

# Hi, Neighbor!

A Newsletter for the Eastmorland and Lake Edge Neighborhoods

Summer 2025

## The Joy of Front Gardens

By Jennifer Peterson, UW-Extension Master Gardener

We all know that garden - the one you go out of your way to walk past, just to see what's blooming. I can think of a dozen right here in our neighborhood, including the garden of my next door neighbor, who has planted in vivid, joyful colors right up to the sidewalk - it feels incredibly generous. Although there's a cultural tradition in the U.S. of broad lawns and formal foundation plantings on the street-facing side of the house (very nice in their own right!), there's nothing like being knocked out by someone's fabulous front garden as you walk unsuspectingly by.

Last week, I asked Erica Schroyer about her lovely front garden, which flanks the sidewalk on Buckingham and Dawes. For Erica, front gardens are about sharing beauty

(Continued on page 7)



Erica Schroyer's front garden, featuring native columbine and Virginia bluebells.

## "Who Cooks For You?"

By Penny Majors, Eastmorland resident

"WHO COOKS FOR YOU, ALL?" If you think this is a trick question, you are correct! You know who cooks for you. But did you know we have an owl in the Eastmorland neighborhood that hoots: "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you, all?" It has a rounded head and long, dark streaks on its breast, and it likes to hang out in large trees and hunt near water. It's a Barred Owl, and it spends time hunting along Starkweather Creek next to Olbrich Gardens.



Eastern Screech Owl

Another species of owl lives in the woods across the creek fork from O.B Sherry Park. Those woods make up the northern edge of Olbrich Park – North Unit, near the Garver Feed Mill. The Great Horned Owl can be heard year-round in the neighborhood, and its mating calls are one of the earliest signs of spring, starting as early as December! Listen for the back-and-forth duet, the lower-pitched male and higher-pitched female. "Who-who-hoo-hoooo." They call at dawn and dusk, but also sometimes in the middle of the night. By May, many fledglings have already left the nest. Some years the fledglings can be seen in the trees at the edge of these woods as they learn to hunt.

There is a third species of owl that lives in the Eastmorland neighborhood, and it is sometimes heard in

(Continued on page 4)



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# Hi, Neighbor!

## Summer 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:**

*Spring (March/April)*  
*Summer (June)*  
*Fall (October/November)*

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).

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Eastmorland Community Association, Public Health  
Madison & Dane County, Schenk Elementary PTO*

### **Upcoming Events**

**Ice Cream Social during the monthly LENA meeting**  
**Monday, July 21, 6:30 p.m.**

Lake Edge Park

**Leaving The Nest—A Building Celebration**  
**Sunday, July 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
Eastmorland Community Center, 3565 Tulane Ave.

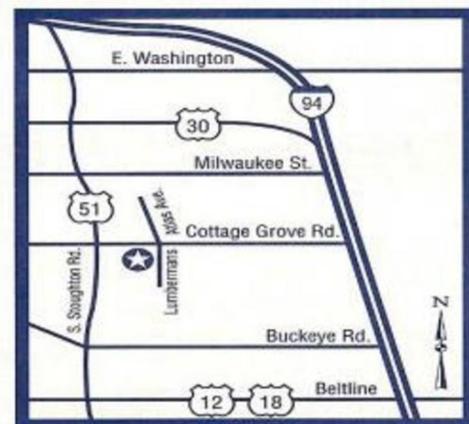
**Annual LENA Picnic**  
**Sunday, August 10**  
Lake Edge Park

**Eastmorland Outdoor Market**  
**Saturday, September 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
Lansing Food Forest

**LENA Hank's Takeover**  
**October—Date/time TBD**  
Check [lenamadison.org](http://lenamadison.org) for details

**Fall Fest**  
**Saturday, October 18, 3 p.m.-9 p.m.**  
Ontario Park

**Volunteer Leaf Raking**  
**Saturday, November 8, 9 a.m.**  
**Rain date: Sunday, November 9, 1 p.m.**  
Meet at Olbrich Shelter. Neighbors helping neighbors (plus pizza)! To join, email [kwhitman@uwalumni.com](mailto:kwhitman@uwalumni.com).



