



Regent Neighborhood

November 2022 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org ASSOCIATION

Vision Zero—What Is It and How Does It Affect the Regent Neighborhood?

by **Charlie Peters, Transportation Committee Chair**

The core belief of the international Vision Zero movement is that deaths and injuries on city streets are preventable. While this may seem like an unachievable goal, Vision-Zero initiative efforts in Oslo, Norway¹ and Hoboken, New Jersey² have recently achieved zero traffic deaths. The City of Madison has a Vision Zero initiative.



Madison Vision Zero Principles

- **Safety**—Safety for all roadway users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. One life lost on our streets is too many.
- **Equity**—The City of Madison recognizes disparity, such as racial and economic differences in neighborhoods and will focus on improving lower income community roadways included in the high injury network. Equity is a top priority for the City of Madison and will be at the forefront of discussions, actions, and improvements.
- **Data-Focused**—Data will drive our focus on where to invest time and money to improve the inter-sections and roadways where there is highest injury.

(continued on page 12)

Hooked on History

by **Jody Kapp Berndt***

There is no doubt that the house at 1822 Van Hise Avenue, with its wide front porch, simple brown clapboard siding, and white detailing is a charmer. And what a vantage point! It's perfect for people-watching as Badger fans make their way to and from Camp Randall on busy Saturday game days. But as anyone who has ever purchased a historic home knows, if they weren't so cute, like puppies, we would lose our ever-loving minds.

Several months into occupying our new home, my husband and I have discovered more projects than we wanted to admit to each other at first. Those filtered real estate photos made everything look so perfect we pretended not to notice the mounting checklist of deferred maintenance.

(continued on page 14)



1822 Van Hise Avenue is rich in history, especially when a door collapses on the new owner.



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A Note from the President

Happy Fall!

I am reminded this season that we are lucky to live in such a beautiful and thriving neighborhood. Also, that we have an active, committed Board. (You might enjoy reading John Schlaefer's article in this edition of the newsletter on membership and service.) We have a few open positions—if you are thinking about joining the Board, please contact me!

In the past few months, we have had some important issues on our agenda that impact our neighborhood:

- Rynn Kerkhove, Madison Public Library (MPL) Planner, gave us an overview of MPL Westside planning; and
- Aaron Williams, UW–Madison Interim Director, Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture, presented about the West Campus Plan (www.vc.wisc.edu/realestate/)

Meetings are still virtual, and we'd be happy to see you.

—Shiva



*RNA Board President
Shiva Bidar*

Upcoming RNA Board Meetings

• **November 15, 2022** • **January 24, 2023**

The Regent Neighborhood Association Board typically meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Please check the RNA website at **regentneighborhood.org** for any changes. All meetings take place online until further notice. These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to shivabidar@tds.net

Join the RNA Google Group—

groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn

Join the RNA Google Group listserv for monthly meeting invites, or email christine.p.stocke@gmail.com for instructions on how to be included.

John Schlaefer Returns to the Board as Membership Chair

I grew up in the Regent Neighborhood and attended Randall, West Junior High, and West Senior High Schools. Although I lived in other parts of the city for 30 years, I moved back to the neighborhood in 2009, so, cumulatively, I have been a neighborhood resident for over 40 years. I've seen many changes in that time—the construction of Campus Drive, and, especially, the redevelopment on University Avenue.



John Schlaefer

Upon returning to the neighborhood, I became a member of the RNA Board for several years, over time serving in all the board's executive offices. In addition to board meetings, I had attended City council meetings and committee meetings regularly, had been on the City's Zoning Board of Appeals, and, as RNA president, had been one of the leads on the University Corridor Plan. Eventually, I decided to take a breather. It was time to devote more time to my two favorite hobbies—architectural history and photography. But the commitment to community service was still there, inherited from my mother, so when I saw that RNA needed a chair for its membership committee, I volunteered to rejoin the board, which leads me—here it comes!—to give a pitch for RNA membership.

I recall all the things RNA has done to benefit the neighborhood in the past ten years or so:

- creating the University Avenue Corridor Plan;
- contributing to playground equipment for both Randall and Franklin Elementary schools;
- creating and executing the annual \$5000 scholarship fund that is split between two low-income West High seniors to continue their education;
- contributing to the art installation under the Highland Avenue viaduct.
- hosting the July 4th Festival (I hope it can return next year);
- providing the newsletter, listserv, and website that provide neighborhood information and a forum for neighbors;
- hosting the fall welcoming and informational flyers given to students living on Breese Terrace and Lathrop Street, especially hoping they will respect our desire to have a quiet neighborhood;

- providing input on new development plans.

You probably didn't know that the city, especially the city planning department, encourages and works with over a hundred neighborhood associations. City staff routinely advise developers, strongly, to present their development plans to the affected neighborhood. The neighborhood association is the entity that many developers use for that input. Although not legally binding, neighborhood association endorsement or disapproval of new development can be influential during the city's permitting process.

You can see that RNA is working in many ways to improve the neighborhood and maintain a high quality of life for Regent neighbors. To continue we need your generosity and involvement. Membership dues (\$5 for individuals, \$10 for families) and contributions to the scholarship fund are an important source of RNA income. Also, we need members to serve on the Board and committees of RNA. The more neighbors we have involved, the more representative RNA becomes of the neighborhood.

If you are new to the neighborhood, or haven't joined yet, I invite you to join us. You can do it online. Go to donorbox.org/rnamembership to become a member today. If you are already a member of RNA, thank you. I hope that you will continue your membership in the future.

—John Schlaefer, RNA Membership Chair ■



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Alder Report—District 5

State Preemption, or Why Madison Can't Do Everything We Might Want

"Madison should really have traffic enforcement cameras."

"Madison should require developers to include affordable housing."

"Madison should require all buildings to be built energy-efficient."



Alder Regina Vidaver
Photo: Jeanine Schneider

The above examples are phrases Alders and City staff hear frequently. And they are all examples of things Madison cannot do because of state-level preemptions.

What is a state level preemption? Briefly, it's a standard or phrase written into state statutes that prevents municipalities from taking more restrictive actions. The state legislature sets the state statutes, and the governor signs or vetoes those statutes; only the ones that are signed go into effect.

