



FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Photo Credit: George Roesch Johnson

Neighbors joined in on a festive bike parade down Grandview Blvd. on July 4th, led by the Madison Fire Department. We enjoyed a picnic, face painting, tattoos, and playing in the park!

SAVE THE DATE! - MEETING REMINDER

The annual meeting for the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association will be held on **Tuesday, October 8th** at Arbor Good Neighbor House (formerly Arbor Covenant Church) from **6:30-8 PM**. All neighbors are encouraged to attend.

This is an important time for you to hear what your association has been up to this year, get updates from elected officials and city leaders, and for members to vote on the board, bylaws, and budget for the coming year.

ORIGINS OF “OUR” SCHOOL—LEOPOLD ELEMENTARY

By James W. Cortada

An excerpt from his forthcoming book covering the history of Arbor Hills

In the earliest days of the Arbor Hills neighborhood (1950s), many residents were young families with children. By the mid-1960s, there was a need to build another elementary school, this time on the south side of the city.

A 14-acre lot was selected across from the railroad track (now Cannonball Path), just outside of the neighborhood on Post Road. In 1968, the Madison Metropolitan School District bought that land while it was still field and forest for ~\$56,000, locating it next to a city park also named Leopold. The school was built for K-5th grades and opened in 1970.

On day one, residents of Arbor Hills considered Leopold “Our school,” and said so in newsletters, meetings, PTO gatherings and to city officials. It kept growing, with many students in every grade level from Arbor Hills. Leopold now had the distinction of being the largest elementary school in the district. So that is how “our” elementary school got started.



THANK YOU, LARRY KRUGER

Neighbor Larry Kruger maintains the foliage around the Arbor Hills sign at the Grandview Blvd. and frontage road intersection.

A huge thank you to Larry for all that you do to make this entrance beautiful!



...and here's how you can get involved today!

Register to become a Volunteer

To become a volunteer with the school district (and specifically Leopold), all you have to do is register online at madison.k12.wi.us/partnerships/volunteering and let Leopold know to look for your application by sending an email to the School Secretary, Emily Michels (emichels@madison.k12.wi.us).

Volunteer Opportunities at Leopold

- **Walking School Bus:** Walk with students to school
- **Lunchroom Supervision:** Help open lunches, put on hand sanitizer, take students to the garden bar, help to return lunch trays and recycle milk cartons
- **Schools of Hope Reading Tutors**
- **Food pantry:** 10-1 every other Tuesday during the school year

MADISON SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RECREATION

By Jackie Bastyr Cooper, member of the MSCR Citizens Advisory Committee

Did you know that Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) offers preschool, youth, adult and 50+ classes/activities at multiple locations throughout Madison (Central, West, East, North), with a few of those not too far from the Arbor Hills neighborhood? As a member of the **MSCR Citizens Advisory Committee**, I'd like to share a few things I've learned about MSCR and why this organization is such a gem for our community.

Two (new!) locations close to Arbor Hills

- **Central:** 328 E. Lakeside Street (near Olin park) (~4.2 miles)
- **West:** 7333 West Towne Way (behind West Towne Mall, near Best Buy) (~6.1 miles)

Grades K-12

MSCR is a department of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) and provides after-school programming at 15 of 32 elementary schools, plus extracurricular sports, tutoring/academic support, and classes/activities/enrichment at all of the middle (x16) and high schools (x4). During the summer, MSCR has camps and various programs for elementary and middle school-aged children. In addition, students can apply to be part of their Leaders in Training program!

Classes & activities for adults 50 years young and above!

Fitness, art, day trips, and even sport leagues - almost 9,000 participants this past year. The new West side location (~30,000 sq ft) allows MSCR to offer more classes, including: pickleball, pottery, fitness, volleyball, and basketball (½ court). There is also a meeting space and a multipurpose room. Twelve full time staff work at this location, along with many part time instructors.

