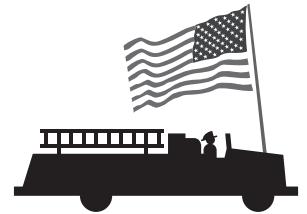




July 2024 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION

**The Regent Neighborhood Association
Invites You and Your Family to the
NEW and DIFFERENT
Neighborhood Fourth of July Picnic
Thursday, July 4, 2024 at
West High Athletic Field**



About Noon

Parade The festival kicks off with the traditional parade led by our one-and-only Rag Tag Band. Kids of all ages—red-white-and-blue-tify your wheels and selves and line up at the corner of Regent St. and Grand Ave.

12:15 p.m.

Let the fun begin! But with a difference! Bring your family, friends, a blanket, your own picnic, and your favorite games. RNA will provide bottled water, free of charge. Please note: There will be NO BRAT FRY!

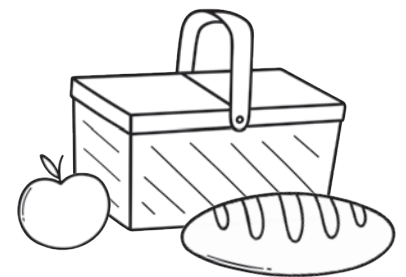
About 2 p.m.

Egg Toss Legendary Egg Toss. Thank you, Regent Market!

About 2:30 p.m. End of Festival

How You Can Participate

- Dust off your instrument and join the Band.
- Decorate your bikes and join the parade.
- Watch and cheer on the parade and band.
- Pack a picnic and spend time with neighbors.
- Bring a game and play a game.
- Find a partner and toss an egg.
- Stop by the membership tent & join the RNA.



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RNA 4th of July Festival — Volunteers Needed!

Contact: Ronnie Hess at rlhess@wisc.edu. For updates, check RNA Listserv at groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn

Rag Tag Band*: Musicians, contact Marli Johnson, MStarCatch@aol.com or call 608-271-1219.

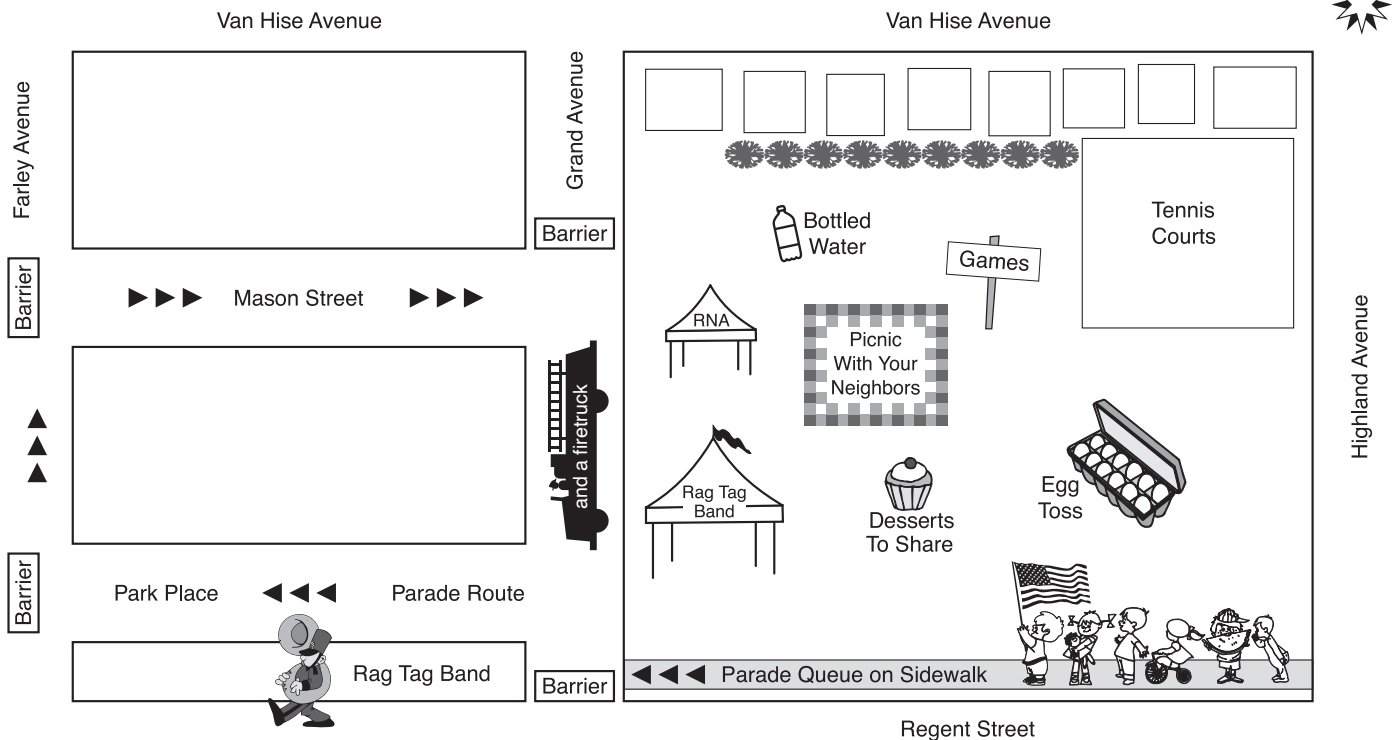
Games: Coordinator needed. BYO games. Gamesters, create and run a game. No prizes provided.

