

Hi, Neighbor!

A Newsletter for the Eastmorland and Lake Edge Neighborhoods

Fall 2024

Where to Learn About November's Budget Referendums

By Matt Ledger

This article contains a lot of weblinks (see pg.4) and is best read online.

In the November election, Madisonians will be asked to consider not one, not two, but three separate referendums that, if approved, will result in property tax increases to fund various city and school district budget items.

The City of Madison's referendum, a one-time \$22 million ask, would help maintain City departments and services at their current levels, while the City also pursues long-term funding solutions for future years. The Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) has two referendums: an operational referendum (a \$100 million ask over 4 years) and a facilities referendum (a \$507 million ask over 23 years).

MMSD's operations costs include things like staffing, school programs, and student support services; the facilities referendum's funds would be used to repair and update 10 aging schools.

Your vote on these referendums is important, so it's important that you're well-informed about them. Here are some resources you can use to learn more about both referendums before casting your vote.

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Events

Trick or Treating and Halloween Light-Up Putt Putt Thursday, October 31

Email LakeEdgeNA@gmail.com if interested in hosting a mini golf hole.

Eastmorland Neighborhood Leaf Raking Saturday, November 9, 9 a.m.

Rain date: Sunday, November 10, 1 p.m.
Meet at Olbrich Shelter. Help your neighbors rake leaves from their lawns. Enjoy pizza with other volunteers afterward. To join, email kwhitman@uwalumni.com.

Annual Lake Edge Neighborhood Association Elections Monday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.

Half of the positions will be open for nominations, including President.

Winter Market + Santa Visit Saturday, November 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Eastmorland Community Center, 3565 Tulane Ave.

Neighborhood Cookie Exchange Saturday, December 7

Email marlaj222@gmail.com to participate!

Davies Street/Dempsey Road Reconstruction Project

By Carol Bracewell

This summer, Lake Edge Neighborhood experienced Phase 2 of the Davies Street/Dempsey Road reconstruction project, originally scheduled for 2021. This corridor was considered an unimproved "rural road," with surfaces dating to the 1950s and 60s. However, as a "collector" route, it sees 1,500–2,500 vehicles a day, including a Metro bus route, and many commuter and recreational cyclists.

The project involved not only resurfacing the street but also replacing water mains and sanitary sewers (installed in 1952). Dempsey had some storm sewers before construction, but generally not enough, resulting in poorly controlled runoff. In a 2020 survey, top concerns shared by residents included speeding, access to safe walking routes, cut-through traffic, and the safety of bikers and pedestrians who had to share the road surface with vehicles.

The new infrastructure includes curbs and gutters, a sidewalk on the east side, concrete pads at bus stops, more fire hydrants, and improved lighting. The design took many years and lots of input. The completed project accommodates pedestrians, cyclists, bus riders, and motor-vehicle drivers. Narrower lanes should reduce traffic speeds.

As part of this project, the large intersection at Dempsey/Maher/Pincho/Davies has been redesigned to reduce the amount of pavement and the vehicle speeds around that corner. Now Maher aligns directly with Pincho, increasing safety and visibility. Instead of having a surface bike lane marked only by paint, there is now a ten-foot, shared-use path that puts pedestrians and bikes well away from motor vehicle traffic. This continues the segment north of Cottage Grove Road and safely connects the Pinney library, Lake Edge Park, and Frank Allis Elementary School.

The design is informed by the "Madison in Motion" plan to improve transportation equity, the "Complete Streets" plan to improve safety for all modes of use, and the "Vision Zero Initiative" to eliminate fatal and serious injuries to pedestrians and cyclists. Also, the City's "All Ages and Abilities Bicycle Network" was a prime driver for the off-street path, given the significant Monona Lake Loop bike traffic, plus the bus route. The path also helped minimize grading/tree loss impacts by keeping an overall narrower cross-section of the roadway.

To keep up on future projects in Lake Edge and beyond, visit the Transportation Improvement Plan Map on this City web page: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/streets-paths/transportation-improvement-plan>

Hi, Neighbor!

Fall 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 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.

Triannual Publication Schedule:

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October 2024

Past issues are available online and in color at eastmorland.org and lenamadison.org.

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.

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*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 or the LENA president at LakeEdgeNA@gmail.com.

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VICE PRESIDENT: *Alex Jaeger*
MEMBERSHIP: *Kathleen Connors*
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TREASURER: *Sarah Wilkin*
SOCIAL OUTREACH: *Kate Schultz*
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Contact the Lake Edge
Neighborhood Association at:
LakeEdgeNA@gmail.com

Learn more or join by
visiting our website:
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 for info.

Eastmorland Community Association (ECA)

ECA OFFICERS

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November Budget Referendums

(Continued from page 1)

City of Madison Budget Referendum

The City maintains a [2025 Budget Outlook webpage](#)¹ that contains information about:

- Why the City believes this November's referendum is necessary.
- Other funding sources the City is considering, both if the November referendum passes and if it doesn't.
- What departments and services may be on the chopping block if the referendum does not pass.