Interested in learning more about MSCR or signing up for a class? Visit [MSCR.org](https://www.mscr.org)

Want to become part of the Citizens Advisory Committee? Time commitment is very low (~1 hour per month). Send an email to Lisa Roscoe, MSCR Office Manager (roscoe@madison.k12.wi.us).



HEALTHY TREES IN YOUR YARD, IN ARBOR HILLS, AND AROUND DANE COUNTY

By Mary Laatsch Sara

On May 21, hurricane-force winds swept through Madison, creating one of the largest power outages in the city in 50 years. Some neighbors' homes were affected, and many experienced tree damage. A tree in Arbor Hills park fell on the swingset, requiring the Parks department to order new swings.

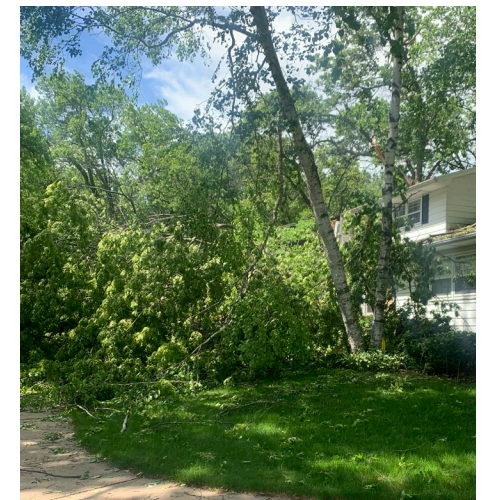
This storm damage is a reminder that tree maintenance is important to help prevent costly damage. A good place to start is by doing an inventory of what you have. When I first moved to Arbor Hills in the late 1980s, I had five crabapple trees that each have a lifespan of 20-30 years. I now have two remaining, and they're due for removal.

I spoke with Ian Brown, a forester with the city of Madison. He told me that the city contracted with Davey Company, based out of Ohio, in 2023 to do an inventory of the 100,000 trees on 700 miles of streets in Madison. This helps the city identify which trees need maintenance, such as treatment for emerald ash borers - a treatment that is done by certified arborists and lasts around three years.

The Dane County Tree Board is another helpful local resource for tree health and maintenance. The late Lenore Landry, a longtime resident of Arbor Hills, helped found this board in 1993 after a large oak on her property on Irvington had oak wilt. Today, the board continues to advocate for equitable community forests in Dane County, with goals including increasing tree canopy, supporting tree preservation, and increasing education and knowledge about trees.

Here are a few helpful local resources for tree maintenance:

- **City of Madison Forestry:** Visit cityofmadison.com/streets/forestry or call (608) 266-4816
- **Dane County Tree Board:** Visit treeboard.org, call (608) 224-3715, or email Lisa Johnson (johnson.lisa@danecounty.gov)



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BECOMING A BUMBLE BEE ADVOCATE

By Caroline Thompson

I have always enjoyed bees, butterflies, dragonflies, hummingbirds, and all kinds of other birds, too. My flower gardens and the flowers in the park behind my house were abundant with all of them. I especially became quite fond of the bumblebees that loved my catmint plants, bee balm, phlox, and coneflowers. The bees would buzz around me when I was out in my garden snipping flowers for my vases or just cleaning up weeds. I would enjoy watching them fly from flower to flower and taking photos.

Over the past five years I witnessed, at first, a gradual decline in numbers of insects and birds around my yard. I've seen a much more drastic decline the past two years. This year I have only noticed 5-10 bumble bees and no honey bees in my flower gardens. I was devastated.

I met Judy Cardin, an Arbor Hills resident, a bumblebee educator for the DNR's Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade citizen scientist program, and an administrator of the Facebook page Wisconsin Bumble Bee Observers. She is also a volunteer at the UW Arboretum. She has been a bumble bee advocate for over six years.

We met at her home on Nottingham Way, which is full of native flowers for pollinators and abundant with bumble bees. She could spot them so quickly, name the flower the bees were on such as Joe Pye weed, Big Leaf Aster, Anise Hyssop, Purple Coneflower, Cluster Mint, Obedient Plant, and many others.

