

Elvehjem Echo

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
Founded March, 1968

Vol. 39, Issue 4
April, 2007

Our Association's 40th Year



"Prez Sez"

NEEDED: A FEW GREAT BOARD MEMBERS

This is a plea to residents in the Elvehjem Neighborhood who would like to volunteer a few hours a month to a very worthy cause. The ENA still needs more board members. We are essentially operating at half of our capacity. The board is committed to conducting the major activities the ENA has offered in the past, but we need to consider what we can reasonably do well given the limited number of board members.

If you would like to find out more information about what it means to be a board member and what sort of time commitment it involves, please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The ENA is once again participating in the Safe Communities—Slow Down Campaign during the week of April 23rd. We will be focusing the campaign near the Elvehjem School.

The annual membership drive will be occurring in June.

The ENA is also beginning to plan for the 4th of July Celebration.

SURVEY UPDATE

300 surveys were mailed to a random selection of households in the Elvehjem Neighborhood. If you received one, please complete and return it in the SASE. We are asking that you complete and return them by May 11.

Your feedback is highly valued!

Thank you,

Jason Cram, President

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

Slow Down Campaign

The Safe Communities Coalition's Slow Down Sign Campaign is running from April 23rd to April 27th. We'll be targeting Academy between Woodvale and Ellen.

JOIN ENA

OUR MEMBERSHIP FORM IS NOW AVAILABLE ON
ENA'S WEB SITE.

CALENDAR

- ◆ April 21, 2007 **Garlic Mustard Pull (1st)**
9:00 AM Elvehjem Woods Sanctuary
- ◆ May 9, 2007 **ENA Board Meeting**
7:00 PM 1517 Wendy Lane
- ◆ May 19, 2007 **Garlic Mustard Pull (2nd)**
9:00 Am Elvehjem Woods Sanctuary

ENA Board Meeting Minutes—April 4, 2007

(NOTE: Minutes appearing in the Echo are edited for space. ENA's official minutes are posted on its website.)

Attendance: Jason, Jim, Jeanne, Kate, and Tom; also present, Sue Richgels (Membership Drive Manager) and Debbie Pederson (Membership Database Coordinator).

Minutes: January minutes approved unanimously (Jim moved, Jeanne seconded). Amended (Jason attended, not Dean) March minutes approved unanimously (Jim moved, Jeanne seconded).

Treasurer's Report: April report approved unanimously (Tom moved, Jim seconded).

Discussions

- ◆ *Next meeting:* Tom, May 9th
- ◆ *Membership Drive:* Drive will be held during the month of June.
 - ◆ *Sue Richgels:* Updated board on personnel for membership drive (block captains, coordinators). Still needs more block captains. Will stress that block captains contact residents in person.
 - ◆ *Debbie Pederson:* Updated board on status of forms for drive. Will leave check box on form for directory information. Presently reports are caught up and database allows for more automation. Ultimate goal is for individual members to update own information on web, but currently beta testing access by membership committee and board.
- ◆ *Easter Egg Hunt:* Board examined recently purchased bunny suit. Egg hiders will meet at 8:45 AM; event begins at 10:00 AM. Jason updated about calls for police to attend event. Jim will get boards and eggs from storage. Jeanne already posted announcement to bulletin board. Email to go out soon if not already.

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(Minutes—Continued from page 1.)

- ◆ *Proposed changes of future meetings:*
 - ◆ *Proposed Changes:* May 9: Tom; June 13: Kate; July 3: Elvehjem shelter; August 8: Jim; September 12: Art; October 10: Jason; November 14: Tom; December 12: Jim; January 9: Jeanne; February 13: Jason.
 - ◆ *Reason for Change:* Jason's appointment to Madison city commission.
 - ◆ *Motion:* Tom moved to accept proposed general change of meeting week from 1st week to 2nd week. Kate seconded motion.
 - ◆ *Discussion:* Tom raised issue of Echo and effect of distribution of information to neighborhood. Feeling was that board will need to be more aware of timing and proactive in getting information into the Echo even if it goes to the Echo editor prior to the meeting. Possible amendment to above schedule is August.
 - ◆ *Vote:* Approved unanimously.

