

# The Bridge

TENNEY-LAPHAM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

## “It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor.” - Fred McFeely Rogers

By Joey Hoey, Newsletter

With this edition of The Bridge, the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Council is continuing our efforts to help you feel connected to the neighborhood and to your neighbors. There are features on two more local businesses and introductions to two of the three new Council members and an article on how local residents came together to create a convenient way for people to provide food for neighbors in need.

We know everyone is busy, but we hope you will consider checking out one of the Council meetings. We meet the second Thurs-

day of every month. You can find out which local business or organization is hosting the meetings by visiting our website or signing up for our list serve. Photos from our combined Council meeting and Taste of Tenny event are inside.

One thing you may not know about the Council is that we make donations. In the last year or so we’ve contributed \$500 to Lapham-Marquette Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) which provides events and activities for Lapham students, promotes community building activities, and provides support to Lapham teachers, staff and families. We gave \$500 to Yahara House, whose mission is to transform the lives of people living with mental illness by replacing despair, stigma, and isolation with hope, dignity, and community by focusing on recovery through social connection, meaningful activity, and reintroduction to community employment.

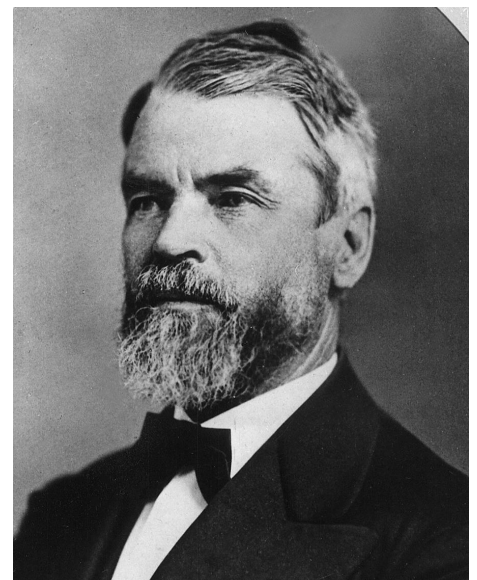
We donated \$500 to Operation Fresh Start (OFS), which empowers emerging adults on a path to self-sufficiency through education, mentoring, and employment training. OFS helps participants earn their high school diplomas, driver’s licenses, certifications in the construction and conservation fields, and gain college/career readiness skills. And we ponied up \$500 to the Madison Public Market, which is aiming to create a vibrant, year-

round public marketplace where new entrepreneurs and long-established Madison favorites will grow their businesses and find success.

“Life is what you make it. Always has been, always will be.” I’m not sure it matters whether we give Eleanor Roosevelt or Grandma Moses credit for that quote. The important takeaway for me, is that both made a lot out of the life they were handed, in a time when it wasn’t always easy for women. I’m hoping that the takeaway from this edition of The Bridge will be that you choose to get involved in the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Association. Because, in the end, TLNA is what we all make of it.



Daniel Kent Tenney



Increase A. Lapham



Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Association Council Members			
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The newsletter of the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association is published and distributed without charge to all households in the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood (delineated by Lake Mendota, North Blair Street, East Washington Avenue and the Yahara River as well as the Filene Park annex on Sherman). Requests for information regarding submissions and advertising may be directed to the TLNA Newsletter Editor, PO BOX 703, Madison, WI 53701 (tenneylapham.comm@gmail.com) or found at <https://www.tenneylapham.org/advertisers/>.

Submission deadlines are March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15. Unless explicitly state otherwise, the views expressed in the newsletter are the view of the writers and not the views of the TLNA Council. The contents of this newsletter along with back issues can be found at the TLNA's homepage: <https://tenneylapham.org>.

