

# Hi, Neighbor!

A Newsletter for the Eastmorland and Lake Edge Neighborhoods

Spring 2025

## New Welcome Garden for Ontario Park

By Micah Kloppenburg

On a sunny fall day, Pam Blair wielded a shovel and directed her slow-moving crew of volunteer neighbors to the flower garden sprawling beneath the wooden "welcome" sign at Ontario Park, which is located between Ontario Street and the bike path behind Pinney Library. More rag rug than red carpet, the garden was in prime need of some sprucing up.

Day 1 saw machinery and muscle to strip the sod, pull the weeds, lay on some compost, and rake the mulch out into an even bed. An errant skid steer kindly dropped three boulders – which were well-placed, according to Pam's experienced eye – for landscape design. Day 2 (or was it the same day and just after lunch?) the gang was back together – trowels down, plants in, water on. To tie together the new mix of native pollinator favorites and horticultural gems, a lonely juneberry was rescued from the Ontario Park lawn and now stands regally over sign



and garden.

Thanks to Pam Blair for championing the garden revitalization project and to the Greener Eastmorland Community Association Fund for the project grant to purchase garden materials!

## Great Grasses, Sweet Sedges

By Jennifer Peterson,  
Eastmorland resident & UW  
Extension Master Gardener

Last February I realized I had officially become a plant nerd when my reaction to seeing that Olbrich Gardens had posted their perennial plug trays for sale and had included a whole tray dedicated to sedges was to actually squeal!

My love of grasses and sedges started with experiencing the sound of wind through grasses and feeling my hand trailing over them while walking in a prairie. In gardens I began to notice the gorgeous contrast between the fine-textured grasses and sedges and neighboring broadleaf plants.

The easiest way to tell the difference between sedges and grasses is to remember that *sedges have edges* - their stems are triangular and you can feel the edges when you roll the stem between your fingers. Grasses have round, hollow stems with nodes (like finger joints) along the length of each stem.

I'm a big fan of switchgrass (*panicum virgatum*), a stalwart of the native tallgrass prairie. It's excellent



*Prairie dropseed (sporobolus heterolepis) used to stunning effect at Olbrich Gardens.*

(Continued on page 10)

## VFW Post 7591: Honoring Legacy and Service – "The Day Post"

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7591, fondly known as "The Day Post," holds a significant place in the hearts of its members and the community. Located in a town where the sacrifices of our service members are deeply valued, this post is a living tribute to those who have served in foreign conflicts. But beyond its role as a gathering spot for veterans, VFW Post 7591 carries a rich history that honors one family's profound legacy of dedication and service.

### The Day Family Legacy

VFW Post 7591 is more than just a meeting place for veterans; it is named after a family that exemplified patriotism and commitment to the country. The Day family, whose military service roots run deep, provided several generations of service members who fought to defend the freedoms we cherish today.

This post stands as a tribute to the Day family's sacrifice and values. It serves as a reminder of their unyielding commitment to the greater good, the bravery displayed by service members in foreign lands, and the strength of the community that rallied around them.

### Honoring the Day Family: Tribute Wall and Raffle

In a continued effort to honor the Day family's legacy, VFW Post 7591 is undertaking a special initiative - a Tribute Wall dedicated to the family. This wall will immortalize their contributions and sacrifices, providing a lasting symbol of respect and remembrance. To fund the

(Continued on page 6)

# Hi, Neighbor!

## Spring 2025

### **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/April 2025*  
*June 2025*  
*October 2025*

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

#### **EDITORS:**

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*Dan Zimmerman*

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Kelda Helen Roys, Kate Schultz, Marla Shoop,  
Sarah Smith, Shelia Stubbs, Kris Whitman,  
Madison Gas & Electric,  
Monona Grove Nursery School*

### **Lake Edge Neighborhood Association (LENA) updates**

#### **Meet the 2025 LENA board**

President: Sarah Wilkin Gibart  
Vice President: Alex Jaeger  
Treasurer: Mallory Musolf  
Secretary: Kathryn Prince  
Membership Director: Kathleen Connors  
Members at large:

Kate Schultz (Communications)  
Nick Heindl (Technical Support)

You can contact us at [lakeedgena@gmail.com](mailto:lakeedgena@gmail.com).

#### **Upcoming Lake Edge Neighborhood Events:**

Join us on April 26th for an Earth Day cleanup at Lake Edge park! This effort will be part of a city-wide Earth Day challenge event. We will also be having a plant and seed share at the cleanup. Bring along some seeds or plants to swap, or just stop by and take home something new!

