



Regent Neighborhood

ASSOCIATION

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Your Local Neighborhood Newsletter

Fall / 2009

Bike Boulevard Proposed For Kendall/Bluff

The Platinum Biking City Plan included a number of elements designed to make Madison the “Best Place in the Country to Bicycle.” Mayor David Cieslewicz convened the Platinum Bicycling Committee to develop this plan, adopted by the City Council in April 2008.

Among the many elements to improve bicycling in the city are infrastructure, land use, and enforcement goals and options. On the infrastructure side, the plan proposed pilot bicycle boulevards for the near East and near West neighborhoods. An East Mifflin Street corridor and a Kendall/Bluff corridor have been specifically called out in the plan and subsequent discussions.

The commonly accepted purpose of a formal bicycle boulevard is to improve bicycle safety and circulation. This is done by creating one or more of the following conditions:

- low traffic volumes (or bike lanes where traffic volumes are medium);
- discouragement of non-local motor vehicle traffic;
- free-flow travel for bikes by assigning the right-of-way to the bicycle boulevard at intersections wherever possible;
- traffic control to help bicycles cross major arterial roads; and
- a distinctive look and/or ambiance such that

(continued on page 1)

Fall RNA Neighborhood Meeting Wednesday, November 18

7:00–9:00 pm

Best Western InnTowner
(2424 Old University Avenue)

7:00 pm – Social hour – refreshments served

7:15 pm – Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Alder District 5*,
City staff – invited

9:00 pm – adjourn

* Presentation on city resources available for traffic calming, parking enhancements, neighborhood planning, bicycle routes, road reconstruction plans, and other neighborhood enhancement opportunities
Come and share some refreshments and your ideas.

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Presidential Ramblings—

In the last newsletter, I mused on about what a great neighborhood we had. As I reflect on the hectic nature of this fall season, I'd like to rename this column "Presidential Ramblings." Nothing long and philosophical—just some thoughts about the Regent Neighborhood and the place we call home.

- I would like to thank Shiva Bidar-Sieloff, our alder, for her never-ending energy and her want to make a difference in the neighborhood. She has revitalized activism in the 'Hood, and we will be a better neighborhood for it.
- I would like to thank the returning members of the RNA board, as well as the new members. Thanks for dedicating what little free time you have to your neighborhood.
- Appreciations to Peg Cullen, Nora Cullen, Mary Sarnowski and Lynn Fortner, who tirelessly put together our neighborhood directory this year.
- To those who do the big and little things around the 'Hood, like the July 4th event, garden tour, student walkabout, rummage sale, helping your neighbor, and just generally making this a great place to live.

It takes a village. Thanks for being part of it. Peace.

— darsi



*RNA Board President
Darsi Foss*



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This newsletter is a tri-annual publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,700. The deadline for next edition is December 30, 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.

Bike Boulevard (cont'd from page 1)

cyclists become aware of the existence of the bike boulevard and motorists are alerted that the roadway is a priority route for bicyclists.

For current purposes, it is important to focus on the “one or more” qualifier. Madison is relatively unique from its brethren of bicycling friendly cities. Unlike perennial top bicycling cities like Portland, Oregon, Davis, California, and Tucson, Arizona, snow removal and inclement weather must be accounted for in design options. Madison also has a long tradition of neighborhood independence with respect to traffic calming measures and urban street design. Details on the city’s processes for neighborhood traffic management are available on the city’s website <http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/ntmpfaq.cfm>. The Neighborhood Petition of Support (the first step in any calming effort) is available at http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/documents/ntmp_app.pdf. If a project does receive funding, the City presents options to the neighborhood based upon neighborhood input and engineering principles. The whole process is subject to a final confidential ballot. Several locations throughout the neighborhood have received traffic calming treatments in the past few years (in fact our neighborhood had the first city installation at Kendall and Grand!).

At the August Regent Neighborhood Association Board Meeting, city staff presented the near West Kendall/Bluff proposed bicycle boulevard. The city’s current proposal does not include engineered permanent traffic calming measures and would not include prohibitions on through traffic at this time. It does however include the distinctive look and ambiance through branded signage and pavement markings. The current plan should be considered the first phase of this corridor. City staff would like additional improvements to come in the following years based on block-by-block determinations, using existing traffic calming tools and processes. The RNA is still in discussion with the City on long-term plans for this.

The accompanying graphics show potential pavement markings that are under consideration (the ones shown are in use in Long Beach and Portland, Oregon). A common brand will provide repetitive visual indicators to drivers and cyclists alike, the bicycle boulevard differs from traditional bicycle routes or lanes. Travel



patterns will differ and it will promote greater bicycling usage. Ultimately, a designated bicycle boulevard will be a safer riding experience for commuters and recreational riders alike.

