



Regent Neighborhood

May 2018 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION

Please join us for the
**2018 RNA Spring
Membership Meeting**
Monday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.



Guest Speakers: Orange Schroeder,
Owner of Orange Tree Imports, and
Laura Strickland of Monroe Street
Merchants Association

Join us as we talk about Monroe Street
businesses and celebrate Orange Tree
Import's 43rd Anniversary, and as
the RNA honors Orange Schroeder
for her work supporting Madison and
our neighborhoods.



Best Western InnTowner, 2424 University Avenue

Together We Can Survive & Thrive!

by Monroe Street Merchants Association

Monroe Street is home to nearly 100 locally-owned businesses, including many of Madison's favorite places to dine, shop and live. This year, 19 of our merchants were voted as Best in Madison by Madison Magazine readers, and 16 received Mad Faves honors by Isthmus readers.

Throughout the 2018 reconstruction project, we want to keep Monroe Street an integral part of your lives. The Monroe Street Merchants Association has created a number of ways to make it easier to stay connected and engaged with us. We will have a full promotional calendar throughout the year, up-to-the-minute construction updates, and a new Monroe Street instagift card. Be sure to check our social media accounts and website for information regarding events coming up this summer!

A huge thank you to all our the Monroe Street supporters who purchased a Survive & Thrive kit. We sold out of all 1,000 Survive & Thrive Kits! The offers valid April–October 2018. Now is the time to start using the offers and wear your "I Heart Monroe Street" button to show your support! Tag us in your photos so we can see and feel all of your love!

(continued on page 5)

Renew Your RNA Membership with the enclosed form. Also, consider contributing to the RNA West High scholarship. (See page 3 for info.)



Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

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

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A Note from the President —

Greeting Neighbors,

Thank you to all neighbors and businesses who contributed to Project Solis, West High School Green Club's fundraising initiative for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the high school. The RNA board recently received word from the Green Club that they have surpassed their goal of \$50,000. In fact, including the Madison School District's \$25,000 match, they raised \$91,000 to date! Congratulations to all!



*RNA Board President
Mary Czynszak-Lyne*

I look forward to seeing you at the RNA Spring Membership meeting [see front page]. Our guest speakers, Laura Stickland, from the Monroe Street Merchants Association, and Orange Schroeder, owner of Orange Tree Imports, will share with us the efforts being made to keep this area vital during the Monroe Street reconstruction.

To subscribe to Reconstruction email updates, go to cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/monroe-street

By now you have attempted to travel Monroe Street. Here are some suggestions from the Monroe Street Construction website:

"March through November will be a challenging time for the Monroe Street community. While Reconstruction will be difficult, the process has been years in the making, and promises to provide many upgrades for residents and visitors. During Reconstruction, please consider:

- planning ahead for transportation using carpooling, taking buses, walking, and using the bike trails when possible;
- paying special attention to local businesses on Monroe Street—including restaurants and retailers who need local support;
- respecting residential communities and watching speeds on side streets when finding alternate routes for driving."

Best regards ~ *Mary*

2018 RNA Board Meeting Schedule

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • May 21 | • September 24 |
| • June 25 | • October 22 |
| • August 27 | • November 19 |

The RNA Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Best Western InnTowner at 2424 University Avenue. These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to RNA President Mary Czynszak-Lyne at mary.czynszaklyne@wisc.edu.

RNA Membership and Scholarship Fund

Enclosed you will find the Regent Neighborhood Association membership form. Proceeds from RNA membership contributions pay for our quarterly newsletter and annual directory and support neighborhood projects such as the pollinator garden, the West High pantry, and Franklin and Randall school improvements. Thank you for making this investment in our neighborhood.

Also consider making a contribution to the RNA Scholarship Fund created with the purpose of acknowledging and celebrating the diversity, the energy, and the enthusiasm that the West High School students add to our neighborhood. Two needs-based awards are given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated engagement in multicultural activities both in school and in the Madison community while demonstrating a commitment to academic pursuits. Last year the Regent neighborhood raised \$5,000 for this effort. Our goal is to match that amount again this year.