### **Supporting Greener Eastmorland + Join Us At An Event!**

We have some exciting things going on at the Eastmorland Community Association! Here's how you can get involved:

**Help us pick up trash:** This year, we are trying a new way to clean up our neighborhood this Earth Day! On Saturday, April 19th, take a picture of yourself or your family picking up trash in the neighborhood and we'll enter you into a drawing for a \$50 Ian's Pizza gift card. Go to the Eastmorland Neighbors Facebook page for a post where you can submit your photo on the 19th, or email your photo to [info@eastmorland.org](mailto:info@eastmorland.org) by the end of the day on the 19th to be entered!

**Hang out at the Biergarten:** We have a fundraiser with the Olbrich Biergarten on May 27th (rain date May 28th). Proceeds will go towards the Greener ECA fund.

**Celebrate Pride:** We'll be celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride on June 7th—keep an eye on our website and the Facebook page for upcoming details!

**Join the board:** Elections are coming up this spring! Come join the board. It's a 2-3 hour commitment per month and you get to meet your fellow neighbors and contribute to our wonderful neighborhood. If you're not sure or can't be a board member, you can still attend our meetings and contribute there!

**Donate to or apply for a Greener ECA project:** We've supported multiple initiatives to beautify our neighborhood this year, including supporting native plants along Starkweather Creek, contributing to a bench swing at the new Olbrich Park playground, supporting the Guns to Garden tools event at the Eastmorland Community Center, and supporting plantings by the Ontario Park sign. Donate or apply for a grant at [eastmorland.org](http://eastmorland.org).

## Lake Edge Neighborhood Association (LENA)

### LENA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: *Sarah Wilkin Gibart*  
VICE PRESIDENT: *Alex Jaeger*  
MEMBERSHIP: *Kathleen Connors*  
SECRETARY: *Kathryn Prince*  
TREASURER: *Mallory Musolf*  
COMMUNICATIONS: *Kate Schultz*  
TECHNICAL SUPPORT: *Nick Heindl*

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: *Brian Juchems*  
TREASURER: *Dan Zimmerman*  
([zimmerman\\_dan@hotmail.com](mailto:zimmerman_dan@hotmail.com))

### DIRECTORS

*Holly Cho, Betsy Elsmo,  
Joel Sacramento, Kris Whitman*

MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING: *Dan Zimmerman,*  
608-241-1158, [zimmerman\\_dan@hotmail.com](mailto:zimmerman_dan@hotmail.com)

ECA WEBSITE: *Dan Glassman,*  
[dan.glassman@gmail.com](mailto:dan.glassman@gmail.com), [communications@eastmorland.org](mailto:communications@eastmorland.org)

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*

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## 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 [lenamadison.org/membership/](http://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.**

*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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## What Should I Do If I See A Coyote?

In general, coyotes keep to themselves, and you should just let them go about their business. You may even want to enjoy watching the coyote(s) from a safe distance. However, in certain circumstances their behavior may become concerning, and you'll need to take action.

Coyote behavior can be concerning when they start appearing regularly during daylight hours and not moving

away from humans. They may act aggressively towards humans and/or domestic pets.

If you see a coyote and its behavior is concerning, try hazing it. Make yourself as big as possible, wave your arms, and shout at it. You can also use a whistle or other noisemaker, throw objects in its direction (but not at it!), or squirt it with a hose. If the animal continues to approach or becomes aggressive, leave the area and call 608-255-2345. Avoid hazing a coyote if it's injured, sick, or has pups. Hazing is a community effort and only works well when everyone does it!



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## Mark Your Calendars for Fall 2025 Leaf-Raking Event



*By Kris Whitman*

Thank you to the 38 dedicated volunteers associated with the Eastmorland Community Association (ECA) who raked 24 yards in fall 2024 for neighbors who were physically unable to do so. Each year for the past two decades, this successful event has brought people together to provide a much-needed service—and then we celebrated with an ECA pizza party!

Please mark your calendars for the fall 2025 event—our 21st year—to rake yards for our neighbors in need. Meet at the Olbrich Park/Walter Street Picnic Shelter at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 8 (rain date: 1:00 pm on Sunday, November 9); we will assign routes and disperse in small groups from there.

Immediately after raking, all 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 am on Saturday or 3:30 pm 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 home) on the list to be raked in the fall, please call or text Kris Whitman at 608-228-6654. Thank you!



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## VFW Post 7591: Honoring Legacy and Service – "The Day Post"

*(Continued from page 1)*

construction of this tribute, the post is hosting a raffle, and the community's participation is essential to making this vision a reality.

### Raffle Details

Tickets for the raffle are being sold for \$20 each, with all proceeds going toward the Tribute Wall's creation. The raffle is open to everyone, and winners will take home some amazing prizes. But the real reward is the opportunity to contribute to something that will forever honor a family that gave so much to our country and community.

