



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



FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my last note to you as president of our neighborhood association as I will be retiring from the board. The outstanding news, however, is that Ashley Gibson—our newsletter editor—is the incoming new president. She has strong leadership skills, knows Arbor Hills, and is passionate and committed to her work.

Over the last six years that I have been on your board, much has changed and much has remained the same. With your help, your board transformed into a highly organized, well-oiled operation staffed with experts on issues key to the welfare of Arbor Hills: crime and policing, lobbying and government operations, communications and publishing, accounting, finance, and increasingly, community organizing. In the time I've served, over two dozen neighbors have volunteered on your association board, and many more have stepped up to serve as block captains. Others assist in community events and at Leopold School.

In that same period, community activities increased: events for kids, holiday decorating contests, and most spectacularly, food carts in the park. Participation in all of these events increased steadily over time, serving as yet another way for neighbors to meet each other. We would love to see a greater turnout at our annual meeting, but a steady interest in neighborhood issues remains strong. Our Alder, Sheri Carter, got it right when she said that Arbor Hills is one of the best organized communities in Madison.

Quietly, but continuously, local issues were addressed. Working closely with our police, the 7-Eleven crime hot spot got fixed; even the store's corporate headquarters participated, taking ownership away from a badly managed franchise. Crime of all kinds declined across AH. The City added environmentally appropriate lighting to the Cannonball bike path and to the part of our neighborhood closest to the frontage road. A few speed bumps were installed, and new playground equipment in the park, too. I know your board will continue to advocate on your behalf for neighborhood improvements.

About every 15 years we experience a shift in population as older residents move to be closer to grandchildren or into assisted living. Young families move in, more kids are seen playing in their yards, more dogs appear on walks with their humans, yards are refurbished, and old carpeting gets replaced. We are going through such a cycle now, driven by the quality of life you offer to each other and by a solid local economy driven as much by the growth of Epic as by other companies prospering in the Madison area. Think about it: Arbor Hills is now an in-town address, not a suburb somewhere on the edge of town. Our property values have gone up by over 25 percent in a gentle slope, and our taxes have risen even slower.

I continue to be amazed at who lives here. We have had one Nobel Peace Prize winner, several judges, a best selling novelist, and many doctors, nurses, cancer researchers, lawyers, and teachers. At least one State Street store owner, banking and software managers, and technologists have mixed with professors from UW, Edgewood, and MATC.

Most impressive to me has been the quiet and steadily rising sense of pride in living here - and I think that sense of pride is increasing. You can see it in many ways: home improvement projects, impressive gardens, people quietly picking up trash on Cannonball with no expectation of thanks, and working independently with city officials to address invasive plants being pulled out and new trees planted. Officials frequently tell me that working with residents from our neighborhood is a positive experience, which makes collaboration successful.

As to the future of AH - I have never been more confident in it. That's why Dora and I live here. I hope that you will continue to support your association and, meanwhile, I will see you around the neighborhood—six feet apart, of course, and wearing a mask!

James W. Cortada | President | **Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association**



More photos of the 2020
Halloween Parade on page 6!

Arbor Hills 4th Annual Holiday Lights Contest

This year will mark the 4th annual Arbor Hills Holiday Lights Contest! Judges will take a tour around the neighborhood in mid-December to see which houses stand out, and the winner will have their electric bill for the month paid for by the Association. You must be a dues paying member to win!

Interested in being a judge? Contact Jim Cortada at jcortada@umn.edu

2021 Member Dues

Check this off of your holiday list: you can now pay your AHNA member dues for 2021! Just \$20 per household per year. Head to arborhills.org and click the yellow "Pay Member Dues" button, or mail your \$20 check to Treasurer Neil Dinndorf at 3314 Westview Lane.

AHNA Board Meetings

In 2021, the Arbor Hills Neighborhood Association Board will meet (virtually for now) on the 2nd Tuesday every other month from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. All residents are welcome to attend - just let a board member know if you plan to join. See page 7 or arborhills.org/board-members for a list of board members and contact information.

