



The Nutshell

Walnut Grove Homes
Association's Premier
Newsletter

Spring 2023

March 18, 2023 Edition



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Important Dates for your Calendars:

Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 8 – 10:00 a.m.
Spring Election	Tuesday, April 4, 2023 More details here .
Spring Garage Sale	Thursday, June 8 through Saturday, June 10
Volunteer in the Greenway Work Days – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Saturday, May 13 Saturday, June 17 Saturday, July 8 Saturday, August 12 Saturday, September 9



First Annual Walnut Grove Easter Egg Hunt **Saturday, April 8, 10:00 am** **Greenway "C"** **Meet at Farmington Way and Westfield**

Hop into spring by joining us for the first annual Walnut Grove Easter Egg Hunt! On Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 am we will gather

at the entrance to Greenway "C" near Farmington Way and Westfield Road. Children through age 10 will have the opportunity to find eggs and redeem them for a treat bag. There will be two divisions -- children through age five, with the help of their parents, will discover eggs in one (small-sized) area, while children ages six through 10 will search for eggs in a vast expanse of our beautiful greenway. By special arrangement, Sir Anthony HopKins will greet our guests, providing excellent photo opportunities for all! Donuts, coffee and juice will be served.

Please contact Charlie Morgan (social@walnutgrovemadison) if you have additional fun ideas or are able to volunteer some time that morning!

President's Message



**Liz Fenster WGHA
President**

It's nice to see the snow finally melting, trees budding and lawns reappearing. It is also wonderful to welcome so many new neighbors to Walnut Grove!

2023 Annual Meeting. We had excellent participation at our January 25, 2023 Annual Meeting, conducted again this year via Zoom. The Minutes of this meeting are on the website [here](#) for review. To get a fairly complete picture of what was covered at the meeting, you can see the agenda presented by a PowerPoint [here](#). Thanks as always to Doug Hyant for his superb job moderating and tallying votes for this meeting. The **2023 budget** (and fee assessment) proposed by the board to the owners at the meeting was approved 56 to 3. **2023 Board Members**, including members elected this election cycle at the annual meeting, are listed on the following page. **Friday, March 17th was the due date for paying the annual assessment.** Checks, cash, PayPal are all options available for paying your dues. If you haven't yet submitted your payment please do so now.

Legacy Fund. We have now contributed some \$30,000 to an escrowed Greenways Legacy Fund for improving the four Greenway, primarily to repair and replace sections of the asphalt pathways. In 2021 and 2022 we funded the first annual contributions of \$15,000 to our Greenways Legacy Fund. This fund will help prepare us to address repair and replacement of the pathways in the future.

We have committed an additional \$15,000 in 2023. Please review the discussion in the Greenways Committee article on pages 4-5 below about the likelihood that at some point, to complete full repairs to the greenway pathways, the Legacy Fund will need to be augmented by a special assessment passed by the Homeowners.

We have begun our **annual tree maintenance** and trimming program using Eco Tree Company. Last year, Eco completed pruning all the trees in our circles, removed several diseased or damaged trees and planted several new trees. This past week Eco was back in our neighborhood removing several diseased and dying trees. Visit the Greenways Co-chairs article below at pgs. 4-5 for more information on the tree removal project and a potential to obtain firewood.

WGHA took a position last year against a **Madison Metro Transit route** through our neighborhood along North Westfield Road next to the park. Metro's new plan omits Westfield from its route map but still has easy access for us to the new Bus Rapid Transit System next year.

The **Westfield Road traffic calming project** is slated to start construction between April and July, and take about three weeks. The road will be useable during construction. The **proposed bike trail** around Walnut Grove Park appears stalled out for the time being.

We would love to increase participation in **committees and subcommittees** of the Association; Please contact me or a Committee chair (see next page for identities of chairs) to learn more and get involved! You can also study historical minutes on the website [here](#) to see if service on a particular committee might interest you.

2023 WGHA Board Members:

President	Liz Fenster	609-440-5673	president@walnutgrovemadison.org
Vice President	Doug Hyant	608-440-4352	vicepresident@walnutgrovemadison.org
Treasurer	Nick Brown	312- 576-1738	treasurer@walnutgrovemadison.org
Secretary	Kim Grimmer	608-259-6892	secretary@walnutgrovemadison.org
ACC Chair	Danielle Bashirullah	608-320-8354	architecture@walnutgrovemadison.org
Greenways Co-Chairs:			
Volunteers/Trees	Hayden McCann	608-215-7119	greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org
Pathways/Turf Mgmt.	Charlie Morgan	608-833-0229	greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org
Contracting	Ms. McCann and Mr. Morgan	See above	See above
Block Captains	Laurie Howard	608-332-3849	blockcaptains@walnutgrovemadison.org
Social Chair	Charlie Morgan	608-833-0229	social@walnutgrovemadison.org
At Large Members:	Eileen Goode	608-438-8906	eileen@goodesolutions.com
	Molly Hyant	310-621-3948	mollyhyant@gmail.com

