



Regent Neighborhood

February 2025 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION

Traffic Safety: It Takes All of Us

by **Regina Vidaver, Alder, District 5**

Speeding. Stop sign and red-light running. Not yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks. These are all behaviors that drivers in our neighborhood, and across the city, exhibit. So, what are we to do?

There are two primary solutions: traffic enforcement and traffic engineering. These approaches work in tandem with one another but occur via different departments within the city.

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic enforcement is undertaken by the Madison Police Department (MPD). Often, traffic enforcement takes a backseat to other activities, such as event-related work, responding to emergencies, and community policing. With Chief Barnes leaving for Seattle, there will be a search for a new Chief of Police; you will have the opportunity to participate in community forums seeking input regarding the goals for our next Chief. (Assistant Chief John Patterson was named interim successor in January.)

City leaders are routinely asked to add red light or speed cameras to our enforcement approach. At this point in time, we are prohibited from implementing



*Alder Regina Vidaver
Photo: Jeanine Schneider*

these evidence-based interventions due to state level pre-emptions. If these approaches are important to you, I urge you to contact your state Representative and Senator and talk with them about why you want to see municipalities be given the option to implement these traffic control measures.

Traffic Engineering

Traffic engineering helps us create conditions that are safer for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and those using mobility assistance devices. Our city is deeply committed to Vision Zero: a data-driven strategy intended to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries on all roadways, bikeways, and sidewalks.

Most recently, Madison rolled out the “20 is Plenty” program: reducing the speed limit on all residential streets to 20 mph. The reasoning behind this is the risk of fatality reduces considerably when car speeds are restricted to 20 mph. Lowering the speed limit will also reinforce the mindset that our neighborhoods aren’t places to speed and help make our neighborhoods more livable.

Some have criticized this speed limit reduction, because without traffic enforcement, people may not heed the signs. That’s why it’s important to help MPD by being observant: if you see someone speeding through the neighborhood, please note the license plate, report the speeder to the Speeders Hotline at 608-266-4822, AND register *(continued on page 3)*



Regent Neighborhood
ASSOCIATION

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P.O. Box 5655
Madison, WI 53705

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A Note from the President

Dear Neighbors,

As always, we are delighted to share great information and insightful articles with you through our newsletter. The RNA Board has been busy this past Fall/Winter with several activities. We had a well-attended and productive meeting with our new MMSD Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard and our West High School Principal Dr. Daniel Kigeya.

We also hosted a meeting related to traffic issues. There are two articles in this newsletter covering the discussions and issues raised.

I hope you enjoy reading the other great articles highlighting some of the amazing assets in our neighborhood from the Wisconsin Baroque Ensemble to our centenary tree and the 10th anniversary of The Buckingham Inn.

Happy reading!

Warmly,

Shiva



RNA Board President
Shiva Bidar

Join the RNA Google Group—

For latest in the Regent Neighborhood's news and conversations, join our Google Group by going to

groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn

Upcoming RNA Board Meetings

- **February 25, 2025**
- **March 25, 2025**
- **April 22, 2025**

The Regent Neighborhood Association Board typically meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. either in person at the Best Western InnTowner at 2424 University Avenue or online via the ZOOM link provided by the president on the RNA listserv. (See above for how to join the listserv.) Please check **regentneighborhood.org** for updates. These meetings are open to the general public and agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to shivabidar@tds.net

Traffic Safety *(continued from page 1)*

the event at the Regent Neighborhood Association Traffic Incident reporting form (regentneighborhood.org/ Scroll down and click on “Report RNA Traffic Incident”). Collecting this information helps the city develop priorities on both traffic enforcement and engineering solutions. I am aware that some of our West High students have been engaging in terribly unsafe speeding around our neighborhoods and have asked the principal to reinforce positive messages to students, and for MPD to increase their presence around the school, particularly during the lunch hour. Please call 911 if you see truly excessive speeding.

In addition to speed limit changes, Traffic Engineering is installing pedestrian-controlled rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at crosswalks, with the next one in our District to be installed this summer where Hammersley meets Speedway. Additional sites for these RRFBs are being considered at Regent and Spooner, Highland and Kendall, and Breese and Hoyt. There will also be an improvement in the pedestrian crossing at Blackhawk Avenue to cross University Avenue, and multiple options for safety improvements will be considered as Midvale Boulevard gets resurfaced from Regent Street to University Avenue this summer. Additional sites of requests for improvements in our District are shown on the map below:



The Regent Neighborhood Association requested a meeting with Traffic Engineering this past December to directly communicate the concerns of neighbors. Residents provided a multitude of suggestions that will get added to the list of potential safety improvements. It is important to note that all of these suggestions have merit, and the city has to prioritize these alongside the more than 600 Safe Streets Madison requests for improvements (cityofmadison.com/traffic-engineering/traffic-safety/safe-streets-madison) across the city as a whole. Each safety

improvement request gets evaluated for its impact on reducing injuries, improving bike and pedestrian network gaps, as well as cost.

The Transportation Commission reviews suggestions and makes decisions for inclusion for implementation using the program funding approved by the Common Council. Some concerns, like those involving the bike/ car/ train intersection at Highland Avenue and Campus Drive, are extremely difficult to solve due to the need for approval by the railroad authorities for any changes. Working with the Regent Neighborhood Association Transportation Committee is a great way to help prioritize projects for our District. Please contact Charlie Peters at capeters@gmail.com to share your thoughts on prioritization or join the committee!

It Takes a Village

If you are a driver in the neighborhood, please slow down, and be alert for pedestrians, cyclists, and those using mobility devices. If you are a pedestrian or using a mobility device, please be extra cautious when crossing busy roads. If you are a cyclist, please obey all posted traffic controls, including stop signs, and be alert to inattentive drivers. Please contact traffic@cityofmadison.com if you'd like a yard sign reinforcing the “20 is Plenty” program. If we all watch out for each other, we will help ensure a safer neighborhood for everyone.

