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This newsletter is a tri-annual publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,800. The next edition's deadline for articles and ads is March 7, 2005. Call Bruce Kahn, 238-8622, brucekahn@ameritech.net for current ad rates. We welcome articles of all sorts, including letters to the editor, discussions of local issues, profiles of neighborhood personalities, etc. Please address items or inquiries to Bruce Kahn, 238-8622, brucekahn@ameritech.net. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Regent Neighborhood Association.



Winter 2005

www.regentneighborhood.org

Regent Neighborhood A S S O C I A T I O N *Newsletter*

Winter General Meeting

Monday, January 31st, 2005

UW- McClain Center-lobby/dining room
(Enter the northwest corner of the building)

7:00 -9:00 PM

“UW-Madison Campus Master Plan Concept Reviews”

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is developing an update to the long range campus master plan. Alan Fish, Associate Vice Chancellor and Gary Brown, Director of Planning and Landscape Architecture will meet with all the neighborhood associations around the campus as part of the planning process. Defined planning principles, an outline of the planning process and initial draft concepts for the master plan will be shared. The master plan will include an analysis of existing and proposed buildings, preservation of open space, up graded transportation systems, and utilities. Your input is important in the overall success of the master plan and the university is eager to gain your insight into the future of the campus and its surrounding neighborhoods. Further information can be found on-line at: www.uc.wisc.edu/masterplan including past presentations, a detailed meeting schedule and general background information on the master plan process.

Agenda

- The UW Presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- A question and answer period will follow
- A short business meeting for RNA will follow
- Refreshments

Free parking will be available in the Lot 17 ramp after 4:30 PM, immediately adjacent to the McClain Center.



Special Interest Articles

President's Message	2
Nominations Sought	3
Important Dates.....	4
Co-Gen Update	5
Regent-Monroe Redesign	7
PTO Update	8
Neighborhood Plan	9
Fitting Films for Frigid Days	10
Voter Turn Out Results	12

Issue Highlights

Kathleen Falk	18
Dave Cieslewicz.....	19
Membership Form.....	20

Your Neighborhood Area
No. is:

Your Block Captain is:

Name:

Phone:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Neighbors,

Tonight I feel like Scrooge with a "bah humbug" mentality, as I am scrambling around to complete the various tasks that I have undertaken. I am stressed from my energy being distributed in so many places which can happen easily this time of the year. By the time that you read this article, I will have recovered my equilibrium as I hope that you have, too.

This holiday frenzy is not unlike the demands that are placed on our neighborhood at times. The board through its committees and area reps try to respond to the various problems, hopefully, before they become major problems for the betterment of the neighborhood. This process involves cooperation of the board, alders, county supervisor, other neighborhood associations, city, and university. We have been very busy addressing new initiatives, like our neighborhood planning grant, as well as the work of our standing committees. This effort requires considerable time, energy and sacrifice of personal time. Our neighborhood is known for the professional quality work of its volunteers. As president, I am grateful for their talents and commitment which they share in our neighborhood, and hope that you also appreciate the efforts of your board.

Thanks also to all of you in the neighborhood who participate in various projects and activities throughout the year. RNA would not be a successful organization without your help.

As we move forward with the neighborhood planning grant, I encourage all of you to get involved with the process. The outcome of the effort will be much better, if we have your input. We are fortunate to have a group of professionals within the neighborhood who have volunteered their expertise to help with the planning grant. Thanks to Michael Prager and George Hall for their leadership and the other members of the steering committee Greg Miller, Joyce Knutson and Elaine Glowacki. I encourage your active participation in this project.

I wish you all a happy and healthy new year!

Joy Drummond—*President*
 jmp4joy2003@yahoo.com
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 516-5275 cell





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 Troy Thiel, 238-7677

Strategic Planning
 George Hall, 238-7490

Streets & Transportation
 Howard Mandeville, 233-5080

Greenspace
 Pat Wood, 233-4680

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Historic Preservation Award Nominees Sought

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation is seeking nominations for its 2005 Preservation Awards. Residential or commercial properties within Dane County are eligible. The project should have been completed within the last year or two or be completed by April 1, 2005.

Possible categories include:

1. Restoration - Commercial or residential
2. Sensitive Addition to Historic Structure - Commercial or Residential
3. Preservation through On-Going Maintenance
4. Compatible new construction (which honors its historic surroundings)
5. Preservation advocacy

Please submit one or more photographs, either paper or digital, along with the information outlined below. Deadline for the 2005 award nominations is February 1, 2005 (To be considered, the project should be substantially completed by that time, and exterior work needs to be entirely done by April 1 to allow the photographer to take presentable shots of the winners).

E-mail thetrust@madisontrust.org and describe the project, including a digital photo, or mail the information to the address at the bottom. Include as much of the following information as possible:

- Type of Property (residential or commercial)
- Nominee; Name, address, phone and email
- Address of property (if different)
- Background of project (condition prior to completion)
- Any historical information related to the site

- Age of building
- Brief explanation of restoration or renovation
- Architect for restoration: Name, address, phone and email
- Contractor for restoration: Name, address, phone and email
- Your name, address, phone, and e-mail (if different than nominee)

You can also mail this information to:

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Go to www.madisontrust.org for examples of past winners.

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Area 3: Jean Parks, 233-1418

Ann Bogar, 231-6787

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

It's Softball Time!

