

egent Neighborhoo ASSOCIATION

November 2023 Newsletter | regentneighborhood.org

Save the Date!

Regent Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting Tuesday, November 28, 2023 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

at Capital High School 3802 Regent Street, Madison

Speaker:

Victor Chukwudebe, Principal

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. — School Tour

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. —

Neighborhood business meeting in the Commons area

Regent Market Celebrates a Century

by Mary K. Rouse, former RMC **Board Member and President**

On behalf of the Regent Market Cooperative, I extend congratulations to five generations of neighborhood shoppers. One hundred years ago, in 1923, the



Universal Grocery and Randall Market Meats opened their doors at 2136 Regent Street.

First, the place was known as the "Little Store, where you can't avoid your friends" and then later "Joe's." For the last 25 years, it's been the Co-op, a membership cooperative with member benefits. Thanks go to the support of generous residents in the West High, Edgewood, University Heights, and Regent areas, and to the leadership of many people including Jay Rath, a nine-year employee from the neighborhood, famous for his creative grocery cartoon ads. Today, the Co-op remains the anchor business on the corner of Regent and Allen Streets, frequented also by many non-members.

How can such a small grocery survive in the current environment, where Amazon, Walmart and other large box stores dominate the market? It is a challenging assignment, with razor thin profits. Interviews with shoppers, members, store employees, volunteers, and individuals from those five generations have provided us with some answers. Take John Wendt, our general manager, the longest serving employee. He defected (continued on page 3)



Regent Neighborhood

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

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A Note from the President

Dear Neighbors,

What a wonderful summer it has been! The return of our neighborhood July 4th festival was definitely a highlight for me. Thank you, Tehya, for all your work organizing the event!

Our general membership meeting has been scheduled for November 28 at 5:30 p.m. It will be in person and a great opportunity to tour the new Capital High School. At the meeting we will elect the RNA Board. We do have a few openings, so if you are interested in joining the Board, please contact me.

Wishing you all a beautiful Fall,

-Shiva



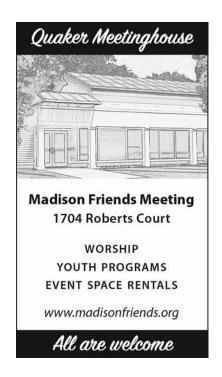
RNA Board President Shiva Bidar

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

Welcome to Our New Advertiser—



A Note from the Editor—Goings, Comings, and Celebrations

by Ronnie Hess

This is an issue of goings and comings. After 25 years on Regent Street as owner of Higher Fire, Linda Leighton is retiring. We will miss her pottery classes, and her excellent selection of pottery from some of Wisconsin's best artists. But we also welcome a few blocks away, on Monroe Street, Susie Moberly's Torn Edge Arts teaching studio. Susie is a metalsmith and retired West High School teacher. We've asked both these artists/teachers to talk about their work in the neighborhood.

Also going and coming are two County Board Supervisors for District 13. Olivia Xistris-Songpanya stepped down earlier this year and has been replaced by Jay Brower in a vote in September by the County Board. Messages from both are in the pages ahead.

Madison has a new youth poet laureate, and she's from West High School. And the doors of a new school have opened at Capital High.

We also celebrate in this issue the presence of two special residents. The first is the Regent Market, 100 years in one place, 25 of which as the Regent Market Cooperative. We celebrate, too, a new legal inhabitant of our neighborhood—Rudi, who scarcely needs any introduction.

Regent Market Celebrates (continued from page 1)

from Whole Foods to begin his career at the Co-op 23 years ago and calls it "his second home." He loves the Co-op because it is small, personal, and local, a spot where he can talk with farmers directly. A plus is the opportunity to help students, those both in high school and college, to hold down their very first part-time jobs, learning about small businesses and good work habits.

It was the Co-op's good fortune to have Joe Heggestad as beloved owner from 1974 to 1995. He cites "congenial personnel, products people want to buy, convenient location, OK parking, and members who are determined to see it thrive."

We note, too, Karen Carlson. She's been a part-time employee for 20 years (2003–present). She asks, "How many other places do you shop where people know your name?" And, "Where can [children] expand their independence and learn to handle money by shopping without adults in a protected environment?"

Eight-year-old Remy Tucker, a third grader, and his sister, Roz, who is six, shop with their parents every week for hot dogs and hamburger buns, pasta, ice cream, tacos, and shaved ice. (The kids urge readers to "skip the broccoli.") Their mode of transportation is to walk, bike, or ride their scooters. Earlier in the children's young lives, their parents pushed them to the Co-op in baby carriers. Jordan Tucker, who is Remy and Roz's father, made his debut into neighborhood service four years ago, becoming volunteer president. He says he has learned a lot, especially how the Co-op "is so much more than just a place to get groceries."

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. If you are currently a member or shopper at the



Mary Rouse in full costume years ago to promote the Regent Market Co-op.

Co-op, thank you very much, and please continue. And congratulations again across the generations! If you have not, please come on in and look around. We need your help to add more members and volunteers, to strengthen, improve, and celebrate this outstanding neighborhood asset.

Alder Report—District 5

Overcoming Obstacles in Obtaining Child Care: One Approach

Those of you who know me personally know that I'm a mom. While my kids are young adults now, I remember how challenging it was to find child care for them when they were too young for school, especially when they were under two years old. The difficulty in finding quality, affordable



Alder Regina Vidaver Photo:Jeanine Schneider

child care has only worsened in Madison over time.

