

# Hi, Neighbor!

A Newsletter for the Eastmorland and Lake Edge Neighborhoods

Spring 2024

## Upcoming Events

### Madison Parks Earth Day Challenge Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.

Olbrich Park's Walter Street Shelter (Eastmorland residents) or Lake Edge Park (Lake Edge residents) Celebrate Earth Day by joining your neighbors to clean up our parks. For more info, visit [cityofmadison.com/parks/events/earthdaychallenge.cfm](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/events/earthdaychallenge.cfm)

### Eastmorland Outdoor Markets Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lansing Food Forest, 299-201 Starkweather Drive (at the corner of Richard and Hargrove Streets)

We'd love to see you there! If you are interested in being a vendor at one or both markets, we'd love to have you.

Email [eastmorland.market@gmail.com](mailto:eastmorland.market@gmail.com) to inquire. We are also exploring having vendors during the December Santa visit event, so if you are interested in that please reach out.

### Eastmorland LGBTQ+ Pride Picnic Saturday, June 1, noon-3 p.m.

Olbrich Park's Walter Street Shelter

Help us kick off pride month with the second annual Eastmorland LGBTQ+ Pride Picnic. Everyone is welcome!

We will have food, yard games, and connections with neighbors. Details will be posted on the Eastmorland Neighbors Facebook page as we get closer to the event. To volunteer or for more information please contact Rebecca at [rlbeau22@gmail.com](mailto:rlbeau22@gmail.com).

### East Side Club Spring Music Thursdays and Sundays

East Side Club, 3753 Atwood Avenue

Enjoy live music and a spectacular lake view at the East Side Club (ESC)! Many events are free and open to the public. Most others are free to ESC members, who also get \$2 off each drink through their membership period. For event and membership details, go to [escmadison.com](http://escmadison.com).

### Other Upcoming Lake Edge and Eastmorland Neighborhood Events

- Lake Edge Neighborhood Meetings: Third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
- Plant Swap at Lake Edge Park: Sunday, April 14
- Eastmorland Community Association Elections: Online May 4-11 or in-person at the May 11 ECA meeting (location TBD)
- Joint ECA/LENA Yard Sale Weekend: June 14-16
- LENA summer sports: Start June, TBD

## A Critical Time for San Damiano Master Plan

By Matt Ledger

The Friends of San Damiano are progressing toward a finalized master plan for the San Damiano property (located on Monona Dr. near the intersection with Buckeye Rd.). Friends board member Matt Tramel said January 17's public meeting regarding the master plan was full of positive feedback and comments, as well as great ideas for moving the project forward.

"This is a critical time," said Tramel, "because as we consider what the site can ultimately look like, the Frank Allis house is a big part of that conversation."

Tramel said the community is relatively split on whether to restore the Frank Allis house, built in 1893, or instead build a new, modern event facility. The cost for building a new facility is estimated at \$6M, while the cost for restoring the house is estimated at \$8.7M. However, Tramel said the cost for restoring the Allis house could be offset by up to \$2M of historic tax credits.

"More information needs to be gathered regarding what is possible with the Allis house and the actual costs," said Tramel. "We expect to bring that analysis back to the community in the months ahead, so we can all make an informed decision together."

Non-facility costs for the project (which includes constructing paths, gardens, parking, and several other features) are estimated at about \$5M. Tramel says that after the Monona City Council approves a finalized

*(Continued on page 3)*

## "Greener" Green Spaces: Native Plantings in Eastmorland and Lake Edge

### City of Madison Engineering in need of volunteers to plant, weed, and mow

By Jennica Skoug

My daughters and I live near the new bike path that runs along Starkweather Creek between Garver Feed Mill and O.B. Sherry Park. This summer, we had even more reason to meander slowly on our usual walking route: bee watching. The terrace between the path and the curb was a-blossom with new flowers each month and, while not as showy as the zinnias and sunflowers beloved by my six-year-old, these flowers were a magnet for native pollinators. I am grateful, living in an urban setting, to be able to introduce my kids to mason bees, bumblebees, and

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Hi, Neighbor!

## Spring 2024

### Hi, Neighbor! is an ECA & LENA collaboration

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

#### Want to submit an article?

Send articles for publication to [hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:zimmerman_dan@hotmail.com).

#### Triannual Publication Schedule:

March 2024  
June 2024  
October 2024

Past issues are available online and in color at [eastmorland.org](http://eastmorland.org) and [lenamadison.org](http://lenamadison.org).

Hi, Neighbor! is looking for an additional volunteer to help with the layout of the October 2024 newsletter.

No experience is needed!

We will help you learn and can train you during layout work on the June 2024 newsletter.

Email [hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com](mailto:hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com) if you are interested.



You love your furry friend, and so do we! Introduce your pet in the next *Pet Vignette*. Share a little about your pet with us via email at [hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com](mailto:hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com).

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

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](mailto:hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com).

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## My Neighbor's Garden: Lou Nofsinger

By Jennifer Peterson

Interviews are edited for length. If you'd like to be interviewed for My Neighbor's Garden, email Jennifer at [jenniferpeterson5@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferpeterson5@gmail.com).

Lou and Terri Nofsinger have lived in their house on Lansing Street since 1985 and began creating their garden a few years later.

"When we bought this house, the payment was more than rent, so we didn't have any money," Lou says. "We were more worried about getting the faucets to work than putting plants in!"

When Lou and Terri were ready to garden, Lou's biggest motivation was drawing wildlife. "I got into birds and wanted to feed them," he says. "I got to thinking, well, we should put some plants out. My criteria was birds, bees, and butterflies. Any of that stuff that would draw them, that's what we would plant."

As their garden and skills evolved, Lou tried to learn from people who knew more than him, as well as through trial and error.

"Don't just go find something you like the looks of!" he advises. "How much sun? How much water? Will it grow in your crappy clay? 90% of your problems disappear when you have the right plant in the right place."

He laughs remembering when he and Terri were puzzled by why their *Penstemon digitalis* weren't coming back in spring. "*Penstemon* has a rosette of basal leaves which need to stay over winter. If you cut them off in the fall,

(Continued on page 20)



Above: Lou with a squirrel

Below: Lou and Terri's garden



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## A Critical Time for San Damiano Master Plan

(Continued from page 1)

master plan, the plan will be implemented over 5 to 10 years as private funds are raised.

