

February 2020 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

RNA Fourth of July 2020 Festival—Calling for Volunteers and Ideas

This may seem early, but the RNA Board is starting to plan for next year's Fourth of July Festival. For the past few years planning and managing the festival on the day of has largely been handled by one or two people. This is too large of a task for one or two individuals and without the help of more neighbors the Festival might not continue. We're calling on all of you to help keep this tradition alive.

First, we'd like to ask neighbors what they'd like to have at the festival. For those that have joined in the past, and for anyone who has never been, what activities should we keep and what kinds of things should we change up or add? We want the event to be planned by neighbors for neighbors, and are happy for more people to take ownership of an activity they like or are interested in setting up.

Which leads me to the call for volunteer leaders for the different parts of the event. With a team of organizers the event can be easily managed and enjoyable for all. We'd like to have 8-12 volunteer leaders. For example, we are looking for leaders for:

- Overall day-of-the-festival manager: Order permits, coordinate volunteers, communicate with West High, order restrooms;
- Set up: Arrange for tents, chairs, and tables, arrange the field and set up signs, coordinate volunteers to help set up;
- **Ticket booth:** Buy tickets, arrange for a cash drawer, coordinate volunteers to sell tickets;

(continued on page 3)



2019 RNA Fourth of July Festival - photos by Sandy Witkauskas



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

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A Note from the President —

Happy New Year!

The Fall Membership meeting was our most entertaining yet. We are truly lucky to have such talent associated with our neighborhood. Poet Ron Wallace made us think and laugh while Con Vivo and The Ancora String Quartet filled St. Andrews Church with music. Some of you who attended were lucky enough to win the raffle for tickets to see more great music from them in the future. If you won the raffle and haven't arranged to get your tickets yet please contact Ronnie Hess of the RNA Board at rlhess@wisc.edu.



RNA Board President Betsy Repaske

I love seeing neighbors come together and get involved. Spring membership meeting and the Fourth of July Festival will be here before we know it so please don't hesitate to reach out with suggestions and to volunteer to help out, especially for Fourth of July. We also have open seats on the RNA Board that we would love to fill as well. Thank you!

Betsv

RNA Board Meetings Moved to HotelRED

- February 24, 2020
- April 27, 2020
- March 23, 2020
- May TBA, 2020

The RNA Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at HotelRED at 1501 Monroe St. These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to RNA President Betsy Repaske at betsy@dwellhop.com.

Join the RNA Google Group —

groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn



regentneighborhood.org

Your

Fourth of July (continued from page 1)

- **Brat tent:** Order and pick up food, set up sanitation station, coordinate volunteers to cook and sell;
- **Parade coordinator:** Order fire truck, arrange for someone to lead the parade, coordinate the kids lining up day of;
- **Cake walk:** Call for baked good donations, set up the cake walk and arrange for music, coordinate volunteers to work the game;
- **Games master:** Coordinate the families who will run games, arrange for prizes;
- **Clean up:** Arrange for garage cans to be used on the day of, coordinate volunteers for clean up and the pick up of large trash items.

These volunteer leaders would enlist a crew of their own volunteers. By sharing the work everyone will have a chance to enjoy the event. Our hope is to have many hands make light work. So if you're a regular at the RNA 4th of July festival, or plan to join for the first time in 2020, step up this winter to help with

RNA Needs an Ad Coordinator

The RNA is looking for a volunteer to join the Communications Committee to coordinate advertising in the newsletters and directory. The communications team includes a graphic designer and an

editor, produces a quarterly newsletter and an annual membership directory, manages the RNA website, and oversees listserv communications.

The Ad Coordinator will learn all aspects of the Communications Committee work and will manage a portfolio of 50-plus active advertisers, generating thousands of dollars to support neighborhood activities such as scholarships, neighborhood and school projects, and community conversations. The commitment is about 10 hours a month with a planning and to be a volunteer leader. Contact RNA President Betsy Repaske at betsy@dwellhop.com



more focused effort in the summer with the annual campaign soliciting new and renewing advertisers.

