



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

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With fall just around the corner, we enter one of the most beautiful seasons in Arbor Hills. A lot of gardening was done this year, with new rock walls, landscaping, and cleanup. It seems that we lost fewer trees, and the mosquitos must have decided to shelter in place, too - they seem less abundant this year. Reconstruction of Fish Hatchery proceeded on schedule with minimal disruption of traffic in Arbor Hills. Unfortunately the Association had to make the difficult decision to cancel or defer normal events, and many neighborhood block parties were also canceled due to COVID-19. So summer was quiet this year. Behind the scenes, however, good things happened.

For one thing, have you noticed how the flowers at the entrance to Arbor Hills at Grandview seemed to pop this year? A good Samaritan did that, following a long tradition of neighbors trimming, planting, and cleaning up around the neighborhood. New residents moved into Arbor Hills into apartments and houses, reaching out to be active in the community and joining the AHNA. AH continued to be an attractive destination for new homeowners. Crime remained relatively low, and despite the disruptions of the pandemic to government budgets, the City kept up our park and MG&E buried some electrical lines. In this issue of your newsletter we report on the activities of our alder, Sheri Carter, who is your neighbor, and of other residents. I am delighted that we have had a farmer's market in AH, I think for the first time.

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have announced how the Arbor Hills Annual Meeting will be conducted in a safe and responsible way, so that your neighborhood association can continue to pay bills, plan and run the events you have come to enjoy, and work with the public officials on your behalf. If you are not yet a member of the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association, please join! You can easily sign up online at www.arborhills.org. Continue to ask for advice on suppliers and services on Nextdoor and keep us posted on all the wildlife comings and goings that is part of life in Arbor Hills. As always, if you have issues or questions about Arbor Hills, reach out to any board member of your association (listed on page 7 of this newsletter), or to your Block Captain.

See you around the neighborhood—six feet apart, of course, and wearing a mask!

James W. Cortada, *President*
Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association

AHNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of most months from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. The board will continue to meet virtually until public health authorities deem it safe to gather.

Every resident is welcome to attend. Please let a board member know if you plan to join. See page 7 or arborhills.org/board-members for a list of board members and contact information.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 8TH.
To see past meeting minutes, visit arborhills.org/meeting-minutes.



A Message from the AHNA Board

This letter was posted on arborhills.org and to the AHNA Facebook page on June 12.

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor - the latest victims in a long history of violence against Black people - we as the AHNA Board acknowledge the pain and grief felt in our community and the role we all play in working toward systemic change.

We know that long-term, sustained conversation and action are necessary. We've started that work as a Board by having an open dialogue about policing in our neighborhood and ways that we can actively seek to engage, empower, and uplift Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) who live in Arbor Hills and surrounding communities.

Here are a few of the options we're actively exploring:

1. Making a financial contribution to a local organization that works to address issues that disproportionately affect BIPOC.
2. Seeking more diverse representation on the Board.
3. Encouraging renters in Arbor Hills to join the Association so their interests and voices are represented.
4. Using our events budget to support BIPOC-owned businesses.
5. Including more diverse faces and voices in our neighborhood newsletter.
6. Having a neighborhood-wide conversation about policing.

Our work isn't over with a single donation. We often remind you that your membership in this Association is important so we can add to our collective voice as we work with local officials on issues affecting our neighborhood. It's important that our voice represents all residents in Arbor Hills.

If you have ideas about additional ways we can work towards that goal, please email Ashley Gibson at akgibson17@gmail.com. We're here to listen.

www.arborhills.org



Q&A

WITH MADISON CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHERI CARTER

In April, Sheri Carter, who served for over a decade as the President of the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association and then as our Alder, was elected President of the Madison City Council. I sat down with her over a video call to hear about her first few months in this new position and learn how her previous experience as a community organizer shapes her outlook for our city.

