



## News In A Nutshell



Fall 2022

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Wednesday, January 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM by Zoom

Please mark your calendars for the 2023 Annual Meeting of Homeowners to be held by Zoom on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Why Zoom instead of in-person? We have experienced far better attendance over the last two years when meeting by Zoom rather than pre-pandemic in-person meetings. Parents of young children have expressed appreciation for doing the meeting by Zoom. It saves having to locate and set up a meeting area. Finally, Covid is still a modest threat. At this meeting the Board will review events and accomplishments of 2022, expected events, challenges and goals for 2023, and present a proposed annual budget that will set the 2023 assessments for households in Walnut Grove. The meeting will also elect 2023 board members. See more detail on the budget process and the election of directors below at pages 4 & 6. **PLEASE NOTE:** This newsletter constitutes the "Request for Members to stand for Election" under section 4.9(a) of the WGHA's By-laws. See the By-laws [here](#) or on the [WGHA website](#).



## October 15 Fall Tailgate Party/Potluck Picnic and Greenways Stroll

**Noon Picnic.** Join us for a tailgate party/potluck picnic on Saturday, October 15 at 12:00 pm at Walnut Grove Park Shelter. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket, a dish to pass, and outdoor games for one last opportunity to socialize with your neighbors before colder weather arrives. We will provide brats, beer, and soft drinks. If you prefer, you may bring your favorite beverage (cans only).

For added fun, wear a sweatshirt that identifies your school (or your favorite team), as a way of meeting others who may have attended your school back in the day. This is your chance to drag out that old, moth-eaten UW-Oshkosh sweatshirt that's been hiding in your closet, and reminisce with other alumni! Please RSVP by sending an email to Charlie Morgan ([social@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:social@walnutgrovemadison.org)) by Tuesday, October 11th, for food planning

purposes. There is no rain date -- We will cancel the event and notify neighbors by Friday, October 14 (noon) if inclement weather is likely. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success -- please contact Charlie Morgan if you are able to assist.



## Guided Tour of Greenways C and D

**Greenways Stroll.** At 11:00 am, prior to the picnic, former and current WGH Board members, Davie Phillips and Hayden McCann, will offer a 45-minute guided walk on the paths through Greenway C and D to explain the history and management of the Greenways, which are owned by WGH. This is your opportunity to learn more about these important neighborhood assets! Meet at the path leading through Greenway C, on Farmington Road near the NE intersection of Farmington and Westfield Roads.

## President's Message



**Liz Fenster**

Fall is starting to arrive in Wisconsin!

I'd like to kick this newsletter off with some very well deserved thank yous. As you can see on the News in a Nutshell masthead above, both the Walnut Grove entrance signs are sparkling now. Thanks to Ron Wynne for repair work, and to Natasha Soglin and Kenton Smith for their volunteer time painting. We are so appreciative. Many thanks to Derek Pavlec for his hard work on coordinating the May garage sale.

We need you! In order to keep our neighborhood in ship shape, we are looking to increase participation on the Greenways Committee and the Architectural Control Committee (ACC).

Are you exceptionally handy? We also need a volunteer to help maintain our lampposts. This consists of replacing lightbulbs and sensors when neighbors report an outage.

I'd also like to share some of the activities and accomplishments of the Association in 2022, and talk about some goals going forward.

### 2022 in Review:

We began a process last year with the City's Traffic Engineering Department to develop a traffic calming project for Westfield Road. This recently approved project will be

implemented in 2023. See more details on this project [here](#). (See Ex. B of the linked document.)

We also took a position against routing a new Madison metro route down Westfield Road in order to focus on the traffic calming initiative. Our efforts were successful in the city council approved plan. Now, the project is set to undergo an equity analysis before the new route maps are finalized.

In 2022 we funded the second contribution of \$15,000 to our Greenways Legacy Fund, which now stands at over \$30,000. That is the good news. The sobering news comes in the form of some path repaving estimates we received. We will have to stretch the useful life span of our existing pathways many more years to raise the Legacy fund to the level needed to begin repaving.

The 2022 Neighborhood Directory published in March was financed entirely by advertising revenue! See our sponsors on Page 5 and consider patronizing them! Please contact your block captain if you haven't received your copy.

We have begun implementing an annual tree maintenance and trimming program using Eco Tree Company. Eco completed pruning all the trees in our circles and planted new trees on Oxwood, Whitacre and Foxboro circles this year. Eco has also removed and treated several ash trees in the Greenways and on our Circles.

