



ARBOR HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



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

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE AND PICNIC WAS A SUCCESS!

This year's Fourth of July event was one of our best turnouts in recent memory! We kicked things off with a festive parade led by an ambulance and fire truck—thank you to the Madison Fire Department for making it extra special. After a short walk to the park, kids played while neighbors enjoyed hot dogs, snacks, face painting, and temporary tattoos. A huge thank you to the amazing volunteers who helped with traffic, food service, setup, and cleanup. Your time and energy made this a fun, safe, and memorable celebration for everyone in the neighborhood!



Photos by George Roesch Johnson

MAKE MUSIC MADISON RECAP

We hope you had the chance to stop by Arbor Hills Park to celebrate "Make Music Madison," a part of the global Make Music Day on the summer solstice, June 21st! On a warm, sunny, yet windy day, musicians Steady JB, neighbor Chuck Friedrichs, and Laura Lang performed and swooned the crowd with songs of all types spanning many years. We hope to see you next year for another concert!

JOIN US FOR THE AHNA ANNUAL MEETING

The AHNA Annual Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, October 14th** from **6:30-8 pm** at **Arbor Good Neighbor House (2509 McDivitt)**. We'll have some brief business to cover - a recap of some highlights of the year, 2026 budget approval, and elections - and then we have some excellent speakers lined up:

- **Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole** who will share some highlights from the City of Madison, hyperlocal issues here in our neighborhood, and ways she's advocating for Arbor Hills.
- **South District Police Captain Harrison Zanders** who will discuss how MPD is engaging in preventive community policing.
- **Madison School & Community Recreation Executive Director Mary Roth** will cover programs available for all ages - from little ones to seniors - arts, aquatics, fitness, sports, and more!
- **Cherokee Middle School Principal Roberto Moreno** who will share insights on how the school is shaping the minds of Arbor Hills kids when they move on from Leopold.

We hope you'll join us to hear from these community leaders. We'll also have some light snacks available for attendees.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR: MICHELLE CRAMTON

By Jeff Buhrandt

While it is not uncommon for someone like Michelle Cramton, who grew up in the Madison area and maintains strong ties here, to want to move back after retirement, Michelle's journey home was anything but common.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Michelle moved to California for graduate school at the University of Southern California, always expecting to return to the Midwest at some point. An internship with the Los Angeles Superior Court led to a long and successful career there, and subsequently with the State Bar of California, instead of a move back home.

Eventually, an opportunity to retire a little early presented itself, and led Michelle to consider opening a new chapter in her life back home in Madison. Her siblings still live in the area, as well as several life-long friends, and Michelle was thrilled to have the chance to spend more time with them in the coming years.

She began working with a realtor in December and started to look at homes, with the goal of moving to Madison in the spring or summer of 2025. While Michelle grew up outside of the city, she really wanted to live in the city itself, and she found a house, and neighborhood - here in Arbor Hills - that checked all of her boxes. With a wooded lot, a midcentury modern design, and an opportunity to put her own stamp on the home, she took the leap. She liked the house so much

she even had some old friends who live in town, along with her realtor, attend an open house while sharing video and pictures along the way. She and her realtor decided this was the perfect place, and despite not seeing it in person, she put in an offer on the house, and it was accepted.

On January 7th, she filed her mortgage, finalized all the paperwork, and then went home to her house in Altadena, California, the home she planned on selling to facilitate the move to Madison. In a horrible twist of fate, she was evacuated later that same day due to the Eaton fire, which ravaged much of Altadena and the neighboring communities.

When the evacuation orders came in, her priority was getting her cats Bijou and Gatsby, and dog Sadie, out with her. She could not even get her car out of the garage due to the power outage in the area and needed a friend to come pick her up. She fully expected to be back in a few days, once power was restored.

Unfortunately, like so many of her neighbors, her home was a total loss by the next day. Family heirlooms, photographs, clothes, paperwork, passports, everything was gone. It is impossible to measure the size and scope of not only Michelle's loss, but the loss of so many due to these fires.