State-level preemptions impact many of the City's operating procedures. Take the traffic enforcement camera item, for example. Madison is facing a tremendous amount of operational needs, especially as we annex the Town of Madison, taking on a larger population, and needing to provide services to those residents at the same level as other City residents. That means our operating budget is challenging to balance, and we simply can't hire enough police officers to adequately enforce all of our existing traffic laws. If we had traffic enforcement cameras, people might either refrain from going through red lights, as signage informing them that they are on camera would deter such actions, or if not deterred, they would receive an automatic ticket, which would generate additional operating revenue for the City. That revenue could, in turn, allow for the hiring of more police officers to enforce traffic restrictions. When people ignore red lights, they place other people's lives at risk, sometimes leading to devastating consequences, impacting feelings of safety and community for everyone. But, because of state preemption, adding traffic enforcement cameras is just not an option.

The preemptions regarding the building code probably come up most frequently. Per state statute, Madison cannot implement things we might like to do, such as inclusionary zoning (e.g., requiring a certain percentage of units in a new development to be affordable) or rent control. These stipulations

influence the City's ability to attract and retain people of a variety of backgrounds as residents, and further impact the percentage of the population who wind up with insecure, inadequate, or non-existing housing choices. This, in turn, leads to an added burden on the City to provide services to people without adequate housing access, thus increasing our Capital and Operating budgets. And, of course, not allowing the City to require a baseline energy-efficiency standard for new buildings reduces our opportunity to meet the City's carbon reduction goals.

Other preemptions that affect Madison's operations:

- Inability to implement reasonable measures to decrease or control the use of firearms
- Prohibition on providing municipal broadband
- Prohibition on mandatory paid leave provision
- Inability to increase local sales taxes

Of course, the most challenging state statute for municipalities is the levy limit. A municipality can only increase its levy (i.e., property taxes) over the previous year's amount based on the percentage increase in equalized value for net new construction. When the levy limit is combined with the massive reduction in state aid to municipalities the legislature has subjected us to in biennial budgeting, municipalities can be faced with exceptionally difficult decisions, including the reduction or elimination of key services, or taking on significant debt. These limits to budgetary income influence everything from building sidewalks, which are an evidence-based intervention to combat the growing impact of obesity on our population, to the provision of public health services, such as vaccinations and infectious disease screening. Budgetary limits impact our ability to provide services for people with low incomes and the elderly, and deeply affect our decisions regarding how much we can spend on public safety. The ability or inability of a City to provide each of these public services impacts the health of our community and the people who live within it.

To summarize, there are lots of good ideas out there for how to make our community stronger, more resilient, healthier, and more energy-efficient, but we sometimes are stymied by actions of the state legislature. Contact information for your assembly and senate representatives are also provided in this newsletter; I know they would welcome your engagement on these issues and others.

—Regina

district5@cityofmadison.com ■

Dane County Board Report—District 11

It's been a busy summer for the county! In the last several months, key initiatives include a countywide high-speed internet assessment (even in Dane County – there are many gaps in speed, availability, and affordability!), completing additional segments of the North Mendota bike trail, new investments in public health to make contraceptives more accessible in light of the recent Dobbs decision overturning Roe v Wade, a county parks accessibility study, and new funding to combat the fentanyl and opioid epidemic such as increasing accessibility of Narcan. We also sponsored a gun buyback program in partnership with Madison Police Department, which generated a total of 577 surrendered weapons including 11 assault-style rifles in under four hours. I had the opportunity to visit the event held at the Alliant Energy Center (another terrific county resource) and was proud to be part of an effort to reduce the availability of weapons in our community and reducing harm – whether that is violent crime or suicide.

Our Board and standing committee meetings will be proceeding permanently in hybrid format, so you can join and provide feedback via Zoom, phone, or in person. This is a great new strategy to increase engagement and public input. Please check out www.dane.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx for meeting



*Supervisor
Richelle Andrae*

dates, times, and locations. Most meetings are now recorded in video format, so you can watch the proceedings, which adds some flavor. Interested in getting involved in local government? County Boards and Commissions include public members – see openings and learn more here: <https://exec.countyofdane.com/boards-and-commissions>.

This month, the county will head into budget season, where we will allocate over \$600 million in operating and capital expenses for 2023. My priorities in our annual budget include advancing clean water initiatives to reduce phosphorus and runoff in our beloved watershed, continuing and expanding investments for criminal justice diversion such as the exciting CARES mobile response pilot and implementing a crisis triage center to aid in mental health stabilization, addressing lack of housing options for low-income residents, and investing in sustainability initiatives from our robust Climate Action Plan. I provide monthly updates via email for constituents. Sign up for alerts at <https://board.countyofdane.com/supervisors/Detail/11>.

As a reminder, district 11 includes the Regent Street Neighborhood area west of North Allen. As we navigate the “new normal” recovering from the pandemic, thank you for continuing to look out for one another, practicing patience, and for your engagement in our community.

Yours in service,

Richelle

Andrae.Richelle@CountyofDane.com
414-469-6664 ■

From Representative Shelia Stubbs— Wisconsin, Assembly District 77

Ed: State Rep. Shelia Stubbs (D-Madison, 77th Assembly District) will return to the newsletter after the November elections. For recent statements by Rep. Stubbs, please go to legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/77/stubbs and docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/legislators/assembly/2198



*Representative
Shelia Stubbs*

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Dane County Board Report—District 13

As I reflect on the past couple of months on the Dane County Board, I feel honored, grateful, and excited by what's happening in the county. As a Supervisor, I serve on the Health and Human Needs Committee, the Dane Arts Commission, and the Commission on Sensitive Crimes. The County Board and committees continue to move forward with meetings in a hybrid format, allowing for participation both in-person and via zoom. The commissions are conducted completely over zoom. In my opinion, the hybrid format is a great opportunity to allow in-person as well as virtual participation. It looks like this is the meeting format indefinitely, and I am sure people will find this flexibility convenient. As always, the public is invited to provide input. Please check out the County agenda at dane.legistar.com. Legistar provides the time, date, location, and agendas for scheduled meetings.

