



# the parkword



THE PARKWOOD HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017

## Memorial H.S. Students Travel South for the Summer

by Anna Schryver

Since 2012, 22 students from Memorial High School have spent their summers volunteering with youth from around the US and Latin America with AMIGOS, including Parkwood Hill's Maya Arora. Maya volunteered with Amigos for two summers and is now serving in leadership roles with the Wisconsin chapter as recruitment coordinator and on the training team.

Spanish language students visit countries such as Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama and my mom's native country, Ecuador. Since the Wisconsin chapter was formed in 2001, there have been over 185 volunteers from the Madison area.

Are you in high school and studying Spanish? *Amigos de las Americas* offers opportunities to get out of your comfort zone and expand your world through volunteer experiences in Latin America. Projects for 2018 are 4-9 weeks in length. You will live with a host family, collaborate with local youth and community members on a project, earn service hours, improve your Spanish, and have the adventure of a lifetime!

Sign ups for summer 2018 are just getting started. Come to an information session to talk with students who have participated and learn more about what you could be doing next summer or learn more at our website or email us with questions.

<https://amigosinternational.org/>  
[info@wisconsin-amigos.org](mailto:info@wisconsin-amigos.org)

### Upcoming Info Sessions:

- Thursday October 19, 6:30-7:30 PM, Sequoia Library
- Sunday, October 22, 1:30-2:30 PM, Monona Public Library
- Thursday, November 16, 6:30-7:30 PM, Sequoia Library
- Sunday, November 19, 1:30-2:30 PM, Monona Public Library
- Thursday, November 30, 6:30-7:30 PM, Festival Foods



Maya Arora plays with a boy in the Dominican Republic.

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## Halloween Bonfire

Thursday October 26 6:30-8:30 pm  
Everglade Park



Calling all ghosts, goblins, gargoyles,  
punk rockers, princesses, and pirates.

Please join us at Everglade Park for donut holes,  
glow sticks, hot chocolate, and entertainment.

Stage activities will begin at 7:30.

Lyn Swol is still in need of volunteers.  
Please contact her at [vanswol@wisc.edu](mailto:vanswol@wisc.edu)  
if you are available and willing to lend a hand.

# Wildlife Management Planned for Owen Park

By Donna Rifken

On October 2, neighbors gathered at John Muir Elementary School to hear an update on the deer and turkey populations in Owen Park. Paul Quinlan from the Madison Parks Department introduced the panel, which included two United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) staff and a representative from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Our alders, Mark Clear and Arvina Martin (Crestwood Neighborhood) also attended.

The Parks Department informed neighbors that the deer population had grown to 10-12, reportedly outstripping the resources of our 94-acre urban conservation park. While the preferred ratio of deer to parkland is 10 deer per square mile, Owen Park appears to have 10-15 deer for 1/6 of a square mile.

The Parks Department plans to thin the deer population by using USDA sharpshooters to take out six to eight deer. The thinning will likely happen at night, in December or January, and is part of a 12-15 year cycle of deer management. The last time sharpshooters culled deer was in the early 2000's.

The USDA staff described their efforts to ensure neighbor safety by using infrared scopes and night-vision goggles to be 100% sure of their target. They plan to set up stands over a baited area toward the center of the park and away from backyards. Using deer rifles they shoot down towards the ground, seeking to minimize the risk of stray bullets hitting anything but the deer. The park will be closed and all entrances posted the afternoon of the shootings. Advance notice will be posted on Nextdoor.

The Parks Department shared that the sick deer wandering around our neighborhoods several months ago did test positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). It is possible that other deer in the park have been exposed to this



Turkeys are abundant in Owen Park this year. Photo from April, 2017

contagious and fatal disease by sharing feeding and drinking sources. Deer that are shot during the USDA's operation will be tested for CWD and, if clean, the meat will be donated to the Community Action Coalition and food pantries.

