

# Hi, Neighbor!

A newsletter for the Eastmorland and Lake Edge Neighborhoods

Spring 2026

## *My Neighbor's Garden: Kat Prince*

Kat Prince had a gritty start in vegetable gardening. “I grew up in the Central Sands Plains of Wisconsin,” she says. “If you plant it, it will die, and if it doesn’t, deer will eat it.” The Central Sands Plains are a remnant of the ancient, massive Glacial Lake Wisconsin, whose sandy lake bed remains today, confounding gardeners and inspiring Aldo Leopold and his Sand County Almanac.

Like many of us who grew up in the country and moved to a city, Kat missed nature. She took an internship at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, and started growing veggies in a garden sited in a former horse pasture. Kat was astonished at how easily things grew, and re-evaluated her earlier efforts -- “Maybe it wasn’t a ‘me’ problem with carrots bought at Fleet Farm that died in sand.”

Now, Kat gardens on her urban lot on Dempsey Street, which she has shared with partner Matt and their dog Aldo (yes, named for that naturalist!) since 2022. She ripped out invasive vinca, lily of the valley, and goutweed, but left standing the snag of a fallen tree -- as a pollinator biologist,



she knows the wildlife value of decaying wood. (Aldo, for his part, loves to corner squirrels in it.)

“On its surface, a garden is a way to make a yard pretty,” Kat says. “But it can also be a political act to grow your own produce and share it with your community, without reliance on industrial inputs and globe-spanning supply chains.”

Along with vegetables, Kat grows sun-loving native plants and woodland serviceberries, spicebush, and spring ephemerals. “Choosing to include native species means

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## **Chloride Levels in Starkweather Creek**

*By Matt Noone, Capital Area RPC*

Have you noticed the mysterious white boxes with red wires on fence posts in Starkweather Creek? If yes, you’ve brought your curiosity to the right place!

In 2016, both branches of Starkweather Creek were listed as impaired, due to chloride toxicity, by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). While chloride is recognized as a surface water pollutant, it is mostly an unregulated substance. Chloride is not removed through either wastewater treatment or biological cycles. It persists in the environment, affects the health of plant and animal life in the creek, and eventually contaminates ground water—including our drinking water.

During winter, when it snows and we scatter salt across our sidewalks and roads, it feels temporary—just something to get us through the next storm. But that salt (chloride) doesn’t disappear. It washes into our storm drains, then into our lakes and streams, where it accumulates over time.

In 2020, a collaborative effort led by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission was launched to monitor

chlorides in Starkweather Creek. Our goals were to reduce chloride contamination and raise public awareness about salt pollution, particularly the impact of oversalting.

Initially volunteers collected water samples week after week, and during snowmelt events when salt runoff peaks. In 2024, with help from Operation Fresh Start, we installed a continuous chloride monitoring system throughout Starkweather Creek. If you’ve walked or biked along the path behind Olbrich Gardens, or near the confluence of the creek’s east and west branches by Sherry Park, you may have noticed our equipment. These white boxes are part of a network of eight chloride meters taking readings every ten minutes and sending the data to the cloud, allowing us to track chloride trends over time.

In 2025, we launched an “Adopt-a-Meter” program to deepen community involvement. Local organizations help check equipment and support maintenance costs for a specific meter. So far, meters have been adopted by these partner organizations: Friends of Starkweather Creek, Madison Rotary Club, UW Chemistry Department, and the UW State Cartographer’s Office. We also hope to involve local high school students in the future, offering hands-on

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# Hi, Neighbor!

## Spring 2026

### 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 help. To receive updates or get involved, email [hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com](mailto:hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com).