Announcements

- ◆ *Stoughton Road Revitalization Planning:* Meeting on April 12, 9 AM-11 AM led by planners (Minneapolis) without SRRP committee present to get neighborhood input. They requested an ENA representative. Jim will follow up with calls to neighbors suggested as possible attendees.
- ◆ *Neighborhood Liaison Officer:* Jason reported that Dan Murphy (previous ENA board member) is now our newest liaison and can be reached at:
dmurphy@cityofmadison.com.
- ◆ *Garlic Mustard Pull:* Kate reported preparations are made for the pull on Saturdays April 21st and May 19th.
- ◆ *Slow Down Campaign:* Campaign will be held from April 23rd to April 27th. Jeanne will make contact with SCC for additional signs. Pick up of signs will be on April 16th. Tom will begin contacting residents along Academy (between Woodvale and Ellen) in next couple of weeks.
- ◆ *July 4th Preparations:* Will discuss more details in May. Jeanne will submit raffle permit. Jason suggested more variety of raffles. Board assigned members to certain businesses for raffle items.
- ◆ *Bike Rodeo:* Not having one this year.
- ◆ *Survey Update:* Jason filled in board on cost by printer and procedure for mailing surveys. Surveys will be printed and folded by Xerlith. Envelopes will be numbered, stuffed, labeled and stamped by board members over next week or two. Deadline for return in May 11th.

Miscellaneous

- ◆ *Neighborhood Grant:* Kate asked if anyone was interested in applying. Feeling is that we should put this off for another year or so given the survey being funded by the grant.
- ◆ *Elvehjem Playground Committee Report:* Tom reported on the successes of the playground committee, the April 15th notice for the large grant, and upcoming Figureheads fundraising concert (April 21, LaFollette HS).
- ◆ *Adjourned:* 8:53 p.m.

Submitted, Tom Purnell, ENA Board Secretary

The Sound of Madison Chorus

We are a group of women of diverse ages and backgrounds from the Madison area, who love to sing four part harmony, barbershop style. We are affiliated with Sweet Adelines International.

We meet every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. at Lake Edge Lutheran Church, 4032 Monona Drive, Madison.

For more information contact: Jean at 245-1070 or check out our website at: www.madison.com/communities/soundofmadison

**The Elvehjem
Neighborhood
Association
needs YOU on its Board.**



**Please volunteer by
calling a Board member.**

ENA Treasurer's Report

March 1, 2007—March 31, 2007

<i>Checking Beginning Balance 03/01/07:</i>	\$ 138.68
<i>Receipts:</i>	
<i>Total Receipts:</i>	<u>\$ 0</u>
<i>Disbursements:</i>	
Easter Bunny Costume (Cram)	111.98
Storage Costs (April—June) Stuff N Store	<u>171.00</u>
<i>Total Disbursements:</i>	\$ 282.98
Transfer from Certificate of Deposit:	\$ 1,147.75
<i>Checking Account Ending Balance 03/31/07:</i>	\$ 1,003.45
Certificates of Deposit face value:	\$ 5,035.61
<i>Total Cash and Equivalent 03/31/07:</i>	\$ 6,039.06

2007-2008 ENA Board of Directors

<i>President:</i>	<u>Jason Cram</u> , 4510 East Buckeye Road 661-9032 jason@elvehjemneighborhood.org
<i>Vice-President:</i>	<u>Jim Polewski</u> , 5010 Starker Avenue, 221-2490 jim@elvehjemneighborhood.org
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<u>Jeanne Rotter</u> , 5001 Ironwood Drive, 222-4981 jeanne@elvehjemneighborhood.org
<i>Secretary:</i>	<u>Tom Purnell</u> , 1517 Wendy Lane, 221-8301 tom@elvehjemneighborhood.org
<u>Craig Hadley</u>	1401 Woodvale Drive craig@elvehjemneighborhood.org
<u>Kate Strom</u>	4718 Steinhauer Trail 223-0678 kate@elvehjemneighborhood.org
<u>Art Meyer</u>	1629 Deerwood Drive 442-7636 art@elvehjemneighborhood.org

Contact a Board member with your comments or questions concerning a subject affecting our neighborhood. You're invited to attend any ENA board meetings.

Member Corner

Notices are limited to 40 words and a first come, first-served, space-available basis. Youth ads are good for 3 months; all others are 1 month per request. If space is limited, ENA member notices have priority. Notices may be edited. Send requests to ENA, PO Box 14625, Madison, 53708-0625; or newsletter@elvehjemneighborhood.org; or in the Echo mailbox at 21 Vinje Court.

Roofing Shingles: Free—you haul. First come, first served. Call Cathy at 222-2683.

Housecleaning: Need help with your housecleaning? Call Marilyn at 222-9625. Reliable with 20 years experience.

ENA ECHO Publication Policies

Neither attachment of political ads nor inclusion of business ads constitutes an endorsement. Opinions expressed in ECHO articles are not necessarily those of the ENA Board. The Board reserves the right to refuse whatever it deems unfit for reasons of language or general content.

Madison Police Department

Elvehjem Neighborhood Liaison Officer

Elvehjem residents are asked to make non-emergency contacts for neighborhood issues to Dan Murphy. His email address is: dmurphy@cityofmadison.com.

Benefit Concert — April 21

The Elvehjem Playground Improvement Committee has a Figureheads benefit concert coming up.

Given sponsorship by Madison Partners for Inclusive Education, M&I Bank, and Madison Metropolitan School District, the money raised will all go toward additional improvements to the three playgrounds at the school.

