



Regent Neighborhood

ASSOCIATION

Fall 2010 Newsletter | www.regentneighborhood.org

Molding the Future of the University Avenue Corridor

What are three words that come to mind when you think of Old University Avenue?

- Vibrant
- Artistic
- Thriving

Not quite the words you were thinking? A partnership of the City of Madison, Regent Neighborhood residents, and the business community along the street are in the beginning stages of transforming the one-mile corridor from Breese Terrace to Farley Avenue into a place where people want to live, work, and shop. To come up with a future concept for the street, several information-gathering sessions have been undertaken to stimulate people's thinking of what could be:

- In late June, Madison Arts Program Coordinator Karin Wolf conducted a Design Charrette with neighbors to pinpoint five locations that could use a facelift and to come up with solutions to improve their appearance.
- Perspectives and suggestions were gathered at the RNA Kick-off Meeting in May, the RNA 4th of July Festival, the September 16th community-wide Open House, and through face-to-face interviews with several business owners located on University Avenue.

(continued on page 3)

RNA Fall Open House Focus on the Historic University Avenue Corridor

Wednesday, December 1, 2010
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Best Western InnTowner
2424 University Avenue

7:00 pm - Social hour – refreshments

7:15 pm - Presentation by the City, Alder and RNA board on historic University Avenue Corridor plan, to date.

7:30 pm - Opportunity to provide feedback on vision, density, heights, setbacks, parking, and University Avenue set for resurfacing and Highland Avenue set for reconstruction in 2011.

8:45 pm – RNA board presentation on board happenings and finances. ■

Join the RNA Listserv —
see back page for more info

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Presidential Musings—

The quandary of change — what's a neighborhood to do about the pressures of commuter car traffic?

Fight it? Roll with it? Hide from it? While it is a cliché, change is inevitable, and we need to decide as a neighborhood how to deal with it.

As the RNA president since March 2009, I have seen change look our neighborhood in the face, and have witnessed all the natural reactions — to fight, to flee, and to plan.

In my opinion, the increasing volume of commuter traffic that uses our neighborhood as a cut-through is one of our biggest challenges. And while this has been an issue for years, the data from the city says the volume of car traffic continues to rise, with increased projections in the coming years.

In an ideal world, commuters to or from the UW campus area or downtown would use Midvale Avenue and University Avenue/Campus Drive. However, we continue to have those — especially in construction season — that use the Regent Neighborhood as a shortcut. Is there anything we can do, short of putting gates on the neighborhood?

Well, yes, there is an option — to plan for and implement traffic calming measures that reduce the speed and convenience of using our neighborhood side streets. When a shortcut has traffic stops or physical attributes that slow traffic, it may not be as attractive to commuters. Think of the change to Wingra Drive, near the zoo and St. Mary's Hospital — a former shortcut changed by the use of traffic calming measures.

However, those same attributes that discourage commuter traffic are also discouraging to many that live in the neighborhood. Are we ready to face these fundamental issues?

- Is the neighborhood willing to live with some inconveniences in order to calm and discourage commuter traffic?
- Are you personally willing to deal with these changes for the greater good of your fellow neighbors?
- Are you willing to be inconvenienced to allow bikers and pedestrians a safer passage?
- By implementing traffic calming measures, can we encourage other forms of transportation — by bus, by bike, and on foot?

We need to address these issues as we move ahead with the Kendall Bike Boulevard, traffic calming in the Franklin Street (west-end) area, the total reconstruction of Highland in 2011, and the resurfacing of Old University Avenue.

I hope you will join me in embracing the need to plan for change; it will happen with us actively engaged, or not. However, the end of the story will be radically different depending on the path we choose. ■



*RNA Board President
Darsi Foss*

Molding the Future of the University Avenue Corridor — continued from page 1

Further open houses will occur before the draft of the plan is submitted to the RNA Board for approval. Alder Bidar-Sielaff will introduce the plan to the Common Council only after it has been approved by the RNA Board.



June 30th Design Charrette



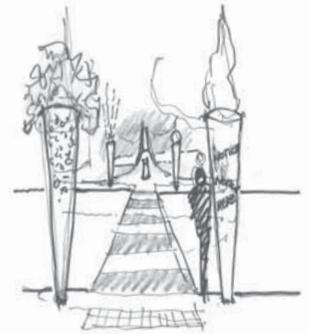
Table at July 4th Festival

Talk of the Town

This summer was a time where neighborhood artists strolled down Old University Avenue to visualize some creative solutions for the streetscape. The Design Charrette provided the impetus for five groups of artists from the neighborhood to generate aesthetic, artistic, and trendy concepts to:

www.regentneighborhood.org

- Draw attention to the Alicia Ashman Pedestrian Bridge through artistic features, maximize the potential green space, and install seating areas.
- Improve the sense of arrival to University Avenue off of Campus Drive through artwork, a pedestrian park or urban oasis.
- Enhance the Highland and Walnut bridge faces by affixing metal artwork and using the interior blank walls as a canvas for murals or artistic lighting.
- Use long spans of building walls creatively to provide a unique visual interest such as living plant hangings, textured applications, or soft light projected onto the walls.
- Promote sustainable practices, alternative energy sources, and innovative storm water management practices, by greening the corridor with rain gardens and artistic bus shelters, bicycle racks, and pedestrian benches.



