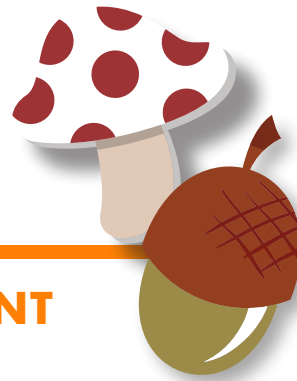


FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi neighbors,

I recently heard the saying "Set your intentions and hold them loosely," and I think it's fitting for so many things in life. This past year and a half has taught us all that some plans just won't pan out, despite our best intentions. I was reminded of this on July 8, when my husband Ean and I intended to host a block party in our driveway for Leyton Lane and Leyton Circle residents - a week before our baby was due. The night before, I trimmed some rhubarb from our garden and made a pan of bars for the gathering. Of course, that's right when our new addition - Arthur Glen - decided to make his way into the world. Thankfully, our wonderful neighbors picked up where we left off and still held a fun gathering in our driveway while we were in the hospital. We came home to chalk drawings welcoming Arthur and precious notes from our neighbors. It was a beautiful expression of what it means to be surrounded by a strong community. It's also a reminder of the challenge we have as a neighborhood association to provide opportunities for connection so that all Arbor Hills residents can feel that kind of warm welcome that our little guy experienced.

Throughout the summer, we held events to offer these opportunities to gather at our food truck nights in the park, which were very well attended. The annual 4th of July parade drew kids, adults, and pets from across the neighborhood who sported their red, white, and blue attire and followed behind a fire truck to Arbor Hills Park. At the park, there were peals of laughter as kids tossed water balloons and families enjoyed food catered by Migrants. Recently, we gathered for an event that's more business than fun - the annual meeting - and provided updates from the board about what we've been up to for the past year. Our Alder Sheri Carter and South Madison Police Captain Mike Hanson also shared their perspective on issues affecting our community - like the redistricting plan that will place Arbor Hills in a new district, and the absorption of the Town of Madison into the City. We also elected new board members who will begin their terms in 2022 and approved next year's budget (check out arborhills.org for a detailed recap of the meeting).

As a new parent, there are many intentions I've learned to hold loosely, and let them go if it's just not in the cards for the day - like finding time for responding to emails, cleaning the house, and putting on makeup. And as volunteer board members, many with young kids and full time jobs, there are big goals we have that don't always unfold as quickly as we hope. But there are certain things that will always hold true, even amidst uncertainty: our mission to provide a welcoming space for all Arbor Hills residents and keep you informed of important things going on in our neighborhood.

Ashley Gibson | AHNA President



Interested In Serving On The Arbor Hill Neighborhood Association Board?

The AHNA Board is looking a member to serve in our final open position:

- Event Coordinator

Responsibilities vary by role and more can be learned by emailing info@arborhills.org.

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.

Letter From County Supervisor Cecely Castillo

Dear Neighbors,

I joined the Dane County Board of Supervisors, as your Dist. 4 Supervisor, in December 2020. Since I have not been able to meet many of you in person, I welcome this opportunity to say hello and talk about what is happening before the Dane County Board.



It is a very busy time right now since we are heading into the county budget season. Our county budget has a direct impact on our day-to-day lives, and I will be putting in many hours to ensure my vote counts for District 4.

If you are interested in learning more about the county budget process, staff created this fantastic video that breaks it all down at <https://board.countyofdane.com/budget>.

Some Of My Top Budget Priorities Are:

- Ensure we adequately fund our public health department to keep us safe through this pandemic. The staff has worked tirelessly, and have done an amazing job, and unfortunately, we need them to

keep it up as we deal with delta, increased need for testing and so folks that need to get their vaccines can do so easily.

- Prioritize funding for the protection of our lakes and waterways. This includes monitoring water levels, managing algae growth and reducing the entry of nitrates and other pollutants such as PFAS.
- Fund our amazing county parks. One bright spot of the pandemic is that it encouraged many of us to visit our county parks. One of my favorites is Donald County Park (<https://parks-lwr.dane.countyofdane.com/park/Donald>), which I have explored with my kids and our pandemic puppy who loves a good family hike.
- Focus on supporting affordable housing and ending homelessness. Especially during a pandemic, we need to make sure our neighbors have a safe space to call home.