The concert is Saturday, April 21, 2007 at LaFollette High School Auditorium at 1:00 PM.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at Sentry on Cottage Grove or at the door.

For more information, see www.playgroundsupport.com.

YAHARA MATERIALS QUARRY ISSUE

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

[Note: The East Buckeye Neighborhood Association, prior to the mayoral vote, asked the two candidates to respond about the quarry issues. They've shared this response from the re-elected Mayor Cieslewicz.]

The issues related to the Yahara Materials quarry, particularly how they impact Madison neighborhoods, have concerned me for some time. I understand that this is a serious quality of life concern for many residents on Madison's east side. The primary challenge in addressing this issue is that the City of Madison has no jurisdiction whatsoever over the quarry and its activities. The quarry itself is located in the Town of Blooming Grove, and its operations are regulated

by the State Department of Commerce.

That means the mayor's office needs to work in a cooperative manner with state and quarry officials to find ways to minimize the impact of quarry operations on Madison's neighborhoods. That is precisely what we have been doing for the past several years.

Here is a review of our efforts to date, and our plans for the future.

2005

In order to get a thorough understanding of the issues involved, I asked City Engineering in March, 2005 to conduct a neighborhood survey. We mailed 1252 questionnaires to homes in the affected neighborhoods, and received 630 responses.

We asked about a range of issues, from building damage to heavy truck traffic to vibrations during blasting operations. A full report on the responses we received was provided to Ald. Judy Compton and Yahara Materials, and is available online at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/environmentalMineral.cfm>. The report also includes maps showing where various types of building damage were reported.

Shortly after completion of that survey, City staff met with neighborhood residents and Yahara Minerals, and Yahara's blasting company, Northland Explosives. City staff presented quarry personnel with concerns from the neighborhood about the impact of blasting. City staff continued working to collect additional data, monitoring all 20 blasting operations in 2005 with seismographic equipment.

Because blasting operations are regulated by the Department of Commerce, City staff reviewed the quarry's compliance with law in regards to vibration limits. That review found that the blasting taking place, though clearly problematic for the neighborhood, appeared to be within the limits set by state law.

Nonetheless, the City and Dept. of Commerce officials did ask Yahara to consider the use of an electronic detonation system which might reduce blasting-related vibrations. They declined at the time, citing cost and other issues, but just recently did agree to test this promising new technology (more on that development below).

2006

In February, 2006, another meeting was held with representatives from the city, county, state, Yahara Materials and east side neighborhoods to review concerns about the quarry operations. Yahara agreed to use a new type of detonating device in hopes of reducing vibration issues, and also set up a website (www.yahara.com) to help keep the neighborhood informed of upcoming blasting activity. They also agreed to notify City staff in advance of each blast.

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Elvehjem Neighborhood Association
PO Box 14625
Madison, Wisconsin
53708-0625

www.elvehjemneighborhood.org

(Quarry Issues, continued from page 3.)

As part of ongoing outreach and communication efforts from city government, City Engineering staff attended another neighborhood meeting in October, 2006 to share information and hear residents' concerns. Also that fall, City staff observed a number of the Yahara blasts, verified the company's use of seismographic monitoring, and reviewed the data from that monitoring.

Seismographic data that we have collected from both 2005 and 2006 has been compiled, and we'd be happy to provide that information to any interested neighborhood residents.

2007

Yahara sent our City Engineer a letter on March 2, saying that they will be testing a new electronic detonation system that may reduce the vibrations felt by nearby homes. According to the quarry, this system has proved effective when used by other mining operations.

I thought this was useful information, and I forwarded it to neighborhood residents who have written my office in the past about this issue. It is very unfortunate that one neighborhood resident has politically attacked me for passing along this significant piece of news as soon as I received it. (Any interested residents who would like a copy of this letter can send a request to

info@daveformadison.com and we'll be glad to share it with you.)

This test of this new system has now taken place, and the data is currently being analyzed. Yahara expects to have the results of this analysis by mid-April, which will indicate to what extent the timing of the detonations can be modified to reduce vibrations felt in the surrounding neighborhoods.

I am hopeful that these ongoing efforts will be helpful. Going forward, we will continue to monitor the situation closely, and work with quarry and DNR officials to ensure that quarry operators are following the law, and doing everything possible to minimize the impact of their blasting operations. If we are not satisfied with these efforts, we will take whatever legal steps we can to protect the quality of life and property for Madison east side residents.

This is a challenging issue for the City of Madison to address, since we lack the legal authority to force the quarry to take any remedial actions. Nevertheless, we have worked hard for the past several years in a cooperative manner to improve the situation, and we will continue to do so. But beware of any politician who promises a "quick fix" to this issue – if one existing, we would have taken advantage of it years ago, when this issue first arose.