A few key initiatives and programs I am proud of:

The Board approved funds for the Dane County Sheriff's office to conduct a gun buyback event called Gift Cards for Guns. On August 13, the county, in cooperation with local organizations, offered gift cards for groceries and gas in exchange for unwanted weapons. There was a no-questions-asked policy to encourage more participation in the event, however, at the end of the event all the serial numbers on the weapons were checked. In all, the Sheriff's office collected 577 various types of weapons, mostly firearms. At the very least, the number of weapons collected are no longer in circulation and cannot be used. Allowing for people to dispose of their weapons safely contributes to the larger conversation of combatting gun violence.



Supervisor
Olivia Xistris-Songpanya

District 10 Supervisor Aaron Collins sponsored a resolution (2022 RES-130) that requires all existing and future county-operated buildings, where feasible, to install electric height-adjustable universal changing stations. Additionally, the resolution requires future county projects to factor in universal changing stations during the design process. These are so crucial for adults, children, and babies who require assistance in the bathroom. In preparation for sponsorship, Supervisor Collins collected data that showed 92.6% of survey respondents would be more likely to use public facilities if universal changing stations were present. The first of its kind in Wisconsin, this resolution is pioneering in the Board's commitment to inclusivity. I supported the measure and am very pleased that slowly, but surely, county facilities are becoming more accessible to everyone. *[Ed: The measure passed 35-1 on September 8.]*

The Board received the County Executive's proposed 2023 budget on October 3. The review process is expected to be wrapped up by mid-November.

The Dane Arts Commission is in the middle of the 2022 Cycle 2 grant review process where we discuss grant applications. Funding will be awarded at the meeting on October 19.

An update to highlight from the Commission on Sensitive Crimes is that Domestic Abuse Intervention Services launched a 24/7 Text Line, (608) 251-4445, on September 29. Check out details from the September 20 meeting on Legistar for complete updates.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the Fall newsletter. Please feel free to reach out to me at xistris-songpanya.olivia@countyofdane.com if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

—Olivia

xistris-songpanya.olivia@countyofdane.com
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Greetings from Randall!

The trees continue to retire their attire as we add layers to ours. We often identify our botanical buddies and one another by what we wear. Yet, it is said that a tree is known by its fruit. The same is true of us.

Occasionally at social gatherings, we are asked what we do. Typically, our response denotes how we bring home the bacon - or win bread, for you vegetarians out there. Certainly, we devote much of our day to our jobs, hence the term occupation. Yet, all work and no play makes Johnny a dull boy. All too often our labor at home and beyond is completed to the denial of those endeavors that bring worth and mirth to our lives. We shelve many of these pastimes and lose not only the joy of engaging in these activities, but also our skills in performing them.

I was reminded of such atrophy this past week when a student handed me a hula-hoop during recess. Time was when I was a master of the required gyration. Now my efforts immediately result in a ring around the toesies.

We use it or lose it. As a result, I've lost my grip on juggling and my once whistling lips are now an empty purse. My expertise has also waned in more unique endeavors, such as cupping my hands to make a root-toot tool. Another schtick I picked up in my youth is the hambone, that rhythmic hand jive percussion. I've since dropped it.

Of all the talents I've lost over the years, it's the hambone I most want to reinstate into my repertoire. Like hand and classic whistling, you don't depend on items such as hoops or tennis balls. You always have what you need. My desire to bring back the bone is not so much to perform as to pass on a skill to children who may never otherwise know of it.

While with a class in the Randall garden last week, I lifted an acorn and remarked how trees are known by



Randall Principal John Wallace demonstrates the art of juggling acorns.

their fruit...orange trees, apple trees, pecan trees. Yet, acorns come from oaks. I was then startled by a shrill whistle cast from a mite of a girl. I was intrigued. "How did you do that?" She showed me the cap of an acorn she positioned between her thumbs in such a way so that when she blew, it created the screech. I took heed of her lead, but my semi-arthritis digits wouldn't close as is necessary. Not so with her classmates. In short time, a throng of inspired novices emerged, thrilled to be able to produce the ear-piercing sound.

Not all methods are so easily mastered, the hambone being one. This year, I hope to regain my prowess so as to be a worthy tutor to others. I will also keep an acorn in my pocket in the hope of a new treat in my bag of tricks.

Go Raccoons!

John ■

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Greetings from Franklin Elementary

Hello, everyone and happy fall!

I am so excited and proud to be the new principal at Franklin Elementary School this year. I have been part of the MMSD community for the last 10 years as an ESL teacher and most recently as Instructional Coach. The start to our school year has been great, and busy! Our students and teachers have been focused on developing strong relationships and creating learning environments where students are engaged and feel safe to take on new and challenging tasks.

Last month we invited our Franklin school community to our all-school Open House. The evening was filled with joy, laughter and building



*Franklin Elementary
School's new principal,
Emily Powers*

community as many families received a personalized tour of Franklin School from their student. At the end of the night, students and families joined me for a dance party on the playground. Some of our Falcons have great dance skills!

We have also had an opportunity to come together as a school community for our first all-school assembly. During this assembly, Falcons learned about Golden Feathers, acknowledgements that school staff give to classes when they put our Franklin values (Family, Kindness, Trust, and Joy) into action.

Finally, our community soon will begin to see some changes on our playground, as new additions and play structures are installed.

We are looking forward to a strong year with our Falcons at Franklin! Thank you all for your continued support of our students and staff!

—Emily Powers, Franklin Elementary Principal ■

News from West High School—

First, I'd like to thank you for your continued support and patience as we move through our construction phase. I know the construction here at West High School has caused some strain on the neighboring community, including issues with traffic and noise. We're working closely with our construction partners, Findorff, to minimize the inconvenience.

We are very excited at the positive energy our students and staff have shared after seeing and utilizing our newly renovated spaces. We have new collaboration and teaching spaces, as well as offices and other newly minted areas that make students and staff feel good about learning and working here.



*Daniel Kigeya, West
High School Principal*

Second, in student news, this first month has been a good start for scholars. West scholars have been called upon to live up to high expectations around their learning and behavior, and they have been phenomenal. Here at West, we strongly believe in both hard work and celebrations, so in early October there were plans to celebrate Homecoming in that same spirit with a traditional homecoming parade, followed by a pep rally, and a dance the following evening.

Lastly, during September and October, we celebrated Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month. But throughout October, we also highlighted our wonderful Muslim and LGBTQIA+ communities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. Again, we thank you for your continued support of West High School.

