



SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

Lanterns on Leyton

The fourth annual "Lanterns on Leyton" event saw 150 ice lanterns made by neighbors on Leyton Lane and Circle lining the street during a weekend in January. Lantern makers spent the cold days leading up to the evenings of light constructing lanterns by freezing water in buckets - a deceptively challenging task to get just right. The dazzling display drew out neighbors looking for a peaceful, bright evening stroll during the darkest time of the year.



Photo by Madeline Uranek

Thank you to the neighbors who organized the event, made lanterns, contributed candles, and made this beautiful weekend possible, and to the walkers who came out to enjoy the stunning result.

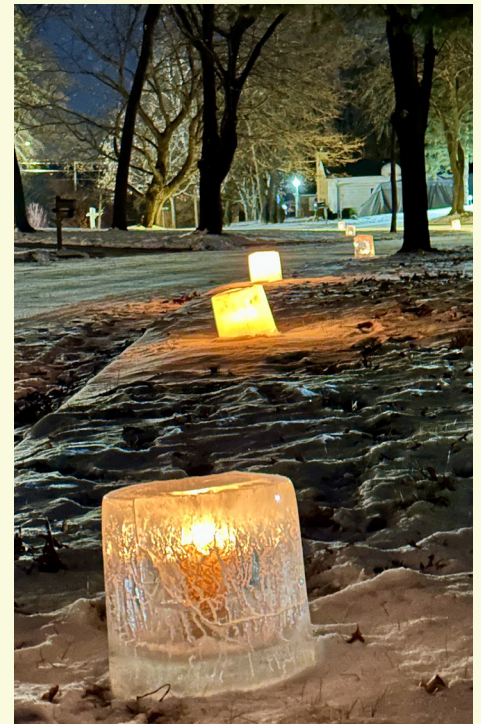


Photo by Michelle Chui

2025 Events

Mark your calendars for these events in Arbor Hills!

Visit arborhills.org/events for details.

Earth Day Cleanup

Saturday April 26th, 10 am - Noon

Arbor Hills is one of many neighborhoods across Madison participating in a city-wide cleanup in honor of Earth Day. Meet at Arbor Hills Park by 10 am, where we'll have some snacks and distribute trash bags and other supplies. Please bring your own pair of gloves. Then we'll split into two groups to pick up along the Frontage Road and Cannonball Path.

Food Truck Nights in Arbor Hills Park

Skip a night in the kitchen! Bring your picnic blanket or folding chairs and join your neighbors for an evening of conversation and community.

Thursday May 15th, 5:30 - 7 PM

Saturday June 21st, 5 - 8 PM

Special Edition for the citywide Make Music Madison event - featuring free live music!

Thursday August 14th, 5:30 - 7 PM

Thursday September 18th, 5:30 - 7 PM

4th of July Bike Parade & Picnic in Arbor Hills Park

Friday July 4th, 11 AM - 1 PM

Meet at the corner of Kingston & Grandview at 11 AM for a bike parade led by the Madison Fire Department. We'll walk to the park, where we'll have a complimentary lunch, courtesy of the AHNA, face painting, and temporary tattoos for kiddos.

AHNA Annual Meeting

Tuesday October 14th, 6:30 - 8 PM

Arbor Good Neighbor House (formerly Arbor Covenant Church)

Halloween Bike Parade and Trunk or Treat in Arbor Hills Park

Saturday October 25th, 4 - 5 PM

Meet at the corner of Kingston & Grandview at 4 PM. We'll walk to the park for a "trunk or treat" and playtime at the park. If you're willing to hand out candy, drive your car to the park and be ready for kiddos to come by starting a little after 4 PM. Bonus points for decorating your car!

Holiday Decoration Contest

Judging will take place by December 14th



Know Your Neighbors

By Jackie Cooper

Meet the Goodmans!

The year was 1991 and Brian and Cheryl Goodman were in search of a bigger house for their growing family, which now included their 3 and 5 year old daughters, Ashley and Rachael. Their house in the Westmorland neighborhood was nice, but they wanted more space to grow. Their one requirement was staying in the West High School attendance area. A friend recommended the Arbor Hills neighborhood. They fell in love with the trees, the nearby park, the proximity to the Arboretum - and a house they could afford that was perfect for their family.

Cheryl came to Madison for college from the small central Wisconsin town of Colby (fun fact: Colby cheese was invented in the 1800s in Colby, WI). Brian grew up in Gainesville, FL and Syracuse, NY - attending SUNY at Albany, and then came to UW-Madison for graduate school to earn a PhD. It was a simple blind date that brought these two together. After a brief jaunt for Cheryl to Ohio State for grad school to earn her Master's degree, Madison became their home and as they say, the rest is history. Cheryl worked for the DNR in Fisheries Management and Brian at UW-Madison in Meteorology/Climatology and Earth Science (as well as an instructor at MATC) - before both retired in 2016 and 2018, respectively. Brian initially thought retirement would be an "opportunity to just do nothing", but these two have been more active than ever in their retirement.

