

Hi, Neighbor!

A Newsletter for the Eastmorland and Lake Edge Neighborhoods

Fall 2025

Lake Edge Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Project Overview

By Jose Navarro, City of Madison

The city plans to reconstruct portions of Davidson St, Park Ct, Maher Ave, and Gary St. The proposed project would include replacement of the sanitary sewer mains and laterals, water mains and services, installation of new storm sewer, replacement of the asphalt pavement and base, and new curb, gutter, and sidewalk.

The project began initial planning work in winter 2024/2025. There were then two public information meetings in the spring / early summer. The public were able to voice their opinions at these meetings along with showing their support for different design alternatives through an online questionnaire.

After the second public information meeting the project was presented to the transportation commission for its first round of design approvals in June 2025. Typically, when the City does a street reconstruction, the goal is to establish sidewalk on both sides of the street. The design team instead decided to go with a one-sided sidewalk approach on all streets within the project limits. With tree canopy being a high priority for the City, along with public input to preserve the trees, the design team recommended a one-side sidewalk option to the transportation commission. The transportation commission then approved the design on June 11th, 2025.

The next round of design approval was through the board of public works. The design was refined to restore additional parking on Davidson St and Gary St as the initial design at the Transportation Commission had reduced parking availability. Preliminary assessments were also sent prior to the meeting letting property owners know an estimate of their share of construction costs. The design was approved at the Board of Public Works on



Map of the project location courtesy of the City of Madison

August 6th, 2025.

The last round of approvals was through Common Council which was approved in September 2025.

The Lake Edge Neighborhood Association asked the City if they could meet again with residents and answer questions. Two of the design team members, Jose Navarro, project lead, and Aaron Canton from Engineering met with the group. The team answered questions from the residents and also gave a quick walkthrough on the changes.

The design is currently being developed into its final design. The project is slated to begin construction in the spring of 2026. Impacted residents will receive a construction fact sheet prior to the work beginning, which will include key contacts for the awarded contractor and construction inspector. More details will be available on the City's project website which is located here.

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/davidson-st-park-ct-maher-ave-and-gary-st-reconstruction>



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Hi, Neighbor!

Fall 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 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.

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Triannual Publication Schedule:

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

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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Public Health Madison & Dane County

Upcoming Events

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.
See page 9 for details.

Winter Market + Santa Visit Saturday, November 29, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location to be determined.
Check the 2025 events calendar on eastmorland.org.

Neighborhood Cookie Exchange Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m.

Email marlaj222@gmail.com to participate.
See page 12 for details.



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TREASURER: *Mallory Musolf*
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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

PRESIDENT: *Holly Cho*
VICE PRESIDENT: *Rebecca LeBeau*
SECRETARY: *Brian Juchems*
TREASURER: *Dan Zimmerman*
(zimmerman_dan@hotmail.com)

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STANDING COMMITTEES

SUNSHINE (*Call for cards to go out from ECA*):
Rose Sage, 608-575-4482
GARDENS: 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 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.

Thanks for being an active member of the neighborhood!

Name:

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Contribution for Dues/General Purposes:

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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.

Pet Vignette: Casper

Howdy neighbors! I am Casper the friendly dog, and I live on Sussex Lane. I am a mix of Schnauzer, Bichon Frise, and mountain goat but 100% love! I've garnered some extra attention recently, as folks have noticed I bear a striking resemblance to Krypto, Superman's dog in the latest feature film. Some of my pals on the block are McLovin' the Beagle, Fiona, and Buddy—my fellow wonder mutts. Whenever I walk my humans past their houses, I stop out front and whine, just to make sure they know I'm there, 'cause they probably want to come and say hi, right?

If I'm not in the back yard chasing bubbles, balls, birds, or squirrels, you can find me at the dog park chasing other dogs or leaping in the tall grass like a gazelle. Among my favorite foods are K9 custard, expensive shoes, smelly teenager socks, and discarded napkins. My likes include treats, belly rubs, and toy destruction. Some of my dislikes are needles, baths, and being home alone. If you see me around, I'll probably come over to say hi, unless I'm on active squirrel security detail.



Thank you Chris for introducing us to Casper! Share a bit about your pet with us at hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com.

How to Keep Rats and Mice Out of Your Home

—Submitted by Public Health Madison & Dane County

As we transition from warm summer weather into cooler temperatures it is important to be aware of the critters that may seek warm places in the fall and winter months.