—Daniel Kigeya, Principal ■

News from Blessed Sacrament School

by BSS's September Liller and Elizabeth First

The 2022–2023 school year is here, and we are looking forward to a great year. Blessed Sacrament has welcomed many new families over the past two years, but this school year, we have grown exponentially!

Our theme this year is, “In the Potter's Hands.” All students and staff started the year with a clay hand-building project. Are we fully formed or still being molded? The answer may change for us depending on the day!

In addition, we held a back-to-school picnic to welcome new families. The playground was full of excited children running and playing with parents, veteran and new, busy getting to know each other. It was a great way to begin the school year and nice for the new families to see Blessed Sacrament through children's eyes.

Our annual golf tournament was held just a few weeks after the start of school. School parents, alumni, parish members and neighbors all joined in the fun at Yahara Hills. The support of the community was phenomenal and together we raised about \$30,000 to fund school projects and special activities. Thank you to all who helped make this fundraiser a success!

Our annual Hunger March was scheduled for Friday, October 7, as the RNA newsletter was going to press. The March is a service project tradition here at BSS and ongoing for close to 50 years. Last year, the students raised a little over \$18,000 to help alleviate hunger and food scarcity. The funds were donated to six different organizations—local, regional, national, and international. This year, the goal is \$20,000. Students ask for pledges within their family and community and then walk, run, or skip around the Blessed Sacrament block to raise the funds. Each lap is recorded and tallied. This is an event where the students are involved from beginning to end, and they truly cherish their experience.

On the calendar later this fall are the Halloween Carnival and Christmas Market. The Christmas Market is another BSS tradition—now 100 years old! Join us for the Cookie Walk, Book Fair, and full Christmas market on November 18 and 19.

Enrollment is now open for 2023–2024 with pre-registration for 2025. For more information, please contact the school office at (608) 233-6155 or visit school.blsacrament.org. ■

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What We're Reading—Parents and Grandparents Recommend

Ed: In summer, Regent Neighborhood resident Joan Laurion, anticipating a visit from her grandchildren, ages about seven to ten, asked for book recommendations from neighbors on the listserv. We thought these were too good not to share with a larger audience.

from Paul Voyles—

I think books for different ages can vary a lot from child to child. Here are some recommendations that might skew a little older, or more "reading to" than "reading independently." My kids loved them, starting mostly as audiobooks in early elementary school. These are all the first books in a series.

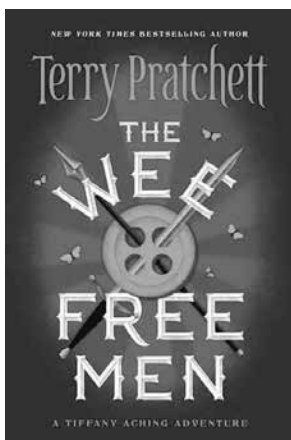
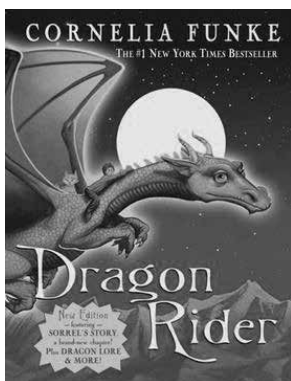
Dragon Rider, by Cornelia Funke. An orphaned boy meets one of the last dragons in the world and sets out with him on an epic voyage to find the only other colony of dragons still in existence.

How to Train Your Dragon, by Cressida Cowell. Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III must train his tiny, pitiful dragon Toothless to compete in the yearly Viking games—and to defend his village against the monstrous sea dragon the Green Death. Not at all the same plot as the movies and TV shows with the same name, but lots of fun.

Magic Marks the Spot, by Caroline Carlson. Hilary Westfield escapes her stuffy girl's finishing school to pursue her dream of a life of piracy on the high seas, aided by a little magic. This one may tilt a little younger than the other ones.

The Wee Free Men, by Terry Pratchett. Tiffany Aching works with the Feegles, a tribe of tiny, fightin', drinkin' Pict-sies to rescue her brother and save her world from the Queen of the Fairies.

Books in Susan Cooper's *The Dark is Rising* series are also wonderful. A gift of the series played a part in turning one of my nephews into a reader around age 10.



from Lynn Washington Rettig—

Books by Kevin Henkes, who lives in the Regent Neighborhood!

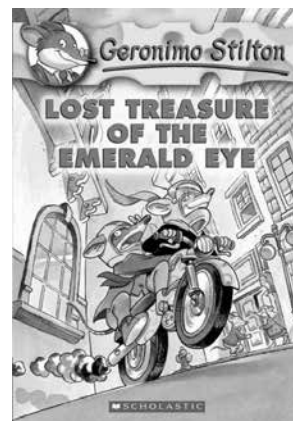
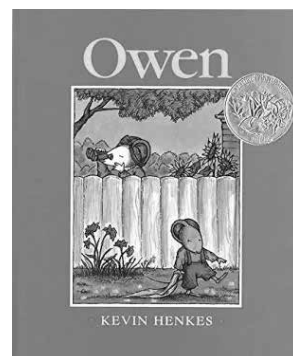
For a list: kevinhenkes.com/

from Martha Bowhan—

For the seven-year-old: Geronimo Stilton graphic novels. There are three of them, available from the public library. There are many Geronimo Stilton books, an Italian children's series written by Elisabetta Dami, which range in difficulty. The three graphic novels are a good introduction for early readers.

For the 10-year-old: *Who Would Win*, a series that teaches kids about the different strengths and attributes of wild animals.

And to read aloud: *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes. ■



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Vision Zero *(continued from page 1)*

- **Accountability**—The City of Madison will set clear goals and objectives, as well as engage the community in outreach and collaboration to make Vision Zero a success.

The creation of a High Injury Network (HIN) map is an integral part of Vision Zero. It uses city-specific crash data to determine where to focus resources to eliminate serious and fatal crashes. It is the first step in helping to develop projects and programming.

A Madison Vision Zero project was implemented in 2021 in the Regent neighborhood at the Highland and University Avenues intersection and included:

- Installing continental crosswalks—longitudinal stripes that provide a visual safety cue for drivers and bicyclists.
- Installing protected left turn—allowing vehicle left turns only on green arrow, preventing conflicts with pedestrians and increasing capacity due to decreased conflicts.
- Implementing lead pedestrian intervals—gives pedestrians a three- to seven-second opportunity to enter the intersection and better establish pedestrian presence.



