



# the parkword



THE PARKWOOD HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019

## Historic Flooding in Madison: Moving Forward After Summer Storms

By Greg Fries, Assistant City Engineer

### Report Your Storm-Related Problems to City Engineering

The historic flooding in Madison and surrounding areas this summer points to the need to reconsider how [Madison], designs new developments, manages our lakes and thinks about the extremes of our weather patterns now and in the future. The first step is to document all the problems that were experienced during the August 20th storm and the days that followed, as lake levels rose and Lake Monona flooded downtown Madison.

We want to know about storm-related problems you experienced. If you haven't reported your flooding issue, please report at: [cityofmadison.com/reportflooding](http://cityofmadison.com/reportflooding). If you have already reported via 2-1-1 or other means, City Engineering would appreciate you re-reporting your flood concern through the portal to ensure that we have accurate and complete information.

The most severe storm that hit on August 20th dumped approximately 10 inches or more rain on the west side of Madison and Dane County. This rain happened over a span of approximately eight hours and qualifies as a 1000-year, or historic event. But what does that mean?

According to historical data about rainfall, the probability of Madison receiving 6.66 inches of rain in 24 hours is once

in 100 years. In other words, such a rain event has a one percent chance of occurring in any year.

You may have noticed there were two components to the storm referenced above. First, there was the amount of rain and second, the span of time in which it fell. It is possible to have a 100-year, 1-hour storm (3.04 inches) and a 100-year, 24-hour storm (6.66 inches) and all the mixes of time and amount of rain in between those examples.

Damage from the August 20th storm has been devastating for many residents whose homes were significantly wrecked by flood waters. In some areas on the west side, flood water overtopped streets by nearly five feet. While most City critical infrastructure is functional again, City Engineering and other City agencies are still assessing all the damage reports to public and private properties.

As if the immediate flooding caused by the rain was not enough, the volume of water caused Lake Mendota to rise 16 inches one day after the rain. Within a few days, Lake Monona rose to more than 10 inches above the 100-year flood elevation, setting new record highs. Downtown Madison was flooded. Streets were closed, parking was removed, and sandbags were filled. Volunteer groups and the National Guard rallied to help sandbag impacted properties. Madison alone deployed over 225,000 sandbags.

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### **Parkword Editor-in-Chief Needed**

**Are you looking to get more involved in our neighborhood?**

The Parkwood Hills quarterly newsletter *the parkword* needs a new editor-in-chief. The editor recruits neighbors to submit content and oversees the newsletter production. Actual layout is handled by a different volunteer, so no layout skills are necessary.

If you are interested in taking this on, please reach out to Paige at [parkwoodhillseditor@gmail.com](mailto:parkwoodhillseditor@gmail.com).

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## Parkwood Hills Annual Meeting and Volunteer Opportunities

### Annual Meeting

The Parkwood Hills Annual Meeting and Election will be held Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at Muir Elementary School.

Madison Police Officer Hector Rivera will speak, followed by a question and answer period.

After that, the neighbors vote on the new slate of officers for the Community Association and the meeting will adjourn.

We hope you'll take the time to attend and also consider volunteering for a position.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Our neighborhood thrives on volunteer support. Thanks to all those who lend their help, energy, and time to make our neighborhood active, fun, and family-friendly.

If you are looking for a way to get involved, there are several volunteer openings, including:

- Parkwood Editor-in-Chief
- Parkwood Hills Community Association At-Large Board Member
- Vice President
- Garage Sales Coordinator
- Block captains
  - Glacier (block 13)
  - Antietam (block 15)
  - S. Yellowstone (block 34)
  - S. Yellowstone (block 35)

## Neighborhood Garage Sale!

**May 4-5, starting at 8 am**

It's time to start thinking about decluttering and getting ready for the annual Parkwood Hills Neighborhood Garage Sale. A garage sale is a great opportunity to sell items you no longer use, shop for "new" treasures, and visit with neighbors. Sign up, and you will receive balloons for your mailbox and maps of other sales in the neighborhood. We also advertise in the local paper.

Sign up by emailing your name, address, and a brief description of the items you are selling to Lucas Wagner: [lucasjwagner@gmail.com](mailto:lucasjwagner@gmail.com).

