



Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

www.regentneighborhood.org

YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

ISSUE >> WINTER / 2009

The City of Madison is Rewriting Its Zoning Code: How This Could Affect the Regent Neighborhood

There is perhaps no more important document for determining the look, feel, and livability of the City of Madison than its zoning code. And right now, the city is rewriting that code.

The process, begun early in 2008 is scheduled to continue through the end of 2009 with opportunities for public engagement throughout, whether in the working meetings that are happening right now or through the more formalized public hearings scheduled for next year.

The Regent Neighborhood Association board has members monitoring and tracking the city's effort in order to bring new ideas to the table—such as the permissibility of “granny flats”—while keeping Regent residents apprised of what is happening in the process. They are: Troy Thiel (troythiel@yahoo.com) and George Hall (geohall@mailbag.com).

As you might recall, the City of Madison passed a “smart growth” plan, known as the Comprehensive Plan in January of 2006. After 2010, implementing ordinances such as zoning must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. However, the current zoning code, written in 1966, is woefully out of date and needs to be modernized if it is to be a useful tool for implementing this new Comprehensive Plan.

According to the city's website: “All existing and new development in the City must be consistent with the requirements of the zoning code. These requirements range from the land uses (e.g. single family home, apartment, neighborhood store, office building) allowed on a property, to building setbacks from the street and adjacent properties, to the amount of parking required on a site.”

In short, the zoning code pretty much controls what development looks like throughout the city, including our own Regent neighborhood. Of particular concern for Regent are the development pressures mounting on Old University Corridor. Many believe it is just a matter of time before new projects are proposed for the corridor.

The size, scope, purpose, and look of these projects will be determined largely by the comprehensive plan, the zoning code...and any plan that the Regent Neighborhood Association formally adopts as our vision for the corridor along with guidance for new developments. The RNA Board has appointed a committee of residents to help the neighborhood develop a plan for the corridor. Look for announcements soon about this process and getting involved. In the meantime, for more information about the city's zoning rewrite, *(continued on page 3)*

President's Message—

Of all the forces that shape our neighborhood, it is the battle of pragmatism versus activism that I have found most interesting. Practical versus ideal.

I come from a very small farm town of 400 in rural Nebraska. For small town Nebraska, everything is based on pragmatism. When it is a constant battle of keeping the lights on and the doors open, pragmatism kicks in as the dominant force. Resources are limited and you have to be creative. But the small towns with houses very similar to ours are being swept away and well-built craftsmanship is being lost. I often wonder that perhaps in the future, the technology and economics will be such that these old homes can be saved by moving them to areas where they are appreciated. Every time I go home, though, I see more and more abandoned old farmhouses that were once probably beautiful.

I recently bought three buildings on East Johnson Street. They are great old brick buildings with a lot hidden potential and I am looking forward to renovating them. But they have been severely neglected for decades by the former owner. He was a notorious slumlord and his name is spoken with a lot of anger in the Johnson/Gorham area. As I understand it, a large part of the reason that East Johnson looks like it does is due to his neglect.

My buildings have great floorplans, strong bones and were generally well-built. But many of the houses that surround mine have not fared so well. They were modestly built as rentals a hundred years ago or more and their age and neglect are overwhelming. They are full of old wiring, mold, asbestos, and they leak energy like a sieve. Many have severe structural defects.

There is a new proposal to demolish eleven of these houses and put up 115 units of apartments that are 3 ½ stories tall and attempt to keep the character of the neighborhood. I'm not saying that this is the exact proposal that should be built but it is certainly in the right spirit and direction of the neighborhood. As a homeowner and investor who has renovated and restored five houses in Madison, I appreciate the character of the old houses slated to be demolished but also know the amount of work and money it would take to make them nice. As a Realtor® and someone who works mostly downtown, I know that the amount of money it would take to renovate to a single-family standard would be much more than the end value would justify. I couldn't ask a potential buyer to take on one of these properties nor would I buy one myself.

There might be other options to try and save these houses and others like them in the city, but I fear that the worst option is to do nothing. By actively fighting for every older house in the city, I am afraid that we defacto endorse the continued decay of these houses, and in turn, those neighborhoods. As someone who has worked in the housing industry much of my life, I know that many of these homes were never meant to last forever. Just as we shouldn't expect future generations to save every track home in Fitchburg, I don't think we should want to save every house in central Madison that has reached the end of its useful life, just because it is old. We should take every effort to save historic houses but these do not fall into that category.

It doesn't seem like we have a good approach to deciding what is really worth keeping and what isn't. Our neighborhood plans are paralyzed with a lack of funding and expertise and we are asked to make long-term decisions that most of us don't have the background to do. It seems to me there has to be a better way to determine what Madison should look like before this change has occurred. We have such a strong history of real excellence in building and architecture. But what we are seeing built now is largely dumbed down, cheaply built, post-modernist boxes that have a boring sameness and that will surely be facing the wrecking ball in 40 years or need significant repairs in the future.

