



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE ARBOR HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION, MADISON, WI

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Neighbors,

As we wrap up 2021 with our final newsletter of the year, it's a good time to reflect on the past year in our neighborhood and map out our plans and goals for 2022. We did just that at our November AHNA board meeting, and I'd like to share some of that reflection with all of you.

At the start of the year, we were still uncertain about what would be safe and possible to include in our events calendar, but we were optimistic that we'd be able to get together in person once again. In April, we donned our gloves and wielded our trash bags for our annual Earth Day cleanup, just hoping someone would show up. We were thrilled to be joined by many neighbors on a beautiful spring day. Turnout continued to exceed our expectations for our food truck nights in the park throughout the summer and the 4th of July and Halloween parades.



In addition to hosting events, we also focused on establishing a more frequent cadence of communication with the neighborhood—sending a survey, sending emails about neighborhood happenings, posting information on our website, Facebook page, and on Nextdoor, and of course, continuing to create and distribute this beautiful newsletter. We also maintained a strong line of communication with our Alder, our neighborhood officer and South Madison police captain, and other city leaders.



Looking ahead to 2022, we have several key goals as a board. The first is to hit our membership goal of 175 households. This year we fell just shy with 172. More importantly, we plan to focus on making your membership worthwhile with fun opportunities to connect with your fellow neighbors and with consistent, meaningful communication. We plan to go back to holding our annual fall meeting for all members in person if it's safe to do so. The past two years have been held virtually, and while we've checked all of the boxes—holding elections, voting on a budget, hearing from city leaders—we've missed out on the energy of spontaneous connections, and attendance has suffered.

The coming year will be filled with significant transitions for our neighborhood with the absorption of the Town of Madison into the City of Madison and the City of Fitchburg, and with the move from District 14 to District 10 (read more about both of these changes on Page 6). We'll continue to share resources and information as these changes go into effect.

A neighbor who has lived in Arbor Hills since 1989 recently sent a note of appreciation for the energy of the association this year. This kind of feedback is why our board members continue to volunteer their time and energy, making room between busy work schedules and kids' activities. We're proud to serve on your association for this little "hidden gem" of a neighborhood.

Wishing you all a warm and safe new year,
Ashley Gibson | AHNA President

AHNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month from 6:30 - 8 p.m. All residents are welcome to attend - just let a board member know if you plan on attending or email AHNA at info@arborhills.org. See page 7 or arborhills.org/board-members for the list of board members and contact information.

Meeting minutes from the 2021 Annual Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting are available on arborhills.org/meeting-minutes.

www.arborhills.org

EXPERTS AMONG US: Jackie Bastyr Cooper Improving Our Recycling

Arbor Hills is filled with talented, passionate people who have deep expertise in subjects we might have never considered or are curious about from afar. Each newsletter, we feature an interview with a neighbor with talent or expertise that we might not have known was there!

This month, we sat down with Jackie Bastyr Cooper to learn about her passion for recycling and what we can all do to improve our own recycling skills.

Tell us a little bit about yourself

I've been recycling for as long as I can remember. I have multiple bins in our house specifically for recyclables - two for paper (newspaper, junk mail, etc.), one for small boxes (cereal, crackers, etc.) and then one with a plastic bag for glass and plastic containers that previously held food (they are all emptied into the single commingled recycling bin once per week - you could easily do the same in your house with a single bin, you would just need to empty it more frequently). When I heard about the Sustain Dane Master Recycling class, I knew it would be a great way to learn even more - and hopefully become better with my habits around recycling.

How did you get interested in the ins and outs of recycling?

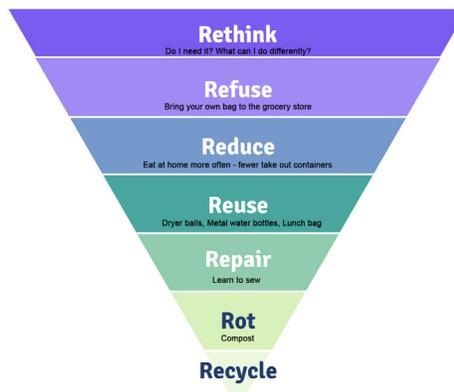
I have always been interested in the environment and what happens when we throw things away. I work as a lab manager at UW-Madison in environmental engineering, so I am always thinking about the environment. Research has a LOT of waste - items that we would generally recycle, but because of chemical hazards and contaminants used in a research lab, we have to throw many things in the trash. In the lab, the saying is, "if you - or your child - would drink from the container after washing it, then you can recycle; if not, it should go in the trash." This guidance has stuck with me as a great way to think about recycling.



What do folks not know that they should about recycling?