**If you are interested in becoming the point person for the garage sale, please contact Lucas!**



## Update Your Directory Listing

You can update or correct your neighborhood directory listing at any time. Drop an email to Elizabeth Morrison, [elizabethmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethmorrison@gmail.com), with your information! The deadline for updates for the next directory is April 10, 2019.

You may include or omit any of the following information in your listing:

- First and last names of up to two primary residents
- Occupations, email, and cell for each primary resident
- Landline, if applicable
- The year you moved to Parkwood Hills
- The names of dependents or others who live in your home (Please do not include adult children who have fledged the nest!)
- For each child you may also include the month and year of their birth

If your children are available for hire for neighborhood jobs, please indicate which ones from the following list:

- baby sitting
- pet sitting
- snow removal
- lawn mowing or yard work.

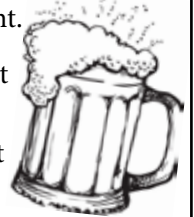
## Come Out of Hibernation!

### Annual Spring Fling

**Saturday April 6, 7-11 pm**  
**Vintage Brewing, Whitney Way**

Catch up with neighbors and welcome new ones on Saturday, April 28, from 7-11pm at the Parkwood Hills Community Association Spring Fling! The event will once again be held at the Vintage Brewing Company on Whitney Way across from HyVee. Look for us in the banquet room near the rear of the restaurant.

The Spring Fling is a great way to relax, chat with neighbors, and celebrate the end of another Wisconsin winter. It's a FREE event for all Parkwood Hills residents. Enjoy drinks and light food while they last.



Friends who are not residents of Parkwood Hills are welcome to attend for \$15 per person, payable at the door. Last year's event was very well attended, so make sure you don't miss out this year.

## Outdoor Classroom at Muir

Are you an architect and/or structural engineer?  
Muir needs you!

By Bethney Pickhardt

John Muir Elementary School has a very active and engaging outdoor classroom program which includes an extensive vegetable garden, raspberries, apple trees, and asparagus. Adjacent, a wooded area provides hiking and snowshoeing paths, tree limbs for fort-building, and a circle seating area where teachers gather students for lessons. This outdoor classroom is unique in that it offers so many rich opportunities for students from a wide variety of backgrounds and skills to learn and engage. The classroom is a year-round learning site. Several Muir teachers take classrooms out weekly during the academic year and MSCR holds summer camps that use the area.

The one thing our program lacks is a structure to provide shelter from rain, sun, snow, etc. To meet this need, the Muir garden team has found a builder (thank you Findorff!) to construct a large shelter that will house 3 picnic tables (thank you Eagle Scout Troop 420), comfortably fitting 30 students and an instructor. Providing protection from the elements and usable flat space, makes taking a lesson outside more predictable for teachers, and, therefore, more likely to occur. More outdoor classroom time for students provides, fresh air, a change of scenery and a chance to engage the mind and body in the pursuit of knowledge. The shelter will also benefit the Parkwood Hills neighborhood since it will provide a place for community picnics and other events.

The missing piece of this puzzle is a professional(s) to design the shelter and provide the engineering specs. The design can be quite simple; we really just need some shelter.

If you are interested in assisting us or know someone who may be interested, please contact Bethney Pickhardt at [gunderb@uwalumni.com](mailto:gunderb@uwalumni.com).

### Flooding, continued from Page 1

The next stage of this event will be just as difficult to manage. Going into winter with high lake levels, significant ice damage along the shoreline can be expected. If we also have significant snowfall and spring rains, high lake levels and flooding concerns will persist in 2019.

To find out what you can do to prepare or prevent flooding in your own home, please visit: [cityofmadison.com/floodprotection](http://cityofmadison.com/floodprotection).

## Muir Makerspace Initiative: A peek into our neighborhood school

By Jesse Gerhardt

At John Muir Elementary School we believe that problem-solving and growing as a learner happens when children are given time, an organized space, and a variety of materials to tinker and create. We are excited to introduce MITS (Muir Inquiry and Tinker Space, formerly known as the REACH and library block) as an opportunity for all children to explore their interests and passions. The MITS program aims to make learning equitable, accessible, and fun while targeting a variety of subject areas. Every child needs opportunities to collaborate, problem solve, and share their strengths with their peers. We often have themed exploration units that encourage creativity and exploration. Dinosaurs are coming up! We are kindly looking for donations of dinosaur figures and fake plants/flowers. Items can be dropped off in the John Muir school office or on my doorstep at 305 Shiloh. Stay tuned for what's next and know that we are grateful for your donations!