Join the "Com Com" and support the Regent neighborhood and develop your skills and community connections. For more information, please contact Communications Chair Mary Sarnowski at sarnowski@mac.com

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Community Conversation Series to Inform School Improvement Plans

Three years ago, I sat in my office on the Southwest Side of Chicago and thought about my future work. With the help of my amazing students, families, and staff, my school had transformed from one of the worst schools in the state to one of the best. Our enrollment (always a challenge in Chicago) had stabilized and our waiting list was deep. My staff was well-trained and dedicated, my systems strong, and it was



Karen Boran, West High School Principal

time for me to continue on my journey.

I sent out one resume and landed at West High School. Coming to West has pushed my thinking about family involvement and confirmed my understanding of how important it is to find ways to facilitate twoway conversations within our school community. I have met with dozens of parent, teacher, and student groups to learn how we can improve our support for our West students and their families.

In many ways, those conversations have helped shape our School Improvement Plans (SIP) for the past few years. It has often struck me, however, that without a more long-term approach to our school planning

Arts Celebrated at RNA Fall Meeting

It was not business as usual at the RNA's Fall Membership Meeting in November. Instead of speechifying, or motions moved and passed, there was concertizing and a poetry reading for a celebration of the arts. Two classical music groups with ties to the neighborhood—the Ancora String Quartet and con vivo!....music with life—performed a series of pieces by Beethoven, Bazzini, Haydn, Prokofiev and Mozart. In between the two groups, poet Ron Wallace delighted the audience with a rare reading. A UW-Madison professor emeritus of English who is a longtime resident of the Regent Neighborhood, Wallace is the author of eight full-length poetry books and six chapbooks, in addition to his scholarly works. The music- and word- making was followed by cider and homemade cookies, and a meeting of the RNA Board.

The RNA would like to thank St. Andrew's Church for making both the sanctuary and downstairs meeting room available for the occasion, as well as the accomplished performers, along with RNA members and friends who attended this first-of-a-kind RNA event.

process (currently, each SIP is for one school year), fully informed by the voices of our stakeholders, it's hard for us to achieve these goals.

The district agrees. Now, all MMSD School Improvement Plans will be three years in length. The content will be informed by teacher, student, and parent input through a variety of formats. One such forum for parent input will be our Community Conversation Series, scheduled at various community locations:

- January 28, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Centro Hispano, 810 W. Badger Road (This session will be supported by Spanish language interpreters.)
- February 10, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Boys and Girls Club, 2001 Taft Street
- February 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bayview Community Center, 601 Bayview (This session will be supported by Hmong language interpreters.)
- March 12, 5:30-7:00 p.m. West High School LMC, 30 Ash Street

Your voice will help shape the direction of the school, and we encourage you to attend whichever session best fits your schedule.

- Karen M Boran, West High School Principal



Some of the members of con vivo, from left to right: Olga Pomolova (violin); Kathryn Taylor (violin); Robert Taylor (clarinet); Janse Vincent (viola); Maggie Darby Townsend (cello). At the piano, obscured, Dan Lyons.

New Neighborhood Business: Madison Conservatory, 701 Ridge Street

Join us for our Grand Opening Ribbon-Cutting ceremony and reception on February 29 at the Findlay House, 701 Ridge Street

In December, Madison Conservatory opened its doors at the Findlay House for the first time. Students and families, friends and alumni were present to celebrate and make music together. Donations were collected for the subsidies and scholarships that make Conservatory programs available for students regardless of family financial circumstances.

The Conservatory is currently enrolling students of all ages and levels in a variety of classes and programs to support musical and personal development. Lessons in strings and piano, group classes, and Infant and Toddler Music are available for children and young families. Pre-college offerings are designed for older students who wish to deepen their understanding and enhance their skills. Music Theory, Aural Training, Performance Intensives, as well as Mock-Auditions and masterclasses with renowned guest artists are open to all to inspire and nurture aspiring musicians, and to help give Madison kids an edge.

Director Melanie de Jesus returned to teach in Madison in 2011 as the viola coach and workshop director for the WYSO orchestras, a post she has held for nine seasons. "My work with WYSO has shown me how well kids thrive when they have community around them to support and inspire them. The central mission of Madison Conservatory is to be that community for musicians of any background, to give Madison kids the tools they need to succeed in music and beyond, to create opportunities that narrow the achievement gap that we know is an issue in our city." Ms. de Jesus's viola students include current WYSO principal players, and her alumni have earned places at some of the nation's most selective colleges and conservatories. If they don't choose to pursue music as a career, Melanie helps her students earn college scholarships to keep them inspired and



Teacher Bonnie Greene gives hands-on instruction.

playing and helps fund their studies in the field of their choice.

