



# Regent Neighborhood

## ASSOCIATION

Fall 2011 Newsletter | [www.regentneighborhood.org](http://www.regentneighborhood.org)

2011 RNA Fall Meeting  
Wednesday, November 16  
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Best Western InnTowner,  
2424 University Avenue

Refreshments Served

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### Featuring:

- Presentation on New State Election Law, by Maribeth Witzel-Behl, City Clerk
- Vote on Revisions to RNA Bylaws
- Draft of University Avenue Corridor Plan



### Meeting to Feature Bylaws Revisions and New Election Law

It's almost time for the fall RNA Membership Meeting, and it's going to be a good one. We will gather at the InnTowner at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, where the membership will be asked to approve an amendment to the RNA Bylaws that will give the Board some criteria for evaluating requests for money from outside groups or for outside projects. There will be a few revisions voted on to bring the bylaws in line with current practices of the association. In addition, the City Clerk, Maribeth Witzel-Behl, will be giving a presentation on the new state election law, so we can know what to expect when we go to the polls at the next election. We hope, also, to be able to present the draft University Avenue Corridor plan for your inspection.

Please mark your calendars for November 16, and come to the meeting. Because we are amending the bylaws, it is very important that we have as many members present as possible to ensure the widest representation of the neighborhood. If you are not a member of RNA, please come join us. You will be able to join at the door. The membership fee is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families to become a voting member.

See you on November 16! ■

Join the RNA Listserv — <http://groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn>

**Regent Neighborhood Association**  
**P.O. Box 5655**  
**Madison, WI 53705**

#### **Officers**

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John Schlaefer, 886-3456  
john\_schlaefer@yahoo.com

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karen.christianson@gmail.com

##### *Secretary-Elect*

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ccetrangolo@boardmanlawfirm.com

Mary Czyszczak-Lyne, 231-3674  
mczynsza@wisc.edu

Ronnie Hess, 238-1828, rlhess@wisc.edu

Karen Mittelstadt, 345-6838  
kemittels@gmail.com

LD Oakley, 263-5866, ldoakley@wisc.edu

#### **Committee Chairs**

##### *Communications*

Mary Sarnowski, 238-1224  
sarnowski@mac.com

##### *Greenspace Conservation*

Steve Arnold, 233-1784  
siarnold@sbcglobal.net

##### *Membership*

Peg Cullen, 238-4090  
pegeen14@yahoo.com

##### *School Relations*

Marcia Vandercook, 236-9028  
marcia.vandercook@gmail.com

##### *Streets & Transportation*

Troy Thiel, 238-7677  
troythiel@yahoo.com

##### *Sustainability*

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##### *University Avenue Corridor Plan Contact*

John Schlaefer, 886-3456  
john\_schlaefer@yahoo.com

##### *UW Relations*

Laura Rose, 238-4386  
ldykstal@yahoo.com

##### *Zoning*

Ron Rosner, 238-1828  
rosner7@charter.net

#### **Area Liaisons**

Area 1 Sarah Kissel, 233-5236

Area 2 Jim & Marion Force, 238-3233

Area 3 Jean Parks, 233-1418

Area 4 Mary Niedermeier, 233-1882

Area 5 Marcel Maul, 231-0621

Area 6 Karen Richardson, 238-0930

Area 7 Sherry & Wally Block, 233-5612

Area 8 Jim Fortner, 238-9221

## A Note from the President —

It's been a long summer of road construction, with lots of dust, shaking ground, banging, beeping, screeching, and other noises. I'm sure, like me, you are glad to have it over with. The nice, smooth streets for our cars to travel on was well worth it.

While we're on the subject of cars, as you no doubt know there have been a spate of vehicle break-ins over the last several months. Officer Dave Dexheimer of the Madison Police Department tells me that this type of crime is a crime of opportunity, and usually comes in clusters. His advice on preventing these crimes is simply to take away the opportunity: lock your vehicle and hide anything of value from sight, especially electronics, purses and spare change.

The RNA Board has been working on some revisions and amendments to the bylaws that need to be ratified by the membership. On November 16, there will be a general membership meeting to do just that. In addition, someone from the City Clerk's office will be giving a presentation on the details of the new state election law in preparation for next year's elections. Please put this important meeting on your calendar, 7:00 p.m. at the InnTowner.