The next board meeting will take place on January 12. To see past meeting minutes, visit arborhills.org/meeting-minutes.





2020 Annual Meeting Takeaways

With faces in boxes on a screen, our first-ever virtual annual neighborhood association looked quite different than our usual get-together at the Arbor Covenant Church. We missed seeing you all in person, and the small talk between neighbors as we file into the pews. But there were some good things about the virtual format, too. Rather than looking at the backs of heads, we could see faces with name tags underneath. It was easy to share information on the screen, like the proposed annual budget, and voting was simple with an online poll. All ran smoothly thanks to coordinators and Board members Samantha Castro and Jodi Wabiszewski.



President’s Address

The meeting began on a bittersweet note, with President Jim Cortada giving his final address as he’s retiring from the Board.

“I want to share that this Board is outstanding - it may be one of the best in the city,” Jim said. “I want to thank all of the neighbors who have stepped up as Board members, block captains, volunteers, and more. It’s been a privilege serving you. Dora & I will see you out and about as we walk around Arbor Hills.”

Board Elections

Attendees voted on new Board members, unanimously electing the following people to serve beginning in 2021:

- President: Ashley Gibson
- Corresponding Secretary: Rebecca Koerschner
- Recording Secretary: Jackie Bastyr Cooper
- Newsletter Editor: Michael Horecki
- Block Captain Coordinator: Nicholas Griffiths

New board members will join an experienced team of people who have been representing our neighborhood for years.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Neil Dinndorf presented the 2020 budget. He shared that the association is financially sound and will once again end the year in the black, thanks to revenue from your membership dues and newsletter advertising dollars, which are managed by member-at-large Josh Grotheer.

The board’s biggest expense is the newsletter, though the cost was reduced this year as neighbor and graphic designer Page Campbell began volunteering her time and talents for design. This year we also had a large, one-time expense for grants that the board voted to give to four organizations that benefit our community. Attendees unanimously voted to approve the proposed 2021 budget, which is available at arborhills.org/budgets.



Membership

With 158 member households in 2020, membership was down slightly compared to recent years, which is likely due to turnover in the neighborhood and the loss of long-time members who have moved away. Starting now, we’re accepting 2021 membership dues – just \$20 per household per year.

You can pay online at arborhills.org (select the yellow “Pay Member Dues” button) or mail a check to Neil Dinndorf at 3314 Westview Lane.

Address from our Alder and City Council President Sheri Carter

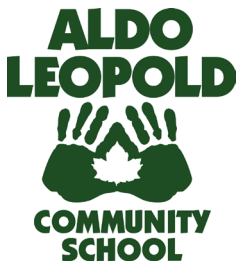
Our Alder and Madison City Council President Sheri Carter spoke about a range of issues facing our neighborhood and South Madison. The Council is taking inventory of the changes that will take place as the Town of Madison is



absorbed by the City. Balancing the budget is a key priority, which is proving challenging due to the effects of COVID-19. Policing is also a focus, and the Council is evaluating a model to help in situations where mental health support is needed. Sheri noted that violence prevention, neighborhood intervention, and a citizen oversight board will also be key tenets of the plan.

Guest Speakers: AHNA Grant Recipients

Three guest speakers representing four organizations that received grants from the association presented on how these dollars helped those most in need in our community.



The first guest speaker was Angie Oler, a 15-year resident of Arbor Hills, treasurer of the Leopold Community School PFO, leader of the Leopold Social Justice Fund, and parent of a Leopold student. The AHNA gave two grants to Leopold for a social justice fund and for a COVID-19 relief program.

The social justice fund is a last resort when a Leopold family has exhausted other assistance options. Since May, the fund has raised over \$18,000, most of which has already been distributed to 33 families to prevent eviction. To learn more and to donate, visit leopold.org/social_justice_fund or email Angie at oler.angie@gmail.com.