I learned that recycling is the final step when thinking about this cycle. There are a LOT of different types of plastics - and they are not all created equally.

The "7 Rs of Waste" is an excellent way for us to improve our habits as well as those of our family when it comes to waste: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rot, Recycle.



The "Resin ID Codes" chart is a great tool to determine what those numbers on the bottom of plastic containers mean. What happens after you toss something into the recycle bin - this video from Pellitteri Waste Systems was very eye-opening: <https://tinyurl.com/ajkbndk5>

Resin ID Codes

What does that number on my plastic mean?

The number that you see on the bottom of some plastic packaging is what's called a Resin ID Code. When you see this, it does not automatically mean the item is recyclable. They were created for people behind-the-scenes of recycling to determine the plastic type.



What mistakes do you notice people making most frequently?

Say no to the plastic straw and plastic cup cover if you don't need them, and when out-and-about, bring your empty soda can or plastic juice bottle home to recycle rather than putting it into a trash bin. Remember, just because others are doing it doesn't mean you should too.

If you had to give our readers a few easy tips - what tops your list?

It takes a bit of time and dedication to become a "Master Recycler," but we can all do little things to change our habits. A recycling bin in your kitchen will increase the likelihood of waste not going to the landfill. Junk mail, magazines, newspapers, office paper - these are EASY things to recycle. Cracker and cereal boxes - break them down and put them in your bin! You'll be amazed by how much less you add to your trash bin.

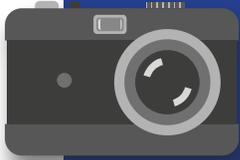
Where can folks go for more information if they are passionate about this topic?



City of Madison:
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/recycling/>

Sustain Dane:
<https://sustaindane.org/better/>

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS



All around Arbor Hills, families got out and about for Halloween,



including the Neighborhood Association Halloween Parade and Trunk-Or-Treat!



Photo Credit: M. P. King

Remembering Paul du Vair, Legendary Science Teacher & Grandview Neighbor

Paul du Vair was the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association President in the 1980s and a long-time resident on Grandview Avenue. After decades of being a central figure in our community we want to acknowledge his passing.

Age 83, Paul died on August 22, 2021, of natural causes. A celebrated educator, Paul worked 52 years as a science instructor for 7,271 students in Reedbrug, Milwaukee, and Madison. His list of teaching accolades and professional honors is as long as Grandview Boulevard, but the one he reportedly treasured was a "Best Teacher in the World Award," crafted by some of his students.

A neighbor remembers his tenure as AHNA President, "He did a terrific job, as he did with every organization that he was a part of - an incredibly competent and well-organized individual."

Paul Marie Jean Yves DeLaNey du Vair was born in Colmar (Alsace) France on December 14, 1937. He was married to the late Marcia (Halverson) du Vair for 45 years and had two daughters, Suzanne De Vair and Elise (Matt) McLimans. Memorials in his name may be made to Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 3 miles from his home.



Photo Credit: George Roesch Johnson

Are you interested in joining the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association (AHNA)? Now, it has never been easier with our new website!

Head to our new website www.arborhills.org and click "Become A Member" in the top right. Sign-up takes just a few clicks and costs only \$20 a year - less than \$2 every month!

Reminder to current members that it is time to renew your membership for 2022!

To learn more about all the great reasons to be a part of AHNA, reach out to any of our board members or email our contact line - info@arborhills.org!

Thanks for supporting Arbor Hills!



Arbor Hills Is Looking For A Newsletter Designer!

The gorgeous newsletter you are reading was made possible by a dedicated team of neighbors who team up quarterly to create our community publication!



Our current newsletter designer, Page Campbell, will be hanging up her hat, and now we're looking for someone to fill the big shoes she's leaving behind.

To fill her shoes, we are looking for an individual in the neighborhood with design experience willing to volunteer their time to assist with this neighborhood publication.

If you are interested in learning more about the role, what is involved, and what drives our newsletter team, please reach out to Michael Horecki (michael.horecki@gmail.com) to learn more!



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Aldo Leopold Park Becomes Home To Pump Track

By Michael Horecki | AHNA Newsletter Editor

It's called a pump track. Like a bike roller coaster, the paved surface offers riders a great way to exercise and have fun while navigating sharply banked turns. Experts and beginners alike can find joy in riding the track, grabbing air off the track's curves, and meeting new friends who share a passion for cycling.



Photo Credit: Phil Brinkman, State Journal

Aerial view of the 7,000-square-foot pump track

The track was funded in part with a \$125,000 bike infrastructure grant and creates a space where bikers can gather since bikes aren't allowed at most area state parks.