Having early childcare available within our community is critically important for us to be a resilient city. Working parents have two choices when they decide to have children: find and pay for child care, or have one parent remain out of the workforce, often for an extended period of time. Parents opting out of the workforce not only exacerbates the labor shortages our community is facing across all employment fields, but also reduces the earning power of that individual, and the family as a whole. Having one parent out of the workforce also reduces the likelihood that individual will move forward with entrepreneurial pursuits, thus robbing our community of innovative new businesses that could enhance our overall health, wellbeing, and resilience. Thus, child care availability is something we should all care about.

There are multiple reasons why early child care has become both so expensive and so hard to access, even for those who can pay for it. These challenges include, but are not limited to:

- Staffing shortages—It is very difficult for early child care providers to find qualified child care workers willing to accept the modest wage and benefit packages they are able to offer.
- Inflation—Inflationary pressures affect businesses directly, in increased costs for everything from rent, to utilities, to building repairs. But, these same inflationary pressures also impact child care workers who need to pay for their own rent, food, transportation, and continuing education. The mismatch between the pay scale for child care providers and their basic needs often means staff move on to other, higher-paying jobs outside of the child care sector.
- Staff Retention—The burnout our child care providers face is real. Quality child care is a

demanding profession, and these are caring individuals. But the demands placed on them, and the limited opportunities for vacation and sick leave take their toll on even the most committed workers. Thus, as difficult as it is to find good staff, it is just as hard to keep them.

• Licensing and Certification—We all want our children cared for in safe and competently run settings. That said, regulatory requirements are time consuming, particular, and demanding. They can trip up even the most conscientious provider.

While staffing is perhaps the most challenging aspect of the current child care shortage, there are also home-based and center-based businesses that could use help when it comes to their physical spaces. For a home-based business, one needs space, of course, but that space has to be safe and functional – free of radon and lead-based paint, and with appropriate railings on stairs, and an enclosed backyard. The expenses a home-based provider might need to incur to establish or maintain their home as a licensed child care provider could prevent them from ever opening their dream business. And, center-based providers often struggle to add space, make HVAC upgrades, or upgrade fencing or parking in order to expand the number of children they can serve. To help with these challenges, I have introduced a \$250,000 amendment to the City's capital budget that will help child care providers pay for needed improvements, particularly when those improvements are likely to increase the number of children that will be served. My proposal will create a zero interest, forgivable loan program for child care operators who want to create new space for child care, or update or expand their existing space. The program will begin on an experimental basis and be evaluated after the first year to determine if it is meeting the goal of increasing the number of childcare slots available in our city. If it works, it can be continued, or even expanded in future years. And if not, we can end it and look to other potential solutions for increasing child care access.

I would love to hear from you about this or other ideas you have about how we can expand access to quality child care and ensure parents have the opportunity to stay in the workforce through their child-rearing years if that's what they want to do. We'll be a better city for it if they can.

Sincerely,
Regina Vidaver
District 5 Alder
District5@cityofmadison.com
(608) 616-0669 ■

Dane County Board Report—District 13

Hi neighbors! I am pleased to introduce myself to you as the newly appointed District 13 Dane County Board Supervisor. District 13 covers the portion of the Regent Street neighborhood (roughly) from Virginia Terrace to Camp Randall. The midterm resignation of the previous incumbent resulted in the need for a special appointment in accord with County ordinance. I was privileged to



Supervisor Jay Brower

participate in a public process, along with two other valued neighbors, leading to my appointment.

The County Board is responsible for budgeting and policymaking in a variety of areas stretching from criminal justice to climate and environment to public health. In my role as Supervisor, I serve on the Health and Human Needs committee, which guides investment in important county services related to public health, housing, veterans, along with other vital programs.

In addition to serving on the Board, I work as Lead Organizer with SEIU Wisconsin, a labor union representing healthcare and service workers in Dane County and throughout the state. Prior to holding this position, I worked as a professor and elected labor leader. Those twin roles, in their own ways, provided important opportunities to reflect on how economic inequality is reproduced. Lessons learned from those experiences now inform my full-time efforts in the service of working people organizing to demand fair pay under reasonable working conditions.

As Supervisor, I intend to contribute to a progressive vision for our county focused on creating more just and equitable communities that support the thriving of our friends and neighbors. I welcome your ideas and advocacy aimed toward accomplishing this vision. Please reach out to me. I look forward to meeting many more of my neighbors as I start my campaign for the spring election to continue serving you in my new role as District 13 Supervisor.

Sincerely,

Jay Brower Supervisor, District 13

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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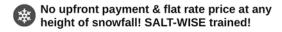


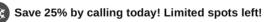
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Dane County Board—District 13

Dear Regent Neighborhood Association,

Happy Fall! As you may have heard, I no longer serve as the Dane County Supervisor for District 13. It was with great sadness that I decided to resign from my Board position in August. I would like to take this opportunity to provide more information on my resignation, and properly say a farewell.



Olivia Xistris-Songpanya

An opportunity for me to move abroad came up, and I decided to take it. As you read this, I will be in Germany, beginning the next steps of my academic and professional careers. Because I knew I was going to move this fall, I did not sign a lease in Madison for the upcoming year. Therefore, as soon as I moved out of my house and district, I could no longer serve on the Board. I am very fortunate for my time serving, and here are some highlights from this past year:

• The Dane Arts Commission received a \$40,000 youth grant last budget season. This amazing grant

- was put towards programs in the arts which provide equitable opportunities for youth to be involved.
- After nearly a decade, the Dane County Board passed a plan along with proper funding to take the next steps of building a jail and closing the dangerous and inhumane current one.
- This summer, the Dane County Board overwhelmingly approved a resolution which would make Dane County a sanctuary county for the trans community and youth. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, an important and necessary step for inclusivity and support for the trans community.
- Dane County received financial compensation from an opioid settlement. Many hours have been put into deciding how to use the opioid settlement fund, including public hearings to ensure these dollars go back to the community.