The big reveal of the Tribute Wall, alongside the drawing for the raffle winner, will take place over Memorial Day weekend. This is a time of remembrance for those who have served and sacrificed, and the event

promises to be a moving and meaningful occasion for all involved - our veterans, their families, and our community. Whether you're a veteran, a family member, or someone who simply wants to show their respect, your participation in the raffle and your attendance at the Memorial Day event will be a meaningful way to honor the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

This year, Memorial Day weekend will be more than just a time for reflection - it will be an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate the strength, courage, and patriotism of veterans and the Day family. We invite you to join us in this special tribute, support our raffle, and help us honor the people who have given so much for our freedom.

### How to Participate

- **Raffle Tickets:** Are available for \$20 each at VFW Post 7591.
- **Raffle Drawing and Tribute Wall Reveal:** The raffle winner will be drawn and the Tribute Wall will be revealed during a special Memorial Day weekend ceremony.
- **Support the Cause:** All proceeds from the raffle will go toward funding the Tribute Wall, ensuring the Day family's legacy is forever etched into the history of VFW Post 7591.

## Home Heating Fiction and Facts

*From: Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)*

**Fiction:** It costs as much or more to heat a home back up after a thermostat setback (or to cool the house after a summer setup).

**Fact:** For a gas-fired furnace or boiler, the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more heat you save. If you have a heat pump or radiant floor heating, setbacks are not recommended.

**Fiction:** The house will warm up faster the higher the thermostat is

raised.

**Fact:** The thermostat isn't like the gas pedal on a car. It's either calling for heat or not, so setting the thermostat too high may cause you to overshoot the desired temperature.

**Fiction:** The kids will kick off the covers and get cold.

**Fact:** Children older than about two weeks can regulate their body temperature just like adults, so they don't need different temperature settings. If they kick off the covers, try using a sleeping bag.

### Energy-Saving Benefits

**For your heating bills:** By setting back 1°F for 8 hours, you will save 1%. Bigger setbacks save even more.

**For our community:** If we all set back our thermostats by 1°F this winter, we could save enough gas to fuel about 4,600 households.

MGE recommends 68°F\* when you're home and 60°F\* when you're gone or sleeping.

\*Or as low as health and equipment permit. Check the owner's manual for recommended temperature settings and if turning down the temperature for more than 24 hours.

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## Common Space for the Common Good.

### Eastmorland Community Center kicks off capital campaign for property development project.

Exciting news! We are close to breaking ground on the Eastmorland Community Center and workforce apartment housing on “the triangle” at 3565 Tulane Ave.

Our new community center will be a hub for the collaborative life of the neighborhood. A place for us to connect, create, and celebrate our shared lives here in Madison. We envision a center filled with light and plants, laughter and care, peace and coziness. The ECC will be a place to build relationships, explore creative pursuits, create networks of care, and strengthen our civic fabric.

ECC is currently home to a host of community groups that are all very excited to see this project move forward. The building is scheduled to be taken down in August 2025, followed by one year of construction. In the fall of 2026, we hope to be moving into a brand new facility!

The next huge stage in this project is our capital campaign. We explored feasibility through a series of interviews with neighbors (thank you!) who offered great insight and support. Those interviews and the encouragement of some larger foundation donors gave us the confidence to set our campaign goal at \$1.5 million.

Our capital campaign, “**Common Space for the Common Good**” will raise money to do three things:

1. Provide the funds needed to have a 20% down payment for the construction loan.



2. Fund design work and furnishings for the community center and grounds. (Lighting, audio equipment, commercial kitchen, food pantry, furniture, landscaping, etc.)
3. Stabilize staffing and operating costs for the Eastmorland Community Center.

We will be asking for donations from neighbors, Common Grace church, local foundations, and businesses in the larger community. Pledges can be spread out over a three-year period of commitment or can be given all in one donation. Gifts of stock or estate planning options are welcome.

To learn more about the project and what goes on at ECC, or to make a donation:

- Visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/eastmorlandcommunitycenter/plans-for-the-future/capital-campaign>
- Contact [marie@eastmorlandcommunitycenter.org](mailto:marie@eastmorlandcommunitycenter.org)



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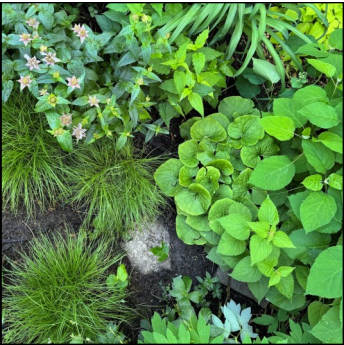
## Great Grasses, Sweet Sedges

(Continued from page 1)

grouped, at the back of a border, or as a vertical punctuation among other perennials. And it does great things for the environment:

- Sequesters carbon (captures carbon from the air and stores it in its deep roots, which helps offset climate warming)
- Stabilizes soil; prevents erosion and runoff
- Provides cover and nesting sites for birds, mammals, and butterflies

*Panicum virgatum* combines beautifully with native plants like prairie coneflower, black-eyed susan, bee balm, and big bluestem (*andropogon gerardii*), another glorious prairie grass. Leave your switchgrass up through winter for wildlife shelter and winter interest!



