

# Elvehjem Echo

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association  
Founded March, 1968

Vol. 41, Issue 02  
February, 2009

*Our Association's 40th Year*



## Elvehjem Neighborhood Association To Cease Operations

### *Cites Lack of Volunteers*

***\$10,000 in Neighborhood Savings and Assets  
Will Revert to City for Stewardship***

This headline is very close to the truth at this point—we need help to keep the association going. This is not because of a lack of funding, but because of a lack of people power. We need more volunteers to keep our neighborhood association going into 2009—2010.

Any neighborhood association that disbands must turn over all monies to the city. "Getting these funds back requires restarting the association from scratch and proving we can do it. Otherwise we can consider that money **gone**," says former board member and past Echo newsletter editor Jody McIntyre. "I can tell you from talking to other associations who have had to start over that it is worth a little effort to keep one alive. All we need right now is volunteers, not money. Our neighbors have been generous with their wallets. All we ask is for someone to show up once a month at a board meeting to keep this 40-year-old operation going. It's a small amount of time and a lot of fun."

When neighborhood associations fold, the impact ripples throughout a community. We become disconnected. We no longer discuss what we read in the Echo, upcoming events, or what Alder Judy Compton or County Supervisor Dave de Felice are doing on our behalf. There is no single body to turn to with issues that affect us all.

Serving on the board or volunteering at events is easy and fun. It's possible the association may have to cut back a bit on events, but it's a small price to pay for keeping the neighborhood association going and making our neighborhood more desirable and safe. Please keep our very special neighborhood connected. Call any board member today and volunteer.

"Neighbors can even call me or my hubby Karl (former ENA President) at 221-3188 if they would like to consider helping but maybe feel a bit shy about it," says Jody. "Giving a little of my time over the years to Elvehjem has been a lot of fun, enriching, and it also has helped my career as well. You make connections that last a lifetime, and I know as neighbors we're all a lot closer to each other because of the great work that is done by the ENA. Any current or past board member will tell you the same. It's easy to talk to the board. Just drop them a line at [bod@elvehjemneighborhood.org](mailto:bod@elvehjemneighborhood.org)."

## CALENDAR

- ◆ **February 4, 2009** ..... **Monthly Board Meeting**  
7:00 PM ..... East Precinct Police Station
- ◆ **March 7, 2009** ..... **Euchre Card Tournament**  
7:00 PM—10:30 PM ..... VFW Post 7591  
*(See Page 5)* ..... 3001 Cottage Grove Road
- ◆ **March 14, 2009** ..... **ENA Annual Meeting**  
10:00—Noon ..... East Precinct Police Station

## 2007-2008 ENA Board of Directors

<i>President:</i>	<u>Kate Strom</u>	4718 Steinhauer Trail 223-0678 <a href="mailto:kate@elvehjemneighborhood.org">kate@elvehjemneighborhood.org</a>
<i>Vice-President:</i>	<u>Jim Polewski</u>	5010 Starker Avenue 221-2490 <a href="mailto:jim@elvehjemneighborhood.org">jim@elvehjemneighborhood.org</a>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<u>Jeanne Rotter</u>	5001 Ironwood Drive, 222-4981 <a href="mailto:jeanne@elvehjemneighborhood.org">jeanne@elvehjemneighborhood.org</a>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<u>Susan Dow</u>	21 Vinje Court 223-9309 <a href="mailto:susan@elvehjemneighborhood.org">susan@elvehjemneighborhood.org</a>
<u>Art Meyer</u>		1629 Deerwood Drive 442-7636 <a href="mailto:art@elvehjemneighborhood.org">art@elvehjemneighborhood.org</a>
<u>Mike Digman</u>		5022 Starker Avenue 223-9527 <a href="mailto:mike@elvehjemneighborhood.org">mike@elvehjemneighborhood.org</a>
<u>Tom Purnell</u>		1517 Wendy Lane 221-8301 <a href="mailto:tom@elvehjemneighborhood.org">tom@elvehjemneighborhood.org</a>

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

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**DATE:** March 2, 2009      **TIME:** 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Elvehjem School will hold Kindergarten Registration for children entering kindergarten this fall. A child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, to attend kindergarten. Children do not have to accompany parents to registration.

A birth certificate, social security number, and proof of residency are requirements for kindergarten registration. The school does not need to keep these documents but must verify them with the registration form. Proof of residency can be a utility bill, phone bill, etc.

If you are unable to register your child on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, please come in between 8:00 and 3:30 any day during the rest of that week or call the school (204-1400) to make arrangements.