When asked how the community can get involved with the project, Tramel encouraged residents to attend some of the many events that take place at San Damiano throughout the year (including the Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival starting June 14), join in the Friends' spring and fall clean-up efforts, or learn more about volunteering or donating at [SanDamianoMonona.org](http://SanDamianoMonona.org).

"I would [also] just encourage everyone to spend some time on the San Damiano property to fully grasp how special the place is," continued Tramel. "It's a wonderful place to take a walk, be quiet in nature, and take a break from a faster pace. The Friends of San Damiano is committed to protecting that, and the support of the community continues to propel us forward. For that, we are incredibly grateful!"

## NerdHaven: Where Old School Is Cool

By Linda Linssen

Once an integral part of pop culture, old-school arcades have made a comeback in recent years. Nostalgia may be partly responsible for the renewed interest, but surely the solitary experience of at-home play lost some appeal during the pandemic.

In October 2020, Adam Wood and John Karalis opened NerdHaven Retro Arcade & Pinball Hall in the Cottage Grove Rd. strip mall anchored by Ace Hardware. Despite an extended mask mandate, people were starting to look for social opportunities, and the arcade slowly gained popularity.

Today, NerdHaven is a lively place. In the arcade area, you'll find such familiar names as *Star Wars*, *Donkey Kong*, *Pac-Man*, *Centipede*, *Mortal Kombat*, *The Simpsons*, and more — 130+ machines in all, dating from the late '70s to today. The pinball area features 60 tables — the largest public collection in the Madison area and the second-largest in the state. You'll find *Godzilla*, *Deadpool*, *Indiana Jones*, *The Addams Family*, *Jaws*, and others from the late '70s to 2010. The family-friendly



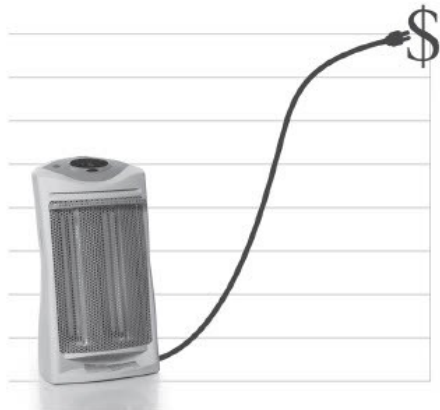
NerdHaven owners Adam Wood and John Karalis

arcade is freeplay only; for \$15, you can play all day. Accompanied by an adult, the first child is free, and the next three are \$5 each. The pinball machines are token-operated, and tokens are available at the front desk.

### Good to know:

- Public hours are Weds. and Thurs., 3-9 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 11 a.m. to midnight; and Sun., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Private parties can be booked for Mon. or Tues., and carry-in food and beverages are allowed.
- Snacks and nonalcoholic beverages are available.
- Merch includes tees, caps, token cups, memorabilia, and gift cards.
- Arcade tournaments are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Pinball tournaments are held every third Sunday.

For more info, go to [nerdhavenarcade.com](http://nerdhavenarcade.com) or call (608) 416-5217 and talk with Adam or John. Or just stop in!



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## Holiday Cookie Plate Delivery a Success

By Marla Shoop

We had a wonderful turnout in December from neighbors old and young alike! Volunteers baked, packaged, and delivered cookies to neighbors throughout Eastmorland who were in need of some holiday cheer. We so appreciated your efforts on our behalf.

While we don't have exact numbers, we had more bakers involved this year compared to last year, as well as new families that helped bake and deliver cookies. We delivered 37 plates to neighbors, which is down from previous years. We also delivered extra plates for the Santa Visit party and delivered to other organizations in need.

Please let us know of any neighbors who might like some assistance in the future, so we can update our cookie recipient list when we distribute cookies again this coming December. Please email Marla Shoop at [marla@shooptraining.com](mailto:marla@shooptraining.com) or call (608) 235-4043 with information on illnesses, deaths, new babies, or new



Delivered cookies from left to right: Buerger family (Margaret Street) Jaylen, Jon, Gia & Sheena.

(Continued on page 8)

## Learn How to Get Involved with the Eastmorland Community Association

By Rebecca LeBeau, President - Eastmorland Community Association

We're kicking off this spring with many ways for neighbors to meet each other, help each other out, and have some fun. Learn how you can join us:

### Come to an Event or Meeting

Did you know we have 10+ neighborhood events throughout the year and monthly community association meetings? From Earth Day trash pickup to outdoor markets at the Lansing St. Food Forest to an LGBTQ+ pride picnic, there are lots of events coming up this summer (and even more in the fall and winter). Several neighbors have started new events in the past couple years. If you have an event you want to make happen in collaboration with us, don't hesitate to show up at the next association meeting or email [info@eastmorland.org](mailto:info@eastmorland.org) with your ideas!

You can find events and meetings on our event flyers posted around town, posted on the Eastmorland Neighbors Facebook page, on our Google Group, and on our website. Our website is under construction, so information might not always be up-to-date as we transition. To join the Google Group, use the QR code and click the *Ask to join group* button.



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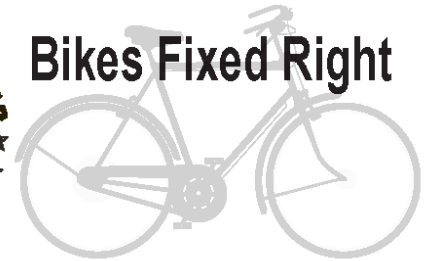
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## Updates from Nuestro Mundo



Staff at Nuestro Mundo

By Josh Forehand, Principal

The Nuestro Mundo charter school's return to the Lake Edge Neighborhood has gone really well! During the process, Madison Municipal School District (MMSD) Building Services really went above and beyond to make many long-needed functional and aesthetic improvements. Throughout the summer and fall, we had painters, carpenters, plumbers, pipefitters, and many others in and out of the building. It is important to Nuestro Mundo and MMSD to preserve the historical beauty of the building (formerly Frank Allis Elementary), while keeping up with the demands of running a 21st century school.

You may have noticed that Nuestro Mundo has been in the news quite a lot recently. In December, the MMSD School Board renewed our charter for another five years. It also approved a full-day 4K (four-year-old kindergarten) dual-language immersion (DLI) program, as well as our candidacy to become an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB). Starting

next school year, we will open one classroom of 4K and begin the process of joining the international network of inquiry-based instructional programs known as IB.