Cake Walk: Coordinator needed. Neighbors, BYO baked goods and some to share.

Garbage: Do you live near the practice field? Are you willing to let us borrow your garbage can for the day? We'll empty it before we give it back.

Clean Up: With your help, it won't take long! Take your stuff and kids home.

RNA Festival Map at West High Field



Please supervise children and let's celebrate safely.

*Band Members Welcome to join our Rag Tag Band this July 4th

Haven't played for a while? Not much experience? A real hot shot? All are welcome! On July 4th, the Regent Neighborhood Rag Tag Band proudly marches around the block then plays a fun concert on the West High athletic field. We begin with easy tunes for less experienced performers then graduate to intermediate pieces and a few show-off numbers. Rehearsals to be announced soon.

Respond right away so we can reserve your spot! Music available ahead of time. Questions? Email Marli at MStarCatch@aol.com or call 608-271-1219. ■





Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

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

Officers

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Shiva Bidar
shivabidar@tds.net

Vice President/President-Elect
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Secretary / UW Relations
Mary Czyszczak-Lyne
mary.czyszczaklyne@wisc.edu

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John Schlaefer
schlaeferjw@gmail.com

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sgjones2@wisc.edu

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patmcquiddy@yahoo.com

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rlhess@wisc.edu

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megpohl@gmail.com

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Eric Wiesman
SustainableRNA@gmail.com

Transportation Chair
Charlie Peters
capeters53@gmail.com

Board Members At Large
Ron Rosner
rosner7@charter.net

Graphic Design by Mary Sarnowski

A Note from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Happy Summer! Our annual membership meeting was held on May 21 at 7 p.m., the night of the big storm! Unfortunately (and understandably, given the weather), we did not have quorum so Board members who have agreed to continue to serve will do so until our next membership meeting. We do have some openings on the Board. If you are interested in serving, please contact me.

We hope you will all join us for the modified neighborhood July 4th event. It will be a great opportunity to connect with each other.

Warmly,
Shiva



*RNA Board President
Shiva Bidar*

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Alder Report—District 5

What Are We Going to Do About Housing?

You've probably heard the news: Madison, and in fact all of Dane County, is in a housing crisis. But what does that mean?

Job growth in the region is strong: 38,000 jobs were created in Dane County between 2010–2021. At the same time, Dane County added 42,000 households, making it the fastest growing county in the state. The number of folks in Generation Z coming to the area is particularly notable, with 6,000 “zoomers” moving here in the last year alone. But not enough housing has been built to accommodate this growth. That leads to a lower supply than demand, and if you know the first thing about economics, you'll understand the lack of supply leads to higher prices. And these high prices are consistent across both rental properties and owner-occupied homes.

The Wisconsin State Journal recently ran a special series on the crisis, reporting that Madison's housing crisis is unparalleled for a city its size. The rental vacancy rate is hovering around 3.5%, when a 5% vacancy rate is healthy. And home sales continue to be limited in availability, with competing bids often leading to sales well above asking prices.

For people who are in lower-wage positions, housing that's affordable is nearly impossible to come by. Businesses are struggling to find people to serve in middle- and lower-wage positions, because the available workforce can't find housing to meet their needs. Or, if they do find affordable housing, it may be a long distance from their jobs, requiring them to drive, increasing their transportation costs and further contributing to climate change.

At the beginning of May, the Dane County Regional Housing Strategy released a road map and strategic plan for solving these crises (see rhs.danecounty.gov/). The plan lays out the following needs:

- 13,000 additional rental units affordable to households at or below 30% of the Area Median Income (less than \$35,000)



Alder Regina Vidaver
Photo: Jeanine Schneider

- 139,000 new housing units overall by 2040, or approximately 7,000 per year, including:
 - 3,300 new owner units
 - 3,700 new renter units
 - 1,765 new affordable rental units
 - 300 new affordable senior units

The Housing Strategy roadmap lays out 17 strategies for increasing housing availability and affordability. These approaches include expanding affordable housing funds and community land banks, advancing zoning reforms, utilizing tax increment district (TID) funds for more affordable housing, supporting the rehabilitation of naturally occurring affordable housing, and expanding loan funds for home renovations. Notably, investments need to be made by both the public and private sectors to be successful.