The faculty and board include some of Madison's most notable educators and arts professionals. Bonnie Greene, founder of Madison Music Makers, will be training string teachers in pedagogy in addition to teaching violin students. Polish cellist Magdalena Sas, a doctoral candidate, Collins fellow, and Fulbright alumna, has enjoyed an international performance career. She founded the cello program at the Mehli Mehta Institute and considers teaching to be her greatest passion. Shannon Farley is a well-known chamber musician in Madison, and her expertise as a violin and viola teacher for all levels will be a tremendous resource for the Conservatory community. Amy Yanzer is the liturgical director at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, and is a brilliant collaborative pianist and teacher. Board member musicians include James Smith, retired director of orchestras at the UW Mead Witter School of Music and artistic director of Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, and Leah Schultz manager of grants and corporate giving at the Madison Symphony.

 Melanie de Jesus, Director madisonconservatory.org



Dane County Board Report — District 10

As you read this, the spring elections may be in the news more, and I'm honored to be entrusted with another twoyear term to serve District 10.

Dane County Board of Supervisors approved the 2020 county budget at their November meeting. With an operating budget of \$593.7 million, and a capital budget at \$69.6 million, the county's total budget for 2020 is \$663 million.



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

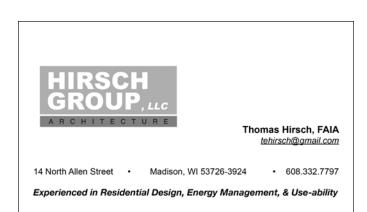
One post-budget item, the County has hired a contractor to begin dredging operations on the Yahara River, specifically to remove bottom sediment in the channel section between Lake Monona and Lake Waubesa. A report on lake levels released earlier in 2019 concluded that removing blockages in the river's main channel was needed to help move water through the Madison chain of lakes more quickly to reduce shoreline flooding.

In a nod to their long-term commitment to look at the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice, the Dane County Criminal Justice Council (CJC) has been awarded a grant from the National Association of Counties. The grant will provide Dane County with technical assistance on ways to provide support for individuals with mental illness who also are involved with the criminal justice system. Approaches will focus on a racial and ethnic disparities framework. The grant is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as a part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, an initiative Dane County has been part of for several years.

Focused on maximizing justice, equity, and the safety of the public, the Criminal Justice Council of Dane County is committed to progress and innovation in all aspects of the criminal justice realm. Engaging national and local experts, the CJC collaborates around criminal justice improvements.

Nationally, it is estimated that 2 million annual jail admissions involve a person with a serious mental illness. In Dane County, 46% of jail inmates received a mental health diagnosis according to the Dane County Behavioral Health Needs Assessment completed in 2019. The County Justice Peer Learning Network will run from January 2020 to June 2021.

Should you or your family 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.





Alder Report — District 5

It has been a busy few months! I would like to highlight some issues affecting our neighborhood and the City:

• University Avenue reconstruction: University Ave from Farley/University Bay Drive to Shorewood Blvd is now slated for reconstruction in 2022. We held the second project information meeting on December 18, 2019. You can find informa-



Alder Shiva Bidar

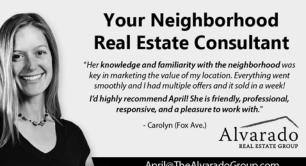
tion about the project at cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/university-avenue

- **Speedway/Regent/Highland Intersection:** I held a neighborhood meeting on November 4, 2019. City Traffic Engineering presented possible options to improve the safety of this intersection. Traffic Engineering is working on implementing some of the options presented as soon as possible.
- **MMSD Facilities Plan for Hoyt School:** I held a second neighborhood meeting on December 10, 2019, regarding the proposed relocation of Capital High into Hoyt School. MMSD staff and City staff were present to address some of the issues that were raised at the first meeting. If and once MMSD decides to move forward with these plans, there will be additional opportunities for neighborhood input. (The earliest the move could happen is Fall 2022.)

• **2020 City Budget:** The Council passed the 2020 City Budget in November. The budget details can be found at cityofmadison.com/budget

Thank you for your continued involvement in neighborhood and city issues. As always, 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.