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SECRETARY: *Kathryn Prince*  
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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)

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EASTSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL LIAISON  
*Matt Covert, [mjcovert@gmail.com](mailto:mjcovert@gmail.com)*

### STANDING COMMITTEES

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

## JOIN 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).

## “Who Cooks For You?”

(Continued from page 1)

the Dennett St. and Tulane Ave. area, and probably other places as well. The Eastern Screech Owl gets its name from its descending whinny call, but it also has a more common call, the tremolo. This call is used to communicate between family members to share their locations. The tremolo lasts about three seconds and sounds like a medium- to higher-pitched purring. It's one of the sweetest evening sounds of spring and summer.

Listen for it after dusk on a summer night.

You won't see the owls during the day, since they sleep high in evergreen trees to protect themselves from predators. But sometimes, crows find an owl sleeping and harass it. If you hear a ruckus caused by crows, look up and you might also spot an owl (or a Red-Tailed Hawk). If you look and listen at dawn and dusk, though, you will hear or see owls in Eastmorland – and all over Madison. They are your neighbors – enjoy their company!

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## News from the Schenk Elementary PTO

Hello from the Schenk Elementary PTO! It's been a while since we last wrote an update for the neighborhood newsletter, so we want to start by thanking YOU, our neighbors, for all the ways you support our school, students, and families.

### Updates

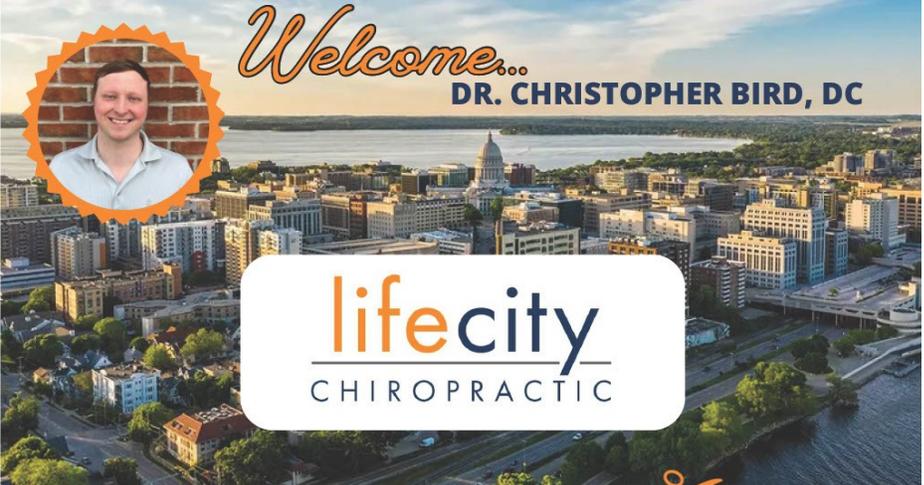
By the time you read this newsletter, Schenk students will be gearing up for (or already enjoying!) summer vacation. There are lots of fun plans for the end of the school year, including the end-of-year Schenk Scramble and field day, as well as kindergarten and 5th grade promotions! Throughout the school year, Schenk students have participated in MMSD's Battle of the Books, and they have performed holiday songs at the airport and the national anthem at a Madison Capitals hockey game. They celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month (October) and Black History Month (February), and they have listened to stories read by community members for Read Your Heart Out.

The Schenk garden continues to grow! Schenk has been without a dedicated garden volunteer for the last few months, but exciting plans are being made to plant a garden this spring

and continue to give Schenk students the experience of learning in the garden next school year and beyond.