For several summers now, the ballfields on the West side of Madison have been bustling in the evening with girls playing softball in the West Madison Little League (WMLL). Although the softball program was started only three years ago, more kids play in the WMLL leagues every year. Ask nearly any kid who has played, softball is a great game—about 90% come back and play again the following year.

In WMLL softball, unlike some other sports, the teams are not organized by neighborhood or school and you don't have to find a team or coach for your softball player (although the WMLL is a volunteer run organization and parent participation is welcomed and strongly encouraged). The WMLL makes up evenly matched teams and the players get the opportunity to meet other kids from all over the West side (9-10 year olds can sign up with one "buddy" and the two will be placed together). Some kids may be apprehensive about being placed on teams with other players they don't know, but this quickly fades as new friendships form and team spirit develops. An added bonus: new Middle Schoolers entering 6th grade realize the benefit of a head start on new friendships when they encounter their softball teammates from other elementary schools.

WMLL softball starts with leagues for 9-10 year olds, where the rules make the games fun: some games have pitching machines and in others the players pitch themselves. The focus is on learning about the game, everybody getting a chance to succeed and having fun. The older leagues, for players 11-12 and 13-14, also provide ample opportunities for fun and teamwork and have plenty of beginning players as well. It is never too late to start and no

Important Dates

(Details in the articles in this issue)

January 19	RNA Green Space Committee Meets
January 27	Regent-Monroe Intersection Meeting
January 31	RNA Winter Meeting
February 1	Historic Preservation Award Nominations
1st Friday of odd months	Co Gen Advisory Committee

one should

hesitate to try just because they haven't played before. The league also sponsors teams for High Schoolers, aged 15-18.

Most teams practice one or two times a week in April and May, and then play a couple of games a week from late May through early July. Games are typically on weeknights, leaving summer weekends free. The emphasis is on fun and learning more than on winning and losing. Everybody plays, everybody bats and everybody has fun.

My family has been involved in the West Madison Little League for five years and in the softball program for the last two. We can't say enough good things about it. I am happy to discuss the softball program or any aspect of WMLL with anyone.

January may seem early for softball talk, but signups come around quickly. Registration usually takes place in February with a deadline of March 1 (details will be announced shortly). Keep your eyes on backpack mail. Information and sign-up forms are also available at the WMLL web site, www.wml.org. Please give me a call if you would like additional information.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

*Lilies • Compost • Artemisia • Leaf mulch
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Neighborhood signage*

If this list of words caught your eye and appeals to you, you may be interested in joining the Regent Neighborhood Green Space Committee. This group plans and oversees neighborhood garden and green space events and projects.

Our goal is to become more active with a variety of issues including neighborhood welcome signs and public garden spaces. Traditionally, the Regent Neighborhood Association organizes a garden tour which has been well attended and has served to promote our neighborhood. The Green Space committee is taking responsibility for planning the next garden tour. We hope to continue to feature a different area of the Regent Neighborhood with each tour. If you and your neighbors would like to share your gardens this summer.— contact me and consider joining in the fun.

Please consider attending the January 19 meeting!

—Pat Wood
233-4680
pwood@wisemail

Co-Gen Update

Construction is on schedule and operation is expected to begin mid 2005 as scheduled. Data is now being collected by an air monitoring device located in the parking lot of the UW Foundation building on University Avenue. Details regarding regularity of sampling and reporting are still being refined. During the last days of December, release of compressed air inside the plant is planned, however, no outside noise is anticipated. Of interest to the neighborhood, however, is the extended period of steam blows set for mid-February or somewhat later. These tests will produce external noise. MG&E will detail the schedule (days and hours) of steam blows via direct mail to neighbors. The WCCF Advisory Committee (three of your neighbors sit on this committee) meets on the first Friday of odd months, 7:30am at the Parish Center of Blessed Sacrament, second floor. All are welcome.

Karen Carlson—*WCCF advisory committee member*

The Good Neighbor - Be a Snow Shovel Hero!

A cleared sidewalk with consistent traction is a critical lifeline to neighborhood walkers. The frail elderly who need safe sidewalks to get to the drugstore, the wheelchair-bound disabled person, the young mother pushing a stroller, the neighbor who takes the bus to work, and our stalwart exercisers, all need your shoveling help! If just one person on their route doesn't shovel, the most vulnerable among us will be stuck at home-or in the hospital. Even the stronger walkers must worry constantly about falls, especially on an unshoveled walk, where you can't see the icy patches under the snow.

And walking is emerging as a crucial component to maintaining your health, along with a playing a major role in maintaining a sense of community in our neighborhood. Walkers meet their neighbors (okay, so maybe not so much in December!), provide "eyes on the street" for problems, and encounter others to swap rich life stories and discuss the issues of the day. They are also the life-blood of small neighborhood businesses. Worth encouraging?

Have a heart! This year, please be a hero and clear that sidewalk promptly and carefully. Remember that careful shoveling down to the pavement after those first storms is necessary. And you can remove accumulated ice with salt or the ice scrapers in plentiful supply at the hardware store. The city requires you to keep applying sand or salt to any sidewalk ice you cannot remove-there must be an abrasive surface. A single application often won't do it. Any remaining untreated patch of ice can cause a pedestrian to topple.