Spring Garage Sale



The Walnut Grove Spring Garage Sale will be conducted **Thursday, June 8 through Saturday, June 10.**

Derek and Kristin Pavelec have graciously agreed to coordinate the garage sale again this year. Keep an eye on the neighborhood website as we close in on the date for more details. A link will be added to the website closer to the sale that will allow you to sign up your household for the online map showing shoppers the households participating in the sale.

Greenways News

By Hayden McCann and Charlie Morgan

We have Greenway Co-chairs for 2023. Activities associated with turf management and paved pathways will be coordinated by Charlie Morgan and Hayden McCann will coordinate Greenway volunteers and contracted tree work. Comments, questions or concern such as a Greenway light malfunction should be emailed to:

greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org.

Greenway Committee Meetings.

Homeowners are welcome to join in Greenway Committee Meetings which will be held on the second Tuesday of May, July and September at 7 pm in Walnut Grove Park on the lawn near the central park sign. Please bring a chair or blanket. Rain-date is the following Tuesday.



Greenway Volunteer Workdays

Greenway Volunteer Workdays will be on the second Saturday of May and July through September. The workday for June

will move to June 17th to avoid a conflict with the Walnut Grove Garage Sale scheduled for June 8-10. Rain-dates for any of these scheduled work days will be the following Saturday.

The workdays rendezvous location is on the Stonecrest Circle pathway entrance to Greenway D. Plan to bring personal items which may include work gloves, trowel, shovel, disposable lawn and leaf bags. All are welcome for any part of the work days which generally last 2 hours.

The focus of volunteer activities in May will be to install native perennials received as a grant from the UW Forest and Water Department, and to remove sapling trees within three feet of Greenway walkways and to maintain and improve the forested areas of the Greenways. Please be alert for an additional announcement seeking volunteers for the installation of Native Plants.

You are encouraged to contact either Greenways Co-Chair for more information about workdays or to confirm the starting location prior to scheduled work days. Please mark your calendar with these dates and times. Check out website's Events Calendar for updated information.

<https://walnutgrovemadison.org/calendar>

Contractor Work on Greenways

Replacement of several uneven or degraded areas of the walkways is to be completed this summer. Removal of several dead trees, as well as trees

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affected by disease was scheduled to begin on March 15, and is now completed. Portions of a mature cherry tree were left by Eco Tree Company on the ground near the Greenway D access walkway from the Oxwood Cul-du-Sac. Owners may remove any portions of the tree that remain for firewood.

Repairs of Pathways



The Legacy Fund was established in 2021 to begin building reserves to eventually replace the asphalt paths in our greenways. This could be done one greenway or path at a time over the course of many years. Alternatively, all the paths could be replaced at one time, likely more cost-effective than an incremental approach. However, a one-time special assessment of all WGHA households would be needed to raise sufficient funds to replace all the paths at once. Such a special assessment would require an election by all homeowners, conducted pursuant to WGHA by-laws.

There are several major considerations now clear to the Board of Directors:

1. Inflation has substantially increased annual expenses (admin/mowing/tree maintenance) and eaten into the ability of the WGHA to fund the goal of setting aside \$15,000 per year for the Legacy Fund.
2. Asphalt companies seem to have scrapped the types of paving equipment appropriate for paving pathways the width of our established paths. This may mean our future pathways will have to be widened.
3. Initial bids received to do all four greenways run into the \$270,000 range in 2022 dollars. The longer we wait to do the work, the more it will end up costing.
4. None of the asphalt paths are in immediate need for replacement, but will continue to deteriorate, increasing hazards for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Board will do its best to keep all Walnut Grove homeowners informed about its future consideration of this issue.

Reminder:

Please report non-functioning Greenway lighting and direct questions or comments about tree or lawn maintenance to:

greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org.

Thanks to all our neighbors who participate in Greenway-related activities. Volunteer efforts are critical to keeping our Greenways well maintained!

Block Captain News

By Laurie Howard, Chair

Hello and Happy Spring! I am a newly elected board member, and at the last month's board meeting, I volunteered to be the new WGHA Block Captain Chair. My family and I have lived on Harwood Circle since 1996. We've been involved with the Association in other volunteer capacities but this is my first adventure as WGHA Block Captain Chair. In the next few weeks I'll be reaching out to block captains to meet you and address any concerns or ideas for your block. We have a wonderful neighborhood and I'm happy to be part of this.