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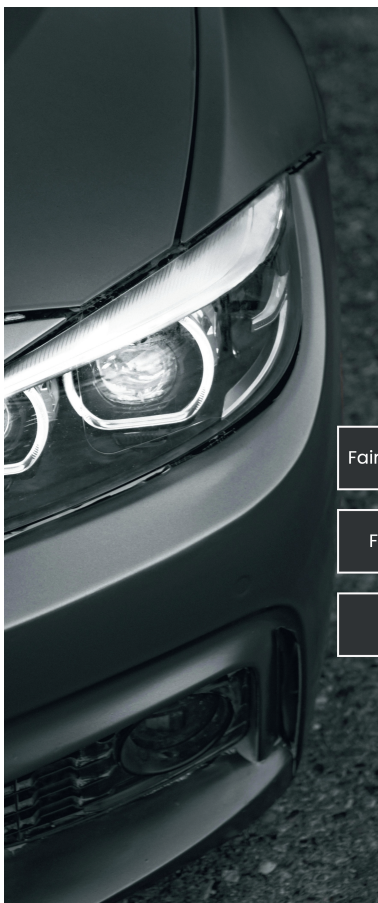
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## Dane Sanctuary Coalition's Volunteer Driver Program

By Dan Zimmerman

Many individuals have contacted me recently about how they might be able to help immigrants in our community.

I am the coordinator of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition volunteer driver program. Since 2019, the Dane Sanctuary Coalition has provided many immigrants with rides to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offices in Milwaukee, Waukegan, and Chicago, as well as the United States Immigration Court in Chicago. In 2025, we received 151 ride requests and fulfilled 123 (~81%) of those requests. Riders' scheduled appointments are typically for:

- Collection of biometrics, which includes a photograph, fingerprinting, and completion of a form providing identifying information (e.g. color of eyes).
- Security checks. Generally, security checks are done annually. Recently arrived immigrants may also have an appointment to remove an ankle monitor after securing a permanent address.
- Asylum interviews.
- Court hearings to determine if the immigrant/family will be given a deportation order.
- Citizenship interviews.
- Meetings with an immigration attorney to prepare for an asylum interview or immigration court hearing.
- Medical appointments for which our transportation was

essential, as well as a couple rides to consulates in Chicago to obtain identification papers.

When I receive a ride request from one of our referring agencies, I send out an email to the distribution list seeking a volunteer driver for the specific ride. Volunteer drivers commit to only a specific ride based on their availability. There is no need to speak another language. Google Translate works just fine for simple, straightforward sentences, to communicate any necessary information. All ride requests are for Monday through Friday, as federal offices and courts are not open on weekends (or federal holidays).

If you have questions or would like to join the volunteer driver program, please contact me at 608-241-1158 or [zimmerman\\_dan@hotmail.com](mailto:zimmerman_dan@hotmail.com).

### Other Organizations to Volunteer With

- Centro Hispano of Dane County, [micentro.org](http://micentro.org)
- Jewish Social Services of Madison, [jssmadison.org/services/volunteer-new](http://jssmadison.org/services/volunteer-new)
- Community Immigration Law Center, [www.cilcmadison.org/get-involved](http://www.cilcmadison.org/get-involved)
- Catholic Multicultural Center, [mcmadison.org/volunteer](http://mcmadison.org/volunteer)
- Voces de la Frontera, [vdlf.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://vdlf.org/volunteer-opportunities)



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## My Neighbor's Garden: Kat Prince

(continued from page 1)

being a responsible steward of your land, even if it's just a little urban yard, by making space for plants (and the wildlife that use them) that have been eradicated from our area.”

Though it's impossible to choose a favorite plant, Kat is fond of her peach tree, the compact, self-pollinating 'Contender.' "I had no idea we could grow peaches here!" During harvest time, Kat leaves a couple of peaches every night for the resident raccoon, to keep them off the tree. "One night, Aldo was peering into the gutter when the

raccoon popped up - they scared each other!" Kat laughs.

Kat's advice to new gardeners? "Start small! Experiment to see what works for you." She suggests taking time to think about what you want: Privacy? Hummingbirds? Food? Something extremely low maintenance?

Beyond that, Kat hopes everyone will plant a flower - something with pollen and nectar, like wild petunia, butterfly weed, milkweed, or pale purple coneflower - and without insecticides. And, of course, enjoy it! "Gardening is a fun way to experience the world as the seasons change, in a way that you can't by simply looking out your window."