In April, we are going to be choosing a new alder and I hope whoever that person is appreciates the real dilemma that we face downtown and in the near Isthmus Neighborhoods. I also hope the city steps up and takes an active leadership position and develops a vision for the downtown that makes it the vibrant downtown that so many want to see. There has to be real leadership if we are to move from the pragmatism of boring building and the activism of defending slum housing that has reached the end of its life. In its place we must commit ourselves to allowing and pursuing quality new building projects that may someday become historic in their own right as well as identify and save the houses that are historic. To maintain the current course is wrong for Madison, and wrong for our older Neighborhoods. We can do better.

Best regards,

Troy Rost, RNA President
608.320.0232 troy1210@yahoo.com

Dane County Board Report, District 10— Supervisor Jeremy Levin



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

I hope this edition of the RNA newsletter finds you well, and that you have found time to enjoy the holiday season with your friends, families and neighbors. Because this is my introductory article, I want first to express my gratitude to you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. I

also want to extend any assistance I may be able to offer to you and to maintain my commitment to conference with you on any concerns you may have with county government. Although my tenure thus far has been brief, I have already found great value in the individual expertise that many of you have offered regarding the most pressing issues facing our community.

Since Nov. 4, when I was elected to represent District 10, I was sworn-in to office. I was able to hit the proverbial ground running as my Nov. 17th installation coincided with the County's 2009 budget deliberations. Although the majority of committee hearings and discussions on the budget had taken place prior to my induction, I did have the opportunity to rise and speak against cuts to county funding that supports regional economic development with surrounding communities and counties. In these trying economic times, the majority of the board agreed that the funding was critical to our sustained growth and was defeated on a voice vote.

Ultimately, I felt that the \$493 million county budget accurately reflected the priorities of our community, and, as a result, I voted in favor of it. Some of the highlights of the budget included a cost of living adjustment for many of the County's human service workers; more than \$3.5 million for the reconstruction of a number of county roads and intersections; additional staff and technological upgrades for the Dane County Public Safety Communications Center; and \$12 million to begin construction of a new countywide emergency radio network.

Now that budget deliberations have concluded, the majority of my work on the County Board will take place on the Health and Human Needs (HHN) committee. I was appointed to the HHN committee to fill a vacancy left by our outgoing Sup. David Worzala. I was pleased to receive this appointment not only because of my health care experience, but also because of the opportunities it presents to serve the neediest populations in our community. The committee's purview is broad, and covers issues ranging from administration of the Badger Prairie nursing home, to ensuring adequate and compassionate care for physically and developmentally disabled adults, to the oversight of the county human services department and much more. The HHN committee meets weekly on Tuesdays. Thus far, the majority of the committee's meetings have centered on the county's possible implementation of Family Care, the State's long term care program, including how other counties' experiences have impacted their implementation of the program.

As always, please feel free to contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 608.577.9335.

— *Jeremy*

Zoning Code: (continued from page 1)

go to this link: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/zoningRewrite/>

or contact the city staff person below:

Rick Roll

City of Madison

Senior Planner

Department of Planning and Economic and
Community Development

Phone: 608-267-8732

Fax: 608-267-8739

Email: rroll@cityofmadison.com

Mail: Zoning Code Rewrite

Department of Planning and Economic and
Community Development

Planning Division

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

P.O. Box 2984

Madison, WI 53704

Impact of Road Salt on the Madison Lakes

The negative impact of road salt on city infrastructure and private property is extensive. Equally troubling is the impact of road salt on our lakes and drinking water. During the past three decades chloride levels have doubled in the lakes, and tripled in some drinking water wells. Salt applied to the streets contaminates the lakes through direct runoff in storm water sewers. Because water from the lakes makes its way into the water table, our drinking water is also affected.

The city of Madison adopted a salt reduction policy in 1973 for the Lake Wingra watershed aimed at reducing road salt application by 50%. The 50% reduction policy was applied to the entire city in 1977. While the salt reduction goals have rarely been met the practice of limiting salting to bus routes, main streets, connecting streets and streets leading to schools continues today. Recent action by the streets department has reduced the amount of salt spread per lane mile from 150 lbs. to 100 lbs. Despite these efforts to curb salt usage an average of nearly 10,000 tons of salt are spread on city streets each year with additional salt applied by private homeowners and businesses.

Chloride levels in the Madison lakes have doubled since 1972. Chloride concentration levels in the Madison lakes remains below the (395 mg/L) chronic and (757 mg/L) toxic levels established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources but dramatic escalations far above the toxic level occur near storm water outfalls. Scientists are concerned about increased chloride levels in lakes since chloride affects the complex interactions that allow aquatic life to flourish.

