

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

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



Why these organizations?

The Personal Essentials Pantry serves people in need in the Arbor Hills Neighborhood and beyond. The pantry provides, at no cost to the recipient, items that are not covered by other benefits, such as toilet paper, shampoo, diapers, laundry detergent and much more. The need is great and growing as more people become aware of the pantry. Please see article on Page 6 for more information.

A huge thank you to everyone who has paid for an annual membership to the Association. We were able to use some of the money we raised over the past several years to award two (2) \$1,000 grants this spring. One to the Good Neighbor Personal Essentials Pantry (which operates out of Arbor Good Neighbor House - formerly Arbor Covenant Church) and another to West High School Senior Scholarships (two \$500 scholarships).

West High School Senior Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors each year by a school-based scholarship committee made up of teachers, staff, and school leadership. The board chose this organization because Arbor Hills is part of the West High School attendance area, the program is well established and organized, and we could set the criteria for who would qualify. The two recipients of the Arbor Hills-sponsored

scholarships had to attend our local neighborhood school, Leopold Elementary, for at least two years. Sheri Carter, member-at-large (and former association President), represented the association at the scholarship awards ceremony on May 23rd, where the two recipients were recognized: Joselyn Gomez Garcia (pictured) and Ayanna Welch.



Around 27 neighbors of all ages gathered in Arbor Hills Park on a chilly Saturday morning in April for the annual Earth Day cleanup. Ours was one of 60 participating parks in Madison. Participants spread out along the frontage road and Cannonball Path to collect around 20 bags of trash, ending back at the park for a quick gathering and a bite to eat. Elliott Grotheer (5) took the prize for the most interesting finds - a shoe, a tennis racket, and several dirty diapers. Thank you to all who helped!



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Usually I start these letters with some thoughts on recent neighborhood events or the importance of community - but this time, I'll cut right to the chase: We need your help. In order to keep this Association running, we need volunteers who are interested in being part of the Association Board. In particular, we're looking for a Newsletter Editor who is willing to create the newsletter you're holding in your hands (no design expertise needed - we have an incredible designer who recently graduated from MATC to help with that!) and a Block Captain Coordinator who can organize the door-to-door distribution of newsletters with the team of block captains.

We are lucky to have several board members who have volunteered for three or more terms - 6+ years - and looking into next year, there will be big shoes to fill as some step back to make space for other commitments. The Board meets just once per month, and we aim to keep the time you spend outside of that pretty low, around two hours per month, since we're a group of volunteers with family, careers, and other things that keep us busy.

So if you have any interest in being a part of the Association Board - or even just learning more about what it entails - contact me at akgibson17@gmail.com or (507) 272-7123.

Okay - so now that I've made my plea, let's take a step back to reflect on why having an active and vibrant neighborhood association matters to you. We have a full events calendar for the summer, which kicked off in April with the annual, city-wide neighborhood cleanup. Around 30 people joined in Arbor Hills Park and then spread out to clean up the Cannonball Path and the frontage road. We picked up over 20 bags of trash and had a good time connecting with old friends and new neighbors on a chilly spring morning. We held our first food truck night of the year in mid-May, with more to come this summer. And new this year, members will receive a thank you postcard in the mail with a \$1 off coupon toward any food truck night!

These events make a great space to connect with neighbors and build a community in Arbor Hills. They also make our neighborhood a desirable place to live. Property

values in Arbor Hills rose by 13.9% last year - almost double the average increase across Madison. In addition to our great location, proximity to the bike path and downtown, beautiful mature trees, and diverse home designs - I like to think that having this Association, our events and communication, play a small part in making this a place where people want to live. It takes work to make this Association run - and it's meaningful, worthwhile work. I hope you'll consider joining us.

See you around the neighborhood,

Ashley Gibson
AHNA President

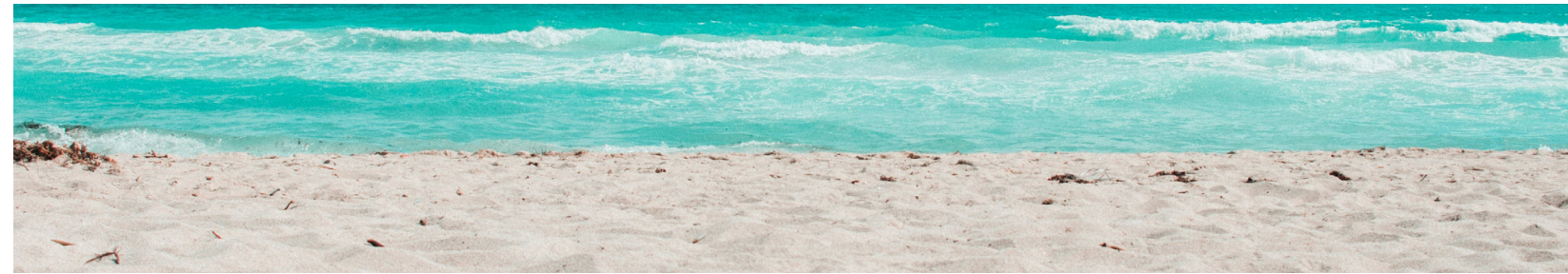
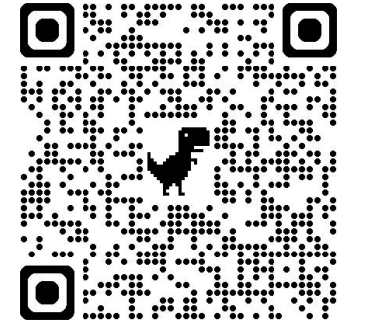


VOLUNTEER WITH THE AHNA!