I would like to thank my constituents for giving me this amazing opportunity and trusting me to serve and represent you on the Board. I will certainly miss Madison while I am away but am thankful for the memories and opportunities!

Olivia Xistris-Songpanya ■



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Dane County Board Report—District 11

Neighbors—

Fall is definitely here! While you may be getting out the sweaters and boots, and preparing for the snows to start swirling, I'm digging into the county budget. The county relies on a mix of public tax levy and pass-throughs from other government bodies, like the State Department of Health Services that pays the county



Supervisor Richelle Andrae

to administer programs. We are limited in how much we can spend in our operating budget based on a complex state formula mostly dependent on new private development in the last year. For capital projects/borrowing funds, we have more freedom and are not constrained by the same levy limits. In 2023, we spent about 40% of the county budget on human services, followed by public safety at 22%. \$224 million of the total \$677 million operating budget is tax levy; \$245 million is intergovernmental (state/federal).

The County Executive proposed his budget on October 2, and throughout the next month the Board of Supervisors made changes and worked toward a budget that meets both day-to-day operational needs like waste removal and invests in long-term priorities such as climate resiliency.

As a Committee Chair, it's my responsibility to make sure that the budgets for the departments under the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee (Sheriff's Office, Clerk of Courts, Juvenile Court, Corporation Counsel, Family Court, Medical Examiner, 911, DA's Office, Pre-trial services, Emergency Management, and Office of Justice Reform... it's a lot!), are aligned with our priorities and budget requirements. There is a proposed body-worn camera pilot from the Sheriff and the need for significant new staff at the 911 call center. These 911 communication staff have a very hard job, often dealing with trauma and navigating very complex, time-sensitive safety concerns. Today, many staff are facing mandatory overtime and this will only cause burnout and retention challenges. We need these staff, who pick up the phone when we're at our worst, to be at their best. We also heard loud and clear from non-profit partner agencies like Journey Mental Health that more competitive contracts are needed to improve mental health staffing.

We will allocate over \$800 million in funds this fall; please make your voice heard on issues we need to address. Budget resources are available at board.

countyofdane.com/budget (overview of the process and timeline) and admin.countyofdane.com/budget (detailed budget documents including current budget, summary, and proposals from department heads for 2024 budgets).

In other news, our county's Register of Deeds has identified several cases of local property fraud. We have a free service to sign up for alerts on your property available at: propertyfraudalert.com/ widane. Three County Board Supervisors announced their resignations this summer and short-term appointments were confirmed in late September. This includes a new Supervisor for district 13 which covers the Regent neighborhood east of Allen: Jay Brower. All Supervisors will need to run for election in April 2024. On September 12, the consolidated Dane County Jail project went out to bid, allowing potential contracting firms to apply for the job. This process will remain open through November. Groundbreaking for the first phase of the downtown project is expected to take place in early 2024. This is a massive effort and once completed, will improve conditions and access to appropriate services for justice-involved individuals.

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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From Representative Shelia Stubbs—Wisconsin Assembly District 77

I am so pleased to contribute to this newsletter and connect with you, my constituents. This legislative session has been full of activity and there is much to discuss.

In August, I had the pleasure of visiting Madame Vice President Kamala Harris at her residence in Washington, D.C., for the Black Women in Elected Leadership reception. It was inspiring to be around



Representative Shelia Stubbs

many accomplished elected Black female leaders. My gratitude goes out to the Vice President and the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women).

In September, I had the opportunity to testify on my first bill of this session. This bill, titled Assembly Bill 374, will perform the necessary task of updating our state law with regard to selling and fitting over-the-counter hearing aids, in order to create synergies with federal guidelines regarding this practice. This legislation can ensure that residents in our state possess the ability to be fitted and sold a medical device that is needed to live, work, and enjoy life comfortably. Once presented, this bill was unanimously voted for within the Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform, and so it will be going to the floor for a vote soon.

Shortly thereafter, Governor Evers called a special session of the legislature, which was ignored by Republican legislators. During this special session, however, Democrats proposed an amendment to AB-237 that would have replaced the bill with funding for the Childcare Counts program. As a mother and a former educator, I hold the well-being of Wisconsin's children and families among my top policy considerations. Our kids deserve to grow up in

communities that prioritize their health, education, and upbringing.

This session, I also attended the first meeting for the Speaker's Task Force on Human Trafficking, which I joined in August. This bipartisan task force is committed to taking action so that no Wisconsinite will ever again endure the physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering that human trafficking inflicts on our neighborhoods and communities. I have great expectations for what we will accomplish for our human trafficking survivors and for the safety of our communities.

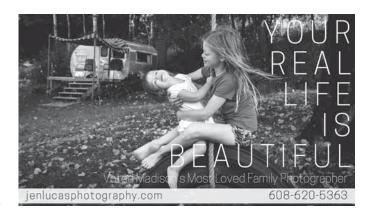
The last weekend of September, I had two speaking engagements. First, I spoke at the 15th annual Black Women's Wellness Day conference, where I drew attention to how Black women's health in Wisconsin is in a state of emergency, especially since Wisconsin is statistically the worst state to raise a Black family. The second engagement was at Allen Centennial Garden's Harvest Festival, where I gave remarks on the importance of diversity not only in our food, but in our community as well.