Rats and mice in your home aren't just a nuisance, they

can cause property damage and spread disease. You can prevent these problems in our neighborhood by making sure your property is not rodent-friendly. Public Health Madison & Dane County has tips for removing food sources and places rats and mice can nest: tinyurl.com/ratmiceprevention



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New Cohousing Venture Seeking Additional Members

By the NTBD Project

The NTBD Project is a new cohousing venture working on building a multigenerational community of about 20 households in urban Madison. As is typical of cohousing, members will own both a private residence and a share of common spaces (indoor and out), similar to a condominium. The community will gather regularly for meals and collectively make decisions about the management of the building and the organization. We'll share our skills and resources with one another to enrich our lives and minimize our impact on the environment.

As of September, we have four households signed on to the project. We are currently looking at a site on the near east side of the city, and we are seeking out additional members. We're envisioning an arrangement where the community occupies primarily the top floor of a newly constructed low-rise multi-use building. We plan to be a home to people of all ages and backgrounds, united by the shared goal of working together to create something richer and more sustainable than what traditional housing can offer.

If you'd like to learn more about our progress or are interested in getting involved, contact ntbd-rec-emnl@googlegroups.com.

Neighbor Offers MyChart Help

Hi everyone! I'm Bethany. I live in the Eastmorland/Lake Edge neighborhood and am a registered nurse at one of the big clinics in Madison. I know firsthand how confusing healthcare systems can be—especially when it comes to using online tools like MyChart.

You are not alone and I am here to help if you've ever felt overwhelmed trying to:

- Set up a MyChart account
- Log in and access your records
- Send a message to your provider
- View your test results or appointment details
- Attach a photo to a message

Whether you're new to MyChart or just need a refresher, I would like to offer free guidance to help you feel confident and in control of your health information. No tech experience is needed—just a willingness to learn!

Let's make healthcare a little less daunting and a lot more empowering! Contact me if you'd like support.

Bethany

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Join the VFW Band

The VFW Band is a community-driven, non-profit group looking to connect with local musicians and music lovers who might be interested in joining and supporting us. We are a volunteer ensemble concert band and part of the Capitol City Band Association. We are dedicated to bringing music to the community through regular performances at local nursing homes and at the Veteran's Day and Memorial Day ceremonies in Madison.

If you're interested in seeing more about what we have going on you can join our email list by visiting:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/newsletter-form/sign-up-to-receive-email-updates-about-ccba>

We would love to have you join us!

Cassi Ohm

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Sinkhole Repair Project Update

Hello neighbors,

As many of you noted there was street repair work being done on the corner of Tulane and Hargrove this summer. To get the inside scoop on what was actually happening behind the road closed signs we reached out to the City of Madison Engineering department. Mark Moder, Principal Engineer and Sanitary Sewer Section Manager was kind enough to give us the details of the work that was done.

Sinkhole Repair Work on Tulane

By Mark Moder, City Engineering

City Engineering discovered a sinkhole forming at the intersection of Tulane Ave. and Hargrove Street on the weekend of July 26th. After investigating through televising the pipes below the street, Engineering determined that the cause was a section of broken clay sanitary sewer pipe. Engineering attempted to complete the repair but unfortunately were not able.

The City hired a contractor, Capitol Underground, and they successfully installed a 40' long section of PVC sewer main the week of August 4th. Because the unrepaired sections of clay pipe were still showing signs of groundwater and silty soil infiltration into the sewer, the City decided that installing a liner inside of the sewer main was necessary prior to putting the sewer back into service. While the lining contractor, Visu Sewer, was in the process of installing the liner inside of the sewer, the clay sewer collapsed immediately next to where Capitol Underground had made the sewer repair. Capitol Underground returned on Monday, August 18th and completed the additional repair on August 19th. Visu Sewer installed a liner on August 20th, and the sewer was put back into service on August 20th. Restoration work of the street followed. This sinkhole ended up being a significant project. Until we were able to put the sewer back into service, there was bypass pumping. Unfortunately, bypass pumps are powered by generators which generated noise continuously throughout the day and night.

If we hadn't kept up the bypass pumping, the sewer would not have been operational with the sewer being in the collapsed state and there would be widespread sanitary sewer backups. We thoroughly appreciate everyone's patience throughout the project.

Eastmorland Community Center Update

By Staci Marrese-Wheeler

Eastmorland Community Center has left the building!

The first week of August, ECC officially moved out of the red brick building at 3565 Tulane Avenue. The office moved to our interim location in Monona and a got a new mailing address: PO Box 8412, Madison, WI 53708-8412.