The level of chloride concentration in the drinking water has also been rising annually but is below the Department of Natural Resources contaminant level of 250 mg/L. Since 1972 chloride levels have risen over 250 percent in several of Madison's wells. For centuries the Madison lakes were partially recharged through groundwater seeping up through the lake bottom but the recent draw down of the water table has reversed that process. A recent Madison newspaper article linked increased chloride in drinking water to lake water infiltrating the aquifers from which the wells draw their water.

Whether or not chloride levels continue to increase in the Madison lakes rests in part on the quality of public discussion over the issue and action of informed citizens. Decreasing the application of road salt is an important step in improving the water quality of our lakes and ensuring the safety of our drinking water. We can all be part of the solution by being informed, talking with our neighbors and expressing our views to our Alders.

For more information on salt in lakes a Google search for chloride levels in lakes will provide abundant information. The Madison Salt Use Subcommittee on the Environment produced an informative report in December 2006. An additional informative document appears on the Friends of Lake Wingra website. Links to these documents follow:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/documents/SaltUseReduction.pdf>

<http://lakewingra.org/library/docs/1117595582-roadsalt.pdf>

— Steve Arnold
Greenspace Committee Chairman

Madison Trust for Historic Preservation Announces Workshops

This winter, the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation is offering a series of events to help homeowners get to know their old house. "Old House, New Year" will feature workshops about keeping old houses functional and energy efficient. As temperatures drop and snow piles up, now is the perfect time to learn how to use your house to its full potential in keeping energy and replacement costs low.

All workshops will be held at the Goodman Atwood Community Center. Workshops are \$10 each, pay at the door.

— Erica Fox Gehrig
Madison Trust for Historic Preservation
www.madisontrust.org

The Truth About Historic Windows: February 11, 2009, 7 p.m.

Phil Barlow and Paul Porter will discuss the benefits of sticking with your old wood windows and demonstrate repairing and restoring your house's original windows, the ones you might not need to replace!

Button Up Your Old House March 11, 2009, 7 p.m.

As the snow begins to thaw, learn about your house's exterior and how to identify common but solvable problems. James Westring of Westring Construction will discuss maintaining and preserving the exterior of your old house, .

Hoyt Park News—

Ariel Debroux is the newly-appointed RNA Liaison to the Friends of Hoyt Park. She worked as a summer ranger at Hoyt Park last year and is a junior at UW-Madison studying the biological aspects of conservation and botany. Ariel will provide regular updates about our neighborhood green gem.

Hoyt Park is a great place to enjoy some green space in the heart of Madison. Each summer the Friends of Hoyt Park hire a summer ranger to keep up the park and take on new projects to maintain and improve the park. A few of the projects currently in the planning or underway are the designing and planting of a native plants garden by the parking lot, the clearing of invasive species (mainly buckthorn) from below the overlook to preserve the great view, and the maintenance and expansion of the native prairie.

The native plants and design for the parking lot garden were laid out last summer, but time ran out and planting could not be done; the plan is to purchase and plant the garden next summer in 2009. If you would like to help contribute to this garden, you can make a donation to the Friends of

Hoyt Park, and specify that it is for plants for the garden. A plan for the garden will be posted early on in the summer at the kiosk near the parking lot.

Another major ongoing project is the removal of invasive species at the overlook. The view at this overlook is the reason Hoyt Park was placed here, and it is important for the Friends that this view is preserved. Buckthorn and other invasive species are being manually removed by the ranger and by volunteers at workdays, which are scheduled each month in the summer. Removing invasive species helps to restore the native ecology, and native grasses will be planted to help discourage buckthorn from re-growing.

In addition to workdays at the overlook, there are also prairie workdays, in which volunteers help to maintain and expand the beautiful native prairie that has been created. Anyone looking to volunteer or help out can check out the Friends website at www.friendsofhoypark.org/, or just stop by the park to enjoy a beautiful place!

— Ariel Debroux
RNA Liaison to the Friends of Hoyt Park

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I Learned It on the Listserv: Union South

As some of you may be aware, the University is preparing to demolish the old Union South at the corner of Johnson St and Randall Ave to make way for a new Union South. Since this is relatively nearby our neighborhoods, some of you may be interested in these changes.

Demolition will commence in February 2009, and the new Union South will open in Spring 2011. The new building site will include the space currently occupied by the old Union South, plus the space occupied by the building across the Johnson St spur (Randall Towers). The Johnson St spur which connects Randall Ave and Campus Dr where it becomes Johnson St will be eliminated.

The new Union South is projected to cost \$67 million, covered by student segregated fees, Union revenues, and private donations. It will be a multi-modal transportation hub, featuring a bike station, moped parking, 178 underground vehicle stalls (accessible from Dayton St), a vehicle dropoff point (accessible from Dayton and Orchard), a bus stop, and accommodation for future light rail service. It will be adjacent to the new Orchard Street Pedestrian Mall, which will include new dedicated signals on Johnson St and University Ave, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery and Morgridge Institute for Research.