April Johnson

April@TheAlvaradoGroup.com 608.358.7481 • TheAlvaradoGroup.com

Abirthe Contraction of MADISON OF MADISON OF MADISON N904 Monroe St. Madison, WI 53711 608.467.2410 Monday 10–6 Tuesday 10–6 Wednesday 10–6 Friday 10–6 Saturday 10–6 Saturday 10–6 Saturday 10–6 Sunday 11–4





Greetings from Franklin!

Happy 2020 from Franklin Elementary School! We have had a wonderful start to the school year. It has been amazing to see the growth in our students—socially, emotionally, and academically!

This year Franklin is a part of a science pilot in MMSD. We are piloting a new curriculum— Amplify—a phenomena-based curriculum, meaning it blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. The kids love it!

— Sylla Zarov, Principal Franklin Elementary



Fun with parachutes in Phy Ed at Franklin School





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Greetings from Randall!

The time has come once again for our media specialist Michelle Reis to travel to Sun Prairie via our school district's helicopter. Her annual trek to capture Jimmy the Groundhog's response to the start of day is featured as a live broadcast on our morning announcements. From the chopper she lowers the microphone down into his burrow, usually transmitting snores and then awakening yawns and grunts. Upon Jimmy's ascent to the surface, Ms. Reis registers either the wooly one's resounding "Yahoo!" or his terrifying scream. At least Jimmy can scream. Allow me to explain.

I was raised in the same Louisiana home in which my father was born. He came into this world in his parents' bedroom which was later occupied by his father when we lived with him. While the quarters housed both rich family history and warm memories, I deemed the room to be haunted. I had a recurring childhood nightmare of being trapped in the room by the devil. You may know the dream where you scream for help, but all that comes out of your mouth is a strained guttural whisper.

Many years after my grandfather's passing, I was visiting my parents with my wife and children. One night my mother asked me to retrieve an item from the bathroom adjacent to the referenced chamber. I opened the giant hallway doors that almost reached the twelve-foot ceiling and peered down the long, dark hallway that led to my destination. I felt my heart race, then took pause and said, "John, you're a grown man. This is ridiculous!" I challenged myself to walk all the way to the bathroom (through the bedroom) in the dark. Upon arriving, I reached around the wall to turn on the light. The illumination revealed a man standing nose-to-nose with me. I screamed. He screamed. I screamed again. He screamed again. Then I recognized myself in the mirrored bathroom door. I reflect upon this event each Groundhog's Day, especially the sunny ones.

We all scare ourselves from time to time. And make no mistake, the world can be a scary place. Still, more





Randall Principal John Wallace casts his vote of confidence.

often than not, my fears reveal themselves to be like early February misperceived shadows. My Wisconsin grandfather used to console me with "Die Suppe wird nicht so heib heiß geggesen, wie sie gekoct ist:" The soup is not eaten as hot as it is cooked. In other words, things are rarely as bad as they first appear. I still hear his voice and see his smiling face in moments of fear and doubt.

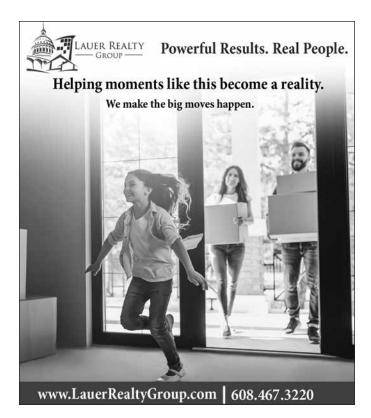
Twain told us that courage is not the absence of fear, but the mastery of fear. We must recognize and release the dread in our head. If we always take flight instead of confronting our fright, fear factors thrive, casting us deeper into our holes. We need to be good to ourselves and believe we can make peace with this foe.

Courage takes training and practice in order to become a habit. Eleanor Roosevelt is among my coaches. She challenged: "Do one thing everyday that scares you." There is no shadow of a doubt that for many of my students that *one thing* will involve asking someone to "Be mine" in the days ahead. I, too, am somewhat in that mix. But first, regardless of the ask, I need to be right with that guy in the mirror. We need to be BFFs, perhaps even valentines. As long as John and I have each other's back, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

Go Raccoons!

