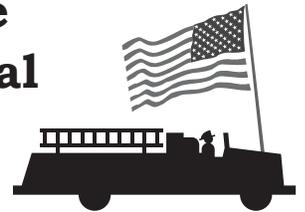


Regent Neighborhood

July 2023 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION

**The Regent Neighborhood Association
Invites You and Your Family to the
Neighborhood Fourth of July Festival
Tuesday, July 4, 2023 at
West High Athletic Field**



About Noon

Parade The festival kicks off with a parade led by our one-and-only Rag Tag Band. Kids of all ages—red-white-and-blue-tify your wheels and selves and line up at the corner of Regent St. and Grand Ave.

12:15 p.m.

Let the games begin! Good, old-fashioned fun brought to you by your neighbors. There'll be lots of home-made games, prizes, water balloons, catapult, cake walk, face painting, the famous Box Maze, and more.

Food! Brats, hot dogs, veggie dogs, soft drinks, and a dessert booth!

About 2 p.m.

Egg Toss Legendary Regent Market Egg Toss.

About 2:30 p.m. End of Festival

How You Can Participate

- Call an organizer and volunteer. See page 2 for details.
- Dust off your instrument and join the Rag Tag Band.
- Decorate your bikes and join the parade.
- Create and run a game.
- Bake a treat for the cake walk or the dessert booth.
- Play the games and have fun with your neighbors.
- Have a brat and toss an egg.
- Stop by the membership tent & join the RNA*



Thanks To Our Sponsors



***Join or renew your RNA membership online!
donorbox.org/rnamembership**

RNA 4th of July Festival — Volunteers Needed!

Contact Tehya Bersch at tehya.helen@gmail.com and check the RNA Listserv groups groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn for opportunities and updates.

Set up: Starts at 9 a.m. No need to sign up but it's appreciated if you contact Tehya.

Garbage: Do you live near the practice field? Are you willing to let us borrow your garbage can for the day? We'll empty it before we give it back. Contact Tehya.

Rag Tag Band*: Musicians, contact Marli Johnson, MStarCatch@aol.com or 271-1219.

Brat Stand: Brat grillers and sellers needed for 1-hour shifts. To volunteer to grill, contact Betsy. To volunteer to sell, contact Ron Rosner, rosner7@charter.net.

Beverage Stand: Beverage Stand Coordinator needed. Contact Tehya.

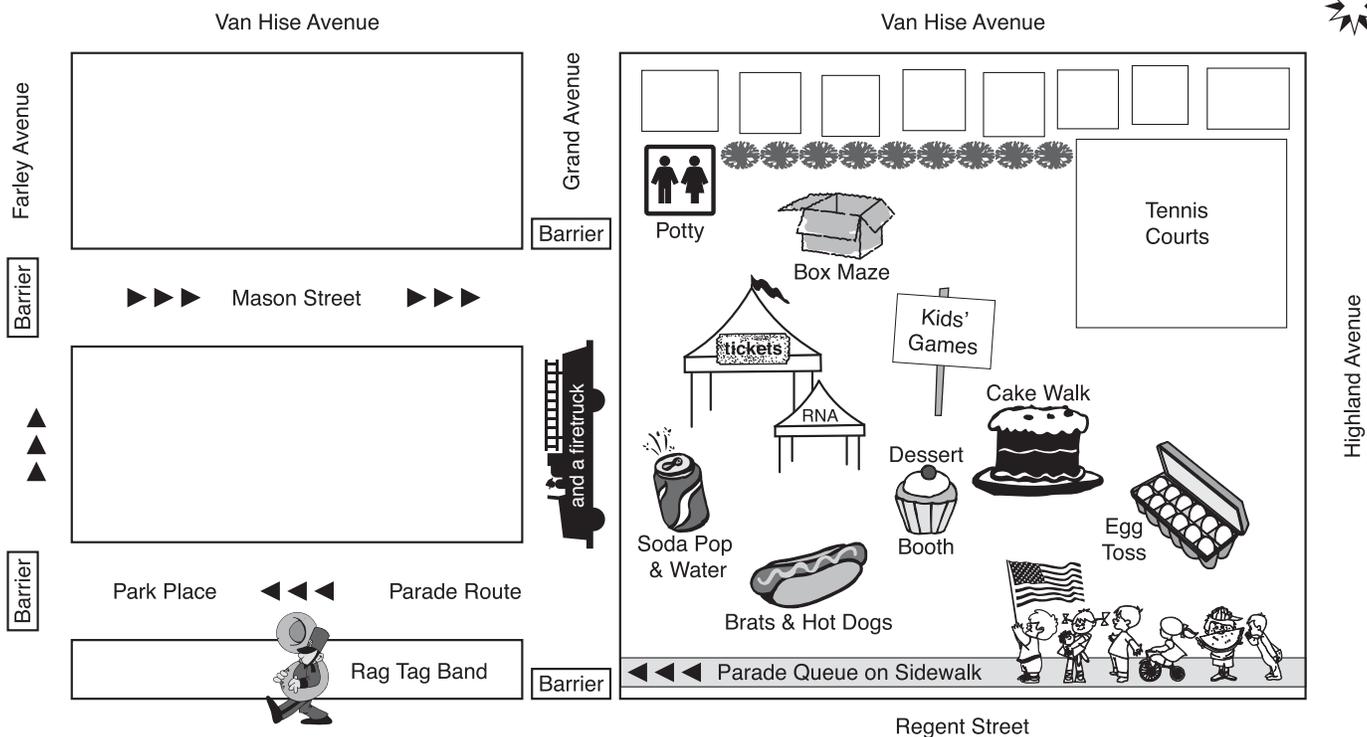
Games: Games Coordinator needed. Contact Tehya.