Within the charter renewal process, there was a lot of discussion about Nuestro Mundo's attendance area. To briefly summarize, Wisconsin state charter regulations are written with the intention of preventing charter schools from being overly selective or exclusive in their admissions practices. This is a good thing. However, it is important to our school to maintain our roots in the southeast side community, and especially the Allis/Southside Elementary School attendance area. We are currently awaiting approval from Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to allow our current practice of prioritizing residents of the Allis/Southside attendance area in our admissions processes. If DPI grants approval, our admissions practices will remain the same as they have always been. If approval is not granted, all residents of Madison will have equal access to Nuestro Mundo, regardless of school attendance area. March 4 is our 4K enrollment date, so we should have an answer from DPI by the time you receive this issue of *Hi, Neighbor!*.

Applications for students currently enrolled in MMSD 4K or other grade levels are now being accepted. (Scan the QR code below to apply.) For students not enrolled in MMSD 4K, you must enroll with MMSD first. Then, after you have received a username and password for Infinite Campus, you can scan and apply for the DLI program. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school at (608) 204-1079 or email me directly at [jforehand@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:jforehand@madison.k12.wi.us).

Your neighbor,  
Josh Forehand, Principal



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### Get Involved with the ECA

(Continued from page 5)

#### Apply for a Neighborhood Grant

If you need up to \$100 for a social event, a volunteer action, or another celebration or activity, consider applying for an ECA grant! The application is short and sweet, and the board approves up to four grants per year on a rolling basis. Check out [eastmorland.org](http://eastmorland.org) or email [info@eastmorland.org](mailto:info@eastmorland.org) to get an application.

#### Join the Board

Want to make a bigger impact? Consider joining us on the board – we'd love to have you. Elections are in May, and you can go to [eastmorland.org](http://eastmorland.org) or email [info@eastmorland.org](mailto:info@eastmorland.org) for more information on how to apply to be a board member.

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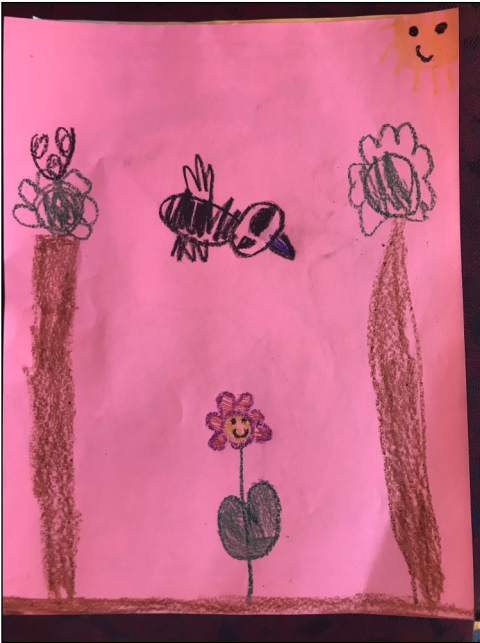
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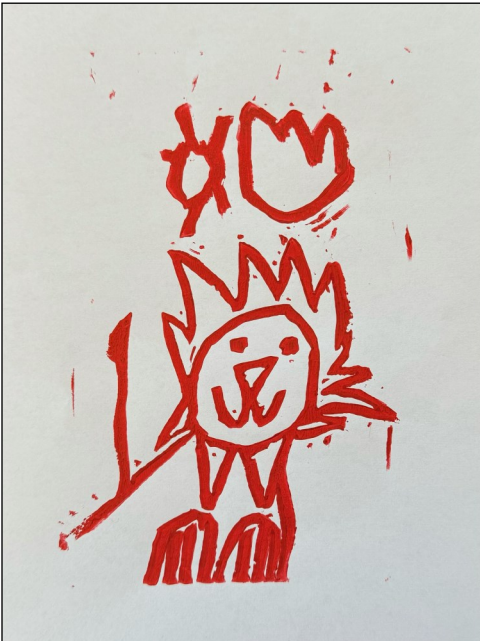
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**Kids' Corner  
Art Submissions**



*Starkweather Creek Path by Marrion Walsh (age 6). Crayons on paper.*



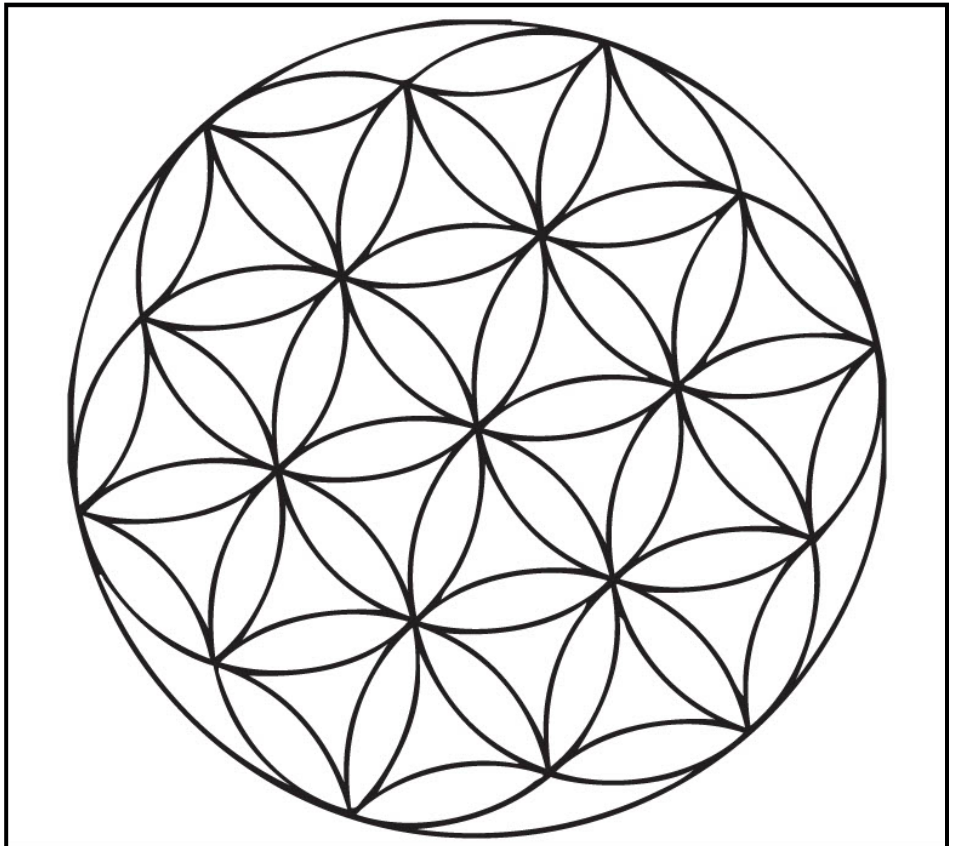
*Lion Print by Elise Spina Horowitz (age 5). Ink on paper, linoprint.*

**Submit your work to Kids  
Corner!**

Kids and Teens: Want to submit your original artwork, joke, word puzzle, or coloring page to *Hi, Neighbor?*

Send an image via email to [hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com](mailto:hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com).