Thank you to all of you who have become members of RNA. If you are not a member, we would love to have you join and get involved in keeping the neighborhood a wonderful place to live.

— John



*RNA Board President  
John Schlaefer*

## RNA Board Meeting Schedule

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • <b>October 26, 2011</b>  | • <b>January 25, 2012</b>  |
| • <b>November 16, 2011</b> | • <b>February 22, 2012</b> |
| • <b>December 2011 TBA</b> | • <b>March 28, 2012</b>    |

The RNA Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except for July and December, from 7–9 pm and at the Best Western InnTowner at 2424 University Ave.

These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to the RNA president.

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,700. The deadline for winter edition is January 6, 2012. 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.

# Alder Report, District 5—Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

I am writing this article on Labor Day, thinking about how much has changed in the past year. The good news is that we are seeing a renewed sense of energy to be engaged in civic life. As your alder, I have been working on a myriad of issues affecting our neighborhood and our city. Here are a few key ones:

## 2012 City Budget

It may seem like crying wolf since every year we hear about the tight budgetary times that we face. But given the State budget's devastating consequences for the City, the 2012 budget is going to be extremely challenging. We will no doubt see cuts in projects and services. The City Budget is one of the most significant responsibilities of the City Council and I will work on it diligently on your behalf. Please contact me with your ideas and priorities. We will be debating and adopting the budget November 15 through 17. The proposed executive capital and operating budgets are available at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm>.

## Redistricting

On August 2, night the City Council voted on the new city wards and districts. The proposed plan eliminated Blessed Sacrament as a polling place. I introduced an amendment to restore Blessed Sacrament as a polling place and the amendment received support by the Council. I am happy to report that we will continue to have both Blessed Sacrament and West High as polling places in that area of the neighborhood.

The new district boundaries will go into effect on January 1, 2012. The Regent Neighborhood will be entirely in District 5. In addition District 5 will extend further west encompassing the Sunset Hills neighborhood.

## Zoning Map

As I have mentioned in previous updates, the city is continuing its work on rewriting our zoning code. The City Council approved the zoning code text in March 2011. The text will not be applied until the zoning map is adopted. We are now entering the public input phase on the zoning maps. You are invited to attend and provide initial feedback on the draft map. City Planning and Zoning Staff as well as Alders will be there to answer questions and collect comments. Your feedback is important, and will help the City prepare a revised draft of the Zoning Map in the months ahead. The open house for District 5 was held on Wednesday, October 5, at Edgewood College.

[www.regentneighborhood.org](http://www.regentneighborhood.org)



*Shiva Bidar-Sielaff,  
Alder, District 5*

For more information on the zoning rewrite process, please go to <http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/zoningRewrite/index.cfm>

## Street Construction Season

This has really been a very disruptive construction season in the neighborhood. The good news is that there are some great improvements for pedestrians:

- Old University Avenue: There are a number of improvements that were made to the street as part of this project including a much more visible (red pavement) pedestrian crossing at Highland and Old University, additional street parking on the west end, and islands on the east end.
- Highland Avenue: The crossing by the tennis courts is a raised pedestrian crossing, with much more visible zebra cross walks at Highland and Van Hise, and a bump out and pedestrian crossing at Highland/Kendall.

## UW Related Issues

UW shared at the August Joint West Campus meeting that they would be looking at a discussion about parking needs, traffic volumes and flow in and out of the health sciences campus. There are also a number of issues associated with UW facilities and growth in the east end of the neighborhood. I think there needs to be neighborhood/UW/City of Madison/Shorewood Hills conversation about how to avoid increased traffic into an already overtaxed Regent Neighborhood. It is critical to engage the neighborhood in discussions so we can work together to alleviate any negative effects on our quality of life. I set up a meeting in mid-September with Al Fish, UW Associate Vice-Chancellor for facilities Planning and Management, RNA President and Board members John Schlaefter, Laura Rose and Troy Thiel, to discuss the neighborhood engagement process and timeline. Stay tuned.

## Olive Jones Park

My very favorite project as your alder! We are now done with phase 2 which includes the pre-school playground and the rebuilt amphitheater. I am planning to request additional park impact fee funds (non-levy funds) to allow us to finish the renovation next year—we still need to fix the retaining walls, repave the asphalt surface, and finish replacing the fence.