Regina Vidaver
District5@cityofmadison.com
608-616-0669 ■

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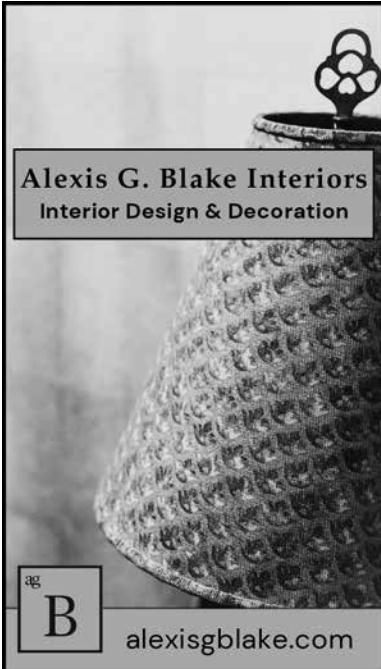
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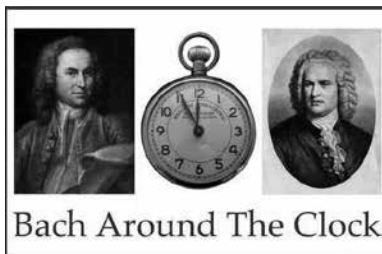
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Bach Around the Clock 2025 Announces Upcoming Events—March 6–9

Bach's 340th birthday is March 21, 2025. Celebrate with singers, instrumentalists, soloists, ensembles, from amateurs to professionals. All events free, but donations appreciated.



Thursday, March 6, 3–5 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1833 Regent Street;
Organ Master Class—"Playing Bach" with Jared Stellmacher: This class will be an opportunity for organists to experience playing Bach on an "authentic" instrument. St. Andrew's Taylor and Boody (Opus 33) tracker action pipe organ represents the finest in craftsmanship and utilizes principles of construction that have been held in high regard in organ building since Bach's lifetime! Interested in performing? This event is sponsored by the Association of Church Musicians/Madison Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Friday, March 7, 12:15–1:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive
Friday Musicales performance will feature Bach's

"Other Voices," Bach's music as arranged for unexpected instruments!

Friday, March 7, 7:00–9:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Society—A Special Event to Celebrate Bach's 340th Birthday!

Pianist **Lawrence Quinnett** returns as BATC guest artist to perform Bach's Two- and Three-Part Inventions and the Keyboard Concerto BWV 1053, with the Ancora String Quartet. There is no admission charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

Saturday, March 8, 9:30am–5 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Marathon Day—The Main Event

Performers of all ages and study levels, individual or ensemble, period or modern instruments are welcome to perform their favorite Bach selections in person from the St. Andrews stage! Submit performance requests by March 1. bachclock.com/

Sunday, March 9, ONLINE premiere of 2025 BATC Virtual Festival

Perform your Bach selection in the comfort of your home or studio. Then send us your self-recorded video. It will be published on the BATC You-Tube channel. Submit performance requests by March 1. bachclock.com/ ■

Improving West High School Parking—Help Wanted!

by **Charlie Peters and Leslie Winston**

The Regent Neighborhood Association is working with some West High School teachers in hopes of resolving a long-standing issue. Currently there are over 100 teachers and staff members who do not have a parking spot in the small West High School parking lot. Those staff and other visitors, including substitute teachers, are forced to find limited street parking, most of which only allows for two-hour parking. “Although many people hoped parking issues at West would be resolved with the completion of the whole school renovation, the areas around the school have been prioritized for sports and field use,” Leslie says. “We need to continue to problem solve as this issue is not going away.”

Following several meetings, we have developed a list of possible solutions which we will be pursuing during this school year:

- Extend evening restricted parking time limits on Speedway Road (between the cemeteries) to include times beyond the typical teacher workday.
- Pursue changing no parking restrictions on Regent Street between Highland Avenue and Farley Street to allow weekday daytime parking.
- Discuss the possibility of daytime rental or loan of parking spots in Regent neighbors’ driveways.
- Determine if there are other possible rental parking options at nearby businesses or schools.
- Assess the willingness of some Regent neighbors to petition to get rid of the current two-hour parking restrictions on their blocks.
- Determine if Madison teachers and staff members could receive free (or reduced) bus passes.
- Discuss the potential for a change in the State law to allow the issuance of parking permits to non-residents, or to amend the city regulations to allow special permit issuance (as has been done for short-term contractors).

We also recommend a parking study within a ten-minute walk from West High School to determine if the residential parking rule requiring most parking spaces to be occupied by commuter vehicles most of the time between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, is currently being met.



Restricted parking times along Speedway Road may make it difficult for West High School teachers to park there during school hours.

To start this process, we have developed a survey to gather residents’ thoughts, as well as interest in helping. The survey can be accessed via this QR code.



Thanks for considering helping West High School teachers and staff.

Charlie Peters is Chair of the Regent Neighborhood Association’s Transportation Committee. Leslie Winston is a staff member at West High School. They are collaborating on this project. ■

Dane County Board Report—District 13

Hi Neighbors,

Since my last contribution to the newsletter, Dane County government completed its annual task of settling on a budget. Along with continuing a comprehensive array of county services, we were able to make additional investments to address the housing crisis, increase funding for driver's training, enhance the District Attorney's victim witness services, make capital investments at Sunshine Place (Sun Prairie) and The River Food Pantry, as well as continue to provide exceptionally competitive benefits to county employees.

As previously noted, this year saw the mandated exhaustion of remaining monies allocated to the county under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA funds allowed the county to fund important services at a level and in ways that our typical budget constraints will not allow. State statutes, for instance, prescribe certain limits on what and how general-purpose revenue and capital spending, respectively, may be used. The snap back to more



*Supervisor
Jay Brower*

modest means requires that we now figure out how to replace or forgo the important resources our community has come to count on.

One avenue for creative thinking in this domain is the Dane County Food Policy Council. I currently serve on the Council along with Supervisor Kerry Marren (District 37), Youth in Government Participants, members of the public, agricultural producers, and UW-Madison Extension staff. The Council commissioned and received a "Pandemic Food System Study" some time ago, which is now informing local plans to strengthen the regional food system.

