



Regent Neighborhood

February 2019 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION

Highland Avenue Underpass Art Shifts Into Gear

The Regent Neighborhood's efforts to build a mural at the Highland Avenue Underpass took a major step forward with a \$150,000 grant from the City of Madison. Thanks to Karin Wolf, Madison Arts Program Administrator, for her work moving the project through the design phase and to Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff for moving the funding proposal through the city's capital budget. This grant, in addition to neighborhood contributions, brings the project within \$15,000 of goal. The RNA is now working to complete funding and invites your participation.

The mural project was inspired by community input from the RNA's University Avenue Corridor Plan and was advanced by a class project of UW-Madison Professor Sam Dennis. His Landscape Architecture class created more than a dozen design concepts. The Regent Neighborhood Association hosted community discussions reviewing the options and, from those conversations, the neighborhood prioritized Julia Schilling's SHIFT design.

Julia describes her design as an artistic expression inspired by the legacy of scientific discovery at UW-Madison and as "an experiential gateway between Regent Neighborhood and UW-Madison. The accordion-style lenticular walls emphasize the energy and movement of Highland Avenue through interaction with two shifting images. The eight-foot-tall walls address aspects of aesthetics and safety. LED lights provide a dramatic, welcoming nighttime experience that illuminate patterns created with circle packing



Artist rendering of the proposed LED light sculpture

algorithms. The choice of generative imagery walks the line between science and natural experience, choice and chance."

The RNA will be reaching out to potential sponsors to complete funding for this project. Watch for opportunities to support this project with neighborhood efforts in the coming months.

Learn more about this project at regentneighborhood.org/underpass-art.html and 1kfriends.org/highland-avenue-underpass-project/

Shift is a collaboration between Environmental Design Lab, City of Madison, Regent Neighborhood Association and 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. ■



Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

Regent Neighborhood Assn.
P.O. Box 5655
Madison, WI 53705

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A Note from the President —

Greeting Neighbors,

I'm excited to report that the RNA is reigniting the efforts for the Highland Avenue Underpass Art Project. It all started back in about 2014 and recently received a boost from a generous city grant. Read more about it on page one.

In 2017, we featured the work of the West High School Green Club and their initiative to raise funds for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the high school. They are seeking funds to complete the project.

Here is a link to an informative article by the MMSD highlighting the work of the Green Club: madison.k12.wi.us/west-high-school-path-transition-renewable-energy

Thank you to all of our neighbors and businesses for contributions supporting this exciting project.

Looking ahead to our membership meeting in May, we will be electing table officers and board members at large for the upcoming year. Having served as president, president-elect, secretary, and at large, I have found helping to improve our neighborhood very rewarding, and a great way to meet neighbors. I encourage you to consider serving on our board. There's more about it on page three.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank each of the RNA board members for all of their work and commitment, making the Regent neighborhood the best neighborhood in the city!

Best regards ~ Mary



RNA Board President
Mary Czyszczak-Lyne

2019 RNA Board Meeting Schedule

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| • February 25 | • May TBA |
| • March 25 | • June 24 |
| • April 22 | • August 26 |

The RNA Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 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 Mary Czyszczak-Lyne at mary.czyszczaklyne@wisc.edu.

Stay up to date and in the know!

Join the RNA Listserv —

groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn

Join Us on the RNA Board

The Regent Neighborhood Association will welcome a new board slate at our May membership meeting. We invite interested neighbors to join us on the RNA board in serving our neighborhood and our community. While all the board seats are up for election, open seats include: president, president-elect, five at-large positions, and Chair of the Sustainability Committee.

The Sustainability Committee serves as a neighborhood resource for promoting sustainable, green practices by the neighborhood as a whole, individual residences, and neighborhood businesses. Our goal



is to increase the reuse and recycling of materials, to reduce carbon emissions, and other green practices.

The committee also provides guidance on the use, maintenance, improvement, and creation of parks, playgrounds, greenspaces, and historic open spaces in the neighborhood. We work cooperatively with government agencies and others for the betterment of the neighborhood and the city.