Because of the workload imposed on the Greenway Committee, this year we initiated co-chairs with separate areas of principal responsibility: Contracting, Volunteer Workdays, and Pathway repair replacement study. These co-chairs are listed on Page 5.



## Election of WGHA Board members in January

**Note:** This Newsletter constitutes the Initial Notice of Annual Meeting and Request for Members to stand for Election under article 4.9(a) of the WGHA's By-laws. See the By-laws [here](#) or on the WGHA website.

### Please consider running for the Board!

One of the purposes of the annual meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 will be to elect four directors to serve a two year term. WGHA's By-laws provide for a Board of nine homeowners, and currently, due to a resignation, the Board is down to eight directors. Terms of directors are two years, with roughly half the Board subject to election or re-election each calendar year.

The Board will benefit from fresh talent, ideas and perspectives. Please consider tossing your hat into the ring for this next year's election.

Three of the current directors whose terms are expiring in January 2023 have announced their intention to re-run for election to the Board. They are Danielle Bashirullah, Hayden McCann and Liz Fenster. Information on running for the Board is available on the [By-laws](#) at Article 4.9 (a) – (d)

So how much of a time demand comes with serving on the Board? Not very substantial. The current Board shifted from monthly meetings to bi-monthly meetings in 2021. The Board is also committed to having these bi-monthly meetings last an hour and a half or less. Throw in a modest amount of time to read and respond to the occasional e-mail, and the time demands are really quite minimal. Any of the existing directors whose contact information appears below will be more than happy to discuss with you what service on the Board entails.

Have a strong position on the maintenance of the Greenways? Want to have direct input into the construction of the Annual Budget which serves to set your assessment? Have a unique skill set that might improve the operation of the Board or benefit the entire neighborhood? Then please consider running for the Board. **Simply let any of the Board Members listed on the following page know of your desire to run for election to the Board by October 21, 2022. By-laws, Article 4.9 (a).**



## 2022 WGHA Board Members:

**President** Liz Fenster 609-440-5673 [president@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:president@walnutgrovemadison.org)  
**Vice President** Doug Hyant 608-440-4352 [vicepresident@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:vicepresident@walnutgrovemadison.org)  
**Treasurer** Nick Brown 312-576-1738 [treasurer@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:treasurer@walnutgrovemadison.org)  
**Secretary** Kim Grimmer 608-259-6892 [secretary@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:secretary@walnutgrovemadison.org)  
**Architectural Control Chair** Danielle Bashirullah 608-320-8354 [architecture@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:architecture@walnutgrovemadison.org)  
**Greenways Co-Chairs:**

**Contracting** Liz Fenster 609-440-5673 [greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org)  
**Volunteer Coordinator** Hayden McCann 608-215-7119 [haydenmccann@yahoo.com](mailto:haydenmccann@yahoo.com)  
**Pathway Repair** Charlie Morgan 608-833-0229 [social@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:social@walnutgrovemadison.org)

**Block Captains** Danielle Bashirullah 608-320-8354 [blockcaptains@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:blockcaptains@walnutgrovemadison.org)  
**Social Chair** Charlie Morgan 608-833-0229 [social@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:social@walnutgrovemadison.org)  
**At Large Members:** Eileen Good 608-438-8906 [eileen@goodesolutions.com](mailto:eileen@goodesolutions.com)  
Molly Hyant 310-621-3948 [mollyhyant@gmail.com](mailto:mollyhyant@gmail.com)

The archive of all past Board meetings is available [here](#).



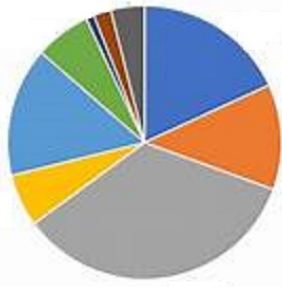
Walnut Grove Homes Association  
**NEIGHBORHOOD  
DIRECTORY  
2022**



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## 2023 Budget Deliberations Have Commenced

The Board has begun deliberating on the 2023 budget so it can be presented to the homeowners for approval or modification at next year's January Annual Meeting. A copy of the 2022 budget can be found on the WGHA web site [here](https://walnutgrovemadison.org). (Or go to our website: <https://walnutgrovemadison.org>, click on "News and Events", then "Board Meetings" followed by "archive of board meetings.")