John

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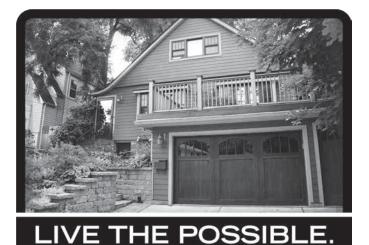
Monroe Street Arts Center: Building Madison's Creative Future

We invite you to Arty Party 2020! Join us at HotelRED (1501 Monroe Street) on Saturday, February 29 from 6–9 p.m.

Arty Party (previously Arty Gras) is Monroe Street Arts Center's major fundraising event of the year. Enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres, raffles, and collaborative art pieces as you hop from station to station to collect stamps on your trail map! We firmly believe that art should be available to everyone, rather than a luxury accessible only to some. Help us raise money for our scholarship and outreach fund at this incredible event. Tickets are \$65 per person, or \$200 for a group of four. Visit monroestreetarts.org to purchase your tickets today!

Since opening our doors in 1997, Monroe Street Arts Center has dedicated itself to providing space to imagine, discover, and create. We know that what begins within these walls grows beyond us; encouraging those same spaces of imagination, discovery, and creativity throughout our community and into our world. Over the last 22 years we've brought art to our city and we believe that's made the world a better place. If you can't tell, this space is magical and we'd like to create more of it!

Monroe Street Arts Center is moving this summer, and we can't wait to continue to create even more beauty together. We are bursting at the seams, using every bit of space currently available to us, and keeping steady wait lists. Having too many people



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Students enjoying Afterschool Art at MSAC

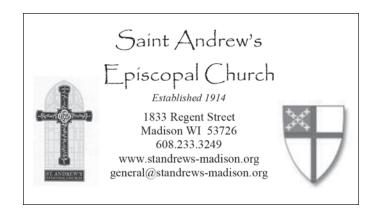
interested in art is actually a pretty wonderful problem to have, but only if we can solve it. The good news is, we believe we can, together. In order to keep providing Madison with the opportunity to create and experience art, we need your help. Our new location will have the space and resources to expand programming, classes, and outreach with collaborative partners from all corners of the city. We're also looking forward to developing more programming for teens and older adults and continuing to be a pipeline for many of the other youth arts programs throughout Madison. With your help through this capital campaign, MSAC will have the capacity to become a city-wide arts center for years to come. Visit monroestreetarts.org/ capitalcampaign to learn more about our upcoming move!

- Suzy Baldwin, Program & Marketing Director















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A Message From Representative Sheila Stubbs

As we begin a New Year, I want to reflect on my legislative initiatives in 2019 and discuss my goals for 2020. As the State Representative for the 77th Assembly District, I value all the interests of all my constituents. I especially enjoy when constituents take the time to call my office, send emails, or write letters to me. Your voices drive and determine the work that I do.



Representative Sheila Stubbs

Some of the legislative priori-

ties in 2019 included fully funding the UW System and K–12 schools, reforming the criminal justice system, protecting our environment, preventing gun violence, increasing access to health care, and advocating for social justice initiatives in our great state.

Our UW System is one of the largest systems of public higher education in the country and continues to act as a major driver of Wisconsin's economy. The UW System is also widely recognized as a world-class system of higher education, which is why I co-sponsored senate bills to increase comprehensive funding, grants, and state aid to our UW System, technical colleges, and students. It is my goal to fully fund these institutions which contain the best researchers and scholars in the world.

In addition to fully funding colleges and universities, I believe in protecting Wisconsin's natural resources and environment. I supported the expansion of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to ensure that we keep Wisconsin waterways free of pollution. I also coauthored a bill for Green Banks in the Forward On Climate bill package that promotes the investment of clean energy. This bill takes the first step in examining how Wisconsin could partner with private investors to implement clean technology and infrastructure. There has been a lot of support for green banks, especially in the Midwest and I am proud to advocate for policy that will protect our environment.

I have been working hard to ensure that healthcare in Wisconsin is affordable and accessible for all citizens. I advocated and staunchly supported Governor Evers' "Healthy Women, Healthy Babies" budget proposal to allocate sufficient funding to our top-notch healthcare institutions throughout the state.