Charlie Peters

- Automatic pedestrian recalls—cause a pedestrian walk phase to activate automatically at every cycle.
- Improved pedestrian signing

In 2022 the decision to create an all-way stop at the Regent Street and Franklin Avenue intersection should increase personal safety at that location and is another indication of Madison's commitment to the Vision Zero initiative.

If you want to be a part of the Vision Zero solution you can note your concerns involving negative or potentially negative interactions between pedestrians and/or bicyclists and automobiles on the RNA Traffic Incident report (at the bottom of the RNA website homepage³). There you will also find a map of the neighborhood that shows the location of your concerns as well as our neighborhood transportation plan (currently being updated). To learn more about projects planned as part of Madison's Vision Zero Initiative visit their website⁴.

¹usa.streetsblog.org/2020/10/16/best-practices-how-oslo-reached-vision-zero-and-how-your-city-can-too/

²npr.org/2022/08/25/1119110757/traffic-deaths-car-accident-hoboken-new-jersey-vision-zero

³ regentneighborhood.org/

⁴ cityofmadison.com/transportation/initiatives/vision-zero/vision-zero-projects ■



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Roger Kirchhoff—State Architect, Regent Neighbor

Editor: Neighbors know the darndest things, which is how I learned from one of mine that Roger C. Kirchhoff, a 20th-century Wisconsin state architect¹, lived at 111 North Roby Rd. (And, it also turns out, at 1908 Arlington Place, according to the U.S. Census of 1940.) Kirchhoff (1890–1976) also spelled Kirchoff, was a graduate of the University of Illinois. He designed three prominent UW–Madison buildings: Elizabeth Waters Hall at 1200 Observatory Drive (1938), Memorial Library (around 1950), and Chadbourne Hall (1959), among others.

According to the Society of Architectural Historians, Memorial Library’s “unadorned classicism echoes the rhythms” of the Wisconsin Historical Society Building, its Beaux-Arts counterpart across Library Mall, designed by George B. Ferry and Alfred C. Clas. “Both buildings have a symmetrical four-story facade with a one-story entrance portico flanked by slightly projecting pavilions, with slit-like windows.”²

Kirchhoff was also responsible for other buildings around the state. He co-designed The Women’s Club of Racine (1929), as well as historic Milwaukee structures, along with his father’s former partner Thomas L. Rose (1868-1935). Roger was the son of Charles Kirchhoff, Jr. (1856-1915), a Milwaukee cabinetmaker and architect. As for Rose, the State Historical Society says he “acted as personal architect for the Uihlein family of the Schlitz Brewing Company.” He designed, either alone or with Roger,



Roger Kirchhoff.
Photo Credit: National
Council of Architectural
Registration Boards
(NCARB)



The House on North Roby Street where architect Roger Kirchhoff once lived.

Milwaukee’s Empire Building, the Oriental theater, and the Uihlein Candy Factory.³

Roger Kirchhoff and his wife Agnes had two children. Their son, Peter O. Kirchhoff, attended West High School and received a bachelor’s degree in engineering from UW–Madison. He died in 2019. The Kirchhoff’s daughter Harriet also attended UW–Madison and received a master’s degree in speech and language pathology from the University of Michigan. She died in 2011.

¹ The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) says he was state architect for the Wisconsin Fine Arts Commission and Wisconsin Bureau of Engineering. www.ncarb.org/about/history-ncarb/past-presidents/roger-c-kirchoff-aia

² www.sah-archipedia.org/buildings/WI-01-DA28

³ State Historical Society—www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI41861 ■



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Above: Earrings by Nettles Jewelry, bowl by Delores Fortuna, necklace by Lisa Williams, yarn bowls by Craig Kitzman

Hooked on History *(continued from page 1)*

So, on that day the screen door fell off completely in my hands, as I began to question the life choices that led us here, it was either by luck or curse that I happened across two wavy wooden boards stacked up against the wall in a darkened corner of the basement.

And there we were—hooked to this house and Madison all over again.

After piecing the two boards together, I noticed they now appear to be a part of a shipping crate. The stamp in the upper left reads, “Baker Vawter Co Benton Harbor Mich.” The main portion of the crate has been beautifully inscribed in black ink, “Brittingham + Hixon-Lumber Co Madison Wis.” My best guess is the inscription on the lower left has something to do with the train route the crate took on its journey from Michigan to Madison, but I could be completely off base. From my past archival work, I have learned that eventually the correct answer will surface, usually when and where you least expect it.

For now, I am simply happy to just enjoy this tangible connection to our home’s past. Thanks to the Wisconsin Historical Society’s online collections, we already knew the original occupant of the home was one John P. Gumm. Gumm was first an assistant auditor and later an accountant with Brittingham and Hixon Lumber from 1914, when the home was built, to 1929. My imagination takes wing and I picture Gumm receiving a steel paper filing case from Baker Vawter, a Benton Harbor office supplies company, at his office or maybe he had the case shipped to his new home on Van Hise. Like the proper Madisonian he surely was, he couldn’t bring himself to get rid of a good box.

What’s even more interesting than Gumm’s long-lasting crate is the legacy of the founders of Brittingham and Hixon.

According to an excellent write-up found under the UW System’s “President’s Residence” webpage (wisconsin.edu/president/biography/brittingham-house/), Thomas Brittingham and his wife Mary had a hand in so many things we still appreciate today. From the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Forest Hill Cemetery, and Brittingham Park, to the founding of Madison General Hospital, establishing kindergarten in the city’s public schools, right down to the Abraham Lincoln statue placed in front of Bascom Hall in 1919.

Role models, their son Thomas Evans Brittingham, Jr., followed in their footsteps. In 1925, he, along with eight other alumni, founded the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF).



Danes at Van Hise—Scan Design Fellowship students from Denmark (from left to right) Jens, Mathias, Thomas, and Anders enjoy getting to know the Regent Neighborhood through their stay at 1822 Van Hise Avenue.