Other future improvements for individual blocks will be handled under the traditional petition and voting process. The designated bike boulevard may help influence priority ranking of projects, but that is not guaranteed. New neighborhood plans will include the designated bicycle boulevards as part of an overall comprehensive transportation plan. Other neighborhood planning initiatives, such as the Old University Avenue corridor plan, will include comments concerning the bicycle boulevard, parallel service, and bicycling connectivity and access.

A number of issues remain under consideration for the Kendall/Bluff Boulevard. Connectivity to existing designated bicycling routes and paths, parallel options, and free flow intersections remain to be debated. Our Alder, fellow streets and transportation committee members, and city staff will meet periodically to discuss bringing this issue forward in 2010.

For more information on the bike boulevard initiative, or streets and transportation issues in the Regent neighborhood generally, feel free to contact me at 608/262-7246 or jbitt@yahoo.com. For information on bicycle boulevards generally, visit the Bicycle Transportation Alliance’s homepage at http://www.bta4bikes.org/at_work/bikeboulevards.php.

— Jason Bittner
Streets & Transportation Committee

Jason Bittner is chair of the Streets and Transportation committee of the Regent Neighborhood Association and the Acting Director of UW-Madison’s Wisconsin Transportation Center in the College of Engineering.

Other items of interest:
http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/documents/Announcements/Monroe_Regent/MonroeStRegentStIntersectionOptions.cfm

The City of Madison is considering several proposals for an improved Monroe St & Regent St Intersection. The website above displays the options under consideration.



District 5 Alder Report — Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

It is hard to believe that it has already been over six months since I took office as your alder! The question I hear most often: how do you like being alder? I honestly love it. Lots of coffee, lots of meetings and, at the end of each day, I feel fortunate to be able to represent District 5 and be involved in the myriad of issues that make a difference in our quality of life. Below, I share a summary of District 5 related issues that I have been working on:

Pedestrian Safety Improvements

I have had a number of very productive meetings with David Dryer, Director of Traffic Engineering, and remain in regular communication with him. Based on invaluable input from RNA Board members Jason Bittner and George Hall and communications I received from many of you, we have been able to get some much-needed additional crosswalks at Allen Street & Chadbourne/Van Hise/Kendall as well as Highland Ave & Van Hise/Kendall. Additionally, I am working with Traffic Engineering and the Department to explore the possibility of piloting small digital solar-powered speed readers in a couple of locations in our neighborhood.

Campus Drive Landscaping

Thank you to all of you who pointed to the need for improving the landscaping on Campus Drive now that the repaving is done. Improved landscaping on the south side of Campus Drive would go a long way to make it a more inviting street and it may help buffer the Regent neighborhood from traffic noise. I have worked with Mayor Dave to add \$50,000 in the 2010 capital budget for this project.

Olive Jones Park Renovation

I have had a number of initial meetings and discussions about the rebuilding of the Olive Jones. I will be organizing a meeting later this Fall to get all parties to the table so we can set a timeline for this much-needed project to move forward. I am planning to introduce a capital budget amendment to use \$25,000 in impact fees towards the renovation of Olive Jones Park.

Wisconsin Energy Institute Building

The University of Wisconsin is proposing to build a new facility on the campus at 1552 University Avenue (site of the old University Health Services building) at the corner of University Avenue and Breese Terrace. The new building will house the Wisconsin Energy Institute, the university's center for research and outreach in energy management and biological approaches to decreasing our society's dependence on fossil fuels. This building will be located in a very visible location at the East entrance of our

neighborhood. By the time you read this article, a first public information meeting will have been held on October 13 to receive your input on the preliminary plans for this building. I am committed to making sure that neighborhood input is taken into consideration regularly and often throughout the planning and building process.

Building inspection

The Building Inspection Unit has been responsive to concerns about the upkeep of some houses in our neighborhood, especially student rental houses on the East end of the neighborhood. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns about a specific property.

Zoning Code Rewrite

For the past year and a half, the City has been working on a comprehensive zoning code rewrite. Our current City of Madison Zoning Code dates back to 1966! The Public Review Draft for the City of Madison Zoning Code Rewrite is now available <http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/zoningRewrite/>. The new zoning code is scheduled to be introduced and discussed by the Common Council in late October.

City Budget

The City Budget is the most important action the Common Council takes all year. The City is seeing the effects of the economic downturn and this year's budget is proving to be a challenging one. We will be debating and adopting the budget November 10–12. The proposed budget is available at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm>.

In January, I will start to hold monthly alder hours at The Froth House. I will make sure to post the schedule on the RNA listserve and on my alder website (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district05/news.cfm>) As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns. I can be reached at district5@cityofmadison.com or (608) 220-6986.



Alders Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and Brian Solomon with constituents at the RNA Fourth of July Festival 2009.

District 10 Alder Report —Brian Solomon

Greetings and welcome to the D10 September update. I hope all is well. Here are some updates of things going on in District 10.