Need another nudge? Remember that the city requires that snow and ice be removed from your sidewalk before noon of the day following a storm. If you have a corner lot, you are also responsible for a broad path (remember those strollers and wheelchairs) down the ramp or curb.

And yes, Virginia, there IS a fine: \$64.80 (and moving upward Jan. 1), with steeper penalties and an expensive clearing by the city if you still don't shovel. Walkers needing to report unsafe sidewalks should call City Building Inspection, @ 266-4551 to protect fellow walkers!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



Dear Regent Neighbors

Some happenings have been brought to my attention. In the Regent Coop's continuing desire to bring the farm closer to the neighborhood, the noise behind the Coop around Thanksgiving was a refrigerated truck full of farm fresh turkeys. Those turkeys couldn't hold a candle to the 300 decibel loudspeakers broadcasting the state high school football championship games. And according to Karen Carlson the power plant is going to practice its trumpets and 76 trombones in the weeks to come. Although we assumed Big Mike's SuperSubs changed their name to Milio's in deference to the gentrification of the neighborhood, the real reason is they needed a new name so they could sell franchises. Oh well. Madison's remodeling contractors say 2004 was a banner year for renovation projects in the neighborhood but say there are a lot rental property owners who need to spruce up their buildings. There is a critical need for more cell phone towers around West High. The dead spots are everywhere. Noted audiophile George Hall was heard wondering if his wife would approve of him adding the Camp Randall loudspeakers to his stereo collection. And lastly, the concept of the pedometer given out by Joy Drummond last year was actually conceived by Ben Franklin. - Roz Larsen



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

City Redesigns Regent-Monroe in 2005

The city invited RNA and other near west side neighborhoods to preview the design options for a massive rebuilding of the neighborhood-defining nexus of the Regent and Monroe intersection. Based on feedback from this meeting, the city zeroed in on two design options. These leading options will be showcased to the public in mid-January. Both offer a dramatically different traffic environment than the one we know now.

City engineers are juggling multiple and sometimes conflicting demands found at this intersection. Both streets are arterials carrying thousands of motor vehicles each day. Many of the vehicles turn here and cross the paths of pedestrians and bicyclists. Since this is the junction of a business district, three residential neighborhoods, and the University, people on foot, bike and in vehicles thread through the intersection. With the stadium, field house and shell, it is also the path for legions of Badger fans. And it's not just the intersection of Regent and Monroe. The southwest bike path intersects here, as well. Soon the bike path's "missing link" will be built, continuing the path from this point to Lake Monona and beyond. Filling in the missing link will significantly increase the number of commuting and recreational bikers using the intersection.

The two options still in play address these demands in similar ways. Both options will result in shaving two feet from the elevation at the center of the intersection. Both options could include something called "bike boxes." These are not a storage units. They are red-painted sections of pavement at the intersection that would reserve the first-in-line space for bicycles. Bikes would line up three abreast and could proceed straight ahead or turn in either direction before the cars start moving through.

One option eliminates Little Street, the short stretch used by eastbound Regent drivers turning left on northbound Monroe and by southbound Monroe drivers turning west on Regent. In its place, the University will build Crazy Legs Plaza, a public space adaptable to many sports-related and neighborhood-friendly uses. The plaza would allow a gradual grade up to the stadium, eliminating the need for steps, thus making this pathway more accessible. On the downside, this design would

substantially increase the number of turning cars conflicting with pedestrians and bicyclists in the western and northern crosswalks.

The other option eliminates the Little Street lane that now provides the path for eastbound Regent traffic to head northbound on Monroe. But it would retain a lane for southbound Monroe traffic to channel onto westbound Regent. This would relieve two of the pedestrian and bicycle crosswalks but would divide the proposed plaza into two segments. This plan would also require steps up to the stadium.

Here is the timeline:

Public hearing in on January 27 (see details at end)

City requests bids in February

City contracts for the work in March

Construction begins in May

The new intersection is ready for the first football game on September 3.

Do you find this narrative hard to visualize? Soon the city will post graphic maps on its website that show both options. When they go up, RNA will post the link on its website and send a prompt over the RNA listserv. The city will place ads in the two dailies and in Isthmus to announce the mid-January meeting that will showcase the two design options. Our alders, Ken Golden and Robbie Webber, both emphasize that city staff will poll the audience at the mid-January meeting and if there is consensus, it will shape the city's decision between the two design options. Here is an easy and important opportunity to influence the shape of an important intersection for the next 50 years.

The neighborhood meeting is now scheduled for Thursday, January 27 in the McClain Center Dining/Lobby from 7:30 - 9:30 PM. Enter the NW corner of the building. Free parking in Lot 17.

—Howard Mandeville
233-5080

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Fall Franklin Randall PTO Update

It's been a very active challenging and fun filled year so far for my wife Karen and I as the 2004/05 Franklin/Randall PTO Co-Presidents. The PTO is involved in so many things in support of the mission of the schools and this fall has been no different. I am also serving as this year's RNA School Liaison Board member and look forward to working with West High and Blessed Sacrament representatives to help bring their issues to the RNA table.