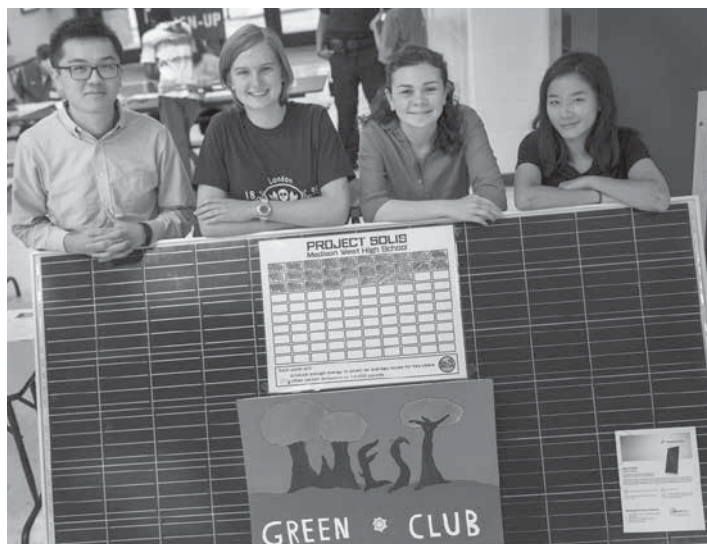
If you'd like to learn more about board service, contact RNA President Mary Czyszak-Lyne at mary.czyszaklyne@wisc.edu. ■

MUCH More Solar at West High!

In spring 2017, West Green Club, an organization of 50 students at Madison West High School, launched Project Solis, a campaign to install solar panels at Madison West High School. Since then, West Green Club has managed to raise \$104,000 towards this initiative, successfully surpassing its initial fundraising goal of \$75,000. This renewable energy project is truly unique as one of the largest youth-led efforts in Wisconsin that addresses the need for increasing student awareness of environmental issues. Because students are leading this initiative instead of parents or district administrators, the impact of this project is magnified and will result in a sustainable, long-term increase in awareness among youth of the need to tackle energy challenges facing their communities. This project has been recognized by Wisconsin State Journal, Sierra Club, WORT Radio, The Capital Times, Mayor Paul Soglin's blog, and the City of Madison.

In the final two months of this campaign, West Green Club has embarked on an aggressive fundraising goal: to raise at least \$25,000 more before March 31, 2019. If we meet this goal, we would be able to fund a solar array of nearly 100 kW, a project that would be the sixth largest solar-on-schools project in Wisconsin!

Over the past couple of years, West Green Club has developed a close relationship with Regent Neighborhood Association. West Green Club has helped run the box maze event at the annual July 4th festival, presented to the Regent Neighborhood Association board on the solar project, and received your electronics for recycling through our electronic waste recycling drives. Furthermore, the Regent Neighborhood Association generously provided West Green Club with a \$5,000 grant to install 10



2017 West Green Club members Charles Hua, left, Grace Upham, Kari Weiss, and Nyah Banik, all seniors, launched Project Solis. (photo by Andy Manis)

solar panels at Madison West High School, solar panels that will be named on behalf of the Regent Neighborhood Association. Thank you to the Regent Neighborhood Association and all its members for your support thus far!

Individuals and organizations can provide financial support for this project through a tax-deductible donation. To donate, visit westgreenclub.org/donate. Through West Green Club's adopt-a-panel program, individuals and organizations have the opportunity to adopt and name a panel on their behalf through a \$500 donation. To date, over 150 panels have been adopted! All donors who have raised \$500 or more will be recognized on a plaque that West Green Club students are beginning to design, which will celebrate our collective effort to eventually *(continued on page 6)*

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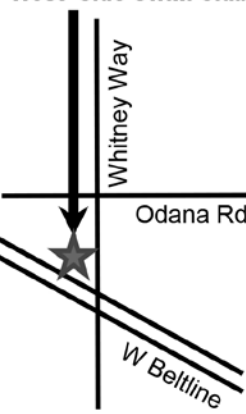
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This Neighborhood Business—Club Pilates, 2623 Monroe Street

Club Pilates Monroe Street is operated by a local Madison couple, Erika and Nathan Baldwin. Erika and Nathan encountered Pilates nearly ten years ago at a small studio in Chicago where they went to school. Since then, they have devoted their working lives to bringing Pilates to the people. Erika and Nathan plan to open seven total Club Pilates studios. They have two additional locations in Madison: Club Pilates Madison West and Club Pilates Sun Prairie.