Monroe Street Library Branch

Exactly one year ago, at the Monroe Street Festival, Alder Kerr and I, along with several neighborhood associations, were gearing up for a battle to save our branch, which the Mayor had designated for closure in his budget. We found the funds, kept the branch open, and now, a year later, we have a beautifully remodeled branch that looks well-situated to live long into the future. The Mayor announced at the grand re-opening that libraries will not be subject to any reductions in the upcoming budget, which he is announcing at next Tuesday's Council meeting. Go Monroe Street Branch!

Other Cool News on Monroe Street

Monroe Street Bistro is now Jacs. I've heard good things; check it out! I met the owners of the Fit today as well, a customized training facility located at 1863 Monroe Street. Might want to check them out after eating at Jacs. And the best news of all: the Monroe Street Merchants now exist on Facebook. Check them out at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-WI/Monroe-Street-Merchants-Association/86616516319>.

Recycling

I co-sponsored the plastic bag recycling ordinance and I am excited this passed unanimously, allowing us to move forward on recycling plastic bags in Madison. We throw away millions of these each year; more information to come on drop off sites as they are created. Also, the city now recycles vehicle batteries. Madison residents and businesses can drop off vehicle batteries at two sites: 1501 W Badger Road and 4602 Sycamore Ave. Batteries from cars, trucks, motorcycles, scooters, boats, golf carts, and forklifts, as well as lead acid batteries from medical devices, computer systems, electrical backup systems, and emergency lighting, are all now accepted. For more information, check out our streets department website at: www.cityofmadison.com/streets.

Allied Drive

The Task Force, Neighborhood Association, service providers and residents are all working diligently to keep making progress in this neighborhood. The economy is impacting us all, but it is having an even bigger impact on low income communities like Allied. I know many residents who have lost jobs and housing. We will keep working to make a difference in this community and, ideally, achieve changes in our economy that prioritize good, family supporting jobs, with benefits, for our less skilled workforce. In

the meantime, Phase I of our redevelopment project (Revival Ridge) is making great strides. It is almost leased up, with many of the new tenants coming from the Allied community. I was proud to join the Mayor and WHEDA Executive Director Antonio Riley to celebrate the opening of the units back on August 6. For more information, see the press release: http://www.cityofmadison.com/news/view.cfm?news_id=1614.

August 3rd

I'd just like to take a second to recognize August 3rd, 2009. It is a day that we will hopefully celebrate for years to come—not just for what it accomplished, but hopefully also for what it began. On that day, sex partners began registering to receive benefits under the new domestic partner law that passed along with the Wisconsin state budget. The legal challenges made by proponents of the so-called “marriage amendment,” that sadly wrote discrimination into our state constitution, will hopefully go down in flames. August 3rd was just Day One in a long battle for equality that is long overdue. But every journey begins with a single step, and let's hope August 3rd represented that step.

Freakfest

On Saturday, October 31st, otherwise known as the Dentist Horror Picture Show, Madison will showcase more than just candy. Third Eye Blind, Cage the Elephant, and a pumpkin full of entertainment are online for this year's freakfest. Check out the press release for more information: http://www.cityofmadison.com/news/view.cfm?news_id=1681.

Hayrides

Okay, this is pretty cool. Madison Parks is offering group hayrides in October and November in Elver, Olin, and Warner Parks. It's only \$75 per group for an hour. For more, check out the Parks website at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/hayrides.html>. I'd love to say this was my idea but I'm allergic to hay. Again, I'd love to hear your thoughts on anything and everything related to the upcoming budget and our priorities for the year.

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Paul McMahon - 2122 Chadbourne Avenue

Dane County Board Report, District 10—

I hope this edition of the RNA newsletter finds you and your family well. As I write this report, the County Executive is about to release her 2010 budget, but by the time you read this the process will be nearing its close. The budget has become the all-encompassing issue in county government, with sales tax collections down, property tax delinquencies up and a once flushed reserve account gone. When department heads submitted their budget requests, after being advised to make reductions, it would have required a 22.5 percent increase in the tax levy to fully fund their requests.

Providing human services during these tough times is more essential than ever, and it is one of Dane County's primary responsibilities. Overall, the 2010 budget request in human services totals \$233.1 million; this accounts for 50% of the operating budget of the county. This is an increase of more than \$5 million over the 2009 adopted budget, and an overall expense increase of 2.2%. However, the 2010 budget request maintains GPR (general purpose revenue, i.e., tax dollars) at \$63.2 million, the 2009 adopted level. This maintains funding



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

for children, youth and family programs, adult mental health programs, as well as the support that makes these programs possible.