**Kids' Corner: Geometric Coloring Page**



**Flower Jokes**

1. What is a frog's favorite flower?
2. What do you get when you plant kisses?
3. How is a flower like the letter A?
4. Why couldn't the flower ride its bike?

**ANSWERS:** 1. A croak-us! 2. Tulips. 3. A bee comes after it! 4. It lost its petals.

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## Neighbors Share Ideas for the New Eastmorland Community Center

By Staci Marrese-Wheeler, Director of the Eastmorland Community Center

In 2023, the triangle property on Tulane Ave. and Hargrove St., across from Schenk School, was rebranded as the Eastmorland Community Center (ECC). El Jardín Infantil Preschool, Ethical Trade Co, and Common Grace are the building's current resident organizations. The new non-profit community center is now more open. Additional groups utilize the space, and it is a place for our community to gather and grow together.

New signs went up on the property in August last year, and in October we had a community open house where over 60 neighbors shared their dreams for what they would love to see a community center offer the Eastmorland neighborhood. Here are some of the ideas neighbors shared on sticky notes at the meeting:

- Community classes for art, music, photography, woodworking, bicycle maintenance, yoga, and technology assistance.

- Childcare and parent/child activity groups.
- Eco-events, clubs, and classes.
- Community sharing items including use of the piano, bicycles, a car, garden space, a tool library, and/or a sauna.
- Community events like game nights, movie nights, COVID-safe gatherings, and clubs.
- Food truck nights.
- Making various spaces available for private gathering rentals, co-working, art-making for adults and kids, coffee/tea and book-reading, and/or "third spaces" for connecting with neighbors and hanging out.

These are only a sampling of the three full pages of ideas that neighbors shared with us at the open house. It will be exciting to see how these ideas might take shape at the community center in 2024.

To learn more about the ECC, or to donate to this developing neighborhood center, visit our website at [eastmorlandcommunitycenter.org](http://eastmorlandcommunitycenter.org).

### Stay Up to Date with Your Local Health Department

A great way to stay in touch with Public Health Madison & Dane County is to join our mailing lists!

Visit [publichealthmdc.com/email-lists](http://publichealthmdc.com/email-lists) (or scan the QR code to the right) to subscribe to our blog, news releases, and other topic-specific newsletters. Another great way to get the latest news is to follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@publichealthmdc).



### Holiday Cookie Plates a Success

(Continued from page 5)

neighbors to welcome. I'll make sure to add them to the cookie list.

Thank you to the following volunteers: Carrie Ezzell, Tim Ezzell, Kelli Ezzell, Ashley Estorf, Sue Estorf, Debra Updike, Sandra Flick, Sandra Houseman, Ed Woolsey, Sheena and Jon Buerger, Audra Leslie, Marliss Christopherson, Carol Robinson, Ginny Panger, Carly Hanna, Amber and Sam Colman, Tom Theisen, Jess and Becky Barnes, Deesa Pence, Victoria Echeverria, Connie Spoenem, Nicole Maxwell, Penny Scherf, and Kyle Bollman.

If you don't see your name, please let me know. My contact info is on page 5.



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Contact the Lake Edge  
Neighborhood Association at:  
[LakeEdgeNA@gmail.com](mailto:LakeEdgeNA@gmail.com)

Learn more or join by  
visiting our website:  
[lenamadison.org](http://lenamadison.org)

Meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at  
6:30 p.m. via Zoom or in person. See  
[facebook.com/groups/543460612477296](https://facebook.com/groups/543460612477296) for info.

## Eastmorland Community Association (ECA)

### ECA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: *Rebecca LeBeau*  
VICE PRESIDENT: *Micah Kloppenburg*  
([micahklop@gmail.com](mailto:micahklop@gmail.com))  
SECRETARY: *Olivia Williams*  
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MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING: *Dan Zimmerman,*  
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WEB LIAISON: *Jennifer Moore,* [jmoore3501@gmail.com](mailto:jmoore3501@gmail.com)

### EASTSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL LIAISON

*Matt Covert,* [mjcovert@gmail.com](mailto:mjcovert@gmail.com)

### STANDING COMMITTEES

SUNSHINE (*Call for cards to go out from ECA*):

*Rose Sage, 608-575-4482*

GARDENS: [eastmorlandgardens@gmail.com](mailto:eastmorlandgardens@gmail.com)

### Join us at ECA Meetings

ECA meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday  
of each month at Pinney Library. Please email  
Rebecca LeBeau ([info@eastmorland.org](mailto:info@eastmorland.org)) if you have  
an agenda item, question, or other interest.

We hope to see you there!



