

Hi, Neighbor!

A Newsletter for the Eastmorland and Lake Edge Neighborhoods

Winter 2022

Save the date

Saturday November 5

Neighborhood Leaf Raking & Pizza Party

Olbrich Park Shelter, 502 Walter St. Details on page 10-11.

Saturday November 12

Eastmorland Outdoor Market

Lansing Food Forest, 200 Block of Starkweather Dr.

Details on page 11.

Thursday, November 24

Free Thanksgiving Meal, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Common Grace, 3565 Tulane Ave.

Hosted by Common Grace Ministry. Details on page 5.

Saturday December 10

Holiday Baked Goods and Santa Visits

Common Grace, 3665 Tulane Ave.

Hosted by ECA and Common Grace Ministry. Details on pages 5, 10, and 11.

Community and Abundance in the Lansing Food Forest

By Linda Linssen

We have so many reasons to love our neighborhoods, and Lansing Food Forest (at the corner of Starkweather Drive and Richard Street) is certainly one of them. But what is it? And who benefits?

In general, a food forest is a space for food-producing trees, vines, and other edible perennials, plus self-seeding annuals. While providing food for humans, food forests enrich the soil, serve as wildlife habitats, and increase biodiversity. They also attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators that help flowering plants to reproduce, and they capture and store atmospheric carbon dioxide, which helps reduce climate change.



Representative wildlife posing on sign

At Lansing Food Forest, all are welcome to grow and harvest food. Currently, the space features a picnic table, benches, log seating, plant trading post, kids' play area, and Little Free Library. In July, September, and November, it's home to the Eastmorland Outdoor Market. Throughout the growing season, it's a place to exchange plants and seeds. Year round, it's a space for all to enjoy. Do wildlife help themselves to some of the food growing there? No doubt. According to Erin McWalter, "Food forests are first come, first served for all animals. All are welcome to enjoy the abundance of food!"

McWalter and Emily Steinwehe of Emily Plants are co-founders of Wisconsin Food Forests — a collaborative

(Continued on page 6)

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Submit articles & photos

Send articles for publication to hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com as a Word document or Google Doc for editing by the newsletter crew.

Photos are welcome and will be included as space allows. Please keep in mind they will be printed in black and white, but published in color online.

Advertise in Hi, Neighbor!

For information about advertising, contact Dan at 608-241-1158 or zimmerman_dan@hotmail.com.

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Hi Neighbor! is an ECA & LENA collaboration

Hi, Neighbor! is a community newsletter serving residents of the Eastmorland and Lake Edge neighborhoods and is published on behalf of the Eastmorland Community Association (ECA) and the Lake Edge Neighborhood Association (LENA).

We are neighborhoods separated by Cottage Grove Road with lots in common! By combining forces, our newsletter reaches more homes, has more unique and personal content, connects more volunteers, and highlights the similarities of our communities' interests.

This newsletter is possible thanks to the help of many volunteers! No experience is needed, and there are many ways to get involved.

To receive updates or get involved, please email hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com.

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Mutual Aid can connect neighbors

By Randy Coloni

As a longtime resident of the Eastmorland neighborhood, I have been informally involved in many wonderful neighbor-to-neighbor exchanges: proverbial cup of sugar, the extra pair of hands or arms, and the gratefully received meal or ride. Indeed, this element of sharing and helping each other is one of the real gifts of a great neighborhood. In the past couple years I have been learning about and have become a supporter of expanding this type of “mutual aid” to be more accessible to more people. Growing out of an earlier program called the Dane County Time Bank and founded in 2018, the Madison Mutual Aid Network is a cooperative space for people to join and gain access to an organized system for sharing skills, resources, and connection.

The Madison Mutual Aid Network is a young and member-directed organization that strives to support sustainable and equitable communities. I believe that the following statements describe its commitment to mutually beneficial sharing:

1. We don't have to stick with the traditional model of "everybody has to have their own everything".
2. We don't always need to spend cash to get the help or items we need.
3. You have skills and resources to offer that might benefit others.

If you would like to learn more or have questions about Mutual Aid I would be happy to chat with you. My name is Randy and I can be reached at rcoloni60@gmail.com. Or, for more information on Mutual Aid and the local Madison network you can visit the following websites: mutualaidnetwork.org/more-about-man and madisonman.coop.

Be eastside famous!

Email
hineighboreastmoland@gmail.com
to be interviewed in a “Get to know a neighbor” story for a future issue.