Concept for Alicia Ashman Bridge

Examples of Design Solutions:



(continued on page 4)

Molding the Future of the University Avenue Corridor — continued from page 3

The Wisconsin State Journal highlighted this resident-based effort, as well as posed the question of what new identity will emerge for the street. The full article may be viewed at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/OldUniversity/documents/WSJ081210.pdf>. In the next several months, the discussion of branding, creating a unified theme, for the street will be explored.

Building on the Foundation

University Avenue and the adjacent neighborhood have been in place for more than a century. Changes have occurred, mostly on the north side of the street, and it is expected changes will continue to occur in the future as buildings become obsolete. In the next few months, we will tackle the issues of land use, building design, and how to change the physical environment to make the neighborhood a more pedestrian-friendly street. The **December 1 Open House** at the Inntowner will provide different concepts on how this could happen in a way that would complement the character of the Regent Neighborhood. Preliminary thoughts include:

- Strengthen the neighborhood-oriented commercial core at Highland and University Avenue (2400-2500 blocks). Neighborhood-oriented businesses are essential to the ambience, attractiveness, and health of the overall residential area. How can we retain and attract new businesses in a business district that has limited visibility, parking, and growing competition from retailers to the west? One-hour restricted parking spaces, an improved public parking lot, and new commercial storefronts are some of the recent suggestions.
- Building height has been a hot point of conversation, with clear distinction of lower height buildings on the south side and taller buildings on the north. Which height and features (such as setback from the sidewalk) would best fit into the existing built-up environment?

- Consumption of energy in older buildings, either commercial or residential, can be reduced by the use of green building practices. Retrofitting existing buildings so they are more energy efficient, planting shade trees to keep buildings cooler, or installing rain gardens or edible gardens can help bring sustainability practices to this corridor.

Want to become more familiar with what residents and the business community have voiced thus far in the process? Go to the UAC project website (www.cityofmadison.com/planning/OldUniversity/) to review the information to-date and react to what has been proposed by dropping us clear, concise comments.

Now is the Time to Act
The RNA Board, City of Madison, and policymakers believe it is essential to have community-wide input in the planning process. You're invited to the **December 1 Open House** at the Best Western Inntowner, 2424 University Avenue at 7:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for you to comment on the preliminary strategies and recommendations of the University Avenue Corridor Plan. ■

How To Get Involved

- **Attend Open Houses and Design Workshop.** The next Open House is at December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Best Western InnTowner, 2424 University Avenue.
- **Receive announcements and updates** by subscribing to City of Madison My Account for University Avenue Corridor Plan at <https://my.cityofmadison.com/>.
- **See project description, photos, maps, and other information** on the University Avenue Project website at: www.cityofmadison.com/planning/OldUniversity/
- **Send comments** to Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff at district5@cityofmadison.com or Jule Stroick, Neighborhood Planner at jstroick@cityofmadison.com.

Contributing authors: Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, District 5 Alder, John Schlaefer, RNA Board Member, and Jule Stroick, City of Madison Planning Division



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2500 University Avenue Development Project — Mullins' Group

As many of you are aware, the Mullins' Group is moving ahead with its plans to develop their properties on the north side of University Avenue (the properties surrounding Lombardinos).

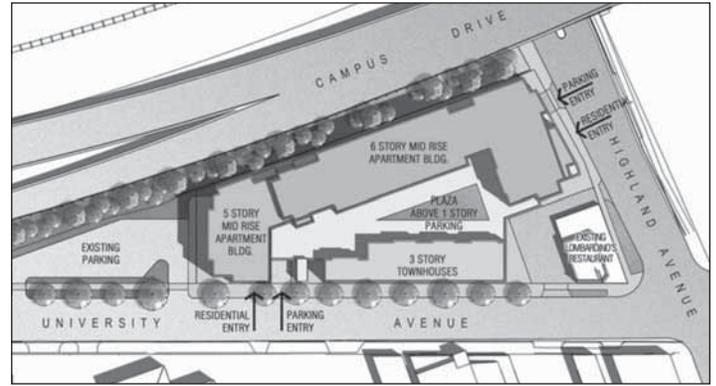
They have hosted four neighborhood meetings about their proposal, with includes apartments and commercial space on the ground floor. (See image at right. Image as of press time — please check 2500block.com for the latest drawings.)

