

TOSA EAST TOWNE

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TOSAEASTTOWNE.ORG



Neighbors come together at the East Tosa Mug Club

By Lani Knutson

The old saying goes “Necessity is the mother of invention” and this was no less true than during the past three years. In a time when we were all home more and gatherings were restricted to outdoors, one East Tosa family used these circumstances as a catalyst to meet and connect with their neighbors. Dan and Sarah Klasen, who live on 66th Street, started inviting a few neighbors to regularly meet on their front lawn to enjoy a beverage and chat. Each time they met they would invite a new neighbor or someone passing by to join them. Thus began the *East Tosa Mug Club*. Dan called it the “silver lining of COVID”, a way to meet new people and connect while keeping each other safe and healthy. The

East Tosa Mug Club became a fixture of their pandemic life.

As pandemic conditions eased, the club expanded to the Klasen’s backyard and began to include kid-run talent shows on a newly built stage, pizzas and brats, karaoke, and other activities. Gatherings grew to as many as 60 people with new faces every time. The Klasens enlisted the help of Steve Anderson and Kelsey McElroy-Anderson to ensure gatherings ran smoothly. Soon the club had a logo, designated mugs, and a weekly newsletter (written by Steve) with guest editorials.

When TETNA offered microgrants to improve and engage our community,

the organizers of the *East Tosa Mug Club* saw an opportunity to expand. TETNA was delighted to approve their application so they could continue to create positive neighborhood interaction found at each of their events. The grant helped pay for kids costumes to use in their original plays, backyard lighting, yard games for the front yard, chalk and bubbles, a sausage-making clinic, and food served at movie nights, talent shows, and other events.

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TETNA Directory

TETNA Board 2022-'23

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Run Tosa Run: David Paulsen, dmpaulsen@gmail.com

Rummage Sale: Jill McClellan, jillstephany@hotmail.com

Trick-or-Treat: Nick Becker, beckernicholasw@gmail.com

TETNA Scholarship: Kelli Kerkman, kelli.kerkman@gmail.com

Community

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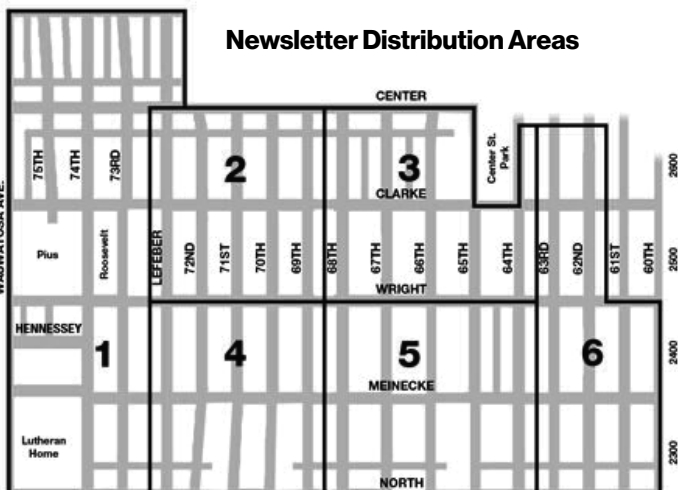
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Joel Tilleson, jtilleson@wauwatosa.net, 226-2139

Senior Rep: Mary Cook, mccook133@nwi.net, 870-3362

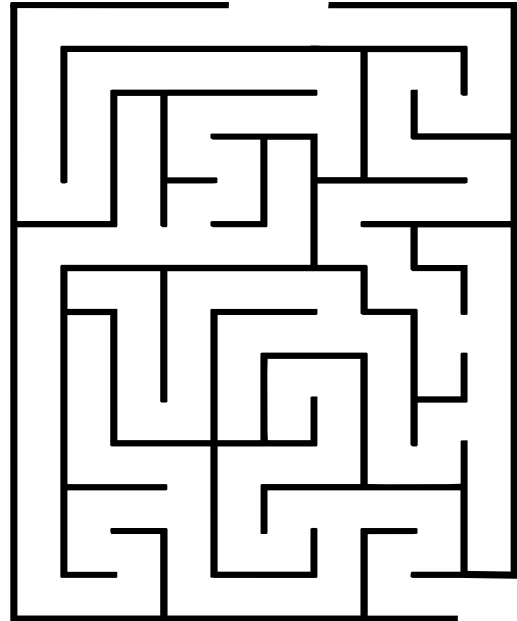
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EAST TOSA MUG CLUB (CONT.)