**ENA Board Meeting Minutes—December 3, 2008**

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

**Present:** Kate Strom, Jim Polewski, Tom Purnell, Mike Digman, Art Meyer, Sue Dow, Sue Richgels

**Minutes & Treasurer's Report:** October and November Treasurer's report and meeting minutes are approved.

**Monthly & Annual Meeting Sites:** The police station community room is reserved for all first Wednesdays of the month for 2009, except July (that's the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration). The annual meeting will probably also be at the police station.

**Internet Bulletin Board:** Our Association's internet bulletin board is up and running. Sign on for new information.

**2009 Budget:** The Board won't hold a 2009 budget meeting separate from monthly meetings because many items will be the same. A plan for next year is to use postage-paid post cards to ask whether neighbors would like to receive the ECHO via email rather than on paper.

**Business Associates:** The mailing is done. Spotlight articles for this year will be Mike Digman and Mennenga.

**Holiday Celebration:** Mike will be there between 5 and 5:30 PM. Santa will visit about 7 PM. Judges will circle the neighborhood to pick the decorations winner.

**Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting will be March 14, 2009, from 10:00 AM to noon. Topic ideas are:

- ENA business: Describe what the board does and what each officer does (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer). Board members are retiring and this will be a plea for new Board members.
- News related to the Stoughton Revitalization Project. Hopes are for Judy Compton and the mayor to appear.
- City Engineering will hopefully attend to give us an update on local bike paths.
- Other ideas are asking MG&E, Weed Warriors, and Police Department representatives to attend.
- Use the meeting as a "kickoff" for the next membership drive. Suggestion is to offer a \$2 discount for anyone who signs up that day.
- We also hope to have some door prizes for the meeting to induce attendance.

**Membership Drive:** NO DUES INCREASES are planned for this drive, but may be necessary next year. April was chosen as the month to send post cards to block captains. Kate will serve as drive chairperson again this year.

**ECHO return-response postcards to all neighborhood households:** Our plan is to send postcards with membership choices and figure out how to incorporate a membership form. Plan is for April of 2009, depending on Deb Pederson's schedule.

**Banners:** Steve and Mike will work together on getting Mike a jpeg or pdf file. With the 10% discount, these will

**ENA Treasurer's Reports**

November 1—November 30, 2008

*Checking Balance Reported November 1, 2008: ...* \$5,743.52

Receipts

**Total Revenue:**.....\$0.00

Disbursements

Bank Fees (Associated Bank).....12.00  
 Business Associates Program (Stamps).....33.60  
 Post Office Box Fee (Postmaster).....94.00  
 Sing-A-Long—Room Donation  
 (Messiah Lutheran Church) .....50.00

**Total Disbursements:**.....\$189.60

Checking Balance Reported November 30, 2008: . \$5,553.92

Certificates of Deposit face value + interest: ..... \$4,108.22

Total Cash & Equivalent November 30, 2008 ..... \$9,662.14

Submitted by Jeanne Rotter, Treasurer

**ENA Treasurer's Reports**

December 1—December 31, 2008

*Checking Balance Reported December 1, 2008: ...* \$5,553.92

Receipts

Business Associate 2009—Mennenga Tax .....125.00  
 Echo Advertising: October (Compton) .....315.00  
 Memberships .....60.00  
 MG&E Deposit.....600.00

**Total Revenue:**.....\$1,100.00

Disbursements

Nonstock Corp Annual Report  
 (Dept. of Financial Institutions) .....10.00  
 Storage Costs: January (Stuff-n-Store).....66.00  
 Echo Mailing: December (First Class Mailers) ....408.02  
 Echo Printing: December (Xer-Lith) .....236.67

**Total Disbursements:**.....\$720.69

Checking Balance Reported December 31, 2008: . \$5,933.23

Certificates of Deposit face value + interest: ..... \$4,108.22

Total Cash & Equivalent December 31, 2008 ..... \$10,041.45

Submitted by Jeanne Rotter, Treasurer

cost \$780.00 + tax.

**Planning Routines:** Jeanne updated the Board with a checklist of all the tasks the Board undertakes related to all of the annual events, including everything ranging from storage runs to ordering, picking up, and preparing food, to emailing all neighbors about upcoming events. Announcements still need to be made about internet possibilities, the LVM bulletin board, email "blasts", and the ECHO.

**Volunteers:** The need for volunteers and Board members is very serious. The Board agreed that at every neighborhood event sponsored by the Board, we'll ask each person whether they'd be willing to help next year, and ask the person to pick a specific task so we can plan in advance.