To find out more about the plans, please visit their website at: <http://2500block.com> for project goals, timeframes, drawings, and other information.

At the time of the publication of this newsletter, they were slightly delayed in formally submitting their plans to the city — estimated submittal times were late October or early November. Once they formally submit their proposal, the RNA board and Alder Bidar-Sielaff will host a meeting for neighbors to weigh-in on the final plans.

The Mullins' Group plans to seek the RNA board's official feedback at the October 27 or November 17 RNA board meeting. The comments received at the first four Mullins' Group meetings, and the meeting hosted by the RNA and Alder will help inform the board and Alder Bidar-Sielaff about the project.

Once the RNA board provides its comments, it will also provide written comments to the Urban Design Commission, the Plan Commission, and the Common Council through our Alder.



Individuals also have the opportunity to provide input to the official city approval process by sending their comments to relevant committees and/or attending a meeting where the 2500 University Avenue development is on the agenda. You can access the calendar by going to <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/calendar/> - current

If you submit comments, the RNA board and Alder Bidar-Sielaff would welcome a copy of those comments. You can email them to Shiva at district5@cityofmadison.com or to Darsi Foss, the RNA president, at darsi@tds.net.

Please make sure you are signed up for the RNA's Google listserv, as we'll keep the neighborhood informed through emails and postings to the RNA's Google website and calendar. ■

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District 5 Alder Report — Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

Really? Fall already? Spring and Summer flew by, with lots going on in our neighborhood, from road construction to development proposals and a long anticipated Olive Jones/Randall School Park renovation. Here is an update on District 5 and city issues:



*Shiva Bidar-Sielaff,
Alder, District 5*

Traffic/Parking/Bike/ Pedestrian Issues

- Digital speed reader boards: In late September, Traffic Engineering installed a permanent speed display board eastbound on Regent at Roby. I hope this will help slow down drivers and make for a safer school/pedestrian zone.
- Yellow curb and pedestrian crosswalk painting: I have continued to work closely with Traffic Engineering to make sure that these visual reminders continue to be emphasized in our neighborhood.
- University Avenue/Campus Drive Intersection reconstruction project ended just a few weeks ago. It included the addition of a traffic light on the westbound side, larger and reconfigured islands to allow for safer pedestrian crossing and the addition of a bicycle lane.
- Kendall Bike Boulevard: Kendall Ave has been a designated a bike route for over a decade and was designated as a future bike boulevard in the City's Platinum Bike Report in 2007. The Kendall Bike Boulevard is well on its way to being fully implemented.
- September 20 neighborhood meeting on traffic calming and safety enhancement measures in the area delineated by Farley Avenue/Franklin Avenue & Regent Street/University Avenue: the RNA Board and I held a well-attended and spirited neighborhood meeting to discuss ideas and suggestions on mitigating speed and traffic issues in this area of the neighborhood. I am in the process of compiling the feedback received at this meeting and will further engage the neighborhood in decision making on next steps.

University Avenue and Highland Avenue Construction, Preparing for 2011

At a neighborhood meeting held on September 28, City staff outlined the plans for:

- Resurfacing University Avenue from Grand Avenue to Breese, including Walnut Street, Forest Street, and Paunack Place

- Phase 1: Grand Avenue to Allen Street. Timeline: April – Mid-June
- Phase 2: Allen Street to Breese Terrace. Timeline: Mid-May – August
- Full reconstruction of Highland Avenue. Timeline: Mid-June – Early September (during MMSD break)

Additional details appear in a separate newsletter article on this topic.

Clean Streets/Clean Lakes Program

In late July, after a number of months of work with Traffic Engineering and Streets Department to expand this program to District 5, the Clean Streets/Clean Lakes program was implemented in many parts of our neighborhood. The Clean Streets/Clean Lakes Program prohibits parking one morning a week on blocks with no alternate side parking to get cars off the street so snow plows and street sweepers can access the curb on both sides of the streets once a week.

Wisconsin Energy Institute (1552 University Ave.)

This project was approved by the City Council on September 7, 2010 after a number of changes were made to the original proposal based on neighborhood feedback, alder, city planning staff and city committee recommendations. A copy of the City's official letter of approval and conditions can be found at: <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/attachments/165dc80c-48b2-4d18-93d1-20e23ed929d1.pdf> Construction is slated to start in late 2010 with expected completion in the Fall of 2012.