*Carex 'Hexe' (bottom left) is tough and offers lovely textural contrast to the plants around it.*

• A standout is 'Northwind,' selected from wild seed by Northwind Perennial Farm near Lake Geneva. It's 5' tall and vigorously upright with blue-green stems turning gold in fall. (If you've not yet been out to Northwind Perennial Farm, I highly recommend you take your best gardening buddy and make a morning

of it!)

- Another variety, 'Cloud Nine,' grows 7-8' tall and is a great alternative to invasive *miscanthus* varieties.

From grasses, it's only a small leap to sedges, the back-up singers of the garden, which can be used as accents or living mulch.

- *Carex laxiculmis* 'Hobb', aka Bunny Blue, has strappy blue foliage.
- *Carex eburnea* and *Carex* 'Hexe' are fine-textured and drought-tolerant.
- *Carex pennsylvanica* makes a great lawn alternative; I like to plant a sea around the base of a small tree.
- Prairie Nursery online and our local Two Ferns nursery are great sources for sedges.

If you want to do a little something good for the world, consider planting native grasses and sedges. Our wildlife (and your senses) will thank you!

*Olbrich Gardens plug tray sale:*

<https://olbrich.square.site>

*Northwind Perennial Farm:*

<https://www.northwindperennialfarm.com>

*Prairie Nursery: www.prairienursery.com*

*Two Ferns Nursery: www.twofernsmadison.com*

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## Monona Grove Nursery School Moving to Lake Edge Lutheran Church

*Submitted by Monona Grove Nursery School*

Monona Grove Nursery School (MGNS), a beloved cornerstone of early childhood education in the greater Madison area for over 65 years, is thrilled to announce it will soon begin a new chapter at Lake Edge Lutheran Church, located at 4032 Monona Drive. This exciting move marks the beginning of an important transformation, ensuring MGNS can continue to provide high-quality, play-based learning for generations to come.

The new location, just down the street from MGNS's current facility, offers an ideal space that will support and expand the school's mission of fostering growth, creativity, and joy in young learners. Indoor and outdoor areas are being carefully designed to reflect the core values of play-based learning, creating a nurturing environment where children can explore, discover, and thrive.

Since 1958, MGNS has been dedicated to a play-based, parent cooperative model for our youngest learners. "We are thrilled to continue that legacy just down the street from our current location," said Sue Carr, Director of MGNS. "This move would not have been possible without the incredible support of our new landlord, Lake Edge Lutheran Church. We are grateful for the welcoming spirit of our new community and look forward to many years of partnership."

Pastor Justin Dittrich of Lake Edge Lutheran Church



also expressed joy at the new agreement. "We are honored to partner with an institution that has provided quality care for our neighborhood for so many years. We are looking forward to the transformation of our building and our community for the sake of children and their families."

The MGNS team has worked tirelessly to make this transition a reality. From the teachers' dedicated efforts to parents' invaluable support, the MGNS community has been instrumental in ensuring this move will be smooth and successful. The school's Board of Directors has provided essential leadership throughout the process, and together with Director Carr, they have made sure every detail was thoughtfully considered to support students' needs.

"A special thanks is also extended to Threshold Builds, whose expertise in building transformation has been pivotal in bringing the vision for the new space to life. Their community-focused work has made it possible for MGNS to expand and enhance its educational environment, ensuring the school can continue to serve the community for another 65 years," adds MGNS Project Manager Claire Shurtz.

*(Continued on page 16)*

# WOODMAN'S

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## 2024 Holiday Cookie Plate Extravaganza

*By Marla Shoop*

We had a wonderful turnout in December from young and old alike: baking, plating and delivering cookies and holiday cheer throughout Eastmorland to our fellow neighbors. We have neighbors that return year after year to help out and every year new neighbors join in to help prepare, plate, and share the festivities. We appreciate everyone's efforts on behalf of our neighborhood.

By including families with new babies into our delivery schedule we boosted our number of plates to assemble and deliver. We delivered 51 plates to neighbors which is up from last year. Extra plates were also delivered to Olbrich Gardens, Madison police and fire stations, Pinney



library, ECC, and Solace.