Madison has already made substantial inroads, by increasing our affordable housing fund, allowing additional floors in the downtown area when affordable housing is included, providing support for energy upgrades in rental housing stock, allowing accessory dwelling units by right, and updating zoning regulations. Similar approaches are also needed, and indeed underway, in our surrounding cities, villages, and towns. These strategies also need public engagement. My ask of all of you is to review the roadmap and understand what you can do to help promote the development and improvement of our housing stock. Madison is an incredible place to live, but we have work to do to make it a community where all the people who want to be here have the opportunity to call it home.

Regina Vidaver
District 5 Alder
District5@cityofmadison.com
608-616-0669 ■

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Dane County Board Report—District 11

This spring, we started our new two-year term by welcoming 10 new members of the County Board. One race was decided by only five votes, which is a reminder that every single vote matters in local elections. Thank you to all who showed their support and voted in April—I am honored to continue to represent District 11.



*Supervisor
Richelle Andrae*

When County Executive Joe Parisi stepped down on May 3, County Board Chair Patrick Miles assumed his duties temporarily, and then nominated Jamie Kuhn to serve as the interim County Executive through November 2024. Jamie previously served as a Dane County Board Supervisor, plus Wisconsin's Medicaid Director, and is a social worker by training. She has insights into the county's budget process, which will be the interim Executive's primary role this year. Then there will be a special election for County Executive on November 5, and then finally a general election in April 2025 to officially elect the County Executive to a four-year term. With a lot of attention on national, Congressional, and state legislative races this year, don't forget about this important local election.

With the new term starting, I am prioritizing work for the next few years. I was privileged to be re-elected to serve as the Chair of the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee which has oversight for justice system agencies like the Sheriff's Office, 911, Juvenile Detention, and Medical Examiner. This is a role I take very seriously, recognizing that we need to find practical solutions to complex systems problems in the county. I am acutely focused on the intersection between mental health and the justice system, and plan to prioritize implementing mobile crisis programs and strengthening non-law enforcement response options. We're making

progress, but need to do more. For example, we added new positions into the 911 center to actually triage calls as they come in, potentially reducing the need for in-person response. We are also working with the City of Madison to expand the successful CARES program to other areas, little by little. Note that the CJC has new data dashboards on the DA's office and on cash bail, which help inform the work. Check out the dashboards at cjc.danecounty.gov/Data-and-Dashboards.

I am also starting conversations with colleagues and staff about a long-term capital improvement plan for the county. At this point we don't have a capital plan, and I feel like it's an important strategy to consider both in terms of planning for projects to smooth the tax burden on residents and to help prioritize and coordinate projects. Right now, I am also hearing a lot about food insecurity in our community. After meeting with a local food bank recently, I now understand that there are multiple factors at play limiting access to food including the end of federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act, 2021) funds which helped purchase food and reduced the cost of food for purchase; and an increase in demand following the end of pandemic food aid. We need to take these issues seriously, and look at systems solutions like eliminating waste, connecting growers/farmers directly with distributors, and creating more efficiencies in the system. Donations of food or funding are essential, but the need is so great that we will not be able to meet it through those efforts alone. It is unacceptable that in a well-resourced community like Dane County, our neighbors are going hungry.

As always, please reach out if you would like to learn more about the County's work or touch base on County Board and policy issues.

Richelle Andrae
Dane County Board Supervisor District 11
Andrae.richelle@countyofdane.com ■



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Dane County Board Report—District 13

The new session of the County Board is now underway, and there are several developments I want to call to your attention.

The midterm retirement of County Executive Joe Parisi triggered a county ordinance that led County Board Chair Patrick Miles to serve as Interim County Executive from May 3rd until the 23rd. In late May, Miles recommended, and the Board approved, the appointment of Jamie Kuhn to serve as “permanent” Interim County Executive for the remainder of Parisi’s term. Kuhn has served in a variety of elected and appointed positions, including as a County Board Supervisor. I expect the county will be in good hands leading up to the election of a new Executive.

Addressing affordable housing continues to be a priority for my service on the Board, and I am happy to report that a plan to revive Rethke Terrace and Tree Lane is now approved. These existing affordable housing developments fell into receivership following inadequate management. In partnership with the City of Madison, Dane County identified a developer capable of managing both properties and secured a plan to get both back up and running. Additionally,



*Supervisor
Jay Brower*

the Bayview development (Regent St. and West Washington Ave.) recently hosted a grand opening of its community center, which the county helped support. Bayview represents an exemplary model of affordable housing design both in its aesthetics and community focus.

For the past few months, I have had the opportunity to serve on the county’s Opioid Settlement Subcommittee charged with determining how to invest money paid by opioid manufacturers to settle state-level lawsuits. The sub-committee had a chance to explore a range of options to treat the opioid epidemic in Dane County, with a particular focus on harm reduction strategies. The Health and Human Needs Committee examines and acts on the sub-committee’s recommendations.

If you have an interest in following legislation that comes before the Board, 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 inquiries and feedback.

Jay Brower

Mail: Dane County Board of Supervisors
City County Building, Room 362
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 620-3931

Email: Brower.Jay@countyofdane.com ■



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August Election: New Assembly District 77—Kathleen Fullin

Editor's note: Kathleen Fullin is a longtime neighbor and member of the RNA.