The building has had all of the hazardous waste removed – mostly 8"x8" asbestos tile that was underneath a lot of old carpeting – and a lot of the wood and useful building materials have been salvaged. Before you have received the November "*Hi Neighbor!*", the old building will have finally come down.

ECC is going to maintain a presence in the Eastmorland neighborhood this next year, even though the center will not be 'in residence' here. There are several ways that you can still connect with the Eastmorland Community Center during the construction period.

If you go to the Eastmorland Community Center's website (eastmorlandcommunitycenter.org), you can sign up for the ECC newsletter and get a copy of the "ECC Community Connection Card" in the e-news! The card will allow you to check off ways that you can stay connected with the community center during our time away from the triangle. The finished card can then be presented for a fun prize at the grand opening of the new building! (We have no idea what that prize will be yet...but it will definitely be FUN!) Thanks to Marie Everett, ECC Co-Director, for creating this fun way to stay connected to ECC!

Eastmorland "Community" Office Hours will be on Thursdays (1-3pm) at Java Cat Coffee and on Mondays (10am-Noon), starting in October, in a study room at Pinney Branch Library. We hope to have another "Eastmorland Reads" book group this winter and maybe even some Eastmorland nature walks led by local folks versed in the birds, plants, pollinators and trees of our neighborhood.

So keep an eye and an ear out for Eastmorland Community Center events happening! ECC may have left the building, but we are still in the neighborhood.



The intersection of Tulane and Hargrove pictured in early September, after the completion of the sinkhole repair project and prior to demolition of the building at 3565 Tulane Ave.



Bike Boulevards

By Ali Heinritz, City of Madison

Bike boulevards are low-cost, low-speed, residential streets meant to prioritize bicycle travel over vehicles. They connect bike networks, providing comfortable and convenient alternatives to busy streets where bike lanes or bike paths are not an option. Most bike boulevards are marked with white “sharrow” symbols (bike with arrow symbol) indicating that the roadway is shared between vehicles and bicyclists. The majority also feature traffic calming to create a slower-speed environment and highlight bicyclists over vehicles, while also discouraging cut-through traffic. Traffic calming features can include traffic calming islands, speed humps, diverters, curb bump-outs, and narrowed roadways. The bike boulevards that are most comfortable for bicyclists have a target motor vehicle speed no greater than 20 mph, target volumes of 500 or fewer vehicles per day, and no more than 50 motor vehicles per peak hour (fewer than one vehicle per minute). However, bike boulevards can successfully facilitate high-quality bicycle access at motor vehicle volumes of up to 2,000 vehicles per day.



ECA Leaf Raking & Pizza Party

Please join the Eastmorland Community Association to help rake yards for neighbors unable to do so.

Volunteers will meet at Olbrich Park shelter off Walter St. at **9 am, Saturday, Nov. 8**. We will gather, assign routes and disperse in groups. If there is rain we will have the event on **Sunday Nov. 9 at 1 pm**.

Bring a water bottle, rake, gloves and plastic tarp if you have one to the meeting location near the playground. Some routes are close enough to walk or bike, others are farther away within the ECA boundaries.

After raking, volunteers, their families and members of households whose yards were raked are invited to a pizza party hosted by the ECA. Pizza and soda will be provided, but please feel free to bring any other beverages plus optional food to share. The picnic will begin at the same shelter where we met earlier starting at 11:30 am on Saturday and 3:30 pm Sunday for the alternative rain day.

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

Did you know?

The City of Madison is a Platinum “Bike Friendly” Community, designated by the League of American Bicyclists. Check out details on upcoming bike path construction projects, bike routes, and more on the city’s website:

cityofmadison.com/traffic-engineering/biking-walking



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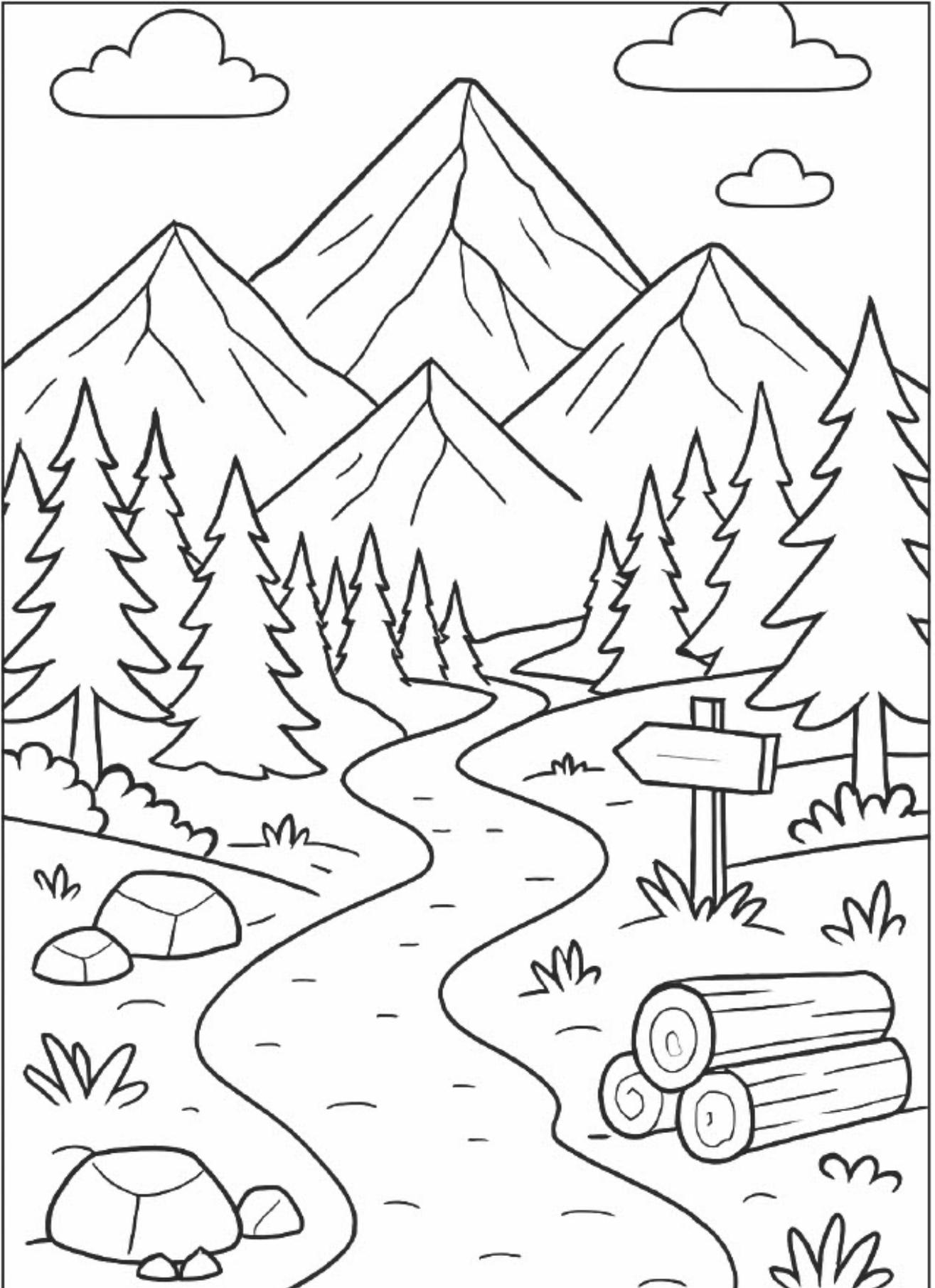
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Kids' Corner: Arts & Crafts

Activity ideas from offline.kids

Leaf Rubbing Art

Leaf rubbing art is a simple and satisfying way for children to explore the natural textures found outdoors. By placing a leaf under paper and rubbing over it with crayons or pencils, kids can reveal beautiful, detailed patterns and learn about leaf shapes and structures.

This activity is perfect for all seasons, especially autumn, when leaves come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. It also supports fine motor skills, sensory awareness, and creative expression—and all you need are a few basic supplies.

Materials Needed

- Assorted leaves (fresh or dry, ideally flat)
- White paper
- Crayons or colored pencils (peeled crayons work best)

Steps

1. **Collect Leaves:** Go on a nature walk or explore the garden to find leaves in different shapes and sizes.
2. **Set Up:** Place a leaf underside-up on a hard surface. Lay a piece of paper over the top.
3. **Rub Gently:** Using the side of a crayon or pencil, rub gently over the paper. The leaf's texture will appear as a raised pattern.
4. **Experiment:** Try overlapping rubbings, using different colors, or making a patterned collage.
5. **Display the Art:** Hang your creations on the wall, turn them into greeting cards, or use them for a nature journal.