Thank you for your continued involvement in neighborhood and city issues. I feel honored to represent our wonderful neighborhood on the City Council for a second term. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, and/or concerns. I am also happy to sit down over coffee to discuss any specific issue(s) you may be interested in. I can be reached at [district5@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district5@cityofmadison.com) or (608) 220-6986. ■

## Dane County Board Report, District 10—Jeremy Levin

I hope this edition of the RNA Newsletter finds you and your family well. An update from my last report regarding this year's State budget and the Income Maintenance program, in which the Governor's budget had the potential to cause Dane County to lose \$4.5 million and cut 70 county employees. During the budget process this item was altered to allow Dane County to form a consortium, named the Capitol Consortium, with other counties and continue to provide local services to residents eligible for economic assistance programs, and significantly reduce the loss of funds and jobs for Dane County.

The most pressing issue will be the County budget and the fall is when the County starts its budgeting process, and this year looks to be even tougher than the last few. Because the State has imposed a levy limit, which allows a levy increase equal to the greater of zero percent or the increase in equalized value due to net new construction, significant cuts to programs are likely. Dane County might have a little bit of flexibility since we have reduced our debt



*Supervisor Jeremy Levin  
District 10*

service recently, but it will be a tough budget for the County to continue providing services to our residents when they are still in need because of the tough economy. The Dane County Department of Human Services presented their budget to the Health and Human Needs (HHN) committee on August 30th and complied with the 5% cut request by the County Executive, which equates to a \$3.2 million GPR reduction. The HHN committee will spend much of September and October working through the budget and passing it on to the full Board to vote on in November.

Finally, the new decennial reapportionment of the supervisory districts has been passed by the Board. I am happy to say that the new districts for the 2012 spring election keep RNA in the 10th district, but Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood (DMNA) has been removed and will join the Vilas and Greenbush neighborhoods in the new 13th district. The 10th will add new territory to compensate for the population loss of DMNA, the new territory will include: the Village of Shorewood Hills, and the Spring Harbor, Highlands, Woodland Hills and Parkwood Hills neighborhoods.

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

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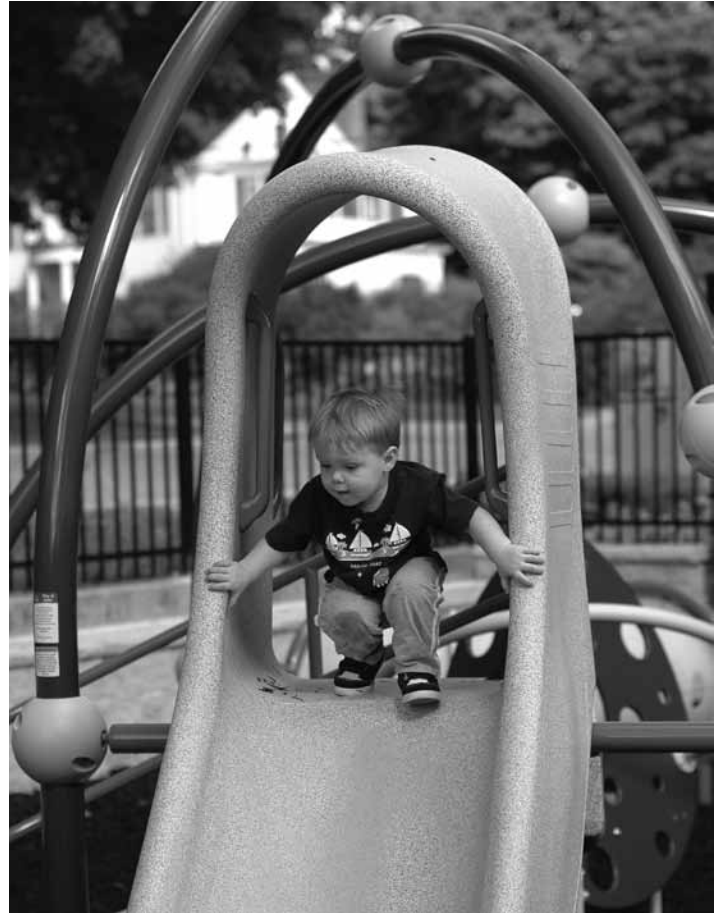
## New Neighborhood Playground

It's been another exciting summer for the playground renovation at Randall School. The city parks division has transformed the northwest corner into a fenced playground geared to small children ages 2-5. The main play structure is a smaller version of the equipment installed last summer for the school-aged kids, along with special equipment just for little ones. There is a gate to the main playground, and benches have been arranged so parents can keep an eye on both areas at once.