By Ashley Gibson | AHNA Newsletter Editor

How did your 10+ years serving as the President for the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association and then as an Alder help prepare you for your current role as City Council President?

As a member of the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association and as an Alder, I worked closely with elected officials to advocate for the needs of the neighborhood. I learned how important it is to really understand people's experiences and how they shape what a particular community needs - which can be very different for people who are living even just a few blocks apart. Having that experience at the grassroots level shaped how I go forward. Now, in my role as President of the City Council, I rely heavily on my background in community organizing.

What issues is the City Council focusing on now?

We're really focusing on how to create a sustainable future for our city. One of the most pressing challenges is addressing fiscal health. Right now, we are facing a deficit of \$30 million this year and potentially a deficit of \$25 million in 2021 due to the pandemic. Small businesses, tourism, restaurants, and others took a direct hit. The effects will be long-lasting.

Planning for a sustainable future for Madison also means creating more affordable housing, making sure there are employment options, developing safe and efficient traffic patterns, and operationalizing equity.

Since early June, there have been protests about the role of policing in our community. How have these events changed the direction of the City Council's work?

George Floyd's death, among many others, was the straw that broke the camel's back. It opened a lot of emotions across the United States and the world. The consistent thread throughout the protest was to defund or disband the police, but there's so much more that can be addressed from this reawakening: laws/ordinances, housing, financial institutions, health, and more.



Photo credit: John Hart, Wisconsin State Journal

I do think that we need to take a close look at our police department and possibly restructure it. People call the police for everything from reporting a crime to responding to a mental health crisis. It's helpful to have a single number - 911 - to make it easy for people to make a call when they have a crisis, but maybe we need to reorganize police departments so that we have people who are trained to respond to different needs. We all want the same thing - public safety. Now we need to figure out how to structure services to achieve that goal, which includes taking a close look at police departments, fire departments, and other services. In addition, we need to look at how policies impact all our residents and ensure that we are not creating a burden on residents that are not as fortunate.

What suggestions do you have for residents in the Arbor Hills Neighborhood who are interested in getting involved and giving back to the community?

First, ask yourself "What is my passion?" We need people who have different skills and interests to contribute to many different areas in our community.

For example, if you enjoy working with kids, volunteer to tutor or mentor a child. I recently saw a story about a little boy, whose grandma drove him 7 hours to meet John Lewis in Selma, Alabama. That experience will stick with him for the rest of his life. That story goes to show the impact one adult can make for a child. It is important for kids to meet people with different backgrounds and experiences. It provides the opportunity for children to be comfortable in a global society.

Another example is volunteering at a food pantry. They provide an essential service, and they have a huge increase in demand

(Continued from Page 2)

right now. There are so many community organizations that need and want volunteers. I think there is something that we can all do. I always go back to "What are you passionate about?" That is what will make you successful as a volunteer.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I will end with what I always say: there is no greater neighborhood than Arbor Hills. It is the hope diamond that has

not been completely discovered. Because Arbor Hills is an active neighborhood; walkable, family friendly, pets galore, and more. That is what makes it the best place to live in the City of Madison. It is such a close-knit neighborhood that has always had an active association. I know that this year is different, but usually there are events that bring people together. Even people who do not attend events often read the newsletter, so they know what is going on. It creates a sense of cohesiveness that is unique to Arbor Hills.

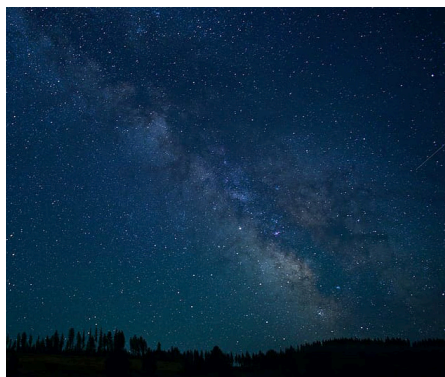
TREASURE THE BEAUTY OF THE NIGHT SKIES OVER ARBOR HILLS

By Madeline Uranek | Leyton Lane

When I lived in a village without electricity in Lesotho, Africa, I was awed at the biggest, darkest skies I'd ever seen. Stars dropped right to the horizons and the Milky Way was so close I could have dipped out a couple of stars.