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

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## Update from the Eastmorland Community Center

The Eastmorland Community Center & Common Grace property project is starting to take shape! If you have not driven past the Tulane Avenue 'triangle' lately, take a quick trip to see the progress on the workforce development housing units that are currently getting framed. This is the first of the two buildings on the property, with the community center building set to begin work later this spring. The developers expect that the community center and congregation will move back to the property in mid-late fall of this year. We could not be more

excited to get back to the Eastmorland neighborhood!

Once the construction process is farther along, hopefully in late summer, we will be able to invite neighbors into the building for hard hat tours. We plan to have some community events in the new building this fall, including our community Thanksgiving meal.

We are looking forward to getting back to the community activities that will help us put the finishing touches on the property and community center. Several neighbors have already reached out to offer to help us install our native landscaping plants, and others are preparing for community participation with the murals that will go on the exteriors of our buildings. There will be so many ways that Eastmorland neighbors can be involved once the buildings are

*(continued on page 16)*



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## 2025 Holiday Cookie Plate Extravaganza

*By Marla Shoop*

We had a wonderful turnout in December, with volunteers enthusiastically baking, plating, and delivering cookies and holiday cheer throughout Eastmorland and even reaching a few homes in the Lake Edge neighborhood. The warmth and generosity from neighbors—both those who return year after year and a record number of new volunteers—truly made a difference. Your dedication brings our community closer together, and we deeply appreciate everyone's efforts on behalf of our neighborhood.

Thanks to everyone's hard work, we baked a record number of cookies and delivered an incredible 61 plates to neighbors. There were even enough treats to share with the East Madison Police and Fire Stations, Pinney Library, Goodman Center, Solace Friends Inc., and the Salvation Army Shelter on Milwaukee Street. Each plate brought joy and comfort to those receiving them, and your contributions made this outreach possible.

A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful volunteers: Carrie E, Kelli E, Breanna E, Ashley E, Sue E, Sandra H, Carol R, Marla S, Scott H, Seth J, Moira M, Caroline S, Carly H, Emily S, Victoria E, Connie S, Kris W, Holly C, Hanna K, Jordan & Jordan, Kathryn C, Merri T, Hannah T, Janet H, Abby S, Brian J, Shirley D, Jess & Adam G, Celeste & Alex M, Jeanette C, Tom T, Sam & Forrest H, Melanie Mc, Becky P, Gail H, Lauren L, and Beth H. If your name isn't listed, please accept my apologies and let me know using the contact information below.

We rely on neighbors to let us know about those who could use extra support, whether they're experiencing illness, loss, welcoming a new baby, or moving into our community. By letting us know about these neighbors, you help us extend support and cheer where it's needed most. This connection allows our neighborhood to come together and ensure no one feels alone during challenging or joyful times. Throughout the year, please email Marla Shoop at [marlaj222@gmail.com](mailto:marlaj222@gmail.com) or call/text 608-235-4043 to share information about neighbors who may benefit from a little extra kindness.



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## Spotlight on Community

### Perspectives on Community from the Lake Edge Neighborhood Association

For those who may be new to the concept of a neighborhood association, it is very different from a homeowners' association, or HOA. An HOA's goals and activities are generally focused around increasing the monetary value of properties within their jurisdiction. A neighborhood association's goal is to increase its constituents' quality of life.

The Lake Edge neighborhood lies between Monona Dr. and Buckeye Rd., with the neighborhoods of Eastmorland to the north and Glendale to the south. Named for its proximity to Lake Monona, the area includes several parks, schools, restaurants, and businesses (including the eastside YMCA).

The Lake Edge Neighborhood Association (LENA) holds monthly meetings where neighbors can hear from their elected officials, catch up on neighborhood news, and stay informed about upcoming changes such as construction projects and municipal surveys. We also provide opportunities for neighbors to meet each other and have fun. LENA hosts an event almost every month, including a pizza party in February, a neighborhood park cleanup and plant swap in April, and a barbecue in August. All of our membership dues go back into the neighborhood.

Despite the enormous scope of our globalized world, some of the most immediate changes we can effect are at

the neighborhood and community levels. We invite you to join us and participate in community and civic engagement at its smallest and most intimate scale.