The Fall Open Houses were well attended and included an Ice Cream Social that made the nights fun and fattening, as well as informative! Also, the PTO parked over 200 Cars a game for the 6 game Fall UW home schedule, relieving the area streets a bit and earning revenue to help support the myriad of great programs. In fact, our fundraising efforts, which also included a fund raising letter to the parent community that raised nearly \$10,000 for the second straight year were mentioned in a story in the New York Times on November 15th. Also, the Wisconsin State Journal had the car parking fund raising as a story in the paper on November 18th. The School Dance night was another smashing success with over 500 children and parents boogying down and having fun. We've also had several monthly board meetings and also General meetings, one that covered security in our schools, which have been well attended. None of these events and achievements would have been possible without the great volunteer efforts of over 150 Parents and Staff!

Like with RNA and the new Neighborhood Comprehensive Planning grant, this year is also a big "first" year (of five) in planning for the School Improvement Plan (SIP) for both schools. Vision planning is under way and we will be having a January or February General Meeting with MMSD's Ron Lott to present to attendees status and objectives. Three issues that have been discussed so far in pretty good detail are primary goals for Karen and I as the year continues;

1) Olive Jones Park - The PTO is in the process of formulating a "Friends of Olive Jones Park" after the first year to begin the discussions of the many stakeholders in the park to vision plan, assess costs of different plans and move forward on implementing them, hopefully by 2006, which is the 100th Anniversary of Randall School. It is an

important school and neighborhood asset and we look forward to playing a part in its improvement to be the best that it can be for its' various users.

2) Traffic/Pedestrian Safety Improvements - We look forward to helping improve the safety of our children and the other pedestrian users in our complex neighborhood by working with MMSD and City Staff, Alders Webber and Golden and others by analyzing and improving strategic ways to make the our streets and intersections as safe as possible.

3) Analysis of Randall ADA accessibility potentials. We have begun to investigate potentials and look forward to seeing if it's possible to find ways to implement at Randall, which is a National Historic Landmark and a complex building to make happen. Finding grants to make it happen will also need to be pursued. UW and the Wisconsin ADA Wisconsin Partnership are helping us in this effort.

As you can see, we've done a lot but much more needs to be done. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in anyway, please feel free to contact me at 238-7677 or email me at troythiel@yahoo.com.

—Troy Thiel
Franklin/Randall PTO Co-President 2004/05
RNA School Liaison Board Member

Please License and Leash your Cat

For a third time we have had the heartbreaking task of finding a dead cat in front of our house on Regent Street. You may think it is inhumane to leash your cat, but it doesn't compare to the pain and suffering caused by an animal being hit by a car. It is very hard for those of us who find your pet dead or dying. Please remember that the City of Madison has a leash and license ordinance which states in part: 1) Cats must wear rabies vaccination, cat license and owner identification tags; 2) Cats must be leashed when off owner's property; 3) Cats must not be allowed to run-at-large or trespass on public or private property

—*Nan Roberts & Rick Smith*

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

RNA Neighborhood Plan Progress Report

Last fall, the RNA Board created a steering committee to direct and coordinate a neighborhood planning project, including working with the city to finalize our contract for the \$10,000 planning grant we received from the city this past summer. We're fortunate to have Elaine Glowacki, Joyce Knutson, and Greg Miller joining Michael Prager and myself to help assure that the project moves to completion and we produce a useable document that reflects neighborhood consensus and, that can ultimately be adopted by the Common Council and included in the city's emerging comprehensive plan. If you would like to volunteer at this early stage, or place your name on a list to simply receive information and draft documents as they are prepared, please call either Michael Prager (236-0419), or myself (238-7490), and we will add you to the list, as well as answer any questions that you may have.

As I write this in early January, the steering committee has met 3 times, and we've held two informational meetings for the 43 neighbors who have volunteered in some capacity to help with the plan organization and production details. A summary of these volunteer meetings will be available shortly. A draft mission and vision statement with goals and objectives and major project phases and milestones has been developed and is available for distribution, as is an outline for achieving a completed neighborhood plan, and a paper describing "why do a neighborhood plan now." We've joined forces with a UW-Madison Department of Urban and Regional Planning class who will help us with necessary parcel-level data acquisition and display of geographic information. As the planning process progresses, we will likely be issuing a request for proposals, and Between meetings of the steering committee and the volunteer group, we've identified a need for the following subcommittees: Housing, community institutions and services, business districts, parks and open space, transportation, historical and current community trends identification and analysis, neighborhood livability and functionality, neighborhood esthetics and streetscapes; along with operational subcommittees including publicity, meeting coordination/facilitation, and fund raising and financial management. This list will likely change and evolve as we begin having community-wide and small group meetings and start receiving feedback from everyone who comprises our neighborhood.

It is the intent of the RNA Board and steering committee that our plan, to the fullest extent possible (compatible with Madison Planning Department guidelines and Common Council objectives), be a neighborhood-centered plan, and reflect as much consensus on vision as possible between the various stakeholders (homeowners, renters, neighborhood institutions-churches, schools, etc.; and businesses/commercial enterprises) present in the neighborhood.

Several of you have called me and asked why we're engaging in all of this work. Simply put, our environment is changing around us and if we're going to effectively deal with this change (evidenced by such indicators as increased traffic, replacement of smaller apartment buildings with larger ones, and the challenge to identify and preserve neighborhood icons - the list could go on) it would be helpful if the neighborhood could define a vision for the next 10-15 years that could inform and guide developers and institutions that are affecting our living environment. Coincidentally, the UW-Madison and the city of Madison are also embarked on major updates of their respective plans. Our participation with them will be much more informed and effective if we can describe what we want to see happen based on a modicum of neighborhood consensus.