I would like to add my own special thanks to Carly H, Scott H, Seth J, Lisa N and Steve M for jumping in and taking over final execution of the Cookie Plate Extravaganza at the last minute when I had to be out of town due to my father's death. Their extra efforts are truly what good neighbors and connected neighborhoods

*(Continued on page 19)*



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## Meet District 15 Alder Candidate Ryan Koglin

Hi neighbors,  
I'm Ryan Koglin, and I'm running to be District 15 Alder because I believe in the power of community and the importance of open, transparent leadership. Our neighborhoods and communities are built on strong connections, engaged residents, and a shared commitment to making this a great place to live. I want to ensure that your voice is heard and that decisions affecting our district are shaped by the people who call it home.

## Eastmorland & Lake Edge Neighborhood Park Cleanup

**Who:** YOU and your neighbors

**What:** Collect trash and beautify your neighborhood

**Where:** Local parks in Eastmorland & Lake Edge

**When:** Saturday, April 19th 2025 - any time!

**Why:** Enter for a chance to win a **\$50 gift certificate** to a local business by sharing a photo of your cleanup crew with the trash you collected! (winner chosen randomly)

**Enter your photos into the drawing by:**

- emailing them to [info@eastmorland.org](mailto:info@eastmorland.org)
- look for a post on 4/19 on Facebook's "Eastmorland Neighbors" group page and share your photo in the comments



For over 15 years, I've lived on the Near East Side, run a small business here, and worked alongside neighbors to strengthen our community. As President of the SASY Neighborhood Association, I've been actively involved in local issues—helping to bring people together, advocating for responsible development, and working to ensure that residents have a seat at the table when it comes to decisions that impact them. Now, I want to take that experience and dedication to the next level as your alder.

Community engagement is at the heart of my vision. I believe leadership should be about listening, learning, and making decisions with the people, not just for them. I will prioritize open communication and ensure that everyone—longtime residents, new neighbors, renters, and homeowners alike—has access to information and a way to be involved in shaping our future.

I will advocate for policies that enhance our shared spaces, strengthen neighborhood connections, and reflect the values of the people who live here. District 15 is a place where people care about their neighbors, and I want to ensure that this sense of community remains strong as we grow and evolve.

I am ready to work for you and with you to ensure our community remains vibrant, welcoming, and well-represented. I would be honored to earn your vote on April 1st.

Ryan Koglin for District 15 Alder  
Listen. Learn. Advocate.

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**State Representative District 76**  
**Francesca Hong**  
 Wisconsin State Assembly  
 608-266-5342  
[Rep.Hong@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Hong@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Hello, Lake Edge and Eastmorland!  
 I'm Francesca Hong, your Democratic Representative for Wisconsin's 76th Assembly District.  
 I'm excited to share that the legislative session is officially underway, and I'm eager to champion the critical issues for which you elected me to fight. From securing funding for public schools and childcare assistance to expanding mental health services, I'm committed to advancing our progressive values.  
 Our first major task in the legislature is passing the biennial budget—a constitutional responsibility that ensures state government operations are properly funded. This process began last fall when state agencies assessed their funding needs, either to improve existing services or introduce new ones, and submitted their requests to the State Budget Office.

Governor Tony Evers then reviewed these requests, held listening sessions across Wisconsin to hear from communities like yours, and crafted his Executive Budget Proposal.

On Tuesday, February 18th, Governor Evers addressed the legislature and unveiled his proposal. Now, the legislature's Joint Finance Committee will take up the budget, making revisions, adjustments, and potentially removing certain provisions before the proposal is voted on by the Assembly and Senate. After that, it heads back to Governor Evers for his signature—or potential vetoes.

As part of this process, the Joint Finance Committee will also hold public listening sessions this spring, giving Wisconsinites like you the chance to share your priorities directly with legislators.

With an expected state budget surplus of approximately \$4.3 billion, we have the resources to make real investments in the issues that matter most to you. I encourage you to make your voice heard throughout this budget-writing process.

To find out when and where these listening sessions will be held, visit: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/committees/joint/2920>.

I look forward to working alongside you to build a stronger, more equitable Wisconsin. As always, my office is here to listen—please don't hesitate to reach out.

In service and solidarity,  
 Francesca Hong



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District 77**

**Shelia Stubbs**

Wisconsin State Assembly

608-266-3784

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

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

Dear Neighbors in the Lake Edge and Eastmorland Neighborhoods,

Greetings from the Capitol! I am State Representative Shelia Stubbs, proudly serving you as the Representative for the 78th Assembly District. I would like to take this opportunity to share some recent updates from my office.

On January 6, I was sworn in as the Representative for the 78th Assembly District. I am excited to work with my new and continuing constituents to create legislation that improves the lives of all Wisconsinites. I will also continue my leadership on bills that fully fund our public school systems in Wisconsin, implement common sense gun safety policy, conserve and protect our environment and natural resources, reform our criminal justice system, protect and expand the rights of labor for living-wage jobs, and ensure all Wisconsinites have access to high-quality and affordable healthcare and mental health services.