At a glance, you can see that fitness classes at Club Pilates Monroe Street are different from any other workout. The routines at Club Pilates emphasize smooth, flowing movement and proper pelvic and spinal alignment.

Pilates exercises first aim to develop a strong “core”, or center of the body. All human movement begins in the core, but we don’t keep our cores strong enough! The core consists of the abdominal muscles and the muscles surrounding and protecting the spine. Control of these muscles is achieved by integrating—or improving awareness and control—of the trunk, pelvis, and shoulder girdle. Pilates next elongates, improving muscle elasticity and joint mobility. A body with balanced strength and flexibility is pain free and less likely to become injured.

Their reformer-based group Pilates classes, combined with TriggerPoint, TRX, Springboard, EXO-chair and other equipment, are designed to build strength, mobility, and stability. They offer over 50 hours of classes per week, spread out over seven different class types and four levels of difficulty. Modifications to exercises allow for a range of difficulty, from



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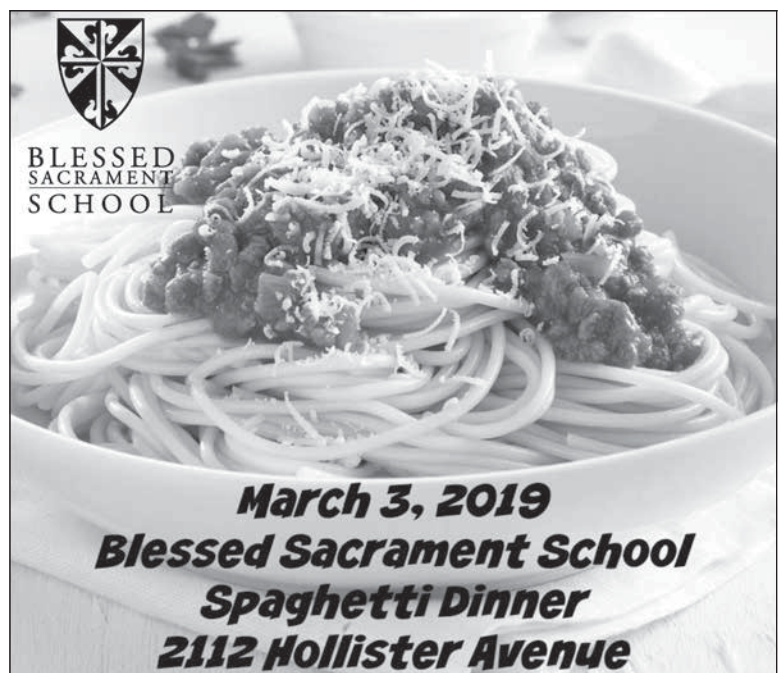
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More Solar at West *(continued from page 3)*

become a carbon neutral school district and society. Contributions of any size are greatly appreciated and will go a long way towards providing hands-on educational opportunities for students in a growing clean energy job market, making better use of your

taxpayer dollars, and supporting youth in their pursuit of environmental initiatives.

Please feel free to reach out to contact@westgreenclub.org with any questions. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to hearing from you! ■



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Greetings from Randall!

Having been raised in Louisiana, I've always appreciated how Wisconsin's crystal snow offers a wintry white backdrop to the red hearts of February. The Cajun couers I beheld as a child were nonetheless beautiful, set against swampland greens. As Valentine's Day rolls around each year, I always feel the connection between "couer" and "courage." We, young and old, breathe deeply and muster up the nerve to find that perfect way to express our love to our heart's desire.

Of course, times have changed since I was a lad. Matters of gender identity and sexual orientation have risen to a point of prominence. The scribes at Hallmark must be working overtime to pen the words that capture sentiments representative of folks who have been historically marginalized and violated. We engage in courageous conversations about our perspectives on LGBTQ+ citizens and the ever-evolving conventions about what constitutes a family.

At both Randall and Franklin, we have immersed ourselves in the Welcoming Schools model. Welcoming Schools is a national program being used in MMSD to create a more respectful and supportive learning environment for all students, staff and families. Professional development, lesson plans, books and inclusive language are provided around family diversity, gender and LGBTQ+ inclusion and preventing bias-based bullying. As a result, we are more cognizant of and sensitive to the assumptions we make, the examples we give, and the pronouns we use. Welcoming Schools does not promote a particular lifestyle or persuasion. It promotes justice and consideration. It promotes courage. It promotes love.