The steering committee is anticipating commencing neighborhood-wide and small-group meetings in March (and throughout the remainder of the year until the plan is completed) in order to start sharing information and receiving feedback and direction from you. Look for more information on the RNA web site (<http://www.regentneighborhood.org/>), which also includes directions for joining the RNA list serve. We're also looking for other means of disseminating and receiving information. As I've previously said, if you have questions or would like to become involved in any way, please contact either Michael Prager, or me (phone numbers above).

And don't forget the UW-Madison campus masterplan update meeting with the RNA at the McClain Center on January 31.

—George Hall
238-7490

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Fitting Films for Frigid Days

- 1) *Nanook of the North* (NR: 1922) - And you think you're cold? A great and early documentary classic.
- 2) *Doctor Zhivago* (PG-13: 1965) - Come on, sing along with me..."Somewhere my love...". An epic set during the Bolshevik revolution. Stunning scenes from David Lean, the master of them.
- 3) *The Shining* (R: 1980) - Jack Nicholson stars in a chilling Kubrick adaptation of a Stephen King novel. Not the greatest total film from my all-time favorite director, but still contains some of the creepiest, skin-crawling moments that I have ever seen (check that....felt) in cinema... "Heeeeere's Johnny!"
- 4) *Snow Dogs* (PG: 2002) - Goofy family fun even if you aren't a dog lover.
- 5) *Ice Station Zebra* (G: 1968) - The Coldwar in a cold place, the Arctic. Rock Hudson and Ernest Borgnine among others.
- 6) *A Simple Plan* (R: 1998) - What happens when you always zig when you should have zagged. Great performances by Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton, and Bridget Fonda.
- 7) *The Thing* (NR: 1951; R: 1982) - See the original with James Arness (Gunsmoke) looking a bit like a giant b/w carrot, or grab the remake. Makes no difference. It's cold....it's creepy.
- 8) *Fargo* (R: 1996) - A Coen Brothers classic (unless you're from Minnesota). Frances McDormand's finest role as a too-pregnant cop relentlessly on the heels of a grizzly and evolving case.
- 9) *Ofelas* (a.k.a. Pathfinder in the U.S.) (NR: 1987, subtitled) - A great ancient legendary tale of the Lapps of northern Scandinavia. Warning: Although listed as NR, it contains some pretty brutal scenes.
- 10) *Touching the Void* (R: 2003) - An amazing true story of survival in the frozen mountain cold. I also recommend the book (same title) highly.
- 11) *Slapshot* (R: 1977) - A comedy must, especially if you're a hockey fan. Paul Newman stars.
- 12) *Ice Age* (PG: 2002) - Animated enjoyment for the family.
- 13) *The Endurance - Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* (G: 2000) - Archived and dramatized footage combine to tell possibly the greatest recorded tale of human survival. Endless ice, tumultuous seas, frozen mountain passages, and constant cold cannot thwart a brave commander and his crew as they fight against unbelievable odds for well over a year, and with no loss of life.
- 14) *Atanarjuat* (a.k.a. The Fast Runner) (R: 2001, subtitled) - Inuit legend of one warrior's battle against an evil that is causing strife within his community. Shot entirely on location with Inuit people playing all roles. Has a similar feel to Pathfinder above.
- 15) *Grumpy Old Men* (PG-13: 1993) - Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau team up again for a battle in winter's grip revolving around a common yearning for Ann-Margret. Hubba hubba!
- 16) *Snow Day* (PG: 2000) - Not the greatest flick. But it centers on every kid's dream and should please them (and maybe you) greatly.
- 17) *Where Eagles Dare* (PG: 1969) - It's Allied commandos vs. the Nazis in an impossible mission. But when the good guys have Clint Eastwood and Richard Burton, any mountain is a mole hill. Here's your homework: count the number of allied casualties.
- 18) *Groundhog Day* (PG: 1993) - Bill Murray delivers beautifully while stuck in a winter time warp. Sonny and Cher anyone?
- 19) *The Abominable Snowman* (NR: 1957) - I've not seen this one. But how can you miss with Forrest Tucker (remember "F Troop" folks?) and the mythical frozen beast? Might be tough to find.

Think Snow!

—Brrrrrrrian Parks

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Letter From Dijon

When I applied last spring to be an English teacher or, more accurately, a teaching assistant for seven months in a French public school, I had virtually no idea what I would be in for once I was accepted into the program. I didn't know which educational institution I'd be assigned to by the French government, what the kids would be like, what city I'd be living in, or what life would be like.

I had lived in France years ago, when I worked for CBS News in Paris, but hadn't been back for more than a few weeks at a time. I hadn't set foot in a secondary school classroom since 1967, when, during a pause in my graduate studies at UW, I taught history for a year in an English private school. I didn't then and still don't have a teaching degree, never earned any education credits, and have spent most of my working life as a journalist and, more recently, as director of communications for UW's Division of International Studies.

What on earth possessed me to take such a step?

I was interested in studying French education and at an especially critical time in France's history. For the past year, this country has been involved in a nationwide discussion about how to reform its educational system. In the next several months, the government will send a wide-ranging initiative to the legislature, with the hope that it will become law and go into effect in the fall of 2006.