Block Captains are an important part of our neighborhood. They are one of the first people to greet new home owners with welcome packets. They're a conduit for information about your block. They deliver Association materials. For example, last year

the Block Captains distributed our new Homeowners Directories. If your block likes social events, they can help facilitate Block Parties. They can coordinate applications for Circle Grants and desires on tree maintenance or even coordinate mowing rotations for circle islands. Being a Block Captain is an opportunity to be as involved with your neighbors as you wish, and the time demands are reasonable. To find your block captain, look [here](#). Please contact me at:

blockcaptains@walnutgrovemadison.org

Or, call me at 608-332-3849. I am confident you will find the work of being a block captain rewarding!

I'd like to give a big thank you to Danielle Bashirullah who previously served as Block Captain Chair most recently. Over the past year, Danielle handled two committee chair positions simultaneously!

ACC Report

By: Danielle Bashirullah, ACC Chair

The actions the Architectural Review Committee (ACC) took on applications for ACC approval in 2022 can be reviewed [here](#), on page 15. All ACC records are on a cloud server, and if you wish to see how prior applications were handled for the type project you are contemplating, the records are available digitally for the asking at: architecture@walnutgrovemadison.org.

If you're contemplating improvements, it makes sense to initially contact an ACC member informally. Because our rules have requirements specific to individual

projects, we can point these out if you reach out informally. Otherwise, the ACC Application is found [here](#). The New 2020 Covenants are on the Website [here](#). And the ACC Rules and Procedures are [here](#). Note that in the ACC Rules and Procedures there are several appendices to the Rules that set out the specific needs for your application, and constraints unique to it under the Covenants. Each appendix describes the type of project to which it applies.

The ACC is currently conducting a review of its Rules that may lead to modest changes that must first be approved by the Board.

ACC Report, Continued



We have seen an increase in applications for solar panels. The ACC supports this important renewable source of energy. While we would prefer to see the panels situated so they can't be seen from the front

of the lot, we recognize that this isn't always possible to maximally capture energy from the sun. However panels need to be flush against the roof, but for short supports. The picture to the left shows this kind of installation. Nevertheless, any type of alternative energy capture needs to be presented to the ACC. Please remember that the ACC is tasked with protecting the property value of each lot in Walnut Grove, including yours.

Current ACC Members:

Danielle Bashirullah, Chair	608-320-8354
Derek Pavelec	608-616-0315
Pat Delaney	608-827-6301
Ron Wynne	608-320-9191
Phillip Kent	608-772-6989

New Invasives in our Greenways and Gardens

Past newsletters have discussed plant invasives, including garlic mustard, and their impact on the ecology of our greenways. At the last annual meeting, concerns were raised by homeowners about two new invasives, this time members of the animal kingdom: Jumping Worms and Spongey Moths. It was agreed at the meeting to research these invasives and address them in the Spring Newsletter. This section presents a presentation on both species and their potential harm to the eco-system of the Greenways and your lawns and gardens.

Asian Jumping Worms A/K/A Snake Worms A/K/A Crazy Worms –

If you spend time gardening, you may have heard about "Jumping Worms," a/k/a Asian Jumping Worms, a/k/a Snake Worms. Even if you are not a gardener, jumping worms are a problem you don't want to ignore. These worms can quickly take over wherever they are introduced. This includes our lawns, our gardens, our Greenways, and our wooded areas here in Walnut Grove.

Jumping worm



European nightcrawler



What are they?

These are a series of invasive species of worms from Asia that have been identified in many areas of the U.S. They were first identified locally at the UW-Arboretum in 2013. Their common name comes from the high energy, thrashing motion they do...more snake-like than worm-like. The changes they cause to soil will lead to a poor environment for growing the things you do want (trees, native plants, ornamental plants) and a happy environment to grow things you don't want (invasive plants, weeds). Once infested by jumping worms, the depleted soil will look like coffee grounds!

How to identify them?

The Wisconsin DNR has a great photo and chart showing the difference between the Asian Jumping Worm and the European Earthworm most of us are familiar with.

How to Avoid introducing them in your yard?

While there is no guarantee, some suggestions include:

- Buy mulch from a reputable dealer and ask if they take steps to prevent jumping worms.
- Take a close look at the soil in new plants before purchasing and/or introducing to your yard (especially potted plants).
- Limit transplanting of outdoor plants and inspect soil before replanting.
- If purchasing worms (for fishing, composting, etc.), make sure they are not jumping worms.

How do I get rid of Jumping Worms?

If you find a jumping worm, throw it in the trash! These little buggers can outcompete other earthworms and quickly take over any soil in which they land. There are no chemical means of controlling a jumping worm infestation.