Now she was faced with navigating insurance, selling the burned lot that was her home, completing her last few weeks of work, the remodeling she hoped to get done, and the move

itself all at the same time. Thankfully, things have progressed, and she is here in Madison, retired, overseeing the remodeling and staying with friends while the work gets finished. She hopes to be in residence very soon.

Despite the incredible challenges she's faced over the last year, she remains excited to be back in Madison, and in the Arbor Hills Neighborhood. As an experienced public servant, she hopes to find opportunities to volunteer and become engaged in the community. She's already met several neighbors on Sandwood, and she is excited to get to know them in the way she knew her neighbors in Altadena, where she enjoyed great relationships in a tight-knit community. We are excited to welcome her to Arbor Hills!



Q&A WITH MADISON WATER UTILITY DESIGN ENGINEER RYAN NEWMAN

Water Main Rehabilitation Project

Tell us a little bit about the water main project that many residents have noticed in Arbor Hills.

Ryan Newman, Madison Water Utility: Absolutely. What you're seeing is part of a water main rehabilitation project that Madison Water Utility is undertaking in partnership with Fer Pal Construction and H2O Infrastructure. We're using a technique called structural cured-in-place pipe (CIPP), which essentially allows us to build a new pipe inside the old one. It's a minimally invasive way to upgrade aging infrastructure without having to dig up and replace entire water mains. This method has been in use for over a decade in Madison and is expected to extend the life of the pipes by 50 years or more.

Why was this project needed?

Ryan: Our asset management program flagged this area as a top priority because of the number of main breaks we've seen. We know it's caused a lot of issues for people in the community. The goal of this project is to fix that by replacing the old infrastructure and helping prevent future breaks. Rather than fully replacing the old infrastructure, which is more costly and disruptive, we're reinforcing it with the CIPP method. This ensures a strong, long-lasting water main while minimizing the impact on residents and the environment.

How were affected residents notified and what did they need to do?

Ryan: Residents were notified earlier this spring and summer with project notices that explained the general scope of the work. When it's time to access homes—for example, to temporarily remove water meters—residents are contacted directly by Fer Pal, either in person or through a door hanger. Madison Water Utility also follows up after the project to ensure everything is functioning properly. If you have not been contacted in some way after the project has been completed, please reach out to our meter shop to coordinate that inspection at (608) 266-4765 or email metershop@madisonwater.org.

For affected homes that are using a temporary water system, it's recommended to disconnect water softeners, filters, or water-cooled A/C units. Automatic sprinkler systems might be affected, so you may need to water your lawn manually. You'll receive at least 48 hours' notice if any

planned water shutoffs are needed.

Always verify workers' IDs before allowing access—they will be clearly identified with official badges from Madison Water Utility or Fer Pal.

We really appreciate everyone's cooperation during this project—it helps everything go more smoothly.

What should commuters driving through the affected area be aware of?

Ryan: Drivers should be aware that temporary water lines are in place along sidewalks and curbs, and that there may be ramps placed at driveways and pedestrian crossings to maintain safety and accessibility. On busier roads, temporary piping may be buried and flush with the pavement to reduce disruption. We always encourage extra caution in construction zones to keep everyone safe.

When will the project be complete?

Ryan: The entire rehabilitation effort is expected to be completed in October. Our crews are working diligently to minimize disruption and maintain safe access for vehicles and pedestrians throughout the process.

Where can we go for more information?

Ryan: You can find updates and details on the Madison Water Utility website (www.cityofmadison.com/water/projects/water-pipeline-rehabilitation-project), or feel free to contact me directly at (608) 261-9640 or email rnewman@madisonwater.org.



Photo credit: Madison Water Utility

GOATS AT WORK IN KNOLLWOOD CONSERVATION PARK

By Ashley Gibson



Photo credit: George Roesch Johnson

This summer, you might have noticed a charming—but highly effective—method of ecological restoration underway at Knollwood Conservation Park: prescribed grazing with goats. Part of the City of Madison Parks Division's Land Management Plan approved in May 2023, this technique is used alongside prescribed burns and other tools to foster native plant diversity and protect pollinator habitat.