The August 13 primary election will almost certainly determine the new Assembly representative for the Regent Neighborhood. As of late May, the print deadline for the RNA newsletter, four candidates had stated their intention to run for the seat as Democrats; no Republican candidates had filed.

The four candidates who did file campaign registration statements by late May are Chuck Erickson, Muralidharan Govindarajan, Renuka Mayadev, and Thad Schumacher. You can check MyVote.wi.gov to determine which candidates completed their filings and will be on your ballot.

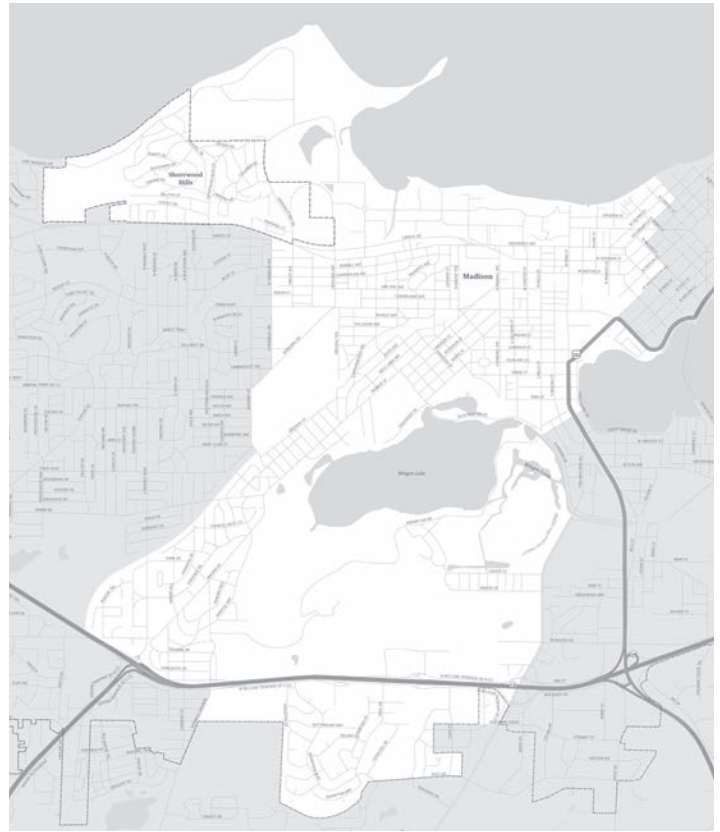
The Regent Neighborhood is included in new Assembly District 77. No incumbent lives in this district. [The district stretches from Franklin St. on the west to Broom St. on the east, and from Shorewood Hills on the north to Post Rd., south of the Beltline, on the south. See map.]

Anyone who has moved since they last registered to vote needs to register again. Through July 24:

- citizens who have a valid WI driver license or WI ID can register online at myvote.wi.gov
- Madison residents with proof of residence can register on paper at any city library

After July 24, Madison residents can register with proof of residence

- at the City Clerk's Office until July 30
- at an early voting location such as a Madison library
- at the polls on Election Day.



Map of newly configured WI Assembly District 77. There is no incumbent in the August 13 primary. (Rep. Shelia Stubbs is a candidate in A.D. 78.) At press time, the announced candidates were Thaddeus Schumacher, Chuck Erickson, Renuka Mayadev, and Muralidharan Govindarajan, all Democrats.

On Election Day, voters need to show a photo ID such as a WI driver license or ID, a US passport, or other approved options. ■



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Greetings from Randall

Champions are made in the offseason. As a summer school principal, I've witnessed the glorious gains made by our scholars during this unique short session. Children from a host of schools come together under one roof and get to know each other and themselves in a camplike setting. While the curriculum is somewhat prescribed and rigorous, the schedule allows for variations on a theme atypical of the traditional fall-to-spring fling.

As a middle school instructor years ago, I took advantage of summer school's flexibility, teaching a rather unique math course. The limited number of students allowed me to use the school district's large van for outings. We traveled to the woods and selected branches used with flour paste and newspaper to fashion kites of different geometric shapes. In our study of measurements, we visited a grocery store, calculators in hand, to determine the savings realized by buying larger containers of certain products.

One day, I had the children bring their swimsuits to school. I told them I had arranged for us to measure the volume of the city pool. When we arrived at the site, a throng of bobbing heads already occupied the full body of the drink. I apologized to my passengers, assuring them that I had been misinformed. We departed the premises disappointed and a little disgusted. On our trek back to school, I drew the youngsters' attention to a backyard pool. I exclaimed that we should measure its water. The crews' reaction was a mix of hearty yays and nays. Nonetheless, I pulled the vehicle over and called for them to join me as I climbed over the fence. Most did, while a few more reserved souls remained in the vehicle, peering anxiously out of their windows.