Gamesters: Create & run a game, split the profits with the RNA. Prizes provided. Contact Tehya.

Cake Walk: Coordinator needed. Volunteers for 1-hour shifts needed. Baked goods needed! Contact Tehya. Bring your baked goods to the field on Thursday.

Clean Up: With your help, it won't take long! No need to contact, just stick around after.

RNA Festival Map at West High Field



Please supervise children and let's celebrate safely.

* Band Members Welcome to join our Rag Tag Band this July 4th

Haven't played for a while? Not much experience? A real hot shot? All are welcome! On July 4th, the Regent Neighborhood Rag Tag Band proudly marches around the block then plays a fun concert on the West High athletic field. We begin with easy tunes for less experienced performers then graduate to intermediate pieces and a few show-off numbers. Rehearsals to be announced soon. Respond right away so that we can reserve your spot! Music available ahead of time. Questions? Email Marli Johnson, MStarCatch@aol.com, or call (608) 271-1219. ■

RNA Fourth of July Festival—How You Can Help

Hello! My name is Tehya Bersch, I am 15 years old, almost 16. I volunteered to organize the Regent Neighborhood Fourth of July party because I remember how much I enjoyed it as a child. I wanted to make sure that the picnic was shared with a new generation.



Tehya Bersch, this year's festival chair

I feel like keeping with tradition is important so expect to find the usual activities like the parade, cake walk, box maze and egg toss. As for food, the brat tent will be available. I will need volunteers to help—baking treats for the cake walk, running games (you can keep half the profits), and other aspects of the party, and staffing the brat tent.

One thing that I would like to add this year are prizes. To make things more environmentally friendly, I would like to collect prizes from the neighborhood that people could recycle, items that are unused or have been discarded, but in good



Donate your previously-loved toys and trinkets for use as prizes for this year's Fourth of July festival games.

condition. If you have any possible items, you can contact me to know where to drop them off.

I look forward to working with those who would like to participate. I can be reached by email at tehya.helen@gmail.com ■

Let's Picnic Again—Brian Parks

[Ed: It's been four years since we last gathered for the Regent Neighborhood's annual Fourth of July Picnic. But, fortunately, plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. At least, that's our take on coming across Brian Parks' letter to the Wisconsin State Journal, July 4, 2016, reprinted here with permission. His remarks seven years ago still stand. Read on.]

I have been a proud member of the Regent Neighborhood for over 20 years. Every year on the Fourth of July, we join communities nationwide to celebrate of our nation's birth.

Ours is a wonderfully simple event with children's bikes festooned in red, white and blue, and people of all ages and backgrounds donning the same. We enjoy brats and participate in egg tosses and cake walks—all with a general air of happiness and unity.

My favorite element of this get-together is the neighborhood band that provides a mix of celebratory classics. They are a small rag tag bunch, and I mean this in the most endearing and respectful manner possible. They are not the Boston Pops. But they are diverse, dedicated and fully representative of a nation that strives to achieve. As they finished with the "Star



*The Rag Tag Band leads the way in the festival parade.
photo: Sandra Witkauskas*

Spangled Banner," I reflected on what our country can accomplish when it works together in cooperative practice. In a time when divisive, confrontational and isolationist fervor seem to be growing like a nasty mold, perhaps those who lead our communities, states and nation should consider picking up instruments and taking aim together at a number by John Philip Sousa. ■



Regent Neighborhood Association

Regent Neighborhood Association
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Madison, WI 53705

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Graphic Design by Mary Sarnowski

A Note from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you all for your continued engagement in our neighborhood. I look forward to seeing you all at the RNA Fourth of July neighborhood celebration and to reconnecting in person after a three-year hiatus!

Wishing you a healthy and happy summer,

—Shiva



RNA Board President
Shiva Bidar

Upcoming RNA Board Meetings

- June 27, 2023
- August 22, 2023

The Regent Neighborhood Association Board typically meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Best Western InnTowner at 2424 University Avenue. Please check regentneighborhood.org for any changes. These meetings are open to the general public and agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to shivabidar@tds.net

Join the RNA Google Group—

For latest in the Regent Neighborhood news and conversations, join our Google Group by going to

groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn

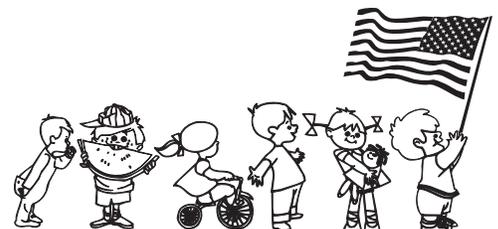
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Alder Report—District 5

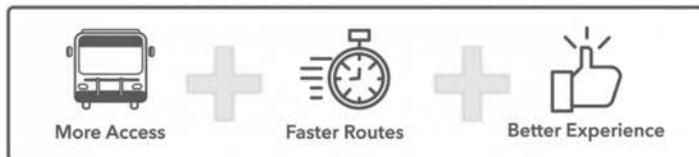
Madison Metro Redesign Takes Effect June 11

Having a baby. Starting a new job. Going on vacation. These are all changes in life we look forward to, yet they still come with significant challenges. The same will be true for the Metro Transit Redesign, which takes effect June 11.