Looking to implement long-term cost savings ideas, the 2010 budget will include funding for a new 24-hour mental health crisis care stabilization center to help address a growing need for services for those with critical mental health needs. The Dane County Crisis Care Stabilization Center will have 10-12 beds and be designed for people at risk of psychiatric hospitalization. Currently, when law enforcement personnel encounter individuals with emergent mental health needs, they take these individuals to local hospital emergency rooms. Some of these individuals are eventually transferred to the state's Mendota Mental Health Institute. Housing individuals at that facility costs county taxpayers up to \$1,200 a day per bed. The center will also reduce days spent in expensive hospital emergency rooms. Dane County will fund the center with \$700,000 in federal medical assistance and community development block grant funding. The budget proposal calls for \$95,000 in county tax levy to assist with starting up the new facility.

Further budget information can be found at www.co.dane.wi.us/budget/. As always, please feel free to contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 608.577.9335 with specific questions and concerns.

— *Jeremy Levin*






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Cooperative Problem Solving

Gathered over an enjoyable lunch at The Dardenelles in June, a group of realtors, Regent neighborhood homeowners, along with Alder Shiva Bidar-Sidlaff, expressed interest in continuing to develop cooperation in problem-solving shared issues.

Specific issues discussed including possible solutions.

1. Communication: Although the city does use a Report-a-Problem website tool, our established method of personal communication with one another by phone and e-mail regarding issues of concern has proved effective.

2. Rental property: Parking on front lawns (other than on football game days) blocking sidewalks/entrances, upholstered furniture on front porches (fire hazard), garbage and recycle containers left on terraces, litter in yards, bikes locked on railings. Jeff Tallard shared with us a recently developed 3-ply check list regarding renters noncompliance with lease responsibilities that they have begun to use with their rental units.

Matt noted a serious problem in City Report-a-Problem dated paper work arriving at Tallards' office.

Jeff and Matt noted their frustration over the apparent lack of interest/response shown by police after they had contacted them concerning noisy drinking parties.

3. UW Dean of Students Lori Berquam: Possibility of including coordination with city realtors regarding UW/ City efforts in establishing codes of student conduct.

4. Breese Terrace Traffic Island plantings: Kudos to Larry who has planted and cared for Breese Terrace traffic



Photo left to right: Jim Yockey, Larry Jacobsen, Matt McGrady, Pete Lemberger, Ed Tallard, Nancy Webster, Alder Shiva Bidar-Sieloff, Jeff Tallard (Ron Rosner out of town) .

island beautiful rose bushes for 6 years; this will be his final year.

5. Conclusions reached: Everyone at the meeting felt this was a positive start in discussing commonly shared concerns.

Although the city does have a Report-a-Problem website tool, by first contacting a realtor or landowner with a courteous phone call or e-mail, a positive step toward solving issues can be made. Alder Shiva promised to follow-up with officials at the city, Madison police, and UW.

— Nancy Webster

Join us for happy hour!

Otherwise known as our Sunday morning services. Where people gather together to gain inspiration, grow in faith and perform good works. So it's only natural that plenty of good times are going to happen along the way. Check us out at bethanymadison.org, call **608.238.6381** or stop by 3910 Mineral Point Road. We'll buy the first round. (Of coffee.)



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Regent Market Co-op—Eighty-Five Years On Regent Street

The house I live in on Chamberlain Avenue was built in 1927. At that time, it was on the very edge of town. Across Farley Street to the west stretched farm fields and pasture all the way to Middleton, a few miles away.

Yet even then, a little store was already well established near the corner of Regent and Allen Streets. It was a freestanding building at that time, part of the Universal Grocery chain, whose main office at 634-36 West Main was large enough to merit its own rail siding.

Through the years, the grocery store changed hands and became first a Kroger's, and then, after the war, a Super IGA. In 1977, Joe Heggstad bought the store and operated it until 1995 (neighborhood old-timers still call it "Joe's Market," as in "Gotta pop down to Joe's for a loaf of bread"). Against the odds, the store survived while other family-owned neighborhood groceries such as Ken Kopps (formerly Fauerbach's) and Millin's on Monroe Street, the Sentry on Speedway, and Miller's Market on University near Highland have all disappeared.

Today, Regent Market doesn't merely live on—it anchors the small but lively (a stoplight! an ATM! a mail dropbox!) retail district at Regent and Allen that includes Mike's on Regent, Stony Hill Antiques, Milio's, Higher Fire Clay Studio, Gatherings, Fine Earth Studio and Gallery, La Mop Hair Studio, and the Froth House.

How is this possible when almost all the other small groceries in the city have closed in the face of competition from the likes of Woodman's, Sentry, Whole Foods, and Trader Joe's? In 1998, the little store closed its doors, too—but only for 3 months. Almost miraculously, a small group of former staff and committed neighbors managed (with some help from Willy St. Co-op and others) to re-open the store

as a food co-operative. Almost 1,000 neighborhood residents signed up as founding members to get the store back up off the ground.