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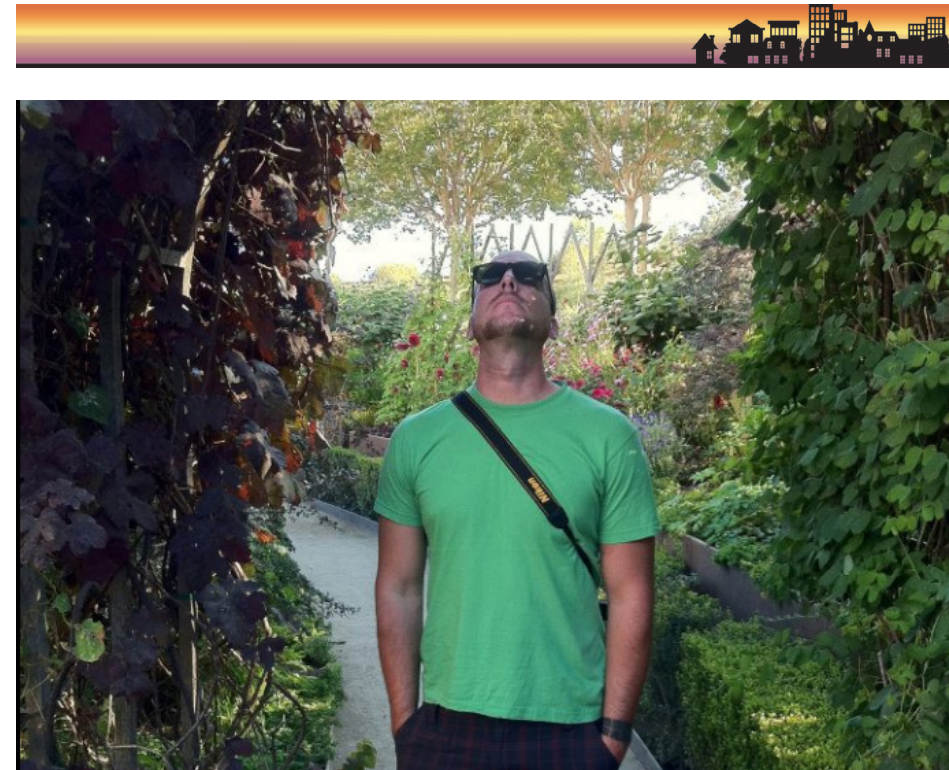
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## Ry's Ramblings

By Ryan McCormick, President

Happy fall, Tenney Laphammers! It was great to see so many of you at the Annual Meeting and Taste of Tenney in late September. If you couldn't make it, talk to someone who did and then keep your eyes peeled to put next year's event on the calendar. Taste of Tenney was once again a smashing success.

At that meeting, we elected the 2025 council, who has been active since 1 Oct. Once again I'll take a moment to thank and say farewell to three outgoing members who served in various positions for a couple years. Will Ochowicz most recently served as VP, Lia Vellardita most recently as the Events

Chair, and Molly Schuman as an Area Rep. All three were very active on the council and we miss their impact already.

Looking forward, we are fortunate to have three new council members! Chris Hovel, Monica Kane, and Sue Babcock will fulfill Parks, Special Projects, and Area Rep roles respectively. We appreciate their interest and ambition and I personally am excited for their involvement throughout the next year.

Enjoy the fall issue of the Bridge. If you ever have suggestions for future issues, please reach out to me or Editor Joey Hoey. Thank you!

### What's In a Name?

Pictured right is the USS Yahara, a gasoline tanker acquired by the U.S. Navy for the dangerous task of transporting gasoline to warships in the Pacific during World War II. She was named after our very own Yahara River, whose name was chosen by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in 1903 based



on the Ho-Chunk word for catfish. Share your favorite name story in our next edition.



## Investing is about more than money ...

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## Get to know your TLNA Council Members



**Get to know Davie Froeschner, Treasurer**

### Where were you born?

Born in St. Louis, MO; spent a bunch of my childhood in central MO, went to college and spent my 20s in Kansas City, then moved here when I became mortal.

### What was your first job?

My first "official" job with a "pay

check" was delivering flyers for the pizza joint up the street. We (my twin and I) were paid \$2/hr plus a pizza and a soda at the end of each shift. Basically for a days work we got enough scratch to rent a Super Nintendo and a few games, plus a fat dinner.

### Seen any good movies or read any good books lately?

Sadly, no. I have a kid, a full time job, am remodeling our house and try to keep seven or eight hobby projects afloat at any given time. It was a while ago, but I still think about the movie "Arrival"; great movie and my favorite non-fiction book of the decade is "Dog Stars" by Peter Heller.

### What's your favorite place you've ever visited?

Budapest is an amazing mix of gritty old, crumbling past and lively, vibrant new beginnings. We went out to fancy expensive dinners down town on some nights and ate cheap street food others. The

VRBO we rented happened to be within the boundaries of what was, for a short period of time, a ghetto. The thought of my family of three occupying the apartment that once housed 45 people was very surreal. The only thing I didn't like about the whole city was that their hardware stores were all counter service and so I couldn't go amble through the isles.

### Why do you choose to live in Madison?

The concentration of like minded people here is palpable. My wife and I have lived in a variety of places and none has offered us the perfect mix of community, stimulating friendships, out doors activities and stability like Madison.

### Why did you join TLNA?

It just seemed like the right thing to do. Being raised by the community has left me with a sense of dept to society to pay back; this is one avenue I choose to do that.

edges, but my affinity for red sauce remains.