What once started as an impromptu get together to interrupt the tedium of pandemic living has now grown into organized events that build community and bring neighbors together. Kids regularly invite their friends from school to participate in the backyard plays with parents tagging along to watch the performance. New connections are built all the time at the *East Tosa Mug Club* and have spread beyond the Klases' backyard. These events have inspired other activities around Tosa and led to offers of help to shovel snow or walk the dog when others are in need of help. A ripple effect of neighborly support is a direct result of these backyard get-togethers.

The *East Tosa Mug Club* is closed for the winter but will be back in full force in the spring. Dan says, "If you are walking by and see people out, please stop by and say hi. We're all neighbors!"



Trick or Treaters fill the neighborhood

Walking through the neighborhood on October 29, you may have encountered scary monsters, cartoon characters, walruses, and many other strange creatures. TETNA's annual Nighttime Trick-or-Treat was a huge success once again thanks to many volunteers and households willing to hand out candy. The mild temperature enticed everyone outside for this fun filled evening with over 225 households registered to participate.

The evening began with a costume contest at Center Street Park with categories for all age groups and for families. The spotlight blocks, a new feature this year, were a hit with their lineup of jack-o-lanterns, scary decorations, and abundance of candy. Congratulations to the three winners of our home decorating contest, who received gift cards to Crafty Cow. This popular event isn't possible without our sponsors. A big thanks to Waterclock Engineering, The Little Village Play Cafe, and Philleo Agency Insurance for their sponsorship of the event.





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TETNA offers scholarship to neighborhood high school senior

Each year TETNA offers a scholarship to a high school senior from our neighborhood who is a TETNA member and who will be graduating from a local high school and plans to continue their education at a college, trade or technical school. Thanks to generous neighborhood donors, the amount of the scholarship has increased to \$1,000 this year.

The scholarship is intended to recognize neighborhood high school seniors whose activities demonstrate support for TETNA's philosophy: *to provide a welcoming and nurturing environment and to maintain the quality of life and sense of community through shared interests and neighborly interaction.*

Students interested in applying can find more information at tosaeasttowne.org/scholarship. Applicants must live within the borders of the Association, and their family must be a current, paid TETNA member to be eligible. Eligible applications will be reviewed by TETNA's scholarship committee, and the winner will be announced at TETNA's annual meeting, on April 19.

TETNA members and area businesses make this scholarship possible. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, go to tosaeasttowne.org/scholarship and click on the "Donate" button. Email info@tosaeasttowne.org for more information.



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Registration is open for Run Tosa Run 5K and kids' run on May 20

By David Paulsen

Tosa East Towne Neighborhood Association is honored to continue its longstanding partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities Eastern Wisconsin, which receives the annual proceeds of TETNA's Run Tosa Run 5K and kids' run. This will be the 10th straight year that our runners and sponsors will help us raise money for this worthwhile local organization – nearly \$35,000 donated since 2014!

Whether you run, walk, volunteer or just cheer, we hope you will join us on race day, May 20. Registration is now open, with the link available at runtosarun.org.

After some pandemic speed bumps, the race organizers are looking to boost turnout and proceeds of this year's race, as we again show off the best of our neighborhood while

promoting some of the businesses along North Avenue. A big thanks to lead sponsors BelAir Cantina and GRAEF and to longtime neighborhood supporter Lutheran Home.

The course starts at the 69th Street Plaza and threads through our beautiful tree-lined streets. The cost to sign up for this year's 5K race is just \$25 through March 1, after which the price increases to \$30 through April 1 and \$35 through May 1. The price through race day will be \$40. T-shirts are guaranteed to all who sign up by May 1.