During one of my upper elementary school years, I participated in our homeroom's Valentine's Day card box decorating contest. My construction was a cardboard turntable with a Beatles' 45 rpm atop, featuring the song title, "She Loves You." I actually took first prize! My favorite entry, however, was an elevated mailbox featuring the words "Par Avion" perfectly painted on both sides. This was back at a time when airmail was distinguished from ground mail. The creator of the entry was Henry, a confident and brilliant student. He was a gifted artist as well. As my years as Henry's classmate flowed into high school, he became the target of harassment for being effeminate. While he maintained his prominence as a scholar and leader, he was jeered and bullied by certain students for being gay, though harsh terms and some force were used.



Principal John Wallace and students decorate a newer addition at Randall.

Henry came out when he was a young adult. I think about him every Valentine's Day, imagining his horrific childhood struggle with the unjust social demands placed upon him to be something he wasn't. I also own my guilt for my lack of courage to act as an ally for him.

Fear, anger and hatred seem to be the dominant themes of the messages we receive daily over the airwaves and on the ground. Even Cupid seems armed for battle. He with his arrow, however, conquers all.

As the students enter our building each Valentine's Day, I play a song over the PA. I employ my executive privilege in its selection. I typically blast a Beatles song, but not the tune I chose over a half century ago. I play, "All You Need Is Love."

Go Raccoons!

John

A large, stylized handwritten signature of John Wallace in black ink.

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Dane County Board Report — District 10

I hope this edition of the RNA Newsletter finds you and your family well, enjoying 2019.

The Dane County Board will address many varied issues in 2019, but I want to focus on three key initiatives: water quality improvement, Alliant Energy Center campus redevelopment, and inclusive community engagement.

On water issues, the Board will implement recommendations of the

Healthy Farms, Healthy Lakes Task Force to reduce farm runoff that impairs the Yahara Lakes watershed. The importance and urgency of addressing runoff was underscored by the record rainfall and flooding this past summer. This effort marks the first time farmers, environmentalists, scientists, and policy makers have come together to work toward reducing phosphorus pollution while encouraging better agricultural conservation practices. The recommendations include implementation of state agricultural performance standards such as tillage setbacks and nutrient management plans, at the local level. The 2019 budget includes staffing and resources to implement the recommendations. Information on Healthy Farms/Healthy Lakes is available at board.countyofdane.com/Healthy-Farms-Healthy-Lakes-Task-Force.

Regarding the Alliant Energy Center, we have completed work on a draft Master Plan, which was presented to the Board at the end of 2018, and will continue to move the project forward. Guided by the “three E’s” — economy, environment and equity — the plan for redevelopment of the 164-acre county-owned Alliant Energy Center campus includes expansion of the Exhibition Hall, additional hotel facilities, enhancements at Willow Island and interior streets featuring restaurants or other amenities, as well as a focus on storm water management for the entire site. The project is part of a broad effort to



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

transform the property into a catalyst for economic development by attracting more visitors and creating new opportunities for the adjacent neighborhoods in south Madison. Funding was included in the 2019 budget for predesign of the Exhibition Hall and storm water management work. Information on the project is at aecstudy.countyofdane.com.

Finally, the Board is redoubling its commitment to inclusive community engagement as a cornerstone of our work. In 2018, we launched the “Engage Dane” initiative to formalize the Board’s engagement efforts, particularly to reach communities who may not currently participate in the county government debate, thereby improving representation and transparency. More information is available at board.countyofdane.com/Engage-Dane. A report of these efforts will be released early in 2019.

These are just three examples of the County Board’s work. Of course, there are many more including efforts in the areas of criminal justice system improvement and affordable housing, which the County has provided over \$8.6 million in assistance to private sector real estate developers to support 1,020 proposed units of affordable housing spread throughout Dane County since 2015, keeping monthly rents low for working families, the disabled, veterans, single parents and others struggling to make ends meet.