Variations

- **Rainbow Leaves:** Use multiple crayon colors on one leaf for a vibrant effect.
- **Seasonal Collage:** Arrange different leaf rubbings into a seasonal scene or tree shape.
- **Leaf ID Activity:** Label your rubbings with the tree or plant name, using a guidebook or app.
- **Mixed Texture Art:** Combine leaf rubbings with bark or flower rubbings for a full nature texture collage.

Salt Dough Ornaments

Salt Dough Ornaments are a timeless, hands-on craft that kids love. With just flour, salt, and water, you can whip up a simple dough that's easy to shape into ornaments and decorations. Once baked and hardened,

they become a blank canvas for painting, decorating, and personalizing.

This activity is perfect for seasonal fun—make Christmas trees, Halloween pumpkins, Easter eggs, or even handprint keepsakes. It encourages creativity, sensory play, and fine motor skills, and the finished ornaments make wonderful gifts or mementos to treasure.

Materials Needed

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup water
- Paint (acrylic or poster paint)
- Optional: ribbon, string, glitter, buttons for decorating

Tools Needed

- Mixing bowl and spoon
- Rolling pin
- Cookie cutters or plastic knives
- Baking tray and oven
- Paintbrushes
- Straw or skewer (to poke holes for hanging)

Steps

1. **Make the Dough:** Mix flour and salt in a bowl. Gradually add water until it forms a smooth dough.
2. **Shape the Ornaments:** Roll out the dough and use cookie cutters or shape by hand. Use a straw to poke a hole at the top for hanging.
3. **Bake:** Bake in the oven at a low temperature (around 210–250°F) for 1–2 hours or until dry and hard.
4. **Cool and Paint:** Let ornaments cool completely before decorating with paint and extras like glitter or buttons.
5. **Add a Hanger:** Thread ribbon or string through the hole once dry and display proudly!

Variations

- **Seasonal Themes:** Create Christmas trees, snowflakes, pumpkins, hearts, or stars based on the season.
- **Keepsake Prints:** Press in handprints or footprints for memory ornaments.
- **Scented Dough:** Add cinnamon or essential oils to the dough for a festive scent.
- **Air Dry Version:** Skip baking and air-dry over 24–48 hours (though this may crack more easily).



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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, elderly, have recently experienced the death of a loved one, have added a new child to their lives, or have just moved into our neighborhood.

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—plus, you get 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 mention whether you would like to bake, assemble, or deliver, and please include your name, phone number, and street address. If you wish to bake, do so at your convenience and deliver your baked goods in non-returnable containers to 3710 Tulane Ave. on Friday, December 12 or between 8 and 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 13. Any amount of cookies are welcome; there is no set amount you must contribute. The assembly of cookie plates will begin at 9 a.m. on December 13 at 3710 Tulane Ave., with delivery later that

(Continued on page 18)



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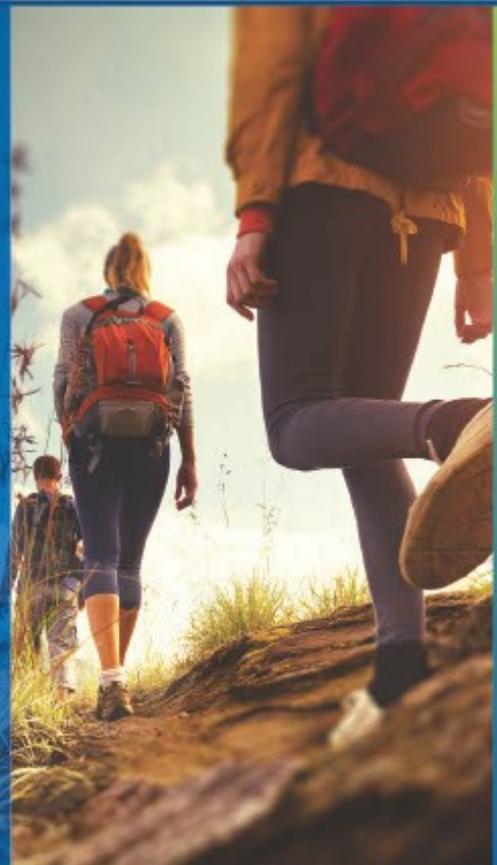


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Native Plantings Around the Neighborhood

By Maddie Dumas

Hi neighbors!

