

Elvehjem Echo

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

Vol. 42, Issue 4

April, 2010

Founded March, 1968

Our Association's 42nd Year



"Prez Sez"

Ahhh, welcome springtime weather—for a few days anyway. As I'm writing, the high is 62 degrees, with a forecast of snow and high of 36 degrees for the weekend. Hopefully, by April, we'll have good weather to go along with all our events!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 3, at 10:00 AM at Acewood Park. Kids of all ages can hug the Easter Bunny, search for eggs, and get some cookies!

ELVEHJEM WOODS SANCTUARY CLEANUP

On Saturday afternoon, April 24, everyone can join in to keep our Elvehjem Woods Sanctuary healthy. Individuals and groups are welcome to come and pull invasive weeds. Joel Stone will help identify and advise the best way to get rid of garlic mustard, buckthorn, and other unwanted plants. Meet at Noon near the park entrance, 1202 Painted Post Road. For more, see www.myspace.com/madisonareaweewarriors. Thanks Joel!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You'll be visited by your block captain sometime during April for our membership drive. If you read the Echo, have attended any events, or simply want to support a group that works toward a more cohesive and safe neighborhood—the one in which YOU live—please pay your block captain or mail in your membership form to help your organization. Annual membership is only \$12. We hoped to distribute reusable bags to everyone this year, but we did not get enough donations so far. We'll work on it throughout the year and try again.

ENA BOARD MEMBERSHIP

We have enough help to get us through April, but the board did not get any new members at the annual meeting March 13. New board members help share the responsibilities of the board, which take up only a small amount of time each month. We ask that board members join for three years, but if you can help for just one year it would be greatly appreciated. It's a lot of fun and a great way to meet others and support your neighborhood.

Look for a "Prez Sez" by Mike Digman next month—the new ENA president.

Have a wonderful spring!

Kate Strom, ENA President

CALENDAR

- ◆ **April 3, 2010** **ENA Easter Egg Hunt**
10:00 AM (sharp) Acewood Park
[Note: No toilet facilities.]
- ◆ **April 6, 2010** **Elections—Please Vote !**
- ◆ **April 7, 2010** **Monthly Board Meeting**
7:00 PM East Precinct Police Station
- ◆ **April 24, 2010** **Elvehjem Woods Cleanup**
Noon—3:00 PM Park Entrance & Shelter

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

Elvehjem Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

Attending: Board members Art, Valerie, Ryan, Christina, Tim, Doug, Mike, Kate, and Sue plus approximately 30 neighbors and several presenters.

Kate reviewed the 2009 events (all free for attendees) and noted the Easter Egg Hunt will be at Acewood Park on April 3rd at 10:00 AM sharp.

Jeanne Rotter presented the Treasurer's Report. Of note is the fact that income was down over \$2,000 from the year before, but by limiting expenses, the Board only had to use reserve money of about \$400 to carry off all the events.

Kate thanked many of our invaluable volunteers for their service over the past year:

- ◆ Jeanne Rotter for 7 years of shepherding the budget
- ◆ Deb and Kurt Pederson for mailing list support
- ◆ Tom Murray for his work on the website
- ◆ Steve Dow for being the Echo editor
- ◆ Sue Richgels for her work on the membership drive
- ◆ Jim Polewski and Dennis Spoerl for their continuing work on the July 4th celebration
- ◆ Diana Winter for her work on the garage sale
- ◆ The approximately 90 block captains who make the membership drive work.

(Continued on page 4.)

ENA Board Meetings

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

Minutes—March 3, 2010

Present: Kate, Ryan, Sue, Tim, Doug, Art, Valerie, Mike, and Christina

February Minutes: Minutes were approved.

February Treasurer's Report: Accepted. Per the annual financial summary, the Association has almost \$10,000 in the bank.

Echo Information: 1370 were mailed; 391 addresses were removed from the mailing list; and 636 were sent to email addresses.

Membership Drive: Various numbers of green bags are coming from various local establishments, but it doesn't look like we'll have enough for the entire membership drive, so we'll have to rely at least in part on the plastic bags used in the past.