The recruits and I hit the water without hesitation, holding tape measures from above and below the pool. A back door slammed open, making way for an irate woman who held nothing back, chastising us for trespassing. I told her of our good intentions, but she would not have it. She shook as she shouted that it was teachers like me who were guiding our young people down the wrong path. My stunned students watched in disbelief as the woman stomped away to call the police. Just before entering the house, she made a whimsical about-face twirl. Smiling, she calmly shared, "Actually, I think Mr. Wallace is a pretty darn good teacher. He's just a little crazy. That's why he set this whole thing up!" Yes, the



Principal John Wallace issues a measurement challenge for his scholars.

owner of the pool was a close friend of mine, and I had fashioned the prank fully knowing of the packed public pool. My entire class took their aquatic measurements and enjoyed a long splash bash before rolling home.

One of the many gifts of this season is the discretionary time to do something memorable, do something fun, and perhaps do something that lies a bit on the wild side. Life is short. So is summer. Whatever out-of-the-ordinary endeavor you've been considering, but haven't yet taken the plunge, dive in!

Go Raccoons!

John ■



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- Carolyn (Fox Ave.)

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April Johnson

News from Franklin

I hope this summer issue finds you all safe and healthy! The end to our school year at Franklin was busy, busy, busy! We had a lot to celebrate as our little learners wrapped up their school year. Here's a summary of some of the fun things we had going on!

We had another successful Franklin Flash Dash, a yearly fundraiser to raise money for our school. We're working with our PTO to develop a comprehensive renovation for Franklin's playground. The money raised through the Flash Dash will add to the efforts we have to make our dreams a reality. Stay tuned for updates or other ways you can help support this effort for our community.

Several of our grade levels went on fun excursions at the end of the year, including kindergarteners to the



Principal Emily Powers

Zoo, first graders to Busy Barns, and second graders to the Contemporary Art Museum! Students all enjoyed the field trips and celebrations.

Finally, we sent our second graders off with our "Franklin Farewell" on the final day of school. These students have overcome a lot of challenges in their three years here, as they started their education right after the pandemic. I am confident there are future engineers, doctors, scientists, lawyers, teachers, and performers among this group, and I'm looking forward to hearing how they continue to overcome obstacles as they grow and learn!

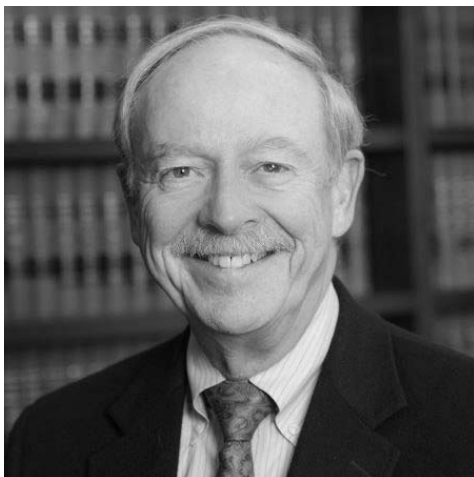
It has been an amazing year at Franklin. Our staff and I are looking forward to a strong start to the 2024-25 school year. But first, I hope we all take some time this summer to rest, rejuvenate, and enjoy our friends and family.

Take good care!

Emily Powers
Principal, Franklin Elementary School ■

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West High News

Dear Regent Neighbors,
I hope this letter finds you well. As the school year ends, I wanted to take a moment to share some exciting news and updates about West.

Celebrating Our High Achievers

Recently, we celebrated our National Honor Society inductees (juniors) including the Honors and Scholarship Convocation that celebrated our seniors. Both were wonderful events, recognizing the hard work and accomplishments of our students. On that note, we appreciate the support of the neighborhood association, especially your scholarship contribution, which assists our students in pursuing their dreams.

Summer Closure and Construction Update

As we transition into summer, please note that West will be closed for the entire summer, except for the



Daniel Kigeya

pool. Our temporary office will be at Capital High School. We are excited to announce that construction at the school will end by August 15th! Thank Goodness! That said, the improvements we've gone through have enhanced the learning environment for our students. We thank the entire West and Madison Metropolitan School District community for supporting these school improvements.

Guided Tours

Community members interested in touring the newly renovated West High School, please feel free to contact us. We will do our best to accommodate your request. Even though the building is closed, we're willing to open for the community on special occasions.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another great school year in 2024–25!
Go Regents!