Nonprofit purchases Lake Edge home to provide end-of-life care for people who are terminally ill, unhoused, and underserved

By Kathi Matthews-Risley,
Solace Home

Hello friends of Lake Edge and Eastmorland Neighborhoods. I'd like to introduce you to Solace Friends, Inc., (Solace).

Solace is a non-profit organization working to bridge the existing gaps in end-of-life care for terminally ill people in Dane County.

Our goal is to provide a compassionate, safe place, as well as caregiving services, to our community's most vulnerable—many of whom are experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, social isolation, or neglect.

Solace has made the first step towards making our goal a reality: we have purchased a home in the Lake Edge Neighborhood. We are currently raising funds to make renovations to the home, which is slated to open in May or June 2023.

The Solace Home will not only provide basic needs such as shelter, food, and hydration, the people we serve will receive comprehensive, individualized care. We aim to provide care that nurtures emotional, social, and spiritual wholeness, and gives dignity at the end of life.

Solace has been able to achieve this important milestone with the passionate commitment of our volunteer board of directors, and through private and memorial donations. Encouragement from local organizations such as Porchlight Inc., JustDane, Madison Area Care for the Homeless' OneHealth, and many others has sustained us as we work toward delivering equitable care and services to one of the most vulnerable populations.

Solace is rooted in the community and would not function without deep involvement of individuals and groups who share our belief that quality end-of-life care should be available to all people—including those who are often overlooked or forgotten.

We'd love to have you join us. If you'd like to sign up for our mailing list, or to find more information about our organization, please visit www.solacefriends.org.



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Get to know a neighbor: Ann Femrite celebrates 100 years—76 in Eastmorland

By Romelle Witkins

Ann Femrite, 100
3730 Johns Street

I understand you just turned 100 years old. Congratulations! So how did you celebrate?

We went to the VFW and had a party. It was real nice. There were a lot of people, 120 or so. I saw people I hadn't seen for years.



Did new neighbors come as well?

Oh, yes. Little kids came. One brought me strawberries. It was such a nice gift.

You live on Johns Street, between Margaret and Olbrich streets. How long have you been here?

We moved in Thanksgiving Day, 1946.

Wow, that's almost 76 years in the same home. Were you the first to build here?

Not really. There were a few others. I was tickled to death to move here. It was right after World War II and it was very hard to find homes. There were no apartments

like now.

[At this point in our conversation, Ann's friend and neighbor, Darren Olson, described the area. It was part of the Town of Blooming Grove, a big cornfield, with only a few homes, stretching from Buckeye Road to Starkweather Creek to Milwaukee Street. Walter Street and Dempsey were added around 1949, he said.]

So were there any streets when you first built here?

No streets. Just mud. Our mailboxes were on Atwood in the East Side Club's parking lot.

What about Olbrich Park? Wasn't it here pre-1946?

Darren: Olbrich Park was really small, about 10 acres, on the other side of the creek by the toboggan hill. East of the creek where the boat ramps and ball diamonds were located was the landfill.

When did Eastmorland start to look like the neighborhood we know today?

After 10 years [mid-1950s]. The area got built up and the school was nearby. It was a good place.

Has it changed much since then?

Not very much. More homes and restaurants now.

I think it continues to be a great place to raise a family, like you and your husband Ray did. Where did you work before retiring?

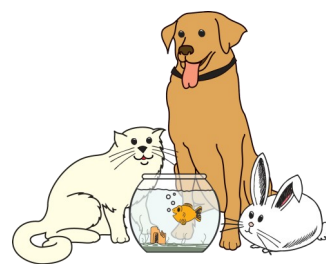
I worked for Madison schools at LaFollette. I was a lunch lady for 28 years. I loved it because I worked six hours a day when they were in school, and when they were home I was home.

I love to see you out every day walking around the block. Other than your daily walks, what do you credit your long life?

I'm healthy because when I do have a problem I go to the doctor. And I eat well—fruits and vegetables. Otherwise, I don't do anything different. I just live day by day.

Seeking fun animal photos! How about yours?

You love your furry friend, and so do we! Introduce your pet in writing for the next issue's Pet Vignette.



Share a little about your pet with us via email at hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com.



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Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner

Common Grace (3565 Tulane Ave) invites our neighborhood to a free Thanksgiving Day dinner:

**Thursday, November 24
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

After being unable to provide this community meal during the pandemic, we are grateful that we can do so this year. Meals will be catered and will include vegetarian options. Dine in with neighbors or choose carry-out. No reservations needed.