The new Union South will also be a sustainable building, conforming to the LEED Gold building rating, including a number of features that will contribute to its sustainability for its expected 100 year lifetime, such as green roof designs, effective capture of wind and sun, stormwater collection and management features, and provisions for the addition of wind towers and solar panels. The new Union will be the first LEED-rated building on the UW campus, and only the second LEED-rated building of its function in the country.

Also featured will be an expanded outdoor mall and entertainment area and expanded food, retail, and entertainment offerings indoors. Indoor entertainment includes a game room bowling alley and a two story climbing wall. A coffee and wine bar, as well as a number of food kiosks and a grill, will be among the food offerings. It will also include hotel rooms and extended-stay rooms for visitors.

Some campus services will be moving to the new building. Notably, the Union Film Series will move from its longtime location at Memorial Union to the new Union South. The new South Campus Union will also be new home of the UW Campus Information and Visitor Center. Campus tours will also originate and end from Union South.

Memorial Union will also undergo an \$80 million renovation to meet accessibility requirements for the disabled, as well as to modernize fire safety, ventilation, heating and cooling systems, and increasing energy efficiency while preserving the historical features and character of the building.

For more information about the new Union South, including illustrations, designs, and other information, see: <http://newunion.wisc.edu/>

For information about the Student Union Initiative, see: <http://unionvote.wisc.edu/>

For general information about the Wisconsin Union, see: <http://union.wisc.edu/>

Regards,

Dave Schroeder
University of Wisconsin-Madison
das@doit.wisc.edu
<http://das.doit.wisc.edu>
608-265-4737

The RNA Listserv is RegentNeighborhoodAssn@yahoo.com. See page 18 for instructions on how to join and post to the listserv.



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Nominating Committee

Troy Rost, RNA President, will be assembling a nominating committee to fill open positions as well as to fill next year's slate. If you know someone who might be interested, or would like to know more about different positions and what the jobs entail, please contact Troy at 608-320-0232 or troy1210@yahoo.com.

2009 RNA Board Meeting Dates

The Regent Neighborhood Association Board will meet from 7-9 p.m. in the West High School LMC on the following dates:

February 25, 2009

March 25, 2009

April 22, 2009

May 27, 2009

Each meeting agenda will be posted on the RNA Listserv prior to the meeting. If you or your organization would like to add something to the agenda, please contact RNA President Troy Rost at troy1210@yahoo.com.

New Business in the Neighborhood:

Scooter U

Located at 2635 University Avenue (the corner of Farley and University); Phone: 608-233-3300.

Greetings, RNA, from Scooter U! Scooter U is not just a scooter shop. You can think of us as your neighborhood small engine repair shop—whackers, thatchers, mowers and blowers—and we repair them all, small engine anything, well, almost anything.

We have two cracker-jack mechanics on board, Steve Wells and Kevin Schroeder. Both guys are multi-talented—whose talents also include welding, motor adjustments, and transmissions. During the snowy winter months, we also offer snow-blowing services (residential only).

The owner, Steve Jindra, grew up in the Regent Neighborhood. He lived at 12 Virginia Terrace, attended Randall School, West Junior High, and graduated from West High in 1969. Scooter U hopes to become an intricate part of Steve's old neighborhood.



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Don't wait! The deadline for the May newsletter is March 30. Contact me for an ad rate sheet and schedule, send in your ad, and we'll take it from there! Then enjoy the feeling of supporting your community through the good work of the Regent Neighborhood Association.

Sincerely,

Mary Sarnowski
Communications Chair
Regent Neighborhood Association
sarnowski@mac.com 608.238.1224

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Edgewood Student Makes Scene

What started out as a light bulb-type idea has resulted in a display that the Madison area will cherish and enjoy for many Christmases to come. Edgewood High School junior Claire Petchler recently finished creating and hand-painting all 17 pieces of a new Nativity Scene for her school.

Petchler, who undertook this effort as a Girl Scout Gold Project—the highest award in Girl Scouting—has invested more than 200 hours over a six-month period to complete the life-sized, two-dimensional figures. The new nativity replaces a 40-year old scene, which had only three pieces remaining. The rest had been lost or had fallen into disrepair. The beautifully-detailed facial features and garments that now enliven the scene are Claire's original work.

"I wanted to make my mark and improve my school somehow, and when I saw the condition of the old Nativity Scene freshman year, I had the idea to make a new one," explains Petchler. "At the same time I was looking for a Gold Award project and this idea happened to fit perfectly."

"Another important reason I chose this project is because I had just moved to the Madison area from Connecticut and had no connection to my new town yet. The Gold Award is based on service to community, and I knew that Edgewood would be my new community."

The Nativity Scene will be illuminated and on display in front of the high school's Bishop's Doors from Thanksgiving Day through Epiphany, January 6.