Now, on to turkeys... A neighbor at the meeting counted 40 turkeys in their front yard recently. Park staff and the USDA plan to use net guns to catch as many as ten turkeys and dispatch them to food pantries. Neighbors may hear a loud 'boom' when the net gun goes off, but this will likely only happen once. The USDA staff said that turkeys learn pretty quickly to avoid bait piles after that. DNR staff explained that relocation is often too stressful on turkeys and leads to death from starvation or predation.

Finally, there was fascinating news about the University of Wisconsin Canid Project – a research study to better understand the habits and behaviors of urban coyotes. Apparently, we have at least one coyote in Owen Park that has been collared and is being followed electronically. Look for more about that in the next Parkword.

## Interested in getting more involved in the neighborhood?

Do you have a talent with text? Do you enjoy creating, composing, writing, and wordsmithing? The Parkword is looking for a co-editor to help brainstorm ideas, gather articles, write pieces, and edit copy.

Please contact Paige Verhelst if interested. pverhelst@gmail.com.

## Santa Visits in December

Santa Claus will once again be making time in his busy schedule to make house calls to the good boys and girls of Parkwood Hills. He'll be available for approximately 15-20 minute visits the week of December 11th. If you are looking to schedule a visit from the man in red, contact Andrea Slotten at [andrea.e.slotten@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.e.slotten@gmail.com).

The deadline to sign up is December 1st.



# Muir Elementary Volunteer Opportunities

By Kathleen Spencer

You don't need to be a parent or family member of a John Muir Elementary student in order to volunteer. The school is in need of volunteers to do any of the following:

- **Read to students**  
Students are in need of reading mentors and helpers. Kiddos enjoy reading to an adult buddy or listening to someone read to them. Teachers need volunteers in their classrooms helping all students, especially those struggling readers.
- **Help with lunchtime**  
Students need help opening food and drink containers. The lunchroom can always use help with organizing lines, handing out food, and cleaning up.
- **Volunteer in the Muir Library (help with kindergarten and 1st grade classes)**  
Each class meets in the library once a week for 30 minutes. Classes are almost over before they begin, and with younger grades, there is limited time to help connect students with books they will love. Volunteers are needed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons (between 1-3pm), helping students check out materials or helping staff shelve returned books. Please email Molly Goltry, the new Library and Media Technology Specialist at [atmsgoltry@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:atmsgoltry@madison.k12.wi.us) if interested and available!
- **Volunteer in the Garden**  
Muir students and teachers plan and maintain a gorgeous vegetable garden under the guidance of Becky Hustad, gardener in residence, and Bethney Pickhardt, garden coordinator. Do you have some time to help in the garden? Contact Bethney Pickhardt at 608-347-0811 or [gunderb@uwalumni.com](mailto:gunderb@uwalumni.com) for more details.

**To volunteer at the school, please call the school office at 663-8170.** You need to fill out a security clearance form. Classroom teachers and Muir staff are grateful for any help you can provide.

Nobody serves you better in Parkwood Hills



Parkwood Hills resident

**Kiki Wessell**  
608-239-7303

Email: [wessellk@firstweber.com](mailto:wessellk@firstweber.com)  
[www.KikiWessell.firstweber.com](http://www.KikiWessell.firstweber.com)



a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

**Other way to help:**

- **Collect Box Tops**  
Drop off any and all Box Tops at the school or mail them to 6602 Inner Drive. The money that Muir collects from Box Tops helps to pay for supplemental materials for teachers' classrooms, activities at the school, and staff appreciation events.
- **Shop Amazon**  
You can help support John Muir school every time you shop on Amazon.com! Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select "John Muir School Association." A small portion of your purchase will benefit the school.

**Thank You!**

## Fun, Fundraising, and Friendly Competition

By Charlene Drumm

Neighbors on Shiloh/Saratoga gathered for a Happy Hour last month to visit and learn more about activities at the neighborhood Lussier Community Education Center (LCEC). By evening's end, we had all learned lots, enjoyed great visiting, sampled tasty experimental-chin-drippin' upside-down cake, AND, in the process, raised \$3300 in 3-year recurring donations and \$200 in one-time donations. WOW!!!