Finally, a note on spring elections. In November, Melissa Agard was elected County Executive to complete the remainder of our former County Executive's (Joe Parisi) term. The office will be on the ballot again in April consistent with the position's established electoral cycle. Common Council seats and the announced State Supreme Court vacancy will also appear.

As always, if you have an interest in following legislation considered by the Board, including budget amendments, please navigate to the web portal for the Dane County Legislative Information Center ("Legistar"). There are a range of functions that allow for tracking issues by keyword and other criteria.


I welcome your inquires and feedback.

Jay Brower
Supervisor, District 13

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Phone: (608) 620-3931

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Dane County Board Report—District 11

Dear Neighbors,

In November, I had the honor of serving as a poll worker and want to thank all the residents of our community who shared their time as election officials, staff, voters, or observers. I had the pleasure of serving at Hamilton Middle School, and was reminded of the professionalism, attention to detail, camaraderie, and patience of so many of our neighbors. In November, Melissa Agard was elected Dane County Executive. She has taken office, hitting the ground running.



*Supervisor
Richelle Andrae*

After about two months of hearings, debate, and deliberation, the County Board passed a sound budget for 2025 that I believe reflects the values of our county. The 2025 budget will:

- Develop a Dementia Care Stabilization Facility at the county's long-term care facility in Verona
- Make significant new investments in housing access and affordability (over \$30 million), including new funding for the Madison Area Community Land Trust to invest in long-term home ownership and affordability, plus preservation of affordable units. This is especially important to me due to the rising rents in District 11 and reduction in naturally occurring affordable homes.
- Improve language accessibility in multiple departments to support better access for residents who speak languages other than English
- Invest \$10 million in conservation funds (natural land preservation and purchase)
- Fund several diversion and re-entry efforts, breaking cycles of criminalization. For example, I worked on a program to divert several youths from state detention facilities, improving outcomes and saving money for the County that otherwise pays for expensive stays in those sites.

The 2025 budget proposal totals \$926,179,104 million. The operating budget is \$813,712,952 million while the capital plan is \$112,466,152 million. The tax rate is \$2.57 per \$1,000 of equalized value, down

from \$2.73 in 2024. Budget details are available here: admin.danecounty.gov/budget. The county is heading into a challenging budget year, as the state sets levy limit caps that do not account for inflation, like significant cost increases in health insurance for employees. At best, I anticipate a cost-to-continue budget moving forward for the next several years, meaning little to no new operating initiatives or expansions without new revenue streams. Note that capital expenses are not limited by levy caps.

I also want to highlight and celebrate an incredible county resource, the Office of Immigration Affairs: danecountyhumanservices.org/Children-Youth-and-Family/Immigration-Affairs. The County's OIA is a unique entity that serves as a one-stop-shop for immigration-related issues and can help coordinate, connect, and strategize. In a time of uncertainty ahead in 2025, I am so proud of the work of this office in building and maintaining safe communities with our partners like Madison Metropolitan School District, Centro Hispano, the Dane County Sheriff's Office, Jewish Social Services (our local resettlement agency), and many others. As I attended their annual celebration recently, I was heartened by the broad community investment in their work and their positioning grounded in trust and empathy, recognizing the dignity of every single person who calls Dane County home.

Thank you, and as always please reach out if you have questions, want to connect on a County issue, or get more involved.

See you around the neighborhood,

Richelle Andrae

Dane County Board Supervisor District 11
(Regent neighborhood west of Allen Street)
Andrae.richelle@countyofdane.com ■

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Greetings from Randall

“Morgenstund hat Gold im Mund!” Such was my German grandfather’s cockcrow greeting when I lived with him decades ago. “The morning hour has gold in its mouth!”—a bit of a take on “the early bird catching the worm.”

These recent daybreaks, the earlier rising sun does seemingly hold promise as well as an increase in its illumination of our Randall roll call. While we anticipate a temporary setback to this arrangement that Daylight Savings Time will soon present, we find solace in the after-hours light show included in that package.

Roused by the sun, the awakening playground trees stretch and yawn as we with them spawn our dreams of what spring will bring. Students already challenge weather forecasts, wearing shorts below their parkas and opting for baseball gloves over mittens. A glorious, almost feral, yearning emerges in all of us to seize the outdoor endeavors that have lain dormant during the winter months, among them gardening.

My brother Bruce is a world-renowned eye surgeon. He finds a particular joy in conversing with his older patients. When he comes upon a senior who seems to be in noticeably good health, he always poses the question, “What do you grow in your garden?” Bruce claims that, without fail, the response is always about *what*, not *if*. After all, plowing a plot is considered medicinal. Our spring gardens and pursuits, whether literal as in *soil*, or figurative as in *toil*, not only bring us closer to that which we treasure, but also attract those and other prized elements to us. I’m reminded of the words of Mario Quintana. “Don’t waste your time chasing butterflies. Mend your garden, and the butterflies will come.”

I speculated with a psychiatrist friend of mine that many of his patients must appreciate the longer days as we move into spring. He noted that sometimes people invest too much in the hope that the change of seasons will include one’s change in affect and perspective. Some in his care have bemoaned the failure of soothing sunbeams and blossoming flowers to release them from the grasp of gloom.

None of us are strangers to dark times, regardless of the seasons at hand. And while the zing of spring can indeed lift our spirits, it’s more often the helping heart and hand of a fellow earthling that revive our *joie de vivre*. As noted by Albert Schweitzer, “At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lit the flame within us.”



Principal John Wallace's granddaughter Margaux models her method of attracting butterflies.

As a middle school principal years ago, I occasionally would bring a glow to a teacher’s birthday by presenting a cake with unlit candles. I would ask the class, “Does anyone have a match?” Invariably, a number of duped scholars would bring forth their cigarette lighters. I held them somewhat harmless, availing them of their services before confiscating their torches.