[The FAQ at this link](#)² condenses a lot (but not all) of that information into one document.

Outside the City's website, there is a wealth of information to be found about the City referendum. *Isthmus* has run many informative articles about all three referendums; many are available on the paper's [Referendums 2024 page](#)³. If you read only one article, [this one](#)⁴, detailing discussion at the Aug. 6 City Council meeting, is the one to read. It contains opinions for and against the referendum and a rundown of proposed cuts if the referendum does not pass.

The Cap Times has also written plenty about the City referendum. You can find their referendum-related articles using [the Referendum tag](#)⁵. *The Cap Times*' most recent article at the time of writing was [this one](#)⁶.

MMSD Operations and Facilities Referendums

MMSD also maintains a [webpage explaining its referendums](#)⁷. The webpage breaks down both referendums' function and cost, and it also includes a tax impact calculator. You can use the calculator to see your estimated property tax increase over the next four years, if both referendums were to pass.

Both *Isthmus* and *The Cap Times* have also written about MMSD's referendums. *Isthmus*'s articles can, again, be found via their [Referendum 2024 page](#)⁸. [This article](#)⁹ is *Isthmus*'s most comprehensive, while [this article](#)¹⁰ is *The Cap Times*'.

Links Included in Article

- 1: cityofmadison.com/finance/budget/2025/outlook
- 2: cityofmadison.com/finance/documents/budget/2025/BudgetFAQ2025.pdf
- 3: isthmus.com/topics/referendums-2024/
- 4: isthmus.com/news/news/opponents-outnumbered-supporters-for-referendum/
- 5: captimes.com/search/?k=%22referendum%22#tncms-source=keyword
- 6: captimes.com/news/government/madison-faces-these-alternatives-to-address-city-deficit/article_7d514e24-1eaf-11ef-a214-e70b145e7895.html
- 7: madison.k12.wi.us/about/2024-referenda
- 8: isthmus.com/topics/referendums-2024/
- 9: isthmus.com/news/news/funding-requests-for-madison-school-district-on-november-ballot/
- 10: captimes.com/news/education/607m-property-tax-hike-for-madison-public-schools-now-up-to-voters/article_224a2ad6-326a-11ef-9932-9f4c05591fb5.html

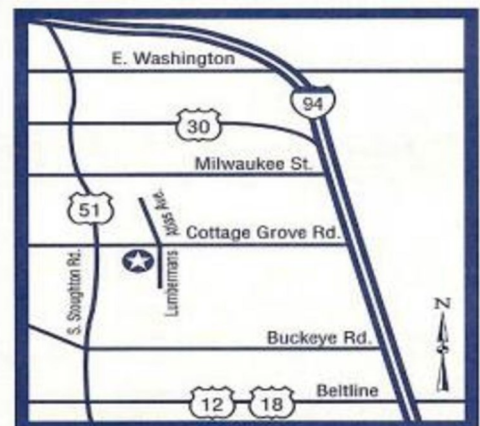
JOIN ECA/LENA TODAY!

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 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 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 contributions are not tax deductible.



Culver's of Cottage Grove
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Holiday Cookie Plates



By Marla Shoop

This year we are continuing the Eastmorland tradition of delivering home-baked goods to our special neighbors who are ill or elderly, or have recently experienced a death of a family member or other cherished person. This year we are adding families that have recently welcomed new babies into their lives.

We are looking for volunteers to bake, assemble cookie plates, and deliver the plates. It is a great activity for anyone to give back to their neighborhood but especially wonderful for families with young children to encourage their volunteer spirit. My son and I in our matching Santa hats delivered cookie plates for many years and it was one of our favorite holiday activities. When we have many volunteers, the tasks become more manageable and fun; in addition, you get a chance to meet more of your neighbors.

To volunteer, preferably send an email to marlaj222@gmail.com or you can text or leave a message at 608-235-4043. Please tell us whether you would like to bake, assemble or deliver and please make sure to include your name, phone number and address. If you wish to bake, do so at your convenience and deliver your baked goods to 3710 Tulane Ave. on Friday, December 6 or between 8-9 a.m. Saturday, December 7. Any amount of cookies is welcome, there is no set amount you must contribute. The assembly of cookie plates will begin at 9 a.m. on Dec. 7 at 3710 Tulane Ave. with delivery taking place later that morning or early afternoon.



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Thank you in advance to all of you who will volunteer to help with the cookie plates this year, as well as all of you who have volunteered or shared information in the past.



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Sandhills in the 'Hood

By Renee Lajcak

Here's a suggestion: The next time you drive down Claire Street, don't look over at the YMCA. Instead, look on the other side of the street, and you might catch something special: a family of three sandhill cranes—father, mother and baby. These three cranes have been hanging out in front of Capital City Living, especially in front of Karen Kinsley's apartment.



That may be because Karen puts out water for them. She has birdseed out, too, but the cranes seem to be more interested in the bugs and worms in the grass.