When I landed in France at the end of September, I headed to Dijon, in the heart of Burgundy wine country, about 90 minutes southeast of Paris by the TGV fast train. I had specifically asked to be sent somewhere other than Paris and had been posted to two junior high schools here. I moved into an apartment in the center of the city, a third-floor walk-up in a seventeenth century townhouse built for the first president of the Burgundian Parliament. Each day, I walk to work on very narrow and often cobbled streets and pass stone mansions and half-timbered houses hundreds of years old.

In some respects, Dijon is very much like Madison. It's a cosmopolitan city with a population of 250,000 if you include outlying areas where new housing and high-rise apartment buildings have sprung up recently. It's a capital city - it was the seat of the powerful

Dukes of Burgundy and is now an administrative center for the region. It's also a college town.

Dijon is a cultural center, with half a dozen museums, as many movie theaters, and two beautiful concert halls where international artists perform. There is a convention center, plenty of bookstores and boutiques, and public libraries. By law, there are "no smoking" sections in restaurants. Police officers ride bikes. There are two tattoo and piercing parlors on my block. We have a farmers' market and a mustard museum - Dijon boasts it is the mustard capital of the world.

Dijon, like Madison, also has problems and I'll just name a few. Urban sprawl, traffic, and parking predictably are big headaches. There is an extensive bus network and a system of enormous LCD signs at key intersections telling you, among other things, how many places are left in municipal parking lots. Dijon is also concerned about families leaving the central city, resulting in declining enrollments in schools like mine.

Of course, there are significant differences, notably language, history, and culture. Where else but in a city like Dijon would most shops close for a two-hour lunch? Where else would you find a bakery or pastry shop on almost every block?

—Ronnie Hess

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EVERYBODY'S A WINNER! by Vikki Kratz

Last week, the Madison Common Council gave awards to those neighborhood associations with the highest voter turnout in the Nov. 2 election. First place went to High Point Estates on the far west side, which had 2,938 voters. Capitol Neighborhoods came in second with 2,932 voters, and the Marquette and Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather Creek Neighborhood Associations were third, with 2,787 voters. The council also honored neighborhood groups that saw the greatest increase in turnout from the 2002 election. No. 1 was Heritage Heights on the far east side, which saw a 68.6% jump. Capitol Neighborhoods and the Regent Neighborhood Association tied for second, with 67.8%. And the State-Langdon Neighborhood Association was third, at 66.9%. "A lot of people were disappointed with how the election turned out," notes Michael Forster Rothbart, a member of the city's Plan Commission, who proposed the friendly competition. "But what's important is to get people to participate."

As I promised, I plan to visit the first and second place winners in each category at your neighborhood association meeting and bring homemade cookies as an expression of my gratitude. Please let me know where and when your meetings will be. Note that I will be out of town until 1/17/05, so it will have to be at your meetings in late January or February. Please also send me your contact information so I can call you if need be.

In addition, if there are any volunteers who want to come to a baking party to help me bake dozens and dozens of cookies, please please let me know.

Thanks and congratulations,
Michael Forster Rothbart



Editor's Musings

Charles Vest, recently retired president of MIT, believes the U.S. can continue to be the leader in cutting edge technology and science. Vest is concerned, however, that taxpayers have been vastly underfunding the K-12 science and math curriculum. In addition, he believes that the curriculum doesn't inspire kids; doesn't teach them about the excitement people in these fields experience through their work. Without additional money and changes in the curriculum we won't have the people to keep the country's science and technology strong.

Many parents with kids in the Madison schools have similar concerns. The School District's science and math goals for students are frightfully inadequate. Will that change? Madison property taxes are amongst the highest in the country and the state legislature has shown no interest in working to restructure a funding system that is broken. The School District can make changes in science and math instructional delivery but it will be hamstrung by its ever tightening budget. One idea being looked at seriously in other parts of the country is for alumni or businesses to sponsor academic programs or facilities in the same fashion as we see at the university level.

Talk to your legislators, Governor Doyle, businesses, and school board members. They must upgrade the science, math and overall curricula, and increase the amount of money allocated by the state to the local school districts.

—Bruce Kahn
238-8622



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Boys Spring Outdoor Lacrosse

Join the fast-paced, fast-growing sport of Lacrosse. The REGENT LACROSSE CLUB is open to interested West High and Edgewood High School boys. There is a mandatory meeting for parents and players on Sunday, February 6 at 1 PM at Coach Darcy's house: 3064 Edenberry in Fitchburg. Questions about the Regent Lacrosse Club? Call Coach Harvey Briggs, 233-2132 or Coach Tom Darcy, 271- 9642.

—Amy Fields

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Looking to rent: family of four (with 2 young daughters) looking to rent unfurnished home in the Regent neighborhood starting June/July 2005. Please contact Julie or David at 603-448-4724 (New Hampshire) or e-mail siepmann@gtcinternet.com.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

New Water Pipes in Your Residence? If So, Beware of Lead and Follow Some Precautions!

Are you aware that after the Madison Water Utility replaces lead pipes in area residences, the concentration of lead in water may actually spike? Unfortunately, in some residences lead levels may be high or erratic for several years after pipe replacement. The Utility offers updated and detailed information on the problem and suggests precautions residents may take in order to lower the risk of drinking water with high lead levels.