Prescribed grazing is a smart, eco-friendly approach: goats are confined to specific areas with temporary electric fencing and are hired from a local herder. They target woody invasive species—like honeysuckle, buckthorn, garlic mustard—by browsing intensively over multiple hours, consuming around eight pounds of vegetation per day while grazing for 12–16 hours.

This method reduces reliance on chemicals, lowers erosion risk, and allows work in steep or hard-to-reach areas where machinery can't go. It weakens invasive plants over time, creating openings for native grasses and wildflowers, which are often re-seeded or planted afterward.

We're grateful to these nimble natural landscapers, quietly helping to restore native beauty.



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MADISON LAKEWAY: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR LAKESHORE

By Jayme Powers, CEO, Madison LakeWay Partners, Inc.

After years of planning and extensive community input, Madison is launching one of its most ambitious public space projects in recent history: a 17-acre waterfront park along Lake Monona. The Madison LakeWay will bring new life to the lakeshore, enhance access to nature, and celebrate the area's rich cultural heritage.

The LakeWay will connect downtown and south Madison with Lake Monona, creating a 1.7-mile linear park stretching from Machinery Row to Olin Park. The LakeWay will blend public art, natural landscapes, and community gathering spaces to create a vibrant destination that will become an integral part of Madison's identity.

What is the Madison LakeWay?

The project's vision is to strengthen the connection between Madison's communities and the lake at the heart of the city. By creating a continuous, scenic corridor along the water, the LakeWay will offer safer commuting options, new green spaces for community gatherings, and more recreational opportunities.

The design, developed by the internationally renowned firm Sasaki, features four zones that together create a beautiful signature park.

- **Law Park Ledge** will span John Nolen Drive and the railroad with an elevated park, providing downtown access to the lakefront. Plans include a beach, boat dock, and amphitheater with panoramic lake views, ideal for summer shows and events.
- **Lake Lounge** will have a stunning view of the Capitol, easy access to downtown, a boathouse, and the Hamilton Pier for water activities and pop-up events.

- **The SkyLine** will include dedicated paths for biking, walking, and running. It will also have shaded seating, fishing piers, pedestrian boardwalks that curve over the water and the SkyLine Pier, Madison's next destination landmark.
- **Olin Overlook** will be an immersive retreat with wildflowers, picnic meadows, wooded trails, a lakeside gathering area, and a natural playground creating a year-round space for families and community events.

First Up: The SkyLine

Phase 1 of the LakeWay will bring the SkyLine to life, transforming a transportation corridor into a stunning new gateway into the city. Located along John Nolen Drive, this area stretches from North Shore Street to Olin Park.

Construction is set to begin following the reconstruction of John Nolen Drive, expected to begin in October. The anticipated completion of the SkyLine is winter 2028. Once finished, efforts will turn to the Olin Overlook on the lake's southern end.

Project Funding

The LakeWay is a visionary, long-term investment in Madison's future with funding from both public and private partners. The City of Madison has committed \$6 million, and Dane County has pledged another \$2 million to support the first phase of the LakeWay.

Madison LakeWay Partners has launched a capital campaign to encourage private contributions from local businesses, foundations, and philanthropic community members who share the belief that the LakeWay is an important and transformative opportunity.

"The LakeWay reflects Madison's commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and equitable access to the lakefront," said Sheri Carter, AHNA board member and Arbor Hills resident.

A New Era for Madison's Lakeshore

The LakeWay is poised to become a premiere destination for outdoor enthusiasts and anyone who enjoys the serenity and beauty of the water. As construction gets underway, it marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Madison's lakeshore, creating a legacy that will serve generations to come.

Learn More and Get Involved

Whether you've lived in Madison for decades or just arrived, the LakeWay is a space for everyone. Here are a few ways to stay involved:

- Learn more at madisonlakeway.org
- Sign up for the **newsletter** for project updates
- **Volunteer** at community events
- Join the **Friends program** or wear our gear **turtle swag**
- Share your ideas with our team at jayme@madisonlakeway.org or (608) 261-4282



Photo credit: Madison Water Utility

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL? HERE'S HOW!