City Budget

The City Budget is one of the most significant responsibilities of the City Council. We will be debating and adopting the budget November 16 through 18. The proposed budget is available at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm>.

Other extremely critical issues that I have been working on along with the Regent Neighborhood Association Board and neighbors are covered in other articles in this newsletter, thus, to keep the reading short and exciting, I will just name them here: the redevelopment of the 2500 block of University Avenue (aka the Mullins project), the University Avenue Corridor Plan, and the Olive Jones/Randall School Park Renovation.

There are also of course other important city issues such as the high speed rail, the Central Library, the Downtown Plan, the Zoning Code Rewrite, our Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the City development process, and the Alcohol License Density Ordinance. If you are interested in any of these issues and would like more information, let me know. I am always happy to sit down with neighbors to discuss any city issues.

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Kendall Avenue Bike Boulevard

By now you may have seen the Kendall Avenue Bike Boulevard signs — the branding effort is targeted at informing both cyclists and motorists that the designated segment of Kendall Avenue is a “different” facility from those throughout the rest of the neighborhood. Since it is new and different, there is some confusion on both cyclists and motorists on how to behave on the Bicycle Boulevard.

In general, cyclists and drivers don't always get along. A poll in Washington state cited on the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin's website showed that 42 percent of drivers are “somewhat uncomfortable” driving around bicycles and 20 percent are “very uncomfortable.” This is a sizable chunk of the traveling public.

The signs on Kendall now say “Bicycles May Use Full Lane.” Obviously this is a departure from most common bicycle placements. Wisconsin law requires bicyclists to ride “as close as practicable” to the right of the road on all other roadways. On the Bicycle Boulevard however, this is not required. Once the city completes its striping plan it will be more obvious. However for now, there are several key principles that should be followed:

For Motorists

- Drivers need to be aware that bicycles are allowed in the traffic lane. Here on the Bike Boulevard (and elsewhere), bicycles are considered vehicles. They belong on the road — and have a right to travel in the traffic lane.
- Riding two abreast is permitted in Wisconsin on any street as long as other traffic is not impeded, according to state statute. On the Bicycle Boulevard this remains the case — and may be more prevalent.
- Motorists should treat a bicycle as they would any other slower moving vehicle. If there is ample room to pass, that is allowed. There is no requirement that the bicycle move over. Most riders (just like most drivers) will allow this overtaking maneuver. Honking, cursing, or revving an engine behind a bicycle is likely to cause more problems.
- Motorists should not turn right in front of a cyclist going straight in the same direction. Wait for straight-moving traffic to pass before making a right turn. Signal your turn, allow bicycle traffic to clear, and merge as far right as possible before turning. Don't overtake a bicycle only to immediately turn right. Eliminate the potential conflict.
- Once parked, make sure no bicycle is approaching before swinging open your vehicle door. Having



Traffic diverter at the Kendall and Franklin entrance to the Bike Boulevard. Two-way traffic for bicycles, one-way westbound for vehicles.

- been “doored” before, I can attest that it is very painful. Look first, then open the door. Just like you would for automobile traffic. And technically, it is against the law to open your door “without first taking due precaution to ensure that his or her act will not interfere with the movement of traffic or endanger any other person or vehicle.”
- If you see a person operating a bicycle in a way that seems unsafe or illegal, do not use your car to “scare them straight.” Do get a description of the person in question and report their behavior to the police.

For Cyclists

- Most importantly, the Bicycle Boulevard does not give a cyclist the right to be a jerk. Bicycles are vehicles; operators must obey all traffic signals and signs the same as if they were driving a car. That means coming to a complete stop at stop signs and yielding to traffic on the right at uncontrolled intersections. We're working on treatments to help at the uncontrolled Chamberlain/Kendall intersection, but hills and other variables there do not allow an easy solution.
- Cyclists should ride in the full lane — pinning yourself to the right will only make it harder for vehicles to see you as they emerge between parked cars from hilled and hidden driveways.
- When an automobile is approaching, do move to the right out of courtesy, not necessity. Allow a vehicle to pass.
- Be alert for vehicles pulling out from driveways or parking spots.
- Be aware of uncontrolled intersections.

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Bike Boulevard — continued from page 7

- Yield to pedestrians — just like you would be expected to in a car.
- Use lights at night and when you would use them in a car. Wear bright clothing or reflective vests.
- Wear a helmet.
- Audibly notify slower moving cyclists when you pass. Use a bell or say “Passing on your left”. Never pass — a car or a cyclist — on the right.
- Use appropriate signals to make drivers and other cyclists aware of your intentions.