Here are notes from our 2017 award recipients thanking the more than 200 neighbors who contributed to fund these scholarships:

Thank you for the scholarship. My name is Jorge Saiz and I am a very determined person. I am going to the University of New Mexico and want to major in business. This money will help me follow my dream.
— Jorge Saiz

DUES & DONATIONS

Dues - Check one: ☐ \$5.00 - Individual ☐ \$10.00 - Family ☐ \$25.00 - Institution
☐ \$ _____ Additional donation dedicated to RNA Scholarship Fund for a West High Graduating Senior

Thank you for the Regent Neighborhood Association Scholarship. As a first-generation student, I appreciate this award and am grateful for your generosity. I struggled with financial aid this year and ended up taking loans. I will be attending UW-Milwaukee and hope to transfer to UW-Madison. I plan to continue being involved in social issues and my community wherever I go. Thank you so much as this has impacted my family and me greatly.
— Tenzin Dolma



In Memoriam: Elizabeth “Betsy” Greene

She always wanted to be called Betsy; not Elizabeth, not Beth or Betty, and definitely not Liz. Former RNA board member, Betsy Greene died on February 13th after a long battle with brain cancer.

I met Betsy nine years ago when I first joined the RNA board. At that time she was the RNA treasurer. That was only one of the many ways she contributed to RNA and to the community. Her leadership was very evident during board meetings when she would make a comment that would turn the discussion to the logical answer to the question being discussed. She



Betsy Greene

worked hard because she genuinely cared about the quality of life in the neighborhood.


She and I worked closely together for three years as members of the subcommittee that put together the University Avenue Corridor Plan. After the first draft was created, Betsy spent hours and hours at the computer editing and retyping the entire plan, even after she had left the board, and at a time when she was also travelling to Milwaukee frequently to help her ailing mother. An admitted perfectionist, she once told me that she felt the draft plan had become her “baby”, so she was determined to get the draft just right before it was printed. There is so much of her in that document; it has to be part of her legacy.


The neighborhood has truly lost a very wonderful, intelligent, caring woman. ■


— John Schlaefter

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RNA Provides West High Students with *The Hate U Give*

Last fall, the Regent Neighborhood Association approved a grant request from Mary Morgan of Reading Group Choices and Cara Fitzgerald of West High School to provide copies of *The Hate U Give* by bestselling author Angie Thomas to West High School students. Ms. Thomas then visited West High School in December to discuss the book with students in English 10 classes:

The book and the visit received rave reviews from West students. “I loved the book and am really looking forward to the movie! I loved it so much that I gave a copy to my mom!” said one student. Another remarked “Thank you for paying for us to read a new book—it is one of the best books I’ve read.” Students found the book particularly topical as one explained: “I loved *The Hate U Give*. I love how unique it is compared to other books and how it deals with real issues today.”

West High teacher Cara Fitzgerald also found the project successful: “The unit on *The Hate U Give* was a profound one for my classes. Not only were they able to find a novel that addressed issues current to their lives, but also a narrator who gave them a perspective that they could relate to and learn from. Students were engaged throughout the unit, and they were invested in learning beyond the novel as well. This was truly a unique experience for them, and it was all due to your willingness to allow a book to impact their lives. I’m currently using the novel in another class, and other teachers have also used copies in some of their electives. We are all finding



Author Angie Thomas speaking to English 10 Students at West High School

similar results—students are clamoring to discuss meaningful issues in their lives, and this novel gives them an amazing framework to shape those discussions.” ■

Correction

In last issue’s article about The Bradley House, one of the pictures was mislabeled. Here’s the correction. ■