Gail Wiseman with One City Schools, another elementary school attended by children in Arbor Hills, presented on how the charter school was founded with the mission to help close the racial achievement gap that has plagued Madison for many years. Similar to Leopold, One City quickly established a COVID-19 relief fund for students and their families, which has helped with everything from childcare to food and housing. The organization relies heavily on support from volunteers. To learn how you can help, visit onecityschools.org or email volunteer@onecityschools.org.



ONE CITY
EXPEDITIONARY SCHOOL

Chris Ziembra spoke about Second Harvest Foodbank, which distributes food through local pantries and across 16



counties. In 2020, they've seen a 61% increase in the number of people who are food insecure - now 1 in 8 people in southern Wisconsin. Usually, most of the food that Second Harvest receives is donated, but this year many of their

sources, like restaurants, dried up. Donations like the one from the AHNA were even more important. From March 15 to October 10, Second Harvest distributed 11.2 million pounds of food - 56% more than the same period in 2019. To donate or find information about volunteering, visit secondharvestmadison.org.

Thank you to those of you who joined us at the meeting, and to our presenters who took the time to speak with us!

Wanted: Arbor Hills Artists

Are you an artist, sculptor or crafter who might have art for sale? We'd like to organize a Spring Art Walkabout and want to know who'd like to participate - maybe with a table outdoors in front of your home.

Send your name, cell, email, and street address to Madeline:
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If you'd like to help organize it, indicate that too. Keep the arts alive!

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KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS: Greg & Lori Sutter

By Ashley Gibson | Newsletter Editor

She has dedicated her life to making a difference. His skills range from photography to flying planes to making music. Together, they've built a full life here in Arbor Hills.



Those who walk by 2822 Irvington Way might see a motorcycle - or two, or four - in the driveway and wonder if there's a small bike rally descending on Arbor Hills. If passers-by knew that the bikes were all owned by a lone motorcycle enthusiast and that the house is also

home to a lifelong social justice worker, a photographer, a pilot, a musician, and a scuba diver - they might wonder how all of these talents could fit under one roof. Remarkably, all of these skills belong to one couple: Greg Sutter and Lori Bastean who have lived in Arbor Hills since 1997.

When we spoke for this interview over a video call, Lori was only days into retirement after 40 years working as a social servant - the last 29 years of which were spent at the Dane County Department of Human Services. At DCDHS, she had several different roles. At one point in her career, she was responsible for distributing federal grant dollars to projects that constructed affordable housing and public facilities, such as storm shelters and community gardens, created jobs, and provided other support to those in need here in Dane County.



Helping others is a common thread woven throughout Lori's life - and it runs in her family. Her dad, who lives in Illinois, has delivered Meals on Wheels for nearly 50 years. At 86 years old, he's still committed to helping with the program, often delivering to people much younger than himself. Lori began her career as a social worker, where she worked on the front lines in many different roles across the country, including providing mental health care, working at a community action agency, and helping people living with developmental disabilities. Later, she decided to go back to school to pursue her master's degree in social work, which brought her to UW Madison.

"I saw so many cracks in the system firsthand, and I wanted to learn how I could effect change on a large scale," Lori said. "I saw this as a way I could make an even bigger difference."

If Lori's life has had a single, strong thread connecting the many ways she's helped others, Greg's life looks more like a hundred threads woven into a colorful tapestry.

"I've found that I can't concentrate on one thing for a long period of time - so I like to try a little bit of everything," Greg said. "All of my different hobbies have led to a full and rich life and I'm able to do many different things."

One of Greg's earliest passions was exploring the world underwater as a scuba diver. Over the years, he's explored lakes all over Wisconsin, including the icy waters of Lake Superior. His favorite thing to explore is shipwrecks, which he captured using a camera for which he designed the underwater housing. His work led to a multi-media presentation at the Our World Underwater diving expo in Chicago where he was a presenter and panelist, along with other top names (and his idols) in diving - Jacques Cousteau and Sylvia Earle.

