

Elvehjem Echo

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

Founded March 1968

Vol. 47, Issue 5, part 2

October/November 2015

Our Association's 47th Year



Dear Neighbors,

I recently learned that our October/November edition of the Echo did not reach our neighbors by mail as intended. So while some of you may have viewed it online, those of our neighbors on our postal mail distribution list did not receive it. Unfortunately, this means that some of you did not receive notice of our Halloween decorating contest in time to participate, and, depending on when you are reading this, may not be aware of the annual bonfire taking place from 6:30 – 8:30 PM on Halloween night by the Elvehjem Park Shelter. On behalf of the Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board of Directors, I sincerely apologize.

However, in true lemons-to-lemonade fashion, I am using this opportunity to share with you some information of vital importance to the safety of our neighborhood. In addition to our regularly-planned content, I am enclosing additional information about the presence of coyotes in our neighborhood and how to deal with them. As you may be aware, the east side of Madison, particularly the East Buckeye and Elvehjem neighborhoods, have seen an alarming number of coyote attacks resulting in serious injury and death to some of our neighbors' beloved pet dogs. Alder Denise Demarb held a meeting on October 21 with representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Public Health Madison and Dane County Animal Services, as well as Dr. David Drake of the UW-Madison Urban Canid Project. Here is a summary of my takeaways from the meeting:

- ◆ Report every coyote sighting online at <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/uw-urban-canid-project>
- ◆ Coyotes are living in our neighborhoods because they are seeking out territory after having been pushed out of their own territory by other canids, or are adolescents leaving their family groups and seeking their own territory.
- ◆ Attacks on humans, while unlikely, can not be ruled out as a possibility – however, the City of Madison is not yet treating this as a situation in which humans are in danger.
- ◆ Coyotes will eat anything. Avoid feeding wildlife of any kind, as the food may attract coyotes. Clean up fruits and vegetables from your trees and gardens. Don't make your yard a coyote buffet, as you'll only attract more.
- ◆ Dr. Drake's opinion is that attacks on dogs are driven by the territorial nature of the coyote seeing another fellow canid as a territorial threat. He does not believe that dogs are being attacked as a source of food. He explained further that some of the remains of attacked dogs were not consumed, which would typically be the case if they were attacked as prey. Since that time I have observed a number of cases where cats have been found outdoors in search of their owners. If dogs were being seen by coyotes as a food source, I doubt that these cats would be safe. I have also observed groups of geese and sandhill cranes north of the neighborhood that would also make a tasty coyote meal. Again, these are just my observations but they tend to support the opinion of Dr. Drake.
- ◆ Regardless of the reason for the attacks, be vigilant. Attend to your dog whenever outside, and keep it leashed.
- ◆ Lastly, this is our neighborhood, not the coyotes'. It is likely that they will always be here – if killed or trapped and removed, others will take their place. That doesn't necessarily mean that removal or euthanasia is a bad option if the problem coyote(s) has/have gotten too comfortable. Our job is to make the coyotes uncomfortable. Harass them at all times. When you see one, yell, shake a can of pennies, throw rocks and sticks, and make it clear that this is your territory and they do not belong. Directly challenge them in every way. The typical coyote will flee from these behaviors. Regardless of the fate of the coyotes here now, the coyotes that eventually replace them must never be given the opportunity to get comfortable.

I encourage all of you to join the Facebook group East Madison Coyotes, which was created for the purposes of sharing information and sightings, staying informed, and discussing possible solutions to this problem.

Before I close, I want to offer one more appeal for volunteers. As you can read in my original column on page 3, ENA is in need of neighbors willing to make a commitment to serve on the Board of Directors. Our next meeting, always scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month, will be taking place on November 4 from 7-9 PM at the East Precinct Police Station.

Sincerely,

Justin Martin
ENA President
608/219-2060

justin@elvehjemneighborhood.org

Coyote



Herbert Lange

Coyotes are naturally secretive creatures, but they are opportunistic hunters. If food is available in your neighborhood you may see them, day or night. Coyotes primarily feed on small rodents and rabbits, and are an important member of the food chain because of this tendency, but coyotes will eat anything they can find, including fruit, vegetables and insects. Their presence can be unnerving or frightening for people unused to coyotes, but generally they are more afraid of you than you are of them. In some cases, they may attack and kill small pets, although coyote attacks on humans are exceptionally rare. There are numerous ways to manage the presence of coyotes in your area.