Metro has not significantly changed its service in more than 20 years, when the transfer points were implemented. Hearing from riders, Metro came to understand the transfer points were inefficient, and, as transportation needs of the region changed, created more challenges than opportunities.

Metro has completely redesigned bus routes to take into consideration the changing needs of Madison riders, and better serve a majority of our community. The new system will provide more travel opportunities that don't require a transfer. However, when trips do require multiple routes, there may be several different locations that provide connection opportunities, such as routes traveling along the same stretch of roads or at a single stop where routes intersect.

While it's true that some people will find they have to walk or roll a bit farther to get to a neighborhood bus stop, most people will be able to reach more destinations with the new system. This new design is meant to simplify and streamline service for a faster and better experience.



How does the redesign relate to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)? The redesign will implement the East-West and North-South routes that will ultimately be improved once BRT is in place. Route A will travel every 15 minutes from Junction Road using Mineral Point Road, University Avenue, and Johnson Street to serve downtown and the Capitol, then continue along East Washington Avenue to serve Madison College, East Towne Mall and the East Madison Hospital, and return back again. Once BRT is implemented for Route A in 2024, the buses and stations will be larger and more efficient, therefore able to accommodate more riders, and dedicated bus lanes will be



Alder Regina Vidaver
Photo: Jeanine Schneider

incorporated onto our roads. Route B will travel from Fish Hatchery and Cahill Main, up Park Street and Johnson to reach downtown and the Capitol, then continue on East Washington before heading north along Packers Avenue and Northport Drive to reach the Central Wisconsin Center before returning again. Route B will also run every 15 minutes and is planned to be upgraded to a BRT route in 2026.

After this new redesigned service has been operating for a few weeks in June, staff will review rider and driver feedback to see if any minor tweaks need to be made in August, when the University of Wisconsin-Madison begins the fall semester, and ridership increases. Service adjustments will most likely be made again in December based on continued feedback.

Pick up a map booklet of the redesigned routes at any Madison library or go to Mymetrobus.com to use online trip planning options. Please consider using Metro for your daily, weekly, or monthly transportation needs to reduce congestion and carbon emissions in our community.

—Regina Vidaver, District 5 Alder
Madison Common Council
District5@cityofmadison.com
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Dane County Board Report—District 11

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that summer is off to a healthy start for you and your family, filled with gardening, grilling outside, camps and camping, or whatever activities bring you joy. I'll be spending a week in the Sylvania Wilderness in northern Minnesota, kayaking and hiking to my heart's content.



*Supervisor
Richelle Andrae*

The County Board of Supervisors has had a busy spring. We finally moved ahead with the long-standing contentious jail consolidation project, authorizing sufficient funding to get the project out to bid. It will take about four years to complete but result in a safer facility with more appropriate programming and medical/mental health space. In the area of justice reform, the county is also moving forward with a crisis triage center, which is a short-term facility for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. We also secured a significant national grant to plan a Community Restorative Court, which will create a new alternative to incarceration through a joint venture with the DA's office, judges, and community organizations.

The County is facilitating a Regional Housing Strategy to move the needle on addressing our

regional housing shortages. This group is comprised of many local municipalities, local business and non-profit leaders, and others who share a vision to increase housing access and affordability across the income spectrum. We have a lot of strategies underway already, but they only scratch the surface as the County is growing rapidly. I am especially concerned about older adults who aren't able to age in place as rents rise, and families seeking their first homes who are totally priced out of the market. Learn more at danecountyplanning.com/RHS

Another opportunity the County takes very seriously is moving toward clean energy. In April of this year, county facilities achieved 100 percent renewable energy with the implementation of a 33,000 solar panel field in Cottage Grove. This is a huge accomplishment worth celebrating! We are only the fourth county in the nation to achieve this milestone. We also continue significant efforts to improve the local watershed, including the Yahara Sediment Removal Project, which will be focused in Lower Mud Lake and Lake Waubesa. This will improve flow, and, paired with other strategies, mitigate flood risk.

As always, please reach out if you would like to learn more about the County's work or touch base on County Board and policy issues.

—Richelle Andrae

Dane County Board Supervisor, District 11
Andrae.richelle@countyofdane.com ■



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From Representative Shelia Stubbs—Wisconsin, Assembly District 77

Happy Summer, Neighbors!

The sun is shining on our beautiful Capitol, the lakes are warming, and the bountiful Dane County Farmer's Market is back in full swing. I love to see my constituents out and about, biking, hiking, and shopping local on Regent Street. It's been a busy May and there's no slowing down in June, so let me update you on some of the things I've been up to recently.