Have you noticed the bees buzzing and the native wildflowers growing around the neighborhood? You might be looking at a native stormwater planting! The City of Madison Engineering Division has several native plantings in the Eastmorland and Lake Edge neighborhoods, each designed to help control stormwater and provide habitat for wildlife. Our deep-rooted native plants complement stormwater control by infiltrating water faster and more efficiently, filtering pollutants, and preventing erosion. Native plants are hardy, Wisconsin weather-adapted and they add aesthetic appeal to the urban landscape. Below are some of the plantings in the neighborhood and what to look for:

Woodman's Retention Pond:

Just west of Woodman's and occupying the northwestern portion of Eastmorland Park, this pond takes runoff from the store parking lot, Milwaukee Ave, and surrounding neighborhood. Much of the pond is dominated by an aggressive invasive grass, but pockets of native boneset, Joe pye weed, wild senna, swamp milkweed and dense groupings of native sedges improve the functionality and habitat offerings in this large drainage area.

Woodman's Channel:

Running north to south and abutting the houses on the 100 block of Buckingham Ln, the west side of the

(Continued on page 15)



A view of the prairie plantings around the Woodman's retention pond.

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Native Plantings Around the Neighborhood

(Continued from page 14)

channel is a good example of the screening benefits of native plants. Tall native grasses, Glade Mallow, and the distinctive heads of purple Angelica grow amongst volunteer oaks and Shagbark Hickory saplings.

Starkweather Drive Terrace:

While not technically a stormwater planting, this strip of natives absorbs snowmelt and bike path runoff and creates interest and habitat. If you walk the trail in spring, you may see it being burned by City staff. Prescribed burns set back non-native weeds and prepare the soil for more robust growth by fire-adapted native plants. Note that City staff occasionally trim back vegetation at intersections or along the shoulder of the path to prevent vision hazards.

Sadly this strip was accidentally cutback earlier this Fall. Don't worry though! These native plants will emerge

just fine next season!

Olbrich Capital City Trail:

This greenway behind the ball fields, south of the Capital City trail, and west of the Walter St intersection supports tall native prairie grasses and young oak trees (planted by our Parks division) that help filter runoff (or catch a stray baseball!) before funneling stormwater into Starkweather Creek.

Lussier YMCA Planting:

A strip of partially shade tolerant native plants separates the east edge of the parking lot from the existing wetland/stormwater pond.

The butterflies that frequent the planting complement the sandhill cranes and waterfowl that use the pond, creating a robust wildlife space in an otherwise urban area. Look for wild columbine, wild geranium and native bottlebrush grass.



Far left: The Olbrich Capital City Trail planting.

Left: Flowers bloom in the Lussier YMCA pollinator planting.

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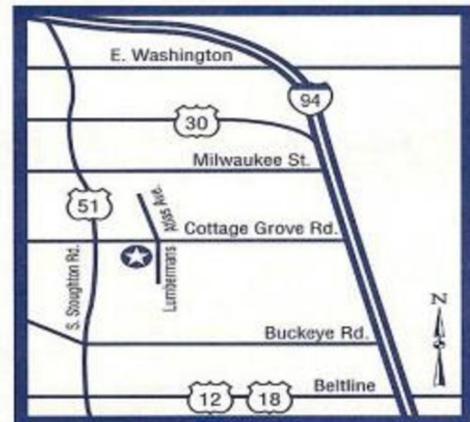
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Culver's of Cottage Grove

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Madison, WI 53716

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Chef's Corner: White Bean Soup

Recipe by Nora of noracooks.com

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium sweet onion finely chopped
- 5 cloves garlic minced
- 2 large carrots peeled and sliced into coins
- 2 stalks celery chopped
- 4 15-ounce cans cannellini beans drained and rinsed
- 4-5 cups vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon red chili flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt more to taste
- 3 cups chopped kale or baby spinach
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- optional shredded parmesan

Instructions:

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onions, garlic, carrots and celery. Cook, stirring frequently for about 4-5 minutes.
2. Now add the drained and rinsed cannellini beans, vegetable broth, tomato paste, Italian seasoning, red chili flakes, black pepper and salt. Stir well.
3. Bring to a boil, then lower heat and simmer for 15

minutes, uncovered.