Do Not Feed Wildlife

- Do not store pet food out of doors, and keep pet food bowls inside when not in use.
- Do not keep trash out of doors, or keep it secure with tight-fitting lids.
- Do not provide food and water for other wildlife. Rodents are attracted to bird seed, and they are a coyote's natural prey. Coyotes will also eat bird seed, fruit, and compost for an easy meal.

Protect Your Pets

- Keep cats indoors and watch dogs when outdoors. Only leave pets unattended when they are secure in a kennel with a covered top.

Discourage Coyotes

- Clear brush and undergrowth in your yard that can provide cover for coyotes or habitat for important coyote prey species.
- Scare tactics can be used if you see a coyote in your yard or while out walking. Yell and make loud noises, shake or throw pop cans filled with coins, throw a ball, shoe, sticks or other object in the direction of the coyote and/or spray the coyote with water. You can also buy ultrasonic dog repellents or pocket-sized air horns.
- Fencing 6–7 feet high and buried approximately 1 foot deep can help keep all but the most determined coyotes out of an area.
- Pick up all fallen fruit from fruit trees, keep compost secure, and make sure trash cans are tightly lidded and secure. Never leave loose trash outside.



Alyson Hart



Cook County IL Coyote Project

Quick Facts

- Coyotes are omnivores that will eat anything edible. In the above photo, for example, a coyote caught a squirrel at a bird feeder.
- Urban coyotes tend to use what natural green space is available, including parks and cemeteries.
- Urban coyotes are usually more nocturnal (active at night) than their rural relatives, but may be active during the day if they are feeding pups or weren't successful in hunting the night before.
- Trapping and hunting of coyotes is legal year-round on your property without a DNR license. Many municipalities have regulations about the discharge of firearms. Please check with your local government to ensure adherence to local ordinances.
- Lethal removal is recommended for coyotes that display aggressive behavior towards humans.



For more information, visit our webpage:
dnr.wi.gov

WM-567 2014

Urban Wildlife Factsheet: Coyote

Coyote Yard Audit Checklist for Homeowners

Item	OK	FIX	N/A	Ways to Mitigate
Food				NEVER hand-feed or intentionally feed a coyote!
Pet Food				Never feed pets outdoors; store all pet food securely indoors.
Water Sources				Remove water attractants such as pet water bowls.
Bird Feeders				Remove bird feeders or clean fallen seed to reduce the presence of small mammals that coyotes prefer to eat.
Fallen Fruit				Clean up fallen fruit around trees.
Compost				Do not include meat or dairy among compost contents unless fully enclosed.
BBQ Grills				Clean up food around barbeque grills after each use.
Trash				Secure all trash containers with locking lids and place curbside the morning of trash pickup. Periodically clean cans to reduce residual odors.
Landscaping				Trim vegetation to reduce hiding places and potential denning sites.
Structures/ Outbuildings				Restrict access under decks and sheds, around woodpiles, or any other structure that can provide cover or denning sites for coyotes or their prey.
Fencing				Establish a 6-foot fence (only as permitted by City code and/or Homeowner Association [HOA] regulations) to deter coyotes. Ensure that there are no gaps and that the bottom of the fence extends underground 6 inches or is fitted with a mesh apron to deter coyotes from digging underneath.
Pets				Never leave pets unattended outside.
				Never allow pets to “play” with coyotes.
				Fully enclose outdoor pet kennels.
				Walk pets on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length.

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Views from the Tree House

Dear Neighbors,

We've had an eventful summer in the Elvehjem neighborhood. There were weekly opportunities to socialize with our neighbors and enjoy delicious food cart fare from the Let's Eat Out organization, our 47th annual 4th of July Celebration, the Madison Parks' Walk and Roll event in our neighborhood parks and streets, and most recently the 3rd Annual Taste of Elvehjem potluck at the Elvehjem Community Garden. Now the neighborhood kids are back in school, the leaves are starting to turn, and change is in the air. Change is certainly the case among the ENA Board of Directors as well. By the end of the year we will have said thank you and goodbye to three of our directors-at-large, bringing the number of board members down to 7 out of the 11 necessary to make up a full board. Now would be the perfect time for you to step up and volunteer some of your time in service to this great neighborhood. We are especially in need of board members who are willing to contribute to the production of this very publication: from editing and publication, to soliciting advertisements, to building and maintaining a better database for managing our mailing list, we are hanging out the sign, with big letters: HELP WANTED. Specific skills in those tasks, while useful, are not required. The only two attributes needed are a can-do attitude and a willingness to



learn. If not you, then who?