Shelia Stubbs

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Telephone: 608-266-3784; 888-534-0077

Fax: 608-282-3677 ■





Greetings from Randall

While monitoring the hallways recently, I became a bystander to a conversation. A handful of teachers were discussing where their children were attending college. I was focused on other matters until I heard, "You know, John Legend wears Depends." My curiosity was piqued as to how that detail related to their discussion. I moved into their circle. "May I ask what John Legend wearing Depends has to do with your kids going to college?" The group burst into laughter, with one responding, "No! I said, 'John Legend went to Penn." While my hearing is not what it once was, it is amply acute to capture the sounds that abound around us.

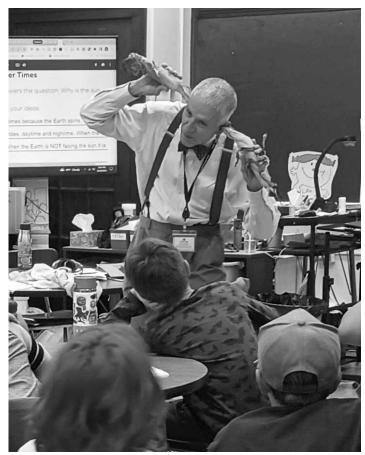
Our RNA soundtrack features some elements uncommon to many other neighborhoods. We've grown accustomed to staccato helicopters flying high and low both day and night. The drone tone of trains rouses us from our sleep, then gently woos a lullaby for our return to the land of nod. We march in stopat-the-top style to the beats of the UW marching band practicing down the avenue. We revel in the lyrical miracle of children at play.

Another sound somewhat unique to our neighborhood is the morning music we play as students arrive at Randall. On each of the days of Hispanic Heritage Month, we featured Latino-based melodies. One windy morning, a touch of salsa filled the air as the trees swayed in rhythm.

'Tis the season for not only the sound of salsa, but also the taste. The first freezes of fall drop the curtain on the garden show of our tomatoes, corn, and other delights. Yet we have the fruits of our labor standing ready and able to boil into a savory muy deliciosa sauce.

Our home tomato cages now sleep near the compost heap topped with corn shucks. As I put them to bed for the winter, I thought about the salsa mix. I also thought about a related mix I use to grow our children.

I realize that I really can't control our students, nor do I wish to do so. The only person I can control is myself. But I can strive to create the conditions for the youngsters to blossom and thrive. I act as the tomato cage, providing structure and guidance for them as they reach for the sun. I till and toil to provide the scholars with all they want and need to enrich their learning experience. I have some sense of what they need. But how does one know what they want? Well, that's where the ears of corn come in. I listen to the children. The more I listen, the more I



Randall Principal John Wallace demonstrates the application of auditory assistive technology.

learn. The more I learn, the more I realize what I didn't know.

I'm reminded of the Scottish Gaelic proverb, "The heaviest ear of corn bends its head lowest." The greater one's knowledge becomes, the more one realizes how ignorant one is. Mine is the treasured joy of having my humbled head lowered every day, which has the added benefit of putting my ears a bit closer to the spoken words of our students.

Go Raccoons!

John



West High News

Dear Regent Neighbors,

Warm greetings from Madison West to our neighbors in the Regent community! As we start another exciting academic year, we wanted to take a moment to share some updates with our neighbors.

We are delighted to inform you that the construction progress at West High has been remarkable. As we start



Principal Daniel Kigeya

the school year, we are proud to announce that the construction is almost 75% complete. By the end of next summer, the entire project should be done. This achievement signifies a significant step forward for the entire West community.

One of the highlights of this construction project is the new Ragatz Family pool. This state-of-the-art facility will not only provide a modern and safe swimming environment for our students, but also serve as an asset for the entire West community. We envision this pool becoming a hub for aquatic activities, fostering a sense of unity and wellness among our students and neighbors alike. We look forward to sharing it with all of you.

In addition to the Ragatz Family pool, we are also thrilled about the completion of the new Phys-Ed gym. This gymnasium will provide ample space for our physical education classes, athletic teams, and extracurricular activities. This facility is so state of the art, we couldn't figure out how to dim the lights during Homecoming. Bit of a bummer for the kids and the Glow-In-The-Dark theme, but good times were had. In the end, this new space will enhance our students' overall educational experience and serve to promote a healthy and active lifestyle for them

Furthermore, the ongoing construction has allowed us to create numerous additional classrooms and offices. These new spaces will enable us to further expand our instructional goals and better serve our students. With increased capacity, we will have more opportunities to offer a diverse range of courses and allow for more scheduling flexibility.

As we move further into the year, I'd like to extend an invitation to the members of the Regent Neighborhood Association to join us for a special tour of our newly renovated spaces. We would be thrilled to showcase the progress we have made and provide

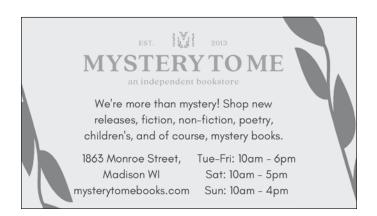
an opportunity for you to witness the positive impact these enhancements will have on our school and the wider community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding during the construction process. Together, we can ensure that Madison West continues to provide the highest quality education to our students. We know this can only happen with the support of partners such as yourselves.

Wishing you all a wonderful fall. We look forward to connecting soon.

Best regards,

Dan Kigeya Principal, West High ■





Greetings from Franklin

Hello everyone and happy fall from Franklin School! I am beyond excited to be back at Franklin this year! It has been a great start to the school year! Our students and teachers are focused on developing strong relationships to naturally develop trust when challenges present themselves later in the year. The start to this school year has felt different than in the past, as we welcomed our 1st and 2nd grade students back into the "lunchroom" for the first time in several years. Students who order school lunch have had access to our garden bar, which provides fresh fruit and vegetable choices. It has been great to see so many students enjoy them.