The cranes come in the mornings and then walk over to the Dairyland Restaurant. One of the Capital City Living residents helps them safely cross Cottage Grove Road. They are also back on Claire Street many afternoons. Karen said she gets excited when they show up. "I take pictures about every day and put them on Facebook," she said. The neighbors enjoy them, too. At Capital City Living, some of the West African healthcare aides who assist disabled residents told me that the cranes are "lovely" and "pretty." Another young resident said they were "cool." One man told me that he loves it when people stop by to take a look.

Karen has been watching the cranes for three years now, and this is not the first baby she's seen. This one is fuzzy with down, meaning it is less than a month old. It also still has black eyes, not yellow, and lacks the red spot on top of its head.

Babies, called "colts," stay with their parents for about 10 months and can't fly until they are 7 to 10 weeks old, but this little one already spreads his stubby, fuzzy wings and hops in anticipation.

While I was visiting with Karen, I could hear the baby peeping quietly and the parents making soft rattling chirps. I made the mistake of walking between the parents on the path instead of around them and earned a hiss. I have to admit it scared me a bit, since they can stab and kick a predator. And after all, I'm only 4 foot 9, so they are nearly as tall as I am! Sandhill cranes are up to 3 feet 11

inches and have a wingspan of 5 to 6 feet 7 inches. They are nothing to fool around with. Although the number of sandhill cranes in the U.S. is over 400,000 now, it still feels like a lucky day when you can see a family and get close enough to hear and photograph them. My final question to Karen was whether she thought they would come again next year. Her response? "I hope so!"



A family of sandhill cranes.

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Karen Ainsley with a sandhill crane.

My Neighbor's Garden: Carrie Breunig and Micah Kloppenburg

By Jennifer Peterson

For this issue's My Neighbor's Garden, I had the pleasure of talking with Carrie Breunig and Micah Kloppenburg in their vibrant garden on the corner of Tulane and Ontario, where they've lived for five years with their 5-year-old Isla, dog Henry, and two chickens.

In their front yard, Micah and Carrie grow rows of their favorite vegetables dotted with cheerful marigolds. In the back, last year's composted pumpkin has contributed a surprise patch of more than twenty pumpkins - a spontaneity Carrie and Micah welcome in the garden. "We want the garden to be fun, not an added stressor!" says Carrie.



Isla showing off some of the garden produce.

Carrie grew up on a small farm surrounded by animals and her mom's generous garden. After college, she lived in urban areas, often renting houses with garden spaces. She has brought the same garlic with her from house to house - she's been growing it for nearly 20 years!

Micah's dad was a community gardener, and while some of Micah's earliest gardening memories are unpleasant - picking potato beetles in the heat, biting into a much-too-hot pepper - he learned the value of growing your own food, and what real food can taste like. He also loves the differing gardening styles on display in community gardens.

On the subject of gardening styles, I had to ask - how do Carrie and Micah make their garden together?

Micah plants deliberately in rows of onions, garlic, and trellised tomatoes, while Carrie has an intuitive approach - see what comes up and plant around it. But they appreciate each other's styles and the balance they've found. Micah brought Carrie a clump of the stinging nettles she loves for their cultural and medicinal qualities, tolerating their stings when he takes the canoe out of storage. Carrie beautifies Micah's rows of vegetables with annuals she grows from seed. Isla enjoys the garden too, helping plant and eating cucumbers off the vine.

Carrie and Micah don't use pesticides or herbicides. The spirit of their garden is welcoming, safe for kids, pets, and wildlife. "I try to make space for all insects in the garden,



Henry (dog) supervising the chickens.

whether I like them or not," says Micah. Carrie adds. "I value the relationship with plants, creatures, and land. It's reciprocal. How you interact with them matters to their health. And Isla has had a pretty cool awareness of life and death that being around gardening and animals gives you from a young age."

Carrie and Micah gave me great advice on growing veggies. "Mulch now or forever hoe your peas!" says Carrie. "Mulching helps you do less watering, less weeding, it builds your soil and saves you time." When I ask which three crops they would put in the hands of a newbie, they suggest garlic, cherry tomatoes, and kale - and, with true neighborliness, send me home with a handful of garlic bulbs and tips for growing them.

If you would like to be interviewed for My Neighbor's Garden, email Jennifer at JenniferPeterson5@gmail.com.



Carrie and Isla enjoying their garden.