This year, the PTO has focused on supporting Schenk staff through staff appreciation events. As I write this

*(Continued on page 8)*



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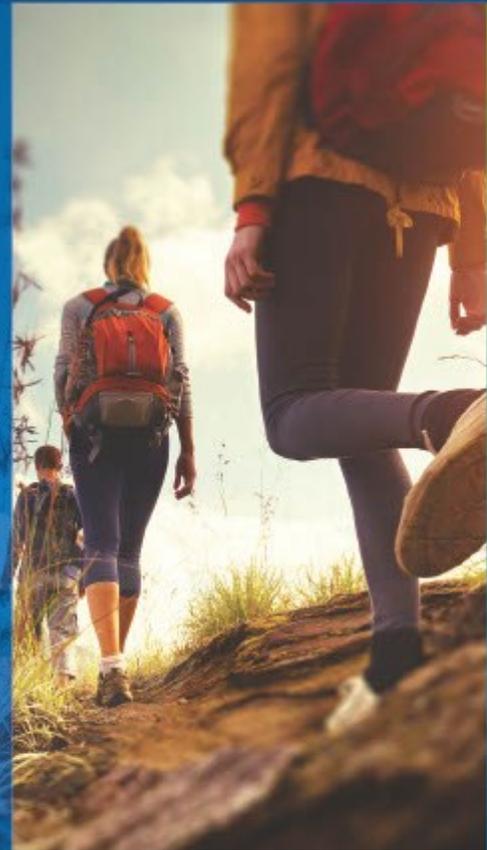
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## The Joy of Front Gardens



(Continued from page 1)  
with others. After inheriting meticulous borders from the previous owner in 2016, Erica, inspired by her mother's garden, has added more native plants while honoring the previous owner's legacy.

"My mom changed our yard to all native plants. So I got to be a part of that

and see all the birds and bees and the wonderful creatures that came along to eat and use the space. That's a huge part of my joy." This also means expanding your idea of front landscapes - "it's okay that it's a little wild!"

Like Erica, many people also plant their terraces (the green space between the sidewalk and the street), creating a sense of intimacy with the plants as you walk through - a tiny oasis. If you're inspired to plant your terrace, remember to check out the City's guidelines for terrace plantings so we all have visibility in cars and on foot, and try not to leave any deep holes by the sidewalk where unsuspecting dog walkers might fall in. Happy gardening!

## When's the Last Time You Got Tested?

*By Public Health Madison & Dane County*

We're reminding everyone that we offer STI (sexually transmitted infection) testing and treatment at no cost! It's a good idea to get tested if you've changed partners or haven't been tested in the past year.

STIs are very common and impact young people the most. In the U.S., almost half of reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis are among people 15 to 24 years old. Our clinics are an inclusive, confidential space to talk through any sexual health concerns you have. We also offer condoms, emergency contraception, and birth control at no cost.

Visit [publichealthmdc.com/sexualhealth](https://publichealthmdc.com/sexualhealth) to make an appointment at our East Washington clinic. Many of our partner agencies also provide free or low-cost testing. Check out Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin (<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-wisconsin>) or the University Health Services Sexual Health Clinic (for UW students, <https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/medical/sexual-health-clinic>).

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## News from the Schenk Elementary PTO

(Continued from page 5)

update, the PTO is helping celebrate Schenk staff during Teacher Appreciation Week, which will conclude with a raffle of prizes generously donated by local businesses. The PTO, in partnership with Madison Children's Museum, also hosted a night for Schenk families at the children's museum downtown.

### Fundraising

The PTO fundraises each year to support our school community. In the past, the PTO has bought t-shirts and yearbooks for students, and we hope to do that again next year. This year, we raised money through two dine-out nights at Ian's, one dine-out night at Culvers, several bake sales, and a fun partnership with the Crafty Fair. We want to thank all who participated in those fundraising efforts by volunteering, purchasing food, or donating.

Donations are always needed and appreciated - there are so many things we want to do for our students and families! If you are able, please consider making a donation to the Schenk PTO. Checks can be made out to Schenk Elementary PTO and mailed to Schenk Elementary, Attn: PTO, 230 Schenk Street, Madison, WI 53714. Donations can also be given through PayPal. The direct link to PayPal is <https://tinyurl.com/bdcj5aca>, and here is the QR code.