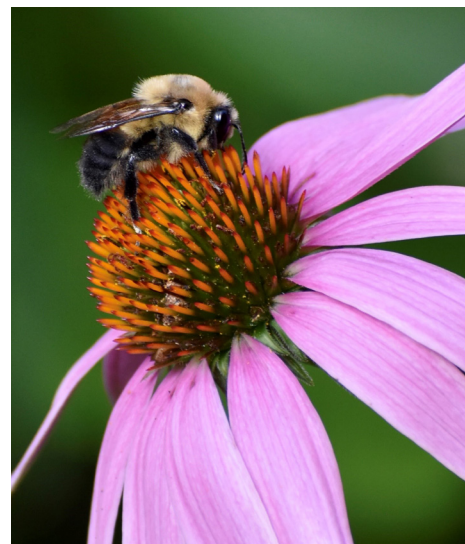
Here are some key things I learned about what we can do to help the bees through a very enjoyable and informative conversation:

- Plant native plants and leave the leaves and stems in your garden areas to provide natural habitat for pollinators to hibernate.
- Convert your turf lawn into a glorious native pollinator garden.
- Provide native flowers for the entire season for the bees: spring, early and late summer and into fall.
- Do not use pesticides, insecticides, and no chemicals!
- Provide water in a shallow dish with rocks to allow pollinators to drink.

Judy and her husband, Bob Plamann, are making a "Little Bumble Bee Library" that will be in their yard. The library will be filled with packets of native pollinator seeds from their garden, and several handouts including The Bumble Bee Brigade Field Guide, Wisconsin Bumble Bee Key ID Traits, and information about the Bumble Bee Brigade.

Please stop by the Little Bumblebee Library at their home on Nottingham Way and help yourself to these helpful resources to support bees!

To learn more, reach out to Judy at judycardin10@gmail.com, visit the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Observers Facebook page, or check out the Wisconsin Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Inventory site at wiatrri.net.



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR - DON PIERSTORFF

By Ashley Gibson

Many of you likely recognize Don Pierstorff, who walks around the neighborhood and along Cannonball Path nearly every day. Typically clad in a baseball cap and blue jeans, he racks up dozens of miles on his walking shoes. "Walking is an easy thing to do, and you meet a lot of people," he said. He and his wife Lois have lived in Arbor Hills for over 50 years. We caught up about his time in the neighborhood and what makes this place special.

When did you move to Arbor Hills?

Lois and I moved to the neighborhood from our duplex on Fish Hatchery Road in 1973. Our home on Brighton Place was part of the Town of Madison. Before, the area was a 15-acre lot owned by one developer, a friend of mine named Howard. At the time, there wasn't a lot of development south of Nottingham.

What brought you to the neighborhood?

I grew up on a farm in what was then the township Middleton, and then my parents bought a home on Odana Road. I wanted to stay in the Madison area to be near family. And I wanted to stay in the Town of Madison because I was on the board. I served on the board for 14 years. Back then, the neighborhood association didn't have all of the events that it does today.

Tell me a little bit about your career.

I worked for MG&E for 41 years. It was a great company to work for. I also worked for the Town of Madison fire station, both as a paid firefighter and

as a volunteer. After I retired, I worked part-time for a contractor, and now I work for a car wholesaler. I like to stay busy.

What makes Arbor Hills special?

This was a great place for Lois and I to raise our two daughters. They both went to Leopold. It was a safe place for kids to play, and it still is today. What's good about our neighborhood is that neighbors know each other. We can go three or four doors in front of us, behind our house, and on either side of us, and we know those neighbors. That's important.

If you happen to see Don walking around the neighborhood, stop and say hello!