As much as I love our wonderful Madison community, I would be remiss not to mention some of the recent hardships our Black community members have faced. As you may know, in the beginning of May, a video of a UW-Madison student using volatile, racist rhetoric was released online. In response to this incident, our Black students organized peaceful protests and demanded action from the university. Unfortunately, this occurred during the final weeks of class, forcing many students to complete their required coursework while spending a vast amount of their energy combatting racism on campus.

As a representative of our flagship university, a member of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, and a proud Black policymaker with the goal of eradicating racism and racial disparities in Wisconsin, I am passionate about supporting all efforts to end racism on the UW campus. I offer my resources, guidance, advocacy, and support.

While the previous events unfolded, the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities convened on the campuses of UW-Eau Claire, UW-Oshkosh, and finally, at the State Capitol, to discuss Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In these meetings DEI programming was frequently attacked, with the goal of dismantling all DEI offices and initiatives across the University of Wisconsin System. These efforts are unacceptable, especially given the recent incident of racism on the UW-Madison campus. As I navigate spaces in which issues of racism and racial disparities are downplayed and considered insignificant, and as I witness students being constantly harmed by institutional and interpersonal racism, I remind everyone that there is so much work to be done to create safe, equitable, anti-racist



*Representative
Shelia Stubbs*

communities; communities that allow every person to grow and thrive, free from racial violence. Now is not the time to dismantle the programming in place that does the crucial work of supporting and protecting the rights and wellbeing of all students on campus. Now is the time to bolster these efforts and affirm our commitment to our Black children, Black students, and Black Wisconsinites. They are deeply valued and integral to the fabric of our communities.

Another update I'd like to share regards the recent passing of the underdeveloped, contentious shared revenue bill, Assembly Bill 245. There are many faults to this legislation, including that it facilitates the GOP attacks against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programming across our state. Local governments should be able to make their own decisions on how to fund DEI programming and address racial disparities in their communities. We know that Wisconsin boasts some of our nation's most profound racial disparities, and yet there are constant threats to the measures in place to mitigate this racism. I am a champion of DEI, and I will not settle for less than full racial equality, equity, and justice in Wisconsin.

Madisonians, I want you to know that you can always count on me to speak up in the face of harmful legislation, of blatant and covert racism. You can count on me to build a secure community where every person can find happiness and be supported to reach their fullest potential. I am honored to be your representative and I will always use the power you have conferred on me to make necessary change and enhance the wellbeing of our entire community.

—Shelia Stubbs:

Email: Rep.Stubbs@legis.wisconsin.gov

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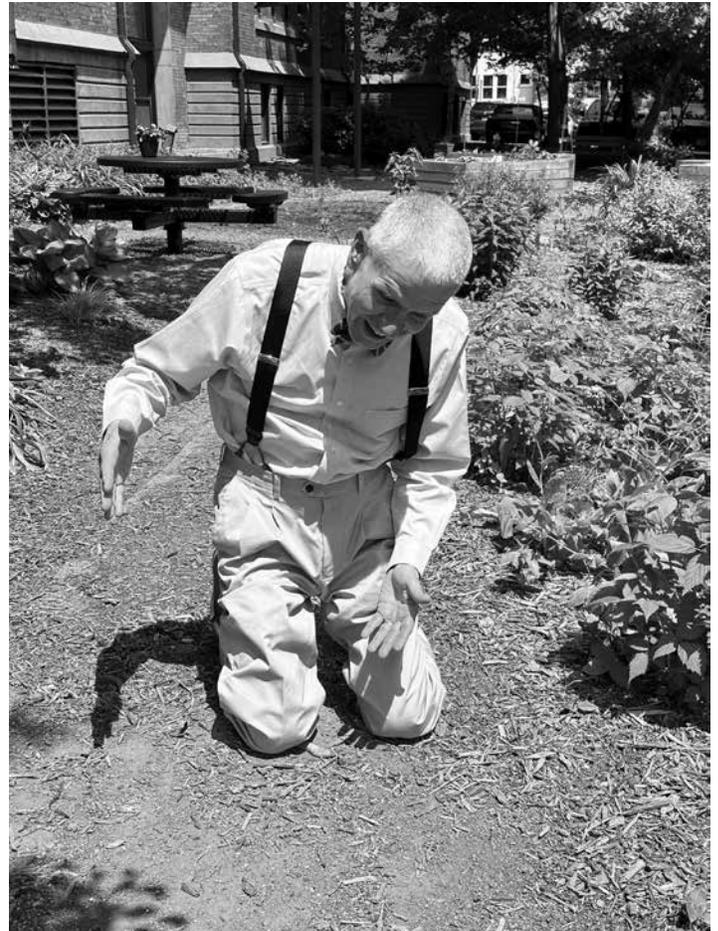
Greetings from Randall

One can get lonely in our building this time of year. I did enjoy some company in the school garden recently. I was joined by an army of ants erecting an impressive hill. I peered even more closely to see if they were perhaps wearing tiny yellow vests and hard hats. The mound-builders were indeed the epitome of work ethic and collaboration. Bent in awe of their skills and perseverance, I was overcome by pangs of guilt as I reflected on actions taken when I was a child. When I came across such formations in my youth, I would often swipe my shoe over the anthill and delight in the bugs' chaos. I didn't do so to protect others from a possible biting frenzy or the destruction of turf. I committed the assault because in some twisted way it made me feel powerful.