Upcoming Bike Boulevard Considerations

The City still intends to stripe a “sharrow” — a pavement marking that will show roughly where bikes are expected to travel and remind motorists that this is a shared facility. Wayfinding signs will be included in the near future as well — these will tell riders distances to favorite locations and also provide some directional guidance. Finally, an extension of the facility to the length of Bluff is planned. So the Bike Boulevard is not yet complete, but getting a lot closer.

Share and Be Aware

I recently heard a presentation from Greensboro North Carolina talking about their city’s efforts to make their roadways more bike and pedestrian friendly. They’ve adopted the logo on the right —the important part is the concept of co-existing.



The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin has an extensive effort targeting the same shared space concept. Share & Be Aware is a campaign to educate bicyclists and motorists about their responsibilities for ensuring each others’ safety on the road. Their website has an extensive list of regulations and videos to help ensure that bikes and cars can all just get along.



For more information be sure to visit:

- <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/safety/vehicle/bicycle/rules.htm>
- http://www.bfw.org/education/index.php?category_id=4659
- <http://www.gsosharestheroad.org> ■

— Jason Bittner, Streets & Transportation Chair



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Olive Jones/Randall School Playground Dedication and Plans for Phase 2

On September 8th, a beautiful sunny day, Randall Elementary students celebrated the installation of innovative new playground equipment. They were joined by their parents, the mayor, the superintendent of schools, other city and school officials, and representatives of all the major donors to the playground fundraising campaign.

Campaign Chair Alison Alter praised the hard work and generosity of the many individuals and organizations, that empowered us to complete Phase 1 of the project only shortly after launching the fundraising campaign. Led by honorary co-chairs Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and Principal John Wallace, this first step was made possible by the generosity of the PTO, the City of Madison and the Parks Division, five corporations (Group Health Cooperative, Spectrum Brands, MG&E, Meriter Hospital and UW Health), the Regent Neighborhood Association, and over 200 individual and business donors.

Students gave speeches, demonstrated the new equipment, and sang a thank-you song composed for the occasion. The renovated playground was then dedicated to the children of Randall School — past, present, and future — and to the children of the neighborhood. The event concluded with popsicles for all the students, provided by Tallard Apartments.

The “Play, Gather, and Grow” campaign now continues into Phase 2, which will include a playground designed for younger children, an amphitheater for community events and outdoor classroom experiences, a mural, better landscaping, more attractive fencing, and improved pedestrian entrances and ADA accessibility. The final phase will upgrade the remaining fencing and the large paved surface.

We are currently working with the parks division to finalize the design for Phase 2 and to update the budget accordingly. Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff is working with the mayor to request money from the development impact fee fund (\$50,000) and the



Students demonstrate the new playground equipment

“People for Parks” matching fund program (\$50,000). Together we will need to raise another \$100,000 in private funds for Phase 2, so we are not done yet! Stay tuned for more developments as we Play, Gather and Grow at Olive Jones Park.

We invite you to get involved. To donate and/or learn more visit <http://www.randallschoolpark.org/>. To volunteer, email randallschoolpark@gmail.com. You also can join the conversation on Facebook. ■

— Marcia Vandercook
School Relations Chair

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Alder Report — continued from page 6

Thank you for your continued involvement in neighborhood and city issues. I feel honored to represent our wonderful neighborhood on the City Council. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, and/or concerns. I can be reached at district5@cityofmadison.com or (608) 220-6986.

2011 Reconstruction:

University Avenue and Highland Avenue

Information shared at September 28, 2010 Public Informational Meeting by City Engineering and Traffic Engineering Staff

Purpose of Project:

- Replace the deteriorating pavement on University Avenue and Highland Avenue.
- Replace the deteriorating City underground utilities.
- Provide improvements for pedestrian access and safety.
- Provide on-street bike lanes to improve bike access and safety.

Project Limits:

University Avenue from Grand Avenue to Breese Terrace.

- Also includes Paunack Place, Forest Street from University to Kendall; and Walnut Street from University to Kendall Avenue; Highland Avenue from University Avenue to Regent Street.
- Also includes Van Hise Ave from Grand Street to Highland Ave.

Project Summary:

The existing University Avenue and Highland Avenue are 42-feet and 36-feet wide roadways with asphalt pavement. The pavement is currently in bad condition with a pavement rating of 5 or below out of 10. The proposed project will replace the entire asphalt surface and any damaged sections of curb and gutter and sidewalk.

The proposed project incorporates some design concepts for streetscape improvements as recommended during the recent and ongoing public planning process. The proposed improvements include enhanced pedestrian crossings at intersections and improvements for bike access and safety.

The proposed design includes one or two traffic lanes in each direction with portions of the roadway having on-street parking on one or both sides of the roadway. The proposed design also includes on-street bike lanes in each direction on portions of University Avenue.