Maintenance of the greenways and circles is the most expensive part of the annual budget. (Roughly 83%.) This maintenance work in the 2022 budget was broken down into several components. It's easy to think about mowing being the major component of Greenway maintenance, particularly in years with substantial rainfall. But our Greenways have a number of other costs as well. We have 35 lamp posts for night safety situated among our greenways. Thus we pay significant electricity bills. The Greenways are also subject to storm-water utility charges

To save on electricity charges, the lamp posts have sensors so that they shut on and off automatically. These sensors need repair and replacement from time to time.

We just spent \$600 for a licensed electrician to repair and replace light sensors. The lamps are in bad need of professional repainting. The bid we recently received for that work was \$2,675.

There are substantial costs attendant to maintaining the trees in the Greenways and fourteen circles. We just embarked on a program with a local arborist to prune and care for the trees on a rotational cycle.

We also have to budget for the occasional wind or ice storm that brings trees down in whole or in part. See Page 8. Part of the maintenance cycle of care by the arborist, Eco Tree Company, is to identify trees that are dying as it is generally less expensive (and safer) to remove an unhealthy tree while it is still standing than after it has been blown over in a storm.

The asphalt pathways in the Greenways are approaching the end of their reasonable and safe usage. This has been the major reason for our establishment in the Budget of a Legacy Fund to compile the money to begin replacing some of the most deteriorated pathways. In the meantime, we budget a sum each year just to handle temporary repair work on the pathways.

There is more below on Page 7 on the Greenways and their costs to maintain.

Administrative costs account for roughly seventeen (17%) percent of our budget. Among the items this portion of the budget covers is funding social events, liability insurance for the Association and its directors and officers, mailings, maintenance of the website and a reserve for legal fees.



## Maintaining the Greenways

The Greenway Committee is open to all and encourages participation at any level that is comfortable for attendees. Greenway volunteers provide maintenance, primarily in the forested areas of the Greenways. Their labor, which is above and beyond paid services, provides for upkeep and support of existing native plants along with removal of invasive species and maintenance of areas along paved walkways.

Greenway Volunteer Work Days have been held on the second Saturday of each month from May through September 10<sup>th</sup>. Prior to each date an email is sent which contains the meeting time, location, and priorities for that date. This can also be found on the News and Events Calendar on our website. Experience in gardening is not needed to join in with neighbors for the volunteer work dates. Any portion of the work date is welcome and appreciated.

Priorities for the Work Days have included removal of sapling trees within 3' of paved walkways. This is being completed both to prevent root

encroachment and in anticipation of eventual replacement of the pavement. Removal of seasonal invasive species in the wooded area has also been a priority.

In August 120 flowering native perennial plants which were received by Walnut Grove Homeowners Association (WGHA) via a grant were installed by 10 volunteers. The soil was amended, the plants were installed and watered into place. Volunteers provided protective fencing and an information sign which explains the plantings. A watering crew of 3 nearby volunteers will support establishment of the plantings until frost. The site will also be supported through the 2023 growing season. Please consider a walk through Greenway C to view the site. If this grant is offered again in 2023 it is our intent to apply again and continue remediation of denuded areas in Greenway C.

A recurring issue volunteers encounter is yard waste deposited into the Greenways. This has included plants that are not native, brush, dead trees, shrubs, and trash. These have been removed for appropriate disposal. Planting of non-natives or removing plants from the Greenways is not permitted. All are encouraged to enjoy the Greenways and use these common areas with respect.

A Greenway information walk is to be held, weather permitting, prior to the October 15<sup>th</sup> WGHA picnic. Owners with questions or who are aware of lighting issues or potential hazards are directed to contact [greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org). We welcome this input.

Hearty thanks to each of the volunteers that have participated in planned or ad lib green activities throughout the 2022 growing season. Over 100 volunteer hours were donated towards making the Greenways safe and well-maintained.

**(Continued on next page)**



## Maintaining the Greenways (Continued)

2022 Greenway Maintenance  
Volunteers:

Pam Conrad  
Jon & Ginny Jenson  
Tim & Eileen Goode  
Tom & Vicki Hall  
Laurie Howard  
Mark Schmitt  
Charlie Morgan  
Noelle Chambers  
Matt & Ava Andersen  
David Phillips  
Kathy McComb  
Hayden McCann  
Amanda Kaiser



**Recent 2022 Greenway Volunteers Work  
Day**

## Budgeting for Tree Maintenance

WGHA budgets for pruning and removing trees as they grow and in some cases, become diseased. We have learned from arborists' quotes that it can be more expensive to remove a large diseased tree after it has fallen than while it is still standing. Here are pictures of a recent tree on Greenway B between Farmington and Colony Circle that suffered storm damage and the efforts to clear it from a neighbor's property. A few too many of these in storms can be budget-busters.