Should you have an interest in specific Dane County projects or initiatives, please contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 608.577.9335. ■

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Alder Report — District 5

Happy New Year! As always, I would like to give you some updates on neighborhood and city-related issues:

- The City Council approved the 2019 budget in November. Our 2019 budget emphasized continued investment in city infrastructure and basic services as well as investments in equity and opportunity. You can find the budget at cityofmadison.com/budget/
- I was able to successfully include \$150,000 in the City's 2019 capital budget for "The Shift," the underpass art project at Highland and University Avenues. The RNA Board is leading the efforts for the additional private fundraising needed to make this project a reality. You can find more information about this wonderful art project at regentneighborhood.org/underpass-art.html



*Alder Shiva
Bidar-Sielaff*

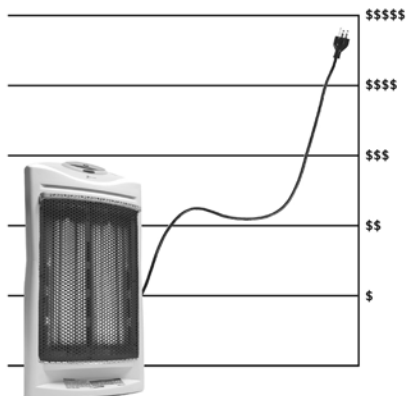
- The City is continuing its historic preservation planning process. We have now had three public input meetings in each historic district, including University Heights. The Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee (LORC) on which I sit is starting to meet every two weeks to discuss and recommend proposed changes to the ordinance. Please be sure to email me with your feedback or attend any of the LORC meeting. For details and updated information about the planning process, visit cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/the-historic-preservation-plan/1761
- University Avenue from Farley/University Bay Drive to Shorewood Blvd. is slated for reconstruction in 2020–21. Please stay tuned for the public input sessions!

Thank you for your continued involvement in neighborhood and city issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, and/or concerns. I can be reached at district5@cityofmadison.com or (608) 220-6986. ■

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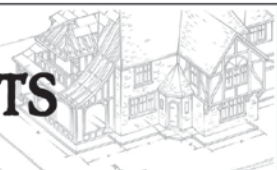
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- Carolyn (Fox Ave.)

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Update From Midtown Police Station

I hope everybody had a safe and fun holiday season! Winter is starting to show up from time to time, but I'm sure it will be here full time shortly. It is very important to take the weather into consideration when driving. You must slow down! During and after the first couple of snow storms we responded to a number of accidents. We also had a number of streets that were impassable until the plows made it to the area.

Traffic education and enforcement has increased in the area since the Midtown station has opened and



*Captain Jay Lengfeld
Midtown Station*

traffic will continue to be a top priority for the district this year. Please follow the traffic laws that include speed limits, red lights, stop signs, no left or right turn signs, etc. If we all follow the traffic laws, our community will be much safer.

The end of January is our shift change, which means there will be new faces working out of the Midtown District. Midtown spots were in high demand, so turn-over was high. Also, we welcomed the department's outreach section, which was moved from downtown to Midtown at the beginning of the New Year.

Thank you to the Regent Neighborhood Association for their support of our open house last October. We had over 750 people take the tour of the station that night in three hours. Also, our community room at the district can be used by the public for free. ■

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What does it take to maximize your profit when selling your house? It takes having an advocate, coach, decorator, boss, friend, etc. A good Realtor becomes all of these people for you from the time you decide to sell to when you collect a proceeds check.

First, it takes understanding our neighborhood inside and out. This isn't attainable by looking solely at sales statistics. It takes more. Understanding your house's unique pricing capabilities is key.

Then, there are some basic steps necessary to get your house ready for the market. In a nutshell - Declutter. Depersonalize. Clean from top to bottom. Make repairs. Clean up your curb appeal. Stage the house for its ideal buyer.

In addition to selling readiness, the other factor drastically effecting your profit is proper marketing. When I market your house, first I determine who your ideal buyer is & make sure your house is set up to speak to that buyer. Then, I choose the right marketing channels & expose the house properly online and in person until an offer is accepted.

This is only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. If you are thinking about selling, contact me to see if we would be a good fit and get a full copy of my Seller's Guide. It is worth the effort to maximize your profit and lower your agony level. Don't you agree?

-Tracy



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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,900. The deadline for the May edition is March 31, 2019. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood about local history or personalities and discussions of local issues. Please send items or inquiries to Megan Heneke at meganheneke@gmail.com.