### Meet the Board of Lake Edge Neighborhood Association (LENA)

- Sarah Wilkin Gibart, President
- Ellie Anderson, Vice President
- Mallory Musolf, Treasurer
- Kathryn Prince, Secretary
- Steve McCarthy, Membership
- Nick Heindl, Webmaster
- Kate Schultz, School/Community Outreach

Neighborhood meetings are the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 pm. To contact us or join the email listserv, write to lakeedgena@gmail.com.

### Lake Edge Neighborhood Association Events

- Earth Day Park Clean-Up and Plant & Seed Share at Lake Edge Park – April 25, 10 am-12 pm
- Road Construction Walkabout with Madison Streets Division – June (exact date TBD)
- Ice Cream Social at the monthly LENA meeting – June 15, 6:30 pm
- Annual LENA Picnic at Lake Edge Park – August 16



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## Spotlight on Community

### What's in a logo?

By Betsy Elsmo

The Eastmorland Community Association (ECA) board members have been working over the past several years to grow our organization's offerings and visibility in the community. We've been busy upgrading our website (eastmorland.org), developing our presence on social media (Facebook: Eastmorland Community Association – Madison, Wisconsin), and engaging with our neighbors through community building activities.

Last fall, members of the ECA converged around the idea of establishing an ECA logo, to create a visual identity for our organization and give a unifying symbol to our community efforts. The ECA sent out a call for local designers to create our logo, and Jeremy Nealis was selected from a pool of many talented graphic designers who live in our neighborhood. (Learn more about your neighbor Jeremy in the bio to the right.)

After several fruitful and sometimes silly discussions (including delightful graphics of chickens riding in canoes!), we landed on our brand new ECA logo. This logo captures many of the neighborhood's physical features - consisting predominantly of modest post-war homes, numerous mature trees, bordered by the lake, and connected to our surrounding neighbors by sidewalks and bike paths. More importantly, this logo conveys the spirit of the neighborhood – progressive, inviting, engaging, and connected. We hope this logo helps our neighbors recognize the work that ECA is doing in our community,



**Eastmorland  
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and more importantly, invites you to join in and help make Eastmorland a place you are proud to call home.

If you're wondering how you can represent our new ECA logo and be the talk of your block, you're in luck! We will be launching an online store where you can purchase Eastmorland swag featuring our new logo and other fun designs. Keep an eye out for announcements on our email list and the Eastmorland Community Association Facebook group.

### Meet the ECA logo artist

Jeremy Nealis is a designer and artist who has lived in the Madison area for over 20 years and moved to the Eastmorland neighborhood in 2018. He lives here with his wife, two kids, and their dog. Jeremy designed the new logo for the Eastmorland Community Association, working with the board to create a simple mark that reflects everyday life in Eastmorland - our homes, trees and green spaces, access to water, and the paths that connect the neighborhood.

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## Spotlight on Community

### Join your Neighbors in Community

With current events locally and nationally, the ECA has heard a lot from people who are looking for ways to connect with the people around them. Showing up for each other and building relationships with each other builds safety and community and helps create a more welcoming Eastmorland for all. These ideas are just a starting point for building connections near you!

#### Actions you can take

- Know your rights: Everyone benefits by knowing their rights, and the City recently put together a website with resources: [cityofmadison.com/KnowYourRights](http://cityofmadison.com/KnowYourRights).
- Emergency ICE hotline: Put the Voces de la Frontera hotline (1-800-427-0213) in your phone so you're ready. Learn more at [vdlf.org](http://vdlf.org).

#### Join an upcoming event with your neighbors

See the lists on this page and on page 7.

#### Host your own event or fund your green idea

Apply for a neighborhood grant for your own block party, or apply to the Greener Eastmorland fund with an idea to make our neighborhood more sustainable. Both application forms can be found on [eastmorland.org](http://eastmorland.org).