Architect Louis Sullivan



George Grant Elmslie

Monroe Street *(continued from page 1)*

Many of you have asked how you can help us this year. Please follow us, like us, share us, tag us, and most importantly, visit us! Check out our website at monroestreetmadison.com. Find us on Facebook and Instagram @monroestreetmadison (#monroestreetmadison, #surviveandthrive2018, #ilovemonroestreet)

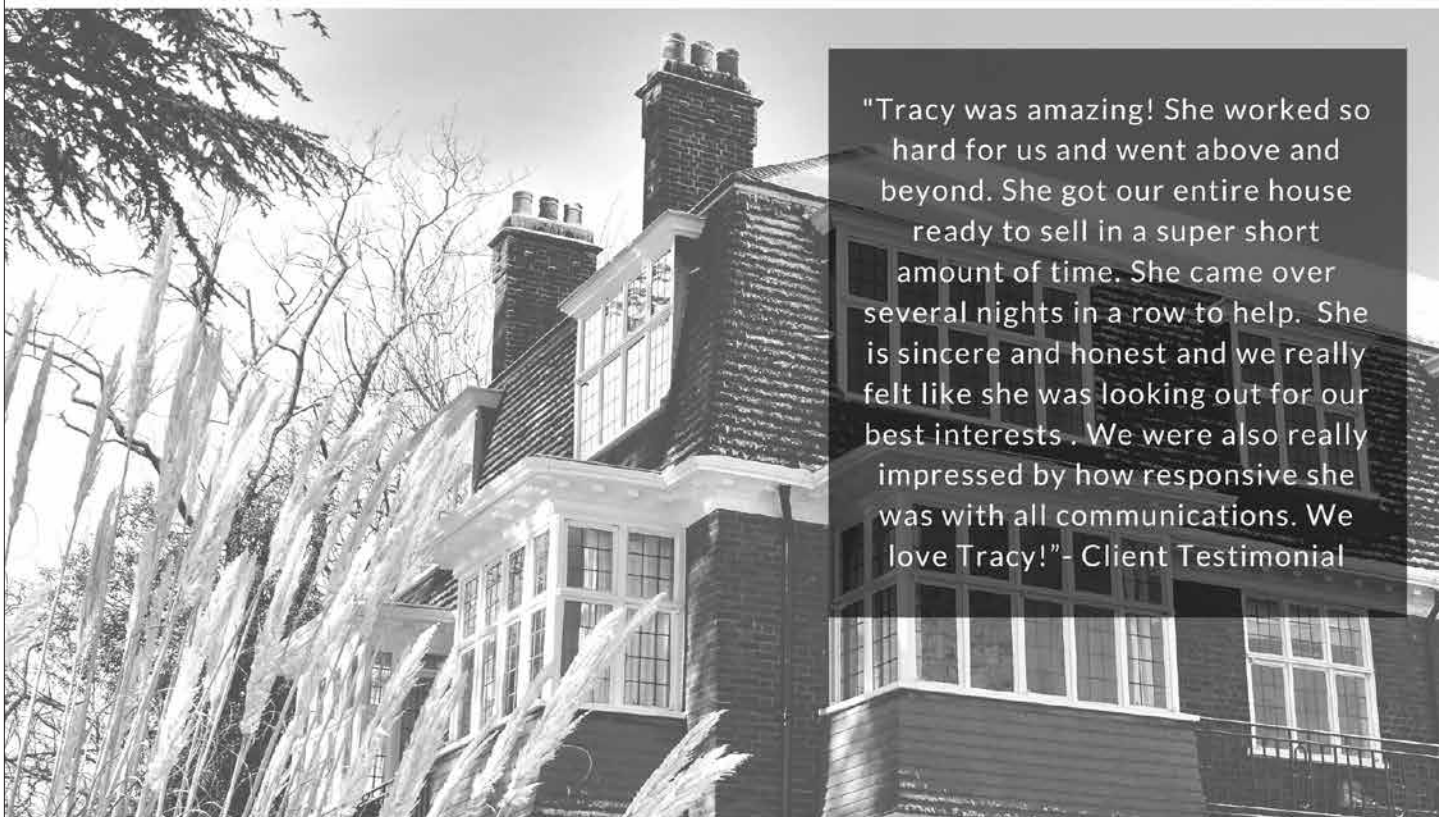
Join the Hard Hat Club, a construction club and events for kids. For more info, go to monroestreetarts.org/construction-updates/