"My dad taught me how to use the jigsaw," Petchler acknowledges, "and then I was able to cut many of the pieces myself. The faces and garments are from my imagination. I used a pattern for the basic lines, but changed colors and features. For instance, I painted a European king, an Arabic king and an African king to be representative of all nations."

"We thank Claire for initiating this project and for her determination to create a new Nativity Scene for Edgewood," said a grateful EHS President Judd Schemmel. "We're thrilled that she chose this project and devoted so many hours to it, and we are overjoyed with the result. We hope the entire Edgewood family, our neighbors and community will come to see and enjoy this work of art year after year."

Petchler has always loved creating art and is involved in art classes, drama scenery crew, Science Olympiad and Book Club at EHS. Claire is a member of Senior Girl Scout Troop 939 of Middleton. She attends Luther Memorial Church. Claire also plays harp with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra and takes voice and piano lessons. In the future Petchler hopes to keep art and music always a part of her life.



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Building Community, One Block Party at a Time

This is a continuing series of block party stories, written by our neighbors for our neighbors, hoping to document and inspire community. In this issue neighbor Margaret Krome shares her block's story as well as her recipe for Partying With Your Block.

❖ Every September for as long as our children can remember, the families on the 2500 block of Chamberlain Avenue have gotten a permit to barricade the ends of our block. Small children tiptoe guiltily into the street, unable to believe the freedom to step off the curb without a parent's hand to guide them. Older children get out their tikes and bikes and roar up and down the street. Some years there's a skateboard contingent. Some years children make big bubbles, some years not. There have been massive efforts to decorate the street with colored chalk or draw hopscotch boards headed toward infinity. The egg toss and water balloon toss go without saying. Always there's great conversation and a magnificent potluck.

The games vary. We've had treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, potato races, or hula hoops races. We've put peanuts on spoons and hopped impossible distances. Some years, teams of children interview the adults to figure out which odd factoid belongs with which adult. For instance, we learned which neighbor had their entire nose sewn back onto their face, leaving no trace. Which neighbor had competed in the Olympics. Who has a glass eye. Whose first job was grave digging. The past couple of years an intergenerational trivia game has revealed who knows their astrophysics and who has a commanding knowledge of Sponge Bob Square Pants.

We usually start communing at 3:30 on a September Sunday—or earlier if the children are loud in their advocacy—and hang out until darkness or the next day of school just can't be ignored. This year, the roasting marshmallows that burst into flame became torches as the night descended.

If one person had to prepare all the fun, the tradition would never endure. So we divide it into obvious tasks. Sometime in early to mid-summer, the Organizer surveys neighbors to discern which September Sunday will be picked and sends a memo around the block, enlisting small children to tuck it into doors. The memo lists other tasks, for which people volunteer over the following weeks. Money Maven. Permit Person (requires getting signatures of a certain percent of the block and paying for the permit a few weeks in advance, now doable online).

Barricades Obtainer. Food, Ice and Stuff Buyer (The block pays for napkins, paper plates, seltzer water and soda; plenty of beer gets contributed by households). Games Guru. Grill Bringer. Trash/ Recycling Can Preparer. And that's about it. As the evening closes down, all the children help pick up balloon pieces, and there's a general cleanup for ten minutes. By morning, there usually are just a few misplaced kitchen spoons or spatulas and a few splats of egg on the asphalt for the crows.

We've systematized it so that the organizer has two memos on file to send out—the first announcing the date and seeking volunteers, and the second reminding people to pay up (usually around \$5 per family) and move their cars the day of. Our revelry has infected other nearby blocks. If you're interested in getting copies of our block party memos and putting together an afternoon and evening of community sharing for your own block, email Margaret Krome, mkrome@sbcglobal.net or call her at 238-1440.

— Margaret Krome

We'd love to hear your block party stories. Be sure to give as many details as possible—how many years you've been doing it, who organizes it, what is eaten and played, how late you keep the party going, favorite memories, and your recipe for a block party.

Email your contributions to Mary Sarnowski at sarnowski@mac.com

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5th District Common Council Alder's Report—Alder Robbie Webber

Besides the upcoming election in April, and a new alder for District 5, the big news this spring will be the beginning of work on University Ave and Campus Drive from Shorewood Blvd to State St. Some of this work will begin in mid-March, and some of it will continue through the end of October. As many of us know, the pavement on University Ave and Campus Dr is in very bad condition. Another hard winter will not make things any better, and so it's time to bite the bullet and fix the road. Below are details on the construction, which will happen in several stages, and with different types of work on different sections.

Shorewood Blvd to University Bay Dr, and a very small section of the 2600 block of University Ave:

This portion of the roadway will only be receiving joint repair. That means that a lane or two of the road will be closed at a time, the bad portions of the pavement cut out, and new sections installed. Most of the roadway will continue to be open during work, and probably only one lane at a time will be closed during peak times, and two during off-peak. This work will take place mid-May to the end of August.