Down the hill, the old amphitheater has been much improved and is now ready for school events, community uses, and impromptu performances of all kinds. We are especially happy that we were able to select very attractive and durable fencing, many steps up from the old chain link. This year the new fencing is only on the Roby Street side, but the whole playground will eventually use the same style.

We are hopeful that the final phase of renovation can be completed in the next couple of years, with replacement of the asphalt, the remaining fencing, and a new accessible entrance on Chadbourne Street. The retaining walls at the east end of the building need to be rebuilt, so we will be looking for opportunities to improve the play value and the appearance of that side of the playground too.

We are grateful to the City of Madison's People for Parks fund for matching donations to the park up to \$50,000, allowing all donations to go twice as far. We also thank all the parents and businesses who contributed \$250 or \$500 to sponsor 110 engraved pavers for the paths and 52 capstones for the retaining walls. There are many charming messages honoring teachers, children, favorite grandmothers, and even the famous "Robot Chipmunks" soccer team. The Regent and Vilas Neighborhood Associations have capstones recognizing their support. There are also capstones honoring Alder



*A youngster plays on new equipment installed this summer at Olive Jones Park at Randall School.*

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and Principal John Wallace for their outstanding leadership on this project.

Please stop by, admire the new park, and read all the engravings. You can also visit us online at [randallschoolpark.org](http://randallschoolpark.org), or become a friend of the park on Facebook—because every neighborhood needs a play to play, gather and grow! ■

— Marcia Vandercook & Amy Thomas Halstead,  
Campaign Co-chairs

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# Announcements from West High School

## WestFest/Regent Resale

**Saturday, October 22, 9 am – 1 pm**

### West High Cafenadium/lower level gym.

WestFest is a festival of more than 30 school clubs, sports, and local vendors selling handcrafted items, food, and namebrands like Scentsy Candles, Avon, Pampered Chef, Arbonne, Usborne Books and more. Student artists will have their pottery, jewelry, natural wood pens/pencils, and more. Regent Resale is the best rummage sale in town, with awesome sports equipment, West gear, vintage and collectibles, housewares, furniture, clothes, and more. All proceeds benefit West High classes and activities. For more information, contact Beth at [ineedmycoffee2@aol.com](mailto:ineedmycoffee2@aol.com). ■

## Fall Regent Drama Club Production:

### *Almost, Maine*

**December 2, 3, 9, and 10**

Written by John Cariani, directed by Lee Waldhart. On a Friday night in the middle of winter, residents of a small, mythical town in far northern Maine are falling in and out of love at an alarming rate. Knees are getting bruised; hearts are getting broken...but the bruises heal and hearts mend—almost—in what has been described as a “charming midwinter night’s dream.” *Almost, Maine* will leave you spent from laughter and thoroughly warmed from the inside out. ■

## Schools of Hope

Schools of Hope, is committed to closing the achievement gap in Madison schools. At the high school level, Schools of Hope provides one-on-one tutoring for 9th and 10th grade students who are performing under grade level in math and literacy to succeed in school and achieve graduation. They are recruiting volunteers who can commit to tutoring at least an hour a week for an entire semester. Training and resources are provided. If you are interested, please contact: Alicia Suguitan-Morrow ([asuguitanmor@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:asuguitanmor@madison.k12.wi.us)) and Marie Simpson ([msimpson@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:msimpson@madison.k12.wi.us)). ■

## MWABA 2011 Evergreen Sale

High quality, fresh balsam evergreen wreaths and garland, handmade in Northern Wisconsin and complete with red velour bows. Wreaths range from 24” to 60” (\$22 - \$60) and 25’ Evergreen Roping-Garland (\$30). All proceeds go to support West Athletics.

Order Deadline: Thursday, November 17;

Order Pickup: Sunday, November 27, 12–1:30 pm.