Best Regards,

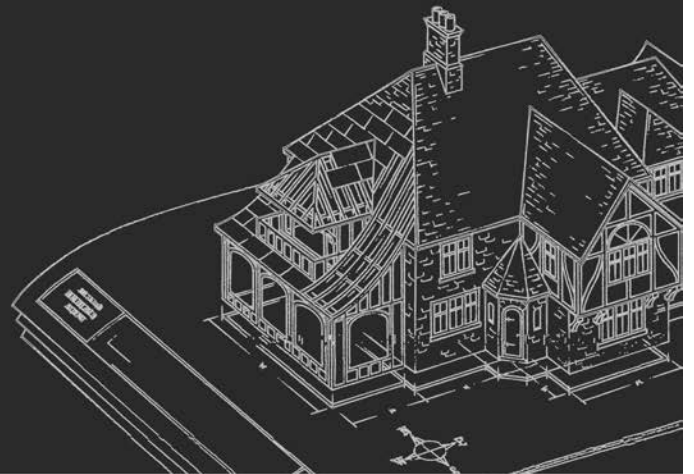
Dan Kigeya,
Principal, West High School ■

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Greetings from Blessed Sacrament School

School's out for summer! The final bell has rung, marking the end of another fantastic year. Our students and teachers have worked hard, achieved much, and created wonderful memories. Now, as summer begins, it's time for everyone to relax and enjoy the sunny days ahead.

The last few months of the 2023–24 school year have been busy, but in the best way. In early May, our 8th grade students experienced a highlight of their time at Blessed Sacrament with a trip to Washington, DC. We saw so much, walked a lot, and had an amazing time. Who knows, we might have inspired some future politicians or historians!

In late May, we bid farewell to this same group of 8th graders as they head off to high school. The fifty-one students in our 100th graduating class will be attending eight different high schools this fall.

On the parish side, we are excited to welcome the Schoenstatt Fathers, who will be taking over as the administrators of our parish after the Dominican Order's departure. Blessed Sacrament Parish will remain an independent pastorate within the Diocese of Madison and will not merge with another parish. We look forward to preserving our Dominican Heritage while embracing the leadership of the Schoenstatt Fathers. A warm welcome to our new pastor, Fr. Mark Niehaus!

Though the halls of our school are a bit quieter, there's still a lot happening with exciting renovation



Blessed Sacrament 8th graders on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in early May.

projects and preparations for the upcoming school year. This summer, our school campus will undergo several renovation projects. One of the most exciting is the installation of long-awaited solar panels on our school roof! Next year, our teachers are eager to incorporate solar education into their lesson plans. Our rooftop solar array will be on the high roof, avoiding shade from surrounding trees. Although the panels won't be easily visible to students, newly purchased solar science teaching kits will help them understand in a tangible way why our community is investing in renewable energy.

We wish you all a happy, restful, and fun-filled summer. Whether you're traveling, spending time with family and friends, or simply relaxing at home, may your summer be filled with joy and wonderful memories.

For more information on Blessed Sacrament School, please visit school.blsacrament.org or call the school office at 608-233-6155.

Carrie Casey Bower (carrie@blsacrament.org) and Elizabeth First (efirst@school.blsacrament.org) ■



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Poets' Corner—Ruth Horrall

Editor's note: Some people may know Ruth Horrall as neighbor, good friend, patient voice teacher, and lover of daylilies, which she cultivates in her backyard garden in the Regent Neighborhood. (She's been a resident for some 60 years.) Born in Plymouth, WI, she received her BA and MA in vocal performance from UW–Madison. Among her other talents, she was a cornet player and once-upon-a-time director of the Rag Tag Band, with featured performances at the Regent Neighborhood Fourth of July picnic. But who knew Horrall also has a daylily named after her, Hemerocallis 'Brookwood Ruth Horrall,' or that she has a poet's sensibility?

Incident


Doctors ask,
How's it feel?
Bubbling foam
in my veins –

And I ask,
Will I live?
Hard-hearted,
A question?

—Ruth Horrall ■



In May, deep-blue German irises are prominent in Horrall's garden. Unfortunately, our black-and-white newsletter, denies the viewer seeing the lovely shade of blue.

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Recipe File—In Praise of Dave Peterson’s Brats

*Editor’s note: There are better people than I to tell the story of how Dave Peterson’s brats came about. He wasn’t a professional chef, or a food historian. Rather, he was a UW–Extension professor of theatre and music, a playwright tilting to musical shows, which he often produced and directed. Years ago, while traveling in Door County, Dave was inspired to write *Song of the Inland Seas*, which played on the Peninsula State Park stage for two weeks in the summer of 1970. The show was a smash and gave birth to a new company, *The Heritage Ensemble*, which became the *American Folklore Theatre*.¹*

Dave left the culinary histories to his wife Joan, co-owner today with her daughter Susan Peterson Chwae, of Ginkgo Press, Eat Smart culinary travel

Regent Sausage Company Tuscan Chicken Sausage*

Original Recipe by David Peterson,
adapted by Susan Peterson Chwae

2 pounds boneless chicken thighs
½ pound pork fat
1/3 cup oven-dried tomatoes, seeds and juice removed—about 6 Romas
2 ounces mozzarella cheese
¼ cup fresh basil
2 teaspoons dried oregano
2 teaspoons dried parsley
2 teaspoons salt
1½ teaspoon black pepper
½ cup red wine

Grind all ingredients together, then hand-mix with the red wine. For the links, it’s suggested to use small casings and coil the sausage into spirals. Oven-dry at 225°F degrees for five hours.