The children with whom I share Randall host an internal flame. They spark my light and fill my life with gold throughout each day. And while down and dirty with them, tilling and tending to their three R gardens, I sense butterflies abound above us.

Go Raccoons!

John ■

Greetings from Blessed Sacrament School

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the days grow longer and winter begins its slow retreat, we at Blessed Sacrament School want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible sense of community and joy we've shared together over the past few months.

This year marks 100 years of Blessed Sacrament School, and this milestone continues to inspire gratitude and hope for the future. From festive Halloween carnivals to the sounds of 6-8th grade carolers weaving through the streets, this school year has been one of learning, laughter, and building stronger bonds with each other and the greater community.

Operation Christmas Child: A Gift of Hope

Have you ever seen a student's face light up while packing a box for someone they've never met? That's what Operation Christmas Child is all about. This fall, we packed over 250 boxes with essentials, toys, and games. These boxes traveled far and wide, bringing joy and comfort to children both abroad and right here in Dane County. The project was a meaningful way for our students to practice generosity and empathy, creating small acts of kindness that had a big impact.

Celebrations and Upcoming Events

The early months of winter were filled with moments of celebration and community. Our Christmas concerts were a beautiful and joyous showcase of our students' musical talents, and we loved seeing so many of you at our Open House on January 26 and Spaghetti Dinner/Family Fun Night on February 1.

Looking Ahead

We're excited about what spring has in store! Our 7th and 8th graders will soon begin preparing for this year's spring musical. Our inclusive drama program ensures every student has a part, fostering creativity and teamwork with the drama program woven into our school curriculum. In May, our 8th graders will embark on their much-anticipated trip to Washington, D.C., where they'll deepen their understanding of history and civic responsibility. Our annual *Night of the Arts* will highlight the artistic and musical talents of our students, and Trivia Night is a favorite fun night out for adults in our community. Of course, we'll wrap up the year with our 8th-grade graduation, a bittersweet milestone as we celebrate our students and prepare to send them off to high school.



Blessed Sacrament School's students carol around the Regent Neighborhood.



Blessed Sacrament students sing in the holidays at the school's Christmas concert.

Building Connections, Strengthening Community

As we reflect on the tragic events that took place at Abundant Life Christian School in December, we're reminded of the profound importance of community and connection. In times of both joy and sorrow, we are stronger together. At Blessed Sacrament School, we are committed to nurturing not only the minds of our students but also their hearts, encouraging them to be thoughtful, compassionate citizens of the world.

Carrie Bower, carrie@bbsacrament.org

Elizabeth First, efirst@school.bbsacrament.org ■

West High News

Dear Regent Neighborhood,
Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you all well and the year off to a great start. Many wonderful things are happening here at West. We also have important matters going on such as the safety of our scholars and staff.



Principal Daniel Kigeya

First, I appreciated being able to meet in person with neighbors at the November RNA Membership meeting. I look forward to hosting future neighborhood association meetings at West in the coming months.

Safety Is a Priority

As we enter the new year, our focus will be ensuring the safety of our school community. The tragic incident at Abundant Life Christian School (ALCS) underscored the importance of prioritizing safety. While fostering a welcoming environment remains a priority, we must redouble our efforts to ensure the safety of our school community.

This work will involve ongoing discussions with all our stakeholders, including scholars, staff, families, including the Association membership. With our campus remaining open from 7 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily, including weekends, we must engage in meaningful conversations about how to work together to ensure everyone's safety. The voices of Association members are essential in these conversations. We have already started this work in our school community.

Safety While in the Neighborhood

In our most recent communication with scholars, we emphasized the importance of safety both within our building and throughout our neighborhood. We reminded our scholars to be mindful of pedestrians, bikers, pets, and young children, particularly when driving near our campus. Additionally, we shared with our scholars that the Madison Police Department would be in and around West monitoring safe driving.

Upcoming West Celebrations


Looking ahead, we are thrilled about extraordinary events planned. In February, we will honor Black History Month with several exciting events, including the "We Are One Dance," which celebrates the music,

culture, and dances of our diverse community, and the "Soul Food Luncheon," where we come together to enjoy festive dishes rooted in Black and African American diaspora traditions. The luncheon is a West tradition dating back more than 30 years!

We look forward to sharing more updates with you as the year unfolds.

Sincerely,

Dan Kigeya, Principal
Madison West High School ■


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Greetings from Franklin

I hope that this newsletter finds all of you warm and safe, and enjoying the early weeks of 2025!

Our Franklin Falcons have been very busy since I last shared an update with you, including finding lost gingerbread people throughout the school, and learning about winter holidays throughout the world.

We also earned our first all-school celebration—an all-school recess! All students enjoyed an early morning all-school recess with the whole school! There were a lot of smiles and laughter during this exciting celebration!

Prior to Winter Break we had a couple of schoolwide events! In December we had a schoolwide assembly



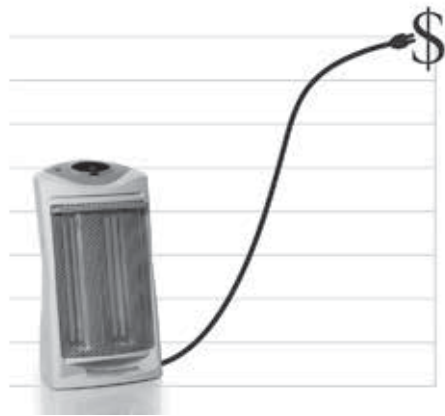
Principal Emily Powers

where students learned about safe play during winter at Franklin School. Our assembly featured some great 2nd grade leaders who modeled safe and predictable play for all our Falcons! Several of our classrooms also created some very creative gingerbread houses together.

After Winter Break, students and teachers have been working together to settle back into school routines and continue learning new concepts and deepening understanding. Overall, the transition back to school has been successful and we are looking forward to a strong middle of the school year! I heard so many students returning from break excited to see their teachers and classmates.

Thank you all for your continued support of our students and staff! Take care and be well!