Some years ago, as a middle school teacher, I was escorting my charges back to our classroom from recess. Things had not gone so well during our break that day. Harsh words spoken by many led to physical altercations between some. I wanted to address the matter immediately.

As we entered our door, I noticed a step ladder leaning against the hallway wall. In a most impromptu manner, I conceived an activity that I have employed many times since. I brought the ladder into the room and directed the class to move their desks to leave a large opening in the middle of the floor. I had the children form a circle and randomly selected a scholar to stand in the center. I called on the other students to kneel and when all were down and silent, I asked the standing student to look upon all her peers and take in the feeling of that moment. I then signaled the students to stand, and I moved the ladder into the center of the circle. I invited the selected youngster to climb as high on the ladder as she deemed comfortable. She climbed so high that I was the one who realized discomfort. I again asked the girl to take in the feeling of that moment. Once descended, I inquired as to whether she preferred one vantage point over the other. She chose the ladder because it was a little scary, yet exciting, and that it felt weird when everyone was kneeling around her.

I noted with the group that in the first setting their classmate didn't really do anything exceptional, but perhaps had a feeling of superiority because all others were lower. In the second setting, the student had to take a risk to achieve a goal and, as a result, elevated herself above the others. I added that when we choose to put others down, we may think that we have risen above them, but actually we're right where we've always been. I further shared that such actions on our part give us a sense of power, but it is cheap



Randall Principal John Wallace converses with some of his entomological friends.

power. When we choose to elevate ourselves, leaving others to their own choices, we come to know deep power.

Being human, we all have the tendency to move to cheap power in our daily lives, bringing ourselves down as we do the same to others. But when we choose to take positive risks toward a personal goal or dream, we become closer to being the person we wish to be and realize deep power. One is a sense of power over; the other power to.

These summer days as I behold ants working their small miracles, I stay on my knees, humbled by their example. If forces are to counter their productivity, let it be the elements of Nature. Then again, perhaps the wee insects are reincarnated Tibetan monks who will ceremoniously destroy their sand sculpture on their own.

Go Raccoons!

John ■

Greetings from Franklin

I hope this summer issue finds you all safe and healthy! The end to our school year at Franklin was busy, busy, busy! We had a lot to celebrate as our littlest learners wrapped up their 2022–23 school year. Here's a summary of some of the fun things we had going on!

We welcomed music performances back to Franklin this spring with "The Sound of Franklin." Our music teacher, Ms. Wis, organized a great musical arts performance that celebrated all the growth our students made this year in general music. It was a delight to be able to invite our community into the school to celebrate the voices of our students!

We celebrated our Kindergarteners' learning about trees by planting a new oak out front. The Kindergarteners affectionately named the tree "Oakley." This great learning experience was organized by Ms. Angela, one of our teachers, and her father.

Our First graders celebrated their learning through the arts! Each of them participated in a play with their classmates. Through this process students demonstrated persistence and teamwork as they worked together to support each other in learning their parts and continuing to practice their lines.

Lastly, we sent our Second graders off with our Franklin Farewell on the final day of school. These students have overcome a lot of change and challenges in their three years of school, the least of which included their K–12 education experience beginning virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a joy for our staff at Franklin to be part of these students' educational journey. I am confident there are future doctors, scientists, lawyers, and teachers among this cohort of students, and I'm looking forward to hearing of how they continue to overcome obstacles as they grow and learn!

I am looking forward to a strong start to our 2023–24 school year. But first, I hope we all take some time this summer to rest, rejuvenate, and enjoy our friends and family.

Take good care!

—Emily Powers

Principal, Franklin Elementary School ■



A tree named Oakley now grows in front of Franklin School.

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West High News

I am writing to express my profound gratitude for the remarkable year and for the partnership that Madison West has enjoyed with the Regent Neighborhood Association. This has been a challenging year, particularly as we worked through the construction process. Our students and staff have appreciated the grace and patience you've extended us as we've worked through this time. We still have another challenging year ahead, but I remain hopeful.

For myself, it has been an absolute pleasure joining the Madison West team and working alongside such a dedicated staff. Working with a great group of scholars has made this year even more rewarding.

Reflecting on this year, your support has been instrumental in ensuring that our school remains an institution of academic excellence and a safe place for all learners. Additionally, I would like to thank you for your understanding regarding some



Daniel Kigeya

of the issues surrounding trash and garbage left by our scholars. I understand that it has been an ongoing problem for both you and our school, and I appreciate your willingness to work with us to find a solution.

As we move forward, I would like to assure you that we are committed to improving our relationship with the community and to instilling a sense of responsibility and respect in our scholars. We recognize that our actions have an impact on our surroundings, and we are taking steps to ensure that our scholars are mindful of this fact.

In the upcoming year, we hope to continue to promote greater cooperation between Madison West and the Regent Neighborhood Association. Your support and input are invaluable to us, and we look forward to working together to create a better community for all.

Go Regents!