I truly look forward to when we can safely meet in person. Until then, please don't hesitate to reach out to me and visit the Dane County Board of Supervisors' site at <https://board.countyofdane.com>. You can engage on the county level, whether by reaching out to me, or by attending a committee or board meeting, which are all currently virtual.

-Cecely Castillo, Dist. 4 Supervisor





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Food Truck Nights Bring Neighborhood Together

By Michael Horecki | AHNA Newsletter Editor

In another summer marked by pandemic uncertainty, bringing neighbors safely together outside has been top of mind for the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association. With most of the "normal" indoor events postponed, a highlight of the summer was the monthly food truck nights in Arbor Hills Park.

Beginning in May and ending in September, the evening event series brought a variety of local restaurant food trucks into the neighborhood and provided a family-friendly activity for Arbor Hills residents to get out of their homes, connect with their neighbors and have someone else handle dinner.



Neighbors Line Up For Dinner

The events were regularly well attended, bringing together more than fifty residents on most occasions. Additionally, local musicians volunteered to provide the soundtrack!



Neighborhood Musicians Entertain The Crowd

To learn more about all of the great events orchestrated by the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association, check out the Events section on the website (<https://arborhills.org/events/>).

Interested in getting involved in creating great events in our community? Connect with Samantha Castro at (scastro817@yahoo.com) to get plugged in!

Welcome Our New Neighbor

Full Name:
Arthur Glen Gibson

Date Of Birth:
July 8, 2021



Why Did You Choose The Name Arthur?

We chose the name Arthur after watching a design show featuring a British couple with a little boy named Arthur. His middle name (Glen) comes from his maternal great grandfather.



How Is Arthur Adapting To The Neighborhood So Far?

Arthur received a warm welcome from our neighbors who decorated our driveway and left us notes when we came home from the hospital. He has been getting daily tours of Arbor Hills while we go out for walks!

Do you have a new neighbor, young or old? E-mail Michael Horecki (michael.horecki@gmail.com) to have them included in the next edition of the newsletter!



Arbor Hills Needs Block Captains!

Are you interested in more involvement in your immediate community? The Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association is looking for a block captain for the following block in the Arbor Hills Neighborhood:

- Grandview Blvd Block 2808-2831

The ideal volunteer would live on or near these blocks, is willing to distribute the AHNA quarterly newsletter and maintain communication with their block as well as the AHNA Block Captain Coordinator.

If you are interested, please reach out to Nicholas at 1nicholasg@gmail.com.





Albert & Muhiya: Neighborhood Global Citizens

By Madeline Urameck

***Warning - Parts Of The Following Piece Might Be Upsetting To Some Readers ***



As comments pro- and con- about refugees proliferate, it's good to meet some actual ones in the neighborhood. Albert and his wife Muhiya are busy working,

helping other refugees, and even find time to raise funds for school fees to send to orphans left behind.

Albert was born in Katanga, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Muhiya came from Lubumbashi, in northern DRC. Before the war tore their family into pieces, Albert was a primary school teacher, a Pentecostal pastor, and had a business selling motor oil. The oldest of six children, Albert lived with his mother and Muhiya in DRC's large city of Bukavu, and their grown siblings lived nearby.

In a night in November, 2007, government soldiers, carrying torches, burst into Albert's home, raped the women, killed Albert's mother, and tortured Albert. That night of terror marked the beginning of four months of agonizing escape that are still difficult for Albert to talk about. Initially he, his wife, and nine others staggered aboard a lorry, which took them over terrible roads to hide in a Catholic Church in Kalehe. They were terrified to accept food and medicine from strangers who might easily report or kill them.

In February 2008, Alfred and Muhiya fled in a lorry direct to Kampala, capital city of Uganda. Uganda is progressive among host countries, but Alfred and Muhiya were just two more of its 1.4 million displaced persons. They first lived in a Pentecostal church then in an urban neighborhood, filled with refugees like themselves. Their skills,

education, and Albert's ability to speak English, French, Chiluba, Swahili and Bengala were valuable assets.

Albert joined UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency, as a community worker and focused on gender based violence. He and his team went door to door to encourage victims of rape, sex trafficking and domestic violence to stand up for their rights. "It was not an easy job," says Albert.

While in Uganda, Albert and Muhiya had two daughters, Esperance, whose name means hope, and Mwamba, whose name, roughly translated, means tower of strength. Filed in 2008, the family's asylum case finally began to move in 2016. In April, 2019, they learned they would be assigned to a place they'd never heard of before. They landed in Madison in May, 2019.

