



# the parkword



THE PARKWOOD HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019

## Neighborhood Meeting/New Website Alert!

Plans are in works to update parkwoodhills.org

The annual Parkwood Hills Community Association meeting was held April 2, at John Muir Elementary School. The new slate of officers and at-large board members were elected.

A long overdue project moved forward as our newly elected association Vice President, Jason Verhelst agreed to take on the redevelopment of our neighborhood website. Jason presented several logo options, and the one shown here was chosen. The new logo features our rolling hills, water, and trees. The logo will be featured at the top of the new website, which will go live this summer.



**PARKWOOD HILLS**

As Verhelst reports, “The logo turned out great and will pair well with the new clean, mobile-friendly site.” Most importantly, the site will contain up-to-date information on events and news in our community. The site will also allow access to the email newsletter sign-up, surveys, forms, and much more. A links page, community resources page, about Parkwood Hills page, and photos will all supply information on our wonderful neighborhood.

We will let you know when the site goes live! In the meantime, if you have photos to share for the new website, please email [parkwoodhillseditor@gmail.com](mailto:parkwoodhillseditor@gmail.com)



## July 4th Celebration

Thursday July 4, 2019

### 9:00 am, Pre-Parade at Muir School

Face painting and decorations available for bicycles, strollers, wagons, scooters, etc.

Please do not forget to bring your helmets for the parade!

### 9:30 Parade,

Followed by field games, water balloons, races, food, and fun!

**This Parkwood tradition is the perfect opportunity to catch up with neighborhood friends and to make some new ones!**

We are looking for adult and teen volunteers to help with the event, including food preparation and serving, game organization, and setup/cleanup responsibilities.

To volunteer please go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0948a9ac2fa20-20191>

Or contact Kim Cowles, [knknowles@gmail.com](mailto:knknowles@gmail.com), 608-250-0031.



## The Parkword is Going Digital!

Instead of publishing a print version of the Parkword each quarter, we will deliver the neighborhood news electronically. With the changing times, rising costs, and lack of manpower, we will begin publishing updates and articles more frequently on the new website. For special events and/or announcements, we may rely on sending out postcards as well as posting online.

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## Meet Your New Board Vice President, Jason Verhelst

Jason Verhelst is the new vice president of the Parkwood Hills Community Association. Jason, his wife, Paige, and his family moved to Parkwood Hills nine years ago from the Hawks Woods neighborhood (near Hawks Landing), where they lived from 2006-2010.

Paige is an English and film study teacher at James Madison Memorial High School, and Jason is the Associate Athletic Director at Madison College. Jason has been at the college for nineteen years. They have two daughters, Alexa, 13, who is a seventh grader at Jefferson, and Maya, 10, who attends High Point Christian. Their four-year old white haired Havanese, Tucker, completes the family. On the weekends, the family enjoys spending time together, socializing with friends, and attending numerous sporting events: "Every weekend is busy now-a-days with both girls in activities. We love staying active."

Jason states the Verhelst family moved to Parkwood Hills partly because of his coaching job at Parkcrest Pool &

Tennis Club. As he states, "We realized we were always in the neighborhood for swim team, and we became jealous of the community events that the neighborhood offered. One summer, we decided to move here and experience the events as neighbors." Additionally, he says, "We love that the pool is close, the schools are within walking distance, and the family feel that the neighborhood provides."



Jason has a preferred time of the year (summer swim team, where he has been head swim coach for nineteen years), and his favorite event is the July Fourth parade and celebration: "It was our first event as Parkwood Hills residents."

### Block Captains on the Move!

Your friendly block captain will soon be stopping by your house to drop off your copy of the 2019 Neighborhood Directory and to collect your annual dues.

The voluntary \$20 annual dues support the many wonderful events and services our neighborhood provides each year. These include the Spring Fling, July 4 parade and picnic, Santa visits, Halloween bonfire, and Easter egg hunt.

When you receive your directory, please check your listing and verify that your information is current and correct. If you need to make any changes, please email them to Elizabeth Morrison, elizabethmorrison@gmail.com. Changes are accepted year-round.

### Vegetation Monitoring Training

Madison Parks is seeking volunteers to assist with an effort to monitor plant communities in the conservation parks. Staff will host a training session on Tuesday, June 25, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Cherokee Marsh - South Unit, 802 Wheeler Road, Madison. Participants will learn and practice our sampling protocol to collect data on plant species richness and cover. While in-depth knowledge of several species is not required, basic plant identification skills are necessary. This training session is limited to 12 participants.

