



“News in a Nutshell”
Winter 2024

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Save the Date

Annual Meeting Wednesday, January 29

We Need You!

Additional Board Members are needed. Please see Page 3 for current needs.

2024 WGHA Board Members

President	Liz Fenster	609-440-5673	president@walnutgrovemadison.org
Vice President	Doug Hyant	608-440-4352	vicepresident@walnutgrovemadison.org
Treasurer	Liz Fenster		treasurer@walnutgrovemadison.org
Secretary	Philip Kent	563-324-1115	secretary@walnutgrovemadison.org
ACC Chair	Danielle Bashirullah	608-320-8354	architecture@walnutgrovemadison.org
Greenways Co-Chairs:	Hayden McCann/ Charlie Morgan	608-215-7119	greenways@walnutgrovemadison.org
Block Captains	Laurie Howard	608-332-3849	blockcaptains@walnutgrovemadison.org
Social Chair	Charlie Morgan	608-833-0229	social@walnutgrovemadison.org
At Large Members	Chris Delamarter	213-400-3141	chrisdelamarter@gmail.com
	Megan Johnson	651-747-7090	meghanjohnson262@gmail.com

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

President's Message



Liz Fenster

Dear Neighbors,

As the year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful journey I've had serving on the Walnut Grove Homes Association (WGHA) board. It has been an honor and a joy to partner with such dedicated individuals, and to serve a community that I deeply care about. Today, I am writing to share that I will not be running for reelection next year.

Serving on the board since 2017 has been such a rewarding experience. I've had the pleasure of meeting so many of you, our wonderful neighbors, and interacting with others in our community. Together, we've worked to ensure that Walnut Grove remains a welcoming and vibrant place to live.

Over the past eight years, we've achieved a great deal together. Some of the accomplishments I am particularly proud of include:

- *Adopting amendments to the covenants:* These changes have allowed us to remain financially secure and ensure the care of our neighborhood-owned greenways and paths.

- *Creating a legacy fund:* This fund will ensure the eventual repaving of our pathways, securing their longevity for future generations.
- *Getting our documentation in order:* We regained our tax exemption status, digitized our records, and streamlined communication with Board emails and a fresh website.
- *Establishing a regular pruning rotation:* Working with our greenways chairs, we've created a schedule that keeps our green spaces healthy and beautiful.
- *Tree care within circles:* We've implemented a program to care for the trees within our neighborhood circles, enhancing our community's natural beauty.
- *Updated neighborhood directories:* Every two years, we've printed updated directories, funded by advertisers, to help us all stay connected.

These accomplishments are a testament to what we can achieve when we come together as a community. I am grateful for the support and collaboration of my fellow board members and all of you, our residents.

As I step down, I encourage anyone who is passionate about our neighborhood to consider joining the board. Your fresh ideas and enthusiasm can help continue the positive momentum we've built. Serving on the board is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference and connect with your neighbors in meaningful ways.

While I will not be seeking reelection, I am confident that the WGHA will continue to thrive under new leadership. I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of our neighborhood.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has truly been a pleasure.

Call For Members to Stand For Election

The 2025 Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 29th at 7pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

The Board is officially Calling For Members to Stand For Election. At the upcoming annual meeting, we will elect 4 Board members. Based on our current slate, we require at least 2-3 additional volunteers to run for the Board. Throw your hat into the ring!

We are especially in need of:

- an individual with financial acumen to serve as Treasurer
- an Architectural Control Committee Chair
- an individual to handle digital communications. This includes managing our email list, sending regular email communications and updating posts on our wordpress website. Nothing fancy, but you should be digitally savvy and well organized.

If you have any of these skill sets or are aware of a neighbor who may be able to assist, please email president@walnutgrovemadison.com with your input and suggestions.

Thank you!

For the last 4 years, Danielle Bashillurah has served on the WGHA Board in multiple capacities. As Block Captain Chair AND ACC Chair. During her tenure she has served dozens of neighbors with questions regarding upgrades, solar systems, fences and general architectural questions. The Board wishes to recognize Danielle's service to our neighborhood and community. THANK YOU!

In addition to Danielle transitioning from the Board, our current president, Liz Fenster is also stepping down (as noted in her message). The Board of Directors want to give a heartfelt "job well done" to Liz. Liz has dedicated many hours to our board handling almost every position on the board at least once (and sometimes concurrently). When you see Liz in the neighborhood on a walk, stop and give her a huge thanks for her contributions to WGHA. THANK YOU!

WGHA Volunteers

Our neighborhood is a unique and special community. Connected by greenways, lively social events, the park, tennis courts, dog park and playground. We meet neighbors while walking dogs or with a friend. All of this creates a very livable and friendly community.

This community works because of the many volunteers. But, we need more neighbors to contribute to our activities. There is something for everyone - working on our greenway spaces, welcoming new neighbors, supporting your community by serving on the Board, helping out with social events. There is an opportunity for all.