Lead can pose serious health problems to all, but especially to young children and pregnant women. The Environmental Protection Agency warns that for infants and children, exposure to high levels of lead in drinking water can result in delays in physical or mental development. For adults, it can result in kidney problems or high blood pressure. Although the main sources of exposure to lead are ingesting paint chips and inhaling dust, EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

To help ensure safer water, residents of homes in which pipes have been replaced within the last few years should read the information on the lead-in-water issue and follow precautions suggested by the Madison Water Utility. On the web site www.madisonwater.org, please see the recently updated section titled, *Report on Monitoring of Madison Water Utility's Lead Service Line Replacement Program* for links to the full report on the pipe replacement program. You may also call the Lead Information Line at 264-5323 or e-mail leadinfo@cityofmadison.com for information.

The Utility report states, "If there is a lead water service line at a property or if a lead water service line has been removed, precautions should be taken while any lead pipe is still in service and for at least three years after the lead pipe is replaced." And since there seems to be no foolproof method to know if a particular residence with new pipes has consistently acceptable lead levels, all residences with new pipes should be attentive to the Utility's advice.

As quoted from the Utility's web site, the recommended precautions are as follows:

- Always flush the plumbing before drawing water for drinking, cooking, or preparing infant formula. Let water run from the cold tap for at least 30 seconds after it is noticeably colder than the first-draw water. This flushing process replaces water in the house plumbing and the service line with fresh water from the water main.
- To obtain hot water for food or drink preparation, always draw water from the cold-water tap, after having flushed the lines as described above, and heat it on the stove or in the microwave.
- Regularly remove faucet aerators and clean them, removing any particles caught in the screen.
- If you have a water filter (plumbed-in, tap-attached, or carafe-type), replace the filters frequently—at least as often as the manufacturer recommends.
- Consumers in households with small children, or with a woman who is pregnant or who may become pregnant, may, as an extra precaution, decide to filter water or to purchase purified water for drinking and preparing infant formula. If you buy a water filter, be sure it is approved for removal of lead, and be sure to operate and maintain it according to manufacturer specifications. Consumer publications have reviews of filtering systems and products; the January, 2003 issue of *Consumer Reports* rated models of five types of commercially available water-filtering systems—carafes, faucet-mounted models, undersink models, reverse-osmosis models, and whole-house (point-of-entry) models.
- If you are concerned about the lead levels in your tap water, have your water tested by a certified lab.
- Talk to and follow the advice of your physician or your child's pediatrician about lead health hazards and blood lead levels.

—*Mary Neidermeier*

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

How the Regent Neighborhood Can Close the Ever Evolving Cultural Divide

The Regent Neighborhood Association (RNA) has a great opportunity to maintain traditional neighborhood values in the future with a Madison Neighborhood Planning Grant. How can the lil' ol' RNA close cultural divides and keep up with Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) features of friendly neighbors, safety and progress? The answer is to develop new paradigms of solutions. We should begin by specifically targeting immediate areas and populations of concern. For example, consider home ownership for our elderly neighbors and neighbors with physical disabilities.

In 2000, the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Concerns stated that while the overall U. S. home ownership rate is approximately 67%, the National Home of Your Own Alliance reports that less than 5% of people with disabilities who receive social security income benefits own their own homes.

How in the world can we provide home ownership to such an economically disadvantaged population? Personally I know it can be done because I did it. We begin with a vision of what we as a neighborhood want, and goals as stated above.

Where can RNA start?

- 1) We can "ready the neighborhood" by making current public buildings like Randall School accessible to students and parents in wheelchairs. It is currently noncompliant.(compliance with legal requirements should be a top priority)
- 2) We could welcome others (including diverse populations) to our neighborhood with signs introducing the RNA. This prepares our neighborhood for our targeted population with a positive attitude.
- 3) We could provide input from your unique perspectives to the RNA plan for the future.

With this open, accepting process, RNA would not be able to use the excuse of ignorance to make dumb decisions like NOT making homes "visitable" like Middleton Springs houses or leaving sidewalks out of our medical neighbors in Doctors Park!

The above decisions systematically redline our targeted neighbors. Neighbors with disabilities and elderly neighbors become second class citizens. With no local choices, potentially diverse neighbors are ghettoized which leads to exponential bad results like crime and lack of education.

In the next 10 years the baby boom generation will be retiring. Won't their ambulatory, visual and audio needs be similar to neighbors with disabilities? Shouldn't we plan for that? Shouldn't we be able to die with dignity in our homes near friends in communities we love? Shouldn't home builders build for that? You bet we should!

My hope in writing this article is to increase awareness of how to maintain traditional neighborhood values in the future by beginning the process of changing paradigms of thought about evolving needs of diverse neighbors. Let's begin this process in our RNA plan NOW!

—Jerry Vogt



FROM KATHLEEN FALK—COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Budget Protects Public Safety and Human Services

Budgets are about more than numbers. They are about values and priorities. Our 2005 county budget of \$413 million controls property taxes, improves human services, enhances public safety and preserves our lakes and natural resources.

We held, again, to a tough standard—to limit a property tax increase to the rate of population growth plus inflation, 3.49% this year. You can expect elected officials to work together for the common good, and that is what we did. Your property tax assessment falls from \$2.89 to \$2.70 per thousand dollars of assessed value. As an example, the average county property tax on a Madison home of \$205,859 produces an increase of \$6.86.