Mark your calendars for these Monroe St. events:

- Spring Celebration—May 19
- Jazz in the Park—June 16
- Make Music Madison—June 21
- Independents Week Sidewalk Sale—June 22 through July 4 ■

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Meet Christy McKenzie of Pasture & Plenty

by **Ronnie Hess**

Ronnie: I can't exactly say "Welcome to the neighborhood." You know the West Side and Madison well.

Christy: Yes, I grew up on Virginia Terrace and attended West High. After many years out in the Pacific Northwest, I am thrilled to be back in home territory! We have two young kids and it is priceless to be close to grandparents and the rest of the family.

Ronnie: But why choose this corner of University Avenue to launch a business, one where there are already several eateries?

Christy: We love the history of this building, which served the neighborhood as a Rennebohm's pharmacy and lunch counter for close to 40 years and, most recently, housed the Sushi Box for almost 20 years. The location is a wonderful crossroads for folks as they commute in and out from the neighborhood, into the hospitals and University. We are excited to join a growing business district and bring something a little different to the table (pun intended), with a focus on ready-to-go, locally-sourced meals.

Ronnie: You've got a different business model than the usual restaurant start-up: Both restaurant and market with ready-to-eat meals and meal kits on a subscription basis. Why this model?

Christy: Our goal is to create a community food hub, where there are always core things you can rely on—an awesome Wednesday night chicken dinner, easy, healthy and delicious lunch and pick-up dinner options, and where there is always something fun coming next—a pop-up night with Big Mouth Pasta, a Beer Dinner with Isthmus Dining Company, or a craft cooking class taught by a local expert.

Ronnie: Meal kits/prepared foods aren't exactly new to the neighborhood. MyMenu, a Canadian firm that sold frozen meals at a nearby University Avenue location, closed after a short run in 2009. How are you different?

Christy: We put together a meal kit solution which does things a little differently from national meal services. We source as much as we can from local farms and ranchers. We cook from scratch, and provide a combination of meal types in each week's kit: one cook kit, one ready-to-eat, and one farm-to-freezer meal. We package in glassware, pack the kit in reusable canvas bags, and use the empties for your next week's meal kit in a sustainable cycle. We created this model to solve a need we felt in our own home kitchen and have had good feedback that we are providing a solution folks had been looking for.



The Pasture & Plenty Team: Nate Carney, Executive Chef, Christy McKenzie & Tony Vandermuss, Owners, Ann Marie Albrechtson, Program Manager (photo by Sunny Frantz)

One of our members is calling our model CSA 2.0. I think that is a nice way to think about it. We help folks who wish they had time to break down a box of veggies from the farm each week support the same farms and enjoy local, seasonal eating every night.

Ronnie: Is the convenience food market really a growing market?

Christy: I believe that we are at the beginning of a major cultural shift in how we define convenience and quality in home-served meals. Consumers are looking for authentic food experiences and for innovative businesses to help them put meals on the table and connect to local producers.

Ronnie: Any other plans you want to share with us.

Christy: There is a lot of work underway at the corner of Highland and University! We're putting on a new roof, and have secured a façade grant to be able to restore the storefront glass and the high windows on the Highland frontage of the building. Spring will be exciting, as we work to open the renovated space. We are so grateful for the support of neighbors who have stopped by. ■

Pasture & Plenty is located at 2433 University Avenue at the corner of Highland Avenue; visit pastureandplenty.com for hours of operation.