Please consider volunteering by reaching out to the appropriate board member for additional information. We'd love to have you join us!

Greenways News

Walnut Grove Greenways consist of a variety of ecosystems. Among them are traditional grassy areas, some lightly treed and additional forested areas. Greenways A, B, C, D and the cul du sacs hold examples of the variety of trees contained within Walnut Grove with the majority on Greenways C and D.

In general, the forest floor natives correspond to the predominant type of trees found in the forest. A wooded area, such as those in Walnut Grove Greenways, which contains a variety of trees will, in general, present a forest floor containing a number of native species of differing heights and growth habits. This forest presents a fuller green appearance which may also contain shrubs such as Elderberry and plants that flower.

The Walnut Grove forested areas are home to a variety of desirable native perennials as well as trees. These include Bloodroot, Mayapple, Canadian Ginger, Sedges, Bottle Brush Grass, Solomon Seal, Wild Geranium, Joe Pye Weed, Early Meadow Rue, Red twig Dogwood and Elderberry. These natives appear at varying times during each growing season. Bloodroot is an example of an ephemeral plant that appears and blooms early in spring then disappears. Its' underground structure remains and reappears the next spring. Areas inhabited by ephemerals may look bare. See example native plants and the species they support in the link below.

<https://ripple-effects.com/documents/pdf/Plant-Dane/2023-Plant-Dane-Species-Quick-List.pdf>

The activity of birds may aurally "seed" the forest. Animals and walkers shoes may carry seeds and "plant" the forested areas with a variety of non-native invasive species on a continuing basis. Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Dames Rocket, Greater Common Nightshade, Common Motherwort and Nettles are examples.

Plant diversity in the greenways is an asset for the ecosystem. Natives support pollinators, birds and wildlife in a manner that invasive species do not. It is important to note the complexities of forest floor plants. Not all can be put into a "good" or "bad" category. In restoration work the goal is to increase the diversity of the native plant community that was historically present in the area while simultaneously controlling or eradicating non native invasive species.

Owners should be aware that the Greenways are not to be changed in any way without collaborating with the Greenways Committee. The Greenways are never to be used to discard plant material or waste. Nothing should be placed into or removed from the Greenways without prior consultation with greenways@walnutgrove.org.

Greenway Policies and Volunteers

A group of Greenway Volunteers, open to all, regularly attend to maintaining the Greenways. There are also three areas of native perennials in Greenway C which have been planted where traditional grass does not thrive. One of these is a rain garden, installed this year, which is designed to be self-sufficient over time and is intended to add to the variety of native perennials in the area.

An annual Greenway Volunteer Plan can be found on our Website. Greenway Volunteers spend many hours annually removing invasive plants, and restoring native plants. During the past three seasons hundreds of small trees within 3 feet of walkways were removed to protect the pavement. **Volunteers are always sought for any portion of volunteer workdays. Individual work is also possible with prior consultation.**

While some may prefer a manicured look, the Greenway forested areas in particular present a diverse natural look if they are healthy. Questions on any of the above-described may be directed to Hayden McCann or Charlie Morgan.

Block Captain News

Block Captains are an important part of our neighborhood. They are one of the first people to greet new homeowners with welcome packets. They're a conduit for information about your block and deliver Association materials. For example, recently, the Block Captains handed out new WGHA Directories. If your block likes to get together for social events, they can help facilitate Block Parties.

Additionally, block captains can coordinate applications for Circle Grants and desires on tree maintenance.

Being a Block Captain is an opportunity to be as involved with your neighbors as you wish, and the time demands are reasonable.

We need one new Block Captain for the neighborhood 517-613 Walnut Grove Drive.
blockcaptains@walnutgrovemadison.org

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

ACC Report

If contemplating improvements on your property, it only makes sense to initially informally contact an ACC member. Our rules have requirements specific to individual projects which an ACC member could direct if you reach out. Otherwise, the ACC Application is found [here](#). The Amended Covenants, enacted in 2020, 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 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.

Please understand that the ACC is tasked with protecting the property value of each lot in Walnut Grove, including yours. Thank you.

Current ACC Members

Danielle Bashirullah, Chair	608-320-8354
Derek Pavelec	608-616-0315
Pat Delaney	608-827-6301
Ron Wynne	608-320-9191
Philip Kent	608-7726989
Jeff Vanderpool	213-321-4499



Walnut Grove Homes Association

**NEIGHBORHOOD
DIRECTORY**

2024



Directory Advertisers

Please patronize these advertisers who graciously supported our 2024 Association Directory:

Culver's Restaurant – 7206 Mineral Point Rd.
608-203-8024

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

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

Tommy Van Ess Realty Group – First Weber
608-395-7375

Ignite Wellness Partners –
608-203-8035

Thank you to Natasha Soglin for the cover design.

If you have suggestions for items or news to include in a future News in a Nutshell edition or to ask for a correction to this edition, please contact the editor at newsletter@walnutgrovemadison.org.