Campus Drive: The pavement will be removed and "rubbleized," that is chopped up to make a new base for the new pavement. One side of Campus Drive will be closed at a time, so there will only be one lane in each direction. This will also take place mid-May through August. The work will probably increase traffic on "old" University Ave.

University Ave State St to Murray Mall and Park to the railroad tracks: The main section of University Ave through campus will be done in two parts, and utility work will also be done at the same time. This will be a major road rebuilding project, and travel through this corridor will probably be difficult, regardless of your travel mode: driving, walking, biking, or bus.

Park St and a small section of University Ave will not be rebuilt in 2009 so that a north-south corridor to campus stays open, and traffic can move from Langdon to south of University Ave. Park St and University Ave on either side will be rebuilt in 2010.

A small section of Campus Dr between "old" University Ave and the railroad tracks, as well as the intersection of Breese and University Ave will also be rebuilt in 2010.

Work on University Ave through campus will begin in mid-March. It will proceed in several stages, and different lane configurations will be in place for each stage.

From mid-March to mid-May, there will be two lanes of traffic, plus a bus lane. Since left turns may occupy a good part of one lane, essentially the

through driving lanes will be reduced to one. There will be a counter-flow bike lane open until mid-May, although it will be moved out into the street, similar to what has happened with University Ave development projects.

After final exams in mid-May, the counter-flow bike lane will go away, so bike traffic will need to use Dayton St, the SW Path, or even Johnson St. The through travel lanes will be reduced to two, and buses, bikes, and cars will share the farthest north lane. There will be left-turn pockets at intersections, but only every other street will allow left turns.

Later in the summer, buses will move to the north side of the street, and the rest of traffic to the south side of the street. When the counter-flow bike lanes are rebuilt, they will be 1-1.5 feet wider, and the median will be slightly smaller.

University Ave from Broom St to Breese will be finished by the end of August. Gorham from State to Broom will still be worked on until the end of October.

Needless to say, our neighborhood will be impacted by additional traffic on Regent St, old University Ave, and maybe even other residential streets. A two-year rebuilding schedule was considered, but I argued that we would prefer to have one horrible year rather than two very bad years. As I said in my last column, 2009 may be a good year to walk, bike, or bus as much as possible.

Other Items

Metro Fares: By the time this newsletter is published, we will probably know the outcome of the Mayor's efforts to raise bus fares to pay for a gap in funding created by his budget this past November. Both Alder Solomon and I serve on the Transit and Parking Commission, and we have been working hard to keep Metro from raising fares. We both feel there are other areas where costs can be cut to avoid raising bus fares. With the economy faltering, and Dane County teetering on the edge of air quality non-attainment (meaning our air is no longer considered clean), not to mention the above-mentioned roadwork, we do not feel a 33% increase in bus fares is appropriate.

Alternate side parking changes

My proposal to extend the snow emergency zone to cover the Regent Neighborhood—actually the current proposal is to require alternate side parking in the entire city only during snow emergencies—is meeting with stiff opposition from city staff. The ordinance change is working its way through city committees.

(continued on page 14)

10th District Common Council Alder's Report—Alder Brian Solomon

Greetings District 10 Residents: I want to first wish you all a Happy New Year. Sometime early next week I will file all the required paperwork to be officially placed on the April 7 ballot for re-election. I did not come to this conclusion lightly (you know, kids, day-job, and all) but I am really enjoying this experience and feel there is more work to do. It continues to be an honor to represent you. I hope that I can count on you for your support again, but more on that later.

In the meantime, I wanted to update you on a few things that have been going on since last I wrote.

Budget: As most of you know, the budget passed in mid-November. I worked on and sponsored several amendments—some passed, some didn't. All in all, I thought it was a fine, balanced budget and definitely commend the Mayor for a solid budget in a difficult year. I continue to believe we are investing less money than we should in some critical areas, especially community services, environmental protection, economic development and job training, and more solid support for low income residents. Some good things were included in the budget—a homeless outreach worker, recycling in parks, and eviction prevention. But my biggest priority in this budget was avoiding the proposed Madison Metro fare increase. I lost that fight (more on that below), but voted for the budget anyway.

Allied Redevelopment: We broke ground on the redevelopment and the first units should be completed by July. This project continues to go very well. The big news of late was our job fair to hire local residents. Over 100 people showed up and 18 were hired, 12 of whom live in the Allied neighborhood. We've now hired 23 Allied residents for Phase 1 of this project (6 to rehab the existing buildings, 5 for public improvements and demolition, and 12 for phase one construction). I couldn't be more thrilled about all of this and the great work of the neighborhood association, the Allied Partnership, the MAP program, the START program, the CDA, city staff, WHEDA, and many others in making this happen.