Emily Powers, Franklin Elementary Principal ■



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Going for Baroque—An Interview with Anton TenWolde

Wisconsin Baroque Ensemble is one of three music groups that regularly rehearse and/or perform in the neighborhood. (The others are Con Vivo and Madison Bach Musicians.) Founding member Anton TenWolde also happens to live in the Regent Neighborhood (since 1977) with his wife Marcia Smith. TenWolde plays the violoncello and has had a special interest in performing baroque music since the early 1970s. While a student in the Netherlands, he toured with the Netherlands Student Chamber Orchestra and the Netherlands Student Baroque Orchestra. In 1973 he moved to Madison, where for many years he played with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. In addition to WBE, he has regularly performed with the Madison Bach Musicians and the Bach Collegium of Fort Wayne, IN. The Regent Neighborhood Newsletter asked him to tell us more about his cosmopolitan group.



The Wisconsin Baroque Ensemble, from left to right: Sigrun Franzen, Nathan Giglierano, Max Yount, Anton TenWolde, Patrick Terry, Mimmi Fulmer, Eric Miller.

Regent Neighborhood Newsletter (RNN):

In a very musical city and, indeed, musical neighborhood, what makes Wisconsin Baroque Ensemble special? And, by the way, why do you perform in the neighborhood?

Anton TenWolde: We play chamber music no one else plays, from composers seldom seen on other programs on instruments from the baroque period. Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church is our venue, so it makes sense to invite the neighborhood to our concerts. We regularly perform in Beloit and other cities around Wisconsin.

RNN: How long have you been performing as a group? What's changed in those years in terms of numbers of players, your expertise?

ATW: We started as a trio in 1990 and have been steadily growing since. We focus on music from the 17th and 18th centuries.

RNN: You've been called "the first and longest-surviving group bringing early music to Madison on a regular basis." What keeps you going?

ATW: Our love for the music. And we have become good friends over the years.

RNN: Please tell me more about the instruments.

ATW: Our instruments are copies of instruments from the baroque period (harpsichord, traverso, recorder, viola da gamba, etc.). The exceptions are the baroque cellos, which date from the 1700s. The string instruments have gut strings, and we use copies of bows from the baroque era. In general, the instruments have a quicker, lighter response than modern instruments. Baroque instruments emphasize the attack, the equivalent of consonants

in speech rather than vowels. Keeping them in tune during a concert can be a challenge because our gut strings are very sensitive to changes in humidity and temperature.

RNN: You've called yourself a democratic group in terms of how you determine your play-list. How do you know it's right for the group?

ATW: Our group functions like a collective. We don't have an artistic director; my role is more of a facilitator. Players suggest repertoire for each concert, depending on what our available instrumentation is. We aim for lesser-known composers and compositions, so most of the repertoire is new to most of us, and we all love to research the original manuscripts and search for music.

RNN: Beyond Bach, who are your favorites?

ATW: I like a broad spectrum of baroque music, but I am a particular fan of Telemann. I also love French baroque, including Couperin, Marais, and Hotteterre.

RNN: If someone has never been to one of your concerts, what should they look for?

ATW: Listen for the difference in sound and be ready to hear unfamiliar music. And I hope our own enthusiasm and joy comes across.

2025 Concert Dates for the Wisconsin Baroque Ensemble—all performances are at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1833 Regent Street.

Saturday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 28, at 7:30 p.m.

For more information: wisconsinbaroque.org/ ■

Poets Corner—Ash Gartler

In the last issue of the newsletter, we featured Madison Public Library's WE READ Youth Voices prize-winning essay, "Speak English," by Grace Huang, a senior at West High School. We mentioned that Ash Gartler, a freshman at West, was the runner-up. Ash is also a poet, featured most recently in the 2025 Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets' annual

Poets' Calendar, winning First Place in the Middle School Division WFOP Student Poetry Contest. Ash enjoys snowboarding, reading, art, and most of all, writing, hoping to prepare for a future English degree. The Gartler family lives in the Dudgeon Monroe neighborhood.

closure

i cried to you about a girl last night.

wet paper told you that i am unwell, that
i have prayed to ripped polaroids like a cultist and
sleep to see only you, but

this girl, she is more than perfect
and i don't know how to explain imperfection to a flawless statue

Ellie, save me
i cried at a letter she wrote me because i see you
in the curve of her A

i have betrayed you here,
on a cold wooden floor at midnight
i mourn the final death of our love;

falling in love with someone new.



Recipe File—Flaming Baked Alaska—Linda Berman

What better recipe for a Winter issue of the Regent Newsletter. We asked long-time Regent Neighborhood resident Linda Berman if she had something to share and of course she had. This one will not only be a Valentine to your Valentine but guarantee hearts and flowers for you.

Says Linda, “My mother used to make a heart-shaped Baked Alaska for Valentine’s Day for our family for over 20 years. When she died, I kept her pans and continued the tradition. The recipe can be adapted easily to become gluten free and dairy free to accommodate dietary needs. I started using Ghirardelli Sweet Ground Dark Chocolate & Cocoa Powder for the cake and it is outstanding. However, any chocolate cake recipe or mix can be used.”

You Will Need

Two 9-inch layers of cake (or cupcakes, split in half). The cake recipe is below. After baking, freeze in a plastic bag and remove from freezer when ready to assemble the Baked Alaska.

2 pints ice cream (for one layer ice cream). Freeze in the same shape of the cake pans, placing plastic wrap in the pans for easy release.

12 ounces strawberry or raspberry jam

Meringue (recipe and directions below)

2–3 tablespoons cognac

Ghirardelli Cake Recipe

2 sticks (1 cup total) margarine or butter, plus more for greasing cake pans

4 heaping tablespoons Ghirardelli Dark Cocoa

2 cups water

2 cups flour (you can use gluten-free flour instead)

2 cups sugar

½ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 eggs, beaten

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease cake pans with margarine or butter.

In a saucepan, bring to a boil the margarine/butter, cocoa, and water, stirring with a whisk. In a mixing bowl, add the flour, sugar, salt, and baking soda.

