



ARBOR HILLS  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



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

## WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

# ARBOR HILLS HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

On Tuesday, Oct 11th, the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association (AHNA) held its annual meeting to recap the year, elect board members, and look ahead to 2023. Below are highlights of that gathering. Full meeting minutes are also available on the AHNA website - [arborhills.org](http://arborhills.org)

### President's Report:

AHNA President, Ashley Gibson, provided an update on the current status of the Neighborhood Association, its purpose, and its history. Unlike a traditional Homeowners' Association focused on administering rules, our organization's mission is "to create a sense of community by holding events and developing spaces that are welcoming and inclusive for all residents." This year, we saw that mission in action during our events, thanks to the many volunteers who make these gatherings possible. Ashley shared a few of the challenges the organization is facing,

such as rising printing costs and newsletter distribution - a process that's accomplished by a team of dedicated block captains who hand out each copy door-to-door. This will continue to be a focus for the association in 2023.

### Membership Updates:

Membership Coordinator, Jackie Bastyr Cooper, walked attendees through the updates made to the AHNA website ([arborhills.org](http://arborhills.org)) and provided a recap of membership. During that report, she shared the exciting update that AHNA exceeded its goal of 175 members with a total of just over 180!

AHNA aims for 185 members in 2023 and is now offering a variety of membership levels to support the organization.

### Treasurer's Report:

AHNA Treasurer, Mary Sara, shared updates on the budget, which led to a discussion around whether dues should be increased and if the printed newsletter is still the correct method of communication considering its cost.

Before the annual meeting, the AHNA board

considered a dues increase, but we determined that we'd be able to cover costs for all planned 2023 activities with the current rate. We did introduce new membership tiers that allow neighbors to increase their contribution if they'd like to, though the base rate continues to be just \$20 per household, per year. The board also discussed the newsletter going digital extensively this year, but voted to maintain the print edition. An informal poll was held during the annual meeting on a printed vs. digital newsletter, and it was a 50/50 split on the path forward.

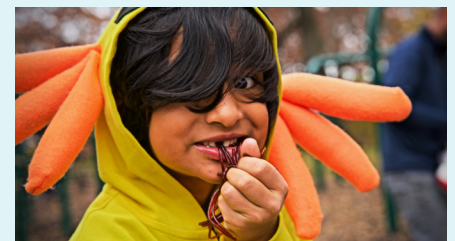
### Madison Police Department and Alder Report:

Lt. Justine Harris from MPD attended and provided an update, and Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole provided a written update that was shared with attendees.

For more information on the annual meeting, check out the full meeting minutes at [arborhills.org](http://arborhills.org)!

## HALLOWEEN IN ARBOR HILLS

Photo Credits: George Roesch Johnson





# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ashley Gibson - AHNA President

Hi Neighbors,  
I recently visited friends who moved with their two young children from a Twin Cities suburb to a smaller town. They left behind the conveniences of nearby big retail stores and a short commute to work in pursuit of one thing: community. Their new, smaller house and longer drive to work were worth it to find a place where it's easier to get to know their neighbors and build a lasting connection with the people around them. It was a good reminder of how lucky I am to have found Arbor Hills, where I feel that sense of community - and I can still get to stores, restaurants, and

all kinds of activities within 15 minutes.

Our community was finally able to gather again for many events this year after a long hiatus - which included our first in-person annual meeting this October since 2019. In the meeting, we shared that we exceeded our membership goal for the year, established new membership levels (but you can still be a member for just \$20 per household, per year!), and launched a new website. In addition to hearing from our Alder and an MPD Lieutenant, we had our first-ever compost bin giveaway. Read page one of this newsletter for a summary of the meeting, and page four to see who won our compost bin giveaway!