Please contact Staci with questions
staci@commongracemadison.org or call
608-249-1973.

*Thank you to MGE and Alliant Energy
for community grants to help
make this meal happen!*

We're always looking for more story ideas & volunteer writers! See page 2 for details.

Santa is coming to Eastmorland!



Join us on
December 10th at 10:00am
on the lawn at Common Grace (3565 Tulane)
for
Santa visits, warm drinks, and holiday cheer



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project under local nonprofit Madison Traffic Garden, which McWalter also co-founded. Steinwehe and Joanna Kahvedjian of Make It Count LLC partner with Madison Traffic Garden to plant food forests. (In Madison, residents can apply to plant edibles on city-owned, underutilized land.) For the Lansing Food Forest, thanks go to McWalter, Steinwehe, and Madelon Wise for utilizing the city's edible landscape program. Thanks also to Kahvedjian, the City of Madison, Emma Rose, Envision Positive, and all who've planted, tended, or otherwise contributed to the space. It takes a village!

To help teach kids about food forests, McWalter and Steinwehe recently published a bilingual ABC book, *F is for Food Forest*, illustrated by local artist Emily Schroeder. It's available on Amazon, with all proceeds going toward free books for Madison-area kids. Periodically, free copies will be available in the Little Free Library at Lansing Food Forest.

Meet your neighbors at Lansing Food Forest!

The final 2022 Eastmorland Outdoor Market takes place November 12 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Learn more on pages 1 and 11.



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ESC memberships are available, and perks include free admission to ticketed events and \$2 off each beverage all year. Learn more at www.escmadison.com. Also, check the ESC Facebook page for news of upcoming events, including a December luau and a Super Bowl party. Come help the ESC be successful!



Tips to save energy

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

Heating and cooling are the largest energy users in our homes. By practicing these simple tips, you can reduce your energy usage and costs.

1. Set your thermostat for one temperature when you're home and another when you're away to maximize energy savings. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the less energy you'll use.

2. If you haven't already, consider installing a programmable or smart thermostat. Smart thermostats can be controlled remotely from a mobile device. These devices can also recall your preferred settings and automatically schedule temperature changes. Eligible MGE customers can take advantage of a \$50 cash-back incentive from FOCUS ON ENERGY® for purchasing a qualified ENERGY STAR® smart thermostat. Get more details at focusonenergy.com/smart.

Recommended Thermostat Settings for Heating and Cooling Seasons



Check the owner's manual if turning down the temperature for more than 24 hours.

3. Lock up. Don't just shut your windows, lock them as well. This step can be overlooked but is important. The locking mechanism activates a seal that helps to keep the air you have heated or cooled inside your home.

4. Keep your water heater temperature set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit and use cold water to wash clothes. Also, remember to run your washer on full loads! If you go on vacation, switch your water heater to vacation mode.

There's a lot to understand about controlling heating and cooling in your home. MGE is available to provide tips and answer your questions about saving energy and money. Contact MGE's energy experts by email at AskExperts@mge.com or by calling 608-252-7117 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Stay healthy during the holidays

From Public Health Madison & Dane County

The holidays are just around the corner! Prepare now to help keep yourself and your loved ones COVID-safe this holiday season. Here's how:

Get your bivalent booster. The new boosters contain an updated bivalent formula. This means the shot will boost your immunity against the original coronavirus strain and the newer Omicron variants. Updated boosters provide great protection against the virus and address waning vaccine effectiveness over time. Your body needs time to respond to the vaccine, so getting it two weeks before an event will give you the best protection. (Get your shot by November 9 to be ready for Thanksgiving!) Visit publichealthmdc.com/vax to learn more, check your eligibility, and make an appointment.

Have COVID rapid home tests on hand. You don't want to be on the hunt for a rapid test when you don't feel well. Wisconsinites can order a free package of rapid antigen COVID-19 tests that will come directly to your door. Visit sayyescovidhometest.org to place your order.

Get tested if you feel sick. Take a rapid home test if you have symptoms. If it's negative, follow-up with a PCR test (find testers at publichealthmdc.com/testing). If it's positive, follow our isolation instructions at publichealthmdc.com/sick.

Stay home if you have symptoms, even if your rapid home test is negative. It can sometimes take a few days for enough virus to build up in your body that your test comes back positive. (Our blog explains why: bit.ly/negativebutstuck). Even in a world without COVID, staying home when you're sick prevents viruses from spreading to others.