Add in the chocolate mixture and mix well. Add vanilla and eggs, mix and pour into greased pan(s).

Bake until toothpick comes out clean. 2 9-inch pans for 30–35 minutes or 9x13-inch pan for 45 minutes. For 1 Bundt pan, 55–60 minutes; for 10x15-inch pan, 20 minutes at 400°. Let cool and freeze.



Meringue For Top of the Cake (for cupcakes use ½ recipe)

8 egg whites*

½ teaspoon cream of tartar

2/3 cup packed brown sugar

Meringue Directions

Beat egg whites and cream of tartar until foamy. Gradually add brown sugar one tablespoonful at a time. Beat until stiff peaks form and mixture is glossy.

Baked Alaska Assembly

Preheat oven to 500°.

Remove cake layers and ice cream from freezer. Place 1 layer of cake on a cookie sheet lined with foil or parchment paper. Spread jam over the layer. Place molded ice cream on the cake layer. Spread more jam on the ice cream layer. Place top layer of cake on the ice cream layer. Cover cake with meringue mixture.

Bake on lowest rack at 500° for 2–5 minutes until meringue is light brown.

Heat cognac in small pan on stovetop. Using a match or flame from gas stove, ignite the cognac and pour over meringue/cake. (If your cognac is not heated enough, it won't flame.)

Use a sturdy long knife to cut Baked Alaska in slices. ENJOY! Store remaining Baked Alaska in freezer.

*For those concerned about the risk of foodborne illness in lightly-cooked eggs, consider using pasteurized egg whites for the meringue. They can be bought in bulk at local supermarkets. ■

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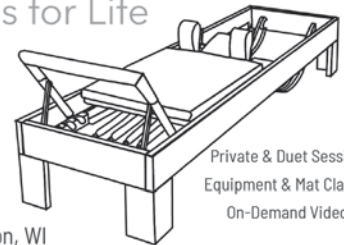
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Darn It!—Anna Rusk

Anna Rusk grew up in Michigan, has an MA in history and museum studies from the University of Delaware, and has lived in Madison for 13 years. She is, among other things, a parent, substitute crossing guard, nature camp counselor, and vegetable gardener.

I almost never watch TV in the summer. I don't watch TV before dinner anyway, and on summer evenings I'm too busy gardening, putting my preschooler to bed, and figuring out what to do with the garden and CSA produce that perpetually covers the counters and fills the fridge.

But in those darkening autumn evenings, and through the doldrums of winter, I love to sit with a project and watch whatever I've missed (or just whatever is on PBS). Because I also almost never watch TV with idle hands. It's when I knit, patch, sew, and darn, keeping our things in good shape, reducing the need for new. As summer wanes, I look forward to picking up my needles, yarn, thread, and whatever needs mending.

My mom taught me to knit around age 8, and while it took me 5 years to decide to finish that doll scarf, I've knit consistently, if not always frequently, since. She also taught me to darn and sew, and since then I've darned mittens and socks, patched pants and shirts, and knit gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, and a long pair of stockings for Civil War reenacting.

Perhaps the pinnacle of my darning career was mending holes in a pair of socks my middle-school best friend gave me when I turned 14. These DeFeet Aireators are a miracle, lasting through 20 years of regular wear before showing signs of stress. I texted my family about the end of their longevity and my dad texted back "Darn!" Of course! I thought. I can darn them! And it worked. I still wear them mostly with my biking shoes to help stretch their lives a bit longer, but they're going strong again.

In the 6 years we've lived in the Regent neighborhood, I've taken on projects for neighbors—replacing zippers, darning sweaters—and love the opportunity to help others keep their beloved garments alive. Besides the innate satisfaction of creative pursuits, I don't need to buy a new pair of mittens if I fix the hole. My skills help me push back against fast fashion and the idea that everything is disposable. The clothing industry is a huge contributor to landfills and production of greenhouse gasses, so I avoid buying new whenever possible.



Anna Rusk's handiwork extends the life of her socks.

If you're interested in learning more ways to mend and fix, Madison Public Library had a series last fall focused on caring for and mending household items. Called Care and Repair, library sites hosted experts on fixing everything from bikes to stuffed animals to clothing. While I haven't heard if they're planning to repeat it, keep an eye out if you're interested in making your stuff last longer. Some yarn shops offer classes in knitting, crocheting, and other fiber arts. Of course, books and YouTube have patterns and tutorials, and I definitely turn to them if I want to try something new! Whether through the library or social media, check out others' work for inspiration, and have fun with your creative endeavors. ■

“...it all comes down to this:
In our imperfect world
we are meant to repair
and stitch together
what beauty there is, stitch it
with compassion and wire.”

From Stuart Kestenbaum's "Holding the Light,"
in *Only Now* (Deerbrook Editions, 2013). Reprinted
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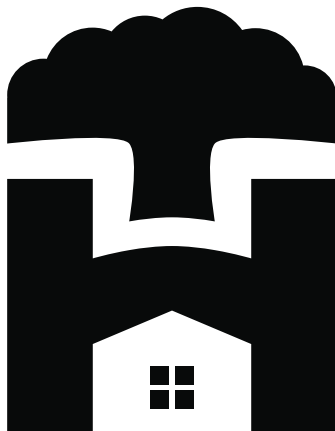
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The Tree Next Door, Long May It Prosper—Ron Rosner

The benefits of a giant tree often go unacknowledged, until we lose the tree and the biotic community it supports. More than shade, it can provide beauty, visual contrast, even history, until it becomes distressed and must be removed.

This was tenderly marked in an October New York Times article datelined Ligonier, Pennsylvania. It was the account of a 90-foot tall, multi-stemmed Sugar Maple, perhaps 160 years old, that had to be taken down when the effects of *Armillaria*, an underground fungus, could no longer be ignored. Major branches had fallen to the ground, anthills had appeared at the tree's base, even the birds were leaving, the owner said.