As always, we have a number of great neighborhood activities in the upcoming months. Halloween brings our Annual Halloween Bonfire at the Elvehjem park shelter - an opportunity to take a break from trick-or-treating (or from trick-or-treaters) and warm up by the fire with fellow neighbors. In addition, we plan to continue the tradition of a Halloween House Decoration Contest and are even considering hosting a 'Virtual' Costume Contest. Thanksgiving morning will, of course, bring us the 6th Annual Turkey Trot 5K Run and 2-Mile Walk at Droster Park. Finally, we are again planning on cooperating with the East Buckeye Neighborhood Association to host the Holiday in the Park at Orlando Bell Park (in the East Buckeye neighborhood) on December 5. These annual events could simply not happen without the dedicated neighbors who volunteer their time as ENA Board Members. If you value all that ENA does, please consider joining us. Whether you're a new neighbor, a long-time neighbor, or even a former Board member, there is an open seat waiting for you at our next meeting. We hope to see you there!

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

Secretary's Corner

By Jamie Meise

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

The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board recently welcomed Abby Abernathy and Audra Johnson as new directors at large. We still have three open seats so if you are interested in getting more involved in the neighborhood, we encourage you to attend a meeting and find out more.

There were a handful of fun events throughout the neighborhood for our Neighborhood Week Out including a stroller stroll, meat sampling, and s'mores gathering; however, we did not see the level of participation we had in past years. The board is contemplating returning to a single night event rather than a weeklong event.

Board members Jamie Meise and Tiffani Roltgen held a bake sale and lemonade stand respectively and were able to raise enough money to treat one of the Droster Park ash trees. Also, board member Charles Donaldson personally adopted an ash tree in Acewood Park. Unless adopted, the remaining ash trees in our neighborhood parks are scheduled to be cut down this fall.

Volunteers from Elvehjem Neighborhood helped out at the Sunset Music Series on a Thursday evening in August and not only had a blast but also raised \$217 for our association!

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



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Stacy Wellford
stacy@elvehjemneighborhood.org

ENA normally has a very quiet fall and winter, financially speaking, with the majority of our membership and advertising revenue coming in the first part of the year. We expect to end the year with \$7,500 in membership and \$2,678 in advertising revenue. I am projecting having a positive net income for the year with only two more Echo issues and three more events to pay for.

The Elvehjem Neighborhood Association Board warmly welcomes Abby Abernathy to the team. Abby and, her husband, Kyle purchased their home on Painted Post Drive in 2012. Abby is a supervisor for the state of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services. Abby enjoys spending time with her daughters, softball, volleyball, bicycling, and scrapbooking. Abby brings event planning experience to the board. Abby can be reached via email at abby@elvehjemneighborhood.org.



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**Looking for a Few Good Volunteers!
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2015**

Interested in getting your Thanksgiving Day off to a great start and volunteering just one hour of your time for Elvehjem Neighborhood's 6th Annual 5K Turkey Trot and 2-Mile Walk? Check out this link for all available positions: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0E45ADA72C7-elvehjem

Questions? Email Race Directors Peggy Hoffmann and Joel Stone at run@elvehjemneighborhood.org.

2015 Halloween Decorating Contest

**details coming soon:
facebook & elvehjemneighborhood.org**



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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.

Neighborhood Walking Club

Interested in logging some miles with fun and friendly neighbors? Group walks leave from the Elvehjem Elementary School baseball diamond at 5106 Academy Drive on Sunday mornings at 7 a.m. and at other pre-arranged times. Questions? Contact Mona Everett at walk@elvehjemneighborhood.org for more information.



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Elvehjem Neighborhood 6th Annual 5K Turkey Trot & 2-Mile Walk THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2015

5K begins at 8:30 a.m. SHARP @ Droster Park followed by the 2 Mile Walk at 8:35 a.m. SHARP.

Save time on race day by registering online at www.elvehjemneighborhood.org/turkeytrot

Check www.elvehjemneighborhood.org or the Elvehjem Neighborhood Facebook page for more details.

Due to rising insurance and operation costs, please consider donating \$5 to Elvehjem Neighborhood Association during online registration or on race day. And as always, we'll partner with Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin to help those in need. Please bring a shelf-stable food item or non-food consumable for donation on race day.