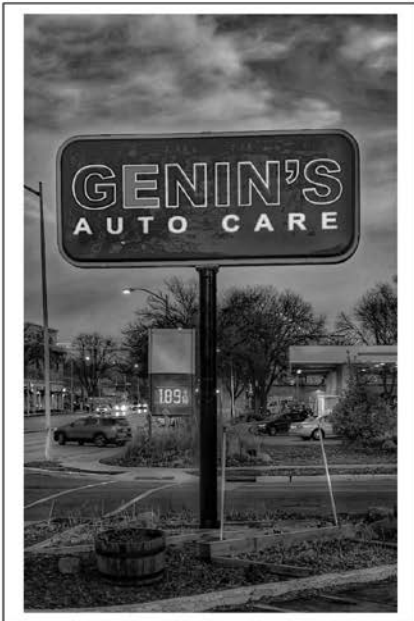
*Cook’s Note: I used pork sausage instead of pork fat, store-bought sun-dried tomatoes, and didn’t bother with sausage casings, available commercially. I did not oven-dry the sausages for five hours but baked them at 400°F for 25 minutes, turning the hand-formed sausages once, to an internal temperature of 165°F. Admittedly, more of patty than a sausage, but with Dijon mustard and a roll, they certainly tasted good. ■

guides, and culinary tours. But the man certainly was a world traveler who loved food; he developed a brand of sausages in his kitchen on Chamberlain Avenue, and sold them at the Regent Market. So, in honor of Dave, who died in 2014, and the Fourth of July’s traditional food, we give you one of Dave’s original recipes—Tuscan Chicken Sausage. Susan writes, “I’ve written down exactly what was on the handwritten paper.” If you don’t have time to make these from scratch, amble down to the Regent Market, where there’s a fine selection of sausages. They aren’t made from Dave’s recipes but are pretty good for celebrating.

¹northernskytheater.com/about-us/



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First Congregational Church Looking for Development Proposals

by **Eldonna Hazen**

First Congregational United Church of Christ has been a part of the Regent Neighborhood since 1930, and has a long-held commitment to the neighborhood, to the city, and to social justice. As the Church determines the best use of the properties adjacent to the Church, the Church has chosen to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to anyone interested in purchasing any or all of the properties. The Church owns 324 Lathrop (currently used for



parking), 320 Lathrop (currently used as office space), and 301 Lathrop (also currently used as parking). The Church also owns 303 Lathrop, which is not included in the RFP. The deadline for proposals is June 15, or until we receive acceptable proposals. When and if the Church receives any proposals, it will engage the neighborhood in conversation as the Church considers the proposals.

For questions related to this project, contact me at ehazen@firstcongmadison.org ■

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The Little New Shop Around the Corner—Liz Quinn

Editor's note: Realtor Liz Quinn is buying the property on Regent Street occupied for 25 years by potter Linda Leighton. The structure dates to 1928, built in the English Revival Style, and designed by Madison architects Flad and Moulton. According to the Wisconsin Historical Society, the building was a bakery, hardware store, and ice cream shop.¹ Later, it was also a florist and gift shop. To contact Liz, liz@quinncorealty.com

Hello, Regent Neighborhood!

I am Liz Quinn, founder of Quinn & Co Realty | Compass, and soon-to-be owner of 2132–2134 Regent Street! We are over the moon to be opening shop and are honored to be stewards of such a lovely piece of the neighborhood's history. I live in nearby Nakoma and found real estate through my passion for history, architecture, and community, so we couldn't have discovered a better place to continue growing. You may also see our youngest supporters, my five- and two-year-old daughters, there from time to time. Always feel free to pop in and say hello!

We plan to rent out one-half of the building and would love to hear from you, our neighbors, on how we can best serve you. What would you love to see in this space? Are there goods or services the neighborhood needs?

We also hope that our offices, which will occupy the second half of the building, can serve as a gathering space, and benefit the community as well. Are there ways in which we can open our doors to improve the lives around us? If there are programs in the community we can get involved with or help facilitate, we would love to hear about them. We look forward



The Quinn realty team, including, from left to right, Natasha Sattin, Liz Quinn, and Kelsey Graf. Photo: Nicole Hansen.

to meeting you all once we are officially open, and in the meantime, we welcome any suggestions you are willing to share! ■

¹[wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI111744](https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI111744)



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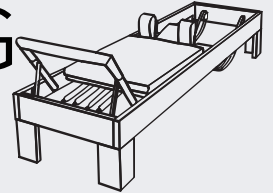


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What I'm Reading—Mari McCarty

Editor's note: Mari McCarty came to Madison for graduate work in 1970 and never left. She is co-editor with Erica Eisinger of Colette: The Woman, The Writer (Penn State Press).