Construction Impacts:

The project will be completed in phases to allow access to residents and businesses. University Avenue will have one eastbound lane of traffic maintained at all times in the construction zones.

Areas outside the current construction phase will be open to two-way traffic. Highland Avenue will be closed to through-traffic during its phase of construction.

Driveway access will be maintained as often as possible. For businesses with multiple drives, one driveway will be kept open while work is completed on the other. For businesses with one drive, the curb and gutter and drive apron will be constructed one-half at a time or other arrangements for access may be made.

Madison Metro bus service eastbound will be maintained throughout construction. With just one lane of traffic during University Avenue construction, traffic will be stopped while buses load and unload passengers during construction. The contractor will be required to maintain access through the work zone for the bus stops. Buses westbound on University Avenue and on Highland Avenue will be detoured during construction.

Traffic Control/Access:

- Phase 1 (University Avenue – Grand Ave. to Allen St.) Roadway will be closed except for one eastbound lane.
- Phase 2 (University Avenue – Allen St. to Breese Ter.) Roadway will be closed except for one eastbound lane.
- Phase 3 (Highland Avenue – University Ave. to Regent St.) Roadway will be closed to through- traffic.

Preliminary Project Schedule:

- April 2011 — Start work
- April – Mid-June — Phase 1 (University one lane eastbound)
- Mid-May – August — Phase 2 (University one lane eastbound)
- Mid-June – Early September — Phase 3 (Highland Avenue closed)
- September — Project Completion ■

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Southwest Bike Path Landscaping

By next summer, users of the Southwest bike path will notice a dramatic improvement in scenery at the Prospect Avenue ramp entrance to the path. A Neighborhood Grant from the city of Madison awarded to the RNA provided the boost that allowed for the purchase of bushes and flowers that will bring color, aromas, butterflies, birds, and the opportunity to pick raspberries and blackberries.

The RNA and the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association have been working together on the project. Both organizations contributed funds to the project. A total of 17 volunteers from both organizations participated in the effort in July to clear the site and in August to plant 32 bushes. Additional work sessions continued into September and October.

During construction of the bike ramps, the area was covered with five- to ten-inch rocks in order to control erosion issues that developed. The planting of each bush required the removal of more than a foot of rock, the cutting of thick landscape fabric and the removal of compacted gravel. Compost and dirt was then hauled to the planting site before the bush was planted.



The project is hopefully the start of continued joint RNA-DMNA landscape projects. Future potential landscape projects include the areas around the ramps at Harrison Street and Virginia Terrace. Anyone interested in joining in the effort to maintain the current Prospect Avenue project or future project contact Steve Arnold at 233-1784 or Jake Blasczyk at 251-9506. ■

— Steve Arnold, Greenspace Committee Chair

Garden Tour Set for 2011

The Garden Tour Committee is soliciting neighborhood gardeners who would like to show their gardens in the 2011 Tour. We would like a cluster of about a dozen gardens within easy walking distance of each other. If you would like to show your garden, we can help locate other nearby gardeners who might also like to be on the tour.

In the summer of 2009, the Tour gardens were clustered in the Eton Ridge-Hollister-Rowley portion of the Neighborhood. The Tour prior to that was in the Heights portion of the Neighborhood.

If you'd like to help with the planning of the Tour or volunteer for a few hours on the day of the Tour, contact us for that as well.

Pat Wood, 233 4680, pwood@wisc.edu
Ron Rosner, 238 1828, Rosner7@charter.net ■

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Dane County Board Report, District 10—

I hope this edition of the RNA newsletter finds you and your family well. As you read this, Dane County should almost be finished with its budget process. Early on, the County Executive asked agency heads to cut 5% from their FY2011 budgets. She proceeded to restore more than \$1 million to the Human Services budget in her budget released on October 1st.



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

One of the programs restored was funding for Common Wealth Development, a program that helps high school kids learn job skills through training and mentoring and was able to expand its program to Madison West in 2010. Additionally, the restoration of two social worker positions was made to the county's popular Joining Forces for Families neighborhood program.

On non-budget items, the County was able to reach an agreed upon plan with the County's cities, villages and towns to move forward on implementing interoperable emergency radio system that will conform to federal requirements. This will be a very important step in providing better coordination between emergency responders. The Board also passed a resolution to request that the combined Public Health department coordinate and hold more area MedDrops.

Finally, the Board is moving forward on securing a valuable portion of land to add to the Ice Age trail. Not only will the 131 acres complete a key section, but the Board played "hardball" with a land speculator to reduce the price and a DNR grant will pay for more than half the purchase price.