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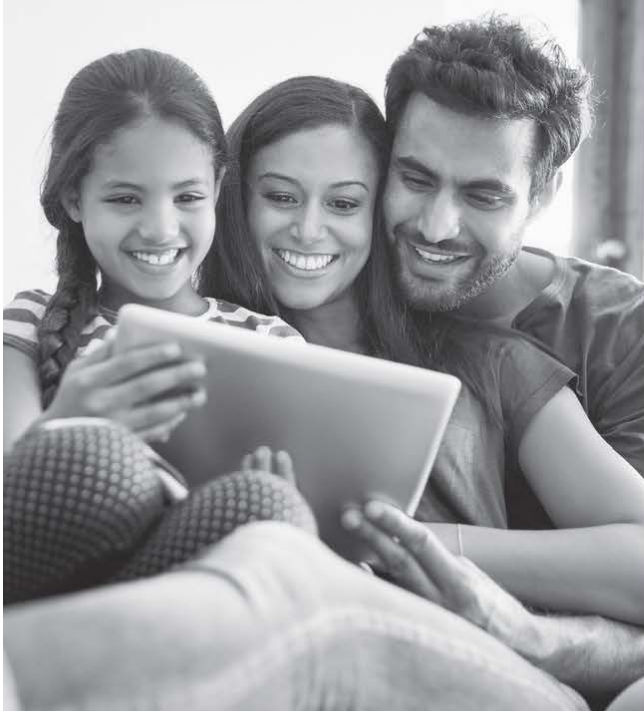
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Ten Tasks to Prepare Your Home for Winter

From Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)

Use this checklist to prepare your home for heating season.

Inside

- Check the batteries in your programmable thermostat. Don't come home to a cold house! Check the batteries before winter weather arrives.

- Check carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. CO is a silent killer. If you have a furnace, fireplace, water heater, or other appliance fueled by natural gas, make sure it is functioning correctly and vented properly. Exhaust fumes from an attached garage can also leak into living areas. CO detectors are inexpensive – just plug them in. They could save your life. (It's also wise to check and/or replace smoke detector batteries regularly.)

- Change your furnace filter. Before the heating season starts, change your furnace filter. MGE also recommends having your heating system inspected and tuned up by an HVAC professional every other year. In addition to ensuring your system is running efficiently, an HVAC pro can help you understand how your specific heating system works and how best to operate and maintain it.

- Clean and inspect the fireplace. Wood-burning fireplaces can get a buildup of creosote in the chimney. Have the chimney checked and cleaned if necessary. Close the damper when not in use.

- Ensure your kitchen ventilation exhausts to the exterior. Ovens and stoves that burn natural gas produce CO as a byproduct, and they typically do not exhaust to the exterior of the house. If you don't have a hood over your stove, a fan in the ceiling, or a down-drafting range that vents to the outside, crack a window. You can also test your oven for CO levels.

- Lock all your windows. This ensures they will stay as airtight and energy-efficient as possible through the winter.

Outside

- Check weatherstripping. Check the weatherstripping around your doors and windows and replace as needed. Leaks around windows and doors not only create drafts, but also waste heat.

- Check and clean gutters. Blocked gutters and downspouts can cause water backup. Clean your gutters of leaves and other tree debris. Check all connections.

- Check and clean dryer venting system. Replace white plastic vent hose with metallic vent pipe.

- Turn off outdoor faucets. Disconnect and drain hoses. Install freeze-proof faucet covers as needed.

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Kids' Corner: Coloring Page



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Autumn Jokes

1. What's the most adorable season?
2. What's the best kind of tree joke?
3. How can you tell when winter is here?
4. What is the hardest Halloween costume to get off?

Answers: 1. Autumn. 2. Acornny one. 3. It's after autumn leaves. 4. Duct tape.



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



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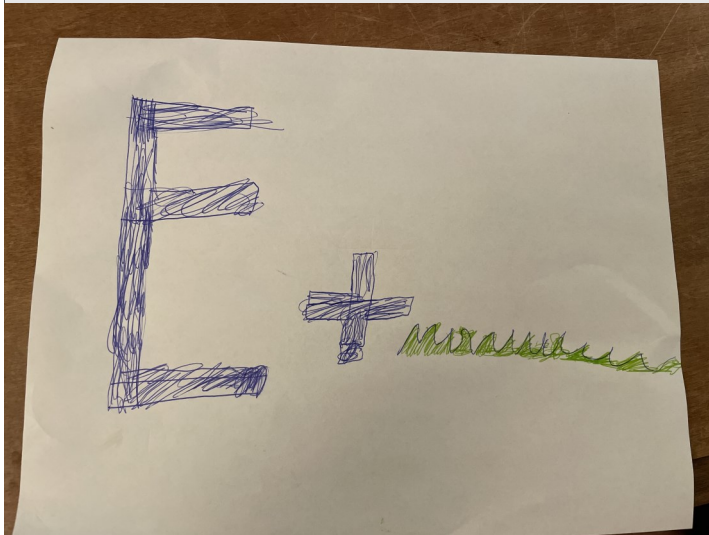
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Eastmorland Flag by Anonymous (age 8).

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Send an image via email to hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com.

Fun Fall for Young Kids

By Sue Carr, Director - Monona Grove Nursery School

Fall is such a wonderful time to explore with your young children: a season for spending lots of time outside, bundling up when the chill sets in, and creating beautiful family memories. Here are some fun outdoor activities to enjoy with your kids this fall! I'll also share some wonderful fall books, new and old, to read with your family.