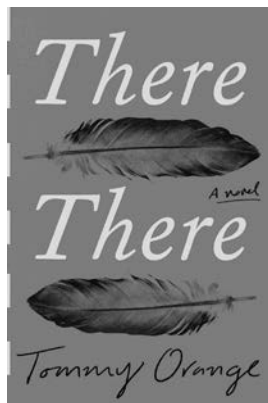
Mari McCarty

I belong to two book groups, so I always have at least two books going, one audiobook and the other on paper or Kindle. Audiobooks accompany me while I'm driving, doing housework, or working out, although when I get to the cardio portion of my workout, I switch to my Kindle; it's the reward for spending 20 minutes on the exercise bike. I know it's a good book when my cycling stint seems to pass in the blink of an eye.

When I find an author I like, I double down. I discovered *Station Eleven*, a great pandemic novel by Emily St. John Mandel, when it first came out in 2014, and was excited to read *The Glass Hotel* (2020) and *Sea of Tranquility* (2022), which shared some characters between them while playing tricks with time and destiny. Similarly, when *The Candy House* by Jennifer Egan came out to good reviews in 2022, I backtracked to read *A Visit from the Goon Squad* (2010) before jumping into the newer one.

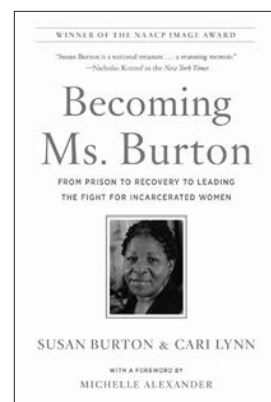
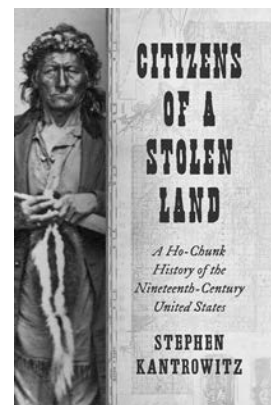
My latest great reads are by Tommy Orange, who appeared at the Madison Public Library's Lunch for Libraries in April. I first devoured his *There There*, a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize, which introduces us to urban Native Americans grappling with generational harm yet connected through a spiritual inheritance often denied them. Its companion novel this year is *Wandering Stars*, both prequel and sequel, a wraparound account starting with the ancestors of the *There There* protagonists followed by what happens after the events in the first book. Tommy Orange's prose is achingly lyrical even as it reveals the trauma of a people denied personhood and still surviving as the stars fall "down to earth, collapsing on us."

For background, UW-Madison professor Stephen Kantrowitz's *Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Ho-Chunk History of the Nineteenth-Century United States* is an



account of the shocking inequities perpetrated against Native Americans in our own state, undercutting the facile land acknowledgements we hear recited at events and providing tragic context to Orange's novels.

More non-fiction: *Becoming Ms. Burton* is Susan Burton's memoir detailing her quest to overcome her past imprisonment and to create safe places for formerly incarcerated women to live after release. Her model has inspired a current real-life success in Madison, where the new EXPO house offers shelter to women forging a new life after prison. And Judith Heumann's memoir *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist*, details the harrowing road to equal access and the many barriers (physical, cultural, and legislative) that had to be overcome. For dessert, *These Precious Days*, a book of essays by Ann Patchett, is a gem of a book with insights, loves, friendship, and flights of fancy. Happy reading! ■



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2024 West High School Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Darius Thomas and Joshua Tossenou, 2024 Regent Neighborhood Association Scholarship winners. Here are greetings from them.

“Hi, I’m Darius Thomas and my plans for next year are to attend UW–Milwaukee and get a degree in film. I want to be a future director and take care of my family, as well as homeless people on the streets!”

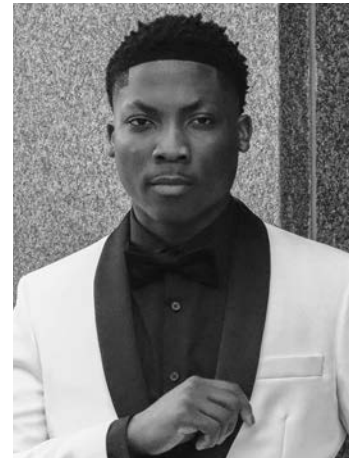
And here are a few words from Joshua, “My name is Joshua Tossenou. I plan on pursuing business at UW–Whitewater for the next four years in hopes of becoming a future real estate agent. Also, I’m looking forward to opening my own clothing brand soon.”

Thomas and Tossenou were both named MLK Outstanding Young Person Award winners in 2024 by the Urban League of Greater Madison.

Several years ago, the RNA created a scholarship fund with the purpose of acknowledging and celebrating the diversity, energy, and enthusiasm that West High School students add to our neighborhood. Needs-based awards are given to two graduating seniors who have demonstrated engagement in multicultural activities both in




Darius Thomas



Joshua Tossenou

school and in the greater Madison community, while modeling a commitment to academic pursuits.

You can contribute to this fund by mailing a scholarship gift to the Regent Neighborhood Association, PO Box 5655, Madison, WI 53705. Thank you. ■

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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 November edition is September 30, 2024. 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 Ronnie Hess at rlhess@wisc.edu