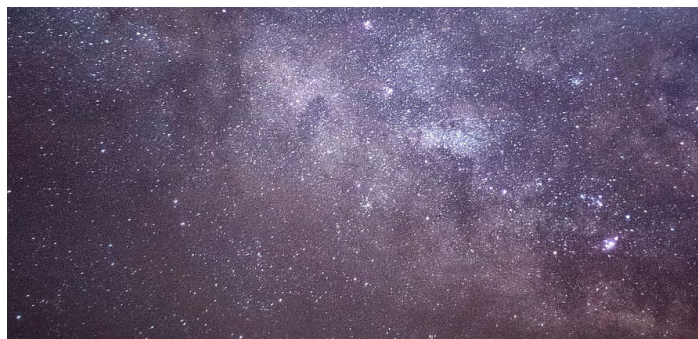
As I walk the streets around Arbor Hills, I miss this night splendor.

A discussion about a recent midnight break-in on our block generated suggestions to turn on more porch and yard lights. The effect of bright lights in reducing crime, however, has been researched and found to be myth. At night, bright lights make home dwellers feel safer, but excessive lighting can actually decrease safety by creating sharp shadows with dark places to hide, imbuing a false sense of security, even making victims easier to see. Most property crime occurs in the light of day, and crimes like vandalism and graffiti actually thrive on night lighting.



Deleterious effects on wildlife are one of many problems caused by excessive night lighting. Recent scientific evidence details negative, even deadly effects of artificial light on amphibians, birds, mammals, plants, and insects.

Nocturnal animals like owls sleep during the day and hunt at night. Bright lights disturb their ability to prey under cover of darkness. Artificial light disrupts reproduction patterns of frogs and toads, whose nighttime croaking is part of their breeding rituals. Birds that migrate at night depend on starlight, and city lights can cause them to wander off course. Each year millions of birds die colliding with needlessly illuminated buildings.



Advocates of dark skies realize the necessity of lighting for safety and business. They encourage neighbors to 1) save money by installing outdoor lights that are shielded to beam light down where it is needed, not into the sky; 2) set dimmers, motion sensors and timers to use only necessary amounts of light; 3) buy 'warm-white' LEDs and CFLs; 4) turn lights off when not in use; and finally, 5) insist that empty buildings keep lights on only minimally.



You don't need to live in an African village to experience the magnificence of a dark sky. Twenty-seven national parks, like Bryce and Big Bend, are designated as International Dark Sky Parks, and even small and urban communities have earned similar accolades. Let's treasure the beauty of the night skies over Arbor Hills.

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KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS: Heather Gomez

A lifelong Wisconsinite and former Peace Corps volunteer works to make the world a better place - here in Arbor Hills and across the globe | By Ashley Gibson | AHNA Newsletter Editor

If Heather Gomez looks familiar, it may be because you've seen her out on a walk, keeping an eye out for trash around the neighborhood. Heather is one of the many good samaritans who help keep Arbor Hills clean.

"When COVID-19 started, I knew so many people were trying to balance work and taking care of their kids, and a lot of people lost their jobs," Heather said. "I'm lucky to have a job and be relatively healthy, so I thought 'what can I do to help?' Picking up around the neighborhood is something small I can do to make a difference."



Students at Otaki High School in Chiba prefecture, Japan (a sister state of Wisconsin), where Heather taught English.

Heather's drive to make the world a better place isn't limited to the streets that surround her home. She spent time teaching English in Japan and loved living abroad, so she looked for the next opportunity that would allow her to see more of the world and help others. She landed on a position in the Peace Corps, teaching English in Bulgaria.