Stay up to date on the latest COVID and public health news by following us on social media. We're @publichealthmdc on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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News from our schools: La Follette High School

Greetings from Lancer Country! This is your Principal at La Follette High School, Mathew Thompson. I am very pleased to share all of the great things going on at your neighborhood high school. First, I want to thank all of our parents, families, and neighborhood stakeholders. You all have been so encouraging and supportive of La Follette, our staff and my leadership. I have received a lot of great feedback, suggestions and encouragement. We are off to a fantastic start.

I want to center on and shout-out to our amazing staff. The primary reason we are off to such a positive start is because of the work this staff did over the summer. We had over 65 staff members roll up their sleeves and re-work our universal expectations and curriculum. Our primary goal was to remove barriers to learning and enhance our instruction. As many of you are aware, we have also implemented a consistent approach to the use of personal technology (cell phones) in our classrooms. It is expected that phones will be off, away, in students' backpacks or the clear pencil boxes provided, during class time as directed. There are response levels for students not in compliance, involving communication home and lunch reflections, with the intention of supporting students to engage in class in real time. Staff have been vigilant in implementing this policy and students have realized that this is our "way of being." As a result, instructional staff have reported that students are more available for and engaged in their learning. We have also taken a more proactive approach for class transitions; we are stressing the importance of getting to class on time and staying in class.

Our students have had a lot of input regarding the teaching and learning environment at La Follette. Students shared that they want to see more engaging lessons, other

ways to be assessed, and other ways to interact with peers on the lesson and use of academic vocabulary. La Follette staff worked this summer to enhance their instructional skills and focus on new strategies to support engagement. All of these factors are working together to build a culture of learning and of high expectations for all Lancers.

Finally, as you have noticed, construction at La Follette is well underway in accordance with the MMSD referendum that passed in 2020. The new spectator gym is taking shape, the library/LMC area will be fully remodeled in January, and our new Science wing will be ready by early December. We are all enjoying our newly renovated classrooms in the A & B wings; classes have new windows, new ceilings, new floors, fresh paint, new furniture and a promethean board (an interactive, touch-sensitive video-board). Very exciting!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at mathompson@madison.k12.wi.us

Thank you,
Mathew Thompson

Principal, La Follette High School

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caffeinate.**



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ECA Leaf-raking Event and Pizza Party

Please join members of the Eastmorland Community Association (ECA) as we rake yards for our neighbors who are unable to rake for themselves. This has been a successful event for 17 years — let's keep the tradition going!

Meet at the Olbrich Park/Walter Street picnic shelter at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 5 (rain date: 1 pm on Sunday, November 6). We'll assign routes and disperse in small groups from there. Please bring a water bottle, your own rake, gloves, and a plastic tarp if you have one. The picnic shelter is at 502 Walter Street near the red/green playground. Those who are assigned nearby routes can walk or bike to the location. If your route is farther away within the ECA boundaries, you may wish to drive.

After raking, volunteers and their families — plus members of households whose yards were raked — are invited to a pizza party at the same park shelter, hosted by the ECA. Please bring your own beverages, as well as any food items you wish to share. The picnic will begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. (or 3:30 p.m. on the rain date). Bathrooms and water sources at the shelter will be closed.

If you have questions about volunteering or need to place your home address (or a neighbor's) on the list to be raked, please call or text Kris Whitman at 608-228-6654. Thank you!

P.S. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6, so be sure to set your clocks back at bedtime on Saturday.

Lake Edge Neighborhood Association (LENA)

LENA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: *Liz Dannenbaum*
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**Contact the Lake Edge
Neighborhood Association at:**
LakeEdgeNA@gmail.com.

**Learn more or join by
visiting our website:**
www.lenamadison.com

**We currently meet via Zoom
the 3rd Monday of each month
from 6:30-8:15 p.m.**

ECA Needs Your Help!

Volunteers are urgently needed to bake cookies for the upcoming Holiday Treats event. The cookies can be plain or frosted. We also need volunteers to gather names and addresses of those who will receive cookies, as well as volunteers to deliver cookies to the households on the list.



If you can help out, call Kathy at 608-244-8965, or text 608-577-4532 and state whether you can bake, gather recipient info, or deliver.

Join us at ECA Meetings

ECA meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held virtually over Zoom. Please email Emily Mixon (emilyemixon@gmail.com) if you have an agenda item, questions, or would like the Zoom link to attend. We hope to see you there!