We're looking for people interested in volunteering a little bit of time to help make our events a success. In particular, we need a few people willing to help with food at our 4th of July picnic and/or bring your car to the park for our annual Halloween "Trunk or Treat."

If you're interested in being on

our list for these or other low time commitment volunteer opportunities, let us know by scanning the QR code below to fill out the volunteer form, email info@arborhills.org, or call AHNA President Ashley Gibson at (507) 272-7123.



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KNOLLWOOD CONSERVATION SCAVENGER HUNT

By Erica Fletcher with assistance from Paul Quinlan, Madison Conservation Resource Supervisor

We all drive or bike by the Arboretum and Knollwood Conservation on a daily basis, but it can be hard to appreciate their magic when they are just a blur. This summer, set aside a day to slow down and take a walk! Here are a few ideas of what to look for, to keep the young - and young at heart - occupied along the way.



Acorns

Knollwood is an oakwood savannah. It consists predominantly of oak trees, with a small scattering of mid level canopy plants like pagoda dogwood and chokecherry and a forest floor of herbaceous flowers and wildgrasses. Acorns abound, waiting to become mighty oaks!



Black Eyed Susans

A desirable native plant, black eyed Susan is a favorite of butterflies and other pollinators. The late season seed heads also attract finches and other birds. They are easy to grow and drought tolerant, so this is a great plant to try in your own yard!



Burnt Wood

Did you know that the Knollwood Conservation occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE). Oak Savanna's evolved through controlled burns by Native Americans. To maintain this environment, conservation will periodically perform prescribed burns – can you find a piece of burnt wood?



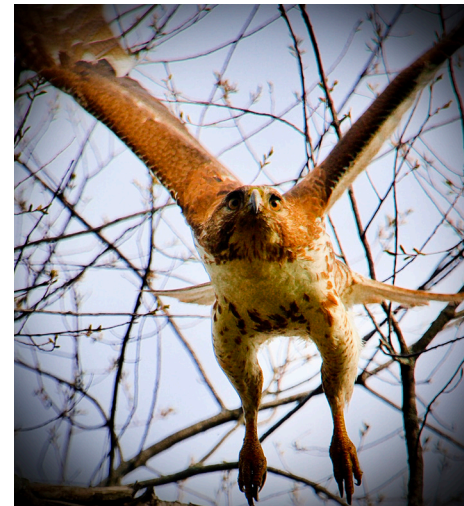
Turkeys

Turkeys have good eyesight and prefer open areas, such as our oak savanna! If you happen to have a flock wander through your backyard, you can feel lucky, as they are likely eating any insect pests residing there as well.



Common Mullein

Common Mullein is an invasive plant Madison Conservation needs our help to control. You'll find this plant along the Cannonball trail. If you see common mullein, pick it just leave it in place, or bring it back home to dispose of.



Thank you to all of the neighbors who helped one another after the storm that struck on May 21st, and to the City of Madison, which quickly sent a team to clean up the debris - including this large tree that fell in Arbor Hills Park, damaging the swings. The neighborhood association is working with the parks department to determine when the swings will be fixed.



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WELCOME TO THE ARBOR GOOD NEIGHBOR HOUSE!

By Lisa Fernandez

The former Arbor Covenant Church at 2509 McDivitt Road has re-imagined its space and renamed it The Arbor Good Neighbor House (AGNH). AGNH is a welcoming space where neighbors can gather and where community groups and committed individuals can come together to address community issues and pursue shared goals.

We live in a very vibrant community, and the Arbor Hills and Leopold School neighborhoods are thrumming with energy and possibilities. The Arbor Good Neighbor House seeks to provide a venue for all of us to come together to further community-initiated goals, to have meaningful conversations with our neighbors, and for organizations to gather and meet. It is a safe space for all of us.

Currently AGNH:

- Brings together partners who resettle and integrate members of Madison's refugee community.
- Houses and supports Creek Day School to provide quality early childhood education.
- Operates the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry, providing household cleaning and personal hygiene products to neighbors in need.
- Manages a community garden and recreational space for neighbors to use and enjoy.