### What was your first job?

I started babysitting at 11 and sat for the same few families until I left for college. Inspired by the Babysitters Club books, I brought a big kit full of clay, markers, mod podge, origami paper, and the girls and I would craft straight until bedtime. We had so much fun!

### Seen any good movies or read any good books lately?

I read Spinning Silver recently and was blown away! It's a fantasy inspired by Eastern European folklore. I also loved Eager, which explores the role of beavers in the ecosystem. My toddler and I read a lot together, and her favorite series is Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam, about two reformed robber dogs who run a bakery and fight crime.

### What's your favorite place you've ever visited?

Amsterdam! I immediately loved

the chic people on bikes, cobblestone streets, and 17th cent architecture. A friendly couple with a yellow lab gave us their ideal itinerary on our first night, and it was perfect. We zoomed down the canals in a rental boat, dodging ferries, ordered endless rounds of bitterballen (deep fried pate balls), and explored the Rijksmuseum for hours. I wanted to shred my return ticket on the spot.

### Why do you choose to live in Madison?

I've lived in NJ, Philly, New York, and Miami, but Madison feels like home. I don't just know my neighbors; we take walks together and catch up over bottles of wine. We have wonderful restaurants nearby, as well as parks around every corner, and so many playgrounds that I have to specify which one when I talk to my kiddo! I've learned the names of a dozen native plants from

*continued on page 10*



**Get to know TLNA's new Parks Chair Chris Hovel**

### Where were you born?

I was born right here in Madison, Wisconsin. I grew up down the road in Sun Prairie, and I attended UW - Madison for undergrad where I also met my wife Monica. We love Madison so much and have lived here ever since!

### What was your first job?

My first job was working as a lifeguard. I have worked at all of the

beaches in Madison, but I most often lifeguarded the beach at Tenney. I was the Aquatics Supervisor for the City Parks Department for a couple years, and was responsible for hiring and training all of the lifeguards for the beaches as well as Goodman Pool. I am in law school currently, but before that I worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Tenney is still my favorite beach and place to swim in Madison by a long shot!

### Seen any good movies or read any good books lately?

Since I'm in law school, my reading regimen these days is mostly packed with reading riveting and thrilling cases on things like subject matter jurisdiction, formal adjudication, and unjust enrichment. My wife Monica and I love going to the movies and we recently saw the new Beetlejuice movie. We thought it was pretty good- I would maybe give it a 7.5/10. However, I'm a sucker for nostalgia and I really love the original movie, so I might be biased ;)

### What's your favorite place you've visited?

My wife and I visited Slovenia a couple years ago and spent a few days in Bled. I really love swimming, so we spent almost every waking minute down by the water of Lake Bled. Something about swimming in the deep, cool, and crystal clear water of that lake has made it one of my favorite places I have ever been!

### Why do you choose to live in Madison?

Although I am from the area, I have never seriously considered living any place else. I love to bike, swim, and be outside and everyday I feel so lucky to be able to do those things so easily in right in the heart of the State Capital! When you already live in the best place on earth, why would you move?

The park and open space in Madison has long been something I am passionate about. I truly love our Parks and hope to serve TLNA well as the new Parks chair. If anyone has any thoughts on issues within our parks, or would like to get involved as a volunteer- please don't hesitate to reach out and get in touch!



**Get to know Lauren Engelke, new Events Chair**

### Where were you born?

I was raised in north Jersey, and moved to Madison with my husband in 2012. Being in the Midwest has softened some of my rough

yes, my father, mother, brother, uncle, other uncle, grandfather, other grandfather, grandmother worked at Kodak. I moved to Madison in 1985 and to the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood in 2014. I still have a Kodak camera that my dad helped design.

### What was your first job?

I enrolled in a coop program to earn my undergraduate degree. My coop assignment was at the IBM research laboratory about 30 miles north of New York City. I "wasted" countless weekends in the city. NYC is fabulous when you are 20 years old and don't own anything. But Madison is unbeatable thereafter!

### Seen any good movies or read any good books lately?

Lady Tan's Circle of Women, by Lisa See, a historical fiction novel set in 15th century China, is a great

story that presents a view of the social and familial structures, the medical practices, and the daily lives of upper-class women of the time.

### What's your favorite place you've ever visited?

It's a toss-up between Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks - though I have yet to visit Zion. I have been lucky to have visited many places around the world via 30 years of business and personal travel. My list of great cities and countryside visited is long, but nothing yet has drawn me in more than our national parks. I'm hoping to get to Zion next fall.

### Why do you choose to live in Madison?

My husband and I moved to Madison to take positions at the UW. You all know why we chose to stay!



**Get to know TLNA's new Area Rep Sue Babcock**

### Where were you born?

I was born in Rochester, NY, and





The Shield

## Changes

By Joey Hoey, Newsletter

From one end of the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood to the other, things continue to change. For many residents, the pace of those changes is disconcerting, for others exciting.