Thomas, Jr., was also responsible for creating “the Brittingham Vikings” in the 1950s, a scholarship program financed by the Brittingham family, and which brought students from Scandinavia to study in Madison. The program proved both immensely popular and is no doubt one of many reasons why UW–Madison continues to have one of the leading Scandinavian Studies Programs in the United States.

In 1963, “Tom’s Vikings,” as they came to be called, dedicated the Brittingham Boulder, a rune stone from Sweden placed in Thomas, Jr.’s memory near the top of Bascom Hill.

Fast forward to 1822 Van Hise Avenue today—in true Brittingham synchronicity you will find four Danish graduate students from the Scan Design Fellowship Program sleeping right where Mr. Gumm likely fretted over the lumber company’s figures after a long day at the office.

Jens, Thomas, Anders, and Mathias will be staying with my husband and me until the end of December. They have greatly enjoyed meeting our neighbors and feel a part of this place. If you have not yet met them, please stop by and say hello. Like us, they are eager to write a positive chapter of our Regent story—one wonderful challenge and discovery at a time.

**Kapp Berndt is not only a new Regent neighborhood resident, but also the 2015 William H. Canfield Historic Preservation Award recipient. A Wisconsin Historical Society Local History Annual Conference presenter, she was featured on PBS Wisconsin’s Hometown Stories, Sauk Prairie. ■*

Recipe Corner—From Nyanyika Banda, West High School Grad and Chef

Nyanyika Banda moved to Madison with her family in the summer of 1997. She was 15 years old, and her father had just been appointed Men's Soccer Coach at UW. While a junior at Madison West she got her first job, at North American Rotisserie in Fitchburg. She graduated in 1999 and began her culinary career working at Whole Foods Market, where she learned about organic farming and became interested in food production. From there Banda worked at many notable Madison restaurants, including Jolly Bob's, Jamerica, and The Weary Traveler.

In 2012, Banda graduated from Madison College with a degree in Culinary Arts. She quickly drew the attention of celebrity chef and restaurateur Danny Bowien and moved to New York City. While in New York she worked as a sous chef at Bowien's Mission Chinese Food, as a prep cook at the Michelin starred WD-50, and in the test kitchen of Saveur Magazine. Her editorial experiences led her back to school. From 2014–2017, Banda attended the University of Wisconsin–Superior where she designed her history and writing majors around African foodways.

While an undergrad, she curated an underground pop-up restaurant in Duluth, Minnesota called Martha's Daughter. She also contributed a monthly column in the Taste Section for the Duluth News Tribune. The pop-up garnered a cult following that



Nyanyika Banda graduated from West High before pursuing a successful culinary career.

led to her opening a brick-and-mortar business in 2017. Martha's Daughter was continuously voted one of the best restaurants in the state and earned a 2018 Twin Cities Eater Award.

Since COVID-19 and the shutdown of many restaurants, Banda, a Malawian-American, has shifted focus to food writing, authoring essays for RESY, Food52 and Thrillist. Most recently she was contracted by Marvel Entertainment to create the culinary landscape of the fictional East African country of Wakanda resulting in *Marvel's Black Panther: The Official Wakanda Cookbook*, available through local and online booksellers.

Sweet Potato Granola

Adapted from *Marvel's Black Panther: The Official Wakanda Cookbook* (Simon & Schuster, 2022).
Reprinted with permission of the author.

Chef Banda writes that granola is a food that King T'Challa discovered while studying abroad. Once the granola mixture is baked it can be stored and eaten plain or on top of yogurt made from goat's milk or in a bowl with goat's or cow's milk.

Difficulty: Medium
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 1½ hours

Yield: 4 to 6 servings
Dietary Notes:
Gluten-free, nondairy

1 large, sweet potato
3 cups rolled oats
½ cup coconut oil
½ cup honey
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup pecans, chopped

Tools: Blender or food processor

Preheat the oven to 425°F.

Using a fork, poke the sweet potato a few times and place on a baking sheet. Bake the sweet potato until soft, about 50 minutes. Remove from the oven, scoop the flesh from the skin, and set aside to cool.

Lower the heat of the oven to 300°F.

On a parchment-lined baking tray, lay out the oats in a single layer and toast until aromatic, about 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool slightly.

In the blender, combine the cooked sweet potato, coconut oil, honey, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, salt, and vanilla and mix on high for 2 minutes.

Transfer the sweet potato mixture to a large mixing bowl and combine with pecans and oats. Spread the mixture out onto the parchment-lined baking tray into a single layer and bake for 30 to 40 minutes.

Let the granola cool and store in an airtight container for up to 3 weeks. ■



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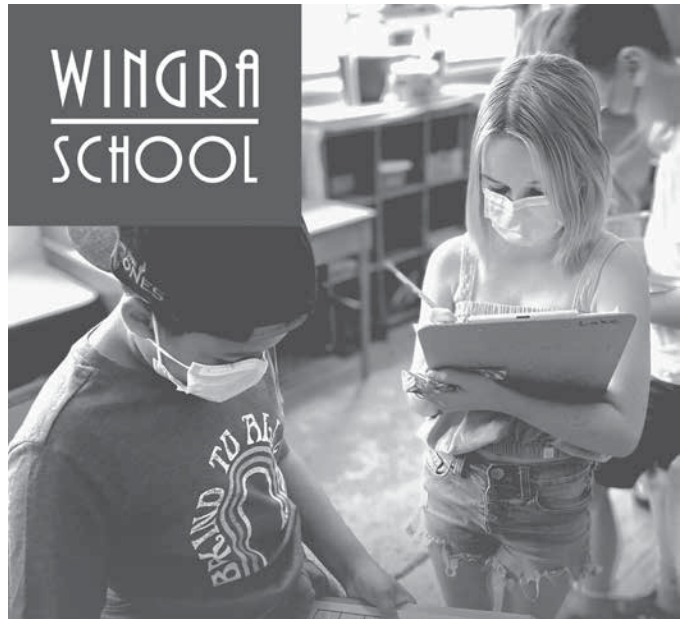
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Poet's Corner—Kelly Cherry (1940–2022)

by **Ronnie Hess**

Poet, novelist, and memoirist Kelly Cherry died March 18, 2022. She had been living in rural Virginia on a small farm she and her late husband Burke Davis, III shared for many years. But Cherry had been a resident of the Regent Neighborhood, on Spooner Street, and a UW–Madison professor for 20 years before retiring in 1999 and returning to her native South. At UW–Madison, she was Eudora Welty Professor Emerita of English and was Evjue-Bascom Professor Emerita in the Humanities. Cherry received many honors and awards during her life, and published some 30 books of poetry, fiction, memoir, essays and literature in translation. She was named the poet laureate of Virginia in 2010. More about Cherry, and a few of her poems as well, are available here—www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/kelly-cherry

I met Cherry in the late 1990s and featured her in “A Conversation with Five Wisconsin Writers,” an article in the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters’ *Academy Review*, now *People and Ideas Magazine*. At one point in our interview, I asked her what was most satisfying about her work.