As the Representative of the wonderful 77th Assembly District, I promise to continue to fight for the interests of my constituents. In 2020 I will keep working to make sure everyone has a seat at the table and amplify the voices of the 77th. I wish the Regent Neighborhood a happy and healthy New Year!





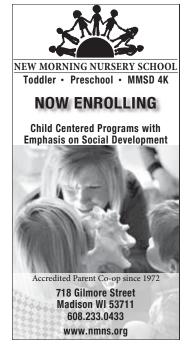


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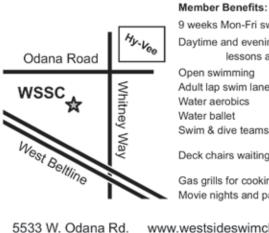
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2020 Ad Rates and Schedule

RNA publishes 4 newsletters and a member directory during calendar year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. Newsletters are mailed to approximately 1,900 households and businesses, and directories are delivered to RNA members (approximately 300). Learn more about us at **regentneighborhood.org**.

Ads are black-and-white and are available in 4 sizes:

Small: 1 business card-size, 3.5" x 2"

Large: 3.5" x 4" (vertical) or 7" x 2" (horizontal)

Half-page: 5" x 7.5" (horizontally oriented) **Full-page:** 7.5" x 10" (vertically oriented)

Advertise in 4 or more publications and receive at least 10% discount on the package.

Circle Your Choices	Publications					Yearly Package (Reflects discounted price)
Small \$55 each	February	May	July	November	Directory	4 for \$195 or 5 for \$240
Large \$110 each	February	May	July	November	Directory	4 for \$375 or 5 for \$475
Half-page \$250	February	May	July	November	Directory	4 for \$900 or 5 for \$1125
Full-page \$500	February	May	July	November	Directory	4 for \$1800 or 5 for \$2250

Deadlines:	February Newsletter—January 7, 2020
	May Newsletter—March 31, 2020
	July Newsletter—May 24, 2020
	Member Directory—August 15, 2020
	November Newsletter—September 30, 2020

Distributions: February Newsletter—early February May Newsletter—early May July Newsletter—mid-June Member Directory—early October November Newsletter—early November

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Announcements—

Monroe Street Library Hours: Monday-Wednesday 10-8, Friday 10-6, Saturday 9-5. Closed Thursday and Sunday. Phone: 266-6390

In-person absentee voting for the February 18 Spring Primary will take place at Monroe Street Library February 3–15 during these times:

Monday–Wednesday, 10 a.m.–7:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Please note that only pre-registered voters may vote on Feb. 15, and that these dates are subject to change.

February 4, 11, 18, 25 at 10:30 a.m. March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 10:30 a.m. April 7, 14, 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Storytime: A mix of stories, songs, and activities designed to foster literacy skills and a love of reading. For toddlers and preschoolers with their caregivers. Groups are welcome.

February 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11:30 a.m. March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 11:30 a.m. April 7, 14, 21 at 11:30 a.m.

Book Baby: Enjoy rhymes, bounces, books and songs to help your baby develop early literacy and math skills, and social skills in a group setting. Enjoy a



short story time, then stay for play and conversation. For babies birth to 15 months old with an adult.

February 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday Art @ **Monroe Street:** Make upcycled penguins and other critters with Amy Meitzel from Bare Knuckle Arts. No need to register.

February 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Book Discussion: All are welcome at our informal discussion of *There There* by Tommy Orange.

In-person absentee voting for the April 7 Spring Election and Presidential Preference will take place at Monroe Street Library March 23–April 4 during these times:

Monday–Wednesday 10 a.m.–7:30 p.m. Friday 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Only pre-registered voters may vote on April 4.

March 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday Art @ **Monroe Street:** More art adventures with Emily Balsley. No need to register.

March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Book discussion: All are welcome at our informal discussion of *The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls* by Anissa Gray.

March 30 and 31, April 1 and 3 at 1:30 p.m. Spring Break Crafternoon: A different craft each day this week (except Thursday). No need to register.

April 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday Art @ **Monroe Street:** Create beautiful butterflies and dragonflies with Amy Meitzel from Bare Knuckle Arts. No need to register.

April 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Book Discussion: All are welcome at our informal discussion of *Little Faith* by Nickolas Butler.

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, 2020. 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 Tom Pearce at thomaskpearce@gmail.com.