On the Western edge of TLNA we have the recently completed Dane County Salvation Army project, the Shield, a WHEDA-funded transitional housing development that includes both mixed-income and affordable housing. The Salvation Army hopes to break ground



The Dylin, as seen from East Dayton



The Dylin, as seen from East Mifflin

on a new \$30 million shelter and community center for families and single women, which will be replacing the existing shelter on East Washing Ave soon.

Across East Mifflin stretching through to East Dayton we have the McGrath Property Group's project, the Dylin, a "aparthotel" style development that generated considerable attention from neighborhood residents, both positive and negative when first proposed. The final plan preserved both the facade of the H.E. Reynolds Warehouse & Garage on East Dayton and the main structure of the historic Reynolds House on East Mifflin.

On the eastern end of the Neighborhood the view across the Yahara River is undergoing significant

changes. We have Eastern Apartments, a six-story building that offers 289 apartments and 14,121 total square feet of commercial space, including the recently relocated Mint Mark restaurant, local pet specialists Tabby and Jacks, and a Starbucks.

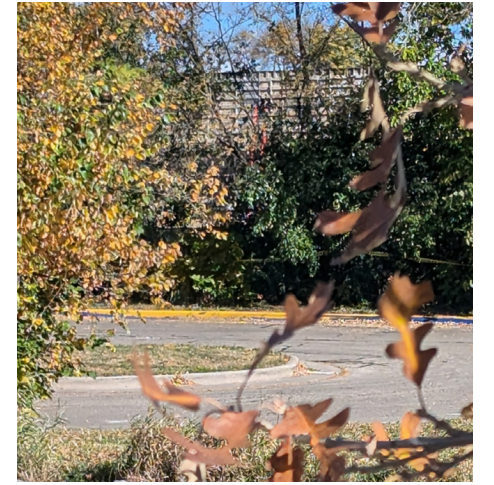
Head north along the river and you'll see the highly anticipated Madison Public Market taking shape. Coming in early 2025, the market promises to be an inclusive, bustling marketplace showcasing locally grown and prepared food, beverages and handcrafted artwork, jewelry, wearables and collectibles. For updates visit their website at <https://madisonpublicmarket.org/news>.



Lane Lock Apartments as seen from Sherman Avenue

Wander a bit further north along the Yahara and you'll see the beginnings of another project that sparked considerable debate. Although barely visible through the trees lining the parking lot of the Madison School & Community Recreation Pontoon Boat facility,

the view from Sherman Avenue offers a better gauge of the scope of the change. Filenes House is gone, and construction equipment is in place building a 96-million-dollar multi-family project, Lane Lock Apartments. Chicago based Vermilion Development is planning



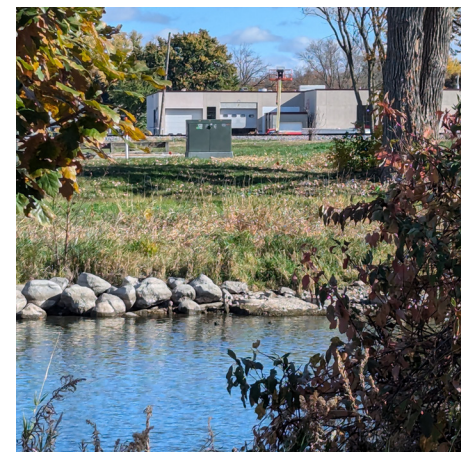
Lane Lock Apartments, as seen across the Yahara River

three buildings consisting of 309 market rate units.

Although I might put it a little more gently, I find myself drawn to Mya Angelou's words - "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."



The Eastern as seen across the Yahara River



Public Market, as seen across the Yahara River



Public Market, as seen from East Johnson





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## Madison Community Fridge Update

By Rob Latousek

“The Fridge” (and its dry goods cabinet) has gotten well established in its permanent location at Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC), after its informal start-up within the neighborhood several years ago. With some amazing initiative from the original founders, plus new resources from CPC and its members (both financial assistance and volunteer time), the Madison Community Fridge has become a very popular source of food for both needy folks in the neighborhood and those who pass by on their way home.

Many people do arrive on foot or bike, while others might drive in. Because it is anonymous, there is less stress in being able to access it quickly and easily. By working on the honor system, it puts the burden on its users to only take what they need in the short term, so that plenty of others can do the same. Volunteers take care of keeping the fridge and cabinet clean and well organized, as well as helping to coordinate some shopping with donated funds.