For more information, please call Bob Emmerich, Past MWABA President, 220-7952 or visit [mwaba.org](http://mwaba.org). ■

## Help with Leaf-Raking and Yard Work

Got Leaves? The RBI Club can help you and you can help them! Madison West High School Baseball players are available for leaf-raking or yard work (\$65-80 per job). Your leaves and fall yard waste will be on the curb, ready for pick-up by the City of Madison. Work days available: October 23, October 30, November 6, and November 13. Schedule your time by calling 608/236-9764 and leave a message, or by emailing [lindabpage@aol.com](mailto:lindabpage@aol.com) and put leaf-raking in the subject line. All proceeds from fundraising efforts go to offset expenses, training, equipment, transportation, and scholarships for Madison West High School Regent Baseball. ■

## Diligent Doers 4-H Club

4-H is the youth development part of the University of Wisconsin-Extension where Dane County youth (K-12) and adult volunteers improve their lives and communities through projects, group programs, fun activities, and in-depth learning experiences.

The Diligent Doers is the 4-H Club on Madison’s near west side. They meet on the first Tuesday of every month at Midvale Lutheran Church. If you or your family is interested in being part of an organization where youth learn to think clearly and make decisions, to care about others, to develop skills for living, and to practice healthy lifestyles, Diligent Doers 4-H could be for you! For more info, call or email Gail Yellen-Shiring at 238-3314 or [ggys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ggys@sbcglobal.net). ■



Photo: Zane Williams

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## Rocks to Garden

Since the opening of the Southwest Commuter Bike Path in 2000, the two Prospect Avenue access ramps took riders past a moonscape of rocks. The rocks were placed at the site because of erosion problems resulting from heavy rains during the final phases of the paths construction.

Thanks to a planning grant from the City of Madison, funds from both the RNA and DMNA, and volunteers from the two neighborhoods, the rocks bordering the two 100-foot access ramps are now filled with grasses, flowers, bushes, raspberries, blackberries and one cherry tree.

The effort to transform the area began during the spring of 2010. Work sessions this summer and fall have brought the project close to completion. Nearly thirty volunteers undertook the arduous task of creating planting beds of varying sizes by first clearing the area of weeds and maple saplings, moving rock out and dirt in, and then planting the beds. Many hours have been invested since last fall and throughout this summer weeding and watering the new plants to help them become established.


The Prospect Avenue intersection with the path is just one of the numerous examples of neighborhood associations taking on the responsibility for beautifying various sections of the path. The most notable projects are located at the Midvale, Odana, and Glenway intersections.



*New plantings at the Prospect Avenue access ramp on the Southwest Commuter Bike Path*

The RNA and DMNA landscape project at the Prospect Avenue ramps is the latest of these efforts to improve the aesthetics of the path. Many individual homeowners along the path have also undertaken their own creative landscaping projects, removed trash, and attacked the variety of invasive species. Together we are helping make usage of the path a more enjoyable experience. ■

— Steve Arnold  
Greenspace Conservation Chair



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## Streets & Transportation Updates

It's nice to be back on the RNA Board and helping as the new chair of the Transportation committee. I appreciate the work done by my predecessor, Jason Bittner, his committee, the entire board, Alder Bidar-Sielaff, and the many others who have advocated for good transit improvements in our area. The Kendall Bike Boulevard, Old University Avenue, construction area challenges and much more have been well-handled. As our challenges continue, I look forward to helping achieve excellent transit issue planning and implementation of good policy for our neighborhood.

Many projects are still in process, including: Campus Drive, Old University Avenue/RNA Corridor Plan, the Highland/Regent/Speedway intersection, Safe Routes to School efforts around the schools, infrastructure improvements and construction zones (something that seems to never end in our neck of the woods!) and many more.

One large issue looming for our neighborhood, and one which Alder Bidar-Sielaff and the RNA will be addressing this fall: appropriate planning for the impacts of the growing parking and staff counts on the nearby UW West Campus. With more major facilities being built, and parking to accommodate them, our already

stressed street and pedestrian grid will need significant planning and effective implementation to mitigate dangers for all who travel or live in our neighborhood. We look forward to working with UW, City and Shorewood Hills stakeholders this fall to best effectively plan for this goal.