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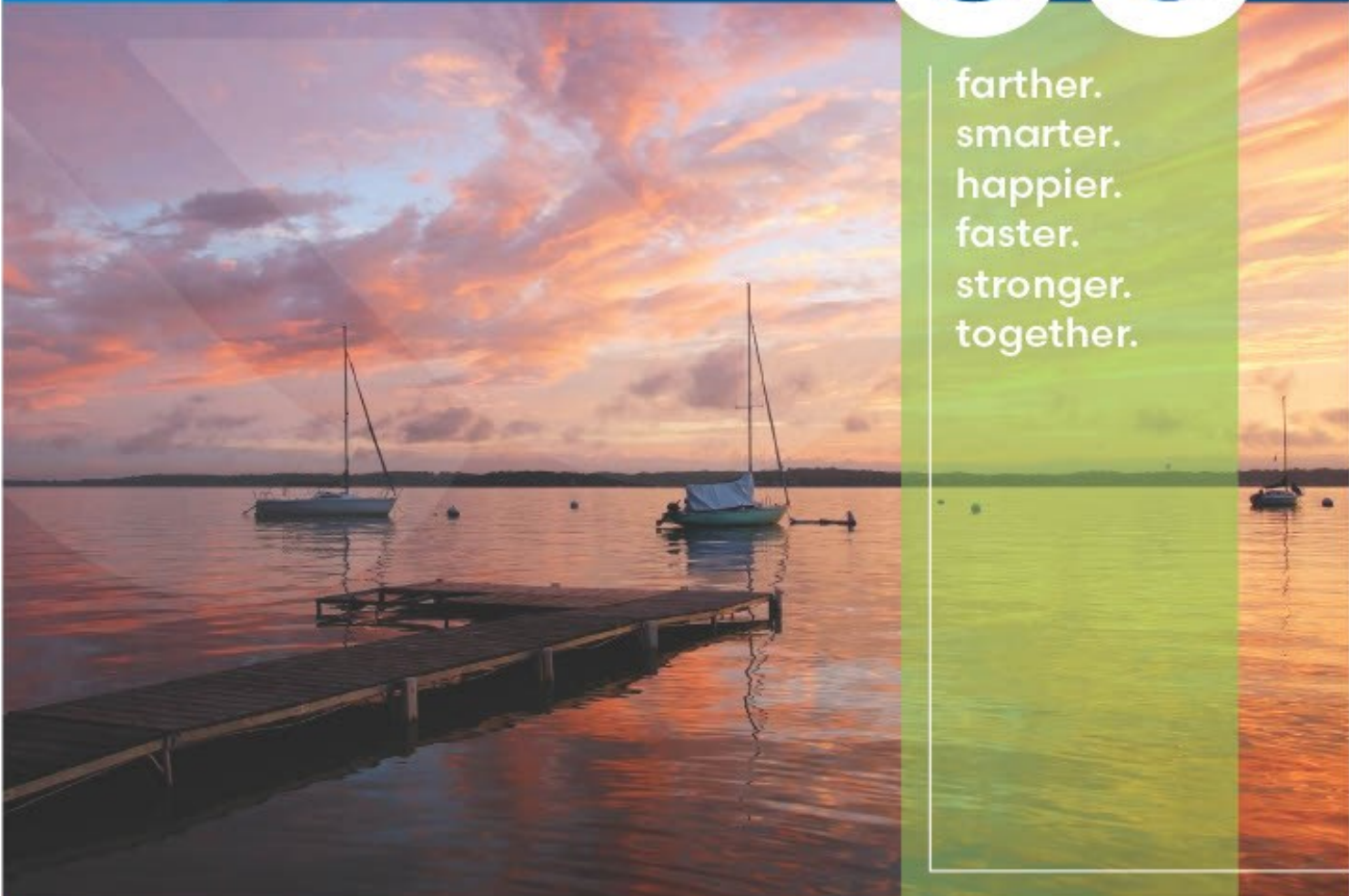
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## “Greener” Green Spaces: Native Plantings in Eastmorland and Lake Edge

(Continued from page 1)

the many pollinators I can’t yet name but which I hope they can someday.

Although I was aware the Starkweather “strip” was being planted with natives in 2022, it was hard to imagine it that first summer, walking by the six-inch tall stubble — a result of the regular high-cut mowing necessary to keep invasives at bay and help natives become well-established. The wait was worth it, though. The new planting added shades of egg-yolk yellow, pale pink, and royal purple to this green space (colors supplied by plants such as Golden Alexander, Biennial Gaura, Hoary Vervain, and Wild Petunias). The woody shrubs along the creek attract all manner of songbirds who, I’m sure, are happy to see a few more insects and seed-producing plants in their midst. And I am happy to see our shared spaces come alive a little more each year.

When I reached out to the City of Madison’s Engineering Division — which established the native plantings along Starkweather — for an update, I learned that the Starkweather Strip is just one of many planting areas around Madison, including several more right in our neighborhoods. This summer, here are the areas I’ll be paying more attention to:

- The wetland area between O.B. Sherry Park and

Milwaukee St., just under the new bike bridge.

- The strip of land between the bike path and the Olbrich Park softball fields.
- The areas surrounding the pond and channel behind Woodman’s (Eastmorland Park).
- The space behind the East YMCA and the on-ramp for Highway 51.

All of the spaces above have been established as native planting areas by City Engineering within the past five years, with more to come.

“We need our urban greenspaces to serve many purposes, from stormwater storage to wildlife habitat to recreation,” says Maddie Dumas, Eastmorland resident and the City Engineering Division’s Greenway Vegetation Coordinator. “Native plants help us meet these goals because they are hardy, help with infiltration and soil stabilization, are adapted to the needs of native wildlife, and are beautiful!”

If you’re up for volunteering, City of Madison Engineering is actively seeking folks interested in collecting seeds, growing plants, planting plants, digging weeds, and establishment mowing recently-planted areas. Contact Maddie Dumas at (608) 266-9525 or [MDumas2@cityofmadison.com](mailto:MDumas2@cityofmadison.com) for more information.

Get to know your neighbors!  
See page 1 for details on upcoming events in Lake Edge and Eastmorland.



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## The New Apartment Complexes Coming to Monona Dr.

By Dar McDuffee

### Monona Dr. and Cottage Grove Rd.

The Fitzgerald (3914 Monona Dr.) will start leasing apartments July 1. The building's website describes it as "the newest, most beautiful, luxury apartment home in Madison," with its name referring to F. Scott Fitzgerald. The website goes on to say that residents can imagine themselves as star socialites from Fitzgerald's book, *The Great Gatsby*. I must comment that I hope the rent amounts reflect such splendor.

The Fitzgerald includes 69 units, with rents ranging from \$1,450 for a 543 sq ft studio apartment to \$3,700 for a 1,379 sq ft two bedroom plus den unit. Other prices and floor plans can be viewed at The Fitzgerald's website ([primeurbanproperties.com/property/the-fitzgerald](http://primeurbanproperties.com/property/the-fitzgerald)).

Amenities include oversized balconies, a fitness center, a "Fitzzy Ritzzy" community lounge, and for some, views of the lake. In a phone call on Jan. 16, The Fitzgerald's leasing office said a UW Credit Union branch and a coffee shop are still slated for the building's street level commercial spaces.

I wonder who can afford these rents, and I feel sorry for young people starting out on their own with these exorbitant rent and housing prices. In December 2023, according to various sources, the median sale price for Madison homes was between \$361,000 to \$395,000.

I am also concerned about bottleneck traffic at the intersection of Monona Dr. and Cottage Grove Rd., and I

anticipate the need for a no turn on red sign. I reached out to Madison Traffic Engineering to see if a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) was done. I was told the city did not require the developer to complete a TIA because of a trip comparison study that anticipated fewer trips than before the development. The city compared The Fitzgerald to the corner's previous occupants, which included Jade Monkey (didn't open until 3 p.m.), the tattoo parlor/hair salon and Pro Exhaust (both had few customers at any one time), and Java Cat. Well, we will soon see how the development impacts the flow of traffic in our neighborhood.