To keep up with what is happening at Schenk, including dine-out nights and volunteer opportunities, feel free to like

our Schenk Shark Community Facebook page, [facebook.com/SchenkSharkCommunity](https://facebook.com/SchenkSharkCommunity). You can also email [schenkpto@gmail.com](mailto:schenkpto@gmail.com) or visit the Schenk PTO website, [schenk.mmsd.org/pto](http://schenk.mmsd.org/pto).

Thank you for your support of Schenk Elementary School!

Warmly,  
Schenk PTO

## Caring for Ontario Park Plantings

*By the Eastmorland Community Association*

Thanks to those who came out on May 10 to help take care of the Ontario Park plantings. We made quick work of it, and the plants are much happier!



Donate to Schenk PTO

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## A Note from the Eastmorland Community Center's New Co-Executive Director

By Marie Everett

Hi, neighbors! I am Marie Everett, the new Co-Executive Director for Fund Development and Communication at the Eastmorland Community Center.

I am grateful for all the thoughtful discourse around the redevelopment of the Eastmorland Community Center. It was great to see so many neighbors at the ECA meeting on April 8, and to hear from many more both in-person and through the Friends of the Eastmorland Community Center Padlet (<https://padlet.com/carrie232/friends-of-the-eastmorland-community-center-b86wlp6g2n6934jf>).

If you haven't had a chance to check out the online Padlet, there is a great collection of links being curated by Kindling Community Art's Carrie Breunig. One thing is very clear in all this ... Eastmorland is caring.

One of the most enjoyable parts of talking with so many neighbors is hearing all the stories of how people came to this neighborhood, and the mix of luck and circumstances that made homeownership here a reality for them. I've talked with some neighbors that were here long before John and I bought our house in 1997, others who came here during the pandemic when interest rates were low, or even more recently. So many of these origin stories carry a common thread - if they had to buy their house today it would not be so easy ... Eastmorland is grateful.

Yes, there is some concern about parking in the neighborhood. It's an unavoidable issue for the urban infill that is so needed here in Madison to meet housing needs in our growing and thriving city. What really strikes me, though, is that in a discussion about bringing workforce housing to the neighborhood, the greatest concern we have is where to park. Our neighbors want to share all the things that make Eastmorland such a beautiful place to live, the things that make Madison consistently rank as one of the best cities in the country. We know that every individual or family brings their own contributions and talents to our community, and we are all richer for it ... Eastmorland is welcoming.

I invite you to keep an eye on our website in the coming months for updates on the redevelopment project, and save the date for July 27 to come and celebrate "Leaving the Nest: A

Introduce your pet in the next *Pet Vignette*. Share a little about your pet with us via email at [hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com](mailto:hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com)



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If we are doing our job right, much of what the City of

*(Continued on page 16)*



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

and the freedom to participate fully in civic life, free from oppression.

In the early days of this legislative session, it was important to us to define the kind of Wisconsin we know our constituents deserve. As the Trump regime continues to rip the heart out of our communities to further enrich billionaires and ramps up its attacks on racial and economic justice, critical social safety nets, and immigrant rights, it's more important than ever to reaffirm the democratic, inclusive values we share in the 76th Assembly District.

I know many of you might be feeling anxious as threats to gut Medicaid, Social Security, SNAP, and other essential programs grow louder in Washington. These programs, and those already cut by Trump, are more than budget line items, they're the foundation of stability for millions of Americans. And here in Madison, we feel those threats deeply. Our seniors, our working families, our kids, everyone in our communities rely on these vital social insurance programs, or they love someone who does. And we can't let it unravel without a fight.

The EJBOR is one way we are pushing back. But legislation alone isn't enough. This is the moment for all of us to hold the line.

- Call your representatives, at every level of government, and tell them these cuts are unacceptable.
- Show up to public hearings, town halls, and rallies.
- Talk to your neighbors and family, especially those who may not know what's at stake.