Contact Paul Quinlan at pquinlan@cityofmadison.com to register.

### Parkcrest Swim & Tennis Club Now Open For the Season

The opening on Memorial Day weekend marked the pool's 51st summer serving our neighborhood. The pool offers lessons, activities, and open swim for adults and youth. Tennis offers lessons for both youth and adults and leagues for adults.

Also, do not forget to visit the basketball court, the diving well, kiddie pool, and the snack shack.



#### Regular Summer Hours

Thursday, June 13 – Sunday, August 18

#### Monday-Friday

6:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.	Adult Lap Swim
7:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Swim & Dive Team
10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lessons (Swim & Dive)
12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Adult Swim
1:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Open Swim (5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Lessons/Adult Lap Swim)

#### Saturday-Sunday

12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Open Swim
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## Do you know John Muir Elementary has an outdoor classroom?

Now in its eighth season, Becky Hustad, Gardener-in-Residence, and volunteer Bethney Pickhardt are ready to kick off another growing season with the students at John Muir. This spring's highlights include: a garden build day with volunteers from CUNA-Mutual, planting the garden and woodland, an All About Birds interactive lesson, and Pond Day at Owen Conservation Park.

"Our outdoor classroom provides options for students of all ages. Preschoolers plant pumpkin seeds and harvest in the fall as Kindergarteners. We have second graders who are outside weekly in all kinds of weather observing changes in the seasons. A dedicated third grade classroom works together to improve the school grounds as a community service project. Memorial Spartans volunteer on Spirit Day. Our fall garden tour features fifth graders becoming experts

on plants and telling younger students and visitors all about it. Everyone gets excited to come back in September and pick the raspberries!" said Becky Hustad.

Several families in the neighborhood adopt the garden for a week in the summer to turn on the drip irrigation, weed, and harvest as needed. Opportunities exist for neighbors to get involved. Some tentative Saturday morning work dates have been scheduled: June 15, July 13, and August 10. From 9 – 11 a.m. we weed, chat, and share lemonade. The kids can play.

If you have ideas about how you'd like to help (solo and on your own time frame is fine too), please contact Becky: [bhustad@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhustad@sbcglobal.net). E-mail and she will keep you up to date on changes.

### Why Outdoor Education?

There are various reasons to take a class outdoors. It's fun, healthy, and fosters community. It provides opportunities for hands-on learning, cooperation, and developing social and emotional skill. It's a way to show children that we value taking care of each other and our natural world.

Take a break from your work today, go outside for 15 minutes. Then, return to your work. How is your focus? That improvement in focus is just as important for kids who are learning as it is for working adults.

If you'd like to know more about outdoor education and all of the benefits it provides for learning and community, check out these sources:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/leaf/school-grounds/documents/outdoor%20education%20research%20for%20school%20Grounds.pdf>

Ming Kuo of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign found that students were able to focus better, MUCH better on inside lessons after having a lesson outdoors.

Here is the article: [https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/the\\_surprising\\_benefits\\_of\\_teaching\\_a\\_class\\_outside](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/the_surprising_benefits_of_teaching_a_class_outside)



Muir Garden volunteers Bethney Gunderden, left, and Becky Hustad, Gardener-in-Residence, on the right

## Another Successful Spring Fling



Spring Fling came early this year, yet April 6 brought out many neighbors. The event remains one of the Parkwood Hill Community Association's favorite annual activities, giving residents a chance to visit and to welcome some of our newest neighbors.

Thank you to Peter and Cheryl Olson for organizing!

Thank you, again, to Vintage Brewing Company for our space! We liked the new setup.



# Annual Easter Egg Hunt

With the nice weather on April 20, a record number of families came out to Everglade Park for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Congratulations to Noah Gerhardt, who found the golden egg.

Thank you to Grant Priehs, his special helper Sienna Priehs, Bev and Sophie Willer, and of course, the Easter Bunny for stopping by during his busy time of the year.

If you have any plastic eggs that you'd like to recycle, drop them on Grant's porch at 6 Yellowstone Court and he'll make sure they get back to the Bunny for next year.



## City Alder Check-in

Congratulations to Keith Furman of the Spring Harbor neighborhood, as he begins his first full term as a City of Madison Alder for our District 19. In a recent conversation, Keith highlighted upcoming city initiatives that might interest our neighborhood.