### What Is ECA Doing in 2026?

- Unjust Deeds Fill & File Event at Pinney Library – April 4 2-4 pm
- Outdoor Markets at Lansing Food Forest – May 16 & September 19, 10 am-1 pm
- LGBTQ+ Pride Picnic at Olbrich Park Shelter – June 6
- Olbrich Beer Garden Fundraiser - date TBD
- Fall Fest at Ontario Park – October 10
- Fall Leaf Raking at Olbrich Park Shelter – November 7, 9 am (rain date November 8, 1 pm)
- Neighborhood Cookie Exchange – December 12
- Holiday Market at Eastmorland Community Center – December 12

What would YOU like to see from the ECA in 2026? Follow this QR code or type [bit.ly/ECAsurvey26](http://bit.ly/ECAsurvey26) into your browser to take a 3-5 minute survey. Survey respondents will be entered into a lottery to receive one of two \$20 Woodman's Gift Cards.



If you would like to share with your neighbors a story about the communities in your life, please reach out to us at [hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com](mailto:hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com)



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## Community Column: Leaning on Community

By Miles Hegg

“Dormant” is a word I typically use to describe my state of being in the doldrums of late winter. It is sometimes shocking how easily I can become reclusive during the winter months. I know I am not alone here. Many of us struggle with our mental health during this period—it can bring us to dark places, distract us, and sedate us enough to lie fallow until Spring. For me, this is generally the case. I have my winter hobbies, and I do enjoy the dormancy generally. However, something changed this year—I hit a new low point.

I took to managing myself with misguided self-help and self-care. I stayed home, stayed away, and stayed tuned into coping mechanisms that served as short-term solutions for my struggles—ultimately harming me. I found myself laundering my thoughts through the internet, my cellphone, and the media. I was not leaning on my communities.

At the beginning of this year, I realized that the people around me are generally open and willing to help as active members in the communities we create. If it weren't for the communities I built around me, I would still be dormant—not in a healthy way but in one that leads down a road to becoming a misanthrope.

We live in a society filled to the brim with negativity. One may call my viewpoint utterly pessimistic, but I consider it realistic. Even though negativity surrounds us, it doesn't have to be what guides us in our livelihoods. We can use it as fuel to bring us together as a community. In the news recently, we've all seen the power of like-minded individuals coming together. It can produce safe, strong communities that reach across our divides. A strong community can withstand the negativity.

When you boil it all down, we all need our communities to lean on—whether we do it intentionally or not—and whether it's going

to church, joining a coin collecting club, attending an AA meeting, or just having a sidewalk chat with a neighbor.

We are all surrounded by different communities. They can take the form of commiserating with coworkers over the malaise of working or asking for help with childcare from a family member with whom we don't always see eye-to-eye. Communities can even be something we seek out, such as a neighborhood event hosted by the ECA. We just have to be willing to reach out when we need them.

Asking for help can be challenging. With that, my hope is to give you, my neighbors, a moment to reflect on your own communities and, with that, lean on them if you need to.



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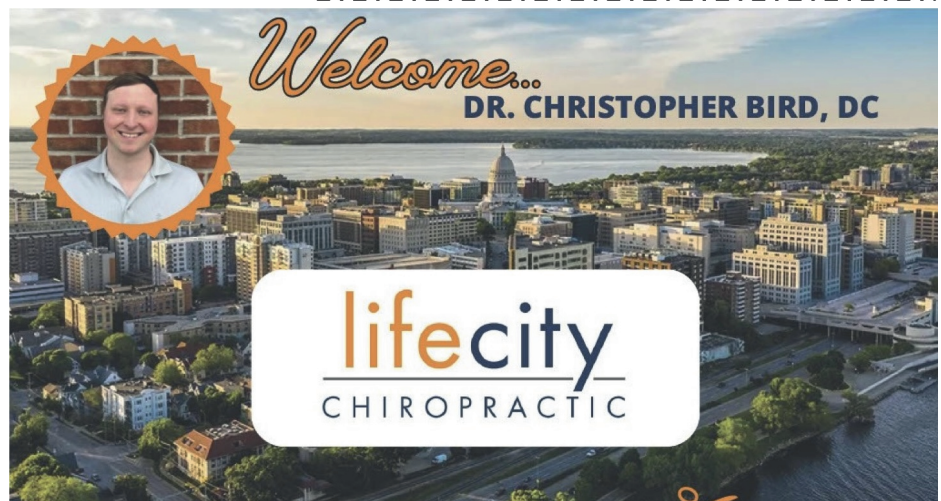
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## Starkweather Creek

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learning and exposure to careers in environmental fields. And while this work is rooted in data, it's ultimately about protecting a living system.

