



ARBOR HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



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

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

A Background On No Mow May!

By Michael Horecki



No Mow May Signs Are Out In Yards!

With headlines sweeping communities across the country and yard signs cropping up all over, neighbors are asking what's the deal with No Mow May? Is this actually a movement, or is it just someone on my block not wanting to mow their lawn?

This edition, Arbor Hill correspondent Madeline Uraneck investigated the topic with her neighbors.

However before diving into that piece, take a quick spin through the origins of this growing trend:

The Origins Of No Mow May:

No Mow May was started in 2019 by citizen scientists in the United Kingdom as part of a conservation study to support struggling pollinators. Homeowners were encouraged to leave their lawn mowers in storage through the month of May and allow their lawn weeds to grow and bloom. The idea was that participants' lawns could then produce essential pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinators during the critical period in which they were emerging from hibernation.

Results in the U.K.'s initial study included a massive increase in floral diversity when these beneficial bugs need it most. A year later, residents of Appleton, Wisconsin, inspired by the results, organized their own No Mow May, and the outcome was impressive. Researchers reported a threefold increase in bee species diversity and a fivefold increase in the number of bees in no-mow yards compared with neighboring yards that were mowed as usual. Since then, the movement has gained a life of its own and now has even made its way to Arbor Hills!

NO MOW MAY MOSEYS INTO ARBOR HILLS

By Madeline Uraneck

When general laziness meets a good cause, a movement rises. So it is with No Mow May – you don't have to touch your lawnmower for a full month; neighbors don't have to put up with the roar of mowers; and bees and butterflies in Arbor Hills breathe a sigh of relief.

"To a bee, that dandelion tastes like a big, juicy cheeseburger," my neighbor Eric Liljequist told me last year, courteously ignoring me digging up dandelions like they were an enemy. "It's one of their first plants of nourishment when spring arrives."

Lawn by lawn, community by community, No Mow May is spreading across America. Awareness of pollinators means planting more native plants, decreasing pesticide use, and adopting practices like No Mow May to increase nesting sites on public and private land. Thousands of insects pollinate the forests, farms, and fields which sustain not just wildlife but our food markets. Bees alone have 3,600 species.

This past spring, City of Verona and other

Wisconsin towns participated in No Mow May and offered free yard signs to residents. "Make your own" and "print your own" signs appeared on Arbor Hills lawns, where some residents immediately began letting violets, dandelions, and clovers grow tall to provide nourishment for early bees, butterflies, beetles, moths, and tiny animals.

Like bees, butterflies are in decline. With drier climates, disappearance of natural habitat, earlier-onset of summer temperatures and the spread of wildfires, butterfly numbers have plummeted. The lovely western monarch butterfly dropped from 30,000 just two years ago to less than 2,000 today. The Karner blue butterfly and rusty, patched bumblebee,

both once common in Arbor Hills, are now federally listed as endangered species.

Neighbor Bill Morehead liked the idea of No Mow May. "What about No prune June?" he suggested. Or in case of dry weather in July, "just let your lawn fry," quipped his wife, master gardener Janelle Morehead. Both quips turn out to be good environmental practices.

As climates change, Arbor Hills neighbors are stepping up to create climate-friendly lawns, parks, avenue center strips, and school play grounds. Get inspired by what's doable: check out these cities that have taken steps to invite back the birds and bees in the Bee City USA project (beecityusa.org/no-mow-may), and get ready for less work next springtime.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Neighbors,

Recently, a neighbor reached out to the AHNA to see if anything could be done about the overgrowth on the sides of the hill in Arbor Hills Park. When snow covered the ground and kids showed up to sled, there were stumps left that could be dangerous. I contacted the City to let them know about the issue, and they sent out a member of the Parks department to meet with the neighbor and see the problem areas. The City said they'll take care of it and mow a wider swath, so kids in our neighborhood have a safe, fun space to sled.

I think that this small act demonstrates the importance of community: one person spoke up and made a change that makes our neighborhood a better place. I've been reflecting on "community" quite a bit these days. As I write this, communities in Buffalo, Uvalde, and Tulsa are mourning the loss of children and adults, and as a nation, we're grieving with them. I recently heard a story about Deturice Dunbar, a woman in Uvalde who decided to don a clown costume and hand out free cotton candy. This lightness might feel counterintuitive after such an immense tragedy, but in a way, it makes sense. In the face of such sorrow, we need to take action, drive change - and create moments of human connection through fun.