Family, however, has always been their number one priority - and they are clearly very proud parents. Their daughter Rachael is an Assistant Professor of Global Development Studies at Mercer University in Georgia and their daughter Ashley is a Molecular Biologist supervising a hospital laboratory in Chicago. Although they may be most excited by the newest addition to the family, almost 3-year-old granddaughter, Althea - Ashley and her husband

Michael's daughter (apparently a clone of both Ashley and Cheryl, much to Brian's chagrin).

Travel has been a HUGE part of Brian and Cheryl's lives, having spent time in Columbia, Peru, Spain, India, France, England, Wales, and closer to home visiting their daughters in Georgia and Chicago, Illinois. While the girls were students at Leopold (where Brian and Cheryl were active volunteers, including being officers of the Leopold PFO: Co-Vice Presidents, Presidents and Past Presidents), the family went on vacation to England - which was the start of their love for travel. Rachael and Ashley both took French while at Cherokee, and continued to learn the language at West High School. During this time, Brian and Cheryl welcomed an exchange student from France who was around the same age as their daughters. Taking French at Cherokee and West high school turned out to be a pretty good thing - especially when the girls visited their "exchange sister" and her family in France.

Two very memorable trips were to Columbia (to visit a friend, Leo,

who the Goodmans met when he lived with them when he came to Madison to learn English) and to visit their daughter, Rachael, in India while she was doing her graduate school research (her fluency in Hindi was much appreciated). Most of the places traveled are to visit friends they have met over the years which provides built-in travel guides wherever they go. When Leo and his wife, Jenny, visited Madison in winter to see snow for the first time - Brian and Cheryl took them sledding down our "little" neighborhood hill. Next stop in their travel adventures: Australia and New Zealand this fall!

Brian and Cheryl have attended many neighborhood events since moving to the neighborhood (the 4th of July parade was one they and their girls loved) - but now they can usually be found at Food Truck Nights at the park. And if not there, you may see them out for a walk in the neighborhood, cross country skiing, kayaking, hiking, or planting native plants in their backyard (or more than likely relaxing in their screened in back porch).



Brian and Cheryl at Inca ruins at Pisac, Peru

Fire on Knollwood

In December, a fire in their home on Knollwood Lane displaced Luke and Kate Schmitt and their children. The family made it out safely, but their home sustained significant damage.

"We are grateful for the many people who have expressed concern and desire to support us during this time," said Luke. "It's a long road ahead-cleaning up the damage and rebuilding, but we look forward to being back in the neighborhood and in our home."

If you'd like to support the family as they rebuild, gift cards to Target or restaurants or donations via Venmo to @lukeschmitt are appreciated.



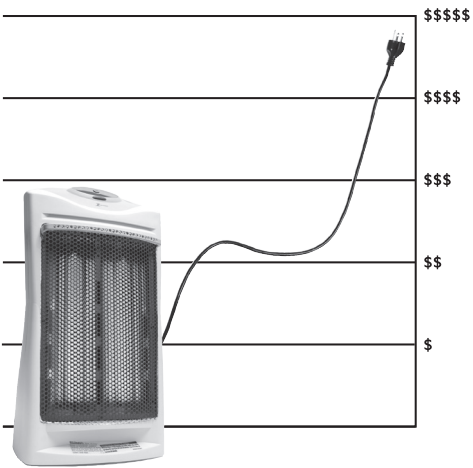
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Arbor Good Neighbor House is Buzzing with Activity

By Lisa Fernandez

As many of you recall from previous newsletter articles, the Arbor Good Neighbor House (AGNH) is a thriving hub of activity located at 2509 McDivitt Road. It is fulfilling its mission of connecting neighbors and providing common ground for community interaction. AGNH activities are expanding and reaching more and more people. You could be one of them! All this right here in Arbor Hills! What an asset for our neighborhood. Current partners include: Memorial UCC, Creek Day School, Madison Refugee Union, Open Doors for Refugees, All Saints Lutheran Church, Commonwealth Development, Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry, Jewish Social Services, the African American/Jewish Friendship Group, and the AGNH Community Garden.