Annual Meeting: The meeting is set for Saturday, March 13, 10 AM to noon at the East District Police Station. Speakers are being confirmed. Sentry is donating doughnuts and kringles for the event. Kate will have a summary list of 2009 events to distribute. Mike and Jean Rotter will present the treasurer's report. We reviewed the agenda and the 2009 events list and upcoming events.

Easter Egg Hunt: This is the next upcoming event.

2009-2010 ENA Board of Directors

President:	<u>Kate Strom</u> , 4718 Steinhauer Trail 223-0678 kate@elvehjemneighborhood.org
Vice-President:	<u>Art Meyer</u> 1629 Deerwood Drive 442-7636 art@elvehjemneighborhood.org
Treasurer:	<u>Mike Digman</u> 5022 Starker Avenue 223-9527 mike@elvehjemneighborhood.org
Secretary:	<u>Susan Dow</u> 21 Vinje Court 223-9309 susan@elvehjemneighborhood.org
Tim Duffy	4501 Cottage Grove Road 222-6408
Christina Lindner	4503 Deerwood Drive 576-1333
Ryan McKee	4503 Deerwood Drive 843-3137 ryan@elvehjemneighborhood.org
Valerie Clemen	11 Jaarsma Court 222-2810
Doug DiVilbiss	1 Dinauer Court 217-5371

Christina and Ryan will get the event signs from storage. The hunt will occur at 10:00 AM sharp at Acewood Park on April 3rd. Valerie will buy about 200 bags of cookies. Still to be confirmed are who will volunteer to set up and who will be the Easter Bunny.

Traffic Slow Down Campaign: Usually happens in April. For discussion at the next meeting are whether to ask Mike Gerl to be in charge, evaluating whether we have enough signs in storage, getting volunteers to help put up and take down signs, and picking the streets to place the signs on.

Garlic Mustard Pull: This even is also usually in April. Kate will ask when and if we should advertise. Joel Stone takes the lead on this and Ryan will follow-up.

Miscellaneous:

- ◆ Will we make Microsoft Publisher software and training for the next Echo editor?
- ◆ The Board will evaluate responses from business associates mailing.
- ◆ Will we pursue another ENA sign?
- ◆ Email changes can be made later in March by Curt Pedersen to add new names and remove old ones.
- ◆ Also in April, we need to focus on raffle item requests and permit applications for July 4th Celebration.
- ◆ The backwards ENA sign is still backwards; Art will pursue this with the city.
- ◆ Valerie will submit a bio for the Echo.
- ◆ The Board will consider offering \$315 full page ads rather than \$200 for inserts; the difference is significant.
- ◆ We need to keep up the focus on achieving new Board members.

Submitted by: Susan Dow, Secretary

VFW DAY POST 7591 & LADIES AUXILIARY

301 Cottage Grove Road, Madison
221-9326

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Friday Fish Fry 5:00 — 8:00 PM
(Carry-outs available)

Friday Music 7:30 — 11:30 PM

Omelet Breakfast 3rd Sunday of Month
(October-June) 8:30—Noon

Sunday Dances 4:00—9:00 PM

Tuesday Bingo 6:30 & About 8:00
(Burgers, etc. available, 4:30—6:30)

Bar

Reception Hall for Rent
(Accommodates up to 500 people.)

VOTE APRIL 6TH

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. ENA member notices have priority. Notices may be edited. Send requests to ENA, PO Box 14625, Madison, 53708-0625; or deposit in Echo mailbox at 21 Vinje Court; or newsletter@elvehjemneighborhood.org.

Child Care Needed: Looking for someone to watch a 9 year old girl during the summer at our house. June 14-Aug 20. Prefer high school or college age. Must provide own transportation and like dogs. If interested in interview call Jody at 224-0695.

Services Offered: 23 year resident of the Elvehjem Neighborhood seeks work opportunities in housekeeping, laundry, errands, cooking, typing, and, being an avid pet enthusiast, will do pet walking, etc. Contact Dannie at 221-4957.

Yard Services: 15 year old with 5 years experience tending and mowing yards. Will provide a variety of grounds services. Homeowner must provide equipment. Call Quinn at (608) 225-5974 or (608) 223-9618. (Expires July, 2010)

Jewelry Found: Large loop silver earring found on sidewalk near Ellen Avenue. Call Jerry at 222-7834 to identify.

MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY 34TH ANNUAL ART FAIR

The Audubon Society's Art Fair will be Saturday, May 1, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Warner Park Community Center, 1625, Northport Dr.

There is no admission fee and parking is free.

The Fair features more than 100 artists displaying fine arts and crafts, a raffle, creative kid activities, a Madison Audubon Society information booth, and a silent auction that grows larger each year. Food will be available onsite.

The Fair is a fundraising event supporting the Society's wildlife habitat preservation, community education, and advocacy. It is a juried fair including photography, painting, printmaking, weaving, glass, furniture, drawing, batik, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, and mixed media.

For more information, contact Jennifer Larsen at 255-2473 or audubonartfair@hotmail.com.

ENA Publication Policies

Neither attachment of political ads nor inclusion of business ads constitute endorsement. Opinions expressed in *ECHO* articles are not necessarily those of the ENA Board. The Board may refuse publication of whatever the Board deems unfit for reasons of language or general content.

Your neighborhood Association needs Board members. Can you help?

Here's what's being said about Dave de Felice, your representative on the Dane County Board...

"... de Felice thinks big, explores and embraces new ideas and approaches, and is more than willing to push political and policy limits."

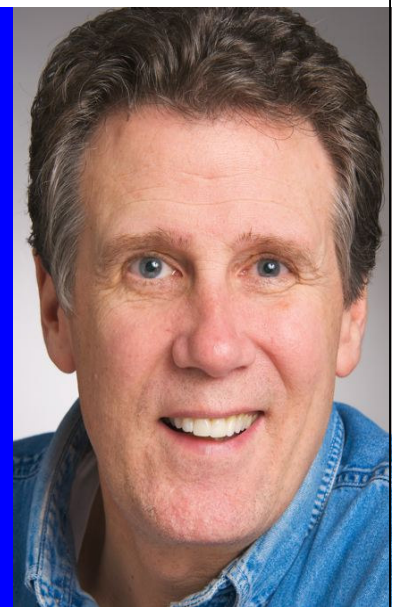
Cap Times endorsement – March 24, 2010

"Dave de Felice has challenged the cozy incumbency so many of his colleagues covet..."

WI State Journal endorsement – March 21, 2010

Endorsements

- ◆ Wisconsin State Journal
- ◆ The Cap Times
- ◆ County Executive Kathleen Falk
- ◆ Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
- ◆ DA Brian Blanchard
- ◆ Sheriff Dave Mahoney
- ◆ Deputy Sheriff's Association
- ◆ AFSCME
- ◆ South Central Federation of Labor (SCFL)
- ◆ Firefighters Local 311
- ◆ Sierra Club



Vote Dave de Felice (day full-LEE-chay) April 6th

Authorized and paid for by Dave4Dane, Adam Plotkin, Treasurer – No tax money used

(Annual Meeting Minutes continued from page 1.)

Board Membership Issues: Kate issued a plea for new Board members. We need a minimum of 7 members to “stay in business”. With Kate, Art, and Sue leaving, we currently have only 6 ongoing members. Without a sufficient number of Board members, the Association’s by-laws call for dissolution of the Association and the surrender of all funds to the City. Another important reason for having enough Board members is to be able to continue to provide as many events as we now do. For example, we don’t want to scale back the 4th of July celebration to a parade and ice cream bars. Board members form an important core for making all the Association’s events happen, but a skeleton staff cannot carry off all our events to the degree we have in the past, so PLEASE consider joining the Board. It’s generally a two hour commitment for each monthly meeting plus work on events, depending on each person’s availability.

MG&E Neighborhood Challenge: Bob Stoffs (252-7906 or rstoffs@mge.com) presented information about MG&E’s “green power” initiatives and the Green Power Neighborhood Challenge. The Challenge is held among 16 neighborhood associations to see which association can sign up the greatest percentage of members in MG&E’s Green Energy program by September 30, 2010. The winner of the competition will receive \$1,000; the second place prize is \$500.

Joining the Green Energy program will add slightly less than 2% to a member’s monthly bill, which goes toward creating wind power and solar power. MG&E started adding options for additional green power 10 years ago. In 2009, a wind farm was built in Kewaunee County, and since then the amount of available power has increased by 10 times. Options for joining the program are to:

- ◆ Choose a fixed amount of 300 kilowatt hours
- ◆ Choose a percentage of 50% or 100% of one’s usage.
The average homeowner customer uses 600 kilowatt hours per month.