Our central mission as an association is to "create a sense of community by holding events and developing spaces that are welcoming and inclusive for all residents." Right now, we're in the wonderful window of beautiful Wisconsin weather that makes gatherings easier. We hope you'll join us for food and fun during our upcoming events - make sure to check out our events calendar in this newsletter and on arborhills.org.

In addition to planning and hosting events, here's a quick rundown of some of the other things your board is working on:

- **Planning for the October AHNA annual meeting.** After two years of virtual meetings, this will be back to an in-person gathering! Put Tuesday, October 11th from 6:30-8 pm at the Arbor Covenant Church on your calendar - you'll hear from your board, elected officials, and cast your vote for board members and bylaw updates.
- **Discussing financial sustainability.** We're proud of our history of ending our annual budget right on target. To keep up with rising costs for newsletter printing, events, etc., we're



Ashley Gibson - AHNA President

discussing our options for the future (which may include raising dues - which have been just \$20 per household per year since at least the '90s!).

- **Working on communicating with all of you.** In addition to this newsletter, we communicate using event signage in the neighborhood, on arborhills.org, posts on Next Door and Facebook, and through email. If you are a member and have shared your email address, you should be receiving AHNA emails - if not, check your spam folder or let us know at info@arborhills.org.

See you around the neighborhood!
Ashley Gibson

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Experts Among Us:

Jim Cortada - Arbor Hill History

By Michael Horecki, newsletter editor

Jim Cortada has many interests and skills but has recently been doing a fascinating history project for Arbor Hills. Check out another expert among us below!

MH: Jim, tell us about yourself and your connection to Arbor Hills.

JC: Dora and I moved to Arbor Hills in January 1988, when I took charge of running IBM's business in Madison. We bought the house we still live in on Irvington Way, raised our two daughters here, and I served on the AHNA board in the 2010s.

MH: How did you get interested in the history of our neighborhood?

JC: Before working in Corporate America, I completed a Ph.D. in history and had been active in my county's historical society in Virginia. So, I naturally was inclined to learn the history of whatever I was involved with and discovered that Arbor Hills had a fascinating past going back into the 1950s. I also learned that it was filled with interesting people: judges, lawyers, teachers, doctors, corporate executives, professors, authors, and just good people all around.

MH: Tell us a bit about the history project you are currently working on!

JC: The board of our AHNA agreed last year that we should create an archive in support of the neighborhood's history and then, hopefully, publish a short book if we can gather enough history about the community. So far, we now have four banker boxes of evidence going back into the 1960s of newsletters, board minutes, photographs, and flyers. I have interviewed several residents who have lived in AH for over 40+ years. We are filling in details about how the neighborhood developed, but there is much more research to do. Two professional photographers living in Arbor hills have started to take photographs of streets, houses, and other sights to add to our files. We already have a couple of hundred photos, mainly from the 2010s. We are methodically building up the record of Arbor Hills' history.

MH: Is there a specific historical story about Arbor Hills that is a favorite of yours?

JC: There are so many, but one is that when the neighborhood came into existence in the early 1960s, women here made the decision that Arbor Hills needed trees, shrubs, and flowers and so organized into a



View of the Grandview Entrance to Arbor Hills - 1964

garden club. The plantings you see on Grandview, for example, were put there by these ladies. They met regularly to share gardening information and to help each other. They were the origins of the AHNA and set the tone that this community would have an identity, work collaboratively on local issues, and be united in beautifying the area. Because of their work for decades, our neighborhood is what it is today. We owe two generations of residents a huge thank you for their commitment, leadership, and knowledge. Then there is the successful nationwide attack on Oak Wilt, which began in Essex Court by Lenore Landry, but that is a fabulous story for another occasion.

MH: We will have to have you back! In the meantime, what can folks do to help you out with your work?

JC: At this point, I need two assists. First, if folks have photographs of the neighborhood from the 1950s/60s through the 1980s, I would love to have copies, the originals, or let me scan them. Perhaps they know of people living outside Arbor Hills who might have such photographs?

Second, we have a gap in our collection of newsletters from the early 1980s and again from 2000 to 2015. I would love to have originals or permit me to scan them. Our priority is completing the collection of historical evidence, which is already one of the best archives of any community in Madison. We will be able to make a vital contribution to Madison's history.