As always, please feel free to contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 608.577.9335 with specific questions and concerns. ■



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Regent Neighbors Welcome Students on a Beautiful Fall Evening

On an early September evening, a group of Regent neighbors teamed with police officers from Madison's South District to meet and greet our new student neighbors. This annual tradition, known as the Walk-About, is sponsored by the RNA and makes direct contact with students living on selected blocks of Regent, Breese Terrace, Lathrop, Hoyt, Van Hise, and Chadbourne.

Five teams of two Neighbors and one police officer went to each student residence and exchanged friendly greetings with the students. Responses were very positive. Students were provided with literature about the RNA, recycling, parking, tenant's rights, alcohol, noise, theft precautions, and a myriad of other issues. This year, students were also given information about the University Avenue corridor planning process and were invited to participate. The conversations concluded with our neighborhood police officers discussing responsible party behavior and how to respond if police are called to a residence to quell a disturbance.

I would like to thank those who joined me this year in the WalkAbout: Brent Sainsbury, Betsy Greene,

Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Joyce Knutson, Jean Parks, John Schlaefer, Jim and Mary Yockey, and Jon Miskowski. A huge thank you also goes out from our neighborhood to the South Madison district police officers who participated: Dave Dexheimer, Thai Xiong, Nick Ryan, Chee Lee, Jim Dexheimer, Andre Lewis, and Stephanie Bradley-Wilson.

If you are interested in participating in this event next year, please contact Laura Rose, UW Relations chair, RNA, at 238-4386 or ldykstal@yahoo.com. ■

— Laura Rose
UW Relations Chair



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Investing in our Neighborhoods—

In September, I introduced my capital budget to the Common Council. The capital budget includes long-term, infrastructure investments that the city borrows for. The operating budget includes the day-to-day operations and services the city provides.

My capital budget includes funding for a study of need for neighborhood centers.

There are at least three proposals on Madison's south and southwest side, and probably more in the works. This study will develop a comprehensive plan for how we meet the need for new or improved centers. My budget also includes \$3.5 million in 2012 for the construction of a center or centers.

Why is this investment in neighborhoods important? For the first time in recent history, there is no single seriously troubled neighborhood in Madison. We continue to work through issues on the southwest side, but most would agree that things are improving, in part thanks to investments we've made in youth programming and at the Meadowood Center.

We've learned from programs like these that a relatively small investment in the short term can prevent larger investments in the long term.

That is what I hope the investments in my capital budget will continue to do. And, it's why I hope to continue this theme in my operating budget.

Given the challenging economic climate, we know this will be an incredibly difficult operating budget. I will work to maintain basic services and wherever possible, to make smart investments in our neighborhoods.

Both the capital and operating budget will be considered by the Council and voted on the week of November 15. You can see my budget proposals, as well as a calendar of public hearings and votes on the budget by visiting the city's website at www.cityofmadison.com/comptroller/. And you can contact me with your input at mayor@cityofmadison.com. ■



Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

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Upcoming Events at West High School

WestFest/Regent Resale

Saturday, November 6, 9 am – 1 pm

As part of its fourth annual WestFest, Madison West High School's PTSO will have a huge rummage sale in the West High cafenadium. More than 40 vendors representing West clubs, artists, and sports will have handmade gifts, food items, jewelry, pottery, and other items for sale just in time for the holidays. Well-known companies like Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Lia Sophia, and others also will be part of the festival. The Regent Resale will include kid and youth sports equipment, gently used West gear, nice teen and adult clothes, electronic and board games, housewares, and much more. Face painting and other kiddie activities to keep the family busy while you shop! All proceeds to West High classrooms, clubs, and athletics. Donations can be made starting Nov. 3 in the TechEd area off the Van Hise teacher parking lot. For questions, contact Beth Swedeen at ineedmycoffee2@aol.com

We are soliciting contributions of "slightly used" items such as winter coats, teen clothing, holiday lights and ornaments, sports equipment and clothing, children's books and board games, video games and systems, toys, stereo equipment and newer CD's, collectible knickknacks, tableware, and others. For more information, to arrange for pick-up or drop off of donations, or to volunteer to help prior to or during the sale, please contact Deb Neff at kksladky@aol.com. Donations for the rummage sale will be accepted starting Wednesday, Nov. 3 at the school.

All proceeds benefit the West High PTSO and West clubs and athletics. ■

Schools of Hope

The **Schools of Hope** tutoring program has been at West High School for two years now. The program has been offered at Cherokee, Wright, and Toki Middle Schools for the last few years, so some of the 9th graders here at West High School may already know about it. Schools of Hope provides students who are struggling in core subjects with a tutor. As Tutor Coordinators, we find the volunteer tutors from the community and match them 1:1 with students. We can provide tutoring during study halls throughout the school day or after school. This year, our students have chosen the slogan "Take charge of your education!" for our program, and that correctly portrays how invested they are in the learning process.