A sampling of recent activities at Arbor Good Neighbor House includes:

- Holding two Repair Cafés where people can bring in household items to get fixed at no cost by volunteer “fixers” who like to use their skills in a fun and casual setting. The next Repair Café is March 15, 1-4 p.m. See our website (agnh.org) for upcoming dates.
- Providing a venue for Jewish Social Services to hold their periodic International Markets featuring crafts and treats from around the world.
- Hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for a group of children from Arbor Hills
- Hosting the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting
- Offering meeting space for Open Doors for Refugees, Jewish Social Services, The Madison Refugee Union, Brave Conversations (a group that gathers to engage in brave conversations about the crisis in Israel and Palestine), Returned Peace Corp Volunteers and others. **Does your group need a meeting or event space?** Check the website at agnh.org for info on how to make a room reservation request. Or contact the Executive Director, Peter Morris, at peter@agnh.org or 608-271-1955.
- Hosting a benefit concert for AGNH in December, 2024 featuring Common Chord and Nelson Graham. This concert attracted 125 - 140 people and was received with great enthusiasm.

Our Personal Essentials pantry continues to serve hundreds of households by providing personal and household hygiene products. The number of households served continues to grow. **Stop by Friday mornings between 10 and 12, you will see a room full of diverse people and hear multiple languages being spoken as people socialize, enjoy coffee, lemonade and muffins as they wait for their supplies.**

Our expanded and improved Community Garden will provide fresh garden-raised food for our Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry guests and others. **Want to rent a plot for a nominal fee? Contact Ron Heinrich at reheinrich64@gmail.com or 608-515-3288.**

Check out our website at agnh.org and see information about how you can donate to or volunteer with the Arbor Good Neighbor House.

We love stories, and this recent one illustrates what we think is so special about AGNH:

A neighbor in Arbor Hills learned about our Repair Café and is bringing a rototiller to be repaired and then donated to the Community Garden. Once fixed, it will be available in time for gardeners to prepare their plots for this year's planting season. A Win-Win-Win situation! The rototiller escapes the landfill. The neighbor feels joy in donating something needed. New connections are formed at the Repair Café, and the Community Garden gets a much

needed rototiller to help produce fresh food for Essentials Pantry guests.

In all these ways (and more to come!) AGNH serves our neighborhood and our community. Think about getting involved, and contact AGNH for more information. Arbor Good Neighbor House is an amazing resource for all of us! It is one more way that Arbor Hills is an exceptional neighborhood with so much to offer.



A neighbor works in the community garden at Arbor Good Neighbor House. Photo courtesy of Lisa Fernandez.

Restaurant Review: Tapatios Cocina Mexicana

By Aaron Eicher

Nestled in between Pick ‘N Save and Great Dane Fitchburg lies Tapatios, the real deal for Jalisco Mexican food here in Madison. When the owner, Daniel Hernandez, broke his back while working in construction, he and his wife Leticia decided to go into the food business. They started with a food truck before opening a restaurant. Since 2018, they have treated customers to friendly wait staff and a welcoming atmosphere.

From a two-sided menu, I went for the tacos, ordering al pastor (pork) and pollo asado (grilled chicken). However, I couldn't keep my eyes from the other items. I ended up ordering a chorizo sope as well.

The food came out and my mouth immediately started watering. I squeezed my lime on my tacos and dug in. The al pastor was true to flavor, reddish from achiote with genuine pineapple and dried chili flavors. The grilled chicken was also

fantastic and paired nicely with a bottle of homemade salsa verde (honestly, I'd drink that stuff out of an old trash can, it's so good).

Last, but not least, was the sope. A thick corn base topped with mounds of cilantro, onions, and chorizo. This dish went down fast. Before I knew it, the sope was in my stomach

and I was left smiling. Tapatios has announced that they are expanding into an adjacent space and will be able to host larger events and parties.

Do you have a favorite restaurant near Arbor Hills that you'd like to review? Please send it to Ashley at akgibson17@gmail.com



Photo by Michelle Stocker for the Cap Times

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Remembering Two Long-Time Arbor Hills Residents

To read Mike and Jean's full obituaries, visit [Cress Funeral Services' website](#).



Michael (Mike) McCormick, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at home with his wife and daughters at his side on January 19, 2025, at the age of 86. A Wisconsin native and UW grad, Mike had a long and successful career selling steel for Wheeling Corrugating Company. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed fishing. He is survived by his wife, Rita, daughters Megan and Kelly, and three grandchildren. Mike's legacy lives on in the echoes of a perfect drive down the fairway, the stillness of a quiet lake at dawn, and the laughter of those he loved.