By Elise Gresch, Arbor Hills resident, parent of a Leopold student, and member of the Leopold PFO

Leopold Elementary is the district's largest elementary school, with over 600 pre-kindergarten through 5th grade students. It features a diverse community and offers both an English language and a dual English/Spanish language program. It is a community school, helping its families access the programming and services they need by bringing different health and service providers and other community partners to one centralized location. The school also helps families know how to get connected to local resources.

The parent and family organization (PFO) invites you to join us in supporting the school. We would welcome your time and talents (regular commitments or one-off), monetary donations, or item donations.

Time - One-off: If you are able to contribute an hour here or there for a specific event, let us know! An example: come help us build piñatas with families during Latinx Fest on Saturday, September 27th (or prep the materials with us beforehand). Not available that day but still wish to lend a hand? Just let me know and I'll reach out to you when we have the next event date ready. It would be great to have a group of folks to draw from when we need an extra pair of hands!

Time - Regular Commitment: If you are interested in volunteering regularly at the school, we especially need volunteers to read with students as we lost our full-time Literacy Coordinator when Americorps' funding was eliminated federally this past spring. The time commitment is one hour per week, allowing you to spend 20 minutes each with three amazing students. Too daunting? How about shelving books in the library? There are many ways to get

involved! To begin, there is a mandatory background check which requires entering your info online (this only takes about 15 minutes), as well as a mandatory building safety video to watch (15 mins).

Money: If you are interested in donating funds, please do so using the QR code below or contact LeopoldPFOtreasurer@gmail.com. The PFO uses these funds for the school's community events (such as Latinx Fest, the STEAM Fair, Tito Fest), to show the teachers appreciation (such as meals during parent teacher conference evenings) and to fund student activities such as the school musical.

Items - Purchased or Cooked/Baked/Crafted: If you prefer to donate items, we could use school supplies such as glue sticks, pencils, pencil sharpeners, scissors, markers, dry erase markers, cleaning wipes and tissues. We also always have a specific Amazon wishlist running. We could also use nut-free snacks such as granola bars, fruit snacks, graham crackers, pretzels and Cheez-Its. They do not need

to be individually wrapped. If not ordered through Amazon, any of these items can be dropped off at my house (3202 Grandview Blvd - corner of Leyton Lane). If you prefer to bake or cook or craft, we would love your help with teacher appreciation meals and gifts - again, it would be wonderful to have a group of folks to draw upon.

Thank you for your support!



Last year's Latinx/Hispanic Festival hosted by Leopold PFO

Photo credit: Justin Purcell

If you're interested in any of these opportunities to support Leopold or want to learn more, please reach out to me at elisegresch@gmail.com

To donate to the Leopold PFO, scan this QR code:



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(608) 318-3838

Matt Veldran, Dane County Supervisors, District 4
veldran@countyofdane.com
(608) 235-8369

Interested in volunteering to be part of the AHNA Board?

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting **October 14**. Positions on this year's slate: **Vice President, Treasurer, Events Coordinator, Member-at-Large (x2), and Interim (1-year) Newsletter Editor**. Email Ashley no later than **October 3** at **akgibson17@gmail.com**.

CALLING ALL PETS!

Do you have a furry, feathered, or scaly friend who's just too cute not to share? We want to hear from you! We'd like to feature your pets in an upcoming edition of this newsletter. To make your pet famous across the neighborhood, send in a photo and the following details by **October 31st** to **info@arborhills.org** OR in the mail to Ashley Gibson at **14 Leyton Circle**.

- Pet's name, age, and type of animal/breed (if known)
- Your name(s)
- What's one fun fact about your pet that you'd like to share?

Look out for a spread of the most lovable residents of Arbor Hills in the next edition of this newsletter! Thank you to those of you who have already sent in photos.



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ARBOR COMMUNITY GARDEN – A PLACE TO CONNECT

By Lisa Fernandez and Ron Heinrich

Arbor Good Neighbor House (agnh.org), located at 2509 McDivitt Rd., continues to be a thriving community resource. In addition to the Friday morning Good Neighbor Personal Essentials Pantry, and the quarterly offered Repair Cafe, meeting space for organizations and local groups working on various community efforts is also available. Think of it as a Community Center right here in Arbor Hills - what a resource for our neighborhood and beyond! This is YOUR community resource- think about ways you might like to get involved.