The green power you buy doesn’t come directly to your home; instead, MG&E commits to add in an increase in green power according to what a household buys. At 100% green power, the equivalent of taking 1 car off the road for a year is the result for an average household using 600 kilowatt hours. The 100% rate adds somewhat less than 10% of an increase to your bill. With the wind power and solar power that is currently available, we still have excess green power to sell, and the Neighborhood Challenge specifically relates to purchasing green power from MG&E.

The method by which a household pays MG&E doesn’t matter. Budget plan payers will have the charge calculated into their next budget adjustment.

Solar systems cost approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 to set up a system to cover the 600 kilowatt hour amount, which is relatively expensive. However, a household can get 40% to 50% of that investment back in year one via tax credits. MG&E will buy back any extra green power solar systems generate.

Approximately 8% in our neighborhood are members. With MG&E’s overall 9 to 10% participancy rate, our program is one of the tops in the country.

For more information on green power, Bob directed us to MG&E’s website (mge.com) where you can even learn your own home’s power usage over the last year.

Madison Police Department: Lieutenant Wayne Strong is a recent transfer to the East District and reported that his review of the district’s status shows it to be stable and safe.

Traffic Enforcement and Safety Team (TEST) officers are enforcing traffic laws on first and second shifts, and announce where they will be because they want people to know they’re watching, rather than just being out there to play “gotcha” with citizens who are breaking traffic rules.

Lt. Strong emphasized the importance of three things related to crime.

- ◆ First is lights—keep your yards and homes well lit at night.
- ◆ Second is locks—be sure your home is securely locked up during the night, as well as during the day, since many intruders enter via unlocked doors.
- ◆ Third is landscaping—keep bushes from covering windows. Don’t provide a place where an intruder can hide while breaking into a window.

Citizens can use the Department’s *NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCHER PHONE NUMBER OF 266-5275* to report traffic violations and criminal activities. You’ll be guided through a phone tree to make sure your calls end up in the right place. Lt. Strong urged citizens not to hesitate to call when they see criminal behavior or traffic violations occurring.

Lt. Strong acknowledged the Elvehjem School neighborhood could always use more patrols during student drop-off and pick-up times, and again urged calls to the MPD when violations are seen.

In response to questions, Lieutenant Strong noted Tim Smith is now the liaison between the LVM neighborhood and the Madison Police; Steve Mackasic is the beat officer assigned to our neighborhood. Lt. Strong and Officers Smith and Mackasic are available to field calls with questions or complaints.

Elvehjem Parent Teachers Organization (PTO): Kelly Bitzinger and Darcy Burke described some of PTO’s major events, including the hot dog picnic at the beginning of the year, the Snow Flake Ball in December, and the fun fair, which needs about 75 volunteers to participate.

The PTO constantly needs volunteers. For example, people are needed to read to children who need help in improving their reading skills. Any amount of available time is appreciated and used. To participate, call the school office (204-1400) and ask for the reading coordinator.

A PTO project in which the whole school is participating is building the largest free-standing structure made of plastic bags. PTO has plans to submit the labyrinth they will build to the Guinness Book of World Records. The labyrinth will require 956 feet of chicken wire (anyone aware of possible donators?) and the PTO has so far

(Continued on page 5.)



Ryan Jennissen
Dane County Board
Paid for by Jennissen for County Supervisor, Jason Westphal Treasurer

- Improve public safety in Dane County
- More responsible county budget
- Job Creation

Vote April 6th

Contact me:
Ryan Jennissen
6626 Carlton Dr. Madison, WI 53718
Home Phone: 240-0945
rmjennissen@hotmail.com
www.ryanjennissen.com

REMINDER **eMail Changes**

If you receive your Elvehjem Neighborhood newsletter by internet email, please remember to alert us when you change email providers.

You may email Debra Pederson at debbie@thepedersons.net. Provide your name and give your old and new email addresses. This will avoid missing any electronic issues of the Echo.

And thank you for electing to use the electronic distribution of the newsletter! It saves the Association printing and mailing costs and we appreciate your help!