“You spend your life writing, and you’re doing something that you want somebody else somewhere to grasp. It’s not even exactly a question of communication, it’s that you’re creating this object and you want somebody else to recognize how that object has been made. I have certain ideas. I’ve always had this kind of bookshelf in my head that I want to write, and there’s a sense in which the audience becomes the work. What you’re trying to do is establish a relationship between yourself and whatever it is you’re working on that is so honest that it becomes a relationship where you no longer exist, there is only the work itself.

“The audience is the page, the audience is the poem that doesn’t exist until I bring it into being, a poem that nobody else can bring into being. It’s somewhere in my mind and needs to be realized.”*



Poet and writer Kelly Cherry, c. 1982. Cherry taught at UW–Madison from 1977 until her retirement in 1999. Photo, by Norman Lenburg, © Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System. Reprinted with permission.

**Wisconsin Academy Review*, Winter 1997–98, Vol. 4, Number 1, pp. 11–15 ■

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RNA 2022 Scholarships Winners Say Thanks

From Alan Cruz Montes de Oca—

Thank you, Regent Neighborhood Association Scholarship! My name is Alan Cruz, a Latino first generation student. I will be attending the University of Wisconsin–Madison with the goal of studying computer science. I'm a scholar with an ambition to learn. I want to bring change and innovation into Madison's computer science world. I am paving the way for future generations just the way my parents did. I will be the second in my family to attend UW–Madison. I desire to further expand my family's new roots at this university. I know UW is an academic environment where I can thrive. Thank you for helping to make that possible. I wish you the best.



*Regent Neighborhood
Scholarship winner Alan
Cruz Montes de Oca*

From Jada Smith—

Thank you for the Regent Neighborhood Association Scholarship. My name is Jada Smith, and this fall I will be attending UW–Milwaukee. I have always dreamed of a career in medicine and will be pursuing one as a trauma nurse. ■



*Regent Neighborhood
Scholarship winner
Jada Smith, now at
UW–Milwaukee.*



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News from the Camp Randall Rowing Club

by Amy Thomas Halstead*

Summer is a great time to experience rowing on Lake Monona and 2022 was no exception. Camp Randall Rowing Club (CRRC), housed in the historic 1908 Brittingham Boathouse, was a buzz of activity once again. Our CRRC Learn to Row Summer Camps were full of excited young athletes biking down to the boathouse from the Regent neighborhood and beyond.

Camps are for 6th–12th grade youth to learn rowing for the first time, or to continue to build their rowing skills. Camps are often a steppingstone for younger athletes before joining the Middle School Rowing program. CRRC camps include dry-land training and educational activities geared towards developing the whole athlete. This includes water safety, team building, and fitness. Last summer, the Learn to Row camps finished with an Open Boathouse where friends and family could get a behind-the-scenes look at CRRC, talk to coaches and team members, and get out on the water. Learn to Row camps are run by our coaches and assisted by our Junior Rowing Team.

Starting off as a Learn to Row Camper, one Regent Neighborhood athlete is now a Coxswain with the Junior Rowing Team. She coxed a men's U16 boat to Nationals last spring and was headed to The Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston this October. The CRRC Junior Team sent nine boats to the National Competition in Sarasota, Florida and will be sending five to compete in Boston (women's coxed quad, women's four, men's coxed quad, men's four, men's single). The Junior Rowing team serves as mentors



Taking the barge out for Learn to Row Open House.

to both the Learn to Row campers and the Middle School Rowing Program.

Finally, CRRC is proud the We Can Row rowers had a great competition at the Wisco Chase Regatta in September. We Can Row is a recreational program for female cancer survivors offering the women a chance to experience their body's strength in new ways, and to be part of a supportive community.

Interested in CRRC Rowing community? Reach out to our parent committee or Head Coach Kari Cole, camprandallrc.org/

**Amy Thomas Halstead serves on the Board of Directors of the CRRC and is the parent of a rower. She lives in the Regent neighborhood. ■*



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Nineteenth Annual Penny Carnival Gathers Gamesters for Affordable Fun Fest

If you had some pennies on Sunday, September 18, then our neighbors at Hillington Green triangle park had some entertainment for you. Children and adults within a hard-to-define “walking distance” of the park were invited to spend the afternoon together at play.

It was, indeed, a multi-generational effort, just what organizer Sabrina Karl encouraged. People, including some entrepreneurial teens, created games or activity booths; and there were modest but colorful prizes (candy, grab bags of toys) for winners, which was almost everyone.

Specifically, there was finger-painting of a different kind, not your usual messy kindergarten art project but something way more glamorous. There was a chance to limberly limbo if your back could take it. One adult, Nan Youngerman, demonstrated the fine art of blowing mega-bubbles, and there were also assorted tossing games.

It was a delight to see the neighborhood at play. ■



Hazel Moss practices stringing bubbles at Hillington Green's Penny Carnival. Photo: Colleen Moss.



A scene from the Third Regent Neighborhood Art Walk on a lovely fall Saturday in October, featuring 17 creative neighbors selling at 11 locations—all outdoors.