First and foremost, fall is about leaves and trees. Other than raking them up and jumping in them, leaves can also be collected and made into a book. (See Lois Ehlert's *Leaf Man* for inspiration.) Kids also love tape! Give your kids a long piece of string and let them tape fresh leaves on it to create a garland to hang on your porch or in your window.

Art is so much fun in the fall as well. I call scrunched up leaves "Nature's Glitter." Have your kiddos collect dried leaves in a bag and then use their big muscles to scrunch them up. Hand them a glue bottle and let them make a shape, or help them write their name in glue on a piece of paper. Now, they can pour the leaves onto the glue and shake off the excess. Voila! Their very own art or name!

Another thing I love while walking through the neighborhood in the fall is a scavenger hunt. You and your child can quickly make up all varieties of a hunt— colors, signs of fall, various kinds of trees and leaves, or animals. Or, make a list of the sounds you hear on a walk— birds, planes, leaves crunching, etc. Then go for a walk, and check off the list as you go! (See *The Listening Walk* by Paul Showers.)

Don't forget about two old, classic favorites! Leaf rubbings with unwrapped crayons and leaves with good strong veins can be super fun, and they teach kids how leaves work. Kids also learn about how to push hard and light with a crayon. Finally, leaf pictures ironed between two pieces of wax paper can be a way to preserve the colors of fall and remind kids about how trees looked then compared to how they will look in winter and spring. Hang that piece of wax paper in the window and then watch carefully throughout the year for the colors to emerge like that again! (See *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* and *Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms* by Julia Rawlinson.)

Most importantly, recommit yourself to spending time outside with your kids, doing all that Madison has to offer while enjoying this beautiful season.



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Olbrich Adopt Ice Team Looking for Volunteers

By Pam Blair

The Olbrich Adopt Ice Team works together with the City of Madison Parks Division to start up and maintain the hockey rink off Garrison St. behind Olbrich Gardens during winter months.

The group starts putting down water in late December, once it is below 20 degrees. This work takes place after 4 p.m. and they often work in shifts if it is cold enough to do continued spraying. Once the ice is open for skating then the group maintains the ice 3-4 evenings per week from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. This involves shoveling the rink and putting down several light coats of water.

This season we are needing 3-4 more volunteers to fill out the team.

If you enjoy community involvement, being out in cold weather and being around a great group of people, then we need you. Please contact Madison Parks Volunteer Coordinator John Weichelt at (608) 261-9179 or email pat@blairlandscape.com for assistance signing up to help out.

We encourage volunteers to wear waterproof gloves and to use Yaktrax or another brand of steel spikes or coils on the bottoms of their boots to prevent sliding on the ice. Training and supplies will be provided.



Volunteers (left to right): David Schroeder, Matt Zine, Indi Ceylan, Pam Blair.

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Find Your Third Space at Eastmorland Community Center

By Staci Maresse-Wheeler - Eastmorland Community Center Director

In April, Eastmorland Community Center started a new program called Third Space. Third spaces are places we gather that are not our homes (first spaces) or workplaces (second spaces). Because the Community Center is often unused at regular times on Wednesday and Thursday, we decided to open the space up during those times — so neighbors could meet, work remotely, or stop in and hang out with others for a while.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the Community Center is now open for neighbors to gather, read a book, knit, do a puzzle, have an informal meeting, wait before picking up their children from school, or do some computer work. The Ethical Trading Co. provides complimentary, fair trade tea & coffee, and free WiFi is available. Two laptop computers, provided by DANenet (danenet.org), are also available for neighbors to use as needed during this time. A volunteer host from the Community Center will be present to welcome neighbors and answer any questions about the program.

If you have questions about Third Space, please stop in to the Eastmorland Community Center between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays or Thursdays, or email staci@eastmorlandcommunitycenter.org.



Third Space at the Eastmorland Community Center.

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Come Create at New Community Art Studio



Hello neighbors! My name is Carrie Breunig, and I'm very excited to introduce Kindling Community Arts to our neighborhood. The idea to create a shared art studio has been brewing in my mind for many years, and I've lucked into the amazing opportunity to open a space in the Eastmorland Community Center. Kindling is a place for the artist inside all of us to build creative confidence, explore curiosities, and grow community. We offer play- and process-based arts exploration classes, studio memberships, and space for events and celebrations.

I recently offered my first couple of neighborhood art opportunities, and they were both so lovely! I spent the day at the Eastmorland Community Market, where kids stopped by to help with a collaborative weaving project. Next, I kicked off Kindling's studio offerings with a free community mural painting day. Thirty neighbors came by to help beautify the building. Our youngest artist was one year old! It was a gorgeous day and so good to meet more neighbors. We painted a sun and moon themed mural in honor of the fall equinox. The paintings are on the building and shed facing Ogden Street. Be sure to check them out! Special thank you to mural artist Amy Zaremba for creating the moon design and sharing her talent with us. Check her out at zaremba-art.com.