We have chosen to focus on developing a love and joy of reading this year, as well. Our campaign theme is "...just one more book!" Each week we have a dedicated block of time where classes will drop everything and read (DEAR). This time will evolve throughout the school year and will provide several opportunities for students to engage with one another around the topic of literacy. Additionally, we have a story walk in our Franklin Forest for our students and community to engage with. Feel free to stop by and read the story we have up. Our story walk will be updated at least two times a month. We hope you enjoy it!

Beyond the excitement happening during the school day, Franklin School and the Parent Teacher Organization are in the early planning stages of a playground remodel and renovation, in partnership



Franklin's garden bar provides fresh fruit and vegetables.

with our district. The primary focus of our planning is to improve the drainage on the playground, increase the amount of grass for students, and to develop a more inclusive playground so all children in our community can benefit from the Franklin School playground. Our team is working to develop a phased plan, to allow for time to fundraise for each phase.

We are looking forward to a strong year with our Falcons at Franklin! Thank you all for your continued support of our students and staff!

Emily Powers
Franklin Elementary Principal ■

Greetings from Capital High

Thank you for making us feel like a family in the Hoyt Park* and Regent neighborhoods. We appreciate the treats along with the warm welcomes and offers to volunteer here at Capital High. We are in the process of determining a special day for everyone to explore our new space while also meeting our students and faculty. Our families appreciate the hospitality, and we look forward to meeting everyone

Victor Chukwudebe, Principal Capital High School



Principal Victor Chukwudebe

*Ed—Technically, the VanChaMasShe (Van Hise, Chamberlain, Mason, Shepard) Neighborhood, which lies east of Hoyt Park. See vanchamasshe.org/vanchahuh/

For more on Mr. Chukwudebe, capital.madison.k12. wi.us/



Greetings from Blessed Sacrament School

It's a beautiful new year at Blessed Sacrament School. We're moving into our 100th in 2024 and plan to celebrate this milestone early and often!

School parents, parishioners, alumni, and other supporters joined us for a Roaring Twenties gala in late September. Flappers, "dappers," and some big cheeses stepped out at this Whangdoodle, and it was the cat's meow, or the bee's knees, if you prefer! Funds raised support our fine arts program as well as special projects and student scholarships. Mark your calendars now for our delicious Spaghetti Dinner on February 18, 2024.

We turned to fundraising and service to help those experiencing hunger and food scarcity. Our 300+ students gathered pledges from family and friends and walked, skipped, and ran in our annual all-school Hunger March in early October. It was a special time for our littlest Friars as they walked with their big buddies. Funds are still coming in, but last year, our students raised nearly \$30,000, which went out to local food banks and charities serving the homeless, the hungry as well as those addressing food insecurity more organically. This included the community agriculture training program sponsored by the Sinsinawa Dominican sisters, the order that founded our school in 1924. Funds also went to national and international charities.

Fall is full of other service opportunities. Our students work to make Christmas a little brighter by gathering toys, school supplies, personal items for children in developing countries through the Operation Christmas Child program. Students collaborate to pack the boxes that will be shipped internationally, tucking in artwork and personal notes.

Meanwhile, our 8th graders are busy working together to raise money for their class trip to Washington, D.C. this spring. This is a tradition that started several years ago and is one of the highlights of the year. It's not just about the trip; it's also about teamwork and learning new things. The students' efforts to raise funds for the trip teach them about working with others and being responsible, while making their dream trip come true.

Teamwork also takes center stage for our Friar athletes. Our 5th to 8th graders are now well into their fall sports season, which includes flag football and girls' volleyball. And not far away is the beginning of the winter basketball season. It's always fun to see our gym packed with students and families cheering the players. Sports are not



BSS students race to raise money in the school's Hunger March.

just about competition; they're also about fostering character, camaraderie, and personal growth among middle school students.

Go Friars!

Elizabeth First, efirst@school.blsacrament.org Carrie Bower, carrie@blsacrament.org ■



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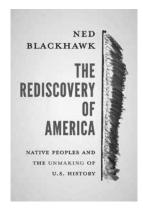
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What I'm Reading—Jon Miskowski

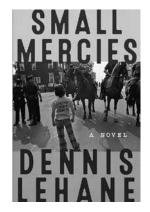
[Ed: Jon Miskowski is Director of Television at PBS Wisconsin and a past-president of the Regent Neighborhood Association. Jon and his wife, Mary, live on Kendall Avenue.]

The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the *Unmaking of U.S. History*, by former UW-Madison Professor Ned Blackhawk, covers the central role of Native Americans over five centuries of American history. Long-listed for the National Book Award, Blackhawk's unconventional telling offers a rethinking of the American story. Examples include the role of white settler-



militias and Pontiac's Rebellion as source of conflict inspiring the first shots of the American Revolution; the tumultuous and near failure of the nation-state between the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution; Native Americans' roles during the Civil War including supporting slavery and taking up arms against the Union. Most importantly, Blackhawk offers the long story, not only of survival, but of power, invention, and self-determination of Native Americans. Appropriately, and movingly this year, the end of the book includes a photo of Ada Deer at the event reestablishing Menominee sovereignty.