MH: Thanks for joining us Jim! For folks interesting in helping out, please email Jim at (jcortada@umn.edu)

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.

www.arborhills.org



New Public Art Sculpture Series Now Present In Arboretum

By: Michael Horecki

Last edition, we featured a story on the new public art sculpture series - Canopy Understories - which was scheduled to begin in April and run for a year into 2023.

With April in the rearview mirror the sculpture series is here!

Created by talented Madison-based artists, Laura Richards and William Grant Turnbull, both UW graduates, the sculptures illuminate how the tools and technology of the modern world can be more sustainable.

For a taste of what to expect, below are a sampling of photos from the series:

Closeup of Samara Flight

The Samara Flight is a linear mobile depicts the winged seed pods, (or samaras) of Wisconsin's state tree, the sugar maple. Sculpted in lightweight materials used by the aviation industry and held aloft by a metallic cable and hardware, this trio of wind-activated kinetic sculptures will mimic the natural dispersal mechanism maple trees use. The installation seeks to question how the things people build can be made more efficiently, sustainably, and with more grace and style.



Mayapple Canopy

The Mayapple Canopy sculpture takes a larger-than-life look at the Mayapple, a species native to Wisconsin. The sculpture will function during the day as a shade canopy, its shadow tracing a large arc on the ground like a sundial. It also stores energy from the sun, like photosynthesis in living plants. But instead of using that energy for plant growth and reproduction, it will power the LED-illuminated, blown glass fruit after sunset.

The exhibit will run through April 2023 in the UW-Madison Arboretum.

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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Photo Credit: George Roesch Johnson



Arbor Hills Neighbors Gather For 2022 Spring Cleaning

By: Michael Horecki

With the arrival of warm weather comes the obligatory spring cleanings. From the garage to the back yard, winter debris need to be whisked away, and preparations made for summer activities.

Each year, neighbors gather to do the same for our neighborhood, beautifying the bike path, frontage road and other public spaces that aren't the purview of property owners to maintain.

This year, more than 20 Arbor Hills residents put on their work gloves, grabbed their black trash bags, and ventured through the neighborhood, picking up all the discarded odds and ends that had gathered over the winter season.

The event, held near Earth Day each year, was a huge success, netting dozens of large bags of trash. Best of all, it left the main features of Arbor Hills trash-free for residents to enjoy during the coming summer months!

If you are interested in getting involved in these activities, check out www.arborhills.org to stay up to date on all the latest events. Additionally, follow the Neighborhood Association Facebook page for all the latest and greatest updates at www.facebook.com/ArborHillsNeighborhood

Photo Credit: George Roesch Johnson



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NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

Todd Drive Beltline Construction Update

By: Michael Horecki

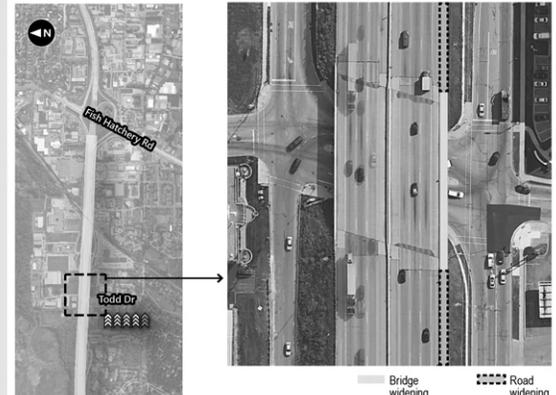
Many residents have had their morning commutes disrupted recently due to the prolonged closure of the Todd Drive Beltline entry ramp.

As part of the larger construction work to add a Flex Lane to the road, the Todd Drive construction project includes several major elements, including updating the overpass near the 7/11 to accommodate the additional breadth required by the road. Additionally, the highway's entry ramp is being reworked and modernized to accommodate the new width that will be present in the final roadway.

Running from Mid-May to Mid-June, the closure forced residents to take other paths to work. However, light is at the end of the tunnel! With the resolution of construction in June, there are no additional planned closures in the Arbor Hills area.

Modifications on eastbound Beltline at Todd Drive

- Extension of the eastbound auxiliary lane between the Todd Drive ramps.
- Widening of the eastbound bridge over Todd Drive to accommodate the auxiliary lane extension.
- Construction: Three months in spring/summer 2022



If you are interested in learning more about the Flex Lane project, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has set up a website detailing project specifics and closures at projects.511wi.gov/flexlane/.