"Muhiya and I are still looking for our brothers and sisters," Albert says. "We feel in our hearts that they are alive. But where?"



Muhiya has a job, and Albert works at a factory in nearby Jefferson. He works a long night shift, putting in 14 hours, including the commute. But he and Muhiya find time to welcome other refugees, to nurture Umoja ni Nguvu, an organization they created to help other refugees, and to raise funds to send to trusted colleagues in Uganda to pay school fees for orphans. "Maybe we have helped 40 of them," Albert says, "but what about the other one thousand?"

Arbor Hills hopes to see Albert and his refugee neighbors at upcoming events, and we're proud to count them as neighbors. They've come a long way, helping others every step of the way.



EXPERTS AMONG US: Liza Morrow

By Michael Horecki | Editor



Rolling Hills At Perrot State Park

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 who has talent or expertise that we might not have known was there!

This month, we sat down with Liza Morrow of Greenway View to learn about her fascination with Wisconsin State Parks and her Wisconsin State Park camping review site, Hiking Hungry.



Stunning Views From Wyalusing State Park Near Prairie Du Chien

Q: Why The Interest In Wisconsin State Parks?

A: The passion initially grew from a desire to travel and see natural beauty while on a very limited budget. Many of my friends at the time made 3-4 times my salary (social worker, over here!) and would post photos of their extravagant trips, complete with stunning mountain or coastal hikes. I was determined to show that there was natural beauty closer to home, accessible to everyone, no matter their budget.

Q: What Types Of Stories Do You Write For Your Blog?

A: The majority of my posts feature hiking trail reviews and information about the park in general, but I also include campsite reviews and campfire recipes. It's amazing how many times I go down a rabbit hole about the history or geology of a park! I include everything I learn through a very amateur lens. I also touch on the accessibility and difficulty of trails with the consideration that everyone's abilities are different.

Q: What Goes Into Creating A Blog Post?

A: A lot of blog posts begin 11 months in advance when camping reservations open for the following year. Camping has become so

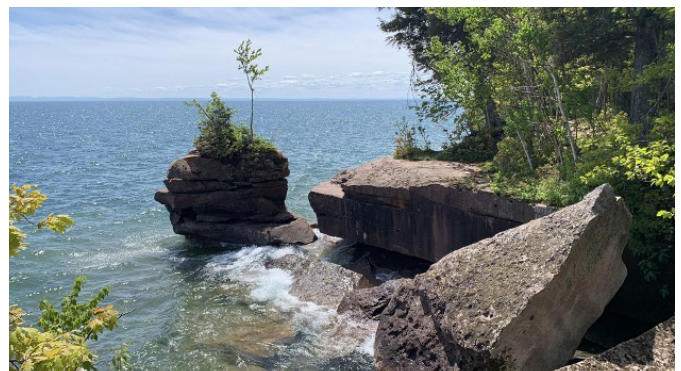
popular in the pandemic that it's very difficult to be spontaneous with a camping and hiking trip. Once at the park, the real work begins as I hike every trail I feature. I make mental notes of the trail and take a ton of pictures. My husband and friends have shown incredible patience hiking with me as I'm constantly stopping to snap a photo!

Q: Has Your Blog Or Photos Been Featured Anywhere Folks Might Have Seen Them?

A: My photos have been featured by Travel Wisconsin, Pure Michigan, and Leinenkugel's. While I'm honored to be recognized by all of them, one of those made me a tiny bit prouder than the others - I'll leave it to you to guess which!

Q: What Hidden Gems Are Near Madison That Folks Might Not Know?

A: It seems like everyone flocks to Devil's Lake State Park when they want to go hiking, which explains why it's the busiest state park in Wisconsin. If you want to take a break from the crowds, there are plenty of other options. Did you know that Madison has 7 other state parks within a 40 mile radius? My favorite local state park is Blue Mound for it's stunning views and diversity of trails. Another great local option is Stewart Lake County Park in Mount Horeb for it's accessibility and abundance of wildlife.



Crisp Blue Water On A Great Lakes Hike

Q: Where Can People Go To Learn More About Your Work & HikingHungry Reviews?