On November 4, I'm offering No-School Day Art Play for ages 5 to 8. There are still a couple spots open. Check out kindlingcommunityarts.org to sign up and see what else is in store! Looking forward to getting messy with you sometime soon! - Carrie



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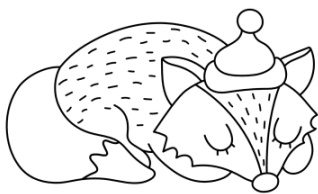
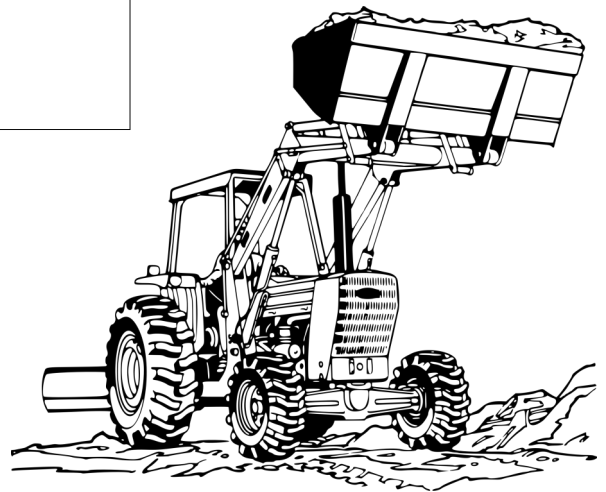
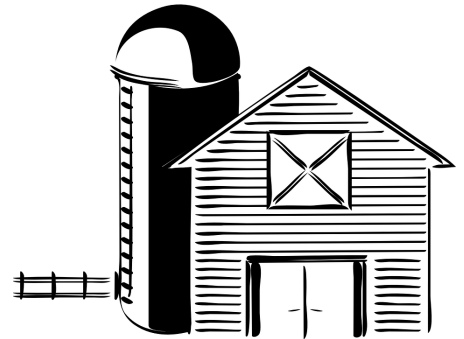
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**State Senator
District 26**

Kelda Roys

Wisconsin State Senate

608-266-1627

Sen.Soyso@legis.wisconsin.gov

Hello neighbors! I'm delighted to serve as your new state senator here in the 26th District. As a legislator and advocate, my first priority is to listen to you, my constituents, and to bring your voices into our state government.

Following the passage of new legislative district maps in February of 2024, I will represent most of Madison, as well as Monona and parts of McFarland. Across the state, these new maps represent an opportunity to move away from the gerrymandered power grabs that have stifled voters' interests for nearly a decade and a half. Legislators should be responsive to their constituents, and my hope is that greater competitiveness and accountability will mean better representation for all Wisconsinites.

In the capitol, I work on a wide variety of issues, but my core guiding principle is that I want everyone to have the opportunity to succeed—and I care deeply about investing in children. No matter where you live, what you look like,

or who your family is, you deserve a great public education, clean air and water, and the chance to reach your full potential. I believe our government should protect our freedoms, guarantee the safety of our communities, and provide equitable public services for all Wisconsinites, and that it should do so in an open, responsive, and transparent manner.

These principles reflect the values I hear my neighbors and constituents expressing over and over at listening sessions in our district, and when I knock on doors all over the state. As your senator, and a member of the Joint Committee on Finance, I will do my best to ensure that your voices and your values are reflected in our budget, in our public policy, and in our government. Our state government can address so many of the challenges that people and communities face, and I am deeply grateful to be able to play a role in solving problems and enacting good legislation.

On too many issues recently, the Republican-led state legislature has been ignoring a directive from a beautiful mural in the capitol proclaiming, "The will of the people is the law of the land." But I am hopeful the next session will see progress on so many issues that voters want to see: from protecting abortion rights to legalizing marijuana, expanding access to affordable health care, funding our public schools and local governments, common sense gun safety reform, combating climate change, and increasing affordable housing.

I look forward to hearing from you and continuing to serve our vibrant, diverse community in the state capitol. Please contact my office anytime I can be of service to you, and thank you for allowing me to be your state senator.



**State
Representative
District 77**

Shelia Stubbs

Wisconsin State Assembly

608-266-3784

Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov

Greetings from the Capitol and thank you for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself: I am State Representative Shelia Stubbs, and as a result of the new fair legislative maps signed into law by Governor Tony Evers as 2023 Wisconsin Act 94 on Feb. 19, 2024, I will be proudly serving you in the 78th Assembly District starting this coming January.

I have served in the Wisconsin State Legislature for six years and previously served for 16 years on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. In 2018 I made history by becoming the first African-American to ever be elected to the State Legislature from Dane County, shattering 170 years of historical precedent. I currently serve as the ranking Democratic member on the Assembly Committee on Corrections, in addition to sitting on the Assembly committees on Tourism, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and

Colleges and Universities.

I have a bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College in political science, a second bachelor's degree in criminal justice management from Mount Senario College, and a master's degree in management from Cardinal Stritch University. Before my career as a full-time legislator, I worked as a senior probation and parole agent, a special education teacher, and a match specialist.