We are currently in the process of recruiting volunteers who can commit to tutoring at least an hour a week, preferably twice a week, for an entire semester. You don't have to be an expert in any academic subject, because an orientation and on-going training are provided. However, we are looking for tutors who feel confident in Math and in English because we know these are the areas where students typically need the most help. If you enjoy supporting a young person as they are learning, then this is the perfect opportunity to help!

Please contact Schools of Hope Tutor Coordinators — West High: Danielle Borneman at dborneman2@madison.k12.wi.us, and Dion Johnson at dsjohnson@ulgm.org ■

Fall Regent Drama Club Production:

Steel Magnolias

November 5, 6, 12, and 13

Written by Robert Harling, directed by Holly Walker. Revolving around Truvy's Beauty Parlor in modern-day Louisiana, this is a story of a close-knit circle of friends whose lives come together there. ■

2010 Evergreen Sale

High quality, fresh balsam evergreen wreaths and garland, handmade in Northern Wisconsin and complete with red velour bows. Wreaths range from 24" to 60" (\$20 - \$60) and 25' Evergreen Roping-Garland (\$30). All proceeds go to support West Athletics.

Order Deadline: Sunday, November 14; Order Pickup: Sunday, November 21. For more information, please call Bob Emmerich, Past MWABA President, 220-7952 or visit mwaba.org ■

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Regent Neighborhood 4th of July Festival

{ see more at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rna-july4/>



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Presidential Hero Awards

A quick "thank you" to those that quietly contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood. I know I am missing folks, but here are some heroes:

July 4th Celebration:

- All you volunteers — thank you!!!
- The RagTag band and the drum majorette! Yowza.
- Steering committee: Maggie Coluccy, Brad Wolbert, Robin Worth, and Mary Sarnowski
- Super Troopers: Peg and Michael Cullen
- Steve Ventura and the People's Toyota Pickup
- P.T. McMahon and his magic camera
- Joe and his Egg Toss

RNA Membership Directory:

- Peg Cullen
- Pat McQuiddy
- Nora Cullen
- Mary Sarnowski
- Lynn Fortner

Does She Ever Sleep? Award:

- Shiva Bidar-Sielaff — for her tireless efforts on everything

Randall Playground/Olive Jones Park:

Wow. Wow. Wow!

- Alison Alter
- Marcia Vandercook
- Shiva
- Franklin-Randall PTO
- All other volunteers and donors
- City staff
- Foundation for Madison Public Schools
- Bring on Phase 2!

UW Relations:

Thanks to Laura Rose for taking on this assignment, and coordinating the "WalkAbout" with the new students on the east end.

And Everyone Else that did something or a lot of somethings for the neighborhood. Thank you. ■

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RNA Board Meeting Schedule

November 17

December 1*

January 26

February 23

March 23

April 27

May* - TBA

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are located at The Inntowner, 2424 University Avenue.

* Denotes neighborhood meetings

Events Calendar on RNA Web site

Wondering if there is a meeting and where it is, fret no longer. Check out the RNA Calendar of Events at <http://www.regentneighborhood.org/gpage12.html> ■

Shop Local, Really Local — The Regent Neighborhood!

One of the most interesting comments that came out of the May neighborhood open house was that one of the greatest strengths of our neighborhood is the many local businesses.

We'd like to keep these businesses going by challenging everyone in the neighborhood to "think local" when thinking of a retailer, grocer, service business, or other need.

So, whether the business resides in the Regent Neighborhood, the owner of the business does, or is one of our advertisers, please take this opportunity to support them. Check out the list at <http://www.regentneighborhood.org/gpage3.html> ■



"I Missed *What?*" Join Our Listserv!

Ever wonder how that interstate bypass got built in your backyard without you knowing it?

Well, you must not have been an active member of the Regent Neighborhood Association listserv, a place where the association posts all news about developments, neighborhood happenings, and city projects so we can get the word out quickly.

To sign up, go to the RNA web site and click on "new RNA listserv" in the menu bar on the left, or go to <http://www.regentneighborhood.org/gpage5.html>.

Don't be one of those folks that says "I didn't know." Get tuned in. It's free, and you can access it from any location. ■



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This newsletter is a tri-annual publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,700. The deadline for next edition is December 30, 2010. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood, discussions of local issues, personal interest stories, etc. Please address items or inquiries, or for current ad rates, to Mary Sarnowski, 238-1224, sarnowski@mac.com. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Regent Neighborhood Association.