4. Transfer about 2 cups of the soup to a blender and blend until smooth. Transfer the blended soup back to the pot. Alternatively, use an immersion blender and blend a few times to create a creamier texture.
5. Stir well. If the soup is too thick, add a bit more broth until it reaches your desired consistency.
6. Stir in the chopped kale or spinach and let simmer for a few minutes until wilted (kale will take a few extra minutes to soften).
7. Stir in the lemon juice. Taste and add more salt, pepper or red chili flakes as desired.
8. Serve warm, perhaps with a side of crusty bread and a sprinkle of parmesan in each bowl. Enjoy!



Want to share a favorite recipe in Chef's Corner? Email hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com.



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State Representative District 77

Shelia Stubbs

Wisconsin State Assembly

608-266-3784

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 have been hard at work this legislative session and would like to share some updates with you from my office.

On June 3, as Co-Chair of the Coalition on Gun Safety, I led the introduction of the #SafeSummer bill package with my fellow legislators and Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul.

Another piece of legislation that I have been working diligently on is a bill that would create a task force on missing and murdered African American women and girls, who are disproportionately likely to be victims of homicide or go missing in our state. I will continue to advocate for measures that lead to the safe return of all

missing people and provide closure for their loved ones.

This summer, I was not only able to introduce legislation; I was able to get bills signed into law! On August 8, Governor Evers signed Senate Bill 278, a bill that I coauthored which extends the sunset of the community-oriented policing-house program, as well as 11 other bills that I cosponsored, into law.

On August 26th, I joined my Senate and Assembly Democratic colleagues to introduce AB 435, which would reauthorize the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program after it was removed from the state budget. This bill would include \$72 million in annual funding and create a Stewardship Council/Board for oversight, a nonprofit conservation organization grant program, and a tribal co-management program.

On September 22nd, I hosted a town hall at the Black Business Hub in my district, where I welcomed constituents to come and address members of the Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus with their policy priorities and concerns impacting their community. Over 120 attendees came to discuss questions of economic development, academic achievement for our youth, supports for mental health, community violence prevention, health equity, and numerous other topics.

It is my pleasure to serve you as your State Representative; please feel free to reach out by email at 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. Additionally, if you have a small business or community organization that you would like me to visit, please contact my office! I look forward to hearing from you and welcome your feedback.

Sincerely,

Wisconsin State Representative Shelia Stubbs
78th Assembly District

Contribute an article to *Hi, Neighbor!*
Email hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com.



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Dane County Supervisor District 24

Sarah Smith

Dane County Board

608-492-0027

Smith.Sarah@danecounty.gov

Hi Neighbors!

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

I am writing this entry in September, but by the time this newsletter has reached your hands, Dane County will likely have completed the 2026 budget process. The

county was facing a significant \$31 million structural deficit as a result of skyrocketing health insurance costs for county employees, slow sales tax growth, inflation, and levy limits put in place by the state legislature. The capital budget, which funds property and facility costs like those is separate from the operating budget and we are not able to use any savings or proceeds in the capital fund for operating expenses.

At the start of the 2026 budget process, county department heads had been asked by County Executive Melissa Agard to cut at least 4% from their operating costs with additional cuts still needed to reach \$31 million in savings. I am hopeful that by the time we reach a compromise for the 2026 budget, we will have found those savings by sharing the sacrifice across county departments and services without any particular community nor our county staff bearing the full burden.

You can see the latest documents, and maybe even the final budget, at <https://admin.danecounty.gov/budget>

Holiday Cookie Plates

(Continued from page 12)

morning or early afternoon.

We depend on all of you to share neighbors' information. If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a cookie plate or should no longer be on the list, please contact us, using the same information above. Our list is dwindling, so we really do need you to call in if you know of neighbors to add.

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.

Cookie drop off: Friday, December 12 or Saturday, December 13 between 9 and 9 a.m.

Cookie plate assembly and delivery: Saturday, December 13 beginning at 9 a.m., with delivery into the early afternoon

Email marlaj222@gmail.com to volunteer.

Eastmorland Community Center

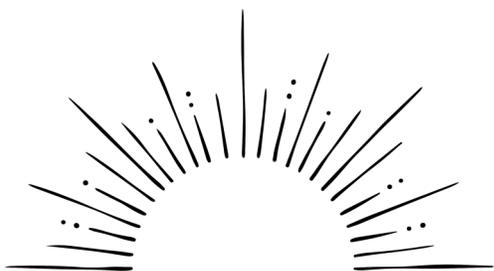
PO Box 8412

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Thank you to all who attended our "ground planting" on September 3rd. Building demolition will start mid to late September.



To support "Common Space for the Common Good" please consider making a gift to our Capital Campaign.