My platform is firmly rooted in our shared values, and I am honored to be your champion in the People's House. Together we will make strides for cleaner air and water, climate justice, reproductive rights, affordable access to healthcare, equity and inclusion, high-quality public education for our children, common-sense gun safety laws, protection for our seniors and most vulnerable neighbors, criminal justice system reform, strong labor protections for working Wisconsinites, and so much more.

I look forward to our partnership this coming legislative session and pledge to continue working hard in the Capitol to encourage a healthier, safer, more supportive Wisconsin for all. I am willing to put in the time and effort necessary to introduce and advance legislation that benefits everyone. If you have questions about the state of the district, suggestions for future policy, or concerns about a particular issue, please feel free to contact my office at Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov or at 608-266-3784. I am here to serve you and welcome your feedback. Together, as a team, we will continue to move Wisconsin forward.



**Dane County
Supervisor
District 24**

Sarah Smith

Dane County Board

608-492-0027

Smith.Sarah@danecounty.gov



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Hi Neighbors!

I'm Supervisor Sarah Smith and I represent our district on the Dane County Board. The Board has dealt with many changes this year, with many new Supervisors joining the board this spring and an interim County Executive taking the reins after the retirement of Joe Parisi. Since her first day back in May, interim County Executive Jamie Kuhn has been shepherding the 2025 Dane County budget through the process which is well under way. Each year, we conduct public hearings in September and receive initial reports from county departments about their needs for the coming year. The County Executive releases their proposed budget on or before October 1, and then the County Board has our opportunity to make amendments and ultimately approve a 2025 budget.

Dane County has a AAA rating by Standard & Poor's and we are in a solid financial position, but our costs are rising along with everyone else's. Our county is facing slower sales tax growth and increases in health insurance expenses for county employees which will impact our approach to this year's budget. During these challenging economic times, I am committed to supporting a budget that efficiently and effectively invests our tax dollars in important programs that make Dane County a green, safe, and welcoming place for everyone to live. Dane County departments provide critical services across the county so it's important that we balance our tight fiscal position with the ongoing needs of our county heading into 2025. Visit board.danecounty.gov/budget to learn more about the budget process.

In October, we also recognized National 4H Week again. As a former 4-Her, I am passionate about bringing civic engagement opportunities to youth in 4-H. I meet with interested youth members to share information about county government and County Board processes and then work with them to draft a special resolution to be considered by the County Board. It's a great opportunity for young people to become direct participants in the civic process and recognize their power to influence government actions.

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) if you have an agenda item, question, or other interest.

We hope to see you there!

Hi everyone, It's finally starting to cool down. As the season change approaches, I'd like you to remember those who need a little extra help preparing and getting through the colder months. If you have a Senior neighbor or a neighbor who might need a little more help, pitch in! I also know that our food banks are getting more use, so doing what you can to help out is always appreciated.

I've been so fortunate to be able to serve you all over the last year and a half. Our city is growing and is outpacing what was expected. Although we have quite a few projects expected to come online, we still find ourselves challenged by costs of building and resources provided by the state. What makes Madison great is not the beautiful blend of old and new. It's not the incredible public art, like Atwood's sidewalk poetry and the murals around the city. It's you! You've made Madison for me. My Madison is the moment I've gotten to share with my neighbors, friends and colleagues. Thank you for making this city so special to me.



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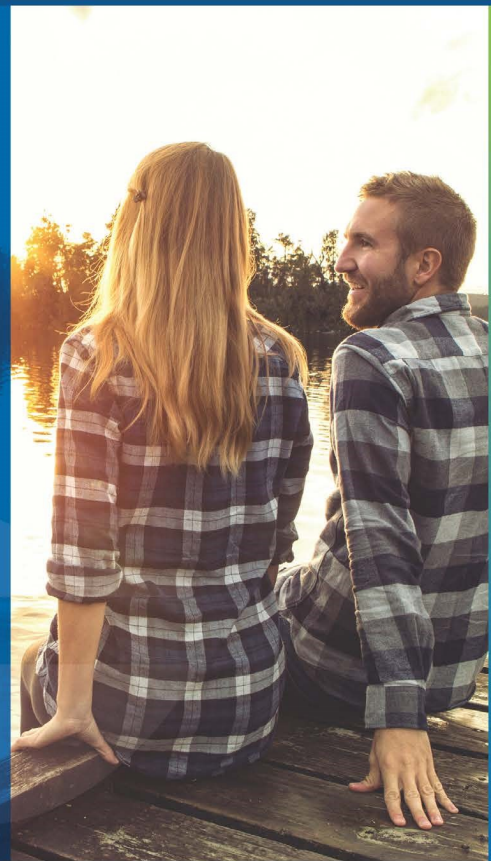
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Wild Turkeys of Eastmorland

By Jennifer Peterson

Photo credit: Christine Bell, Eastmorland



A turkey sheltering her chicks in the Bell's backyard.