The recurring donation commitments were made as part of the LCEC's SOLID campaign. Simply put, SOLID is a funding commitment for a select time period, with different funding goals. For example, Shiloh/Saratoga dollars will fund summer camp for a student for three years.

Turns out there is an unexpected but fun consequence/result from the LCEC-focused Shiloh/Saratoga Happy Hour. Rumor has it that other Parkwood neighbors heard about our party and fundraising, and may host their own street party and try to raise more than Shiloh/Saratoga for LCEC. What wonderful friendly competition!

To learn more about the LCEC, stop by for a visit or contact Director Paul Terranova, [Paul@LCECmadison.org](mailto:Paul@LCECmadison.org) or 608.833.4979 x 210.



# July 4th Celebration



Once again, the Parkwood Hills July 4th celebration provided fun, food, and festivities. Special thanks go out to Kim and Charles Cowles as lead organizers, Tara McAweeney for being in charge of the food, Jake Moskol for playing Uncle Sam, the Prince family for again providing the snow cone machine, and the Moskol, Butrymowicz, and Cowles families for filling up almost 1000 water balloons!

Also, many thanks for our volunteer workers and our picture takers (Michael Bell, Dave Bittrich, and Grant Priehs).



Jack Bell on running the Gauntlet: "It was so fun! It was really hard to see, and it hurt a bit, but I went into it with a positive mindset, so I knew it would be a good time. Near the end, I tried to slow down, so I could enjoy it longer!"



Jake Moskol is Uncle Sam



Sophia Bell and Maya Walsh



Clarissa Bittrich



# Lussier Food Pantry Donations

By Phyllis Pleuss

For three years Anna Schryver of Parkwood Hills and Beth Ravenscroft of Faircrest have collected food donations from the neighborhood for Lussier Food Pantry. They deserve a huge “Thank you” for their tireless service. Phyllis Pleuss of Parkwood Hills and Susan Nelson of Faircrest will now take on this service.

It’s simple for you to help out. Each month we send out an email and let you know what particular items the food pantry needs, though any nonperishable food item as well as diapers, feminine hygiene items, and other items are always

needed. You simply drop your items in the bin on either Susan’s porch or mine and we’ll make sure it gets to Lussier.

Please consider signing up to receive the emails and to help in this way. Contact either Susan or me, and we’ll get your name and email address on our list in order to send more information out to you after you sign up:

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Phyllis Pleuss         | Susan Nelson           |
| phyllis.pleuss@tds.net | csclnelson@hotmail.com |
| 827-5698               | 235-4551               |

Let us know if you have any questions.



## Paleo Pumpkin Pie, submitted by Katy Wallace

This recipe has become a favorite holiday pie for our family. It’s “normal” enough but accommodates those working on a dietary upgrade. Adapted from *Everyday Paleo Family Cookbook* by Sarah Fragoso

### Crust

- ½ c hazelnuts
- 1 c pecans
- 4 T melted ghee or cold-pressed coconut oil
- Pinch sea salt

### Filling

- 2 cups cooked pumpkin or 14 oz. organic canned pumpkin
- 2 t cinnamon
- ¼ t grated fresh or dried ginger
- 2 eggs
- ½ c raw organic honey
- ½ c full-fat canned coconut milk

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. If you are baking your own pumpkin then remove the seeds and place in a covered dish with about ¼ cup water on the bottom. Place in oven and bake until soft or about 45 minutes.
2. Place the hazelnuts and pecans in food processor and process until the nuts are finely ground; stop before the nuts start to turn into nut butter.
3. Pour the ground nuts in a small mixing bowl and add the melted ghee or coconut oil and salt, and mix into a dough.
4. Spread the dough evenly into a pie pan and bake for 10-15 minutes or until the crust starts to brown.
5. While the crust is in the oven, mix all pie filling ingredients with a hand-held mixer.
6. Once the crust is out of the oven, pour the filling into the crust, return the pie to the oven, and bake for 45 minutes.