The maple was an open-grown tree, adjacent to the pump-house, not crowded by other trees that, over the years, were removed to enhance the farm's productivity. As such, the tree was an oasis, a village for the fauna that benefited from an isolated location. In its long life it had witnessed the arrival of horse-and-buggy, log cabins, barn raisings, insects, birds, and bats, even a hijacked plane (Flight 93, commandeered by terrorists on September 11, 2001) which crashed nearby.

Everyone loves big trees, especially if we're not responsible for their maintenance. But like the benefits of an open lot next to yours, or a neighbor's well-tended garden, nothing lasts forever. The lot is built upon, the neighbor's garden is abandoned, and old trees age and die.

The account of the old Sugar Maple resonates with me since the tree next door to our house is also a multi-stemmed aging giant, the state-champion Hackberry¹, according to arborist Bruce Allison. Its estimated age is about 150 years, which is at the high end of a Hackberry's life cycle.

The Hackberry is a close relative of the Elm—both resemble each other in size and shape, and in the profile of the leaf. And thanks to their distinctive warty bark, Hackberries are easily recognized, even in the dark. Its black, quarter-inch fruit, called sugarberries, remain on the tree well into the start of winter, a treat for birds.

Several very substantial upper branches of our neighbor's tree overhang our roof by about 40 feet, constituting a potential danger if they were to break free. In September, during a windstorm, one of the six major stems of the tree split off from the common trunk and fell onto a nearby Norway Maple 40-feet away. In view of the tree's age and diseased condition, our arborist has advised us to remove the



An aging hackberry's branches stretch above both neighbors' lots, creating potential problems but also joint solutions.

overhanging branches and we are prepared to do that.

Our neighbor has considered having the entire tree removed, but without road access, as is the case, costs of take-down and removal are more than \$20,000. But more importantly, no one is anxious to let the tree go before it's necessary. At this writing we have contracted with an arborist to cable the remaining stems to one another 50-feet above the ground, which should enhance the tree's integrity and extend its life for many years. The cost of this approach, plus some roof-top pruning, is about \$6,000.

The decision to engage an arborist can be challenging, especially when considerable climbing is involved. Arborists will charge about \$120 per hour, but more likely you'll pay twice that amount since, for reasons of safety, arborists work as a team. Set-up time, safety measures and insurance all contribute to the cost. Since homeowners are liable for accidents which happen on their property, they should make certain that the tree company they employ is adequately insured.

¹Legend has it that many of the big trees in the Regent Neighborhood were cut down for firewood during the Civil War to meet the energy needs of Camp Randall; by 1864, the military base housed over 3,000 troops. By the time it was abandoned 160 years ago, most of the large *(continued on page 20)*

Doing Good in the 'Hood—Ronnie Hess

We are a generous neighborhood. Despite the demands placed on us in our everyday lives—by our jobs, partners, children, neighbors (not necessarily in that order)—we are also engaged in our schools, places of worship, and community-based, political, and charitable organizations.

But chances are, from time to time, we ask ourselves what else we can do to help. Dr. Zorba Paster, noted Madison physician, recently asked himself that question and his readers in his column in the Wisconsin State Journal. An idea came from his deceased wife Penny, her spirit voice reaching him while he was on a trip to Dharamshala, India, the Dalai Lama's home. She said, "Do more."

The Regent Neighborhood Association has tried to be helpful over the years—through funding minority scholarships at West High School (and more recently Capital High, too) and contributing to its food pantry, as well as individual student projects. We've made donations to building improvements at West, Randall, and Franklin Schools. When the RNA Board has been approached by certain charities, we've also pledged money to help—notably to Centro Hispano and Healing House on Lathrop Street, an eight-bed facility delivering post-hospital recuperative care to homeless women and their families.

Those of you on the RNA listserv may have noted recently that I, along with Laurie Frost and Lynette Miller, have been encouraging neighbors to look beyond their porches when "cleaning house." We've asked ourselves how we can make it more convenient for you to donate to local charities. Lynette reports that the neighborhood gave so many donations to the "warm clothes for the jail" effort that First Baptist Church on Franklin Avenue had to make two trips to deliver the goods.

Laurie has connected with several Madison Metropolitan School District social workers. They along with a staff person from Bayview Foundation are now on the RNA listserv. The hope is that their presence will facilitate a broader kind of sharing within our community. Laurie, with Franklin and



Zorba Paster posted this photo on his Facebook page, from the Tibetan Children's Village in Chauntra, India where he and his late wife Penny helped update the children's computers. Note the Compassion Tree in the middle of the photo. Paster says, "My resolution this year is simple—Do More." Photo contributed by Zorba Paster On Your Health.

Randall social workers, is planning to create Secret Santa-style "Adopt a Franklin-Randall Household for the Holidays" later this year.

Lynette recommends Open Doors for Refugees. She writes that ODFR is a volunteer organization whose mission is helping refugees make a home in the Madison area. One way to do this is by donating furniture and household items. The ODFR's website lists current needs. If you have items to donate, go to donations@odfr.org. You will be given a drop off location or scheduled for a pickup. According to ODFR, there are two pick-ups a month unless there is no more room in their storage space. One on the second Tuesday and one on the fourth Wednesday. Both are in the morning from 9am–noon. More information is here: opendoorsforrefugees.org/contribute-furniture-household-items/

If you have other ideas on how the neighborhood can work together to help the disadvantaged, please let us know. ■

Tree Next Door *(continued from page 19)*

trees within a radius of a half-mile or so from the Camp had been removed. The long-lived trees that have survived, largely Bur Oaks, begin to make an appearance on the periphery of this half-mile cutting zone of the Camp.

In past issues, the Regent Neighborhood newsletter has featured several accounts about area trees. We welcome your stories for future editions. ■

The Buckingham Inn Celebrates 10 Years—Heidi and Tom Notbohm

The Buckingham Inn, at 1615 Summit Avenue in Madison's Regent Neighborhood, is celebrating! It has been a decade since the B&B's opening in January 2015, a welcome event at the time.