Greg has worked at a number of different photography studios around Madison, ultimately opening his own: SutterChase Studios. Behind the camera, he's had an inside look at everything from a surgery to rebuild a person's leg, to pieces of the heat shield that protects a space shuttle on re-entry, to VIPs like Arnold Palmer, Brett Favre, and Michael Jordan.



Somewhere between scuba dives and photo sessions, Greg also got his private pilot's license to fly planes that he built himself and collected the four motorcycles that you

might see in their driveway. He also plays music with his brother on what he calls the "senior circuit" at nursing homes, noting that they always play to an appreciative crowd. At last count, Lori estimates that Greg has 17 instruments in the house ranging from a pedal steel guitar to a dobro - and that's not counting the ones that he stores in his photography studio!

Somehow, the busy couple still finds time to spend with their children and grandchildren. Lori said that they plan to take time to travel now that she's retired (when it's safer to do so) - and she hopes to begin working as a volunteer, continuing the social justice work that she's been committed to for so many years.

When I asked how they're weathering the rough year that is 2020, Lori responded: "We realize we can get through this together. When things are tough, we've had trouble seeing the silver lining - but we know that the country is resilient and the key to getting through this can be summed up in one word: perseverance."



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Students, Parents, and Teachers Struggle for a Good School Year



By Madeline Uranek

As I drive by Aldo Leopold Elementary School, all is quiet – no kids playing outside, no cars in the parking lot. But at kitchen tables all over the neighborhood, students sit at home, alone or in twos and threes, in front of laptops, struggling with a new definition of “going to school.”

“There are no boundaries between school and home anymore,” says Arbor Hills parent Angie Oler. “My 9-year old gets up, has breakfast, then stays at the same table and begins his school day. There are so many distractions. I’m supposed to keep him on task, but at the same time I’m online, trying to do my job. And when he’s done, there’s no trip from school back home. He’s already home.”

Angie thinks Leopold’s teachers are fantastic. “They are working 12 or more hours every day and weekends. They’ve given their personal cell numbers to parents. They somehow keep groups of different-ability kids simultaneously doing appropriate tasks all day long, do one-on-one tutoring to help those falling behind, and spend hours counseling parents. Before they sleep, they create kits for the next day’s hands-on science or math projects and sometimes drop them off, house by house, apartment by apartment.”

Some kids might have a college-educated parent at home to help them as they learn, while other kids might have only an older sibling to help.

“Parents have gotten resourceful, too,” Angie said. By now most families have created ‘pods.’ Maybe a neighbor hosts kids one day while one mom works, then they switch off the next day. No matter how you look at it, when all’s said and done, most kids in the U.S. are going to lose an academic year.”

On the bright side, she doesn’t have to ask her son what he learned in school today, she knows. “What do you think about the ethics of zoos?” she asks him at the family dinner table that night – the same one that has been his desk all day.

WELCOME TO ARBOR HILLS

NEW NEIGHBORS

Andy and Megan Macguire moved to Irvington Way.

Toni and Andy and their 4 year old daughter, Melanie, moved to Grandview Blvd.

Meg and Ryan Miller and their dog, Jaxx, moved to Grandview Blvd.

Justin and Laurie moved to Wimbledon Way.

Adam & Lauren and sons Nathanael (5) and Caleb (3) moved to Grandview Blvd.

OH BABY!



Josh & Meghan Grotheer and big sister Elliot on Leyton Lane welcomed baby Brady on October 8.



IN MEMORY

EMERSON LEE

Military funeral honors were recently held for Arbor Hills resident Emerson Lee, a Vietnam veteran. He is survived by his wife, Leah; son, Troy; daughter, Traci; and eight grandchildren. Read his full obituary at madison.com.

2020 HALLOWEEN PARADE

Neighbors transformed into dinosaurs, peacocks, bumblebees, unicorns, pirates, and more on Halloween and paraded their scary and silly looks down Grandview Boulevard.



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