### 4600 Block of Monona Dr.

In Monona, just outside LENA's boundaries, buildings including the former Sportsman's Bar and an antique store were torn down to make way for a mixed-used development. Named The Bloom, this development will include 98 market-rent apartments, a BMO Harris Bank branch, space for small retail, and a small business incubator.

### Join the Eastmorland Email Group

The Eastmorland Google Group is an online bulletin board for neighbors to share small announcements, neighborhood events, volunteer opportunities, and the like. Go to the group homepage to request to join: <https://groups.google.com/g/eastmorland>. Postings should be courteous and encourage community connection.

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## Thank You to Leaf-Raking Volunteers!

By Kris Whitman

Thank you to the 26 dedicated volunteers associated with the Eastmorland Community Association (ECA) who raked 25 yards in fall 2023 for neighbors who were physically unable to do so. This successful event brings people together as we provide a much-needed service.

Planning ahead to the fall 2024 event - our 20th year - please mark your calendars to join the ECA as we rake yards for our neighbors who are unable to rake for themselves. Please meet at the Olbrich Park/Walter St. Picnic Shelter at 9 a.m. on Sat., November 9 (rain date: 1 p.m. on Sun., November 10). We will assign routes and disperse in small groups from there.

After raking, volunteers, their families, and members of households whose yards were raked are invited to a pizza party hosted by the ECA. Times will be approximately 11:30 a.m. on Saturday or 3:30 p.m. on the rain date. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Watch future issues of *Hi, Neighbor!* for more details.

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



## More Solar Serving MGE Customers

From Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)

MGE's energy supply mix is transitioning toward greater use of renewable resources, as we target carbon emissions reductions of at least 80% by 2030 and net-zero carbon electricity by 2050.

### **Badger Hollow Solar Farm**

In late 2023, the second 150 megawatt (MW) phase of Wisconsin's largest solar project began serving MGE electric customers. MGE owns a total of 100 MW of the 300 MW Badger Hollow Solar Farm in Iowa County. The first phase came online in late 2021. MGE's share of the entire facility is expected to generate enough electricity to power about 30,000 households. The completion of Badger Hollow is another step in MGE's ongoing transition toward greater use of cost-effective, carbon-free energy. By 2030, we expect every MGE electric customer will have 80% fewer carbon emissions from their electricity use simply by being an MGE customer as we work toward our goal of net-zero carbon electricity.

### **Tyto Solar in Fitchburg**

Tyto Solar is MGE's latest solar project, expected online in early 2024. The 6 MW array in Fitchburg is a distributed energy resource, like our other Madison-area solar projects. This means it is connected directly to MGE's distribution system. Tyto Solar will serve all MGE electric customers.

(Continued on page 14)

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## More Solar Serving MGE Customers

(Continued from page 13)

### Upcoming Solar Projects

These projects are part of a number of renewable energy projects to help MGE achieve our industry-leading carbon reduction goals. MGE will own a share of these three large-scale solar energy projects under construction:

- Paris Solar-Battery Park: MGE will own 20 MW of solar capacity and 11 MW of battery storage at this project in the town of Paris in Kenosha County. It is expected online in 2024.
- Darien Solar Energy Center: MGE will own 25 MW of solar capacity at this project in the town of Bradford in Rock County and the town of Darien in Walworth County. It is expected online this year.
- Koshkonong Solar Energy Center: MGE will own 30 MW of solar energy from this facility to be located in the towns of Christiana and Deerfield in Dane County. The Koshkonong facility is expected online in 2026.

Learn more about our renewable projects, energy efficiency and new technologies at [mge2050.com](http://mge2050.com).

Want to join your neighborhood association? See page 19 for details!



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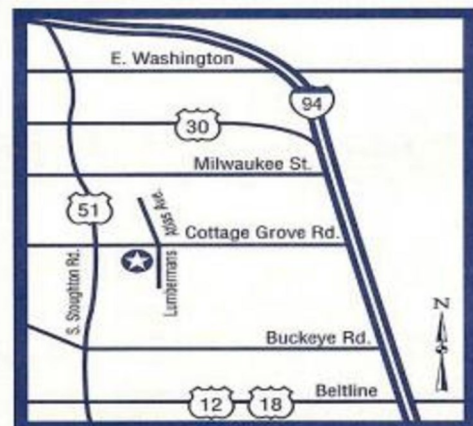
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## Quick, Easy, Delicious: Buttermilk Biscuits

By Kathryn Prince

Biscuits are one of the easiest breads to throw together if you need a quick side dish or a snack for company. Here are some tricks for making great biscuits:

- Use a low-protein flour like pastry flour (which has about 9% protein). Too much protein in your flour will make the biscuits chewy and dense instead of light and pillowy. All-purpose flour is fine, but don't use bread flour!
- Use buttermilk. You may be able to find fresh buttermilk in the dairy section, but you can also use powdered buttermilk which comes in a tin in the baking section of many grocery stores. Or, add a teaspoon of apple cider vinegar to regular milk to mimic buttermilk's acidity.
- Finally, make sure your butter and liquid are very cold. Keeping the butter cold helps form buttery layers during baking.

### Ingredients

- 2 c flour
  - 1 Tbsp baking powder
  - ½ tsp baking soda
  - 1 tsp salt
  - 3 Tbsp buttermilk powder\*
  - 6 Tbsp unsalted butter, very cold
  - ¾ c ice-cold water\*
- \*Fresh buttermilk or regular milk can be substituted for the water and buttermilk powder.

### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 425° F.
2. Combine flour, baking powder & soda, salt, and buttermilk powder in a large bowl and mix well. Set aside.
3. Remove butter from the fridge and cut it into your flour mixture using a pastry cutter or fork, until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs with chunks about the size of peas.
4. Add ¾ cup ice-cold water (if you used buttermilk powder) or buttermilk (if you didn't). Stir until just combined.
5. Transfer your biscuit dough to a well-floured surface and use your hands to gently fold the dough in half over itself, then flatten it down again. Rotate 90° and fold in half again, repeating this step 3-4 times but taking care to not overwork the dough.
6. Flatten dough into a square about 7" wide and about 1" thick.
7. Cut the square into a grid to make 9 square biscuits.
8. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until the tops begin to lightly brown.