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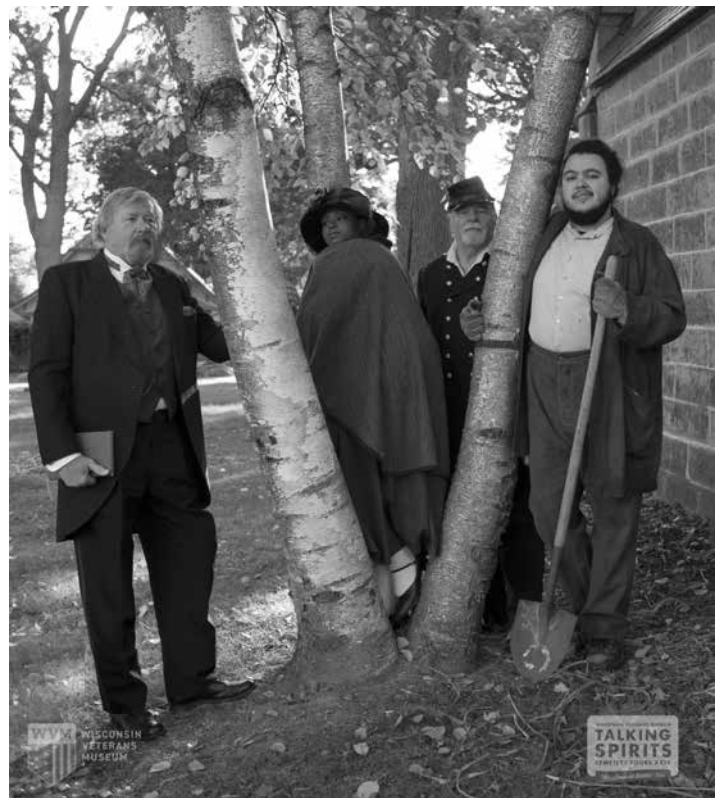
Talking Spirits Live on At Forest Hill Cemetery

An important part of our neighborhood's past came back to life in October at Forest Hill Cemetery. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum, with the help of some local actors, held the 24th annual "Talking Spirits" living history tour. The ticketed on-site performances are attended by schoolchildren and several thousand adults; and feature "reenactors" standing in for key people buried at Forest Hill.

This year's theme, "Henceforth and Forever Free," referenced the Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln, September 22, 1862, formally ending slavery in the Civil War South. Highlighted on the tour were some African Americans buried in the cemetery, including John Wayles Jefferson, grandson of Thomas Jefferson and Sarah "Sally" Hemings; Civil War veteran Notley Henderson, one of Madison's first Black landowners; and Anna Mae Miller, a founder of the city's NAACP chapter.

Videotaped soliloquies of this year's "talking spirits" will be available online, according to The Wisconsin Veterans Museum's communications specialist, Jennifer Stevenson. Tours for the past two years are already online at wisvetmuseum.com/madison-cemetery-tours.

Stevenson says the Museum is always in need of volunteer guides. Any history buffs interested in next year's event are encouraged to get in touch with Stevenson at jennifer.stevenson@dva.wisconsin.gov ■



Four "reenactors" bring Madison's past to life at Forest Hill Cemetery's 24th Annual living history tour.

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A school group with one of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's volunteer guides for the Talking Spirits tour at Forest Hill Cemetery. Photos: The Wisconsin Veterans Museum.



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Announcements

Sunday, October 30

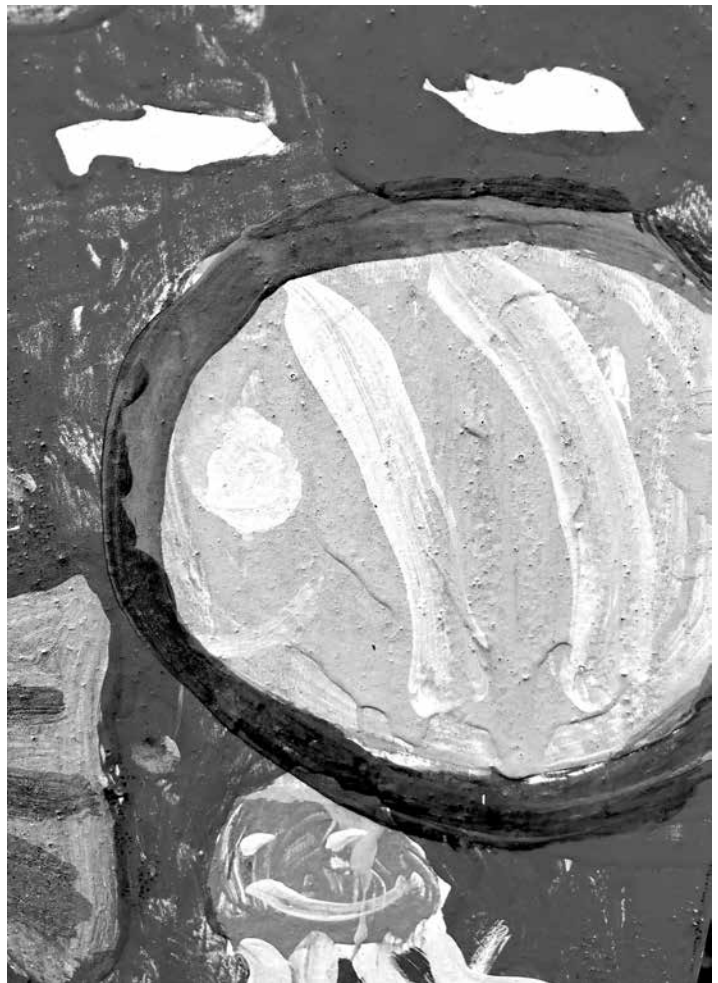
Regent Market Co-op Annual Member Meeting

The meeting will be held virtually at 11:00, but a meet and greet with RMC board members will follow in front of the store from 12:00–2:00.

The business of the meeting will include a report from General Manager John Wendt on store operations and financial outlook, bondholder payback decision-making and board member nominations and elections. To join us in the virtual meeting, stop in the store to sign up. ■

First Congregational Church Resumes Free Thanksgiving Meals

First Congregational United Church of Christ is offering a traditional Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, November 24, 2022. Turkey, fixings, and pie are available for pick up or home delivery. Call 608-233-9751 by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20 to place your order. ■



*Where in the neighborhood is this? Can you find it?
Tell us about it. Email Ronnie at rlhess@wisc.edu*



*Patti Sinclair's trivets, garlands, and wreaths
from upcycled wool sweaters were on display
during the Regent Neighborhood Art Walk.*

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,900. The deadline for the February edition is January 7, 2023. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood about local history or personalities and discussions of local issues. Please send items or inquiries to Ronnie Hess at rlhess@wisc.edu.