Eastmorland Community Association (ECA) Board

ECA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: *Emily Mixon*
(emilyemixon@gmail.com)
VICE PRESIDENT: *Brian Juchems* (brianj@gsafewi.org)
SECRETARY: *Bri Deyo*
(deyo.bri@gmail.com)
TREASURER & NEWSLETTER: *Dan Zimmerman*
(zimmerman_dan@hotmail.com)

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MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING: *Dan Zimmerman,*
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ECA WEBSITE: *Dan Glassman,*
dan.glassman@gmail.com, communications@eastmorland.org

WEB LIAISON: *Jennifer Moore, [jmooore3501@gmail.com](mailto:jmoore3501@gmail.com)*

EASTSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL LIAISON
Matt Covert, mjcovert@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEES
SUNSHINE (*Call for cards to go out from ECA*):
Rose Sage, 608-575-4482
GARDENS: eastmorlandgardens@gmail.com

Neighborhood Events Bring People Together

By Jennica Skoug

"Your neighborhood sounds so...neighborhood-y," my west-coast brother said to me over the phone this fall. We had been talking about the recent neighborhood market, Tunes on the Triangle fundraiser, and our street's early-September block party. His comment was gratifying, because a neighborhood-y place is exactly the kind of place where I want to live.

When I joined the ECA board two years ago, what I most wanted to see happen were more neighborhood events. I wanted more reasons to talk to my neighbors, to see my neighbors talking to their neighbors, and to have an excuse to enjoy some of the beautiful green spaces we are lucky to share. Because when we know each other, we can help each other. After I meet someone at an event, I feel more comfortable saying hello when I run into them on a walk, or while our kids swing by each other in the park. After a while, meals are exchanged, snow is shoveled, and winters aren't so lonely.

The ECA has been very supportive of trying out new events such as the chicken coop tour and outdoor markets, and continuing long-standing neighborhood traditions, including the annual parks clean-up, leaf-raking, and holiday treats. They also have systems in place to help individuals or groups create their own events. The ECA's neighborhood grant program will give up to \$100 to residents or organizations for any approved community-building initiative. Common Grace Church received a grant to help cover costs for their Tunes on the Triangle event this August. This event not only provided an opportunity for people to enjoy free live music and children's activities, it also raised hundreds of dollars for the Schenk school garden program and ECA's Save Our Ash Trees fund. Streets wishing to organize a block party may request money for street closure fees. Individuals can request funds to cover printing, supplies, or other costs for social or service events. Find more information at www.eastmorland.org.

You can sign up to receive reminders about neighborhood events by being part of the ECA email list; contact

emilyemixon@gmail.com to join. You'll find folks gathered online on second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (no December meeting).



Here are the ECA events coming up in the next couple of months - hope to see many of you there!

Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m. - Leaf Raking. Sign up to volunteer for raking, or to have a raking team come to your house if yardwork is a challenge. Contact Kris at 608-228-6654 or kwhitman@uwalumni.com. Rain date is November 6, 1 p.m.

Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Eastmorland Outdoor Market at the Lansing Food Forest. Anyone may attend! For information about vending, contact jennica.skoug@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 10 - Holiday Treats Deliveries and Santa in Eastmorland! Contact Kathy 608-244-8965 to volunteer to bake, pack, or deliver treats. Find Santa outdoors at Common Grace Church at 10 a.m.



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Supervisor District 17

Jacob Wright
Dane County
Board of Supervisors

608-338-3766
info@
wrightfordanecounty.com.

Dane County Budget Season is in full swing! Every October and November, the Board of Supervisors reviews and makes amendments to the following year's budget as proposed by the County Executive, Joe Parisi. Parisi released his proposed 2023 budget on Monday, October 3. His budget memo is available on [countyofdane.com](https://www.countyofdane.com).

With the release of the budget, the County Board and the Standing Committees of the Board will begin review and action on the budget. The County Board's Public Budget Hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on October 19. You can attend in person at the City-County Building or virtually. Details and agendas are available from



County Executive

Joe Parisi

Dane County

608-266-4114
Parisi@countyofdane.com

Dane County Celebrates Successes of Behavioral Health Resource Center

This fall, Dane County's Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC) will celebrate its two-year anniversary. Our one-stop resource for mental and behavioral health care bridges private and public mental and behavioral health care providers—making it easier for consumers, their families, and providers to navigate care and advocate for loved ones.

Over the years, the need for behavioral health care has grown in Dane County. Seeing this increasing need, I announced the creation of the BHRC in the fall of 2019, and it opened a year later. There has been a nearly 19% increase in call volume at the BHRC from the first year and a record call volume set in March 2022 with 238 calls. The BHRC walks alongside consumers and their families—regardless of insurance coverage, financial status, age, identity, ability, or legal status—helping them continue to navigate the process until appropriate services are available.

