posts. You can email her anytime audra@elvehjemneighborhood.org.



Note: There are still **two open Board seats**. If you are interested in learning more about what being a Board member involves, email ena-board@elvehjemneighborhood.org for information about upcoming meetings

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Member Corner

Notices are limited to 40 words and run on a first come, first-served, space -available basis. Youth ads are good for 3 issues; all others will be printed in 1 issue per request. ENA member notices have priority. Notices may be edited. Send requests to ENA, PO Box 14625, Madison, 53708-0625 or email newsletter@elvehjemneighborhood.org.

50 Shades of Elvehjem Book Club

If you enjoy reading and would like to meet some of your friendly neighbors, we invite you to join the fun; we gather once monthly on Monday evenings. Our next meeting is Monday, August 24, at 7 p.m. Come and discuss the book "The Circle" by Dave Eggers, or just stop by to get out of the house, chat, and enjoy a snack and beverage! Please contact Jamie Meise at jamie@elvehjemneighborhood.org for a copy of the book and details on meeting location.

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Neighborhood Week Out

Sunday, August 2 through Saturday, August 8, 2015

One night simply wasn't enough to fit in all the events, so we've expanded our Neighborhood Night Out into a weeklong event! Inspired by the National Night Out campaign, we are once again encouraging individual residents or businesses to do something to get outside and meet your neighbors. Getting involved is easy: attend an event, host an event, introduce yourself to a new neighbor, do something kind for a neighbor such as bake them cookies or help out with a home improvement project, go for a neighborhood walk, or simply spend time in your front yard. Examples of past events include ice cream socials, BBQs, toddler time at the park, stroller strolls, chicken coop tours, and more. Creativity is encouraged! Here are a few events already in the works:

Sunday, August 2	Schoenstatt Ice Cream Social	1-4 PM	5901 Cottage Grove Road
Thursday, August 6	Let's Eat Out! Food Carts & Fellowship	5:30-7:30 PM	4909 East Buckeye Road
	<i>Featuring Madison Mounted Patrol and Station 5 Firefighters and Engine</i>		
Saturday, August 8	Firefighter Fun Day	1-4 PM	4418 Cottage Grove Road

Please consider submitting a picture and description showing how you celebrated National Night Out in your part of the neighborhood to the ECHO Newsletter Editor at newsletter@elvehjemneighborhood.org by September 15 for possible publication in the October/November issue or post to the [Elvehjem Neighborhood Facebook page](#).

Sunshine, Ice Cream, and Local Music Make for a Fantastic Fourth of July in Elvehjem Neighborhood

By Isaac Semrow, ENA Vice President

This year the 47th Annual Fourth of July Celebration landed on a Saturday and just as we had hoped, the weather was amazing! With hours of prep work and set-up under our belts, things can get intense as the actual event draws near. The Kids Fun Run was popular and entertaining. With 23 kiddos proudly displaying their medals with smiles, I'd say we have more than a few future Wooden Steps runners in the neighborhood! This year's Firecracker 5k was a bit more informal than years past however the turnout and participation were outstanding. After a brief intermission for showers and bike decorating, neighbors returned to Elvehjem Elementary School for the traditional bike, stroller, and wagon parade. The Black Knights and Dayettes from our local VFW Day Post 7591 and Madison Fire Department Engine 5 led the way with over 150 parade-goers following them around Elvehjem Elementary and into Elvehjem Park.

The park filled up fast, and people began to explore all of the activities. From the youngest to the oldest, just about everyone in attendance enjoyed the FREE ICE CREAM! There was a lot of action for Elvehjem's youngsters with a shaded toddler fun zone with splash table, some awesome carnival games with cool prizes, and of course, the always popular bounce house. Many neighbors gathered to enjoy the sounds of U.S. Army veteran and local musician Jason Moon. He played a great set of origi-

nal



material and covers and even got children involved in a song or two. Thank you, Jason! The silent auction and raffle tables were packed with great prizes for those who wished to participate. And this year, that Packer football came home with me! Thank you to all that purchased raffle tickets and did some bidding. Congratulations to the lucky winners. As the event wound down, we invited anyone who wished to grab a second ice cream treat, which resulted in more smiles and minimal leftovers. It was no surprise to see the bounce house still jumpin' as the clean-up crew got busy. As neighbors departed to carry on with their holiday weekends, the excitement of a successful event gave us the energy boost needed to tear down and wrap things up. Thank you fellow Board members and volunteers and thank you neighbors!