Taste of Elvehjem Recap

By ENA Board Director, Treasurer Stacy Wellford

On Sunday, September 13th, neighbors gathered on a beautiful day for fun, friendship, and great food at the Third Annual "Taste of Elvehjem" event at the Elvehjem Community Garden! This year's event included a country western theme with decorations donated by Tiffani Roltgen. There were plenty of activities for young and old, children enjoyed yard games, puzzles and face painting donated by Stephanie Manthey. Others strolled through the garden and appreciated what neighbors have been up to over the last several months. All enjoyed the bicycle blender smoothie station!!! Several neighbors brought garden fresh dishes and healthier recipes for all to enjoy. From salsas to savory muffins and fruit salads to country baked beans,



there were many options to choose from! In what turned out to be a tough competition, our celebrity guest judge Danna Lewis from Channel 3 news, selected neighbor Rachel Skivers' amazing Texas Caviar dish as the winner. Attendees also cast votes to determine the neighbor's choice award, neighbor Melody Chavez won with a wonderful Ground Cherry Fresh Salsa. Both winners received a \$25 gift certificate donated by the Willy Street Co-op. Many thanks go out to the event's organizer Kate Strom and to all the volunteers who helped with set up and tear down, Isaac

Semrow, Faye Reber, Rachel & Jenna Skivers, Abby Abernathy, Rod Gennrich, Jamie Meise and Justin Martin.



HOLIDAY

IN THE *Park*



Saturday, December 5, 2015
Bonfire 4-7pm, Visit with Santa 4-6pm,
Sleigh Rides 4:30-6:30pm
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 ride through the neighborhood, and visit with Santa. Remember to bring your camera; this is sure to be a memory filled evening!

All activities are free of charge. Please bring a non-perishable donation for Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. Remember to check the expiration date!

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Walk and Roll Comes to the Elvehjem Neighborhood

By Isaac Semrow – ENA Vice President

On Sunday, August 30th the Elvehjem Neighborhood was host to Madison Parks' Walk and Roll, a neighborhood event (formerly Ride the Drive - Neighborhood Edition) that allowed bicyclists, walkers and skaters to enjoy open streets with fun activities along the way at their neighborhood parks. The route was approximately 3 miles long and there were activity "villages" at Acewood and Elvehjem Parks which featured information tents, family-friendly activities, food carts and live music. I was able to participate as a Bike Ambassador which entailed patrolling half of the course ensuring everything was going smoothly. Didn't run into a single issue, got a nice workout in and also saw a few familiar faces along the way which was great! After my shift I dropped off the bike and walked down to Acewood Park with Julie (my wife) and Copper (our dog) to enjoy some Cuco's tacos, delicious! There was a big crowd around the rock climbing wall and everyone was enjoying the Mounted Patrol demo, except Copper as he's afraid of horses. To cap off the day we walked to Elvehjem Park for a cupcake and some live music. We did receive feedback from some residents that the street closures were a nuisance and some also felt that residents should have had a chance to provide their feedback prior to the event; we have passed along these comments and concerns to the Parks Department. Overall the event was a success with an estimated 4,000 participants.



Halloween Bonfire

Saturday, OCTOBER 31, 2015
6:30-8:30 p.m. @ Elvehjem Park



End a fun night of tricks and treats with a neighborhood bonfire, hot chocolate, and socialization. All ages are welcome!

... and get creative for the JACK-O'-LANTERN CONTEST!

Bring your own pre-carved jack-o'-lantern from home. We'll supply candles to light up your works of art, and we'll put them on display during the event. Both kids and adults are encouraged to participate! Judging will take place at 7:45. We'll have a prize for the scariest, the most creative, and the best all-around.

Suggested neighborhood trick-or-treating hours are from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 31.

Trick-or-Treating Safety Tips:

- Make sure your costume is visible to vehicles and others.
- Do not use toy weapons as part of any costume.
- Do not trick-or-treat alone.
- Only approach homes that are well lit, and only approach the front door.
- Stay on sidewalks, and obey traffic signs/signals.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Make sure costumes do not impede movement or vision.



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Agrace to Offer Orientation for Prospective Volunteers in October

Volunteering for Agrace can be a very rewarding experience in a person's life. In October, Agrace will offer volunteer orientation for those interested in making a difference in the lives of patients with advanced illnesses. Agrace has opportunities for volunteers who would like to work directly with Agrace patients, as well as organizational support roles that do not involve patient care. Areas of most immediate need are for customer service volunteers at the Agrace Thrift Store-East, 1733 Thierer Road, Madison as well as café and kitchen help at Agrace's Madison campus, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway.