BHRC staff size has also grown to meet the needs of our community, from three members when it first opened to nine members today. A total of 3,500 consumers, concerned others, and professionals have been served, and

board.countyofdane.com/budget. This also includes times, agendas, and details for Standing Committee meetings, where we dive into additional detail on the budgets for the departments that each Standing Committee oversees.

The process will continue into November. The budget should be finalized mid-to-late November. In the meantime, please continue to reach out to me about what you'd like to see in the budget.

Something else to watch: Forthcoming public hearings related to the airport's noise study. These will be scheduled soon and I will provide updates as I can. At present, I am pushing for these to be made more accessible to the community—for example, I want to see them occur within impacted neighborhoods rather than at the airport itself, which is more difficult to get to. More to come.

I provide a monthly digest on the main District 17 Blog (board.countyofdane.com/supervisors/detail/17) where you can sign up to have them delivered directly to your inbox! I also blog regularly at wrightfordanecounty.com/blog, where the updates are more frequent and—it must be said—more opinionated. My goal is to provide multiple avenues of engagement that keep you informed based on your preferences.

I hope to hear from you soon! You can email me anytime at wright.jacob@countyofdane.com, and calls or texts are welcome to 608-338-3766.

roughly 175 cases are active at any given time.

BHRC staff work tirelessly to destigmatize mental health support by creating alternative approaches to the most commonly thought-of intervention types. Peer Support has been incredibly successful and is offered by many organizations throughout our area. Support can exist individually, in support groups, at respite centers, in community centers, related to vocation, and beyond. The BHRC's Peer Support services are short term and fill the gap of support while individuals work toward connecting to other mental health services.

Across all consumers, the three biggest barriers to treatment are waitlists, insurance limitations, and scheduling/hours. Expanding capacity among current providers and adding providers is vital to getting services in a timely manner. As our community works toward solutions, Dane County remains committed to coordinating care and improving outcomes for residents struggling with mental and behavioral health challenges.





Supervisor District 24

Sarah Smith

Dane County
Board of Supervisors

608-492-0027
SmithSarah@
countyofdane.com

Hi Neighbors!

I'm Supervisor Sarah Smith representing District 24 on the Dane County Board.

Since the last edition of this newsletter, the County Board has taken action to address abortion access, gun violence, food insecurity, public participation in our government, and more.

In July, County Executive Joe Parisi announced a new grant program to help local food pantries keep up with record demand. We approved this proposal to establish the new \$2 million program using a portion of our county's American Rescue Plan Act allocation. The County Board also provided funding for a voluntary Gun Buyback Program which has already resulted in 577 weapons being

surrendered including 11 assault-style rifles.

In August, the Black Caucus introduced a plan to resolve our impasse on the Jail Consolidation Project to lower the incarceration rate and move the construction of a smaller, new jail facility forward. Unfortunately, this proposal failed to garner support from a majority of the board.

In September, the County Board passed an ordinance amendment that prohibits county funds from being expended or committed to monitoring, investigating, or prosecuting any person for violating Wis. Stat. 940.04, the state's felony abortion law. Back in May, I authored a letter signed by dozens of Supervisors and other Dane County officials urging the Sheriff and District Attorney to commit to nonenforcement of this draconian felony law. They each made that commitment months later, and this OA will provide more assurance that our taxpayer dollars won't be used in contracts with other entities that criminalize abortion.

Finally, the development of the 2023 Dane County Budget is under way. In April, I supported an effort to change our public hearing schedule and add an additional opportunity for public input. Our new, final public hearing will be conducted on October 19 with our County Board budget deliberations beginning November 7. I am optimistic the final budget will reflect our county's values of progress, inclusion, sustainability, and opportunity for all.

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Celebrating Summer's Successes

Fall is officially here, so it's time to reflect on how summer went.

Public Safety Improvements

While traffic fatalities increased nationally, we've seen crashes with fatalities and serious injuries down 29% when compared to 2021, achieved through Madison's Vision Zero efforts and the Madison Police Department's increased enforcement of speed limits and traffic violations on targeted streets.

The City has also seen an 18.5% reduction in the number of "shots fired" incidents compared to the same timeframe 2021.

Youth Employment Expanded

City funds regularly support 19 employment programs through 10 community-based organizations, serving around 500 youth. In 2022, City funding supported 10 more such programs, serving another 250 youth, many

receiving class credit through MMSD.