On January 22, I was selected to escort Governor Evers to the dais for his State of the State address. In his address, Governor Evers proposed investments in public education, community safety, and crime victim support services, declaring 2025 to be the Year of the Kid. After the tragic

shooting at Abundant Life Christian School in my district earlier this winter, the need for common-sense public safety policy has become an increasingly urgent priority and one that I will continue to fight for as I represent the 78th Assembly District. I am proud to share that Governor Evers recently signed Executive Order #254, creating the Office of Violence Prevention. I have advocated for the creation of such an office for years, and I look forward to seeing the positive impacts this initiative will have on reducing violence throughout the state.

Additionally, I would like to wish all Wisconsinites a happy Black History Month! As the first African American elected to the State Legislature from Dane County, ensuring that Black history is celebrated in our Capitol is especially important to me. On February 4, alongside my fellow Legislative Black Caucus members, I hosted our Black History Month kickoff, in which we recognized a few of our outstanding community leaders and the work they have done for our great state of Wisconsin.

Finally, on February 18, Governor Evers delivered his budget address and released his 2025-2027 Executive Budget. This budget cycle, I advocated for measures that will promote healthy mothers and babies, prevent violence and crime in our communities, champion environmental justice and equity, and reform our criminal justice system.

Some of the bills I have previously introduced that Governor Evers included in his budget include: funding for sales and use tax exemption on breastfeeding equipment, coverage for postpartum care, Universal Background Checks on Firearms, funding for a Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force, statewide establishment of community reentry centers, removing criminal penalties for the recreational use of marijuana, expansion of the earned release program, and funding to help law enforcement manage behavioral health crises.

As always, please feel free to contact my office at [Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov) or by phone at 608-237-9178 if you have questions about the state of the district, suggestions for future policy, or concerns about a particular issue. I am honored to serve you and welcome your feedback.

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**State Senator  
District 26**

**Kelda Roys**

Wisconsin State Senate

608-266-1627

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

Dear neighbor,

As the new legislative session gets underway I will again be advancing legislation to create economic opportunity for families, bring down costs for healthcare, housing, and childcare, and protect our rights.

I will continue to serve on the Joint Committee on Finance, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, and the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

I am regularly asked how to keep track of what is happening at the legislature. With limited new coverage of state issues, it can be hard to stay "in the loop,"

especially as the majority party provides very little notice when legislation is scheduled for hearings or votes. You can sign up for my newsletter on my website, or follow me on social media, and there are good independent and nonpartisan organizations that track legislative action, like the Wheeler Report, as well.

One great option is to sign up for the Wisconsin State Legislature Notification System: <https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov/login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

This is an easy way to stay up to date on legislation you are interested in. You can sign up for notifications about specific keywords like "child care" or "housing" or "abortion," general subjects like "insurance" or "environmental protection" or "reproductive health," or specific bills or committees, like the Joint Committee on Finance.

Our office is here to help you navigate state government, and to bring your voice into the capitol. Thank you for allowing me to be of service to you and our community. In the most recent election Democrats picked up four seats in the state senate, breaking the GOP supermajority, and setting up the state for more responsive government and a Democratic majority in two years.



**Dane County  
Supervisor  
District 17**

**Dan Blazewicz**

Dane County Board

608-729-4504

[Blazewicz.Dan@danecounty.gov](mailto:Blazewicz.Dan@danecounty.gov)

Hello Neighbors,

As I conclude my first year representing District 17 on the Dane County Board, what stands out most to me is the sustained engagement I see and hear from the folks of the district and county. Whether you have attended public meetings, reached out to me directly, or simply participated in a community event, those efforts are our strength and absolutely help guide the priorities. I wholeheartedly thank you all and encourage more of the same.

The past year presented some definite challenges, especially in regards to budget deliberations. Reduced sales tax revenue growth in the face of rising costs

resulted in a tighter fiscal situation. This required some difficult decisions. Despite these constraints, I am proud of what Dane County staff, interim County Executive Jamie Kuhn, and the Dane County Board was able to accomplish. Just to name a few items that represent core priorities of mine and that I also consider big wins for Dane County, we passed funding for affordable housing, community land trusts, wetland restoration, land conservation, and PFAS remediation. There is always more to do of course, but being a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars does not mean throwing principles to the side.

Looking to the year ahead, we will face some of the same challenges. The fiscal situation is not projected to be any better, and now uncertainty at the national level has many of us on edge. That said, 2025 still affords opportunities for District 17 and Dane County to make its voice heard. Public hearings on the 2026 budget will be scheduled in September and October. There will be numerous opportunities to weigh in as the process unfolds. Lastly, a very important spring election on April 1st will determine control of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The consequences of the outcome of that election cannot be overstated.