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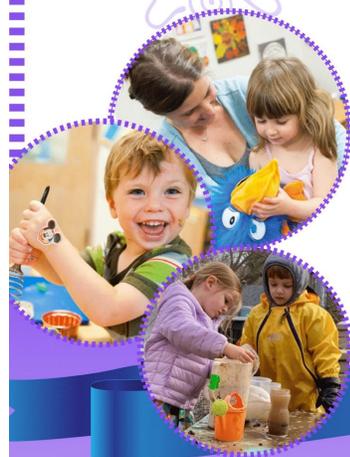
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On Community

Dear Neighbors,

I've been thinking about community recently.

I love living in a neighborhood where I can leave the door unlocked when I walk my dog. I love that my neighbors have little passions that they share with passers by, like a fairy garden tucked into an old tree stump, or a Little Free Seed Library full of native plant seeds. I love that I see kids walking and biking to school every day. I love the backyards full of chickens and the vegetable gardens.

However, being part of a community is not always easy. When you live shoulder to shoulder with many kinds of people, you will encounter people who live differently than you. Your neighbor might enjoy a manicured lawn, while you prefer a native garden. Perhaps the people across the street are a little loud or a bit boisterous for your liking. Maybe you secretly judge how the family a block over is parenting their kids. We are all going to be confronted by these frictions day to day as we exist alongside one another.

We learn to live with these discomforts because we can't choose our neighbors, but what we can choose to be are good community members. To me, being a good community member means that I will stand up for everyone's right to feel safe and welcome in this neighborhood, whether I agree with them or not. I do this because I believe that a diverse community is a strong community. Living alongside people who look like you, talk like you, and make the same choices as you might be easy, but requires little effort and does not challenge us to grow as humans.

There are too many things in the world right now that feel toxic—political polarization, narcissism, violence. I believe that when we look back on this time, years from now, we will be able to see that the malaise at the root of it all was isolation.

Community is the antidote to isolation. Living in community forces us to practice empathy and acceptance. It's not always easy, but what we get in return - a helping hand, generosity, a sense of belonging - is more than worth the effort.

Sincerely yours,
Holly Cho, ECA President

What does community mean to you?

Email info@eastmorland.org to share your thoughts!

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Ode to Fireflies (and How to Love Them)

By Jennifer Peterson, UW-Extension Master Gardener & Eastmorland resident

Is there anything more magical than a gentle sea of fireflies hovering over lawns at dusk? It takes you right back to childhood, to the minutes before your parents called you back inside for the night. If it seemed to you like fireflies made a comeback this year, you're right - we've had a couple of warm, rainy Springs that created great conditions for fireflies to thrive and shine brightly.

Fireflies, like many helpful insects, are under threat over the long-term due to habitat loss, pesticides, light pollution, and climate change. If you love fireflies, butterflies, and bumblebees like I do, and even respect the less-cute spiders and other good bugs in your yard, you can help them survive. Here's how:

- **Lights out for lightning bugs!** Turn off your outside lights, especially in summer - fireflies need dark skies to flash their lights to potential mates. Tons of other species, like frogs, birds, and humans - benefit from dark skies, too - you can learn more at darksky.org. If you need to use outdoor lights at night, make your lighting is:
 - Useful (only use when and where absolutely needed)
 - Targeted (point lights downward and don't let them spill too far!)



- Low Level (as dim as possible)
- Controlled (on a timer or motion sensor)
- Warm-colored (choose yellow rather than blue light)
- Create habitat! Fireflies need darkness, moisture, shelter, and food.
 - Designate an area you allow to be a bit wild or un-mown. Have a shady spot.
 - Leave some leaves, branches and stumps - firefly eggs, larvae, and pupae can shelter in leaf litter, rotting wood, moss, and under rocks.
 - Add native plants, especially grasses, to encourage retention of moisture in your soil. Species diversity is key.

Over the last few years, I've been working to make my yard more welcoming to all kinds of insects by following this [Xerces Society Checklist of Actions](#). (Print readers, you can Google it.) Don't be intimidated by the long list! I just do a little more every year - two years ago I tucked a big wood stump in among some plants, and this year I added a water source. (Trust me, there is nothing more adorable than a bumblebee relaxing on a rock in your birdbath.) Every little bit brings a flash of hope!

Want to contribute to your favorite neighborhood newsletter?

Hi, Neighbor! is always looking for additional writers and volunteers.

No experience is needed!

Email hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com.



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