You can find me on Facebook, on Instagram (HikingHungryWisconsin) and online at HikingHungry.com

The City And Town Of Madison Are Merging What You Need To Know

By Michael Horecki

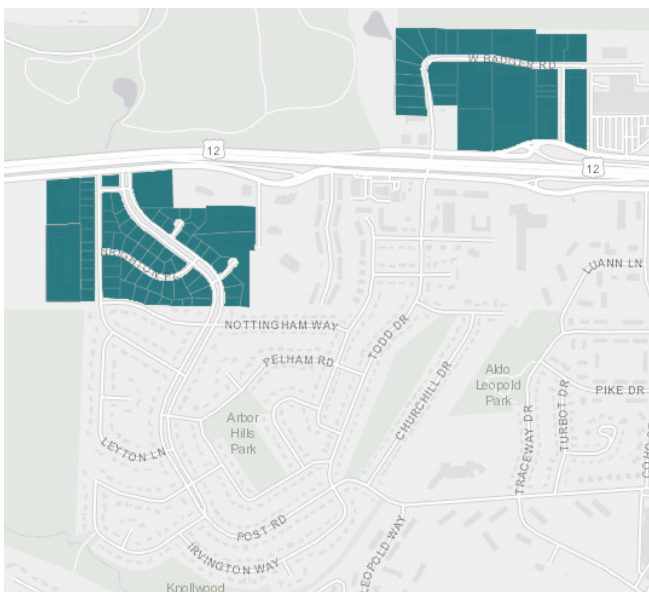
On Oct 31st, 2022, the process of merging the Town of Madison into the City of Madison and Fitchburg will be completed. The process of the merger has an epic name “The Final Attachment” which is indicative of the scope of the 19-year process which kicked off in 2003.

Why The Merger?

Prior to 2003, the Town of Madison was subject to several annexations of its territory by the City of Madison and Fitchburg as both entities were rapidly expanding. The burdensome legal battles and continued anticipated growth clearly demonstrated the need for the three entities to come to the table and put together a plan for the future. That plan, The Final Attachment, is a phased twenty-year elimination of the Town of Madison and the absorption of her remaining components into the City of Madison and the City of Fitchburg.

Is Arbor Hills Affected?

Yes. A section in the north-west of the neighborhood, as well as some adjacent regions are still in the Town of Madison and will be transitioning to the City in the coming year.



Map of affected areas

What Is Changing For Residents?

The plan was intentionally designed to be as minimally disruptive as possible, with residents having to take no action and the different municipalities gradually transitioning services. In fact, the City of Madison took over Fire and Emergency Medical services from the Town of Madison in 2020. Current Town of Madison residents might have noticed that the City is now responding to all calls for service in these areas.

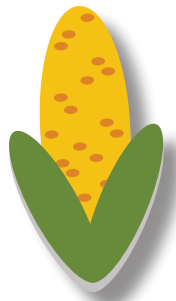
In addition to emergency services, Trash and Recycling services will be transitioning to the City of Madison in 2022. The city has announced via their transition website they will provide a refuse and recycling collection schedule “prior to October 31, 2022” as well as providing a refuse (tan) and recycling (green) to all eligible residences at no cost.

Are There Advantages To Being In The City Of Madison vs. The Town?

Yes, beginning on Oct.31, 2022, new City residents will be eligible for all programs including financial programs like Home Rehab Loans, Rental Rehab Loans, First Time Homebuyer Support.

What Is Still Being Determined?

Important decisions around where you will vote (your polling place), who will be your City of Madison Alder and of course what your tax liability will be are all going to be determined as the date of the merger approaches.



Where Can I Learn More?

To learn more on this process and its impact on you, check out the City of Madison website on the attachment process: (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/town-of-madison>).

Additionally, there will be public information hearings on this process starting in the fall. All those dates can be found in the “Timeline” section of the attachment website (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/town-of-madison/timeline>)

Note: The newsletter editorial team reached out to the City of Madison for comment on this story and were directed to the City Website for all attachment process information (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/town-of-madison>)

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Upcoming AHNA Dates



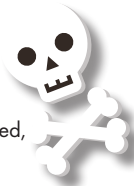
It is hard to believe the year is nearly over! Even though the weather has begun to change, we have a final great event remaining for 2021 and have begun thinking about 2022. We hope to see you at our Halloween Parade, and if you need more information, just head on over to www.arborhills.org!

HALLOWEEN PARTY: Sunday, October 31

More details will be provided as Halloween gets closer, including a repeat of the Halloween Parade and an event in Arbor Hills Park (weather depending). Please check www.arborhills.org for more information on where the neighborhood will be gathering.

UPCOMING 2022 EVENTS:

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





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