Alternate Side Parking: Just a reminder that this is in effect until March 15th. Remember, all your winter parking information is available at 261.9111 or www.cityofmadison.com/winter. Also remember our cool new service: through the website, you can sign up to receive an email and/or text message every time a snow emergency is declared. Hopefully we won't have many of those this year, but given the early part of this winter and all of last year, I guess it's not likely!

Bus Fares: In a nutshell, the Mayor proposed to increase bus fares to \$2.00 in his operating

budget proposal. I was the lead sponsor on an amendment at budget to oppose this, but lost 12-8 on the council floor. But it's really up to the Transit Parking Commission (TPC), on which I also sit. So I made a motion at the December 9 TPC meeting to oppose the bus fare increase. I made some strong arguments and handed out some cost analyses and calculations that I'd prepared for the meeting. I'd called everyone on the TPC and felt pretty good about the vote, but got more support than expected and my motion carried, 7-2. The Mayor was unhappy with our vote and requested that the matter be put back on the January meeting agenda. I will be fighting it again there. If the TPC upholds, the Mayor will likely appeal and this whole thing will go back to Council, and I'll have to fight it again there. At best, the fare increases raise about \$700,000 (about 1% of the total Metro budget) and decrease ridership by 200,000 rides per year. I believe we'll lose many more riders and therefore raise far less revenue. That, combined with the impact a fare increase will have on the economy, the long term health of Metro, the environment, and (especially) low income riders, is why I have fought, and will continue to fight, this proposal so hard. If any of you have thoughts, please feel free to share them. Otherwise, more to come!

Re-election: As of today, I've not heard of anyone challenging for District 10 Alder. I'll send out a re-election email in the coming weeks once I know more. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns about the next two years, and feedback on the last two years, as always.

This is my short and sweet holiday update. There's lots more going on, of course, but I wanted to focus on some big highlights. Mostly, I want to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. These last couple weeks and these special moments are filled with two conflicting thoughts. The first is a question: Why am I doing this? Why am I making a conscious decision to spend so much time away from my children whom I adore? The second, ironically, is the answer to the question. I want my children to live in a world where equal opportunity, justice, equality, and environmental protection are a way of life, not just a dream. Why am I running again? Because we still have work to do. So as you cherish holiday time with friends and family, and as you make New Year's resolutions for 2009, remember, we still have work to do. So if you have thirty dollars or thirty minutes to spare, make sure they go toward the holiday present we all hope to unwrap this coming year: a better world.

Happy New Year, District Ten.

— Brian

5th District Alder's Report

(continued from page 12)

Red light running counts

The intersection of University Ave, University Bay Drive, and Farley was the intersection in the South Police District with the highest number of crashes in 2007, so I assisted the Dane County-City of Madison Public Health Dept and the Madison Police Dept do counts of red light running on two mornings at the intersection. This is to gather data to support a request for a change in state law to allow cameras to enforce red-light running. Thanks to the dedicated neighbors who helped out on two very cold mornings!

New South District Captain

Speaking of the South Police District, Joe Balles will take over as Captain from Jim Wheeler. Captain Balles has worked downtown for quite a long time. He has a great record of close coordination with the community, and also has extensive experience dealing with bar and campus issues. I am looking forward to having him address a future RNA board meeting.

And finally, thanks for the wonderful experiences of the last 6 years. It has been fun and challenging to represent the 5th District. Two people will be knocking on your door and leaving information about their candidacies. Ask questions when they come by, but please be nice. The learning curve to understand everything that happen at the city level is very steep, and it's probably cold when they are knocking on your door!

Hopefully, I'll have a chance to write one more column in the spring to wrap up.

— Robbie

From Alder Robbie Webber—

Friends,

As some of you may have heard through the grapevine, I will not be seeking re-election for alder. There are things that I want to do personally and professionally that I feel I can't do while serving on the Madison Common Council. What? Travel, for instance, both for work and for pleasure. Have time for some new projects. Go to dinner on Tuesday nights. Serving on the Council has been a great education, immensely satisfying, and a huge honor. It is very gratifying to be part of the decisions that affect the citizens of Madison, both present and future. It has been especially exciting to work with people in the Regent Neighborhood. There is so much knowledge and energy in this small area, and people are very much involved in the city and the issues that come before us. We have many decisions to make about our neighborhood and our city as a whole, and I plan to continue to be involved in those decisions. I want to thank all the people that have called, emailed, or stopped me in the street over the years to voice their support. Doing doors and walking through the neighborhood, I smile remembering the warm welcome I received from so many people that were previously strangers. If you want to know anything about the position of alder, you can reach me at District5@cityofmadison.com. Thanks again for an amazing experience!