Over the past few years, I've watched a family of beavers settle into Starkweather's East Branch between Zeier and Lein roads, south of East Towne Mall. Their dams have completely reshaped the upper creek. Where the creek was less than 10 feet wide in places, it now stretches to 75 feet across. Last month, while swapping batteries in one of the monitoring meters, our team even spotted an otter. Moments like that are a reminder of the resilience and the potential of Starkweather Creek in our urban environment.



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Since the last edition of *Hi, Neighbor*, Dane County passed our 2026 budget. We faced a \$31 million structural deficit that had grown due to health insurance costs for county employees, slow sales tax growth, and the majority party of the state legislature preventing local governments from controlling our own revenue. To address this budgetary challenge, the 2026 budget reduced funding to community-based nonprofit partners by 1%, and utilized funds from long-vacant Sheriff’s Office positions without removing any position authority from that office. We also continue investing in behavioral health and homelessness services, along with other critical county services. The 2027 budget promises to be just as difficult, and chaos at the federal level creates even greater financial uncertainty. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your thoughts and feedback as we move toward development of the 2027 budget.

Finally, the county is aware of the potential for ICE activity that would threaten our neighbors and our

*(continued on page 14)*

My focus as your state senator is finding ways to make your lives better. For decades, Wisconsin Republicans have repeatedly written budgets and passed legislation to cut wages, forced schools to rely more on property taxes to fund our schools, and made healthcare less affordable. This legislative session, I have been calling on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to imagine a better, new path forward.

Our public schools have been underfunded for decades, leaving kids and teachers without the resources needed to succeed. When the state doesn’t fund schools, districts turn to referendums to keep the lights on, which means your property taxes go up—even as we sit on a \$2.5 billion surplus! My legislation fills the gap between what our state constitution guarantees (a quality public school for every child) and what the Republican-controlled legislature has provided (an endless cycle of referendums raising property taxes, declining school funding, and disappointing math and reading scores). Republicans have recognized that property

*(continued on page 14)*

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## Updates from LaFollette High School

By Mathew Thompson, Principal LaFollette High School

I hope this message finds you well. We have just wrapped our first semester of the 2025-2026 school year. Even after 31 years in MMSD, I am still astounded at how quickly the school year unfolds. We had an incredibly strong start to the year and our momentum continues. I am extremely pleased with how our students, staff, and community have responded to our increased expectations.

As you most likely have heard, we are moving fully towards standards-based learning and a grading system that is more pure and purposeful. A standards-based assessment and grading system allows us to more accurately share what students are learning, what they are able to know and demonstrate. The days of folding in student characteristics, soft-skills, perceived “effort” and extra credit are no longer reflective of the grade a student receives. At recent professional development days, the staff have been developing rubrics to accurately assess students’ progress toward each standard. Ultimately, this will provide a more accurate picture of learning. I hope you find this as exciting and noteworthy as I do.

As we dive into the second semester, we have a lot of things to celebrate. I would like to begin by acknowledging all our amazing and talented students. This past December was an absolutely spectacular month for the LaFollette High

School Fine Arts program. A huge thank you to the students, staff, and families who made the winter concert season such a ringing success! Speaking of talented Lancers, we hope you took the opportunity to experience our recent Spring Musical, The Wizard of Oz. The community is always warmly invited to attend these performances and support the students with a packed auditorium!

LaFollette High School is a cornerstone and longstanding fixture of the Lake Edge & Eastmorland communities. Strong public schools supporting a beautiful and diverse community are critical to all of our success. Even if you do not have a student at LaFollette, as stakeholders your investment and involvement matter. I want you to know you are always welcome at LaFollette. If you are ever interested in a tour and want to see the school, please contact me at [methompson@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:methompson@madison.k12.wi.us).