Folk festival in Lovech, Bulgaria, where Heather served in the Peace Corps.

"Through the Peace Corps I met others who were working to make a difference," Heather said. "We had the chance to travel all over. I try to live frugally after seeing how many people live on so little compared to our abundance in the US."

Today, Heather stays connected to other Peace Corps alumni who are committed to giving back. The Madison group has raised over \$1.4 million for projects for building libraries, water and sanitation projects, and small business development. They organize an annual "Freeze for Food" run and sell a calendar featuring photos from around the world.

During her childhood in Janesville, her family couldn't go on expensive international trips. Her parents still believed it was important to meet people with different backgrounds, so they hosted international exchange students. Heather loved learning about their lives in faraway places, and that experience sparked her lifelong interest in seeing the world.



After a 15-year career at American Girl, Heather and her husband Isaac - a certified scuba instructor - went on a couple of memorable trips. They traveled and dove in Thailand, explored gorgeous waterfalls and temples in Laos, and visited some friends who own local Madison restaurant Lao Laan Xang. They also spent time in Mexico City and found a way to visit Cuba and do some diving there. When she returned she started a job at Exact Sciences, a company she says is a great fit because they employ such a diverse workforce with people of many ages, backgrounds, races, and identities.

Like all of us, the places Heather can travel right now during the pandemic are limited. She and Isaac are sticking close to their house on Arbordale Court where they live with their cat and dog ("They don't get along," Heather laughed). They've called Arbor Hills home for the past 15 years - first as renters, and now as homeowners and landlords.

"We loved the neighborhood so much that when we had the opportunity to buy, we decided to stay," Heather said. "I've been to events like Earth Day cleanup. I love living in a place surrounded by other people who care about making our community a great place to live."



Heather and her husband Isaac boating on Lake Monona with their niece and nephews.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OBITUARIES

SHERRY WAGNER-HENRY, who lived on Knollwood Court, passed away unexpectedly in May due to complications from surgery. She was 53 years old. For more than 25 years, Sherry served as a leader in nonprofit, arts, cultural, and humanities-based centers in higher education institutions. Since 2012, she energetically served as Director of the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the Wisconsin School of Business. Read a full tribute from the UW Division of the Arts here:
<https://artsdivision.wisc.edu/2020/06/09/sherry-wagner-henry-tribute/>

ELEANOR "ELLIE" SCHEEL, who lived on Leyton Lane for many years, passed away on July 30. Born in 1928 in Portage, she loved to play cards and travel. She was extremely proud that she was able to visit six continents. She and her husband, Bill, were married 55 years until he passed away in 2003, and they had a son, William. Read Ellie's full obituary at madison.com.

SPOTTING GOOD SAMARITANS

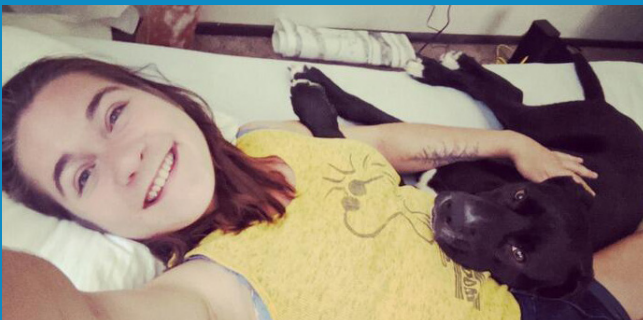
During a time when we need good news, kind deeds, and to see beauty among us - Arbor Hills Neighbors have taken note of the many good Samaritans helping to make our neighborhood a beautiful place to live. We've noticed those of you who tend the garden at the entrance to our neighborhood, trim the shrubs around our signs, pick up trash along the bike paths, and mow the common green spaces between homes. We thank each and every one of you for your collective efforts in making Arbor Hills a wonderful place to live.