In Small Mercies, novelist and TV writer (see The Wire) Dennis Lehane presents a revenge crime thriller set in South Boston on the eve of school integration in 1974. Centering on the main character Mary Pat Fennesy, whose anger with school integration shifts to a desperate search for her missing daughter, Small Mercies is a gritty page-turner filled with violence, racism, organized

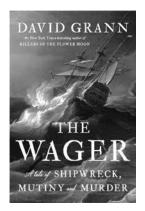


crime, and ruthless characters overwhelmed by loss doling out punishment and seeking revenge.

While segregation is in the background of Small Mercies, A Most Tolerant Little Town by historian Rachel Louise Martin offers a day-by-day history of the Clinton, Tennessee school district, the first school district in the South to implement desegregation in response to Brown v. Board. Ms. Martin's excellent

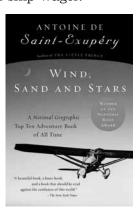
and difficult history expands the stories of school integration beyond the more widely-known Topeka, Little Rock, and Memphis and is a reminder the violent resistance to integration in communities across America and the trauma and scars that haunt our country.

This month's premiere of the film Killers of the Flower Moon brought me back to David Grann to find his new book *The* Wager: A Tale of Shipwrecks, Mutiny and Murder. Set in the 1740s during the War of Jenkin's Ear and the worldwide naval conflict of the British and Spanish empires, the book begins appropriately with an epigraph from William Golding and follows the desperate journey



of the crew of the wrecked British ship Wager.

Recently a friend was texting me quotes from Antoine de Saint-Exupery's The Little Prince, a great book to discover as a child and great book to rediscover as an adult. Dazzled again by his writing led me to Wind, Sand and Stars (1939) a memoir of his adventures as a pilot including his crash in the Sahara Desert. That prompted me to text quotes from de Saint-Exupery's



wonderful and often harrowing story that preceded, and was source material for, The Little Prince.

And what am I reading now? The very readable novel and unconventional love story Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin, and Wisconsin journalist Dan Egan's exploration of an environmental crisis, The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and A World Out of Balance. ■





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Poets Corner—Maliha Nu'Man, Madison Youth Poet Laureate

[Ed: The following poems are from Nu'Man's Polaroid, part one of her Photograph Trilogy, on pages 193 and 141. They are reprinted with permission.]

I'm ok with being wrong making mistakes.
I'm fine with losing friends and creating bonds.
I'm good with blood sweat and tears.
I've come to terms with broken bones and therapy sessions.
I've made peace with bad moments and good.

I'm not running from anything.
I've seen both sides.
I can finally say neither of them scare me,

because I've been through before, so, I have to, I'll through it again.

healing

is understanding that being a "people person" isn't living for other people

healing

is knowing the difference between talking when you have something to say not when you're uncomfortable in silence

healing

is letting go of the voice that used to suffocate you, that used to tell you what to say not because you wanted to say it but because they wouldn't like you if you didn't

healing

is saying no, and not feeling guilty





Thomas Hirsch, FAIA

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Madison Has New Youth Poet Laureate—Meet Maliha Nu'Man

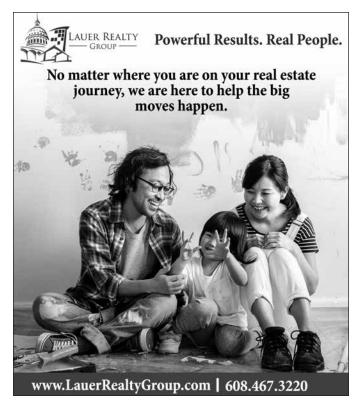
[Ed: In a past edition of the RNA newsletter, we introduced you to Madeleine Bohn, Madison's First Youth Poet Laureate. Her one-year term (2022–2023) has ended, and we're delighted to announce that the new MYPL is also a West High student, Maliha Nu'Man, a sophomore this academic year. We're including two of her poems, and the answers to a few questions we asked her. According to the City of Madison, "The Madison Youth Poet Laureate program is a partnership between the City of Madison and the National Youth Poet Laureate program, an initiative of Urban Word. The National Youth Poet Laureate program honors talented poets between the ages 13-19, and provides for competitive opportunities for young people to showcase their literary art on the regional and national stage."

RNA Newsletter: When did you start writing poetry?

MNM: I started writing poetry around when quarantine hit. I used to write a lot of music, a lot of song lyrics, and when the lyrics got to a point where they could be said, instead of sung, I got into poetry, because that was kind of the closest thing.

RNAN: What does poetry mean to you?

MNM: Poetry to me is reflection, not just of yourself but of the people around you. It's being about to digest everything that you've seen, everything someone has said, and to interpret it in a way others can also understand.





Madison's new youth poet laureate, Maliha Nu'Man, attends West High.

RNAN: You were mentored by Madeleine Bohn and Madison Poet Laureate Angela Trudell-Vasquez in the Madison Youth Poet Laureate Cohort. Tell us a little about that experience.

MNM: They prepared me in a lot of ways by just putting me in the room. I learned by watching them work together. It was extremely helpful having them walk me through what the position has to offer.

RNAN: What's next? What are your plans?

MNM: My plans consist of reading from my next book Polaroid that came out July 23. We obviously had the Mayor and Common Council reading in September that I was very excited about. I want to plan a couple more readings but for now they are still in the works.

RNAN: What are your favorite subjects or classes?