The project is expected to be completed and operational in 2022.

Food Truck Nights Are Back!

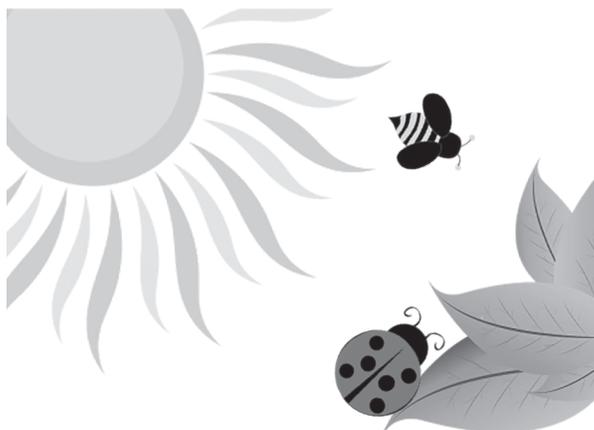
By: Michael Horecki



With the return of warm weather also comes one of the most beloved Arbor Hills traditions - Food Truck Night!

Beginning in May, the Neighborhood Association once again kicked off the Food Truck Night Series, which will see monthly pop-ups from popular establishments visiting Arbor Hills Park.

The full events calendar for the year is on the back page of the newsletter and available on www.arborhills.org. Don't forget to put this yearly tradition on your schedule



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Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association Events

2022 is in full swing and our events calendar is packed full of great ways to get out and connect with folks in the neighborhood!

Below is a list of the current planned list of events for Arbor Hills in 2022. However, the list is subject to change, so make sure to check out arborhills.org to stay up-to-date on all the latest info related to events!



JULY INDEPENDENCE PARADE | July Parade: 7/3/22 3-5pm
Decorate your bikes, wagons and scooters and join us for the annual parade on Grandview and ending at Arbor Hills Park! Parade begins at the corner of Leyton and Grandview.

PARTY IN THE PARK (Food Truck Night)

August - Thursday 8/11/22 5-7pm
September - Thursday 9/8/22 5-7pm

Meet other Arbor Hills residents during this annual Food Truck Night event! Music, food and more!



ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER - DATE AND TIME TBD

HALLOWEEN PARADE/TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday 10/30/22 3-4 pm

Bring the kids in costume for this not to be missed Halloween parade ending at the park! Parade begins at the corner of Leyton and Grandview.



NEW EVENT-MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ARBOR HILLS MEMBER PARTY/CHILI COOK OFF | Saturday 11/19 or Sunday 11/20
- DATE & TIME TBD

ARBOR HILLS HOLIDAY LIGHTS APPRECIATION | DECEMBER 1-31

Ongoing for the month of December. Check out all the wonderful decorations that your neighbors have installed! Walk with the kids or drive on colder nights!



Join The Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association

Looking to get more engaged in your neighborhood? Seeking to support an organization dedicated to creating memorable gatherings and events to build community on your block?

Look no further than the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association!

If you are not a member for 2022, it is not too late. Head over to arborhills.org and sign up on the website!

Your membership dues support a host of fantastic activities and projects - including this newsletter!

Check out just a quick rundown of the many unique events taking place this year in Arbor Hills, organized by your Neighborhood Association:

- **Spring Cleanup** - Around 30 neighbors recently joined our neighborhood Spring Cleanup event in honor of Earth Day
- **Party in the Park** (Food Truck Nights): Thursday, May 12, Thursday June 9, Thursday August 11, Thursday September 8 from 5-7 pm in Arbor Hills Park
- **4th of July Parade:** Sunday, July 3 from 3-5pm (NEW TIME!)
- **Annual Meeting:** Tuesday, October 11, 6:30-8 pm
- **Halloween Party/Trunk or Treat:** Sunday, October 30 time TBD
- **NEW EVENT! Arbor Hills Member Party/Chili Cook Off:** November 19 or 20, time TBD



You can find event details on our website, arborhills.org, and you'll receive email reminders as the events approach. We send out event reminders and other emails through Mail Chimp, so make sure you add info@arborhills.org to your contact list, so they don't end up in your spam folder! You should have received several emails in recent weeks.