## Message from West District Police Captain Kelly Beckett



**Captain Kelly Beckett**

Hi all and happy fall from the West Police District.

We hope you had a great summer. I just wanted to reiterate a few safety themes to keep in mind as the weather gets colder. I know it will be tempting to warm up your car while it is parked in your driveway. If you do not have a way to lock it while you are out of it and it is running, please don't do it! We have taken numerous reports of stolen autos where people say "I just went back in the house for a couple of minutes..." I know it should not be this way, but it just is so we have to be aware of it.

This summer, as part of our strategic plan, we focused primarily on reducing two very unsettling community crimes: shots fired calls and reports of stolen autos. We tried to problem solve issues in areas where we saw an uptick of each of these

particular calls. Problem solving includes directing more patrol into the area, involving our detective bureau into investigating trends or patterns, speaking at community meetings about public safety, and generally just trying to raise awareness of issues through social media campaigns.

Stolen autos continue to occur in Madison, and even in your neighborhood, the occasional car will end up being taken. Our hope is that residents will continue to look out for each other. If your neighbor leaves their garage door open, tell them. If you are the neighbor who leaves their garage door open, be gracious when someone takes the time to point it out. We will certainly not be able to make all crime go away, but if we reduce crimes of opportunity, then we can prevent some victimization and that is a good thing.

Please reach out to us if you need us. We do our very best to provide a high quality service to you and your families. At any given time, there are 4-6 officers on duty who work out of the west district. That's 4-6 officers for approximately 60,000 people! We do our best, but sometimes there will be delays.

Thank you for all that you do to keep yourselves safe. Neighborhood organizations such as yours serve as a great way to get to know each other and help each other to be safer. We appreciate that. Have a safe fall season and take care of each other!

If you have something you would like to see covered by the Nutshell, or a very slow breaking news story to report, please contact:  
[newsletter@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:newsletter@walnutgrovemadison.org).



## Fall Leaves and Yard Waste Collection

Here are the Fall collection dates from the City's [Street Division website](#):

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022  
 Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022  
 Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022  
 (Final collection date)

If your yard waste is not out for pickup on the set-out dates listed above, it may not be collected. Do not place yard waste out for pickup after the final set-out date passes. Instead, take your yard waste to a drop-off site. Curbside collection will resume in the spring.

The leaf collection pages on the City's Street Division website have instructions on how to stage your leaves for pick-up.



## Sauk Creek Drainage project

In late August, 2018, a massive rain storm and resulting flood caused devastation to the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton. Paths were wiped out, steel bridges were displaced off their moorings, whole hillsides along Pheasant Branch Creek sloughed away.

The Sauk Creek Greenway, running from Tree Lane to Old Sauk Road, behind Walnut Grove Park, is a component of the watershed flowing into Pheasant Branch. Pheasant Branch's hydraulic capacity has been improved, and the City of Madison's Park Department took up a project in 2018 to stabilize the channel flowing through the Sauk Creek conservancy to improve the flow of water and keep new channels from being cut by force of nature, including downed trees..

The area map from the [City's website on this project](#) is on the next page. The project will involve substantial tree removal and **the Board is considering what position it might take in responding to the planned tree removals.** The study of the trees in the conservancy, done by a private forestry company, is located [here](#). The City does not expect to be re-engaging with the public on this project until Spring 2023. According to the tree study, some 2220 of the 5,595 trees surveyed and



cataloged in the Greenway are box elders and buckthorns, both of which are invasives. The tree study found that these invasive species inhibit regeneration of the native trees and do not support wildlife. Nevertheless, despite the published intentions of City Engineering to focus on removal of the invasive trees, Board members have a concern that the project could result in a “clear-cutting” look with too many native trees being taken out to get heavy equipment into the work area, causing a serious impact on birds and animals in the Greenway. If you have thoughts on this project, pro or con, feel free to email them to [greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org](mailto:greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org). In the meantime, the Board will monitor the proposed project.