Those donating food, including the church and its members, do their best to keep it regularly supplied, so that as few people as possible become disappointed by an empty “pantry.” Any neighborhood resident (or whoever’s interested) is encouraged to drop items off whenever they are able, using the guidelines below. Questions and interested volunteers can be referred to [roblatousek@gmail.com](mailto:roblatousek@gmail.com).

Acceptable Donations to the Community Fridge:

Fruit & vegetables: fresh or canned (not frozen)

Breads & bakery: packaged

Dairy & eggs\*

Other canned goods (soup, stew, beans)

Sausages & lunch meats: packaged\*

Prepared meals/sandwiches (dated, with ingredients)



Dry goods (pasta, ramen, cereals, bars, mac & cheese)

Personal hygiene items (TP, tampons, toothpaste, etc.)

Baby food, formula, diapers

Unacceptable Items for the Fridge/

Cabinet:

Raw/uncooked meats

Alcoholic beverages

\*All meat & dairy items should have clear expiration dates.

**Join Tenney Lapham Neighborhood  
Association**

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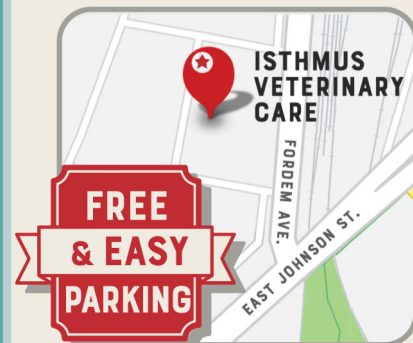
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# TLNA Newsletter - Going Strong For Almost 50 Years

TENNEY / LAPHAM  
NEWS

**WELCOME**  
The Tenney/Lapham Neighborhood Association was formed in June by a group of neighbors interested in working together on common issues in our area. The neighborhood is bounded by Lake Mendota on the north, Livingston St. on the west, S. Washington Ave. on the south and the University Ave. on the east. Selected as officers at the organizational meeting were: Carol Huber, President; David Spanenberg, Vice-President/Treasurer; Jeff Jones, Secretary; Janet Van Boven, Donna Jackson and Rita Clemen, Area Representatives; along with Jan Gehry, Gilford Kasperowicz, Martha Killmer, and George Kocifortik as chairpersons of standing committees. These officers will continue to serve until the first annual meeting to be held on September 30.

Tenney/Lapham Neighborhood Association committees and their activities are:

- Transportation** - A working committee whose members have put together a proposed plan to realign through traffic out of our neighborhood.
- Planning** - Encourages a stable neighborhood community by promoting the use of older homes and comfortable apartments as ideal for family living. Interested also in increasing the number of owner occupied, rental buildings.
- Membership** - Encourages you to join the association. The group neighbors and you should have a say in its future.
- Publicity** - Responsible for press releases and newsletters.



## Hidden Gems

We all know that the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood is filled with special places. Starting with this edition of the Bridge, we're highlighting some of those hidden gems. Here's a photo of the bench at the little pocket park on the corner of Paterson and Dayton on a spectacular fall morning. It's a beautiful spot to sit for a few minutes in any weather. Please send us a photo or remembrance of your hidden gem.

## Get to know TLNA Council Members

*continued from page 4*

walking through Tenney with my guidebook, and yet I also feel that there's so much more - more native

plants to learn, more neighbors to meet, more good I can do through TLNA. I look forward to decades ahead in Madison.



## Light the World on Fire

My friend Leigh LIVED. Leigh is the friend of a friend you have heard about, who has been everywhere, done everything, knows everyone, and still wants to do it all over again— but this time to share it with you and others. You hear her stories and you are not sure you believe them, but then you see the photos, hear the same stories from others, and realize.... It was all true— she really did it all. She wanted to share her world with everyone— e-v-e-r-y-o-n-e. Leigh lived and she shared and she loved and did it all with that smile. Leigh was a Force.

I met Leigh during covid, in the late fall of 2020. I'll cut right past some of the mystery— we met on a dating app. After a month or so of back-and-forths and requisite Dane County Public Health covid tests, we finally met in person.

It was about this time of year, yet colder and with a fresh thick blanket of snow. I walked to her house, only a couple blocks away, and brought with me a mugful of hot boozy cider. Leigh answered the door mostly dressed for the season, save her footwear— brightly colored Nike Air Jordans.

Enter early judgment. I still don't know if any of these four things were true, in varying order of likelihood: she was trying to impress me with her impeccable style; she had been too busy all day to notice it had been snowing for hours; she wanted to test my chivalry and ability to hold her up if she happened to slip; she didn't care about any of these, because.... Fashion first, duh.