**Monona Grove Nursery School Moving to  
Lake Edge Lutheran Church**

*(Continued from page 11)*

The move to Lake Edge Lutheran Church represents not only an exciting new beginning, but also a continued commitment to the Madison area and its families, especially on the east side and in the Lake

Edge Neighborhood. MGNS is looking forward to building strong connections with its new neighbors and continuing its proud legacy of serving this community. MGNS is moving full speed ahead over the next several months in the hopes we will be able to start the '25-26 school year in our new location. We welcome any input or ideas the neighborhood wants to share (email [director@MGNS.org](mailto:director@MGNS.org)), and we are joyfully, playfully looking forward!





## Dane County Supervisor District 24

Sarah Smith

Dane County Board

608-492-0027

[Smith.Sarah@danecounty.gov](mailto:Smith.Sarah@danecounty.gov)

Hi Neighbors!

I'm Supervisor Sarah Smith and I represent district 24 on the Dane County Board. In the last newsletter, I highlighted the leadership changes in the county with new supervisors joining us and an interim County Executive taking the reins before we welcomed County Executive Melissa Agard to her new post at the end of the year.

While we've experienced some changes in county government, the chaos and disruption at the federal level have been one of the most impactful occurrences in 2025 so far. As a member of the Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee I raised concerns about the impact illegal federal freezes may have on our farmers, conservation efforts, and other projects. The county's

Land and Water Resource Department alone is counting on \$15 million in federal funding for their critical projects. Thirty-five percent of the county's entire budget is made up of intergovernmental revenues, which includes federal funding sources. As we head toward what promises to be a challenging 2026 county budget cycle, it will continue to be a priority of mine to account for the projects, staff, and programming under threat, thanks to the reckless decisions at the federal level that may put our community at risk.

In more positive news, the county's innovative Sustainability Campus and new landfill project continue to move forward. In January, the Department of Waste and Renewables issued a Request for Information (RFI) to collect information from potential Campus partners about ideas, technologies, and operations that would advance sustainability, educate the public, create jobs, and reduce waste, while generating marketable products such as raw materials, recycled products, and energy. RFI responses were due at the end of March and the first phase of construction at the Sustainability Campus will begin in Spring 2026.

Dane County will continue to stand for conservation, advance scientific innovation, and promote the health and safety of our community regardless of harmful rhetoric and decision-making at other levels of government.

## Dane County Senior Nutrition Program Delivers in More Ways Than One

*By Dane County Department of Human Services Interim Director Astra Ihekumere*

Did you know there are 28 Dane County senior dining sites where people age 60 and older can meet to have a nutritious meal on a donation basis? The benefits of our community's programming include balanced and nutritious meals, a wide variety of food items, supportive services, company to share the meal with, activities before/after the meal, door-to-door transportation, and increased movement.



Astra Ihekumere

When asked about the program, one local senior said, "I absolutely love it. It's just a great program. I greet the seniors as they come in, check in with them, and chat with them. The food is absolutely delicious."

A registered dietitian assists in meal planning and ensures the meals provide one-third of the recommended daily allowance and dietary reference intake needed by aging adults. These meals follow the dietary guidelines for older adults by providing a protein, vegetable, fruit, bread, milk, and dessert.

For those who are homebound, a nutritious meal can be delivered by a volunteer who provides a safety check. A four-year volunteer delivery driver with the program said, "I enjoy working and delivering to them. Some folks are more talkative and really enjoy the social interaction with the driver. Some just want to take their food and go back into their house, and that's fine too."

One-on-one nutrition counseling is also available to

those seeking information on ways to improve their overall health. Older adults who reside in areas served by Dane County's Senior Nutrition Program are eligible to meet with a registered dietitian to discuss nutrition-related questions or difficulties. There is no charge for this service, but contributions are always welcome.

From door-to-door transportation to one-on-one nutrition counseling, Dane County's Senior Nutrition Program delivers in more ways than one. Check out our webpage ([danecountyhumanservices.org/Disability-and-Aging/Senior-Services/Senior-Nutrition-Program](https://danecountyhumanservices.org/Disability-and-Aging/Senior-Services/Senior-Nutrition-Program)) to learn more about programming, view service locations, hear other testimonials, and more.



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**Satya Rhodes-Conway**

City of Madison

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

It's particularly important to acknowledge this now. Essential services Madison families depend on are being defunded. This is wrong. We are all being harmed and the City of Madison is deeply disturbed by the lack of respect for human dignity exhibited by some of the federal government's actions. It's also important that people know their legal rights and stay informed. The ACLU and other organizations have guidance on these topics: <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>.

Please be mindful not to spread false or misleading information online. It fuels additional fear and panic during an already tense time.