The Regent Market Co-op has been open for business for over 10 years now, and its future looks bright as more and more people perceive the value and convenience of being able to shop for groceries without driving to the edge of town, supporting a local and community-owned store staffed by people they know personally, and seeking out organic and locally sourced basic foods. "The Little Store" is part of the Regent Neighborhood's unique identity, and running into friends in the store is part of the fun of living here. And it's nice to think that all the way back in 1927, the occupants of my house bought their groceries at the little store on Regent Street. More than eighty years later, they still do.


— Brad Wolbert

Regent Market Co-op Board Member

Acknowledgements to "75 Years of The Little Store," written by Jay Rath in 1999.



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Regent Neighborhood Photo Gallery — Summer 2009



Fourth of July Festival Photos courtesy of Paul McMahon

Scenes from the RNA Fourth of July Festival 2009 —



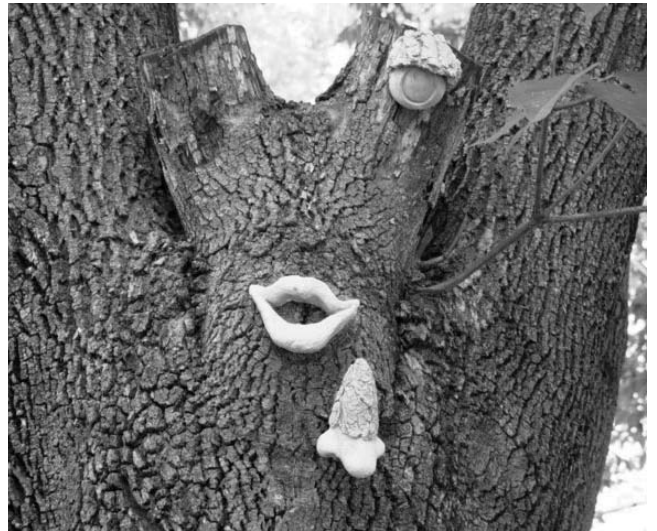
The Mystery Veggie Artist strikes again!



West High School's new Ash Street entrance



Scenes from the RNA Garden Tour 2009 —



School News — Meet Randall School's New Principal, John Wallace

Greetings from Randall!

Chances are we've heard the same gaggles of geese in past days. Their honks from the heavens raise our spirits to join theirs in a shared sense of transition. As a child in Louisiana, I used to be on the receiving end of the winged ones' fall migration. It was also the season of sugar cane and cotton as white as snow, not that I knew much about snow. I do now, having called Wisconsin my home for the greater part of my life.



*Randall Principal
John Wallace*

Yesterday, I stepped out of my Regent residence for a nightcap of early autumn air. The rain-drenched sidewalks reflected the warm lighting from neighbors' porches and windows. A wave of gentle smoke dove from a chimney and found my nose beneath my umbrella. The compelling aroma assembled a host of memories. Instantly, I was many places at once. A Cherokee saying came to mind, one I often heard around the council fires at the North Carolina camp where I spent my childhood summers. "Nay koo gah guy eesta enda," which means, "Many fires have been here before ours." All of us who now dwell in the Regent neighborhood feel ourselves the heirs of a treasured locale, passed on to us by folks we know by the homes they built and the trees they planted.

Having received the torch of leadership at Randall Elementary School this year, I am immersed in the rich traditions established by those who carried the guiding flame in the past. I recognize the privilege of being in the lives of the Randall Raccoons. I also embrace the premise that to whom much is given, much is also expected. To this end, I am both

teacher and student. As I apply the lessons learned in other school districts, I am also broadening my understanding of the families I serve and how best to meet their needs.

I traveled back to Eau Claire last weekend, where my wife and I raised our children and foster children. I took special notice of certain timbers that annually assumed exceptional brilliance before they settled in for a long winter's nap. Realizing that I would miss the rise of the curtain for their fall performance, I told them to break a limb, and that I'd try to catch the big show another year.

As a first time audience member of the Regent neighborhood's production of Botanical Blaze, I'm keeping a special eye on those trees that stand as the sentries of Randall. As if in a game of red light/green light, the colors seem to change behind my back. Mixed with my anticipation of the grand finale is the awareness that the spectacle will be sweet, but short. Soon, recess revelry will no longer be muffled by branches in full bloom. Snow will instead absorb the children's cherished cheers and laughter—and so will I. I invite you to do the same.

What an absolute thrill it is to be a new kid on the block!