## On Your Marks, Get Set, Easter Candy!

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Everglade Park,  
Saturday, April 20, 2019

Round up the kids and bring them to Everglade Park on the Saturday morning before Easter, where they will find that the Easter Bunny has hidden 1,000 goody-filled eggs throughout the park. The search starts at 10am sharp, so don't be late. In past years, the kids have scoured the park clean of eggs within 10 minutes. And one lucky child will find the elusive golden egg filled with a \$5 bill!

In case of extremely rainy or snowy (!) weather, the event will be delayed until noon that day. If the weather is still bad at noon, the hunt will still go on, as those candy-filled eggs won't keep a whole year. So bring your baskets or buckets, your boots, and your cameras, and join the fun!

If you have any eggs to recycle, please drop them off on Grant Priehs' front porch at 6 Yellowstone Court. He's the local Easter Bunny liaison.





## Featured Figures

### New neighbors with deep neighborhood roots

Meet one of our new families, Bryn Olson-Greb, James Greb and their two youngsters, Elliot (3) and Ruth (1). This family's move to Parkwood Hills in late summer was a sort of 'coming home' for James, who grew up in Parkwood Hills and whose parents, Ellen and Frank, live up the street. Bryn is no stranger to the neighborhood either, having spent lots of time with her aunt, Karen Stuesser, and cousins who live up the street.

James and Bryn met through their moms, Ellen and Mary, two lovely 'yentas' who had a hunch their children would be happy together. Bryn and James liked each enough to fall in love and after a few years living out of state, moved back to Wisconsin, settling in Middleton.

When the Holt home in Parkwood Hills came on the market, Bryn and James knew it would be perfect for their family but worried about competing buyers offering above the asking price. They wrote a note to Katie Holt, the previous owners' daughter, and explained their long connection to Parkwood Hills and their hopes of raising another generation in this wonderful neighborhood. The rest is history and the young family moved into their new home in August 2018.

Bryn is a medical speech pathologist who works in the Voice and Swallow Clinic at American Family's Children's Hospital in Madison. She helps infants and children who can't swallow efficiently due to some neurologic, sensory, or genetic problem.

James works as an actuarial analyst for QBE, an Australian insurance company with an office in Sun Prairie. As he explained, he is a specialist in reserves, the amount of money an insurance company should have on hand to settle claims.

The young couple appreciates the 'stop and chat' vibe of our neighborhood and understands why a one-hour fitness walk becomes a 2 hour experience of chatting up neighbors. They can't wait to introduce their little ones to the Parkcrest

### Fun Fact

Did you know that Owen Park was originally owned by Edward Thomas Owen, a professor at UW Madison in French and Linguistics. He and his wife, Emilie, lived on State Street and owned a 'summer home' bordering Old Sauk Rd., called "Tor Wald", Anglo-Saxon for "wooded hill". In 1974, "Tor Wald" was bought by the City of Madison and became the Owen Conservation Park.



**Bryn Olson-Greb and James Greb moved to Parkwood Hills in summer 2018**

Pool and look forward to walking them to school and volunteering at Muir. Both James and Bryn have already connected with several other young families who moved to Parkwood Hills for the close connections to neighbors. Welcome to Bryn, James, Elliot and Ruth!

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## Parkwood Hills Garden Club Celebrates 50 Years

In March, the Parkwood Hills Garden Club celebrates 50 years of building and beautifying the community. At the Club's Holiday gathering in December, one of the founding members, Elinor Koepcke, shared the Club's history and activities over the decades...

In 1969, the Club formed with 45 members, all of whom were new to the new neighborhood. Members wanted to meet and get to know others as well as beautify the neighborhood.

The new neighborhood was short on greenery, so the club planted. In addition to their own yards, they planted gardens at the four new entrance signs (the two current signs at Blue Ridge and Old Sauk, the former sign at Yellowstone and Mineral Point, and the sign at Grand Canyon and Mineral Point). They also planted at Muir Elementary, Parkcrest Pool, and at neighboring Oakwood Village.