We know that our community is stronger when it welcomes everyone. Madison benefits tremendously from immigrants and individuals of all racial, ethnic, religious, and gender identity backgrounds. They study and learn besides us; run the small business we cherish and depend on; and most importantly, enrich our city with different ideas, perspectives, and culture. They are our neighbors, coworkers, and friends. Madison stands with them and will continue to be a welcoming community to all.

**Madison is a Welcoming Community**

With the flurry of news out of Washington, D.C., I'd like to take a moment to reassure residents. We want everyone in our community to know—regardless of who you are or where you come from—your City government welcomes and values you. The diversity of our community is part of what makes the City of Madison a great place.

**2024 Holiday Cookie Plate Extravaganza**

*(Continued from page 12)*

are all about and why we are so lucky to have each other.

Thank you to additional volunteers: Carrie E, Caitlynn B, Sandra H, Carol R, Marla S, Carly H, Victoria E, Connie S, Nicole M, Penny S, Caroline S, Alison D & family, Karen R, Brooke B, Jenny M, Dana F, Tori D,

Holly C, Nicole K, Gina B, Michelle, Rose F, Hanna K, and Emily S. If you don't see your name, please accept my apologies and use the contact information below to make sure I get you added to our list.

We depend on neighbors letting us know who is in need. Throughout the year, please email Marla Shoop at [marlaj222@gmail.com](mailto:marlaj222@gmail.com) or call/text 608-235-4043 with information on illnesses, deaths, new babies, people moving out and new neighbors to welcome.

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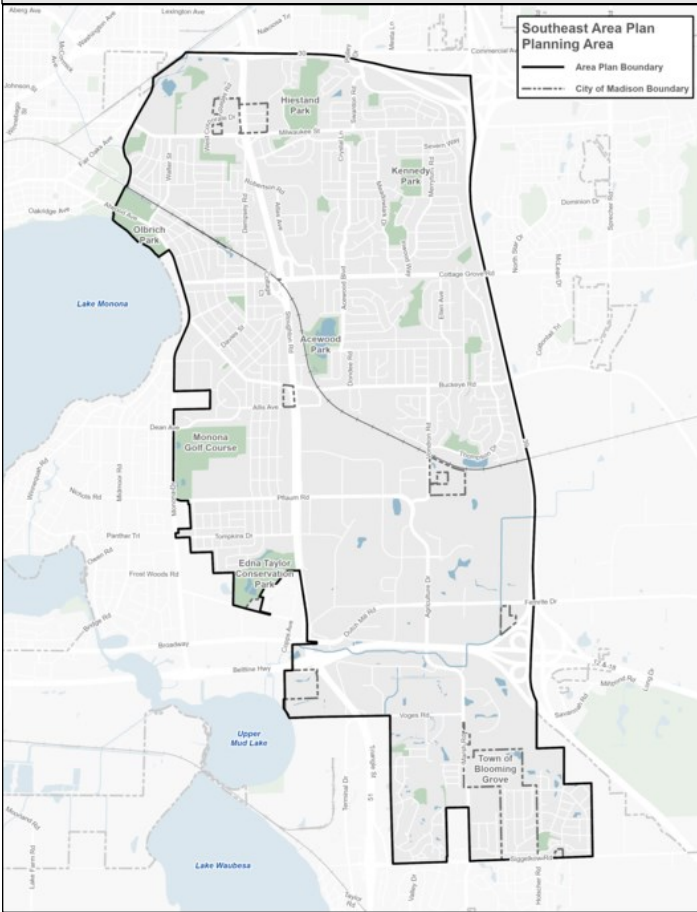
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# City of Madison Southeast Area Plan



city policies and feedback from stakeholders, residents and business/property owners.



The Southeast Area is approximately 7,000 acres (10.9 square miles) and is generally bounded by State Highway 30 to the north, Interstate 90 to the east, City of Monona to the west, and Siggelkow Road / Village of McFarland to the South (see map).

We invite residents, community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to share feedback about the future of their neighborhoods. Keep up to date on events and ways to participate, view additional maps, data and presentations, and subscribe to the email list at the Southeast Area Plan website: [www.cityofmadison.com/southeastplan](http://www.cityofmadison.com/southeastplan) or use the QR code. There is also an informative video that helps explain the difference between Land Use Planning and the Zoning code, and how they work together to shape development and change.

Please reach out with any questions, ideas or information as you are the experts of your neighborhood. Thank you.

*Rebecca Cnare & Jeff Greger  
City of Madison Planning Division  
Email: [southeastareaplan@cityofmadison.com](mailto:southeastareaplan@cityofmadison.com)*

During 2025, the City of Madison will be leading a process to develop a plan for the larger Southeast Area of Madison. Area Plans guide changes that occur over time to the physical aspects of our community, such as land use, housing, transit, streets, bike paths, and other community facilities. They are steered by overarching



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