We're always looking for more story ideas and volunteer writers for *Hi, Neighbor!* See page 2 for details.

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**Mayor**  
**Satya Rhodes-Conway**

City of Madison

608-266-4611  
[Mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Mayor@cityofmadison.com)

We gathered recently to give the community an update about the State of Public Safety (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93uLtPzpYMs&ab>) in Madison and how our efforts are making a difference. As a city, we are taking a holistic approach to community safety and using data-informed and evidenced-based solutions that focus not only on enforcement, but also on intervention and prevention. These include initiatives like stratified policing, Vision Zero, CARES, and the Violence Prevention Coalition.

With the lowest robbery rates in over a decade and

significant drops in burglaries, the numbers are telling us that our community is safer and our strategies are working. Shots fired have decreased 19% since last year, and more importantly, the number of people struck by gunfire has decreased 35%.

Tragically, we did see an increase in homicides (from 6 to 10), largely driven by domestic violence and interpersonal conflict. One homicide in our community is one too many, so we have more work to do to prevent domestic violence and help people manage conflict in non-violent ways.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing these issues head-on, leveraging inclusive and innovative approaches to create a safer and more vibrant Madison for all. Collaboration between the Madison Police Department, Public Health Madison and Dane County, other City departments, and community organizations will continue to be the foundation of our approach to public safety and violence prevention. You can be a part of the solution too by reporting warning signs of domestic violence in our community through the abuse intervention link ([abuseintervention.org/i-need-help](http://abuseintervention.org/i-need-help)), by locking your home and car doors, and by properly storing your firearms.

Everyone has a stake and a say in keeping our city safe. Help us build a city where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

**Greetings from the Schenk Elementary PTO**

We hope all are well in our community. We have had only one fundraising event so far this year, at Ian's Pizza in the Garver Feed Mill, and it was a success. We would like to invite all our neighbors to our next fundraiser at Ian's on Wednesday, May 29 from 5-9 p.m. Mention you are supporting the Schenk PTO during that time and we receive the "doughnations."

The money raised goes to supporting our school garden and the work we do with the Rooted organization. We hope to see you there!

We will have other fundraisers and activities this spring, so please be sure to check out our public Facebook page. You can always email us at [schenkpto@gmail.com](mailto:schenkpto@gmail.com) with questions or comments.

Best,  
The Schenk Shark Community



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## Supervisor District 24

Sarah Smith

Dane County Board of Supervisors

608-492-0027

[SmithSarah@countyofdane.com](mailto:SmithSarah@countyofdane.com)

### Hi, Neighbors!

I'm Supervisor Sarah Smith, representing District 24 on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Since the last edition of this newsletter, Dane County passed the 2024 budget and took action to advance the Jail Consolidation Project.

The 2024 budget, passed in November 2023, makes great strides in supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. It also thoughtfully and responsibly expends County dollars to invest in Dane County parks and facilities, improve the crisis continuum of care, support renters and expand affordable housing opportunities, invest in economic growth, and so much more. I authored an amendment to the budget to support a nonprofit in our district: Solace Friends, Inc., a hospice care facility for underserved and unhoused individuals. Solace Friends'

compassionate, critical work is important to Dane County. None of our homeless shelters can accommodate terminally ill individuals, and other medical care facilities can't always accommodate unhoused individuals or those with more complex social support needs. My amendment added \$50,000 in funding to support Solace Friends as it began serving its first residents this year.

As for the Jail Consolidation Project, in September 2023 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was opened for bids from construction firms that would like to build it. Only one bid was received, which came in \$27 million over budget. I am frustrated that this project has continued to sap more and more County funds, and I continue to be disappointed that our effort to advance a smaller, more affordable jail project was vetoed by the County Executive back in 2022. After years of challenges that have faced this project, I joined a majority of the County Board in choosing to close the funding gap rather than put it at further risk of higher costs and complexity in the future. I believe we should continue to make every effort to incarcerate fewer people, while ensuring that those who are incarcerated are in a safe facility with medical and mental health services. This project, once complete, will have a smaller overall bed capacity than the current facility by about 20% and will incorporate more options for programming and health services.

I encourage you to sign up for my monthly blog to stay up-to-date with the County Board at [board.countyofdane.com/supervisors/detail/24](http://board.countyofdane.com/supervisors/detail/24).

## Meet District 17's Next County Board Supervisor



By Dan Blazewicz

Dear neighbors of Eastmorland and Lake Edge, My name is Dan Blazewicz. I am running to be the next Dane County Board Supervisor for District 17. While I will be unopposed on the ballot this April 2, it is still important to me that you get to know who I am and what I'm all about.

I happily reside in the Rolling Meadows neighborhood with my partner, Katy, and our son, Clark. Living here has been transformative for me. Through my involvement in the Rolling Meadows Neighborhood Association and the new friendships I've cultivated in this community,

I am inspired to find more ways to contribute and enhance the qualities that make Madison and Dane County the gems that they are.

It is crucial to acknowledge that not everything is perfect. I observe basic needs going unmet, water quality that requires improvement, and an environment that desperately needs our stewardship. By engaging with this community, helping others become involved, and ensuring our voices are heard, we can collectively address and solve our shared challenges.

At the core of all my pursuits is a passion for problem-solving. This drive to find and solve problems is what I bring to my love for rock and ice climbing, my career in supply chain management, and my study of economics. It's also what I am eager to bring to the Dane County Board as the next Supervisor for District 17.

There is more to me than these few paragraphs but, more importantly, there is much more I want to learn about you. I am eager to meet as many of you as possible ahead of April 2, and that engagement will continue after the election. Your perspectives are important to me, so I look forward to hearing from you.

I encourage you to drop me an email or check my website for information about upcoming events and office hours, which will be posted as details become available.

Sincerely,  
Dan Blazewicz  
[dan@danfordane.com](mailto:dan@danfordane.com)  
[danfordane.com](http://danfordane.com)



## County Executive

Joe Parisi

Dane County

608-266-4114

[Parisi@countyofdane.com](mailto:Parisi@countyofdane.com)

### Thanks for Embracing the Dane County Way

This spring will mark 13 years since I was first sworn in as Dane County Executive. Within that time, our community has experienced tremendous change. And while today’s headlines often tout nationwide dysfunction and division, Dane County government has remained steadfast in championing our people and shared future:

- Our staff and partners worked tirelessly to provide timely resources and financial support during COVID-19. From millions in small business grants and food pantry funding, to emergency rental assistance and mass testing/vaccination efforts, we used an all-hands-on-deck approach to help our community rebound from the pandemic’s worst impacts.
- Improving access to behavioral health support through Building Bridges school-based mental health teams and the Behavioral Health Resource Center has benefited thousands of residents. My final budget



## State Representative District 48

Samba Baldeh

Wisconsin State Assembly

608-266-0960

[Rep.Baldeh](mailto:Rep.Baldeh)

[@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:@legis.wisconsin.gov)

### Greetings, Eastsiders!

I am writing to you as the 2023-24 legislative session closes. In this very brief summary, I will try to outline what I view as some of the pluses and minuses of the last 15 months of legislative activity.