Over 350 youth received Financial Empowerment Education through the City-supported "Benefits of Banking program" with an expected 175 youth opening bank accounts and receiving direct deposit paychecks.

Madison CARES Expansion

After six months, Madison CARES expanded services citywide, opening a second team location on Fish Hatchery Road, and have served over 1,000 CARES calls.

Steep Decline in Outdoor Camping

Since the start of the pandemic, we've moved single men out of unsafe church basement settings and into more spacious accommodations, and are planning the development of a permanent men's shelter, complete with support services. We turned a closed nursing home into a 24-hour family shelter accommodating 40% more families than previously able and established the State's first urban campground.

Today about 50 people are sleeping outdoors, compared to 200 or more seen in previous years.

The Dairy Drive campground has served 50 people since it opened less than a year ago with 40% of them having found and moved into housing.

While there is still work to be done, it's good to appreciate what we've been able to accomplish.



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State Representative District 48

Samba Baldeh

Wisconsin State Assembly

608-266-0960

Rep.Baldeh

@legis.wisconsin.gov

I am writing this column before the election, and you're reading it afterwards. I hope that we will have maintained some progressive part of state government whether that is the Governor or a minority in either or both houses that is sufficient to sustain a veto.

But regardless of the result, I will initiate legislation on the issues that I think are important for our area and the state. I think that it is not enough to talk about a problem.



State Senator District 16

Melissa Agard

Wisconsin State Senate

608-266-9170

Sen.Agard@legis.wisconsin.gov

Governor Evers' Veto Power Works for Wisconsinites

Over the past two years, Governor Evers used the power of his veto pen to defend voting rights, protect reproductive freedoms, safeguard public safety, support our public schools, and much more. While the Republican majority continues to ignore the will of Wisconsinites by passing anti-democratic, unpopular, and dangerous pieces of legislation, Governor Evers continues to listen to the values of Wisconsin voters and uses his veto pen accordingly.

During the 2021-22 legislative session, Republicans in the State Legislature made a concerted effort to keep Wisconsinites from the ballot box to appease their extreme base in response to absurd and unsubstantiated claims

The challenge is addressing a problem in a meaningful way that can win broad support.

Housing: Most of the homes in Lake Edge and Eastmorsland are more than 50 years old. To keep the housing stock useable, we should provide tax credits or low-interest loans to rehab or improve homes. This can also be used by non-profit agencies to rehab and sell older homes.

PFAS: Grants to municipalities to clean up waterways affected by PFAS. Starkweather Creek, which runs through our neighborhoods, has high levels of PFAS in the water and the sediment. Madison and Dane County need funds to clean up and dump the sediment.

Protect Democracy: We have to keep the Wisconsin Election Commission as an independent body and resist attempts to put it under legislative control. Our gerrymandered districts are an example of what happens when the legislature can control their own elections.

Taxes: I will oppose efforts to sharply cut income taxes for higher income households. Doing so would result in a big increase in sales tax and a cut in municipal assistance. This in turn would mean a hike in property taxes.

Stay tuned.

regarding the integrity of our elections. Governor Evers vetoed a series of anti-democratic election bills that would have made it more difficult to obtain an absentee ballot, more difficult for residents of care facilities to vote, and more difficult for voters with disabilities and those who are indefinitely confined to return their ballots.

Governor Evers also vetoed a series of bills that would have made firearms more accessible. One of these bills would have permitted individuals to carry loaded guns in their vehicles on school grounds. Another would have allowed out-of-state residents to have concealed carry weapons in our state without having met the same requirements as residents. Neither of these bills would have improved the safety of our schools or shared spaces as the overwhelming majority of Wisconsinites have requested from their elected leaders.

The Governor also vetoed bills that placed restrictions on an individual's access to basic reproductive healthcare, undercut efforts to teach about diversity or race, and limited access to our state's public waters.

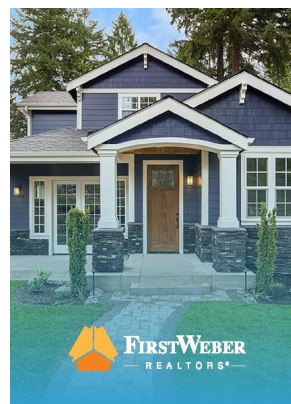
Governor Evers continues to serve as our last line of defense against Republicans' extreme agenda. He has and will continue listening to the will of the voters.