I am encouraging this community to get involved with our LHS Booster Club. The Boosters work to support all student academics, fine arts, clubs and athletics. The Boosters have provided \$32,000 this year that directly impacts our students and staff. They raise funds the old-fashioned way - selling concessions at games and BDL tournaments. Consider taking a shift at an upcoming event! Please have a look at the LaFollette Booster page ([lafolletteboosters.org/](http://lafolletteboosters.org/)) and follow the “volunteer” link. There are a number of upcoming events where we could use your help. Thank you so much for your support!



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**State Representative  
District 77**

**Shelia Stubbs**

608-237-9178

Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov

As our legislative session comes to a close, I would like to share some updates from my office with you. Over the past several months, I have testified in support of several of my bills that have received public hearings, including:

- Assembly Bill 477, which would increase the age for automatic eligibility for a Missing Child Alert. This bill passed both houses of the Legislature and will be going to Governor Evers’s desk for a signature!
- Assembly Bill 727, which would require the Department of Corrections to provide a variety of affordable, culturally-sensitive hygiene products to incarcerated Wisconsinites.
- Assembly Bill 824, which would expand the list of locations that must be encouraged to display a human trafficking poster.

I continue advocating for the passage of my bill that would create a Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force in Wisconsin. On Dec. 16, this bill received a public hearing in a Senate Committee.

Unfortunately, the bill never received a hearing in the Assembly and has not yet made it to the Senate floor for a vote. However, I will keep advocating for justice and closure for victims and their families.

During Black History Month, I had the pleasure of hosting and attending several community events celebrating the heritage and accomplishments of African American Wisconsinites. From attending the Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus’s Black History Month Kick-Off, to hosting a virtual Black Men’s Health panel, to participating in Read Your Heart Out at Elvehjem Elementary School, to meetings for Black Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, I spent the month honoring Black history and promoting equity, civil rights, and justice for all.

I am proud to report that, this session, the Legislature passed both Assembly Bill 263 (Gail’s Law), which would require insurance coverage for follow-up breast cancer screening, and Assembly Bill 97, which would expand postpartum Medicaid coverage in Wisconsin from two to 12 months. I am proud to be a cosponsor for both these bills and am overjoyed to see them signed into law.

Please reach out 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.

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## Denounce Discrimination in Your Deed

Did you know that many homes in Eastmorland still have racial covenants in their property deeds? Through the mid-20th century, racial covenants were used to prevent Black, Asian, and other non-white families from owning homes or

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living in certain neighborhoods. While these covenants are no longer enforceable, they are a legacy of discrimination and racism in our communities.

You can denounce the racial covenant in your deed! Join us April 4 at Pinney Library from 2-4 p.m. Property owners just need to fill out a simple and free form with the County (just bring a photo ID with you.) You can look up if your deed contains a racial covenant at [danecountyplanning.com/Prejudice-in-Places](http://danecountyplanning.com/Prejudice-in-Places). If you live west of Harding St., south of Tulane Ave. and north of Anchor Dr., or within a block or so of Olbrich Ave., there is a decent chance you could have a racial covenant in your deed.

Check out the exhibit from Dane County Historical Society, Unjust Deeds, on display at Pinney Library from April 1 to April 29. You can also schedule an appointment to denounce a racial covenant online or in-person. Learn more at [www.danecountyplanning.com/Prejudice-in-Places](http://www.danecountyplanning.com/Prejudice-in-Places).

## Senator Roys

*(continued from page 11)*

taxes are too high, and I am eager to work with them to find a solution that upholds our responsibility to our kids.

As the Trump administration and Washington Republicans take another swing at the Affordable Care Act, I introduced a bill to give everyone the ability to buy into the same high-quality, low-cost, nonprofit health insurance that state employees receive. Whether you're self-employed, a small business owner, uninsured, or simply paying too much for coverage, KeldaCare is for you. My healthcare plan would shield Wisconsin families from the financial harm that federal Republican policies are inflicting on us.

Additionally, I authored legislation to raise Wisconsin's minimum wage to \$15 per hour, with a path to \$20 by 2030.

No one working full time should live in poverty—especially not the educators, CNAs, and home healthcare workers most likely earning less than \$20 today.