Minuses: We did not use the big budget surplus to fairly reduce taxes. The Republican Party’s proposals focused on reducing taxes for the wealthiest folks, with only small changes for the bottom 80% of taxpayers. It also would have left the state unable to pay its bills when the surplus was spent.

I sponsored legislation to return about \$1,000 to each individual tax filer and double that amount for couples. This would be a one-time “rebate” that would eliminate most of the surplus and not disable future budgets.

We did not tackle the cost of healthcare, and the Republicans once again blocked the expansion of

pushes for even greater accessibility by adding crisis counselors to the 911 center and expanding Madison’s CARES program to more communities.

- Since day one, we’ve prioritized protecting our lakes, caring for farmland, providing outdoor recreation, and combating climate change. Our programs within the Departments of Land & Water, Waste & Renewables, and the Office of Energy & Climate Change have made us a national leader and will pay dividends for generations to come.
- We’ve also fortified Dane County’s social safety net. Through my additions of the Office of Immigration Affairs, the Division of Housing Access & Affordability, and the Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity & Inclusion, Dane County government stands ready to serve our most vulnerable and improve outcomes for everyone.

It has been the honor of a lifetime serving the people of Dane County, and I want to thank you for joining me in this endeavor. Your support for county-led initiatives, resilience during unprecedented times, and hope for a better tomorrow have allowed Dane County government to achieve remarkable things.

While my time as Dane County Executive is ending, I have no doubt that if our community sticks together, we will continue to overcome. We will continue to chart our own path. We will continue to build a better, brighter future for all who call this place home.

It’s the Dane County Way.

Medicaid to tens of thousands of people who need coverage. Wisconsin is one of nine states that hasn’t expanded Medicaid.

I am frustrated that the Republican Party blocked all bills that would have made a difference in reducing gun violence. In the same way, we are stymied by the Republican majorities in ensuring women’s reproductive rights.

Pluses: We passed substantial increases in state aid for K-12 education. However, because of how the formulas for aid work, neither the Madison School District nor the city will see much of a change in state assistance.

After a struggle lasting almost 12 years, the Supreme Court struck down “the most gerrymandered maps in the nation.” Wisconsin voters will now have the ability to choose their legislators rather than having the majority party select which voters are most likely to keep them in office.

Possibly the most important accomplishment was working with the Governor to stop numerous bad legislative proposals. Because of our unity, the Republicans did not attempt to override any of the 100 plus bills he vetoed.

Finally, I want you to know how honored and appreciative I am to have the opportunity to represent you in the State Assembly.

If you have any questions or concerns about state policies and programs, please contact me at [Rep.Baldeh@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Baldeh@legis.wisconsin.gov).



# JOIN ECA/LENA TODAY!

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/LENA garage sale and Santa visits. ECA relies on your support.

If you live in the **Eastmorland neighborhood**, you may pay your dues/make a general contribution by completing and mailing this form with your check to ECA, PO Box 14584, Madison, WI 53708 or via PayPal by going to [eastmorland.org](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 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 \(https://lenamadison.org/membership/\)](https://lenamadison.org/membership/) [note: there is a \$1.00 processing fee].

**Note: ECA and LENA are not IRS 501(c)(3) approved organizations, so your dues and**

*Thanks for being an active member of the neighborhood!*

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

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## My Neighbor's Garden



Lou and Terri's garden

(Continued from page 3)

they won't come back. One day one of the owners of the Flower Factory told me I was supposed to leave those! No matter how much reading you've done, it never hurts to ask somebody."

39 years later, Lou and Terri have a colorful mature garden abuzz with many species. A favorite plant is their *Clematis* 'Jackmanii,' trained up a handbuilt trellis on a south-facing chimney. It creates a striking tumble of rich purple blooms every season.

"People will drive by just to look at it, or they stop and ask what it is," says Lou. Throughout our conversation, his stories reflect the way gardens can create community. He's grateful for everything he learned from others and glad to help someone else in turn. In fact, Lou helped me plant my own first perennials, a row of hydrangeas, in 2018.

Lou loves observing the environment around him and solving problems to reach his goals. It's a deep mental engagement he brings to other interests like woodworking and cars.

"But with gardening," he says, "you get on your hands and knees and you're pulling weeds. Something brushes your face, and there's a grasshopper two inches from your eyes. You've become part of the habitat. You're no longer standing out looking over your homestead. You've become part of the scene."

## PFAS Awareness Outreach at the East Madison Community Center

By Regina McConnell, EMCC

The East Madison Community Center (EMCC) is partnering with Public Health Madison & Dane County to increase awareness and knowledge of PFAS, including their impact on human health. Outreach is focused on people who live along or frequent Starkweather Creek and other affected waterways.

What are PFAS? PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a large group of human-made chemicals. They can affect your health at low levels and can accumulate in your body over time. PFAS have been used for over 50 years and are in many everyday products. These chemicals don't break down easily and are now common in our environment. Want to learn more? Visit this link for more information about the presence of PFAS in our community: [publichealthmdc.com/environmental-health/environmental-hazards/pfas/pfas-in-madison-dane-county](https://publichealthmdc.com/environmental-health/environmental-hazards/pfas/pfas-in-madison-dane-county).

PFAS education is not new to EMCC. The Center has been privileged to work with Maria Powell of Madison, who recently passed away from cancer. We are all saddened by her passing and, in her honor, will continue her work of increasing PFAS awareness in the community. Maria worked with several teens at EMCC to teach them about PFAS and increase awareness at the community level. The EMCC PFAS Awareness Team consists of EMCC staff members and several students from Madison College. The outreach program includes presentations, community events, mailings, posting flyers, PFAS bingo, and more. More volunteers are needed for this effort; if you're interested, please reach out to Regina McConnell at EMCC by emailing [rmcconnell@eastmadisoncc.org](mailto:rmcconnell@eastmadisoncc.org).



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