We Love Our Volunteers!

Wow, what a great time we had at Elvehjem Park on Saturday, July 4! Thank you to all who attended and made our 47th Annual Fourth of July Celebration a success, from the start of the Kids Fun Run at 8 a.m. through rolling up the deflated bounce house at 2 p.m., it was the hard work of volunteers that made it all happen. The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board extends a special thank you to our incredible volunteers. We couldn't put on an event of this scope without you!



Firecracker 5K/Kids Fun Run: Lana Mades and Jay, Emily Thompson, Jeanne Rotter, Joel Stone, Mona Everett, and Dave Bernhard

Bike Parade: Mona and Len Everett

Set Up: Jim Polewski and Madison Parks Department

Kids Carnival: Aubrey Hellenbrand, Shelley Bouffiou, Steph Fryer, Todd Merchant, and Marilee Cronin

Raffle and Silent Auction: Julie Semrow

Clean Up: Jeff and Elizabeth Ekola

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

Our Annual Fourth of July Celebration would not be possible without our incredible community sponsors. As you frequent the following businesses or run into these neighbors, please be sure to thank them for their fantastic donations and amazing support of our neighborhood! Pure Integrity Homes/ReMax sponsored our Bounce House (a \$350 value!); Habaneros made a \$250 corporate donation; A to Z RentAll donated the generator, cables, non-park tables, and chairs; Associated Bank made a \$100 corporate donation; PDQ donated the bottled water and soda; Schoep's donated the Badger Malt ice cream cups; Anchor Bank made a \$25 corporate donation; Aramark supplied the white table cloths; Harley's Liquor donated ice; and the following businesses and neighbors donated items for the raffle and silent auction: SMART Motors, Isthmus/Red Card Media, Romance Jewelers, Green Valley Campground, Willy Street Co-op, Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers, Ace Hardware-Lakeside, Alice Kasper, American Player's Theatre, Angelos, Blain's Farm & Fleet, Buck's Pizza, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chief's Tavern, Circus World, Comedy Club on State, Cucco's, Dairyland Family Restaurant, Dan Murphy of MPD, Dream Lanes, Floral Designs by Paul, Food Fight, Fraboni's, Great Clips, Great Dane Brew Pub, Hybrid Salon, Jessica Murphy, Joe Ellingson of MFD Station 5, Keller William's Madison East, Lisa Johnson, Majestic Theatre, Metro Market, Mike and Tiff Roltgen, Milio's, Once in a Blue Moon Art Studio, Semrau Heritage Meats, LLC, The Barbershop, Tom Uebersetzg, Wisconsin Distributors, Woodman's Food Market, and Bonnie Benson.

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Recap: 2015 Membership Drive

Madison Night Out Winner

Congratulations to Kathleen Brandenburg, our neighbor on Bay Ridge Road, who was the winner of our “Madison Night Out” drawing. All households who were current in their membership by the end of May 2015 were included in the prize drawing, which included a \$50 gift card to the Great Dane and a “Paint and Sip” package for two (\$70 value) to Artful Escapes in Fitchburg. Both of these prizes were generously donated by the respective establishments in support of our membership drive.

The Final Numbers

Our 2015 membership drive was unable to replicate last year’s success as we have fallen well short of the previous count of 434 households, despite our ambitious goal of reaching 500. To date, we have received membership dues from 330 households in the neighborhood. Total membership dues and donations received were \$6,876 – a 17 percent drop from last year. Thanks to donations above and beyond the \$15 annual dues, the annual amount received per household exceeded \$20, which is up slightly from last year. We are tremendously grateful to all who made the commitment to support our Elvehjem Neighborhood Association.