References: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/jumpingWorm.html>
<https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/jumping-worms#controlling-jumping-worms-1883162>

Spongy Moths

Spongy moths are an invasive species that lays eggs which then transform into caterpillars defoliate trees by consuming their leaves. While healthy trees can often survive this defoliation, weaker trees can not. Dane County has been a “quarantined county” for spongy moths since 2021. This means that nursery stock, unprocessed logs, lawn furniture and Christmas trees must be inspected and found free of eggs and caterpillars prior to being moved in location, particularly to an unquarantined area.

The life cycle of spongy moths present varied opportunities for controls. The adult moths themselves exist only to mate and have the female moths lay eggs then die. The eggs are typically laid in August in an egg mass on the trunk of trees. The egg mass may have 600 or more individual eggs attached. Below on the left is a picture of an egg mass on the bark of a tree:



The larvae in the egg mass hibernate over the winter, impervious to cold. As things warm up in the spring, the larvae chew their way out of their eggs, typically just as the seasonal foliage is expanding. The larvae transform into caterpillars that roam up and down tree trunks looking for foliage to devour to build up nutrients for the mating and new egg-laying cycle in the fall. Above on the right is a caterpillar chowing down on a

leaf. Early in development the caterpillars are quite dark and tend to feed during the day. As they reach fuller color in their fourth or fifth week, they start feeding at night to avoid bird predators, and they are such prodigious eaters that a tree can occasionally seem to lose its foliage overnight!

Trees that are most and least susceptible to spongy moth defoliation are:

Favorite foods	Acceptable meals	Won't touch
oak aspen willow apple and crabapple tamarack white birch witch hazel mountain ash basswood linden pine (older caterpillars) spruce (older caterpillars)	maple walnut chestnut hickory cherry hemlock elm hackberry black and yellow birch beech cottonwood box elder ironwood	green, white, and black ash balsam fir locust scotch pine red cedar tulip poplar catalpa sycamore dogwood

So what to do?

1. If you think you've found spongy moth egg clusters or larvae (caterpillars) on a tree that is or might be on the Association's common area, put WGHA on notice of the problem by contacting: greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org.
2. If you find these problems on one of your trees, consider contacting a horticulturist or arborist, and please also let the Association know at the email address immediately above. When the larvae break free in the Spring, they can disperse by "ballooning" on the wind as far as 150 yards away from where they hatched. So an egg cluster found on one of your trees probably means, if it is not addressed, that we are all going to face a bigger problem come early summer.
3. By this time you are either fascinated with these little critters or not. If you are engaged by now and want detailed information on controlling them, UW Extension has complete advice for homeowners [here](#). The methods for dealing with Spongy Moths varies with the time in their life cycle when you discover them. The advice at the UW Extension web page can be tersely described: "The only good spongy moth is a dead spongy moth." If that sounds a little cruel (insecticidal), just think of tree-after-tree having to be cut down and removed in our neighborhood at substantial cost to homeowners or the Association.

April 22 – Madison Parks Earth Day Challenge



Madison Parks Division is seeking volunteers to participate in a city-wide event to celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up Madison's parks. Volunteers are needed to pick up trash, remove sticks, rake and weed areas on Saturday morning, April 22, from 10:00 am to noon. The Parks Division will supply some supplies, such as gloves, rakes and bags, although you may wish to bring your own. Neighbors wishing to help clean up Walnut Grove Park that morning should sign up on the Park Division's website, at

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/vents/earthdayChallenge.cfm>.

Be the Change You'd Like to See!

City and County Dog Parks Cleanup Day



Augustus ("Gus"), a good dog

Saturday, April 2, 2023, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., is the day both the City of Madison and Dane County are asking dog owners who use their off-leash dog parks to volunteer and pick one of various dog parks they may use to do a cleanup sweep of, shall we say, Poopsicles. Currently, Walnut Grove Park's Dog Park is closed due to spring thaw conditions. Owners can find other local dog parks to volunteer for [here](#) (Madison) and [here](#) (Dane County.) And if our dog park opens by April 2, we will try to get the word out!

With the right perspective, this activity can turn into something fun, distantly akin to the Walnut Grove Easter Egg Hunt, See page 1 above.



Walnut Grove Homes Association

NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY

2022



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Association Directory:

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608-203-8024

Chris Delamarter – Keller Williams Realty –
608-501-3478

Keith Bidne - Brantley Cooper Advisors, LLC –
608-841-1025

Vintage Brewing Co. – 674 South Whitney Way
608-204-2739

City BBQ – 7015 Sligo Road
608-302-3001

Victor Arellano – Arellano & Phebus, S.C.
Attorneys – 608-827-7680

Tommy Van Ess Realty Group – First Weber
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