Sincerely,

Dan Kigeya, Principal
Madison West High School ■

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Greetings from Blessed Sacrament School

In the blink of an eye, the 2022–23 school year came and went!

Blessed Sacrament has welcomed many new families over the past two years, but this school year, we grew exponentially. Our theme this year was, “In the Potter’s Hands.” All students and staff started the year with a clay hand-building project, and we’ve asked ourselves, throughout this time, if we are fully formed or still being molded. We make mistakes, we seek forgiveness, we learn and grow all through our lives.

Our School and Community Association held many events throughout the year to build and support our community. Service learning continues to be an important part of both our curriculum and our school culture at BSS.

Excellence in academics is always expected at BSS, but extracurriculars are a big draw, too. Students played basketball, competed in Battle of the Books, Forensics/Drama, Math 24, the Spelling Bee, and put on a talent show.

Today’s students (not just BSS students but all students) are involved in social media more and more and at younger ages. Although we limit the use of phones and personal devices during the school day, we know that what happens outside of school has a great impact within our walls. To give parents more tools to combat the darker side of social media, we organized a program on Internet Safety featuring a speaker from the Wisconsin Department of Justice—Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Late April brought the swamp to our doors (and our stage)! Our 7th and 8th graders put on “Shrek, the Musical, Jr.” Only hours after striking the set, the 8th graders boarded buses and traveled east to Washington, D.C. The DC adventure is a new BSS tradition, and this was the third time our students made the trip. They visited government buildings, monuments, the Zoo, the Cathedral, and the Basilica



Seventh and eighth graders were on stage for BSS’s production of “Shrek, the Musical, Jr.”



Eighth graders take in the sights in Washington, D.C., a new BSS tradition.

of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, one of the ten largest churches in the world.

Students were barely back at school when we began to get ready for graduation. We are very proud of these students—our 98th graduating class. We wish them well as they go into the world beyond our doors. We look forward to greeting new students and seeing new leaders arise within our student body in 2023–24.

—Elizabeth First
608-233-6155
efirst@school.blsacrament.org ■



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Poets' Corner—Marilyn Taylor



Marilyn Taylor

Marilyn Lighter Taylor, former Poet Laureate of Wisconsin, and the city of Milwaukee, graduated from West High School in the Late Pleistocene Era—i.e., 1957. A graduate of UW–Madison, she earned her PhD. at UW–Milwaukee, where she taught poetry and poetics for fifteen years. The author of seven poetry collections, Taylor has published work in many poetry journals and anthologies. She recently won the Margaret Reid Poetry Prize for formal verse. She currently serves as Associate Editor for two poetry journals (Verse-Virtual and Third Wednesday) and is a member of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. mltpoet.com.

I Know a Bank Where the Wild Thyme Blows

—*A Midsummer Night's Dream*,
Act II, Scene 1

Joanie, Judy, I still
remember how we
would sometimes drive
through the arboretum
on our way
to the Park Street
A & W for root
beer floats (—*Too
much*, we decided
in the car, *too much Shakespeare*,
Swinburne, Sydney—)
and how we slowed beside
a stand of lilac trees
posturing in pale blue
and laced with drowsy musk,
beckoning with fingers
dripping petals;
the way we ran to them,
our cotton dresses lifting,
bare arms raised, our hair
gilded with pollen as we
assumed our places, mimicking
the age-old choreography
turn for turn, dip for
dip, enchanted
as Titania,
insatiable
as Mab.

—Marilyn Taylor ■

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Recipe Corner—

LaVonne Senn's Monster Cookies

[Ed: And monster they are, perfect for a Fourth of July picnic. (You can also cut the recipe in half and/or use a smaller ice cream scoop for more diminutive cookies.) LaVonne Senn (1927–2020) was a beloved neighbor, chemist, violinist, and teacher, straightforward and no-nonsense, much like this easy recipe that has just about everything in it except flour.]

Instructions

- 1 cup peanut butter, smooth
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 ½ cups packed brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 3 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 cups quick-cooking rolled oats
- ¾ cup chopped peanuts, walnuts, or pecans
- 1 ½ cups chocolate chips (or raisins)

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a mixer, beat peanut butter and butter until smooth. Add brown and granulated sugar, baking powder, and baking soda. Mix well, scraping down the sides of the bowl. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in oats, nuts, and chocolate chips.



Place ¼ cup mounds of dough (you can use an ice cream scoop) 4 inches apart on a greased or parchment paper-lined cookie sheet. Avoid placing dough in the corners of the sheet pan, or they will not form complete circles.

Bake 15–20 minutes, until edges are light brown. Remove from oven and let stand on cookie sheet for about 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool.

Makes about 24 cookies. ■



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What I'm Reading—Joanne Berg

[Ed: Summer is a perfect time for reading and who better to tell us what to consider than Joanne Berg, owner of Mystery to Me. The bookstore is a few steps outside the Regent neighborhood along Monroe Street.]