The Club also pursued other activities, including flower arranging classes; some members participated in competitive flower arranging. The Club also started plant exchanges, assembled a cookbook, and regularly donated money to Olbrich Gardens for permanent plant labels.

The Club expanded their outings to include birdwatching, breakfasts, garden walks, and taking bus trips to view gardens in Spring Green, Milwaukee and beyond. And

members spent more time developing their own gardens with many taking classes to become master gardeners.

They continued plant sales, held bake sales, and built up a garden library. The library ultimately contained 43 books, too many books to tote to each meeting, so the books were donated to Alicia Ashman Library.

As more time passed, the Club focused on annual plant sales and philanthropy. The large (sometimes two-day), neighborhood plant sales were their best money-makers. Plant sale proceeds were regularly contributed to Olbrich Gardens, Owen Conservation Park, WHA TV, Allen Centennial Gardens, and neighborhood schools: Muir, Jefferson, and Memorial.

At present, the Club is smaller and no longer runs garden sales, but continues offering programs and fellowship. If interested in learning more about Garden Club, please contact Barb Olson.



**Elinor Koepcke**



**The December meeting of the Garden Club.**

**Front row (left to right):  
Charlene Drumm,  
Sue Niesen, Nancy  
Benzschawel, Elinor  
Koepcke, Barb Olsen,  
Lynn Christensen, Mary  
Kausch**

**Back row (left to right):  
Deborah Ryclowski,  
Bev Zarnstorff, Diana  
Rodum, Becky Hustad,  
Cathy Andersson, Trish  
Smallenberger, Jane  
Jaskowski, Marcia Pollock,  
Diane Smidt**



# Santa Visits Neighborhood Children



Santa visited many homes in our neighborhood, to the delight of his young fans. Many thanks to all of Santa's local helpers who made a list and checked it twice. Extra thanks to Andrea Slotten for coordinating this special annual tradition.



## 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:** April 20, 2019

**Approximate delivery:** Mid May, 2019

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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

There are three items about the park to share with you this issue.

## 1. Deer Browse Impact Study

Paul Quinlan, the Madison Parks Conservation director, shared that there is an exciting citizen scientist experiment underway in the woodlands area of the park near Ozark Rd. The City of Madison Parks and Recreation Department constructed two 8x8' chain-link enclosures to study the effects of deer browse on woodland plant communities. Paul is looking for interested science teachers, students, and citizen scientists to help collect data on the woodland plants, especially spring ephemerals, that thrive when deer aren't allowed to eat them. This may help us better visualize and understand the impacts of our urban deer population on the landscape.

Contact info: 608-267-4918; pquinlan@cityofmadison.com

## 2. Porcelain Berry Invasive

Porcelain berry, an invasive species, has been identified in the southern edge of the woodland area, adjacent to the Crestwood neighborhood. Quinlan says that eradicating it is a high priority for park workers this spring. They will be cutting out and spraying porcelain berry vines to slow their infestation.



photo by Michele Jasick



Michele Jasick, of the *Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin* and a resident of Spring Harbor, sent an informative message through NextDoor in July. "Porcelain berry is a vine that looks very much like our native wild grape. Porcelain berry has climbing tendrils that are opposite its dark green leaves. The leaves vary in shape from heart to palmately lobed or dissected. Unlike grapes, which have hairs on the leaf surface, porcelain berry only has hairs on the veins of the leaves. For me, the most identifiable feature is the fruit color. Grape fruits are dark purple or black while porcelain berry fruits are blue, purple, pink and white. Porcelain berry is known to be spreading due to the dispersal of its fruits." For more information or to identify porcelain berry in your yard, contact her at michele.jasick@gmail.com or 608-233-1921.

## 3. Ski Trail Maintenance

Lastly, for those neighbors who love to Nordic ski in Owen Park, Quinlan reminds us that the park is groomed once a week with a ski deck that makes corduroy and one set of striding tracks. Hikers and snowshoers are always welcome, especially when they stay out of the ski tracks.

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### 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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## Parkwood Hills Community Association Board

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

**President:**

Lucas Wagner

**Vice President:**

Vacant

**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

**Webmaster:**

Vacant

**Directory Editor:**

Elizabeth Morrison

**Pool Liaison:**

Peter Olson

**Parkword Email List Manager:**

Vacant