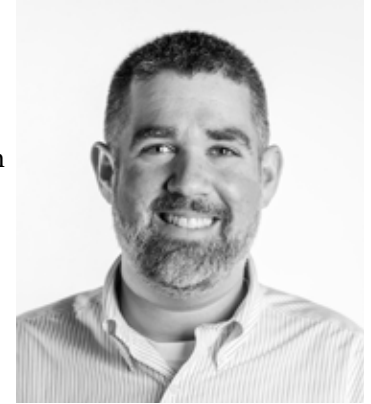
At the top of the list is the City of Madison's newly created task force on governmental structure. This study group has been charged with considering what governmental structures would best serve the many needs of our city residents. Currently, the Madison's Common Council has had 20 Alders with each of their districts drawn to contain the same number of residents - around 12,000 now. Many may be surprised to discover that the job is part-time and pays a salary of \$12,000 a year.

Some of the questions being considered by this task force include: the optimal number of alders for a city our size, most effective term length, whether or not the alder position should remain part-time or become a full-time job, appropriate compensation, and whether to continue with a mayor or switch to a City Manager as the lead administrator.

Keith noted that the report from this task force is due to the Common Council sometime in late 2019. Bravo to our elected officials for even asking these questions.

Two other important issues before the Common Council are the recommendations made regarding the Madison Police Department now being reviewed by a citizen committee, and a flood mitigation study currently underway. This task force will study how water flows in the Madison area and, with citizen and scientist input, make recommendations to prepare for future heavy rainfall or snow pack.

With important work to be done, Keith will keep us posted via his blog, <http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district19/blog/?id=21021>



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## 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:** to be determined

**Approximate delivery:** undecided

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

# Owen Conservation Park Update

By Donna Rifken

The cool, wet spring has been a wonderful gift to the ephemeral wildflowers like Shooting Star and Dutchman's Breeches. The tree canopy has taken its time leafing out which has allowed sunshine to reach the ground and spur the wildflowers to grow. Take your time walking through the woodlands to appreciate the Trillium and May Apple.

A catch-up phone call with Paul Quinlan, the City of Madison Conservation Resources Supervisor, gave me a chance to hear about Owen Park's to-do list of projects. The prescribed burn of the southwest portion of the woodlands (abutting Antietam) has been successfully finished and you can begin to see some wildflowers taking advantage of the new sunshine.

A day before a burn, Paul's office sends out an email blast that includes neighborhood contacts in Parkwood Hills and Crestwood. Those contacts put the information on NextDoor for all neighbors to see. Paul's office also calls the adjacent three elementary schools to warn them about potential smoky air for students with breathing issues like asthma.

Paul's group continues to battle garlic mustard with both hand-pulling and judicious herbicide use on the largest swathes of the invasive weed. Volunteers are encouraged to pull whatever garlic mustard they come across.

The best way to pull garlic mustard is to take a dandelion spade and dig up the entire plant and root system. Then bag it in a dark garbage bag and dump in the trash cans at the



Owen Park parking lot. The bags don't have to be labelled as garlic mustard anymore.

If you don't have a bag handy, pull as much of the plant as you can, snap off the seed head/flower, and leave the seedless plant on the path. I stuff the seed heads into my pocket for disposal at home. Flowering garlic mustard that has been pulled and left to die on the path can germinate quickly and spread seeds far and wide. They are adaptive little plants!



**Garlic mustard in flower**

Finally, the two deer 'exclosures' (fences to keep the deer out) are showing some interesting contrasts with the woodland areas outside the fences. I counted more and earlier wildflowers inside the 'exclosure' where browsing deer can't get to them. Comparing the areas would be a perfect science project for students interested in a hands-on study of biodiversity. I encourage our readers to pass on the idea to any high school or middle school students you know. Paul would be happy to work with them on the sampling project.

We are very fortunate to have such a lush prairie and woodlands within a short walk of home. I'm heading out there right now. I hope you too can enjoy a walk, hike, run, or sit in our lovely Owen Park.

**Contact Paul Quinlan at [PQuinlan@cityofmadison.com](mailto:PQuinlan@cityofmadison.com)**



## 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](mailto: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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## Parkwood Hills Community Association Board

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

**President:**

Lucas Wagner

**Vice President:**

Jason Verhelst

**Secretary:**

Kathleen Spencer

**Treasurer:**

Amy Butrymowicz

**Block Captain Coordinator:**

Jesse Gerhardt

**At-Large Board Members:**

Kim Cowles

Alena Jensen

Grant Priehs

Andrea Slotten

**Newsletter Editors:**

Paige Verhelst & Donna Rifken

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Vacant