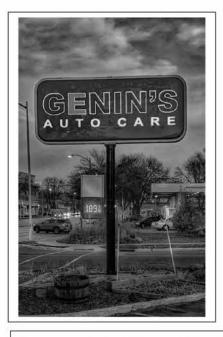
MNM: In terms of classes I'm taking Law and Ethics in the fall which I'm so excited for. A couple of upcoming juniors told me they really liked the teacher and class last year, which makes me so happy. I'm also a part of a civics engagement club that I love. We work on helping young people understand the system of voting and civics in general before being put into it. ■



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Recipe Corner—The Baited Plate

Jessica Winn, a resident of the Regent neighborhood for over 10 years, has been immersed in creative pursuits her entire life. She is a classically-trained singer with a passion for food. After her daughter was born, Jess stayed home with her, but also spent time testing recipes and refining her cooking style and skills. When her daughter started kindergarten in 2013, Jess explored turning her hobby into a career and began working as a personal chef. Once she established a client base, she officially launched her meal preparation service, The Baited Plate LLC. Jess also enjoys working with local small batch food businesses and is proud to be on the team at The Deliciouser, a local spice boutique making small batch, handcrafted blends at 931 East Main Street.

This chili recipe (with meat and vegetarian options) is one that Jess has been using and tweaking for over 20 years and is a family favorite. Enjoy!



Jessica Winn

Jess's Chili

Serves 4

- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 medium red onion, diced
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeds removed and finely diced (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 lb. ground sirloin
- 1 t. salt, or to taste (probably more if your chili powder is salt free)
- 15 oz. crushed tomatoes (plain, no added herbs— Jess uses San Marzano)
- 6 oz. tomato paste
- 8 oz. beef broth
- ½ c. brown sugar
- 1½ T. chili powder, or more to taste (or replace 1 T. chili powder with 1 T. or more of "Oaxaca" blend from The Deliciouser company for a richer, smokier flavor profile—price, from \$10.50 for ½ c. pouch. To order, thedeliciouser.com/shop-the-collection or see webpage for shops where the spices are carried.)
- ½ T. cumin seeds (Jess lightly toasts them before adding them to the chili; you can also use ground cumin.)
- ½ t. dried oregano
- 15 oz. dark red kidney beans, drained and rinsed 15 oz. pinto beans, drained and rinsed

Directions:

1. Heat the oil in a large (5–7 quart), heavy pot over medium heat (such as Staub enameled cast iron,

- or Le Creuset). Cook onions, jalapeños, and garlic for 2–3 minutes until fragrant. Add ground beef and salt and cook until the meat is browned, and onions are tender.
- 2. Stir in the crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, beef broth, brown sugar, herbs/spices, and beans. If you prefer firmer beans, you could add half of them now and half of them around 30 minutes before serving.
- 3. Cover, reduce heat to low, and simmer for about 1–2 hours. Stir occasionally during this time.
- 4. Adjust seasonings to taste before serving.

Options:

- Drain, gently dry, and then fry capers in 1/8-inch vegetable oil over medium heat, until crisp, around 3 minutes. Place on paper towels to absorb excess oil. Top the chili with the capers right before serving.
- For a vegetarian version, omit beef and beef broth. Sear 1 lb. of original/plain tempeh in 1 T. oil (a few minutes on each side until golden brown), chop up and add to chili after the onion mixture has softened. Add 8 oz. vegetable broth and crushed tomatoes. Decrease simmer time to 60 minutes. You may need to add a little more broth (or water) during simmering or before serving, depending on moisture level. Adjust seasoning to taste.

My Quarter Century on Regent Street—Linda Leighton

In 1998, I bought a lovely old building at 2132–2134 Regent Street to give myself studio space for clay work. A few years prior, I had come back from travels in Spain with a desire to teach myself tilemaking. Studio work balanced the freelance software programming that I did from a home office. I called the space Higher Fire.

In the early years, a few other clay artists rented studio spaces and we had a small gallery in the storefront of 2132. I rented 2134 to Terry Hoard for his shop, Gatherings, which sold fresh flowers and fine gifts. It was a wonderful place that a lot of us have missed.

We were getting requests for lessons, so eventually the place morphed into more of a teaching facility with the sales gallery in front. I have had the pleasure of seeing a parade of students, ages three through 90, get their hands dirty and exercise their creativity. How rewarding it has been!

Now it's time for me to move on to "the next chapter," yes, that old cliché. I'll be retiring at the end of this year. It's uncertain right now if the studio will be taken over by a new energetic potter, or if I'll be dismantling it.

I have NO concerns about being bored or adrift in retirement. I'll be continuing to be a maker, with clay, paint, printmaking, metals, and who knows what else. Travels can be more frequent and longer. And reading —I'm practically salivating at the thought of sitting down with a book for more than 30 minutes at a time. Volunteer work will be back





For 25 years, Higher Fire has welcomed pottery lovers for classes and collectibles. Photo: Linda Leighton

on my calendar. More time with my elderly dad. And I'll have more time to attend to elderly and disabled rescued pups.

I am so grateful for the support of this neighborhood and the wider community. I have been a lucky individual who gets to play at work. Thank you for 25 years that just flew by! ■



Meet Susie Moberly

Susie Moberly's not a stranger to the Regent Neighborhood. She's a retired West High School teacher and a metalsmith who has just opened a teaching studio, Torn Edge Arts, on Monroe Street. We've asked her to tell us a bit about her work.

RNAN: When did you open your shop on Monroe Street? How did it come about?

SM: I opened my teaching studio at the end of February of this year. I had been looking at many other locations, but a good fit hadn't come along. I live near Monroe Street, so I am often shopping in that area. One week the boutique shop, Trends, had posted a big "for rent" sign in the window, and I excitedly called to inquire. The space was right, and I am happy to say that Oakland Property and the building's owner took a chance on me with a two-year lease. Yay!

RNAN: Why the name Torn Edge Arts?