I know these ideas may raise questions, and my office is always happy to help. Please don't hesitate to call or email.

## Supervisor Smith

*(continued from page 11)*

community. Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Office, and human services staff have processes in place to respond if there is an increase in ICE activity in Dane County. Follow Voces de la Frontera for timely notifications and info about your rights. Voces has an emergency hotline available 24/7 at 1 (800) 427-0213.

**Lake Edge Neighborhood Association  
(LENA)**

**LENA OFFICERS**

President: *Sarah Wilkin Gibart*  
Vice President: *Ellie Anderson*  
Membership: *Steve McCarthy*  
Secretary: *Kathryn Prince*  
Treasurer: *Mallory Musolf*  
School/Community Outreach: *Kate Schultz*  
Webmaster: *Nick Heindl*

**Contact the Lake Edge Neighborhood Association at:**  
LakeEdgeNA@gmail.com

**Learn more or join by visiting our website:**  
lenamadison.org

**Neighborhood meetings are the 3rd Monday of every  
month at 6:30 pm 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)

**DIRECTORS**

*Betsy Elsmo, Miles Hegg, Micah Kloppenburg,  
Joel Sacramento, Kris Whitman*

**MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING:** *Dan Zimmerman,*  
608-241-1158, zimmerman\_dan@hotmail.com

**ECA WEBSITE:** *Joel Sacramento,*  
communications@eastmorland.org

**EASTSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL LIAISON:**  
*Matt Covert, mjcovert@gmail.com*

**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!*

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## Pet Vignette: “The three little kittens, they lost their mittens...”

By Renee Lajcak

If you are walking down East Lakeview Ave. near Maher, perchance to look for our Little Free Library, you may also spot three little kittens without their mittens. Well, cats anyway. A herd of gray cats that might remind you of a passel of gray rats. But more pettable.

You may see Peanut, Kamala, and Gabby with their leashes tied together like a wheel with three spokes. Unlike dogs, who know how to work together, cats go their own ways. Thus, we don't have to attach the three-ended leash to anything because the three cats pull in three different directions, keeping everyone in check and in the yard.

Cats are also independent politically. They lean neither left nor right, just toward the food bowl. The Three Amigos value eating and sleeping above all. They are wonderful role models for their retired human hosts. As my brother so aptly put it when speaking of cats,



“Eating makes them sleepy, and sleeping makes them hungry.” Sounds like us.

Peanut and Kamala are sisters, rescued during the pandemic. But they are so different, as sisters often are. Peanut is the short-haired Olympic wannabe. A risk-taker who leaps fences and climbs trees despite not knowing how to climb down. Her sister Kamala is the long-haired, zaftig hedonist with the big bloomers who sashays through life. The third is tiny, toothless, clawless Gabby, taken in when my mother-in-law reached her 90s. Gabby is the oldest, but acts like the youngest. She twists and turns, twirls and whirls on the cement like an angleworm on a hot summer sidewalk, even in the depths of winter.

So if you are walking down East Lakeview Ave., stop by the Little Free Library, and then look around for the “Three Little Kittens” - the parkour athlete, the sensualist, and the squirrely squirmer.

*Introduce your pet in the next Hi, Neighbor Pet Vignette! Email a photo to [hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com](mailto:hineighboreastmorland@gmail.com) and tell us about your pet companion.*

## ECC Update

*(continued from page 5)*

near completion!

One of the ways that neighbors can continue to help now is by supporting the capital campaign. In just under a year, we have raised 57% (856K) of our \$1.5 million with your community support. We are so grateful! If you haven't had an opportunity to donate, you can do so online ([givebutter.com/3JDXRh](https://givebutter.com/3JDXRh)) or by check to P.O. Box 8412, Madison, WI 53708. Another way to support the campaign to help the community center thrive for years to come is to connect us with community partners. If you know of anyone that might be interested in supporting the work we are doing in the Eastmorland neighborhood, sending an email to [marie@eastmorlandcommunitycenter.org](mailto:marie@eastmorlandcommunitycenter.org) is a good way to start that connection!

Thank you for going on this journey with the Eastmorland Community Center, neighbors!



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