*Submitted by: Susan Dow, Secretary.*

## Member Corner

Notices are limited to 40 words and run on 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 deposit in Echo mailbox at 21 Vinje Court.

**Piano Lessons:** Lessons taught in your home! Experienced neighborhood-resident teacher with agendas customized to a student's level and ambitions. Member of Madison Area Piano Teacher Association since 2003. Friendly approach, and recitals included. Contact Mr. Brian Hagen at (608) 223-1677 or bdhagen@jvl.net.com.

### CAPTAIN'S FAREWELL

After 30 years of service with the Madison Police Department, I retired at the end of 2008. On January 11, Captain Tom Snyder took over as the new East District Captain. Many of you will remember Captain Snyder from his years as a lieutenant with the East District. Others know Captain Snyder as a long time Eastside resident involved in many neighborhood and school events. Captain Snyder has been with the Department for nearly 20 years and is extremely dedicated to serving the residents of Madison; I am certain that you'll be pleased with his leadership of the East District. It has been an honor to serve you, the residents and business owners in the East District.

Take Care, Be Safe,

Captain Jill Klubertanz, Madison Police Department  
East District

### ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE JOE PARISI NEWS

I hope this first month of 2009 has been good to each of you. I'm sure I speak for everyone in the neighborhood when I say Spring can't come soon enough!

With the start of 2009 comes the beginning of a new legislative session. As your State Representative, I want to let you and your neighbors know my staff and I are available to assist you. If you have a question and aren't sure where to go for an answer, have a consumer complaint, are concerned about a proposal before the Legislature, or want to share your opinion about an issue, please feel free to contact me. My staff and I are here to help.

Please call 266-5342, e-mail [rep.parisi@legis.wi.gov](mailto:rep.parisi@legis.wi.gov) or write me at PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708.

When the days do get warmer, if you and your family are visiting the Capitol, please stop by my office, 126 North, to say "hello". My office also has a limited number of 2007-2008 *Wisconsin Blue Books* available; let me know if you are interested in receiving a copy.

Sincerely, **Rep. Joe Parisi**, 48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

(Tax Changes — continued from page 6.)

### New for Wisconsin Taxpayers

**Medical care insurance premiums:** Taxpayers who pay any of their own health insurance (post-tax), may be able

## "Prez Sez"

### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED !

You probably noticed on the front page of this Echo, we are in need of new board members. Although we will do all we can to prevent the loss of any ENA events, if no new people join the board we will be down to only 4 board members and that makes planning and working the events more difficult. If you have been thinking about volunteering, it's time to step up. The July 4 parade and picnic, the Easter egg hunt, and the Halloween bonfire create fun memories for everyone—those attending as well as those volunteers and board members who create the experience—and inspire respect for the neighborhood.

The ENA board meets once a month for two hours and extra time varies depending on upcoming events and available time each board member can provide. If you have any questions, please contact any current board member (see our names, phone numbers, and email addresses on page 1) or come to the annual meeting in March to volunteer!

### ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual neighborhood meeting is planned for Saturday, March 14, from 10:00 to noon. It will again be held at the East District Police Station community room at 809 S. Thompson Drive. All neighborhood residents are welcome and we will accept new board members. Come and learn about all our projects, bring up ideas for new ones, and listen to invited speakers talk about:

- the proposed bike path through Acewood Park;
- police reports on incidents and safety in our neighborhood;
- updates from our city alderperson Judy Compton and our county supervisor Dave de Felice; and
- accomplishments of the Stoughton Road Revitalization Project.

Attendees will be eligible to win gift certificates and can also get \$2 off their 2009 ENA membership by signing up at the meeting!

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You can support ENA and become a member at any time of the year, but our big drive will occur in April this year instead of June. Keep an eye out for your block captain who will stop by your house with membership forms and information about the association. Membership dues remain the same again this year- only \$12 per household.

*I hope your 2009 is going great so far! See you all at the annual meeting in March!*

*Kate Strom* President,  
Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

to deduct at least a portion of the premium.

**Social Security:** Wisconsin will no longer tax any Social Security income received.

**Estate Tax:** Eliminated estate tax for 2008-2010.

## ALDER'S UPDATE

By City Alder Judy Compton

Well, here we go again. It looks like the snow is going to mirror last year's. I love snow! I do not like the extra tax dollars necessary to remove it.