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Regent Market Co-op, Neighborhood Destination

by Greg Lawless, RMC Board Member

When my wife and I moved to the campus-end of Kendall Avenue in 2008, the corner of Regent and Allen quickly became a weekly errand, either to buy wine and beer at Mike's on Regent, or to grab some missing ingredients at the co-op.

In 2016, I watched from the sidelines and was impressed with how the store stayed open through the expansion. I bought a growler, and my visits increased. When I was asked to join the board the following year, I said yes because I believe both the store and that entire intersection are poised to grow as a neighborhood destination, and I had some vague ideas for how to accelerate that.

Occasionally now I pull the store manager, John Wendt, aside with new products ideas, or I'll ask, "Do we really sell that much blue slush?" But I've come to respect his knowledge and instincts, and I've also learned he's happy to try new things.

That would include my idea last fall for Thursday Night Socials, inviting "local luminaries" to stop by for a beer and pose for a photo wearing a silly hat. His enthusiasm for Food Cart Night didn't wane when frigid weather cancelled our kick-off in February. After drawing a large crowd in early March, John wanted to try it every week, and maybe we will this summer.

If you stopped in the store one evening in April, you might have seen a private dinner party crowding the



Food Cart Night in March was a big hit with neighbors.

little ice cream parlor. This time the idea came from long-time member (#25) Margaret Krome, and once again, John said, "Sure, let's try it."

My "hypothesis" for growing sales at Regent Market Co-op is pretty rudimentary: "If they love the store, they'll shop here more." When you're short a cup of flour, or you need a bottle of wine for a party, how can we tip the scale in favor of our co-op? We can do it by creating an uncommonly friendly atmosphere, and continually introducing new foods and activities to keep things interesting. And as the foot traffic increases, and people learn it isn't so hard to park after all, other businesses will take note. ■

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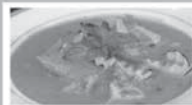
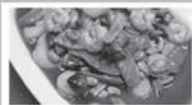
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Greetings from Randall!

The Run for the Roses heralds in the month of May. Tracking those sterling steeds on Derby Day puts me into full gallop toward summer school at Thoreau.

Time was when attending the summer session seemed almost punitive. Children were more compliant than inspired, motivated by a fear of repeating a grade. Activities were rote and mundane. Things have indeed changed—for the better. Our lessons are quarter-horse-paced and action-packed.

As principal, I celebrate the overhead sun with a bold band of critters. Muir Jaguars, Shorewood Sharks, Thoreau Thunderbirds, Franklin Falcons and, of course, Randall Raccoons. To realize a shared identity, we all morph into one mascot: The Thoreau Thoroughbreds. Our morning announcements begin with my rousing neigh and unabashed blubbers. My favorite time of the day is the communal breakfast which has a camplike flavor. This brief but precious gathering builds our bonds and sends us off to the races with a common cause.

At our opening staff meeting in June, I borrow from the life of Henry David, including fun facts and quotes. I give a multiple choice quiz featuring one correct response and two false answers. One example is:

The play *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* features the reason Thoreau was incarcerated. It was:

- A. Thoreau refused to pay six years of delinquent poll taxes because of his opposition to the Mexican-American War and slavery.
- B. Thoreau was cited for disturbing the peace in Concord Park by making nighttime bird calls. When questioned by the constable, he answered in bird calls.
- C. Thoreau extinguished the lanterns and candles in an all-night church, claiming the illumination was a fire hazard and wasted on spirits who could see in the dark.

The answer is A. I find it of particular interest that many of our Thoroughbreds are African American and Latino, the same groups for whom Thoreau was advocating well over a century ago. Knowing there is no biological basis for any achievement gaps experienced by these scholars, we seek the root cause of their substandard performance. While the matter may be complex, I heed Thoreau's call to, "Simplify! Simplify! Simplify!" We check our pedagogical practices and fashion our teaching to the cultures of the youngsters. We also recognize that *how* our students think is greatly affected by *what*



Randall Principal John Wallace's mount of choice is the thoroughbred.

they think of themselves as learners. A deficit personal mindset is a difficult obstacle to leap. We strive to make the children believe in themselves as much as we believe in them.