*(Continued on page 15)*

Happy spring, Lake Edge and Eastmorland! The Wisconsin State Legislature has seen a number of important developments these past few months, and I'm excited to update you on some recent news from the Capitol.

First, alongside Democratic legislators from across the state, I reintroduced the Economic Justice Bill of Rights (EJBOR) to address the social, economic, and political challenges that continue to impact communities across Wisconsin. The EJBOR lays out a bold, progressive vision for our state's future — one that guarantees the right to dignified, well-paying jobs, fully funded public schools and childcare, the right to organize, affordable and comprehensive healthcare, a fair legal system, clean air and water, safe and affordable housing, transit, and broadband, equitable access to capital, restorative justice,

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**State Representative District 77**

**Shelia Stubbs**

Wisconsin State Assembly

608-266-3784

[Rep.Stubbs](#)

[@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:shelia@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 with you from my office.

As you may know, the Legislature is currently in the middle of the budget process. On February 18, Governor Evers introduced his 2025-2027 Executive Budget, which included many of my recommendations, such as funding for sales and use tax exemption on breastfeeding equipment, eliminating birth cost recovery, postpartum home visits, coverage for postpartum care, a Safe Gun Storage Tax Credit, a 48-Hour Waiting Period for the purchase of handguns, Universal Background Checks on

Firearms, the creation of an Office of Violence Prevention, funding for a Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force, statutory requirements for safety measures around stormwater ponds in populous areas, statewide establishment of community reentry centers, removing criminal penalties for the recreational use of marijuana, expansion of the earned release program, and funds to help law enforcement manage behavioral health crises.

Since the introduction of the Governor's budget, I have taken part in budget listening sessions across the state, from McFarland to Dodgeville to Wausau, to listen to a variety of community voices on what they need from our state budget to support education, critical infrastructure, small businesses, the arts, and more.

I have also had the opportunity to sit down with numerous local organizations regarding the budget and how the important work they do could be impacted by our uncertain federal funding landscape. On April 11, I was able to attend a crime victim services roundtable with Attorney General Josh Kaul and hear from local advocacy organizations on how the loss of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding poses a risk to the critical services they provide to survivors of violence and their families. I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time over the last couple of months to share their thoughts with me on how our state budget should be allocated.

Over the past couple months, I have additionally been able to visit several small businesses in my district and learn more about the exciting economic developments in

*(Continued on page 14)*

**Eastmorland Community Center**  
3565 Tulane Ave

**Leaving the Nest!**

A Celebration of a Building Migration.  
July 27<sup>th</sup>, 11 am - 4 pm



You are invited to an open-house style celebration in our empty building before demolition begins! Drop in and help us honor the past and get excited for the future with interactive art installations, food, music, and community.



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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,

By the time you read this, the Republicans on Wisconsin's Joint Finance Committee will have removed hundreds of items from the executive budget proposal. This is an unsurprising, disappointing repeat of what they have done in the last several budgets. Like their Republican counterparts in Washington, they are hellbent on cutting core public services like education, so they can give another massive tax giveaway to the ultra-wealthy. That's their only priority.

In the meantime, I will continue working alongside Wisconsinites to pass policies to lower costs for everyday

### Rep. Stubbs

*(Continued from page 13)*

Madison, Monona, and McFarland. If you are a small business owner who would like me to visit, please contact my office! And as always, please feel free to reach out by

necessities, like groceries, prescription drugs, child care, and housing. A responsible state budget would help families afford the things they need to thrive, but many of these critical measures were just stripped out of the budget by my Republican colleagues.

With the chaos and corruption from Washington breeding uncertainty right now, I am more focused than ever on working to make Wisconsin a place where everyone has the freedom to build a better life. That includes calling for due process to be respected, as I did adjourning the April floor session (you can see that on my Instagram).

Recently, I introduced the Abortion Rights Restoration Act, which would repeal Wisconsin's 1849 abortion ban and many restrictions that insert politicians into the most personal healthcare decisions between patients and their doctors. We know this is a broadly popular bill — please join me in contacting Republican legislators to ask for their support for the bill and to give it a public hearing. (If you'd like to be in the loop, sign up for my updates at [tinyurl.com/ReproFreedomUpdateWisconsin](https://tinyurl.com/ReproFreedomUpdateWisconsin).)