As we look ahead to the new year, the AHNA Board has a tradition of reflecting on what went well and the direction we'd like to go in the future. Here are a few of the goals we shared for 2023:

- Increase membership (currently just over 180 member households out of around 600 in Arbor Hills)
- Learn how we can best support Leopold Community School
- Create spaces for groups

like seniors, teens, and parents in the neighborhood to connect

- Identify a tangible neighborhood improvement project that we'd like to pursue
- Build connections with neighbors who have not historically engaged in events, with a focus on inclusivity and diversity

What would you like to see on our list of goals for the neighborhood in 2023? Let us know by emailing: [info@arborhills.org](mailto:info@arborhills.org), or call me at (507) 272-7123.

I'll close with a reminder that you can now pay your 2023 dues by visiting [arborhills.org](http://arborhills.org) or mailing the enclosed envelope and payment. Thank you for supporting the events and communication that make this community so strong.

See you around the neighborhood!

Ashley Gibson, AHNA President

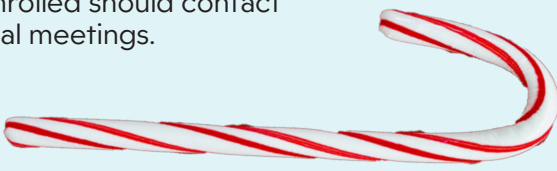


## LEOPOLD ELEMENTARY PARENT FACULTY ORGANIZATION

Leopold Elementary school struggled during the pandemic, like so many did, and is still recovering. The Leopold parent faculty organization has new leadership this year and we are trying to rebuild support for our amazing community school. The school is looking for help in the following ways:

- Volunteer to read to students: Complete the sign-up forms, required training, and proof of vaccination for Level 2 at [madison.k12.wi.us/partnerships/volunteering](http://madison.k12.wi.us/partnerships/volunteering). MMSD will notify you when you are cleared, then contact Emily Michels at [emichels@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:emichels@madison.k12.wi.us) to get started.
- Apply to be a substitute teacher: [madison.k12.wi.us/human-resources/careers/substitute-teaching](http://madison.k12.wi.us/human-resources/careers/substitute-teaching).
- Donate snacks, winter clothes, or money to the school. Visit [leopoldpfo.org/](http://leopoldpfo.org/) for more information.
- PFO meetings are happening again. Families with children enrolled should contact [LeopoldPFO@gmail.com](mailto:LeopoldPFO@gmail.com) for the zoom link for these virtual meetings.

Dr. Katie Richgels, PhD  
Leopold Elementary Parent Faculty Organization



## ARBOR HILLS HELPER LIST

Are you interested in helping other neighborhood residents by earning extra money (or volunteer hours)? Get your name on the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association (AHNA) Helper List!

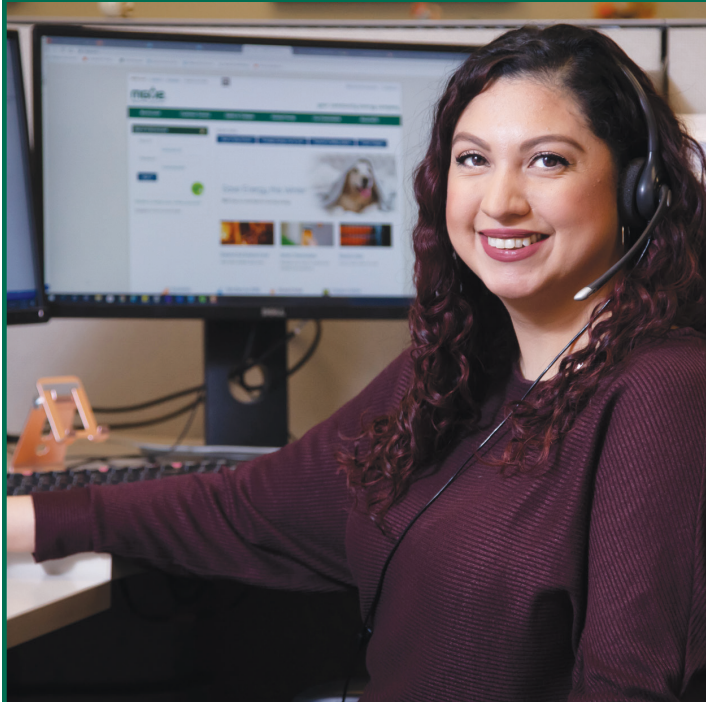
A variety of tasks including dog walking/sitting,

leaf raking, lawn mowing, gardening, house sitting, and more are all in need!