The Sheriff's budget gains \$3 million in local taxes, outpacing the increase in the budget as a whole. To reduce traffic accidents and fatalities—where we are sadly a leader in the state—we create a new Traffic Safety Team. We also worked out a yearlong lease of 30 cells in Sauk County's new jail, at a reduced rate per cell, to significantly assist the Sheriff in reducing overcrowding and shipping costs for jail inmates.

Our Human Services Department worked hard to qualify for \$4 million in new federal and state dollars for the good work we do for our seniors, families in distress and citizens with physical, mental and developmental disabilities. The department proposed to me a budget that was \$4 million more than last year, including \$900,000 more for citizens with mental illness.

Working with leaders on the County Board, I added another \$1 million in services. High school graduates with developmental disabilities will continue to

receive vocational and other supportive services as they leave the school system at age 21. Hard-working employees of our Purchase of Service agencies will see their wages rise to \$9.07 per hour - about \$4 more per hour than the state and federal minimum wage. In addition, those who make just above the county living wage taking care of people in their own homes will see a 1% cost of living wage increase—a \$410,000 item.

Funding that the federal government cut for our successful Drug Court is restored with local tax dollars in my budget. Elder abuse services are strengthened by hiring another full time elder abuse social worker to investigate reports of physical, mental and financial abuse of elderly residents. For the wonderful volunteers who deliver meals to seniors, and take them to appointments, we increase their mileage reimbursement in this time of high gas prices.

And on the environmental front, I continue our commitment to quality of life by funding the Conservation Fund to carry out our citizens' 1999 referendum vote to invest in precious lands that we can all enjoy forever. The budget also supports measures to clean our lakes, rivers and streams, and creates a first-time pilot program to reduce the litter and sediments dumped into our lakes by old storm sewers.

Keeping Dane County a great place to live, while keeping a close watch on taxes, is my continued commitment. Please keep telling me your priorities.



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FROM DAVE CIESLEWICZ - MAYOR

It seems hard to believe that we've been in office now for 20 months. We have accomplished a lot in that time:

- During the campaign we said we'd create more affordable housing in Madison. Nine months into office we passed the most innovative inclusionary zoning ordinance in the country, only the second in the Midwest.
- We said we would have a local minimum wage. Less than a year into office we became only the fifth city in the nation to have its own minimum wage.
- We said we would work to build Madison's first municipal swimming pool. Thanks to the generosity of the Goodman Brothers we will break ground on that project this summer.
- We said we would work better with the county and with surrounding jurisdictions. The paramedic agreement we put in place has reduced response times by an average of seven minutes and saved lives. The unification of city and county health departments is going forward after six years of inaction.
- We said we would care for the environment. Two months ago, a task force I appointed issued a blueprint to make Madison the greenest, most energy efficient city in America. To protect the lakes we've enacted a phosphorous ban and invested in more street cleaning equipment.
- We said we could be both progressive and pro-business. In May, we issued the Healthy City economic development model, rooted in the idea that successful economies are based on the liberal values of investing in the public realm and sensible regulation that protects workers and our environment. Good government promotes everyone's quality of life and the health of our community in every way and that's good for our economy.

There is a new spirit of optimism in Madison. The idea that we are a city that can move forward, tackle tough issues and come together on progressive solutions that serve as national models is taking hold. We are keeping our promises.

And there's something else going on. The results of the elections at the national and state levels underscore something I've felt for awhile now: local governments are where progressive policies can actually happen. We are not apologizing for

Madison's liberal tradition. We are building on it. This is a city that *Forbes Magazine* calls the best place in America to do business. That's no accident. Rather than continuing the disgraceful race to the bottom that is happening in so many other places, those policy makers should look to Madison and our liberal traditions and ask themselves if those policies aren't right for them. Liberalism works and it's time we said so.

I'm enjoying this job tremendously. Every day I get up eager to get to work and to make more progress, to try new things and to improve the quality of life for everyone in Madison. I know I wouldn't be here without your help. The campaign we ran in 2003 was remarkable because we won with the grassroots alone. That hasn't changed. I still need your help.

Thank you for the trust you placed in me when you helped me with my election twenty months ago. I hope that I have lived up to your hopes for my administration. I hope that you agree with me that our home, Madison, is a better place because of the progress we have made together.

—*Dave Cieslewicz*
Mayor of Madison



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Registration Form

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Your full name: _____ Adult #2 full name: _____

Your email: _____ Adult #2 email: _____

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Your occupation: _____ Adult #2 occupation: _____

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Interested in volunteering. Please contact me.

2. Children

(Optional) List any children at home and jobs they'll do:

(B) Babysitting • (O) Odd Jobs • (P) Pet Walking • (S) Snow Shoveling • (Y) Yard Work

<u>Child's name</u>	<u>Birth M/Y</u>	<u>Jobs (circle)</u>	<u>Child's name</u>	<u>Birth M/Y</u>	<u>Jobs (circle)</u>
_____	_____	B O P S Y	_____	_____	B O P S Y
_____	_____	B O P S Y	_____	_____	B O P S Y

3. Dues

Dues enclosed (check payable to RNA) — Check one: \$10 – Family \$5 – Individual

4. To Register

Mail completed form and membership dues to: Regent Neighborhood Association
Attn: Membership
PO Box 5655
Madison WI 53705

Questions? Contact Karen Carlson at kcarlson2@wisc.edu or 233-7989.

Thank you! Your involvement keeps our neighborhood thriving.