Spoiler alert: sometime early on, Leigh and I decided we were better as platonic friends. Lucky for me, she still welcomed me into her amazing life and insanely large family— anyone who knows Leigh understands the extent of the words large and family. At times I was overwhelmed and other times I felt extremely fortunate to be welcomed into her world, her family. Backyard



paella, local festivals, neighborhood walks, a trip to French Laundry and California vineyards with some of her closest friends. Snores, smiles, food and wine, but most important: experiences and memories.

A Tuesday in late September was the last time I saw Leigh out and about. It was an emotional culmination of the last few years, a beautiful benefit dinner and celebration. While the dinner showcased three Wisconsin celebrity chefs, the true stars of the evening were clear: Leigh, her late sister Erin and the rest of her family, and the Love that Leigh attracted and was surrounded with constantly.

At the end of a beautiful evening sharing stories with acquaintances new and old, on the way out the door I stole a moment with Leigh. The last thing I told her in person, as I thanked her for including me,

was that I loved her. I had no idea this was the last time she'd look me in the eyes, the last time she'd hug me, the last time I'd see that smile.

Leigh's celebration of life will occur before this is published. If you don't know Leigh, whatever you imagine for this event, reimagine it ten-, twenty-, thirtyfold. So many loved ones, stories, jokes, tears, smiles, joy, and enough Love to light the world on fire. And, of course, a pair of brightly colored Jordans.

If you know someone who has been affected by the evil of ALS, or even if you don't but you prefer Love over evil, please donate to Project ALS: ProjectALS.org You can also view and read more about Leigh and her story from the PALS website.

**Tenney-Lapham newsletter** January, 1987

**TENANTS MAY RECOUP RENT MONEY OVER BAD HOUSING**

On March 1, 1987 the new Madison rent abatement law takes effect. It allows tenants to without the usual 60 days to file a lawsuit to sue landlords for their rental property that the landlord does not fix.

The rent abatement law requires a rent withholding law that has been in effect since 1978. The rent withholding law allowed tenants to put their rent money into the municipal treasury until the City of Madison Tenant Union (MTU) only a small percentage of eligible tenants will be able because they would receive no compensation.

The law also has a new and more aggressive in the State of Wisconsin (STW) and the MTU began working. The abatement law has allowed the tenants to sue landlords for their rental property that the landlord does not fix. The State of Wisconsin has a rent abatement law which according to the law, a landlord or rental property is a landlord for the abatement of rent. The law also allows for the abatement of rent. The law also allows for the abatement of rent. The law also allows for the abatement of rent.

**TENNEY LAPHAM**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER Winter 2015

**Turn On, Jam On, Rock On East Johnson Street!**

Say, did anyone notice that East Johnson Street was reconstructed this summer? Well, the businesses in the neighborhood sure did! Beginning in late March, there were lane closures for utility work, followed by months and months of no buses, no bike lane, a single lane of traffic, no sidewalks at times, and lots of noise, dust and overall large yellow machines making beeping sounds. The city tried to prepare us for it with monthly and monthly meetings to discuss the various phases of their plans for the street, but, in the end, nothing can really prepare anyone for something of this magnitude. Fortunately, current TLNA president Patty Prime had calmly submitted an application for a grant from the city that applied funds to hire Nik Simonson. Nik coordinated publicity, event planning, and marketing to help the neighborhood businesses through

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## EV Charging is Easier Than You May Think

From MG&E

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

Electric vehicles (EVs) are gaining popularity as a cleaner and more sustainable option to internal combustion engine cars. One of the key advantages of EVs is how easy they are to fuel up.

Experts estimate that around 80% to 90% of EV charging happens at home. One way to charge your EV at home is to use a standard 120-volt household electrical outlet and the charging cable that comes with the car. That's right—the same outlet that you use for your smartphone can charge your EV. A standard outlet will charge your EV at about five miles an hour, or around 50 miles overnight, which is typically enough for the average commuter or city driver.

For faster home charging, consider MGE's Charge@Home program, which provides customers with a Level 2 charger. Participating customers pay a monthly fee of about \$20 with no upfront costs for standard installation plus the cost of electricity. MGE coordinates the installation and maintains the charger. Level 2 chargers operate at 240 volts—the same as a clothes dryer. They can add up to 30 miles of charge per hour.

The fastest type of charging, Level 3 or DC Fast Charging, can replenish a substantial portion of your battery in a matter of minutes, making long road trips more efficient. A network of highway fast chargers is continuing to expand, providing more convenient charging options for longdistance driving. When you need to charge up quickly in the Madison area, you can charge with renewable energy at any of MGE's more than 50 public charging stations. MGE's public charging network includes its EV Fast-Charging Hub in the Capitol East District in



downtown Madison.