Thank you all in the Elvehjem Neighborhood for your patience with the snow removal process. We're having problems with some new contractors as they learn to clear a cul de sac; for the most part I think the Streets Department is doing a good job. They begin their plowing the more traveled arterials and commuters, then neighborhood streets get their turn, making it difficult for you when the snow is deep. If you have any problems, call or email me.

### IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Kudos to Kelli Bettsinger who led the charge to create the Boundless Playground at Elvehjem Elementary School. When young people organize for change for their neighborhoods, I see hope for our future. I've asked Parks to create handicap accessible paths in the Conservancy; I'm sure Kelli and her "team" of volunteers will monitor that as well.

The Acewood Park bike path connection plan was approved; work will begin this Spring. The Glacial Drumlin Trail (currently ends in Cottage Grove) will be extended to the Interstate. With luck, we can get our negotiations with the RR back on line and have the final leg of this path constructed soon, connecting bike paths throughout the State.

At last there are plans to increase water pressure in our area. The new Water Utility Director seems to take on issues previously ignored. You may have seen a recent article about the plans for a new well on Femrite and possible contamination. When GE Healthcare purchased the property they currently occupy, a geo-technical study was performed that indicated the presence of ground contamination created by the company who occupied the site prior to Datex-Ohmeda/GE Healthcare. The contamination came from pits used to clean metal parts, and the majority of its effect was contained on the company's property. I've been watching this issue for some time, and GE Healthcare has been doing due diligence in coordination with the DNR to mediate the problem. Test wells were set to find out how far from the plant the chemicals had leached into the soil. Test wells at S. Thompson and the Orlando Bell retention pond showed no contamination and no contamination of the well that serves Elvehjem (or any other well for that matter). At my request, they sunk a couple of test wells toward Marsh Road and found there had been minor leeching in that soil. These test results were sent to me in November and turned over to the Engineers as have the rest of the results over the last 5 or so years. With no concerns from the Water Utility, Engineering has been monitoring the results. GE Healthcare and Datex-Ohmeda were not negligent; they have been more than cooperative in keeping us informed and in mediating this problem. There has never been an indication that drinking water was threatened by this run off and GE Healthcare does not use the pits; they have been abandoned for years. One thing I can guarantee you—there will be no new well if the quality of the water is threatened by this contamination or any other. If you have

questions about this, don't hesitate to ask me about it

### IN THE DISTRICT

Seeds I've been sowing over these last years are coming to fruition; there're exciting things happening in the 16th.

We've opened TIF District (39), encompassing most all the land in the industrial park from Pflaum to Voges Roads and the east side of Stoughton Rd to the east border of the Dairy Center. This area had the largest potential for job creation in the City; the Mayor realizes this and stayed true to his word, opening the City's new and only industrial TIF district in conjunction with the unfortunate closing of TID 24.

President-elect Obama has proposed a national economic stimulus package to encourage the creation of new jobs. Part of the criteria to qualify is that the projects must be infrastructure-related and be completed in 2009. We had a very few days to come up with projects. I requested all the infrastructure in the industrial park, the incubator for the Bio Ag Campus, and the Stoughton Road Revitalization Project be included. Since I've been promoting this project so long, we had required plans in place and getting the estimates for the projects was not difficult. It's a long shot, given all the cities and states making requests, but I'm glad to say that the 16th District has several projects on the Mayor's "wish list"; I believe we have a good chance of getting them funded.

The East Neighborhood Resource Team is working to identify issues in the 16th District. The Mayor is holding true to his promise to identify problems early and rectify them before they become threatening situations for the neighborhoods. You may have read about the situation in the Owl Creek Neighborhood; that 2-year-old neighborhood had 7 housing units involved in 81 police calls over a 2 month period this summer. Calling for support from all departments of the City and schools, we were able to diffuse this threat to our district quickly. The "danger zone" they are currently working on is Camden, an area that has needed special attention for some time. I'm hopeful we can keep our questionable areas from becoming impossible problems quickly now that everyone is on board.

### IN THE CITY

It is too soon to know how some new initiatives are working out, but it appears that we will see positive changes.

I'm hoping to work with the Mayor as he continues attempting to balance and maintain housing affordability throughout the City. Inclusionary Zoning was not needed; it's failure was destined. The goal has always been diversification. Now it looks like we actually might get to work on that plan, instead of creating pseudo affordability on the backs of the taxpayer.

Happy New Year! These are tough times but I have hope for a positive 2009. As always, don't hesitate to contact me for issues that concern you.