There are other tangential projects in which we may become involved. Continuing our neighborhood's support of the annual May Bicycle Safety Rodeo

program, safer pedestrian lighting (including the SW Trail) and improving bike parking throughout our area and more. We also need to be advocates for effective safety planning for many of our residents who commute from our neighborhood through other areas.

In order to adequately address the above, I hope that you will volunteer to help my committee. Please let me know if you can help by emailing me at [troythiel@yahoo.com](mailto:troythiel@yahoo.com) or calling me at 347-9670. Also, if you have any other issues you'd suggest we consider adding to the committee and board's focus, don't hesitate to contact me. Safe Travels! ■

— Troy Thiel  
*Streets & Transportation Chair*





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## Want to Save Energy? There's an App for That!

Green Madison, the City of Madison's resource for saving energy and money at home and at work, is introducing residents to a free mobile app to help reduce energy waste and cut electric bills. The new app, Light Bulb Finder, makes it easy to find energy-efficient light bulbs with the right light quality, fit and performance. It also empowers users to instantly calculate their own home's savings potential and make informed decisions about which bulbs to replace for the greatest financial payback. By using the app to switch to energy-saving light bulbs, the average household can save over \$120 a year.

The Light Bulb Finder app, developed by Wisconsin-based Eco Hatchery, is available as a free download on iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Android devices. To get started, residents should visit their smartphone's app store and search for "Light Bulb Finder" and sign in with their Madison ZIP code.

With smartphone in hand, users walk through their homes entering basic information about their lighting fixtures and current bulb types. Light Bulb Finder provides instant recommendations for energy-efficient equivalents along with personalized energy savings potential. Each recommendation includes an image and price for the bulb, financial payback, and environmental impact. Users can then create shopping lists and purchase energy-efficient bulbs such as compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and light emitting diodes (LEDs) directly through the app or at local retail stores.

Green Madison also offers help for homeowners that are looking for deeper energy savings and a more comfortable home. The program partners with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® to offer professional home energy evaluations that address comfort, safety

and energy-efficiency issues within the home, and provide personalized solutions.

To take a tour and watch a demonstration video of the Light Bulb Finder app, visit [www.lightbulbfinder.net](http://www.lightbulbfinder.net).



### About Green Madison

Green Madison is a federally funded program that works with City of Madison residents and businesses to lower energy costs, increase home comfort and safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulate the local economy. The Green Madison program is open to eligible City of Madison businesses and

single family, duplex, and triplex owner-occupied residences and condominiums. For more information, visit [cityofmadison.com/greenmadison](http://cityofmadison.com/greenmadison) or call 877.399.1204. ■

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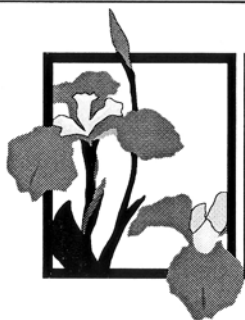
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## RNA Looking for a Sustainability Coordinator — First Step is to Coordinate EnAct Program in Regent Neighborhood

The RNA Board created a Sustainability Committee in 2009 to help promote greener practices in our homes and throughout the neighborhood. The Board is seeking a chair for this important position. One responsibility of this committee would be to help coordinate the EnAct program in the Regent Neighborhood.

EnAct is a greener living program available in Dane County. Their website is [www.enactwi.org](http://www.enactwi.org).

As a neighborhood, we are interested in:

- Making our lives and neighborhood more sustainable;
- Improving the environment, but we're busy or don't know where to start;
- Finding ways to have a lighter, healthier lifestyle for themselves and the Earth;
- Meeting neighbors and talking about what sustainability means in our community; and
- Setting Green Resolutions to kick off the New Year,

EnAct is an action-oriented book club and discussion group. It is completely self-guided but—thanks to the generosity of our sponsors—the EnAct staff is available for free to help us get started, find information, and stay motivated.

Using the “EnAct: Steps to Greener Living” book as a guide, people can work on their own or create a team of friends, coworkers, or neighbors. The book can be purchased from EnAct, at local bookstores, or downloaded for free on their website.

Each EnAct team sets its own meeting schedule. Each team meets 7 times (usually once or twice a month). The “EnAct: Steps to Greener Living” book guides teams through discussions about sustainability and provides more than 1,000 action ideas to help people:

- Conserve energy,
- Waste less,
- Save water,
- Drive less,
- Eat well, and
- Save money.