AGNH believes that when people connect our inherent resourcefulness is optimized. When groups come together in combined efforts there are more possibilities for positive change, connections and friendships are formed, and we all have the opportunity to thrive together in ways we can't alone. AGNA also believes that the vitality of our community is best assessed by how well it upholds, supports and includes its most vulnerable members.

Current partners include: Memorial UCC, Creek Day School, Madison Refugee Union, Open Doors for Refugees, All Saints Lutheran Church, Commonwealth Development, the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry, Community Garden, and Jewish Social Services.

AGNH has already hosted Jewish Social Service's Winter International market featuring crafts and treats from around the world. Maybe some of you attended, and enjoyed this event. All items were handmade by refugees, immigrants and other community members right here in Dane County. An Easter egg hunt was held at AGNH for a group of children from Arbor Hills. The Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association will be continuing to hold our annual meeting at what is now the Arbor Good Neighbor House. More markets, and many other activities and meetings are in the works. The AGNH building is a resource for all of us, and if you have an event or meeting you are interested in having there, please contact Peter Morris at pjmorris79@gmail.com or 1-608-271-1955 to discuss.

The Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association is proud to announce that

we have provided a \$1,000 grant to the Personal Essentials Pantry which is part of AGNH. In 2023, a total of 584 households were served, and GNPEP distributed 38,074 products, a 33% increase over 2022.

Numbers served have continued to increase in 2024. The need is great. The pantry is an all volunteer organization, and is funded by grants and donations. The significant donation from AHNA was greatly appreciated!!

This is an example of how our Neighborhood Association works to improve the lives of our neighbors and collaborates with AGNH. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2024 and beyond.

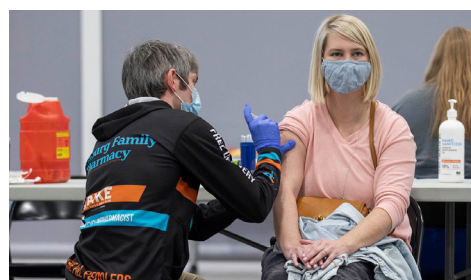
What a great resource to have The Arbor Good Neighbor House right here in Arbor Hills! One more way that our neighborhood strives to make life better for all.



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Block Captain Coordinator

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Newsletter Editor

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Members-At-Large

Sheri Carter

Caroline Thompson

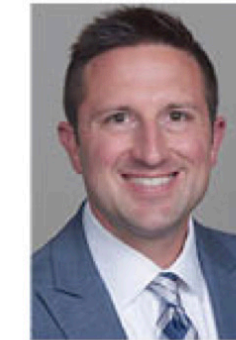
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WE NEED YOUR HELP - BECOME A MEMBER FOR 2024!

We are so thankful for everyone who joins the association because it allows us to do what we do to make our neighborhood a thriving community. Our membership goal for 2024 is 185 households, but unfortunately we currently only have 116 members. Memberships allow us to print an amazing newsletter and put on a host of great events like Food Truck Nights, the 4th of July Parade & Picnic, and a Halloween Trunk or Treat. [Membership levels: \$20, \$30, and \$50]

Membership dues are also used to pay for lighting of the neighborhood sign and insurance - PLUS - **this year we were able to provide two grants** using some of our savings:

- \$1,000 to the Essentials Pantry at Arbor House
- Two (2) \$500 scholarships for two West High School graduating seniors who had attended our neighborhood school, Leopold Elementary.

The 2024 Budget can be found on our website (arborhills.org), under **Resources**.

Wondering if you have paid your membership dues?

Please send an email to Treasurer@arborhills.org.

Membership Levels: Seed - \$20, Sapling - \$30, Tree - \$50:

To become a member, pay online at arborhills.org, use the PayPal App (just scan the QR code), or pay by cash or check (print form on the website and mail with payment to: Jackie Cooper, AHNA, 3314 Heatherdell Lane, Madison, 53713).

Thank you for supporting our neighborhood!



2024 EVENTS

Fourth of July Parade & Picnic

Thursday, July 4th 11 - 1pm

Corner of Nottingham & Grandview to Arbor Hills Park

Don your red, white and blue, then grab your bike, scooter, roller blades, or your own two feet and join us for a bike parade in honor of Independence Day! Meet at the corner of Grandview and Nottingham, and a City of Madison fire truck will lead our procession down Grandview for a short parade ending at the park.

Stay at the park after the parade to enjoy a cookout with your neighbors. We'll provide hot dogs and condiments, chips, water, and cold treats.

Food Truck Nights

Thursday, August 15 and Thursday, September 19th - 5:30-7:30pm

Arbor Hills Park

Join your neighbors in Arbor Hills Park for an evening of food & fun!

In September there will be live music from Back2Back Acoustic.

AHNA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 8th, 6:30 -8pm

Arbor Good Neighbor House (Arbor Covenant Church)

All Arbor Hills Residents are invited to join us for the annual neighborhood association meeting. Hear from board members about what the association has been up to for the past year, and discuss local issues with community leaders. Members will vote on updates to association rules, approve the 2025 budget, and elect board representatives.



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