## the parkword

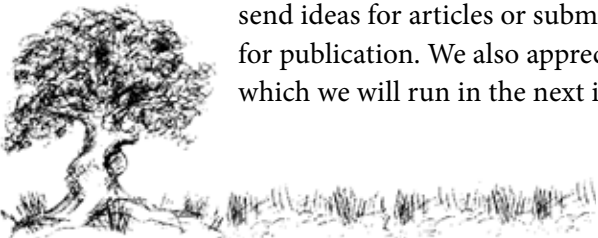
This newsletter is published four times per year and serves as an important and integral communication tool for our neighborhood and community. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send ideas for articles or submit your own articles for publication. We also appreciate any corrections which we will run in the next issue.

**Next deadline:** December 15, 2017

**Approximate delivery:** Early January, 2018

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Did you know that you can get the parkword as a digital file?  
Sign up at <http://parkwoodhills.org/>



# Featured Figure

This quarter, we feature DINEEN SEYMOUR NAHN...

Years in Neighborhood: 10 (moved from New Glarus)

### Family

- Greg (husband) works as an Energy Consultant for Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC)
- Caden (son) is a senior at James Madison Memorial HS (JMM), who is turning 18 in November. Caden plays varsity soccer and wants to attend the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts

### Why did you choose Parkwood Hills?

Honestly, we were looking for houses in other neighborhoods, but Anne Marie Bell [Dineen’s sister-in-law] found us a house here in the neighborhood. She convinced us to see it, and we loved it.

### Best part about living in Parkwood Hills:

The community and all the activities the neighborhood provides, especially the pool. We enjoy the kids, their parents, the bonds from friends, the feeder schools. Really, from John Muir to the high school, to the pool, Parkwood Hills is such a unique community.

### Favorite Neighborhood event:

Parkcrest Trivia night (summer)

### What is your job?

I am a full-time Spanish teacher at JMM, teaching Spanish 3 and Spanish 4 (mostly sophomores and juniors). I’ve been at JMM since 1995.

### What is the best thing about teaching?

Every day is different and every class is different. No day is ever the same, which is exciting. Plus, I love my department.

Also, in knowing Spanish, not only can I teach kids, but I can help in a civic way. I can help the community by translating for those who need it.

### How did you get into teaching?

I went to the University of Minnesota, and I loved Spanish. I had to declare a major in order to get a high

paying student job in the Spanish department, so I declared Spanish. One day, I saw a job posting for working at an international school (only six in the world at that time), so I began working there (pre-Kindergarten to twelfth grade). I began co-teaching and working in the daycare. During my junior year, I studied abroad for a semester, later graduated, and came back to Madison to get a teaching certification.



### Best things about being a teacher:

1. Seeing the kids across grades – watching them grow (year by year) in their language ability
2. Camaraderie within our department. This is a hard job, so a strong department of colleagues helps a ton.

### Best advice you can give students?

Just breathe. It’s ok to make mistakes. Both teachers and students call learn from their mistakes.

### What are you looking forward to this year – your 23rd year of teaching?

Watching Caden in his last year.

### Is it difficult to teach at a school where your son also attends?

It’s challenging. It was probably more weird for Caden than for me. There definitely is a shift - when he was little, I could be making pancakes in our kitchen for his friends at a sleepover, and years later, they are sitting in my classroom.

Though, it is nice to know his teachers better, and getting to know his friend group was gold. Not many high school parents have this same opportunity.”

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Personal classified ads are accepted for this newsletter, which is mailed to 500 households in Parkwood Hills. Ads may be edited for length. Ads from Parkwood Hills residents are free (up to 6 per year per address). Commercial ads (up to 4 lines) or ads from outside the neighborhood are \$10 each. Business card size ads are \$35 each. Email your ad to editor@parkwoodhills.org or mail your payment, name, address and phone number with your ad to Elizabeth Morrison, 6913 Colony Dr. Madison WI 53717. Please make your check payable to Parkwood Hills Community Association.

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Madison, WI 53717

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## Parkwood Hills Community Association Board

Board members serve two-year terms. Meetings are open to everyone.

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