Arbor Hills seeing more cyclists isn't going to slow down anytime soon as plans call for a second skills part next to the pump track and a "shred to school" dirt trail alongside the Cannonball Path.

The track, housed in Aldo Leopold Park, is the only one of its kind within a two-hour drive - La Crosse and Chicago are the nearest tracks of similar caliber.

In the first few weeks alone, dozens of bikers have flocked to the park, all driven by the unique design of the track and the easy accessibility to the Cannonball Bike Path.

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Arbor Hills Has A New Aldermanic District



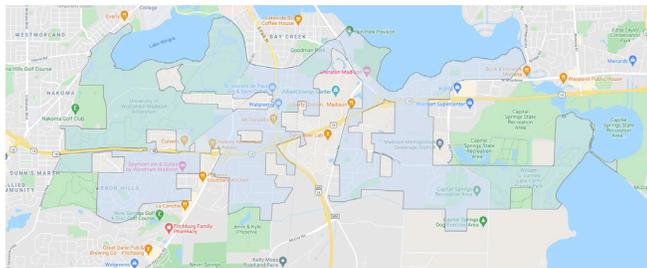
By Michael Horecki

With the Census complete comes the next step in the process - redistricting. Legislative maps are redrawn based on population changes and then voted on by governmental bodies. This fall, that process concluded in Madison at the local level, with new city and county maps locking in for the next decade.

For Arbor Hills, the new maps see a historic shift from the current aldermanic (District 14), where Alder Sheri Carter, a former AHNA President, has represented the neighborhood since first elected in 2015.

For the last decade, Arbor Hills has anchored District 14, which sprawled east as far as Monona. Now, with redistricting complete, Arbor Hills will root the westward sprawling District 10.

The new lines raise concerns among some in Arbor Hills. The new Alder representing the neighborhood will have many challenges, including supporting constituents whose children attend the two largest high schools in the area.



Current Arbor Hills Alder District Map

Long-time substitute teacher and Arbor Hills treasurer-elect, Mary Laatsch Sara, worries the needs of both areas will be difficult for a single Alder to represent.

"Memorial (High School) has a set of issues that are unlike West (High School)," said Laatsch Sara. "So, you're introducing, you know, to a certain degree, apples and oranges and making it much more complicated than it needs to be."

Edward Jones

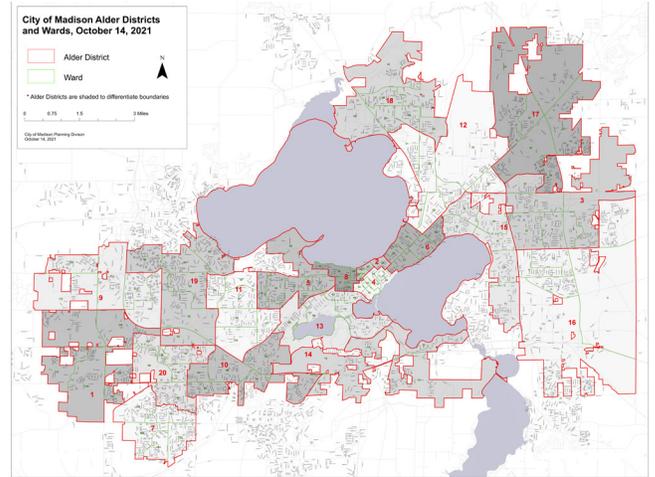


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However, with the maps approved and going into effect January 1st, it will be incumbent on the new Alder to build relationships across the district and with organizations like AHNA.



Future Arbor Hills Alder District Map

"We are ready to build a relationship with the Alder of District 10," said Ashley Gibson, President of AHNA. "This will be a time of transition, and there are many unique facets of Arbor Hills that will require investment from our Alder to represent our community well. We will be there to support our elected leaders and facilitate their connection to our community."



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Fall is just around the corner. For many, that means busier calendars as we bid goodbye to long summer days and the slow pace of summer. While saving energy may not be top of mind, MGE has simple tips that can help set your household up to save time and energy all year long.

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Upcoming AHNA Dates

It is hard to believe the year is over! Many great events are in the works for 2022. To close out 2021 AHNA held the annual Winter Light Contest and will be releasing a full list of 2022 events soon!

WINTER LIGHT CONTEST

The annual Winter Light Contest was back for 2021! Judges will alert candidates as to the winner after the holidays and AHNA will pay their electric bill for the month of December!



Photo Credit: George Roesch Johnson

Last year's Winter Light Contest Winner:
Jolene Chadwick of Grandview Blvd

UPCOMING 2022 EVENTS:

The Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association is already deep into planning 2022's events! If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to info@arborhills.org



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