



# Regent Neighborhood

## ASSOCIATION

Fall 2012 Newsletter | [www.regentneighborhood.org](http://www.regentneighborhood.org)

**2012 RNA Fall Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 7 pm**

**Open House to present  
a draft of the  
University Avenue  
Corridor Plan**

**Best Western InnTowner**  
**2424 University Avenue**

## University Avenue Corridor Plan

The University Avenue Corridor Plan has been an ongoing project for the RNA in one form or another for almost six years. The RNA board has been working for several months on a draft of the plan that will be presented to the neighborhood at an Open House at the InnTowner on Wednesday, November 14. Neighbors will have a chance to ask questions and comment on the plan. Several weeks prior to the open house, the entire plan and an executive summary will be posted on the RNA website, so people can become familiar with its contents before they come to the open house. We urge everyone to come to the open house, so that we can get a true sample of the neighborhood's vision for the corridor. ■

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## A Note from LD—

I hope you will read the draft of the Corridor Plan and add your thoughts to this neighborhood conversation which has included meetings of the RNA subcommittee, the RNA Board, open house presentations, meetings with the city planning staff, and email conversations on the RNA listserv.

The process has been long, complicated and, I believe, successful. Even with differences in

perspectives, the draft offers a shared vision recognizing our neighborhood will change and that we want those changes to be positive. Thanks to the many neighbors who have contributed their thoughts and ideas. I encourage you to join the conversation at our open house on November 14. ■

— LD Oakley,

*Your Neighbor and RNA Board Member At-Large*

**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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Area 3 Jean Parks, 233-1418

Area 4 Elizabeth Kerwin, 661-9991

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 —

I apologize if the words in this article are a bit jumbled; BrownLofts Apartments is being built practically in my back yard, and they are cutting through bedrock for the underground parking, so the rest of the block keeps feeling mini earthquakes.

It's Fall again, and the neighborhood is abuzz with Badger football, kids back in school, yard sales, leaf raking, and everything else that makes this a special season of the year.

The RNA Board is busy working on the University Avenue Corridor Plan. It needs to be finished by the end of the year when the funding runs out. There will be an open house for neighborhood comments on November 14, before it goes to the city for review and approval. Before the open house the entire draft, and an executive summary, will be posted on the website and the listservs. Please attend the open house, so we can have input from as big a sample of the neighborhood as possible.

I hope everyone has a great Fall, and a safe and fun Halloween!

— John



*RNA Board President  
John Schlaefer*



## RNA Board Meeting Schedule

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • <b>October 24, 2012</b>  | • <b>January 23, 2013</b>  |
| • <b>November 14, 2012</b> | • <b>February 27, 2013</b> |
| • <b>December 2012—TBA</b> | • <b>March 27, 2013</b>    |

The RNA Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7–9 p.m. at the Best Western InnTowner at 2424 University Avenue.

These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to RNA President John Schlaefer at john\_schlaefer@yahoo.com.

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,700. The deadline for winter edition is January 4, 2013. 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.

## Olive Jones Park Nears Completion

The playground at Randal School—Olive Jones Park went through the final phase of reconstruction this summer. This included replacement of the retaining walls, smooth new asphalt, and a beautiful black metal fence all around the perimeter. There are also two new gates on Chadbourne, one for cars on game days and one for bicycles, strollers and wheelchairs every day.

Next spring will bring trees and other landscaping for the two eastern corners. The Regent Neighborhood Association is also working with a city grant to create an artistic “gathering space” in the northeast corner, with two benches and planters—watch for installation of the benches in the spring.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this project—parents, neighbors, local businesses, and volunteers. The Madison Parks Division provided three years of dedicated project management, and the city made significant financial contributions each year. We are especially grateful for the support of the Franklin-Randall PTO and the Regent Neighborhood Association, whose generous donations started and finished this project.

We cannot say enough good things about our honorary co-chairs, Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and Principal John Wallace, and Alison Alter, the original chair of this project. On behalf of them and ourselves, we hope you and your children enjoy the playground for many years to come! ■

— Marcia Vandercook & Amy Thomas Halstead



*View of the Randall School playground/Olive Jones Park from the southwest corner of the school and Regent Street*

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## Membership Committee Report

Thank you to all who have supported the Regent Neighborhood Association this year by becoming members or renewing your membership.