Returned Your 2010 Census?

(Annual Meeting Minutes continued from page 4.)

collected 18,000 bags that are then made into bundles of 500 bags to be incorporated into the labyrinth. If you wish to volunteer in this effort, contact the number above.

Judy Compton later acknowledged Kelly and Darcy's spearheading the fund raising effort that yielded \$200,000 for the school's Endless Playground, which allows all students to partake of the fun of a playground.

Another PTO project ready for launch is an E-cycling program, where businesses can re-cycle computers by re-purposing the computers to the school, which could reduce the current school's cycle of replacing 1,000 computers over an 8-9 year cycle to 4 years.

Kelly and Darcy mentioned an LVM student from Kosovo who has extensive medical and financial needs and is soon set to return to Kosovo. The website to check if you are interested in helping in this effort is ardida.com.

Alder Judy Compton: The bio-ag campus is moving along well, as is the plastic bag recycling effort, which since the ordinance requiring recycling of bags took effect, has the city up to approximately a 70% recycling rate.

The bike path extension is not quite approved, but once approved and completed, the state's east to west complete bike path will be a reality.

The Stoughton Road Revitalization Committee is looking at becoming a Business Improvement District in order to be more influential in project decision-making. In the meantime, as the city doesn't have the authority to set speed limits on Hwy 51, the city council recently approved a resolution unanimously asking for the speed limit on Hwy 51 to be set to 35 mph.

Farm and Fleet is about to begin a face-lift of its store, using their Verona store design.

Judy is happy to report our water pressure problems should soon, and finally, be resolved with the installation of a new water pressure pump—a project longtime in the making.

County Supervisor Report: Supv. Dave de Felice emphasized his belief that government is meant to do for citizens what the citizens cannot do for themselves and urged comparison of the candidates' positions in choosing who to vote for on April 6th.

County Supervisor Candidate: Ryan Jennissen, Dane County Board candidate, emphasized his wish to be an advocate for county citizens and in finding savings in the way the county's most important goals of maintaining public safety and services to citizens are delivered. You may reach Ryan at 240-0945.

Post-Meeting Activities: Alder Judy Compton, Supv. Dave de Felice, and candidate Ryan Jennissen all remained after the meeting to answer questions. We appreciated their time!

Secretary's Note: The Secretary apologizes for any misspelled names or mischaracterizations of our speakers' presentations as stated in these minutes.

Susan M. Dow, Board Secretary



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

FRIENDS OF THE ARBORETUM NATIVE PLANT SALE SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010 9 AM — 2 PM

Wildflower tent near the UW-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison. Varieties of woodland and prairie plants—Propagated plants, not dug from the wild. All plants native to area. Experts on hand to answer questions. Order prairie mixes, native shrubs, and trees through March 23. Go to www.uwarboretum.org/foa or phone 263-7760. Open to the public. Proceeds benefit Arboretum projects. There is a 10% discount to Friends' members.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Can you help make the noon meal an "Event" for the elderly homebound and disabled in Madison, Monona and Middleton?

You may be the only person a recipient sees that day, providing a safety check in addition to social contact.

Home Health United Meals on Wheels delivers meals every day of the year with a route taking about an hour.

Very specific directions are given to each recipient's home and we will work with any schedule.

Also, if you know of someone who is in need of meals, please let us know.

Contact Sue Barker at 276-7598 or our web site www.HomeHealthUnited.org for more information.

ONE CALL HOME REPAIRS

*No Job Too Big
~~No Job Too Small*

608-222-5310
1609 Woodvale Drive

*One Call Is The Right Call
~~One Call Does It All*

30+ Years of Experience & 47+ Years in this Neighborhood

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BASEMENT REMODELS

- ◆ Lawn Mowing & Clean Up
- ◆ Baths & Tile Work
- ◆ Stylized Texturing for Walls & Ceilings
- ◆ Interior & Exterior Painting
- ◆ Drywall Installation, Taping, & Patchwork
- ◆ Minor Plumbing (Leaks, Toilets, Garbage Disposals, Faucets, etc.)
- ◆ Cleaning & Junk Removal (Interior & Exterior)
- ◆ Roofing

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we can do for you!*

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References Available Upon Request

Thank you, *Michael Gerl*, Owner