Consistently reaching for courage in these challenging times is crucial for preserving our democracy and building a better future for everyone who calls Wisconsin home.

email 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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## Dane County Supervisor District 24

Sarah Smith

Dane County Board

608-492-0027

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

I'm Supervisor Sarah Smith, and I represent District 24 on the Dane County Board.

This spring, Dane County Executive Melissa Agard appointed new leaders for two of Dane County's departments. She selected John Schlueter as the new Director of the Dane County Department of Human Services. He had previously worked for Dane County, and most recently served as an area director of the Social Security Administration for Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. Executive Agard appointed Mark Papko to lead the Dane County Regional Airport. Director Papko also has previous connections to Dane County, having interned at the airport while he was in college. These two departments are critical for the success of the county, and it's important to have these leaders in place as we head into the 2026 budget process.

From May to July, department heads are responsible for

preparing their budget requests based on guidance they receive from the County Executive. Once these department requests have been submitted, Executive Agard will begin preparing her annual budget proposal. In September, the County Board will hold department public hearings at which department heads have the opportunity to present their requests. Members of the public can testify about their budget priorities during these hearings and others later in the fall as well. By October 1, the County Executive will release her proposal to the County Board and the public. Throughout the month of October, the County Board gets busy reviewing her proposal, drafting and considering amendments, and ultimately voting on our amended version of the budget by early November.

Learn more about this process and find out how to participate in the County Board budget hearings, held both in person and virtually, by visiting [board.danecounty.gov/budget](http://board.danecounty.gov/budget).

- September 9 at 5:30 p.m. - Public Hearing on Department Budget Requests
- September 10 at 5:30 p.m. - Public Hearing on Department Budget Requests
- September 11 at 5:30 p.m. - Public Hearing on Department Budget Requests
- October 16 at 7:00 p.m. – Public Hearing on 2025 Dane County Budget
- November 3 at 6:00 p.m. - Public Hearing on Personnel and Finance Committee Budget Recommendations

## Rep. Hong

*(Continued from page 12)*

- And stay plugged in. Organizing works. As the budget cycle continues, my colleagues and I are working to prepare our state in the event that more of the federal funding Wisconsin receives is jeopardized. In February, we introduced a bill to address budgetary issues in the event of a federal funding freeze by Executive Order. This crucial legislation is yet to receive a public hearing, but we remain steadfast in advocating for proactive, people-centered solutions, because Wisconsinites shouldn't have to pay the price for political games in Washington.

No matter what comes our way, we'll keep fighting to protect the services that make our communities stronger, healthier, and more just.

Stay engaged and stay hopeful; I will see you around.

*Hi, Neighbor!* is always looking for additional volunteers.

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Meet your neighbors at an upcoming event!  
See page 2 for details.

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## Mayor's Note

(Continued from page 10)

Madison does happen without a lot of fanfare. However, earlier this year, we celebrated Public Service Recognition Week. It's an opportunity to thank employees for their year-round dedication and commitment to the greater good. Next time you interact with a City employee and have a positive experience, please join me in offering them a simple, "Thank you." While not necessary it is greatly appreciated.



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## Pet Vignette: Meet Rufus!

*By Alison Brooks Downey*

Hello! My name is Rufus, and I live on Tulane Ave. I LOVE meeting people who come to my house, but when I'm out and about, I am laser-focused on my job, which is taking my human for a walk and patrolling the neighborhood! (You can say hi but I'll just ignore you.)

Besides going for walks, my favorite hobbies are stealing food, napping in adorable poses, and when I'm really lucky, bolting out the front door. When that happens, I express my joy through barking loud for all to hear until my mom or dad lure me back in with treats. Besides my humans and my cat brother, Bob, my best friends are neighbors Copper and Lucille.



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