My phone dings; it's a text from my neighbor Terri. "Turkeys in your front yard!" I dart to the window to see a hen and six chicks searching unhurriedly for bugs grass. Of course, I can't resist talking to them ("Hi guuuuys!"), even though they can't hear me through the glass—or understand human speech.

For the past few years, Eastmorland residents have had the honor of living alongside a flock of wild turkeys. Each Spring, we welcome a hen and her new brood, noting their whereabouts and habits, the reactions of our dogs, and how many chicks we counted at last sighting. Once the chicks are old enough to fly, the turkeys often roost overnight in a tree in Ross and Christine Bell's backyard. It's become such a tradition that the Bells installed a Turkeys Crossing sign by their driveway.



A turkey appreciating the Bells' signage.

Not only do the turkeys provide endless fodder for discussion among neighbors, watching them has sparked my curiosity. Eastmorlander Marie Wilder Lareau, who has cared for turkeys as a bird sanctuary volunteer says turkeys "have distinct personalities and can make more than 30 different sounds, including barking like a dog!"

To learn more, I reached out to my friend Natalie Miller, Willow Creek Preserve Manager for Glacial Lakes Conservancy in Sheboygan. "When they are teenagers/juveniles, the males are called Jakes and the females are called Jennys," she explains. "The Jakes join up with the mature Toms, following them around and learning from them. The Jennys stay with the hens. They stay in their flocks through Fall and Winter because it keeps them safer from predators and makes finding food easier; but in Spring and Summer when food is more abundant and the vegetation is thicker, the hens break off to make a nest and hatch the babies, so you'll often see hens alone then." When you see evidence that wild turkeys have been in the area, you can tell if they were males or females by observing their feces. Females have round poop while males' is J-shaped.

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What do turkeys do in the winter, I wondered. "They stay here," Natalie told me. "They can handle some snow, though if it gets too deep they will struggle. The big flocks in winter seek out places where the wind keeps the snow depth low, or places where the sun melts first. But they are tough birds!"

I was surprised to learn that Wisconsin's wild turkeys were eliminated in the late 1800s. "It's hard for us to imagine," says Natalie, "but there were none here until the 1970s when the Wisconsin DNR traded ruffed grouse to Missouri in exchange for wild turkeys. Those flocks were released west of Viroqua and they have done spectacularly well."

We're lucky to see a lot of big wild birds in our neighborhood, from turkeys to sandhill cranes, blue herons, and hawks. The turkeys are a good reminder that our community isn't only made up of humans—this neighbor freely wanders up to people's front windows and sleeps in their trees.

Spicy Cheese Bread Recipe

Recipe modified from BrownEyedBaker.com

This recipe makes a huge loaf of a rich brioche-like bread loaded with provolone and Monterey Jack cheeses, and speckled with crushed red pepper flakes.

Ingredients

For the bread:

- 3 1/4 c flour
- 1/4 c granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp instant, rapid-rise yeast
- 1 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 c warm water (110 degrees Fahrenheit)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- 4 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted
- 6 oz each Monterey Jack and Provolone cheese, shredded

For the topping:

- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1 Tbsp unsalted butter, at room temperature

Instructions:

Make the bread: In the bowl of a stand mixer, whisk together the flour, sugar, yeast, red pepper flakes and salt. In a liquid measuring cup, whisk together the warm water, eggs, egg yolk, and melted butter. Add the egg mixture to the flour mixture in the mixing bowl. Using a dough hook, knead on medium speed until the dough clears the bottom and sides of the bowl, 4 to 8 minutes.

Shape the dough into a ball and transfer to a greased bowl, turning to coat the dough. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size, 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Grease a 9-inch round cake pan; set aside.

Transfer the dough to an unfloured work surface and press to deflate. Roll the dough into an 18x12-inch rectangle with the long side parallel to the counter's edge. Distribute the Monterey Jack and provolone cheeses evenly over the surface of the dough, leaving a 1-inch border around the edges. Starting with the edge closest to you, roll the dough into a log, pinching the ends and seam to seal. Roll the log back and forth, applying gentle pressure, until it reaches 30 inches in length. (If the dough tears in any places, just pinch together to re-seal.)

Starting at one end, wind the log into a coil and tuck the end underneath the coil. Place the loaf in the cake pan and cover loosely with a clean kitchen towel. Allow to rise in a warm place until doubled in size, 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Brush the top of the loaf with the beaten egg, then sprinkle with the red pepper flakes. Place the cake pan on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake until the loaf is golden brown, about 25 minutes. Rotate the pan 180 degrees, tent the loaf with aluminum foil, and continue to bake until the loaf registers 190 degrees F, 25 to 30 minutes longer.

Transfer the pan to a wire rack and immediately brush with the softened butter. Let cool for 10 minutes, then run a knife around the edge of the pan and turn the loaf out the wire rack. Cool for 30 minutes before slicing; serve warm or at room temperature. The bread can be kept, wrapped tightly in plastic wrap, at room temperature for up to 4 days.



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