Last summer I visited my son, his wife and their daughter in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We spent a pristine Saturday morning at Walden Pond. I reveled in seeing a replica of Thoreau's minimal cabin and swimming in the frigid fresh water. I vowed to carry Henry David's flaming torch back to Wisconsin to lead marginalized children to a better life. Thoreau doesn't need the torch anyway. He can see in the dark.

Go Raccoons! ■

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Friends of Hoyt Park

by Anne Reis

The Friends of Hoyt Park would like to invite you to explore and support your neighborhood park. As the RNA representative for the FHP Board, I want to introduce you to the park and highlight some of the upcoming news and activities. On the very edge of Regent Neighborhood, Hoyt Park is a historic 23-acre urban park offering hiking trails through upland woods and prairies, a recreational field and basketball court, a playground, reservable picnic shelters, outdoor stone fireplaces, and a scenic overlook. The park was initially acquired and developed in the late 19th century and, for a time, had both a ski jump and a toboggan run. Owen Parkway was built through the park and provided a leisurely drive and scenic overlook to what was once undeveloped countryside.

In 1995, Hoyt Park was designated as a Historic Landmark because of its unique features. That same year, the Friends of Hoyt Park (FHP) was incorporated as a non-profit with a mission to protect, maintain and raise funds for the natural areas, historic structures and recreational land. Over the years, FHP has helped restore the historic stone fireplaces, maintained the trail system, removed invasive species, planted native forbs, hosted owl walks and other nature-based activities, and engaged neighbors in the enjoyment and preservation of their local recreational space. FHP also funds a summer park ranger to help with park maintenance.

Willing volunteers are invited to help out during our monthly work parties from Spring–Fall. These work parties are a great way to meet your neighbors. During the May 19th work party, we will be planting a butterfly garden near the parking area. The June volunteer opportunity presents a chance to maintain some of the hiking trails.

A new addition to the park is a mounted rocket box bat house stationed near the main shelter. The park now has three bat houses to support summer roosting. Acoustic bat surveys are planned for June. Get out your headlamps or flashlights and join us for a night-time stroll through the park in search of foraging bats. We'll use a special detector that records and transmits the bats' echolocation calls.

FHP recently received a grant from the Dane County Environmental Council to hire a contractor to conduct controlled burns in the Ready and Sunset Overlook prairies. This is planned for October or November and neighbors will be notified of the burn on the FHP website and with flyers for adjacent

regentneighborhood.org



Entrance columns to Hoyt Park at 3902 Regent Street

homes. Prescribed burns are a regular part of prairie maintenance in Hoyt Park and help maintain the health of the prairie plant community by controlling woody species, removing dead vegetation and returning nutrients back to the soil. FHP also invites Regent Neighborhood residents to become a member or renew your membership at an individual or sustaining member level. Your financial support helps fund habitat restoration activities, nature-based learning opportunities, and other park events. This is your park. Enjoy it and support it!

Visit us at hoypark.org or the Friends of Hoyt Park Facebook page for information on upcoming events. ■



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Alder Report — District 5

by Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

Dear Neighbors,

Writing this update on a snowy Spring day, hoping for beautiful Spring weather by the time the newsletter makes it to your homes. Here are some of the City issues related to our neighborhood:

- The reconstruction of Prospect Avenue between Regent and Van Hise will start in late Spring/early Summer.
- The Mason Street to Chamberlain Avenue and Shepard Terrace to N. Franklin Avenue reconstruction has been postponed until next year.
- The Monroe Street reconstruction started in March. I have received feedback from a number of you about the increase in traffic and speeding in our neighborhood. I have asked MPD to increase traffic enforcement whenever possible.
- The new owners of 11 N. Allen Street plan to open their restaurant in early Summer and have applied for an alcohol license. I will be sending the information on the neighborhood meeting regarding their alcohol license application through the RNA listserv.
- The Midtown Police Station is scheduled to open this summer.