EV drivers enjoy the simplicity of plugging in their vehicles at home or using conveniently located public charging stations, all while contributing to a greener, more sus-

tainable future. With the variety of EV options and the accessibility of charging continuing to grow, the transition to electric transportation has never been easier.



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## A Conversation with José Torres

José Torres and his son, Gerardo Florencio-Reyes, are the own-



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ers of El Rancho Breakfast and Tacos, which opened recently on East Johnson Street. El Rancho is serving scratch-made pancakes, French toast, omelets and more in the mornings. For lunch and dinner, the menu is similar to the menu at El Rancho Mexican Grill on Park Street: tacos, burritos, quesadillas, and nachos.

Tell us about yourself.

I was born in Puebla, Mexico and came to the United States in 1989 when I was 14. I started out in the restaurant business in Edgerton as a dishwasher, working myself up to being a cook. It quickly became apparent that cooking was my passion. I moved around to get more experience, working in Whitewater, then Jefferson and ended up in Madison at the Denny's on Broadway. The management at Denny's recognized my work ethic and sent me to Chicago to train me to be a Manager.

In 1997 I took a position at TGI-Fridays to get back to cooking, but within a month I was training all the new cooks. I was promoted to Back of House Supervisor, which included inventory and ordering. And soon I was once again moving around - Milwaukee and Eau Claire - to get more experience, this time in restaurant management.

In 2015 I decided it was time to

move on and open my own restaurant. I found spot 819 South Park Street and opened July 15, 2015. Owing and running El Rancho Mexican Grill has been a great experience, we've been very successful, and I have long wanted to buy the building, but the owner is unwilling to sell.

So, I started looking for a new location to expand. Someone mentioned that there was a move-in-ready location available on East Johnson, so I drove over and looked around with my son Gerardo. We thought it was a fantastic location for a restaurant that offered breakfast, as there was nothing else in the neighborhood filling that need. We opened on August 12th and can't say enough good things about the neighborhood and our neighbors.

What would you like us to know about your business?

El Rancho reflects my passion for sharing the flavors and traditions of Mexico. Every dish we serve is prepared with fresh ingredients and traditional recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation in my family. And we are a family business. I work with my wife Judith, and my son Gerardo, who shares my passion. At 20, he already knows what he wants to do with his life and is doing it. At the East Johnson location, we are aiming to fill a specific need. This isn't just a taco shop, it is something we believe people really want, which is quick-service breakfast.



José Torres



## Interview with Spruce Tree Music

By Lauren Engelke, Events Chair

If you have popped into Spruce Tree Music lately, you'll have found it to be comfortingly familiar, the warm wood walls lined with every type of stringed instrument, but with a new face joining Doug and Jen behind the counter.

New owner Nicholas Kehoe took over from longtime owner Wil Bremer this summer. Spruce Tree will continue buying, selling, and repairing stringed and fretted instruments, just as they have for the last 40 some years.

I had the pleasure recently of chatting with Nick about his background and how he came to own the iconic Johnson St shop.

Nick: I started building and repairing guitars about 10 years ago. When I finished my undergrad at UW-Whitewater, I went to school in Red Wing, Minnesota for a guitar building program. When I finished that, I started looking for jobs in shops and started doing repairs out of my house.

From about 2018 until now, I had been doing mostly repair work as a side business to whatever job I was working at the time, most recently construction. A client of our company who knew I worked on guitars, had actually talked to Wil and heard that Wil was thinking of retiring. [The client] contacted me like, "Hey Nick, do you know that Wil's thinking of retiring from Spruce Tree? You should go talk to him."

I had been coming into the shop probably since I was 17 or something - bought my first banjo here, and I got my first nice mandolin here - so I had sort of known Wil just from being in and out of the shop.

Early this year, I started talking with him - as things progressed, it seemed like it would be a good fit. We were able to smoothly transition from his ownership to mine, and with the help of Doug and Jen,



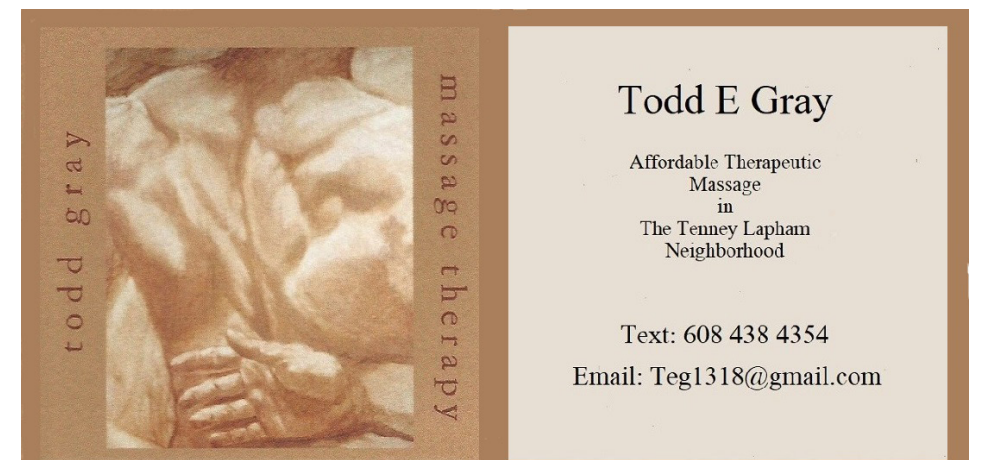
I've been able to get myself acclimated to the world of a brick and mortar shop, which is a very new thing from working out of a little basement shop at my house.