HILLDALE MADISON

FARMERS MARKET

WEDNESDAYS + SATURDAYS

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

MAY - OCTOBER

IN THE LOT BEHIND L.L. BEAN (OFF OF SEGOE ROAD)

HILLDALE.COM @HILLDALEMADISON

MACARONI KID

Looking for kid-friendly events around Madison? Feel like you're always finding out about things too late? Check out **MacaroniKID Madison**, and subscribe for a free weekly email newsletter focused on free/low cost kid-friendly activities around Madison. It's a free resource published by a local dad that curates an updated calendar of events, and shares articles with local features and resources for parents.

They'll have a **fall guide** to fun farms, festivals, back to school activities, local sports leagues, and lots more free and low cost events for kids in the community!

You can find it online at madisonwi.macaronikid.com and make sure to follow on social media @mackidmadisonwi to keep updated, and **share your events** (free) to their calendar too!

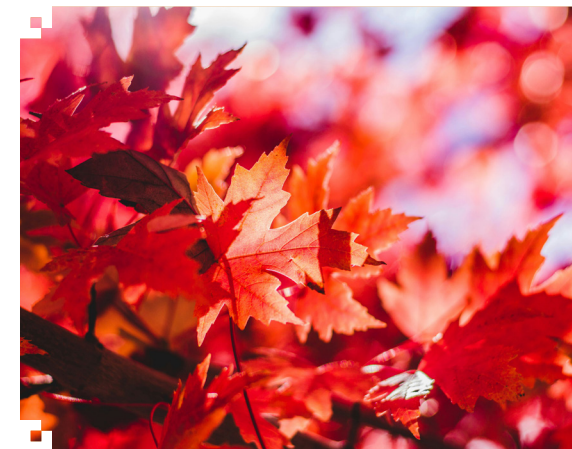
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A LETTER FROM DISTRICT 4 DANE COUNTY SUPERVISOR MATT VELDRAN

Summer is coming to a close and we turn our thoughts to the fall season, returning to school, changing leaves and cooler weather. The county board is also winding down the summer and will be back in full swing with a regular meeting schedule. Meetings are scheduled to finalize the county budget before the November 5th election. You can check the dates, times and locations of these meetings at dane.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx. Any of the meetings can be watched online either live or later.

Our only August county board meeting was held at a Dane County Park, which has become customary, at Schumacher Farm Park, in Waunakee. The parks

department presented its annual report and talked about the next Parks and Open Space Plan for 2025. While the report was mainly status quo as the department is in the midst of many projects, I did learn something interesting that I would like to share with you. After the county's latest land purchase, Dane County Parks became the largest county park system in the state! We attribute that remarkable milestone to the great work done daily by the Land and Water Resources Department. So if you have some time in the next few months, visit one of our great parks. It is one of the investments that the board takes seriously because we know how important it is to all of our citizens.

Finally, as the leaves begin to fall, a reminder to please keep your leaves out of the gutters by keeping them on lawns and terraces for the city to pick up later in the season. It is the best way to keep leaves out of the lakes where the nutrients from them end up promoting algae bloom.

THANK YOU!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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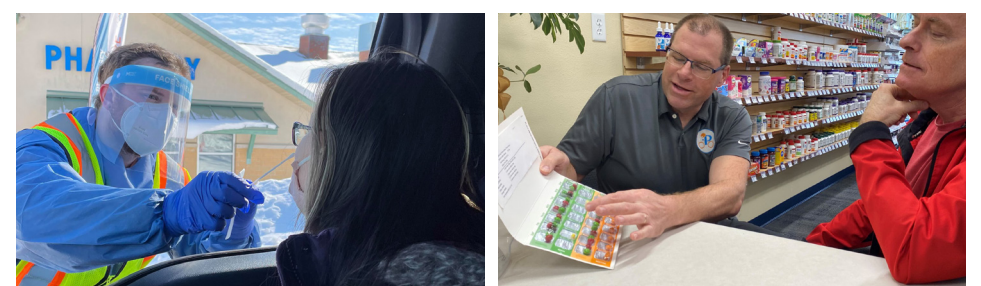
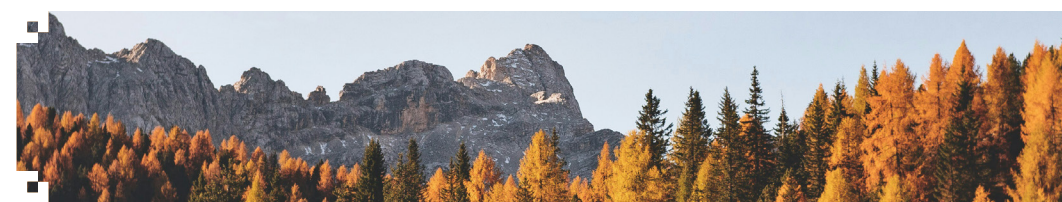
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2024 EVENTS