Our membership rolls this year include 367 households out of approximately 1,500 households in the neighborhood. Membership rates are down somewhat this year: 24% of households are members this year, compared to around 33% that we typically see. Hopefully, this is a one-time blip and next year membership totals will return to historic levels.

This is my first year as Membership Chair, and I would like to take this chance to tell you a little about myself. I grew up in Racine and after time in California and Ohio moved back to Wisconsin in 2010

with my husband, Justin. Our son was born shortly after we moved back. He is almost two now and keeps us plenty busy. I thought that volunteering with the RNA would be a great way to meet neighbors and learn about the neighborhood, and I have not been disappointed.

If you would still like to become a member this year, the membership form may be downloaded from the RNA website ([www.regentneighborhood.org](http://www.regentneighborhood.org)), or you can contact me directly by email [amsydnor@gmail.com](mailto:amsydnor@gmail.com) or phone 216-313-2311. ■

— Ann Sydnor, Membership Committee Chair



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# Streets and Transportation Committee Report

Two and a half years ago I was scouting out Madison neighborhoods to relocate my family. Driving east-bound on Regent, I stopped at the Speedway/Highland intersection. Cars passed, some two at a time. Chaos reigned. I didn't know what to do. Living in Boston at the time, I was accustomed to questionable traffic design and impatient drivers, but this intersection was too much, something had to be done.

Thanks to the good work of the previous transportation committee, Alder Bidar-Sielaff, and city traffic engineers, the intersection received several enhancements last summer (see sidebar). While the changes have been positive, more can be done and will be a priority for the transportation committee.

Other priorities for the coming year include:

- The near west traffic study, which will review how our neighborhood is impacted by commuting traffic, may offer insight to reduce commuting traffic on the local streets. Results are expected by the end of 2012.
- Finalizing traffic/transportation recommendations for the University Ave Corridor Plan.
- Exploring the possible addition of stop signs at key intersections, particularly around West and Randall schools.

What are your priorities? Please e-mail or call me if you have any transportation related suggestions, concerns, or questions. Better yet, join the committee and help turn your ideas into reality. I can be reached at [magannon@gmail.com](mailto:magannon@gmail.com) or 233-1670. ■

— Mike Gannon  
Streets and Transportation Committee Chair



*The addition of the overhead stop sign on Speedway and advance of the stop line by 20 feet slows traffic into the intersection, making it easier for drivers to turn down Highland.*



*The addition of islands on Highland Avenue is one of the enhancements made to improve pedestrian safety.*

## Regent/Highland/Speedway Update

While many people may look at the intersection and ask what is different, there are important improvements to note. Jack O'Keefe, who works as the crossing guard at the intersection identified the following:

- The advance of the stop line on Regent (heading west) and Speedway have resulted in three improvements:
  1. Left turns from Speedway down Highland are easier. More people are signaling to turn than in the past, giving a better indication for cars on Regent to yield to the left turn.
  2. There are fewer rolling stops on Regent now that the stop line is further into the intersection.
  3. Pedestrians crossing Regent are now more visible to cars turning right from Speedway
- Making the left turn off Regent (heading east) onto Highland flows better as a result of the bright yellow island and the yellow line marks directing drivers around the island.
- The installation of the overhead stop sign on Speedway should help reduce speeds for cars approaching the intersection.
- The addition of the islands on Highland makes it easier for pedestrians to cross the street when unattended.

While the intersection is not perfect, and may never be, a few minor enhancements may result in more noticeable changes.

# Alder Report, District 5—Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

Dear Neighbors,

My most exciting news of the past few months is having had the honor of meeting the President of the United States during his visit to Madison on October 3. Who would have ever imagined that a little girl that lived through the Iranian Revolution would meet the President of the USA! It was simply an amazing experience. I felt humbled to represent the City of Madison Common Council as its President and the Regent Neighborhood as your Alder.



*Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff*

And now some key neighborhood issues that I have been working on over the past few months:

## Traffic/Parking/Bike/Pedestrian Issues

- Island on Farley at Chamberlain: based on the survey showing a majority support by a survey of immediate neighbors, the island was built in September.
- Proposed SW West Bike Path lighting: I sent an email to the neighborhood listservs on September 24 to explain my position on this proposal. In balancing all the feedback I have received and given the other city bike/pedestrian improvement priorities, I am not supporting moving forward with the current proposal.
- A near west side traffic study funded by the City, UW, and Shorewood Hills should be under way this Fall. Traffic patterns from Midvale to Breese Terrace and Regent to the UW West Campus area will be studied to assist with better traffic management for the entire area. My goal is to make sure that we look at ways to reduce the commuter traffic impact on our neighborhood.

## Development projects and proposals

- At a neighborhood meeting in early summer, Patrick and Sue Grady presented a proposal to build an eight-unit apartment building with underground parking at 2224 Regent Street. The great majority of neighborhood residents expressed opposition to such a large building on the site of the current single family house. The Gradys are working on a four-unit proposal which I will share with you as soon as I have details and drawings.

- 2635 University Avenue (former Scooter U site): This site has seen lots of interest. Taco Bell and Dunkin Donuts expressed interest but, given the challenges of a drive-through on this site, and after conversations with me and City staff, they decided not to pursue this location. The latest proposal is for a doctor's office. It seems like a very good use of the site. A formal proposal has not yet been submitted to the City. As soon as it is, I will make sure to share it on the neighborhood listservs.

## 2013 City Budget

The 2013 budget is going to be extremely challenging given the state-shared revenue formula and tax levy limit. We will be debating and adopting the budget November 13 through 15. The proposed executive capital and operating budgets are available at [www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm).

## November elections

These are crucial national elections. The right and responsibility to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. Please make sure to vote on November 6 (or vote early or by absentee ballot). Voter information can be found at [www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/).

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, and/or concerns. I can be reached at [district5@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district5@cityofmadison.com) or (608) 220-6986. ■




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

The fall is when the County starts its annual budgeting process, and this year looks to be as tough as the last few. The State's imposed 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, will likely mean cuts across many departments. The Dane County Department of Human Services presented its budget to the Health and Human Needs (HHN) committee on August 29th and, fortunately, with the help of outside revenue, was able to propose an increase of more than \$6.2 million for critical programs and services. The increase will enhance the access to, and the quality of, our human services safety net. It includes a funding increase of \$3 million for persons with developmental disabilities and a \$400,000 increase in mental health services. 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.



*Supervisor Jeremy Levin*

In other news, a joint Dane County, UW, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) study will investigate carp removal options from Lake Kegonsa and other Dane County Lakes. This is another initiative resulting from the county board's Clear Lakes Initiative, which began in February 2012 and will utilize funding from a State DNR grant that will allow the county to invest more than \$200,000 in resources to help boaters curb the growth and transfer of aquatic invasive species at boat launches on Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa. It is my hope that in the near future the County will be able to expand its pilot project stations to boat landings at Lakes Mendota and Monona.

Finally, the Board is also creating a county-wide education task force to explore, review and develop strategies for the county and its various school districts to collaborate on ways to streamline services that would benefit Dane County families and taxpayers. It is expected that this facilitated collaboration will lead to better communication and utilization of county programs that can benefit at-risk and disadvantaged student populations.

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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## RNA Board

Here's a great way to support our neighborhood—become a board member of the Regent Neighborhood Association. These board positions are open:

### President-Elect

This position is the understudy to the president, and attends all RNA board meetings.

### Secretary-Elect

This position is an understudy to the secretary and fills in for the secretary when necessary. The primary role of the secretary is to take and distribute minutes from the monthly board meetings. The time commitment is approximately four hours a month, including meeting time.

### Treasurer

The treasurer maintains the accounts of the RNA, invoices businesses as requested by committee chairs, attends monthly board meetings and presents the Treasurer's report, completes and presents to the board an annual income statement and balance sheet, and attends any meetings of the Executive Committee of the board, and picks up the RNA mail weekly from the Hilldale post office box. Approximately 4 hours per month is spent on treasurer duties.