WELCOME TO ARBOR HILLS

NEW NEIGHBORS

Elizabeth, Dave, Kailani, and Samira on Ashford Lane
Amy & Curtis on Kingston Drive
David & Ellie on Grandview Blvd.
Michelle and her dog Papaya on Ashford Lane
(pictured below)



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT!



Grant Roeming and Courtney Odom on Sandwood Way welcomed Oliver James Roeming on June 24th.



NEW FURRY FRIEND!



Aaron and Chloe on Grandview Blvd. welcomed a new furry, four-legged family member, Shadow.



LEOPOLD END-OF-YEAR PARADE

Learning looked very different this spring at Leopold Community School, but teachers made sure to celebrate the end of the year in style. They waved from their cars as they drove through the neighborhoods and cheered alongside their students.



Recycling Large Items

Do you need to recycle an old fridge, TV, lawnmower, or other item? In-person transactions are still not available at the Streets Division offices due to the ongoing pandemic. Residents who need to recycle a television, microwave or other items that require a recycling fee, should purchase the sticker online, by calling a streets division office, or by mail. Check out cityofmadison.com/streets for more information.

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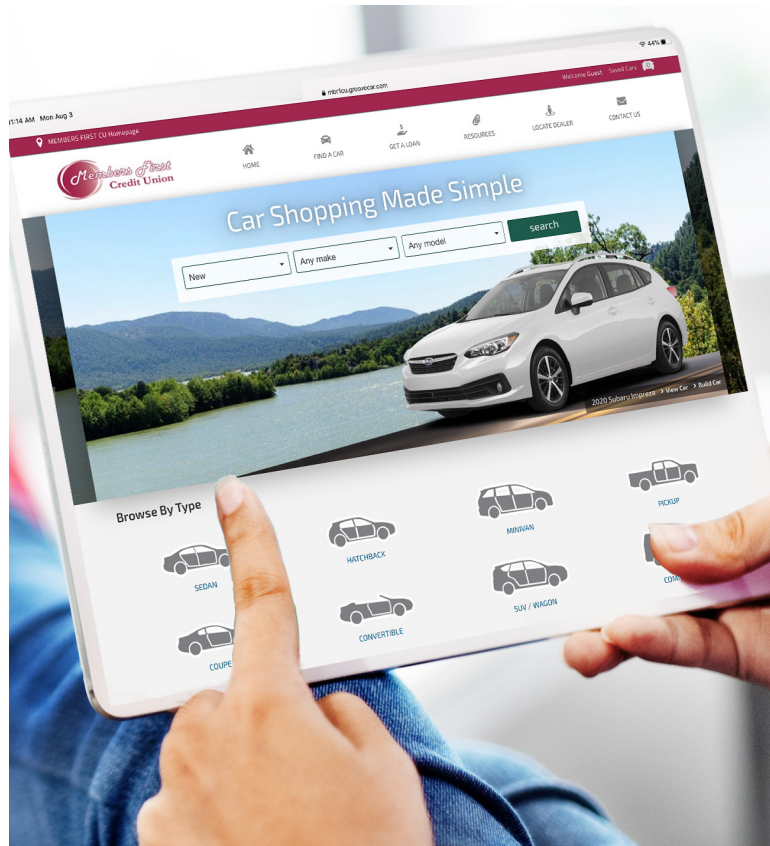
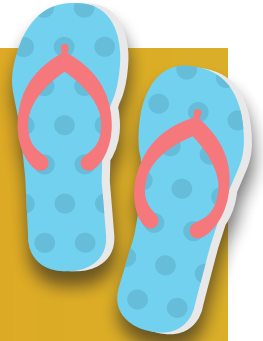
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GS3291 1/13/2020

**When it comes to your to-do list,
put *your* personal financial goals first.**

To discuss if you are on track to achieve *your* version of financial success, please reach out to have a conversation with me over the phone or in-person.



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