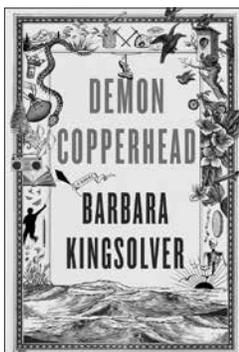
You'd think it'd be easy for a bookseller to talk about the books they're recommending for summer reads, but I confess that it's really a challenge. Booksellers are sent advance reader copies from the publishers for review to determine whether the books are for them or not. I'm currently in the middle of a stack of books being released in September, October, and November. The store has even received a few books coming out in January 2024.

It's probably no surprise to you that I enjoy a good mystery. I lean more toward literary or somewhat unconventional mysteries where I learn about a particular place and culture. I do occasionally like a well-written cozy mystery (the bad stuff rarely happens on the page) such as those written by Elly Griffiths, Iona Wishaw, Deborah Crombie, and Jacqueline Winspear. I love historical fiction as well as historical mysteries. One of my favorite authors in that realm is Kate Quinn. I also enjoy good fiction. Recent favorites include *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver and *Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. Another book that I absolutely loved came out in early May. *No Two Persons*, by Erica Bauermeister, is about a young woman who desperately wants to be published. When she finally is, the story you're reading changes, and you're swept up into the lives of the people reading the book. As you might imagine, no two persons will have the same takeaways from the story. This book is very creative.

I'll take a step back a few months to share a few books that I reviewed for summer release. The one that I'm most excited about is *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett (releases August 1 from Harper Collins). In all Patchett's books there is a great storyline plus a



Joanne Berg



sort of meditation on one thing or another. This one is about family, young love, and who our parents were before we knew them.

One that I just finished a few weeks ago is *The Bookbinder* by Pip Williams (also releases August 1 from Ballantine/Random House). If you've read the *Dictionary of Lost Words*, *The Bookbinder* is somewhat of a sequel. Set in Oxford, England in 1914, the book features two young women (twins) who work in a bookbindery and live on a small houseboat full of books. The story is about the bindery women, including the refugees arriving from Belgium. It's a beautifully written and compelling work.

Crow Mary by Kathleen Grissom is a fascinating historical novel, based on a true story, about a young Native American woman caught up in a very dark period of American history. Trappers and scouts have slaughtered villages of Native Americans and children have been taken from their homes and sent to boarding schools to rid them of their "Indianness." The book is rich in detail about the history of 19th-century Montana. I could not put this book down.

Finally, I asked a few of my fellow booksellers what books they were excited about for summer and early fall reading. Jayne is keen about Mick Herron's *The Secret Hours* (releases September 12 from Soho), Emma Donoghue's *Learned by Heart* (releases August 29 from Little Brown), and Lauren J.A. Bear's *Medusa's Sisters* (releases August 8 from Penguin/Putnam). Hannah is looking forward to *Kiss the Girl* by Zoraida Cordova (releases August 1 from Hyperion), *The Legacies* by Jessica Goodman (releases July 25 from Penguin/Putnam), and *Bogie and Bacall* by William J. Mann (releases July 11 from Harper Collins). Hilary really enjoyed *My Murder* by Katie Williams, and *The Sunset Years* by Agnes Sharp by Leonie Swann (releases August 29 from Soho).

I hope you have a chance to find some quiet porch time to try some of these books this summer. ■

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This New House—1819 Summit Avenue—Ron Rosner and Ronnie Hess

[Ed: This is the second in a series of articles about “new houses” in the Regent Neighborhood. Rosner and Hess are the owners of 1819 Summit Avenue.]

We’d like to tell you about our “new” house, built in 1982.

Near the crest of the glacial drumlin which has given University Heights its name, there is an unusual three-sided block bounded by Summit and Van Hise Avenues, and Spooner Street. The block is part of the topographically sensitive curvilinear plat designed for the Heights in 1893.

One the first houses in the new plat was built for Madison businessman Thomas Morris, at 1815 Summit Avenue. Designed in 1911 by prominent Madison architect Alvan Small, (1869–1932), it sits on a 14,000-square-foot lot that drops off 20 feet between Summit Avenue and the rear lot line. Legend has it that the western side of the lot provided excellent sledding for children. For practical reasons, Small sited the house on the northeast corner of the lot, and just 10 feet from the sidewalk. Later, a garage was added.

But our story really begins 70 years later, in 1981. By then, the Morris House plus garage occupied 80 of the total 113 feet of frontage on Summit Avenue. Although the lot was large enough for two houses—6,000 square feet was required—the frontage was insufficient. Thirty feet remained for a second buildable lot, but 50 feet were required.

What to do if anything? Who needed another house on the lot? The Morris House’s owner, UW–Madison landscape planner Leo Jakobson did.

Jakobson wanted a smaller retirement house for himself and his wife Sheilah, notwithstanding a gentleman’s agreement he may have had with neighbors to leave the land untouched. He found a potential “fix” in a provision of the City Ordinance which, with City approval, permitted an owner to create a zoning district that was unique to the parcel in question, called a Planned Unit Development or PUD.

When Jakobson unveiled his plans for a contemporary wood frame home, all hell broke loose. Detractors argued the house would be out of character with the district; they spoke to the merits of historic preservation and green space. Proponents made the argument for the importance of infill, available land on the near-West side being put to good use.