Jean Sumi, age 100, passed away on January 18, 2025, after a brief illness, surrounded by family. Jean grew up in Michigan and married Navy air cadet Harold in 1944. They lived in various cities before settling in Racine, WI. She raised six children and completed her BA in history at Carthage College in 1972. Jean was active in the Junior League, Tri-Delta Sorority, and Emmanuel Lutheran Church. She and Harold moved to Madison in 1987 to be near children and grandchildren. She enjoyed bridge, gardening, and stained glass art. Jean is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Apply to Join the MSCR Citizens' Advisory Committee

MSCR is seeking applicants to serve on the MSCR Citizens' Advisory Committee who are interested in advocating for and championing MSCR programs and the importance of public recreation in the broader community. Committee members serve as community ambassadors for MSCR's goals and support specific projects that benefit and enhance MSCR programs and services. **[AHNA Treasurer, Jackie Cooper, is currently in her 3rd year serving on this committee!]**

Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) serves over 90,000 people annually as the public recreation provider in Madison. With a team of 81 full time and 1600+ seasonal staff members, MSCR offers a full range of community recreation programs and services including: fitness, aquatics, sports, after school programs, summer camps, arts, outdoor recreation, neighborhood centers and adapted programming. A department of the Madison Metropolitan School District, MSCR has been committed to providing accessible recreation and after school programming for the Madison community since 1926.

Advisory Committee members must be residents of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD). Members are appointed to three-year terms. MSCR Citizens Advisory Committee meets six times per year, generally on the third Wednesday of the month at 6PM.

Interested in learning more, visit [mscr.org/get-involved/mscr-citizens-advisory-committee](#) or contact Mary Roth, MSCR Executive Director, at **608-204-3015** or [mcrowley@madison.k12.wi.us](#)



2025 AHNA Board Members

President

Ashley Gibson

[akgibson17@gmail.com](#)

Vice President

OPEN - Contact Ashley if you're interested in getting involved!

Treasurer

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[treasurer@arborhills.org](#)

Events Coordinator

Aaron Eicher

[aaron.eicher@gmail.com](#)

Communication Coordinator

Cathy Means

[homederry@yahoo.com](#)

Block Captain Coordinator

Chuck Friedrichs

[chuck.friedrichs@gmail.com](#)

Newsletter Editor

OPEN - Contact Ashley if you're interested in getting involved!

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Nanci Horn

Caroline Thompson

Newsletter Design & Illustrations

Christina Peterson

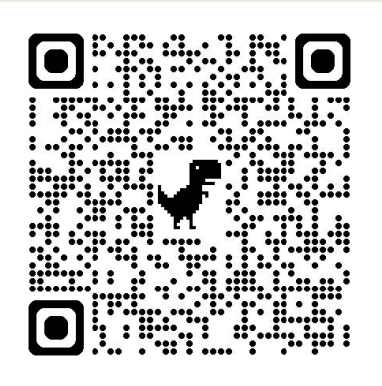
[ctheartisan@gmail.com](#)

[christinapeterson.art](#)

Annual Neighborhood Survey

We want to hear from you! Please take five minutes to complete a neighborhood survey, which you can access by scanning the **QR code** or visiting [arborhills.org](#). If you'd like to complete the survey on paper, please email [info@arborhills.org](#) or call Ashley at **(507) 272-7123**.

The survey includes questions about your preferences for the Association's priorities, events we host, newsletter delivery, and more. We value your input and appreciate you taking the time to share your feedback!



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Holiday Decorations Contest Winners

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The votes are in, and we have our winners! The annual holiday decorations contest was held in December to recognize some of the best and brightest displays in the neighborhood. Thank you to our team of fantastic judges, and congratulations to this year's winners:

First Place - \$55

Ric & Linda West - 3110 Pelham Rd.



Second Place - \$35

2712 Ardsley Lane



Third Place - \$20

David & Jessica Esse - 2809 Irvington Way



And NEW this year, we introduced a **People's Choice Award (\$20)**. We had 7 unique displays nominated via our online form, so each was put into a hat, and our winner is...

David Arms - 3138 Ashford Lane



BECOME A MEMBER FOR 2025

We hope you will consider becoming a member of the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association in 2025! Membership dues pay for this printed newsletter, lighting of the neighborhood sign, insurance, neighborhood events, and more! Annual Budgets can be found on our website (arborhills.org).

To become a member: pay online at arborhills.org, use the PayPal App (just scan the QR code), or pay by cash or check using the enclosed remittance envelope.

Thank you for supporting our neighborhood!



Membership year is October 1 through September 30

Seed - \$20



Covers the printing of 8 newsletters

OR half of the ice cream for our annual Independence Day picnic

OR 5% of the annual cost of lighting our neighborhood sign

Sapling - \$30



Covers the printing of 12 newsletters

OR a quarter of the hot dogs for our annual Independence Day picnic

OR three signs to advertise our events

Tree - \$50



Covers the printing of 20 newsletters

OR a quarter of the cost of a musician for Food Truck Night

OR a third of our annual website cost

Please complete and return this form with a check payable to **AHNA**.

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Or just use the remittance envelope included in this Spring newsletter!