— John Wallace



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Plan to Improve Olive Jones Park Revived; Fundraising, Leadership Sought

With a boost from a couple of neighborhood stalwarts (who prefer to remain nameless) and the strong support of new neighborhood alder, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, the plan to renovate Olive Jones Park is again being actively pursued. For those not familiar with Olive Jones Park, it is the mostly paved square property next to Randall School that serves three critical functions:

- It is the school playground and outdoor physical education space for the 350 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders attending Randall.
- It is the only public park or “green space” for the University Heights neighborhood.
- For school functions and seven or eight Saturdays in the fall, the park’s paved surface serves as needed neighborhood parking. The Franklin-Randall PTO raises more than half its annual income by selling parking on Badger football Saturdays.

The park itself is in desperate need of a makeover. Most of the square footage is taken up by the severely deteriorating asphalt surface. The playground is too small to adequately serve both the older kids attending Randall and the younger ones that live in the neighborhood. There are two small grassy hills that provide welcome relief from the asphalt and provide the only landscaping. But the amphitheatre is rudimentary at best and the main park entry/exit point is a mudslide whenever it rains—definitely not ADA-accessible! To top it off, everything (except a small, disconnected sliver above the playground) is surrounded by concrete retaining walls and chain link fencing.

Over the last five years, a small group of Randall parents and neighborhood residents has:

- Worked with the Madison Parks Department to develop a planning process for park redevelopment;
- Led visioning sessions with school kids, teachers and administrators, parents, and neighborhood residents;
- Developed and refined a park improvement plan with 6 key emphases:
 - School-age appropriate playground equipment
 - A flat grass or artificial turf play area
 - A neighborhood “tot lot” accessible during the school day
 - A smaller, repaved flat surface
 - An improved neighborhood amphitheatre
 - Improved park exterior fencing and access;

- Gotten the support of the Parks Department and MMSD for the proposed renovation plan;
- Created The Friends of Olive Jones Park and opened an account for tax-deductible fundraising contributions under the auspices of the Madison Parks Foundation; and
- Solicited fundraising “seed” contributions from the Franklin-Randall PTO.

In a recent letter to new Parks Superintendent, Kevin Briski, and new MMSD Superintendent, Dan Nerad, RNA President Darsi Foss highlighted the neighborhood association’s support for improving the park and its willingness to collaborate with the city, school district, and Franklin-Randall PTO to make park renovation a reality.

The key to turning the plan into reality is fundraising. Both the city and school district are supportive of park renovation. However, with today’s budget realities, the vast majority of the funding will need to be raised privately.

The total cost of park renovation will depend on the specific features ultimately included and the success of fundraising. Preliminary research suggests Olive Jones could be turned into a high-quality urban park for \$500,000, while a more functional makeover could be done for less.

The impressive speed with which the funds to renovate West High School’s Ash Street entrance were raised demonstrates the neighborhood’s willingness to self-fund neighborhood improvements. A nice park at Olive Jones would be a huge neighborhood amenity. The Friends of Olive Jones are hoping to tap the expertise of RNA members and neighborhood residents involved in the West High or similar fundraising projects.

This fall, Alder Bidar-Sielaff is introducing a budget amendment to secure a \$25,000 capital contribution from the city for Olive Jones Park redevelopment. There will be further discussions later in the fall with Ald. Bidar-Sielaff, friends and supporters of Olive Jones Park, and city and MMSD representatives to refine design features of the park improvement plan and discuss possible scenarios for phased redevelopment. Anyone interested in getting involved in this renewed effort—or providing fundraising assistance—should contact Jody Knauss at 218-9267 or jknauss@ssc.wisc.edu.

— Jody Knauss

Leaf Disposal

While the fall season brings brilliant colors to the trees it brings stress to the Madison lakes. Accumulated leaves in the street gutters combine with rainwater to produce a nutrient rich runoff that is transported to the lakes via Madison's storm sewer system. The nutrients fertilize lake weeds and algae.

Research conducted on the Madison lakes has shown a 44 percent difference in the phosphorous load to our lakes between cases where leaves were left in the streets for one week versus three weeks.

Madison residents can choose between a number of options to minimize the impact of fallen leaves on the lakes. The first option is to compost the leaves. For some property owners that may mean large piles of leaves in the backyard but with proper composting management the pile will be dramatically reduced to a garden cart or two within a year. A second option is to use the leaves as mulch. Shredding leaves with a lawn mower will reduce the volume and produce an effective mulch. A Google search will provide ample information regarding effective mulch and composting procedures.

The third option is to utilize the leaf pick up service provided by the city. If using the services of the city be sure to keep the leaves on the terrace and out of the street gutters. For information on the collection schedule type 'leaf collection' in the search box while on the city's website.

Improving the water quality in the Madison lakes requires the combined efforts of the business community, individual homeowners plus good lake management practices by the city and county government. The RNA Greenspace committee is hopeful that residents in the Regent Neighborhood will do their part.