So, if you are looking for a way to get involved in the neighborhood by donating a couple of hours a month, there may not be a more rewarding way to help out. Please contact John Schlaefer, RNA president, at [john\\_schlaefer@yahoo.com](mailto:john_schlaefer@yahoo.com). ■



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## MFIS Thanksgiving Hospitality Hosts Needed



Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) is looking for families who would like to invite international students to their homes for this year's Thanksgiving celebration. It is a wonderful opportunity to share Thanksgiving traditions, food, and family with people from around the world. The warmth and friendship shared will never be forgotten. Thanksgiving is celebrated on November 24 this year. For questions and/or to volunteer as a host, please call MFIS at 263-4010 or email [info@mfismadison.org](mailto:info@mfismadison.org) (email subject: Thanksgiving Hospitality) by November 15. MFIS has served international students at University of Wisconsin-Madison for 52 years and is extending a welcome to international students at Madison College as well! Volunteers will be screened and matched through MFIS. For information about MFIS, visit <http://www.iss.wisc.edu/mfis/index.html> ■



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## Seed Money & Resources Available for New Community Gardens

From a potted tomato plant on a front porch to the Obamas' White House lawn garden, more and more Americans are realizing the importance of growing our own food. Not only does gardening provide nutritious foods for our bodies, but it also saves money in household budgets that may be stretched a bit thin these days.

The community gardening spirit is thriving in the Madison area, with 55 community gardens serving over 2400 households.

However, many Madison residents live in areas where there are still limited, if any, opportunities to garden and many existing gardens have waiting lists of interested gardeners. For these reasons, the New Garden Fund was created in 2005 by Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc. (CAC) with support from the Madison Community Development Block Grant and other city agencies. The New Garden Fund, which is housed at the Madison Community Foundation, provides financial assistance to new and expanding gardens, increasing access to more gardens throughout the city. Existing community gardens and individuals donate to this fund, which can provide grants of up to \$2000 per garden.

A grant from the New Garden Fund can help pay for materials and services such as soil testing, land

clearing, water systems, fencing, or tools. The application process for a grant is simple and application materials can be found on the CAC community gardens website, [http://www.cacscw.org/garden\\_grants.php](http://www.cacscw.org/garden_grants.php). Applications are due January 13, 2012. A panel of community gardeners will review the New Garden Fund grant applications and select the recipients.

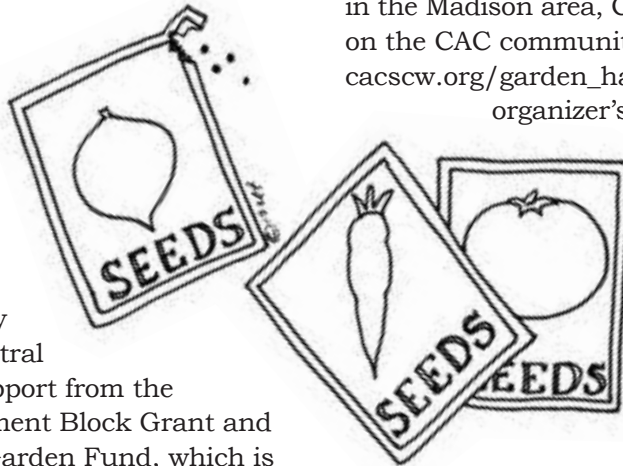
To further support the success of community gardens in the Madison area, CAC has many resources available on the CAC community gardens website at [http://cacscw.org/garden\\_handbook.php](http://cacscw.org/garden_handbook.php), including an

organizer's handbook for starting new community gardens. In addition, CAC staff members are available to meet with neighborhood groups interested in starting a new community garden to explain the process and provide resources. For more information, contact Chris Brockel at 246-4730 ext.

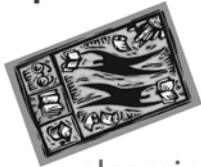
206 or [chrisb@cacscw.org](mailto:chrisb@cacscw.org). If

you can support this project financially, we welcome your donation to the New Garden Fund.