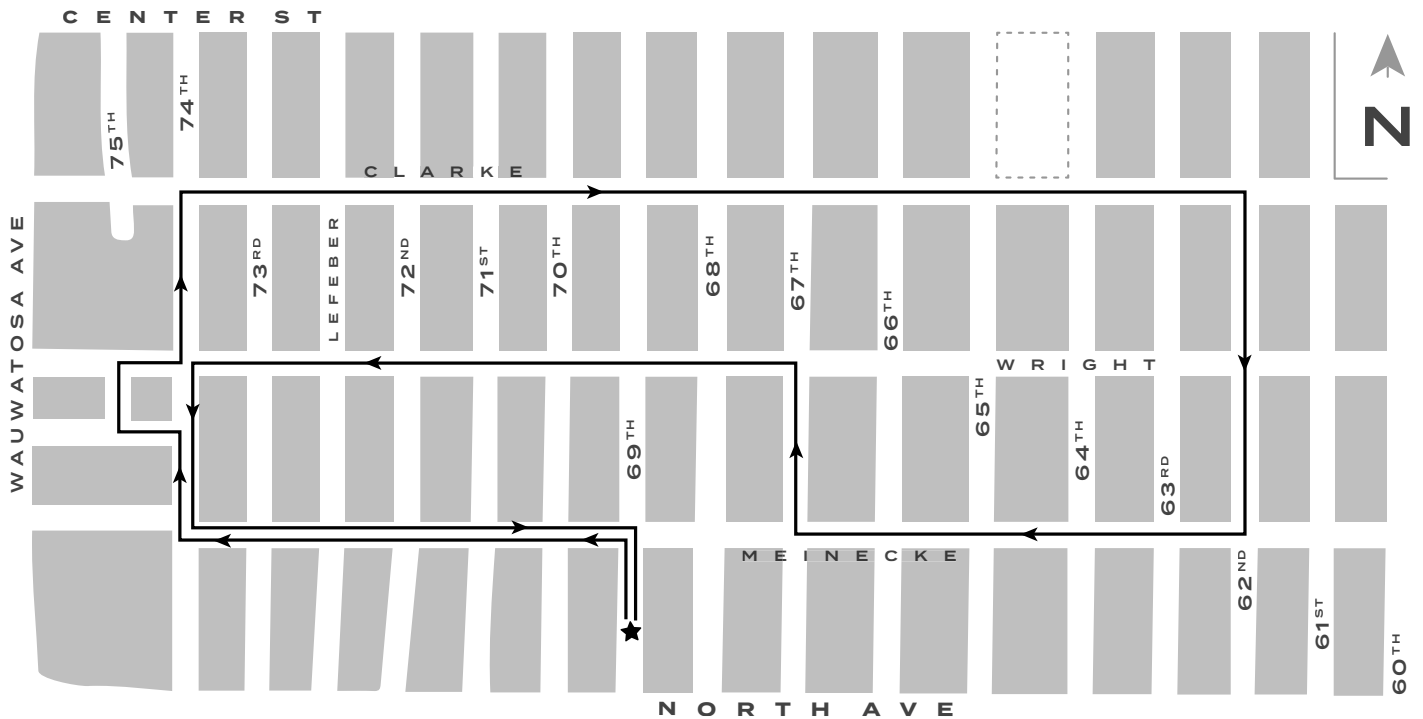
Our kids' run is a loop of one city block, about a half-mile, and geared for runners ages 10 and younger. The cost is \$10 through May 1 and \$15 after that.

The 5K men's and women's race winners receive terrific East Tosa prize packages. All 5K runners will be

entered in a drawing for additional prizes. Kids' run participants each receive a fun toy medal.

We're also looking for people to volunteer on race day and cheer on our runners. Links to the volunteer sign-up will be posted at runtosarun.org. You are encouraged to email runtosarun@gmail.com if you would like to join the race committee or if you have any questions about the race.

Nothing says spring in East Tosa like several hundred of your neighbors running through these streets, whether testing their athletic potential just having a good time outdoors with friends and family. Mark your calendar to join us May 20, and think spring!



ROAD CLOSURES: Residents, please be aware that race morning will require some street closures. Please plan accordingly. The block of 69th Street north of North Avenue will be fully closed until about 11 a.m., and other streets on the route will be partially closed during the 5K, which starts at 9 a.m. May 20, lasting up to an hour.