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C	I	D	I	T	A	E	O	H	A	T	A	T	U
I	O	Y	R	E	N	K	H	I	C	A	S	O	S
D	N	C	E	N	K	C	N	L	O	K	N	A	M
E	B	E	O	S	E	A	I	L	R	S	R	U	D
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Find fall riddles on page 20!

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Taking Winter for a Spin

By Jenny Klamm

A few years ago, I told my husband that we needed to find a winter activity. He loves the cold, gray days, and I dream of sun and green and sweating in my garden. In order to make the many long months more enjoyable for us (well, me), we had to find an outdoor hobby.

We are not skiers. Sledding is kind of goofy for Gen Xers without kids, so we landed on ice skating. He found a used pair of hockey skates and I bought a classic pair of white skates at a sporting goods store. Miraculously, we remembered how to move forward on the teeny, tiny blades, and I am proud of my backwards glide.

Olbrich offers two skating rink options near Eastmorland and Lake Edge. There is a hockey rink maintained by amazing Adopt-Ice volunteers and a pond behind the greenhouses. The warming house offers a few pairs of skates to borrow, as well as a nice respite from the chill. The pond used to be a simple, flooded low spot near the bike path, but a NiceRink© is now featured.

A Wisconsin-based company, NiceRink© is an above ground, framed liner that allows water to freeze quicker and stay frozen longer, (Continued on page 20)

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Annual ECA/LENA membership dues are voluntary and are \$10 for a basic membership and \$25 for a supporting membership. Dues collected are used for general operations expenses and for special neighborhood events, such as the spring park clean-up and fall leaf-raking parties and potlucks. While everyone living in the neighborhood is considered to be a member of ECA, only paid members have the additional benefits of participating in the annual ECA garage sale and Santa visits. ECA relies on your support.

Neighborhood Ash Trees

In 2015, 2018, and 2021, ECA raised sufficient funds to treat and save some of Eastmorland's most beautiful park ash trees from being cut down due to emerald ash borer (EAB). Together we saved 33 of the healthiest, largest ash trees in our neighborhood parks. These trees must be treated every three years according to current city policy.

We must have all the funds to treat them again by fall 2024. The estimated cost of the treatment will be approximately \$7,070.45. Please donate any amount as every dollar adds up to help save a beautiful shade tree.

If you live in the **Eastmorland neighborhood**, you may pay your dues, make a general contribution, or make a contribution to treating the 33 ash trees in our neighborhood parks by completing and mailing the form below with your check to ECA, PO Box 14584, Madison, WI 53708 or via PayPal by going to <http://eastmorland.org/> and clicking on the "Donate" tab.

If you live in the **Lake Edge neighborhood**, you may pay your dues, make a general contribution, or make a contribution to treating the 33 ash trees in the Eastmorland neighborhood parks, 22 of which are in Olbrich Park, by completing and mailing this form with your check to LENA, PO Box 14102, Madison, WI 53708 or by going online to [Join Today - Lake Edge Neighborhood Association \(lenamadison.com\)](http://JoinToday-LakeEdgeNeighborhoodAssociation.lenamadison.com) [note: there is a \$1.00 processing fee]. If you wish to contribute to treating the ash trees, mail a check to ECA (see above) or follow the instructions above for contributing to ECA online.

Note: ECA and LENA are not IRS 501(c)(3) approved organizations, so your dues and contributions are not tax deductible.

Thanks for being an active member of the neighborhood!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Contribution for Save the Ash Trees \$ _____

Contribution for Dues and/or General Purposes \$ _____

Would you like to volunteer to help? If so, email the ECA president at info@eastmorland.org or the LENA president at LakeEdgeNA@gmail.com.

Fall Funnies!

1.) What do you get when you drop a pumpkin? 2.) I'm tall when I'm young, and short when I'm old. What am I? 3.) What do you get when you divide the circumference of your jack-o-lantern by its diameter? 4.) Who helps the little pumpkins cross the road to school?

Answers: 1.) Squash. 2.) A candle. 3.) Pumpkin Pie. 4.) A crossing guard.



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Taking Winter for a Spin

(Continued from page 17)

meaning a longer skating season!

You can read more on their website: www.nicerink.com/

Perhaps the snow and cold aren't sticking around by the time this newsletter comes out. This gives you some time to find some equipment and convince your family and friends to join you.

Remember safety first! Check the City of Madison website for rink status and conditions: www.cityofmadison.com/parks/iceskating.

Wear plenty of layers for warmth and cushioning (the ice is hard) and see you out there this winter!



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