Many thanks to our district coordinators, block captains, and of course, all of our neighbors, for making our neighborhood the great place that it is!

Here are a few details about the membership drive results:

<u>Top Five Streets by Total Memberships</u>		<u>Top Five Streets by Percent of Member Households</u>	
Ellen Ave	40	T-1. Melinda Dr	100%
Academy Dr	21	T-1. Cornwall Pl	100%
Droster Rd	20	3. Stacy Ln	53%
Painted Post Dr	19	4. Amsterdam Ave	52%
Amsterdam Ave	17	5. Homburg Ln	50%

Additional Donations

We would also like to thank those members who chose to make a financial contribution to ENA above and beyond their annual dues. We have received these additional donations from 57 households, amounting to \$2,822 which will serve to directly support community activities and events hosted by the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association. Thank you to our friends and neighbors for your support!

Celebrate with Neighbors and Compete in Garden Fresh Recipe Contest at 3rd Annual Taste of Elvehjem

YEE HAW! It's time for our third annual Taste of Elvehjem event on Sunday, September 13, at the Elvehjem Community Garden (1202 Painted Post Drive) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In case of rain, the celebration will be held in the Elvehjem Park Shelter.

Enjoy the fall harvest, and bring a garden fresh potluck dish to share. We'll need main and side dishes, drinks, and desserts – anything you're in the mood to bring. Win a fabulous prize if your dish gets the most votes for "crowd favorite" or if chosen by our surprise celebrity judge! Help make this a more environmentally-friendly event by bringing your own non-disposable plates and utensils; however, disposable versions will be on hand in case you forget them at home!

This year's celebration will feature a country western theme. Feel free to wear your favorite cowboy/cowgirl boots, hats, and gear. A prize will be awarded to the "best dressed!" There will be activities for all ages including bubbles, ring toss, guessing games, trivia, and science experiments! Bring along your favorite outdoor game to share. There will also be a foot-powered bike blender and ingredients to make your own smoothies! Volunteers are needed. If you can help with set up (9:30-10:30 a.m.), greeting attendees/organizing potluck dishes (10:30-11:30 a.m.), or clean up (2-3 p.m.), we can use your assistance. Please contact Taste of Elvehjem Coordinator Kate Strom Horns at 608-223-0678 or katestrom@hotmail.com.



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Local Business Spotlight: Harley's Wine & Spirits

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board warmly welcomes Harley's Wine & Spirits and owner Chuck Coens as a new local business and yearlong advertiser in the Echo Newsletter. Coens has taken over Spot Liquor, which served Elvehjem Neighborhood for the past 40 years at 4521 Cottage Grove Road.

Harley's Wine & Spirits is a fully stocked liquor store on Madison's Eastside. Coens notes, "We're small, but we pack a punch with our diverse inventory."

Harley's is proud to offer a vast selection of over 100 craft beers. They have 250 different wines from California and around the world. "And the best part is our prices rival the big boys," says Coens. "If there is something you're looking for and we don't have it, ask us, and we will special order it."

Harley's also offers a quick and convenient stop for lottery tickets and online games. Stop in for your chance to win millions. Check out Harley's Wine & Spirits at www.harleyswineandspirits.com, and be sure to "like" their Facebook page. Coens and his staff look forward to getting to know and serve the residents of Elvehjem Neighborhood!



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

ENA Calendar of Events

May 7-August 27	<i>Let's Eat Out!</i> Food Cart & Fun	Every Thursday night 4909 East Buckeye Road	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
August 2 – 8	Neighborhood Week Out	Elvehjem Neighborhood	
August 5	Board Meeting	East District Police Station 809 South Thompson Drive	7:00-9:00 p.m.
September 2	Board Meeting	East District Police Station 809 South Thompson Drive	7:00-9:00 p.m.
September 13	Taste of Elvehjem	Elvehjem Community Garden 1202 Painted Post Drive	11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars!

October 26-30	Halloween Decorating Contest
October 31	Halloween Bonfire
November 26	Turkey Trot 5K Run & 2 Mile Walk