— Steve Arnold
RNA Greenspace Committee Chair



Improving the Southwest Bike Path

Anyone using the Southwest Bike Path between Camp Randall and the Beltline can't help but notice the numerous landscape projects initiated by individual citizens and organizations. The landscape projects serve to prevent erosion and control invasive plants. The planting of native plants at the Glenway and Odana intersections of the bike path are prime examples of how volunteer efforts can dramatically enhance the path.

The RNA Greenspace Committee has contacted the City concerning plans to landscape the Harrison, Prospect and Virginia Terrace ramps to the bike path. The Committee hopes to finalize a plan and initiating a planting schedule by next spring.

Join the Greenspace Committee and contribute your ideas and or assistance in planting by contacting Greenspace Chairman Steve Arnold at 233-1784 or via e-mail to siarnold@sbcglobal.net.

— Steve Arnold
RNA Greenspace Committee Chair

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RNA Garden Tour, Always a Pleasure



After a three-year hiatus, RNA held its biennial garden tour on Sunday, July 19. The gardens on display this year were west of Allen, on Eton Ridge, Hollister and Rowley, plus three on Regent Street.

About 200 enthusiastic garden-lovers turned out to view the 14 gardens on display and attend the workshops. The Tour raised nearly \$1000, to be used for neighborhood beautification projects.

Our first "Thank You" therefore goes to the following garden owners who graciously opened their gardens for the Tour and shared gardening tips with visitors:

- Carol Chen & Tim Hacker
- Peg & Steve Arnold
- Gail Jacob & Henry Steinberger
- Darcy Kind & Marc Vitale
- Melissa & Michael Allan
- Louise & Nathan Elbaum
- Cindy Ofstead & Taylor Elkins
- Norma Denbrook & Thorston Horton
- April Johnson & Neil Spath
- Wendy Sundby
- Sandra Ihle
- Karen Rattunde
- Jack & JoAnne Kloppenburg
- Victoria Cietta & Andrew Sheinis

But a garden tour relies for its success on a cooperative effort of garden owners and many volunteers, and we'd like to acknowledge that effort:

- Taylor Elkins took the lead in identifying and enlisting "candidate" gardens;

- Mary Santarius solicited the business sponsorships that offset printing costs;
- Joy Drummond recruited tour-day volunteers to sell tickets and act as garden stewards;
- The 20-or-so volunteers who performed these tasks;
- The Froth House made their rear garden available to us for clinics;
- Joan Laurion of Compostbasics presented a clinic on compost.

Finally we'd like to acknowledge the financial support of the local companies that bought sponsorships for the 2009 Tour:

- Blue Iris Landscaping
- Associated Housewrights
- Blue Moon Bar & Grill
- Architectural Building Arts
- Neuhauser Pharmacies
- Morningwood Farm Nursery
- Ganshert Nursery & Landscapes
- Paragon Video & Stereo
- Soap Opera
- Landscape Designs
- The Flower Factory
- Stonewall Nursery
- Orange Tree Imports

If you have suggestions for the next tour — for the summer of 2011— let us hear from you.

— *The 2009 GardenTour Committee:*

Joy Drummond, Taylor Elkins, Jean Parks, Ron Rosner, Mary Santarius, Patty Wood, Bob Wood



Backyard pond featured in the RNA Garden Tour 2009.



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Hoyt Park News—

This summer at Hoyt Park was another productive summer, full of planting, weeding, and general upkeep. Planting and maintaining the native plant garden was one major project, now named Pam and Ariel's Garden. This summer a few volunteers and I added a few new plants, such as short's aster, three-lobed coneflower, and sky blue aster, and also planted more of some existing plants, like elm-leaved goldenrod, wild columbine, Jacob's ladder, and wild geranium. Lots of time was also spent time weeding out non-natives like lily of the valley, burdock, motherwort, orchard grass and woody species. The garden is a beautiful display of native plants and will show a beautiful variety of colors throughout next summer!

Another project was clearing woody invasive species from the area directly west of the parking lot that are not native to this area and habitat. This consisted mostly of buckthorn, mulberry, honeysuckle, Norway maple, and some green ash, all of which are invading the woodland here. This work is important because it gives park visitors an opportunity to see what a more native forest looks

like, with a more open, herbaceous understory, rather than an understory overgrown with buckthorn and honeysuckle. This area was a good place to work clearing invasives because it had been cleared before so the invasive species were still young and I was able to remove most of them manually with a weed wrench. The larger trees were cut and treated with herbicide.

As always, the Friends held workdays at the park once a month. This summer we worked on weeding woody plants out of the Reedy Prairie, and also cleared a lot of buckthorn from the overlook. This work is critical in maintaining the native plant communities of the park, because without continual maintenance, invasive woody plants would overtake the native prairie and understory herbs and grasses. If interested in learning from some very knowledgeable people and getting your hands dirty to keep a local park beautiful, come join us at a workday! New volunteers are always welcome, check out the Friends of Hoyt Park website for more details. All in all, it was another fun and productive summer!