Add your contact name to the Helper List and AHNA will share the list with neighbors.

Please contact **Mary Sara** if you are interested ([msara6901@gmail.com](mailto:msara6901@gmail.com))!

## Behind on your bill? MGE is here to help.



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# CITY COMPOST BINS COME TO ARBOR HILLS

By Michael Horecki

The City of Madison gave free compost bins to interested neighborhood associations to distribute to residents, and we held a drawing at the annual meeting to give them away. Thanks to our young neighbors Piper and Wren for drawing the winners!



Winners of the drawing, George Reizner, John Diehl, Jolene Chadwick, and Erica Fletcher, pose with their new compost bins

The bins were provided by the City to encourage folks to get involved in backyard composting. Each bin came with a how-to guide to help neighbors get started.



Fully assembled compost bin brings more sustainability to Arbor Hills

Thank you to the Streets Division of Madison for providing the compost bins!

## WHO ARE MY REPRESENTATIVES?

**Senator Kelda Roys,**  
**Senate District 26**

sen.roys@legis.wisconsin.gov

(608) 266-1627

**Representative Shelia Stubbs,**  
**Assembly District 77**

Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov

(608) 266-3784

**Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole,**  
**District 10**

district10@cityofmadison.com

(608) 318-3838

**Matt Veldran,**  
**Dane County Supervisors,**  
**District 4**

veldran@countyofdane.com

(608) 235-8369

# ‘TIS THE SEASON FOR ICE LANTERNS

By Madeline Urameck

## How To Make An Ice Lantern

Ice lanterns are giant frozen candle holders into which you can place a real candle and let it glow at the entrance of your driveway or front porch.

The wind might blow the candle out, but because the candle is sitting on ice, there is little danger of fire, even if the candle burns low.

Ice lanterns appear as festive decorations all over countries that celebrate winter. Google “ice lanterns” to see different ways of making them.

To get started, you need a 5-gallon plastic bucket (readily available in hardware stores) and several days of cold weather; 20° F or colder is ideal. Fill the bucket 7/8 of the way (almost to the top) with water and place it outside overnight. (Save the top for later.) Whether it needs just one, two, or three nights outside depends on how cold it is.

The goal is to have the bottom, top, and sides freeze, but not the middle. A solid block of ice is not the goal. When is it ready? That’s the tricky part. When you see that the sides have frozen, perhaps two or three inches from the walls of the bucket, dump the bucket upside down. (Pick a place to do it away from stairs or sidewalks, because water comes out from the not-quite-yet-frozen ice block and will later freeze to make an inconvenient ice slick.)

If the ice block does not slide out,



pour boiling water on the still-upside-down bucket. Finally, out thuds the ice block. Turn it back right side up, take an ice pick or hammer and “gently” break the ice that froze across the top. Pour out the water that did not freeze.

Now you have a big ice candle holder, hollow inside. Find a votive candle, or rig up something to help a 1-inch wide candle (not more than 5 inches tall, the wind will blow it out) stand on the bottom. Position the ice lantern where you want it as decoration, wait until dark, then light the candle. We guess that when you find out how fun, easy, and lovely it is to do, you’ll want to make more! Oh, yes! The bucket lid comes in handy on days when it’s snowing or raining or the sun’s too hot, and you want to protect it.