Alder Shiva
Bidar-Sielaff

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



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Dane County Board Report — District 10

by Supervisor Jeremy Levin

I hope this edition of the RNA Newsletter finds you and your family well. As you read this, the spring elections have likely occurred, and I'm honored to be entrusted with another two-year term to serve District 10.

Recently, the county took a key step forward in the redevelopment of the Alliant Energy Center (AEC), county officials have selected an award-winning, international firm to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the 164-acre campus and all of its facilities including the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Exposition Hall, New Holland Pavilions and Willow Island. Perkins+Will was selected among seven highly-qualified firms that applied for the contract. The firm has broad experience in exposition facilities including the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee.

Other recent action by the Board included:

- Accepting a grant of \$244,465 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the resurfacing of the Capital City State Trail. Nine miles of the Capital City State Trail is managed by Dane County Parks per a cooperative agreement with the DNR. The County plans a phased project to resurface those nine miles of bicycle trail later this year.
- Approving the selection of Gorman & Co. for redevelopment of the county-owned Messner property on East Washington Avenue. Gorman is proposing a 5-story, mixed-use affordable housing development known as Valor on Washington. It would include first floor space and a coffee shop for Dry Hootch, a veteran's service organization. The upper floors would include 64 two- and three-



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

bedroom affordable apartment units targeted to families and veterans.


- Amending Dane County Ordinances to restore original language for the Domestic Partnership Registry for same sex domestic partnerships. The change is related to the Supreme Court decision allowing same sex marriages and applies only to Dane County residents largely for private sector insurance purposes.

Looking forward in 2018, the County will look to set priorities for the county regarding funding for recreation or trails, along with preservation of key environmental or natural heritage sites. A major thrust of the 2018-2023 Parks and Open Space Plan is trying to provide a variety of opportunities for people from all walks of life to enjoy the natural beauty of Dane County. Identifying barriers that may be limiting the ability of some people to visit our parks, including: language, financial need, awareness of the parks, and transportation that are all potential limitations to the public experiencing our county parks. A public survey also showed support for better trail connections, more dog parks and improved restrooms/shelters.

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



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Announcements—

Monroe Street Farmers' Market
Every Sunday from May 6 to October 28
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Edgewood High School parking lot

For more information, check out the website at monroestreetfarmersmarket.org ■

Regent Resale

Saturday, May 12, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

West High School Cafeteria

Donate, volunteer, and shop to support our schools! Regent Neighborhood Association, West High, and Franklin/Randall Elementary Schools host the Regent Resale in support of our school community. All proceeds benefit West High and Franklin/Randall students, teachers, and classrooms.

What makes a great sale? Great donations! Please set aside gently-used, clean, working items that no longer serve a need in your household as donations for the Spring Regent Resale. Best sellers include; winter coats, clothing for all ages, sports equipment, bikes, books and board games, video games and systems, toys, stereo equipment, newer CDs and DVDs, collectible knickknacks, cooking equipment, tableware, and furniture.

Please drop off contributions under the overhang outside the West High Cafeteria Entrance located off the staff parking lot. Signs will guide you from Regent Street and Van Hise Avenue. Drop-off continues between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, now through Friday May 11.

To help with the Resale, contact Chloe Lauer at cmlauer@gmail.com or sign-up at signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aadaf2fa57-regent2 ■

Annual Compost Bin / Rain Barrel Sale
Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Alliant Energy Center north parking lot

For more information, visit cityofmadison.com/streets/compost/CompostBinSale.cfm ■

Classics Camp on UW-Madison Campus
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Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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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 July edition is May 31, 2018. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood about local history or personalities and discussions of local issues. Please send items or inquiries to Megan Heneke at meganheneke@gmail.com.