*Judy Compton*

Phones: 223-6007 (office) or 221-2567 (home)

Email: [jcompton@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jcompton@cityofmadison.com)

## EUCHRE CARD GAME EVENT

Call Randall Sarangoulis (223-1549) with any questions or e-mail him at [rsarangoulis@ameritech.net](mailto:rsarangoulis@ameritech.net).

Beer, soft drinks and snacks will be provided. Cash bar available. If you can bring a potluck dish to pass it would be appreciated.

Their will 8 rounds with 8 hands per round. Players rotate after

each hand. Cash prizes will be awarded at the end of the night.

Entries will be accepted at the door, but we need to know in advance if you plan to come so we can accurately setup the games. If you must register late and wish to pay at the door, contact Randall before March 3.

This tournament is fun and open to players of all playing levels and ages. This is a great event to meet other neighbors.

ELVEHJEM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
HERITAGE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
**5TH ANNUAL EUCHRE TOURNAMENT**

**REGISTER BY  
FEBRUARY 25, 2009**

**Saturday, March 7th, 2009  
7:00 PM to About 10:30 PM**  
VFW Post 7591, 301 Cottage Grove Road

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name #4: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name #5: \_\_\_\_\_

To register, send completed form and \$5.00 per person (checks payable to HHCA) to:

**Randall Sarangoulis  
5209 Knightsbridge Rd.  
Madison, WI 53714**

*[Please limit guest invitations to 5 per group; .  
maximum group size is 6.]*

### HOLIDAY DECORATION WINNER

Winners of the 2008-2009 Elvehjem Neighborhood Decoration prize are Donald and Maxine Clevon of 1706 Wendy Lane. Their musical score fun was awarded the fun snowman pictured below, crafted and donated again this year by our neighbor, Marlyne Leskinen. *Thanks to you all!*



responsiblenergy

## who to call to take the chill out of the bill



How do you control heating costs when temperatures plummet? Let our MGE Home Energy Line provide the high points on saving money and energy this winter. And we're just warming-up. We answer all kinds of home energy questions. Our experts have more than 200 combined years of energy-saving experience. Ready for a heated conversation? We have a line for you. **252-7117.**

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your community energy company



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

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## 2008 TAX UPDATES

*Brought to you by*  
**Mennenga Tax and Financial Service,**  
*An ENA Business Associate*

Congress was very busy during 2008 as they passed 9 major tax laws. For more information give one of our Tax and Financial Advisors a call at 608-241-5678 or visit our web site [www.MTFteam.com](http://www.MTFteam.com).

**AMT:** Middle-income tax payers received some protection as Alternative Minimum Tax laws received another one-year fix by increasing the AMT exemption amounts.

**First-Time Homebuyer Credit:** A first-time home buyer may be eligible for a refundable tax credit. It must be repaid ratably over 15 years (with no interest).

**Principal Residence Energy Property Credit:** The up-to-\$500 lifetime credit that was available in 2006 and 2007 will again be available in 2009. It applies to windows, insulation, heat pumps, etc.

**Capital Gains Rate:** The tax rate on qualified dividends and net capital gain for taxpayers in the 10% or 15% ordinary income tax brackets is reduced to 0%.

**Kiddie Tax:** The kiddie tax is broadened to include children through age 18 and full-time students age 19-23. Coordination with your dependent's tax preparation is necessary.

**Recovery Rebate Credit:** Individuals are allowed a recovery

rebate credit on their 2008 returns. Most individuals received an advance payment in the form of an economic stimulus check in 2008.

### **Standard Deduction – Increase for Real Property**

**Taxes:** You may be eligible for an increase in your standard deduction based on property taxes paid.

**Standard Mileage Rates:** In 2008, the business mileage rate was 50.5 cents Jan-Jun, and 58.5 cents Jul-Dec. Medical and moving rates were 19 cents Jan-Jun, and 27 cents Jul-Dec.

**IRA Charitable Distributions:** The rule allowing tax-free treatment of IRA distributions donated directly to charity is reinstated for 2008 & 2009.

### **For those living in a Midwestern disaster area (all of southern Wisconsin)**

**Casualty Losses:** Personal casualty losses resulting from the Midwestern disaster receive special, relaxed rules, and can be deducted even if taxpayer does not itemize.

**Earned Income Credit:** Qualified individuals can elect to use 2007 earned income for 2008 if it results in a higher credit. Individual must live in a Midwestern disaster area.

**Education Credits:** Allowable credits are doubled for 2008 & 2009 if student is attending eligible education institutions in the Midwestern disaster area.

(continued on page 3.)