Spring Egg Hunt

This year's Spring Egg Hunt, sponsored by Ruckus and Glee, is scheduled for Sunday, April 2. This TETNA member-only event kicks off at 9:30am with refreshments and crafts in the pavilion at Center Street Park. The egg hunt starts at 10am in the field with a staggered start to allow younger participants a chance to find eggs first. A separate hunt will be offered for kids younger than two years of age. Special guest the Easter Bunny will make an appearance again this year. Come join the fun!

If you aren't already a member and wish to participate in this event, visit tosaeasttowne.org/join for information or you can pay your \$10 dues at the event. Check tosaeasttowne.org and TETNA's Facebook page for more details as the event date nears.



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EVENTS AROUND TOWN

February 16

Black History Month Celebration:
facebook.com/TosaTogether

February 16, 17 & 18

Mystery Nights at the Mansion:
wauwatosahistoricalsociety.org/calendar-of-events

February 21: Spring Primary

February - April

Tosa All-City Read Events
tosasallcityread.com/events

March TBD

Tosa Restaurant Week
discoverwauwatosa.com/events

March 10 - 18

Tosa West Players present **Cinderella**: onthestage.
tickets/wauwatosa-west-high-school/season

March 11

Lucky Leprechaun 7K: luckyleprechaunrun.com

March 12

Irish Family Day - Passport to Ireland at Celtic MKE:
celticmke.com/CelticMKE-Events/Family-Day.htm

April 2: TETNA Spring Egg Hunt

April 4: Spring General Election

April 19: TETNA Annual Meeting

April 22

Milwaukee Riverkeeper® Spring Cleanup:
milwaukeekeeper.org/spring-cleanup-save-the-date

May 20: Run Tosa Run

June 3: Neighborhood Rummage Sale

June 9-10

Art 64 competitive painting event in the Tosa Village

June 21

Kick-off of Tosa Tonight 2023

Dozen businesses participate in Taste of East Tosa 2022

TETNA was honored to have its members back at Birch, the event space next to Camp Bar, for the return of Taste of East Tosa on Nov. 10.

The event, which showcases the wide range of East Tosa cuisine, featured food selections from 12 great North Avenue businesses. And with proceeds from this year's Taste of East Tosa, we raised more than \$500 for TETNA's scholarship fund!

Thanks to all who attended, and a big thanks to our food sponsors for their donations: Burritos, chips and dips from **BelAir Cantina**; chorizo mac and cheese from **Lutheran Home & Harwood Place**; reuben rolls from **North Avenue Grill**; brownie bites from **Rocket Baby Bakery**; guava cake from **Ono Kine Grindz**; meatballs and polenta from **Il Mito**; a selection of pizzas from **BB's on North**; veggies and noodles in peanut sauce and brownies from **The Real Good Life**; two kinds of bread pudding from **Café Blue**; a wide assortment of small bites from **Delicious Bites**; chicken dumpling soup from **Ted's Restaurant**, and crab rangoons from **Chinese Pagoda**.

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TETNA'S ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 19 AT ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY, WITH PIZZA

Tosa East Towne Neighborhood Association's Annual Meeting is a great way to get to know your neighbors, learn about your neighborhood and become more involved in our all-volunteer organization. And TETNA is trying something new at this year's meeting, which will be held in the multipurpose room at Roosevelt Elementary School and will feature a selection of East Tosa pizzas to sample.

All Tosa East Towne residents are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, as we recap the past year, look ahead to our upcoming events, receive updates from City of Wauwatosa officials and award TETNA's \$1,000 scholarship to one 2023 high school graduate from our neighborhood.

TETNA's Annual Meeting also is a great time to think about getting more involved, including on our board. Any TETNA member can serve. Board members are expected to attend our monthly meetings, held on the second Monday of each month, and to volunteer at some of our events when available. If you are interested or want more information, please email us at info@tosaeasttowne.org.



ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD RUMMAGE SALE SET FOR JUNE 3

Start cleaning out your basements and garages for this year's Neighborhood Rummage Sale, happening on June 3. TETNA members are welcome to participate and list their rummage sale for free. Thanks to Beth Jaworski for sponsoring again this year. Visit tosaeasttowne.org or follow TETNA on social media for more information.



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Contact David Paulsen at dmpaulsen@gmail.com or visit tosaeasttowne.org/advertising