Community gardens foster and grow strong neighborhoods, provide opportunities for education and exercise, and nurture healthy lifestyles. For the vegetable less traveled, we invite you to contact CAC to learn how to start a garden in your own community. ■



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## News from the Co-op

Over the past six months, the co-op board has made a concerted effort to get a better handle on the finances of the store. We have modified some of the bookkeeping and accounting procedures and have invested more resources into accounting services. The story that is emerging is that the store has not only been able to provide a valuable service to the members of the cooperative for 12 years and counting, but it has become a financially viable business enterprise. Costs are being kept under control and sales, while down slightly so far in 2011 over previous years, are still generating positive cash flow above expenses.

Over the next few months we need to make some decisions about the direction of the store. It's better to be making money than otherwise, but we would like the business to be growing too. We don't want to cut costs so much that service or selection begin to suffer. The health of the cooperative starts with healthy sales, after all. And as long as we have positive cash flow, we can consider some modest investments—perhaps in people, perhaps in physical improvements, perhaps in products—that we hope will nudge sales toward a more positive trend.

Later this year, the Board will be asking members and customers to fill out a short survey. We hope you will take the time to fill one out. The results of that survey will provide some direction on what the neighborhood values most in the store, and what improvements folks would like to see. In the meantime, kudos to our dedicated staff, and give yourself a pat on the back while you're at it for demonstrating that it's still possible to maintain a neighborhood grocery store that finds success on a local and human scale. ■

—Brad Wolbert  
RMC President

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# University Avenue of Old, But Not Old University

When I was a teenager, in the 1960s, I had two paper routes along University Avenue between Princeton and Highland: delivering the *Wisconsin State Journal* in the darkness, the *Capital Times* in the light. Needless to say, walking the length of the corridor four times a day, six days a week, and twice on Sundays, I came to know the street very well. The University Avenue Corridor planning project brought back some memories for me of what the corridor was like back then:

- At four thirty on a cloudy winter morning, newly fallen snow clings to the trees and blankets the ground, so far undisturbed by foot or tire. I'm the first to leave evidence of human life carrying on.
- Trudging up the back stairs of 20?? University in the dark, my eyes are assaulted, suddenly, by the light, as my customer opens his door to greet me and receive his paper. The smell of eggs, toast and coffee exacerbate the hunger pangs I've been feeling since I started my route. "Oh, by the way," he says, "Have you seen our cat? She's usually back by now, but she hasn't come back yet this morning." I don't tell him I just saw what's left of a cat laying in the middle of University Avenue in front of their building.
- 2020 University is a rest stop both on cold winter mornings and on hot, humid afternoons. On Sunday's, my bag won't hold all of the papers, so I leave my second and third bundles in the lobby of 2020, returning to refill my bag each time I run out.
- One of the tenants at 2020 has subscriptions to several girly magazines that the mail carrier leaves on the bench in the lobby, quite a find for a pubescent boy.
- The owner of the Madison Bus Company lives at the Ivy Inn. It seems strange to deliver the paper to the front desk for him when there is always a stack of papers sitting on the counter. I never see him, because he pays the office directly.

- Finished with my route, it's 6:30 in the morning, and I'm at the corner of University and Highland. Rennebohm's isn't open yet, and neither is Miller's Market across the street, so I can't get something to stave off the hunger pangs I'm feeling, until I get home, unless one of the gas stations at Forest are open, so I can buy one of the stale candy bars that have been sitting in the vending machine for months.
- The afternoon route has one-third less customers, but they're more spread out — less people subscribe to the *Cap Times* — so it's the same distance and takes the same amount of time to do the route as it takes in the morning . . . for less money.
- Collecting at night feels really spooky sometimes, being out there alone with all that money in my pocket. But, I've got to be able to make my bill on Saturday morning, or I will get a lecture from my district manager, possibly even lose my job.

University Avenue has changed a lot over the fifty years since I had my paper routes. Many of the houses I once delivered papers to are gone, replaced, particularly in the 2100 block, by large multi-unit apartment buildings. The old gas stations are gone, as is the Ivy Inn, Rennebohm's Drug Store, Miller's Market and the rest of the strip mall at University and Highland, and gone are the sounds of the roosters emanating from UW's chicken coops where the UW Foundation building is now.

I get nostalgic for the University Avenue of old, sometimes, but I know that change is inevitable. Change that is of the highest quality will be beneficial in keeping the street and the neighborhood vibrant; it will keep the street from being old University Avenue. ■

— John Schlaefer  
RNA President



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