By the time the issue reached the City Council, nearly 80 people and the Regent Neighborhood Association had gone on record against the house.

regentneighborhood.org



Leo Jakobson designed his retirement house in 1982 but it didn't exactly fit right in. Neighbors objected to its contemporary look.

(A Capital Times article reported, “the feud has been raging for weeks.”) Madison developer and University Heights resident James Carley called the blueprints “superb,” while Alder Eve Galanter called for a compromise. Eventually, one was reached, with more spacing between Jakobson’s proposed structure and his neighbor to the west. A stand of Arborvitae would also be planted along the lot line for what may seem now a dubious camouflage.

Then, in 1999, the house went up for sale. The elderly Jakobsons had decided to move away as had the next-door neighbors some time before. The neighborhood seemed to have made peace with what had once threatened to be an eyesore. To us as prospective buyers, 1819 Summit Avenue at first glimpse appeared to be a garage with main entrance tucked some twenty feet away from the street.

Nearly 25 years ago, we knew nothing of the house’s history. We were living a few blocks east in a Prairie Style home also designed, in 1916, by Alvan Small. We loved living in the Johnson House. But we decided to move because that part of the neighborhood was becoming too noisy for us. We also wanted more space for a garden out back, and at a price we could afford.

We quickly took to 1819 Summit’s hardwood floors, big windows, and open floor plan, with master bedroom on the top floor looking down into the living room. The layout was perfect for a house concert a few years ago. And lest we forget, there’s the basement sauna. Jakobson was from Finland and built this cultural must-have into his home, little knowing we’d use it for storage space. ■



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RNA 2023 Scholarships Recipients Say Thanks

[Ed: Each year, the Regent Neighborhood Association, thanks to your donations, makes possible two scholarships for West High School seniors. The scholarships were created to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity, energy, and enthusiasm West High School students add to our neighborhood. Needs-based awards are given to two graduating seniors who have demonstrated engagement in multicultural activities both in school and in the greater Madison community while modeling a commitment to academic pursuits. This year, the awards were presented at the school's Honors Convocation, May 25, 2023. The statements were supplied by the students. To contribute to the fund: regentneighborhood.org/west-hs-scholarship.html]

From Kaitlyn Du—

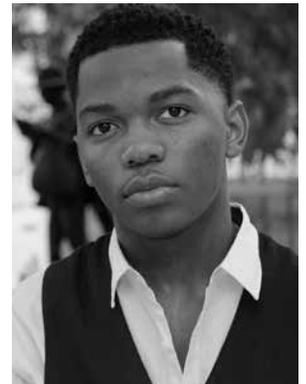
Hi, I'm Kaitlyn! I'm a graduating senior at West High School passionate about music, the Chinese language, and making contributions to the Madison community through volunteer work. This fall, I'm headed to Northwestern University to study cognitive science and neuroscience. In the future, I hope to pursue a career in academia and research to push the boundaries of our current understanding of the brain even further. I am incredibly grateful for the Regent Neighborhood Association's generosity and acknowledgement of my efforts, and I believe that this scholarship will contribute significantly to helping me achieve my academic and career goals.



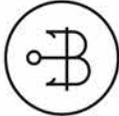
Kaitlyn Du

From Micah Anderson—

Hello! I'm a graduating senior at West High School. I plan on studying theater at UW, auditioning for roles, and directing shows. As an actor I want to grow both in technique and experience, hopefully one day starring in films and directing them. ■



Micah Anderson



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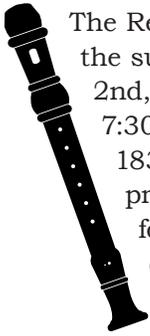


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Calling All Regent Recorders



The Regent Recorder Ensemble was formed in the summer of 2022. The group meets on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1833 Regent Street. The ensemble members primarily gather to play and rehearse music for their own enjoyment, but performance opportunities have included a Christmas Bazaar in Monona, Christmas Eve liturgy at St. Andrew's, Bach Around the Clock, concerts preceding sung Compline at St.

Andrew's and sung Vespers at St. Francis House Episcopal Student Center. The summer rehearsal schedule will likely be abbreviated, but new members are welcome.

For more information, contact convenor-director Ken Stancer at music@standrews-madison.org or 608-628-7031. ■

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Meet Your New RNA Board Member—Megan Pohl

Hello neighbors! My name is Megan Pohl, and I've just joined the RNA Board of Directors as your School Relations Chair.

You might see me and my husband Matt around the neighborhood, walking our two rescue cattle dogs, chasing our two-year-old son, or strolling with our new baby boy.



Megan Pohl

Sometimes it's hard to believe we've called Rowley Avenue our home for over 10 years! We weren't very active in the neighborhood, until I saw the opening for the School Relations Chair a few months ago.

After a decade working at Epic, I had returned to UW-Madison to earn my teaching certification. Then I taught high school English from 2019-2021, with

all the challenges you can imagine for a new teacher working through the pandemic.

When we started our family, I stayed home with our young children. I wanted to honor the critical role that education plays in our communities. As an RNA Board member, I get to serve as liaison to our neighborhood schools and keep a pulse on other local events, challenges, and celebrations.

Consider joining us on the RNA Board or watch this newsletter for other opportunities to volunteer! ■



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