Email your interest in a board position to RNA President John Schlaefter at [john\\_schlaefter@yahoo.com](mailto:john_schlaefter@yahoo.com). ■

## Communications Committee

The Regent Neighborhood Association connects and enriches our community. If you are interested in building our community with your communications and marketing skills, the RNA Communications Committee is looking for a couple of volunteers. No experience necessary. We are looking for:

### Ad Coordinator

Coordinate the annual ad campaign, maintain ad records, and communicate with ad clients.

### Content Coordinator

Coordinating, writing, and editing articles for newsletters and updating copy for directory.

If you're interested, please contact Chair Mary Sarnowski at [sarnowski@mac.com](mailto:sarnowski@mac.com). ■

## Schools of Hope

Schools of Hope is looking for volunteers to tutor West High School students one-on-one this semester for at least one hour per week. If you enjoy working with youth and would like to help a student succeed, please email Tutor Coordinators Ian Wright and Zoua Vang at [SOHTutoring.West@gmail.com](mailto:SOHTutoring.West@gmail.com). ■



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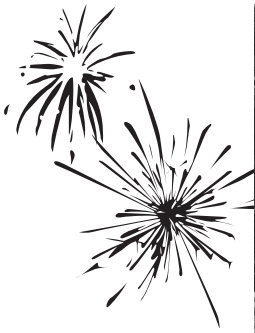
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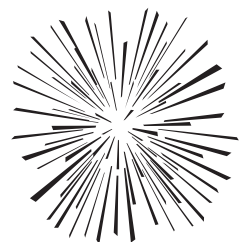


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## Author, Author!

*An occasional series about writers in the 'hood*

Not to be too ghoulish this Halloween season but as I prepare to cut faces in pumpkins and stock up on chocolate for trick-or-treaters, I'm thinking it's a good time to turn neighborhood thoughts to writers among the living dead. The Regent Neighborhood can claim at least two deceased authors, conservationist Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) and historian Frederick Jackson Turner (1861-1932).

Leopold's two-story stucco house at 2222 Van Hise Avenue, across the street from West High School, is well known to many Regent Neighborhood denizens thanks to an identifying plaque in the front yard. (The home is an official City landmark.) Leopold and his family had moved there in 1924 from Albuquerque, where he had been with the U.S. Forest Service. The Madison house was within easy walking distance of Leopold's job at the Forest Products Laboratory and, later, his offices at UW-Madison where he had been appointed chair of a new program in game management—"a first for the University of Wisconsin and the nation," according to the Leopold Foundation's Website.



*Frederick Jackson Turner's gravemarker at Forest Hill Cemetery*

It surprises me that while people may be familiar with Leopold as the father of wildlife management and the U.S. wilderness system, they haven't read his well-

known collection of essays, *A Sand County Almanac*, published in 1949, shortly after his death. The *Almanac* is one of the most eloquent explorations of our relationship to the natural world and about the value of conservation.

Frederick Jackson Turner also lived in the neighborhood, some say at 2214 Van Hise. He was both a UW-Madison student and professor of history, after receiving his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins. I read Turner's famous 1893 essay, *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*, when I was in college. Perhaps dated or politically incorrect now, the work still raises questions about how the western frontier was as much an idea

as a place, shaping the American character and our definitions of democracy and nationhood.

Turner, by the way, lists another neighborhood address—Forest Hill Cemetery. ■

—Ronnie Hess  
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## News From Regent Market Co-op

Autumnal Greetings Neighbors! I want to thank all who attended our Fall Fandango. The attendance at our street fair was even better than our Spring Fling which was the best we had ever had. In addition to the tastes of our famous brats, we had a half dozen other local vendors including, Sassy Cow Creamery who donated their delicious ice cream for the rootbeer floats, Farmer John's Cheese, Hawkwind Mustards, Just Coffee, Nature's Bakery, Potter's Crackers, Sugar River Dairy, and Thumann's Meats. Perhaps the biggest hit was the Summit Credit Union "Money Machine." I think the word got out among the neighborhood kids because they were lined up to try their hand at catching the swirling dollars.

I also want to thank the local bands (Guy Berdoulis and the Prairie Bayou Cajun Band) who played for us. Their talent and music was appreciated by all. A shout out as well to our neighbors, The Froth House, who had coffee and treats to go with the festivities. A special thanks to our great General Manager, Randy Winkler who served as master of Fandango Fun.