Agrace's next volunteer orientation opportunities will be held Monday, October 5, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Tuesday, October 20, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Agrace's Madison campus, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway. Prior to attending orientation, prospective volunteers will complete an application and an interview process with Agrace's Volunteer Services staff to identify the volunteer's skills and interests. Call [\(608\) 327-7163](tel:6083277163) to begin the pre-orientation process.

Join the Conversation

From Madison Gas and Electric

Last fall, Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE) made a commitment to this community to engage in conversations to help inform our collective energy future. We are committed to engaging our customers and communities in meaningful discussions about the challenges and opportunities we face together in building our community energy company of the future.

MGE's discussion guide for the conversations, *Building a Community Energy Company for the Future*, explores some of the complex issues such as rapidly changing technology facing MGE and other utilities nationwide. Ten years ago, we used a similar process to develop our Energy 2015 Plan whereby we eliminated coal at our downtown Madison power plant, increased renewable power from wind by almost 12 times, and reduced our carbon emissions significantly since 2005.

The feedback from our 2015 Community Energy Conversations (CEC) will help inform our next long-term energy plan. In preparation, we worked with Great Plains Institute (GPI), which focuses on energy and climate change-related issues. GPI helped MGE develop a CEC discussion guide. The guide is designed to encourage an informed, deliberate exchange of information and feedback during the conversations. A Spanish version of the guide has been created as well as an abbreviated version in Hmong.

Justice and Sustainability Associates (JSA), MGE's independent facilitator for the conversations, is hosting small group sessions, including some in Spanish and Hmong to ensure MGE hears from its diverse customer base. JSA anticipates 50 or more 90-minute small group sessions through late fall 2015 followed by one or more town hall-style meetings. Feedback generated through the CEC process, as well as MGE's ongoing collaborative efforts with the Citizens Utility Board and Clean Wisconsin and input from MGE customers on our website, will be used to inform MGE's next long-term energy plan and the Company's next steps toward building a community energy company for the future.

With dramatic developments in technology presenting both challenges and opportunities for MGE, the Company is seeking guidance from stakeholders as we chart our future course in:

Reliable and affordable energy services,
Innovative and responsive customer services,
Future sources and costs of energy,
Different ways customers can impact our energy future and costs, and
MGE's role as your community energy company of the future.

There are multiple ways in which customers may submit their ideas and opinions to MGE in addition to attending the in-person conversations. Visit mge.com/conversations to learn more. The discussion guide is available online at mge.com/conversations together with a feedback work sheet and other information about the community conversations. Please go to our website to engage and inform us. We welcome your participation and feedback!

Save on Your Energy Bill and Help Madison Win a \$5 million Energy Prize

Madison is in a competition to win a five million dollar energy prize from Georgetown University. **Green Madison** is our city-wide initiative to reduce energy consumption. If Madison reduces its energy consumption more than the 49 other communities and wins the prize, the \$5 million will be put toward future sustainability initiatives in the city.

An integral part of **Green Madison** is for homeowners to reduce energy costs (**and save money as a result**) in their home. Energy efficiency improvements can cut utility bills by an average of \$400 per year. During this competition if you sign up to host a house party, an energy analyst will conduct a free full service energy assessment and recommend practical improvements. If you decide to make home improvements, we will help you apply for rebates to lower the cost.

This **Green Madison** competition lasts through 2016. If you have considered a home energy audit, but couldn't fit it into your schedule, this is the year to do it. If you want to lower your utility bills and have a more comfortable home, and want help with the upfront cost, **Green Madison** can assist.

To host an energy house party or learn more about **Green Madison** contact Jen Rubin at 608-698-5885 or jen.rubin@greenmadison.org. Visit greenmadison.org or view this video to learn about the city-wide effort: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_sJ2vZWRrU.



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

ENA Calendar of Events

October 7	Board Meeting	East District Police Station 809 South Thompson Drive	7:00-9:00 p.m.
October 31	Halloween Bonfire	Elvehjem Park Shelter 1202 Painted Post Drive	6:30-8:30 p.m.
November 4	Board Meeting	East District Police Station 809 South Thompson Drive	7:00-9:00 p.m.
November 26	Turkey Trot 5K Run/2-Mile Walk	Droster Park 1429 Droster Rd	8:30 a.m.
December 2	Board Meeting	East District Police Station 809 South Thompson Drive	7:00-9:00 p.m.
December 5	Holiday in the Park	Orlando Bell Park 2274 South Thompson Drive	4:00-7:00 p.m.