I really enjoy it, because I get more face time with customers, where before it was, at most, drop off, pick up. And it's nice to... feel more connected with the music community around here, with the steady flow of people who are gigging musicians coming in and out, or students, teachers, what have you.

Our focus is definitely on fretted instruments, so guitars, mandolins, banjos. We do work on violin family instruments, and we work on

harps. With those, it's a little bit more case to case.

The shop opened in 1980 a couple doors down and moved into this building 1982 or 1983, so I knew it was long established in this neighborhood. The building itself is so cool - there's such a charm to it. Part of the soul of the shop is in the building itself, that you don't feel the same way if you walk into a brand new strip mall. You could have the exact same inventory and it wouldn't feel the same way. There is something special about this neighborhood, this building. And it is a great location especially as new businesses have been opening up here.



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## Taste of Tenney 2024

This year's Taste of Tenney event, held at the beautiful Madison Youth Arts Center on September 26th, was a tremendous success! It was a memorable night of fun reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones, feasting on delicious food from local establishments, and enjoying the thrill of winning (or not) some of the amazing prizes donated by neighborhood businesses. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed. The money we raised for TLNA will allow us to continue donating to neighborhood organizations – a wonderful way for us to give back and strengthen the Tenney-Lapham community.

*continues page 19*





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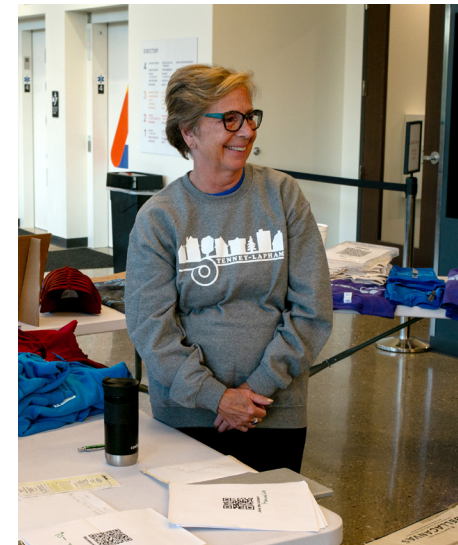
## Housing Listings

Active Address	Square Ft	List Price
34 Sherman Ter #2 (A/O)	852	\$215,000
16 Sherman Ter #2 (A/O)	852	\$219,800
622 E Mifflin	849	\$299,900
617 E Dayton #A (A/O)	750	\$379,000
617 E Dayton #B	1066	\$380,000
311 N Hancock #320 (A/O)	1205	\$399,900
123 N Blount #404 (A/O)	1070	\$445,900
309 N Blount #A (A/O)	1513	\$449,900
123 N Blount #406	1028	\$455,000
1235 E Johnson	1001	\$340,000
1052 E Gorham (A/O)	1853	\$500,000
1238 E Dayton (A/O)	1865	\$525,000
317 N Brearly	1234	\$600,000
752 E Gorham	5374	\$2,500,000

Sold	Days on Market	Sale Price	
311 N Hancock #129	6	\$315,000	\$315,000
311 N Hancock #331	14	\$319,000	\$325,000
311 N Hancock #132	6	\$374,900	\$375,250
825 E Mifflin #406	33	\$420,000	\$400,000
629 E Mifflin	58	\$460,000	\$445,000
625 E Mifflin #321	5	\$470,000	\$475,000
123 N Blount #307	39	\$510,000	\$490,000
955 E Gorham	38	\$525,000	\$525,000
1125 E Gorham	9	\$495,000	\$542,000
121 N Ingersoll	3	\$494,000	\$566,000
1418 E Dayton	27	\$650,000	\$600,000
1040 Sherman	10	\$3,250,000	\$2,956,000

A/O = Accepted Offer

### More photos from Taste of Tenney 2024



**Sunday Worship**  
9am Contemporary  
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