Halloween Bike Parade and Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 26th, 4-5 PM

Get on your spookiest or silliest costume and join us on the corner of Nottingham and Grandview at 4 PM.

Our creepy crew will walk, bike, skate, or roll down Grandview Blvd. and turn onto Pelham Rd. to end at Arbor Hills Park.

All kids, ghouls, and goblins will be greeted with a 'Trunk or Treat' (like trick-or-treating, but you only have to walk between cars parked along the street near the park).

If you are willing and able, please participate in the trunk or treat event. We need volunteers to park on Pelham or Derby Down near Arbor Hills park 15 minutes beforehand and bring a bowl of treats to hand out! Reach out to Ashley Gibson at akgibson17@gmail.com to let us know you'll be there.

Holiday Lights Contest

Judging will take place the weekend of Dec. 13-15

This winter, it's time to dazzle Arbor Hills with your best lighting displays! Make your home and yard festive with lights, figurines, candles, inflatables - anything to make you stand out. Judges will drive around the neighborhood after dark on the weekend of Dec. 13-15 to select first, second, and third place winners - and potentially a few honorable mentions if there are lots of brilliant displays. Homes will be judged on creativity, technical execution, and design - with bonus points for those with a unique theme or storyline. Winners will be featured in the next newsletter.



FOOD SCRAP DROP OFF FROM SUSTAIN DANE

sustaindane.org/farmers-market-food-scrap-drop-off/

South Madison Market - Tuesdays, 2:00 PM- 6:00 PM

Madison Labor Temple (1602 S Park St. Madison)

Now-October 29

East Madison Market - Tuesdays, 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM

McPike Park (202 S. Ingersoll St. Madison)

Now-October 29

Westside Community Market - Saturdays, 7:00 AM- 12:30 PM

University Research Park (505 S. Rosa Road)

July 20-October 5

Accepted Materials

- Raw Fruits/Vegetables
- Coffee Grounds/Loose Tea
- Plain Pasta/Rice
- Eggshells
- Gourds

Not Accepted Materials

- Meat
- Dairy
- Cooked Foods
- Bread
- Produce Stickers & Twist Ties
- "Compostable" Bags/Utensils (Forks, Plates, Cups, etc.)
- Paper Products

BECOME A MEMBER FOR 2025

We hope you will consider becoming a member of the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association in 2025! Membership dues pay for this printed newsletter, lighting of the neighborhood sign, insurance, neighborhood events, and more! Annual Budgets can be found on our website (arborhills.org).

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

Thank you for supporting our neighborhood!



Membership year is October 1 through September 30

Seed - \$20



- Covers the printing of 8 newsletters
- OR half of the ice cream for our annual Independence Day picnic
- OR 5% of the annual cost of lighting our neighborhood sign

Sapling - \$30



- Covers the printing of 12 newsletters
- OR a quarter of the hot dogs for our annual Independence Day picnic
- OR three signs to advertise our events

Tree - \$50



- Covers the printing of 20 newsletters
- OR a quarter of the cost of a musician for Food Truck Night
- OR a third of our annual website cost

Please complete and return this form with a check payable to AHNA.

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