Two other items worth mentioning for the RNA neighborhood. The first is that during Badger

Football Home games, we now have the West High School kids running brat fries as fundraisers for their activities. Please support them if you are in town during the games.

The second item is that we continue to focus on "Principle 6" of the 7 cooperative principles. Principle 6 is cooperation among cooperatives. Board members recently attended the Co-op Connection hosted by Summit Credit Union at Monona Terrace. This event put together many of the local cooperatives in and around Dane County and provided a forum to share their stories and promote interaction, cooperation, and discussion among the various groups. It is remarkable how many different cooperative businesses operate in Dane County. I was surprised to learn that I could buy almost all my goods and services from cooperative businesses and we are proud to be one of them. Thank you for your continued support. ■

— Jim Yockey, RMC Board President

### RESALE **REGENT** RECYCLE

SAVE & SHOP TO SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL!

The WEST HIGH PTSO will be having a resale and recycle event to support the teacher *Wish List* in conjunction with an opportunity for our student clubs to promote and raise funds for their own initiatives.

Saturday, November 10th

9:00AM - 1:00PM

West High Cafenadium

#### What Sells?

Winter Coats, Teen Clothing, Holiday Lights and Ornaments, Sports Equipment and Clothing, Bikes, Children's Books and Board Games, Video Games and Systems, Toys, Stereo Equipment and Newer CD's, Collectible Knick Knacks, Tableware, Furniture, and MORE...

#### DROP-OFF INFORMATION

All resale contributions can be dropped off outside the Cafeteria doors under the overhang at the following times:

- Fridays 8:15AM until 4:00PM, October 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, November 2nd - ALL WEEK November 5th-9th

All electronics can be dropped off:

- ANYTIME at the Ash Street Welcome Window - At the West High Cafenadium the day of the sale.



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All Proceeds Will Directly Benefit WEST HIGH Teachers, Students and Classrooms

## Calendar of Neighborhood Events

### Saturday, October 20

#### **Regent Market Brat Fry (during the Badger game).**

West High School kids run the brat fry as a fundraiser for their activities. Go West! Go Badgers!

### Wednesday, October 24, 7 – 9pm

#### **RNA Board Meeting.**

Best Western InnTowner, 2424 University Avenue.

### Saturday, October 27

#### **Regent Market Brat Fry (during the Badger game).**

West High School kids run the brat fry as a fundraiser for their activities. Go West! Go Badgers!

### Friday, November 2, 7:30 pm

#### **St. Andrew's Concert Series.**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1833 Regent Street. Free admission, Goodwill offerings welcome.

### Saturday, November 3, 9am – 2pm

**Craft Fair.** Bethany United Methodist Church holds its 40th Annual Craft Fair. There will be a Coffee Shop and Bake Sale sponsored by United Methodist Women, and a barbecue lunch will be served from 11am–1pm. 3910 Mineral Point Road.

### Friday, November 9

**Yahara Lakes: Implementing a Vision.** Join the conversation and learn how to get involved in the latest exciting work happening to clean up the

Yahara chain of lakes.

Monona Terrace. Register at [www.nalms.org](http://www.nalms.org)

### Saturday, November 10, 9am – 1pm

**Regent Resale (see page 15).** The West High PTSO will have a resale event to support the teacher Wish List. West High School Cafenadium, 30 Ash Street.

### Wednesday, November 14, 7pm

**RNA Open House (see page 1).** The Regent Neighborhood Association presents a draft of the University Avenue Corridor Plan. Best Western InnTowner, 2424 University Avenue.

### Thursday, November 15

**MWABA Evergreen Sale.** Madison West Athletic Booster Association evergreen sale order deadline. Go to [mwaba.org](http://mwaba.org) or call Bob Emmerlich at 273-4347.

### Saturday, November 17

#### **Regent Market Brat Fry (during the Badger game).**

West High School kids run the brat fry as a fundraiser for their activities. Go West! Go Badgers!

### November 30 and December 1, 7:30pm

#### **December 7 and 8, 7:30pm**

**West Drama: Rumors.** West Drama presents *Rumors*, a comedy by Neil Simon, directed by Lee Waldhart. West High School Auditorium, 30 Ash St.

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