For owners Heidi and Tom Notbohm, becoming innkeepers was a second-act career switch, one where together they could combine their talents and passions. Operating the Inn has not only strengthened their partnership but also rekindled their love for Madison and its vibrant community. They feel very fortunate to live in the Regent Neighborhood and are grateful for the warm welcome and ongoing support from their neighbors.

Over the years, Heidi and Tom have welcomed more than 2,000 guests from around the globe – visiting professors, families of students, prospective students, and researchers with connections to UW-Madison, while other guests have included young professionals from Chicago, summer travelers, convention attendees, and those in town for athletic events. Heidi and Tom estimate that about half of the Inn's guests have ties to the university.

The building, which underwent substantial renovation before the Notbohms opened for business, had served as housing for students. It is a source of many colorful stories and fond memories from those who once lived there. One of Heidi and Tom's favorite surprises was the spontaneous visit from a former resident who rang the doorbell with a simple request: "I used to live here. May I come in?"

As for the Inn's breakfast offerings, dishes have evolved so the hosts can accommodate a variety of dietary preferences and restrictions, from gluten-free substitutions to last-minute menu adjustments. Heidi and Tom have become experts at catering to the needs of diverse guests but are still committed to using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients.



Built in 1911, six years before Camp Randall Stadium, the Buckingham Inn was a 3-flat apartment building, in the Prairie School style of architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

To celebrate the Inn's anniversary, the Notbohms invite you to try this favorite recipe:

Lemon Ricotta Pancakes

Makes 16–20 pancakes (4 servings)

- 4 egg whites
- 6 egg yolks
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted, cooled
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons freshly grated lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- Unsalted butter, melted, for the skillet

Pour egg whites into bowl of a standup mixer fitted with a wire whisk attachment. *(continued on page 22)*



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Buckingham Inn *(continued from page 21)*

Whisk at high speed until firm peaks form. Reduce speed to low. Slowly add egg yolks and gradually add melted butter. Continue whisking at low speed until well incorporated. Stop the mixer. Add sugar, ricotta, lemon zest, lemon juice, and salt. Whisk at medium speed for 1 minute. Reduce speed to low. Gradually add flour. Continue mixing for about 1 minute. Stop the mixer and scrape the sides of bowl with a rubber spatula. Return the mixer to medium speed and mix for about 1 minute. Makes about 2½ to 3 cups.

It works well to refrigerate the batter for a few hours to allow the melted butter to firm up in the mix. The batter will keep up to three days when refrigerated in a covered container.

To cook the pancakes, heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Brush skillet with melted butter and drop batter onto hot skillet. Cook until bubbles appear, and bottoms are golden brown, about five minutes. Flip pancakes and cook another two to three minutes. Remove from skillet.



The Buckingham Inn's lemon ricotta pancakes look downright irresistible.

Garnish with fresh berries, dust with powdered sugar as desired. Serve with a side of butter and maple syrup to taste. ■

Home Heating Fiction and Facts

from Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)

Fiction: It costs as much or more to heat a home back up after a thermostat setback (or to cool the house after a summer setup).

Fact: For a gas-fired furnace or boiler, the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more heat you save. If you have a heat pump or radiant floor heating, setbacks are not recommended.

Fiction: The house will warm up faster the higher the thermostat is raised.

Fact: The thermostat isn't like the gas pedal on a car. It's either calling for heat or not, so setting the thermostat too high may cause you to overshoot the desired temperature.

Fiction: The kids will kick off the covers and get cold.

Fact: Children older than about two weeks can regulate their body temperature just like adults, so they don't need different temperature settings. If they kick off the covers, try using a sleeping bag.

Energy-Saving Benefits

- For your heating bills: By setting back 1°F for 8 hours, you will save 1%. Bigger setbacks save even more.
- For our community: If we all set back our thermostats by 1°F this winter, we could save enough gas to fuel about 4,600 households.



MGE recommends 68°F* when you're home and 60°F* when you're gone or sleeping.

**Or as low as health and equipment permit. Check the owner's manual for recommended temperature settings and if turning down the temperature for more than 24 hours* ■

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- Carolyn (Fox Ave.)

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Announcements

Parenting for Peace and Justice

Madison Friends Meeting (Quakers) invites families to gather for food and discussions around raising children in today's challenging world. The goal is helping parents encourage inquiry, reflection, and action—essential qualities for young people growing up to participate in a diverse society. Topics for spring include:

- **Conflict Resolution in the Family**
- **Making Social Media Safe**
- **Environmental Justice with Children:**
Action and Appreciation versus Anxiety

Monthly sessions, Sundays, 5–7 p.m., at Friends Meetinghouse, 1704 Roberts Court, include an informal meal and time to socialize followed by presentations and discussions. Child care and a simple evening meal are provided at no charge. Everyone is welcome! Includes no religious content and is open to families of all faiths—or those with no religious affiliation.

For dates and registration information contact Rebecca Malke: FDSprogram@madisonfriends.org. Also check MadisonFriends.org, or on Facebook: Madison Quaker Meeting. ■

Announcing our plans for the July Fourth 2025 Celebration! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- ☆ **Help keep the brat stand running smoothly.**
Take tickets, work the grill, keep the napkins stocked!
- ☆ **Young people to create and run games.**
Ring toss, spin the wheel, something with bean bags? You decide the rules and prizes. Bring a game or activity to life, and we'll add it to the event (and the event map)!
- ☆ **Calling all bakers!**
Our ever-popular cakewalk is happening, but only if we have the cakes and cupcakes!
- ☆ **Join the Rag-Tag Band!**
Play an instrument? Additions to the Rag-Tag Band wanted. Let Maestra Marli know: mstarcatch@aol.com
- ☆ **Help us set up and clean up the celebrations.**
Many hands make light work!

Please let us know how you'd like to help by sending an email to:
samanthacrownover@sbcglobal.net

From the much-loved parade and Rag-Tag Band to our famous brat stand and games for all ages, join the fun starting at noon on July 4th, 2025. **It's a great time to join the RNA or renew your membership, too!**