— Ariel Debroux
Hoyt Park Ranger

Fruit Philanthropy

You could say that we live in an orchard in the Regent Neighborhood, a splendid, bountiful one. Sometimes, there is more fruit than we can handle, food that might (except from a squirrel's point of view) go to waste. Enter fruit philanthropists.



I first read about these kinds of urban gleaners—volunteers who harvest surplus fruit—in the New York Times last summer, and it struck a chord. (For the article, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/us/14harvest.html>)

Over the years, my efforts to grow gooseberries, beach plums and apricots had failed miserably for want of enough sun in our backyard. I had come to rely on the kindness of neighbors, picking what they didn't want in exchange for a cake. The Times article suggested to me that the neighborhood could do something for others' benefit.

Last fall, seeing beautiful plums and apples around the corner, I got permission to harvest them with the understanding that my neighbors' excess would be given to other neighbors or people in need. This summer, I joined forces with recruits in the gleaning effort. Together, we scouted mulberries and shook down the trees. Several of us baked mulberry muffins or cakes and made cherry jam for the Fourth of July

picnic, offering the food as gifts to new members of the Regent Neighborhood Association. This September, a neighbor's plums were donated to the Regent Market for sale.

As Robbie Webber has pointed out, vegetable philanthropy isn't new to the neighborhood. She reminded us that beyond organized efforts, very small plots of tomatoes, peppers and beans or even container gardens yield "good stuff" to give to the Regent Market or food pantries.

If you have fruit to donate next year or want to pick along with us, please contact me.

— Ronnie Hess

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Now Announcing: Announcements!

RNA Board Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, October 28, 7-9 pm, The InnTowner
Wednesday, November 18, 7-9 pm, The InnTowner
Wednesday, January 27, 7-9 pm, The InnTowner

RNA Board Elections — May 2010

In the Spring, we will be electing a new Regent Neighborhood Association Board. It is never too early to start thinking about being on the board.

We have openings for: President, President-elect, Treasurer-elect, Secretary-elect, at-large board members, and some committees.

If you are interested in serving in 2010-2011, please contact Darsi Foss, RNA President, at darsi@tds.net.

Needed: Chairperson for RNA Sustainability Committee

The RNA board is looking for a neighbor who would like to head up our “sustainability” committee. The sky’s the limit on what this entails. Generally, we are looking for someone to work with the RNA to promote sustainable practices and share information with residents and neighbors on green practices. If you are interested, please contact Darsi foss, RNA President, at darsi@tds.net.

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July 4th 2009 Thank yous

A big thanks to all the neighbors who pitched in and made this year’s July 4th celebration a memorable time. Thank you to the following businesses for their support, as it was invaluable to making this event a success:

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Mikes on Regent/Party Port — ice and brat burners
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July 4th 2010 – Let the Organizing Begin

In January, we’ll start planning for our annual July 4th celebration. We are looking for a couple of people to volunteer for the July 4th coordinating committee. With the board’s approval, we have moved to a committee system for maintaining this annual event. We can more easily divide and conquer the tasks, and also retain some institutional memory as volunteers come and go.

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Neighborhood Events

Regent Drama Club Schedule

Fall Production: *The Miracle Worker* November 6, 7, 13, and 14, 2009

The true story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan, a gripping struggle to overcome huge obstacles. As a young girl, Helen Keller is stricken with scarlet fever, leaving her blind, deaf, and unable to communicate with anyone. Often frustrated and desperate, Helen flies into uncontrollable rages that terrify her hopeless family. The gifted teacher Annie Sullivan is summoned by the family to help the girl understand the world from which she is isolated, freeing Helen Keller from her internal prison. Annie's success finally comes when Helen understands a single word: "water."

Spring Musical: *Guys & Dolls* March 5, 6, 12, and 13, 2010

You can stay up-to-date with Regent Drama Club through its Facebook page, Madison West High School Theater, and its website, <http://madisonwesttheater.squarespace.com>.

Friday Noon Musicales Schedule

The Friday Noon Musicales Series has been presenting fine regional talent for over 30 years.

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- October 16:** Sopranos Crystal Riese and Catherine Schweitzer with April Kang, piano
- October 23:** Broadway in Love with Gay Thomas, Tamara Brognano, Linda Warren
- October 30:** Musical Pirates and Villains—Our Halloween program for all ages
- November 6:** The Melius Piano Trio from St. Olaf College
- November 13:** Piano duets played by Eva Wright and Dan Broner
- November 20:** Harpists Mary Ann Harr and Linda Warren
- December 4:** TBA
- December 11:** Brahms String Sextet with Kangwon Kim and friends
- December 18:** Annual Christmas program and carol sing

Election Day, Tuesday, November 3 Temple Beth El Sisterhood's 43rd Annual

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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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