# LANTERNS ON LEYTON

**Starts Wednesday, Jan. 18,**  
**2023 (Also Jan 19, 20, 21)**

Take an evening walk down Leyton Lane or Leyton Circle to observe the growing line of ice lanterns. 2023 will be the third winter that ice lanterns have appeared along Leyton Lane and Leyton Circle, made by a handful of neighbors trying to bring cheer to dark nights

We will start making ice lanterns in January if it’s cold enough. By January 18-21, we will try to line the street with lanterns and light them at about 6 pm. Bring your dogs and kids for a walk down Leyton. We discourage cars because car lights diminish the candle-lit effect and endanger walkers. If you must drive (grandma does not want to walk in the dark), please move slowly and use your dim running lights, not your bright car lights. Whether walking or driving, stop to chat with neighbors, introduce yourselves, your dogs, and fellow walkers.

**We will put on a lantern-making advice and workshop: Tuesday, January 17, 12 noon & 6 pm (or call ahead if those times don’t work)!**

Home of Eric Liljequist, 3214 Leyton Lane (608) 274-2554, [enlilj@gmail.com](mailto:enlilj@gmail.com)

Home of Madeline Urameck, 3311 Leyton Lane, (608) 658-5537, [globalmaddy@gmail.com](mailto:globalmaddy@gmail.com)

(Knock if no one is outside)

Note: Because of the weather, dates may change. Call or email to get more information.



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Membership eligibility required. \*APY= Annual Percentage Yield. Rate and offer are subject to change at any time. Federally insured by the NCUA.



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD: SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 2023

By Michael Horecki

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is holding a bed build on Saturday, January 14th, and is looking for volunteers!

The organization has gotten 51 kids off the floor and is on pace to get to almost 70 kids by the end of the year. But with beds running out, it is time to build more!

The bed build on Saturday, January 14th, aims to make 40- 50 beds.

### Event Details:

- Location: Inside the Ashley Furniture Store Warehouse at 2404 W. Beltline Highway, Madison, WI 53713
- Time: 9AM to 1PM: We'll have 2-2 hour slots to choose from, 9AM-11AM and 11AM-1PM.
- Please wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dusty or dirty, along with closed-toe shoes.
- If you have a mask, please bring it, as it does get dusty.
- Age Requirements: We ask that everyone is at least 12 years of age, but we don't check for IDs.

Please sign up using the link below. Note: if you are signing up multiple people, please register everyone separately.

[tinyurl.com/ymhtwssa](https://tinyurl.com/ymhtwssa)

Thank you for your support!



# AHNA BOARD MEMBERS

### President:

Ashley Gibson  
akgibson17@gmail.com

### Vice President:

OPEN

### Treasurer:

Mary Laatsch Sara  
msara6901@gmail.com

### Events Coordinators:

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Aaron Eicher  
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### Communication Coordinator:

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### Block Captain

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# HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

By Michael Horecki



The Holiday Lights Contest has once again returned to Arbor Hills!

Every year, neighbors have been dazzled by the light displays erected around the neighborhood, and this year will be no different.

At the end of December, AHNA judges will travel the neighborhood selecting the houses with the most magnificent displays, and one home will be crowned the winner. That lucky neighbor will have their electric bill covered for December to recognize and celebrate their holiday spirit!



Last year's winners, the Dinndorfs of Westview Lane

## RENEW YOUR AHNA MEMBERSHIP - OR BECOME A NEW MEMBER - FOR 2023!

**Enclosed in this newsletter**, you'll find an envelope for your 2023 membership dues. Members of the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association play a critical role in making this neighborhood a wonderful place to live, work, and play. As a member, you support:

- Neighborhood events, like our annual Fourth of July Parade, food truck nights in the park, a Halloween party, and more.
- This newsletter, which contains important information about events, get to know your neighbors features, and other news to help you stay connected with your local community

Members have voting privileges at our annual neighborhood meeting, where Board members are elected and where updates about neighborhood activities are shared with attendees.

Your membership also helps amplify our voice when we speak with city officials about issues affecting Arbor Hills. To become a member, you can either pay online at [arborhills.org](https://arborhills.org), or fill out the enclosed envelope and send it with your payment to the AHNA Treasurer.

**Thank you for supporting our neighborhood!**