Another possible vehicle is the Arbor Community Garden, which was established in 1991. Thirty-four years later, the garden consists of 15 plots varying in size from 200 to 275 square feet with additional space for raised beds. The cost to gardeners this year was \$20 and \$10 for a full and half plot respectively, although it has also been made clear to those gardening that if cost is prohibitive, the fee can be reduced or waived. Providing gardeners a place to grow food, however, is only one role of the community garden, and maybe not even the most important. At Arbor fostering connections is the overarching goal, specifically; 1) connections to other gardeners and those living in the neighborhood, 2) connections to one's own life and the natural world, and 3) connections to the communities being built and supported by Arbor Good Neighbor House.

Fostering such connections can take many forms. For instance, Arbor Community Garden has attempted to create community among the gardeners and those in the neighborhood through summer cookouts (of which there have been three this summer), and "Mornings in the Garden", where coffee and pastries are provided for those

who have time to drop by and engage in some conversation or just fill up their coffee cups to get their day started.

These events provide an opportunity to connect with others by being held at - and sometimes in - the garden. They also provide the opportunity to connect with place, something absent from many of our lives. The act of gardening allows for a direct connection to nature, to the plants and soil we are tending, to the surrounding trees and singing birds, to the cool morning breeze (or hotter breezes in August), as well as the weeds that are pulled and the crops that are harvested. Free from our usual daily distractions, spending time in the garden allows for directly experiencing our lives.

Arbor Community Garden is also making efforts to connect more directly with programs at Arbor Good Neighbor House, two examples of which are The Personal Essentials Pantry and Creek Day School. This year a significant section of the garden, about 750 square feet, has been set aside specifically to grow food for guests of the pantry, and we are already looking ahead to next year and what those guests might find particularly valuable. A plot is also set aside each year for the 2- to five-year olds who attend Creek Day School. Spearheaded by Marge Steuck, the former Executive Director of Creek, kids have been introduced to gardening and an initial understanding of where their food comes from. There are plans to build pollinator habitats later this year, specifically bee and butterfly gardens, that will again provide a direct experience for the children as their teachers talk with them about the importance and interconnectedness of pollinators and the plants they pollinate.

As Arbor Good Neighbor House engages in the work of community building and looks for ways to reach out to the surrounding neighborhood, those affiliated with Arbor Community Garden are identifying ways to contribute to that mission. As we look to 2026 and its 35th year, there is an excitement and desire among those involved to create something larger than a place to simply grow food. We seek to contribute to social connections among a larger network of friends and neighbors. We are also open to ideas of what community building and service might look like, and encourage others to become involved in whatever way works for them. All are welcome to participate and contribute -this is what community building looks like!

For more information or questions about how you can get involved in the Community Garden please contact Ron Heinrich at reheinrich64@gmail.com or **608-515-3288**. If you are interested in any other aspect of the Arbor Good Neighbor House you can contact the Executive Director, Peter Morris, at peter@agnh.org or **608-271-1955**.



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UPCOMING AHNA EVENTS

Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat - Saturday 10/25, 4-5PM

Get on your spookiest or silliest costume and join us on the corner of Grandview and Kingston at **4PM on Saturday, October 25th**. Our creepy crew will walk, bike, skate, or roll down Grandview Blvd. and turn onto Pelham Rd. to end at Arbor Hills Park.

All kids, ghouls, and goblins will be greeted with a 'Trunk or Treat' (like trick-or-treating, but you only have to walk between cars parked along the street near the park). We hope you'll join us for a BOO-tiful evening... we're just dying to see you.

If you are willing and able, please participate in the trunk or treat event. Please park on Pelham or Derby Down near Arbor Hills 15 minutes beforehand and bring a bowl or a dish to hold treats. We will have some candy to distribute between cars, but if you have additional candy, feel free to bring it!



Holiday Decorations Contest

Coming in December - judges will award the most festive homes and yards!

BECOME A MEMBER FOR 2026

We hope you will consider becoming a member of the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association in 2026! 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 and mail with payment to: Jackie Cooper, AHNA, 3314 Heatherdell Lane, Madison, 53713.

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



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