— Robbie



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Man-on-the-Street Reporting, Dateline Regent Neighborhood January 2009

Woohoo RNA Campers! It's a New Year! Let's make it a Happy One! Your trusty correspondent and dozens of RNA kinfolk rang in the New Year an evening early with a great 2nd Annual RNA Holiday Party at the Froth House and the home of Jerry Vogt. Thanks to Terese at the Froth, Jerry, the Regent Coop, the RNA Board, the Guest musicians-the Northern Pikers (we got us a good timey Bluegrass band in the 'hood!) and all who attended. I had fun...and too many desserts! (and perhaps too many caffeinated beverages?)

Speaking of some of our businesses, don't forget to "Buy Local"...in these tough times our local retail businesses and service providers need your business now more than ever...margins are tight or non-existent...and it's hard to replace businesses in this climate if they go under...if you like the nearby nature of what we have, know that without all of our support we may not be so lucky in the future if they close. Plus, dollars spent with local businesses circulate through the economy more than going to the MNC's and online outlets. Plus, Part Duex, Local Businesses support your neighborhood and are your neighbors too! The "bad times" have hit many a Madison business...so remember "Buy Local" and visit www.danebuylocal.com to learn more! Why? Cuz MOTS says so!

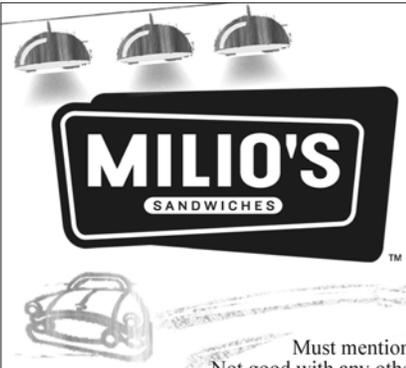
MOTS also knows that we're having a City Council race in our fair neighborhood. We have two candidates who will put on a good race. MOTS hopes each of them will put RNA and our constituent issues at the forefront of their efforts if they win! With lots going on...as per usual...in the RNA, an active Alder

has plentttttttty to do 'round these parts! As well as Madison issues...these tough times deserve effective action! The time for talking ad nauseum is over... "Progress" is "Progressive"! Just talkin' about it...not so much! Ever heard of "Paralysis by Overanalysis"? Remember, the Election is Tuesday, April 7th...and that's Spring Break for MMSD so if you're going on vacation, don't forget to learn the candidates and their issues stances and vote absentee!

MOTS also knows that there's been a new subcommittee coordinating the RNA Old University Avenue Corridor Plan, so stay tuned to the list serve on updates, coming soon, about impending public meets, charrettes, soires, festivals, shindigs, parties and other amazingly fun ways that our plan will be created..ok, that's a little over the top but you get the point, eh?

We heard the word "Change" an awful lot in 2008, and heading into '09 it's clear that Change is the only constant. Platitudes aside (I just love the movie Bull Durham!) MOTS advises those who have been thinking about getting more involved in RNA issues and the Board to help if they can. RNA can always use you. And remember, our website address is www.regentneighborhood.org where you can also learn how to sign on to the ListServ to get the most up-to-date RNA and area news and issue conversation...so that you too can be like your trusty correspondent... and know what's happening on the street!

— Troy Thiel
aka RNA Board Member-At-Large



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University Relations Committee

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Events Calendar

**February 10, 5:30 pm
and March 10, 5:30 pm**

Regent Neighborhood
Poetry Club, The Froth House
(subject to change, call 238-1828)

**February 11
and March 11**

Madison Trust for Historic
Preservation Workshops
Goodman Atwood Community
Center, 7 pm (see p. 4)

February 25, 2009

RNA Board Meeting
West High School, LMC, 7 pm

**February 19, 5:30 pm
and March 19, 5:30 pm**

Regent Neighborhood
Poetry Club Exercise Group,
The Froth House
(subject to change, call 238-1828)

March 25, 2009

RNA Board Meeting
West High School, LMC, 7 pm

*Check the RNA web site
and Listserv for even more
information*

The Regent Neighborhood Association Listserv

You can keep abreast of what's going on in the neighborhood by participating in the *RNA Listserv*, a discussion group for residents in the Regent Neighborhood.

To subscribe, send an email to RegentNeighborhoodAssn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. (You will receive an automatic response to your email address to which you must respond in order to finalize your subscription.)

To unsubscribe, send an email to RegentNeighborhoodAssn-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

To post a message, send it to RegentNeighborhoodAssn@yahoogroups.com.

To visit the group on the web, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RegentNeighborhoodAssn/>

The list owner is Robbie Webber. Contact her at RegentNeighborhoodAssn-owner@yahoogroups.com.

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This newsletter is a tri-annual publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,700. The deadline for next edition is March 30, 2009. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood, discussions of local issues, personal interest stories, etc. Please address items or inquiries, or for current ad rates, to Mary Sarnowski, 238-1224, sarnowski@mac.com. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Regent Neighborhood Association.