SM: Torn Edge Arts is the name I use when selling my own art at festivals and fairs. I thought about using a different name, something that would be more indicative of what was happening inside, but in the end, I stuck with what I was already using. Is there a meaning? Yes, my personally made silver jewelry often has a rugged, torn, melted look. I often use organic castings, granulations, reticulation, or just plain-out melted elements. I love how these edges are beautiful, just like the wounded but healed edges inside each of us. (Sounds a bit corny, but it's true!)

RNAN: What's the concept behind the store—is it to showcase your work, teach classes, feature other artists or all the above?

SM: The primary concept is a teaching/learning space for adults to try new experiences, working mainly with metal. I also offer some small stained-glass classes and studio memberships. I feature a local guest artist's work in a showcase, but other than that, I only sell classes.

RNAN: How did you become interested in metalsmithing or is it metalworking?

SM: When I was an art education student at UW, I enrolled in a metal class because it was one of the required options. I took as many 3-D art classes as possible, as I was drawn to them more than traditional drawing/painting courses. My professor, Fred Fenster, was demonstrating a soldering technique which involved capillary action. I can still see him, and that fire, and when the solder flowed and made a perfect silver join, the hair on my arms



Sue Moberly, in her workshop.

stood up. I was totally hooked!! I still love a beautiful solder join!

RNAN: Can you tell us something about the craft as you know it in the Madison area? Who taught you? Any artists you admire?

SM: When I retired from teaching in MMSD, in 2022, I knew many people in education, but not many practicing metalsmiths. I found a group, Wisconsin Metalsmiths or WIM and joined. Now I am aware of very many Madison area practicing and thriving artists. I am so happy to be working with this group.

RNAN: Are there particular metals you prefer working with? Stones? Do you have a particular style or aesthetic?

SM: I love to work with silver, in its varieties, the best. I love gold, but it is a bit out of my price league! I admire stones, and will use them on occasion, but it is really the metal that I love. I think this is a throwback to studying with Fred. He would often complain that too many people only used the metal to show off a stone. The metal itself was secondary. He believed it was every bit as important as any stone. Elenor Moty, another UW–Madison professor emeritus, is a great example of an artist who show-cases the stone and metal equally. *(continued on page 23)*

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Architecture Corner—Let's Playhouse

Virginia Woolf once said every woman needed a room of one's own (and money) if she was to write fiction. But what about children? Don't they need not just a room but a house where their imaginations can soar and they can live as they please—not make beds, not wash the dishes, but tell stories, read books? A fort, a ship, a sanctuary, liminal space? Once upon a time, the structures were called treehouses, and figured prominently in several children's books.* But these days the houses have become a bit more complicated. Here are a few spotted in the neighborhood. No plumbing, electricity or Wi-Fi, we assume.

*A. A. Milne. *Winnie-the-Pooh* (1926); Blyton, Enid. *The Enchanted Wood* (1939); Osborne, Mary Pope. *Magic Tree House* series (beginning in 1992 with *Dinosaurs Before Dark*).











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Pickleball Primer—Richard S. Russell*

Here are 1½ truths about pickleball:

- (1) It's the fastest-growing sport in America.
- $(\frac{1}{2})$ It's a great sport for old people.

The reason the second point is only a half truth is because it tells only half the story. Pickleball is really a great sport for everybody—entire families can play it—but older people especially like it because it puts them (by which I mean us) on even terms with younger, spryer, more athletic players. That's because it rewards patience and precision as much as power and speed. Or, as playwright David Mamet put it, "Old age and treachery will always beat youth and exuberance."

Pickleball is played on a court about one-third the size of a tennis court, and you serve what is basically a wiffleball underhanded, with what looks like an oversized ping-pong paddle. The ball is required to bounce once on the far side, then once on the serving side, a rule which determines a lot of strategy in the game. Although it's not a super-fast game, there's a fair amount of action with a limited amount of running. (The ball is in play twice as much as in tennis.) A typical game of doubles, played to 11, with a win by two, takes about 15 minutes.

Find free pickleball games using PlaytimeScheduler. com or go to Madison Pickleball Meetup Group. That's where I offer Intro classes to people who have never played before; other organizers schedule many games for Beginner and Intermediate players.





Richard Russell, at play.

Madison School and Community Recreation (mscr. org) has indoor play. And find places to play at capareapb.org, the Capital Area Pickleball Association.

Sadly, Madison itself has only half a dozen dedicated pickleball courts, at Garner Park just off Mineral Point Road. The Parks Department claims there are dozens more, but they're all tennis courts with dual markings, something neither pickleball nor tennis players appreciate. So, the local hotbeds of pickleball activity are the surrounding communities.

I really like pickleball. I hope to play it long enough that it no longer sounds funny to me.

*Richard S. Russell lived in the Regent neighborhood for 40 years. He says it's possible that he's played with other people from the 'hood but doesn't really know, because any given game can feature people from anywhere; of all ages; both sexes; any mix of races, ethnicities, and nationalities on Earth; and a wide variety of body types. Also, likely any imaginable religion, political affiliation, or sexual preference there is, but we'd never know because nobody cares; we're all just out there to have fun!

What Are Clean Streets/Clean Lakes

by Charlie Peters, RNA Transportation Chair

If you've walked, biked, or driven in the Regent neighborhood lately you've probably noticed red/orange flags at the tops of signposts, signaling changes in no-parking rules. These flags represent the full implementation of the City of Madison's Clean Streets/Clean Lakes program, which prohibits parking on one side of a street for a four-hour window of time. The parking restriction allows for street sweeping, snow plowing, and other maintenance work.

Why the changes?

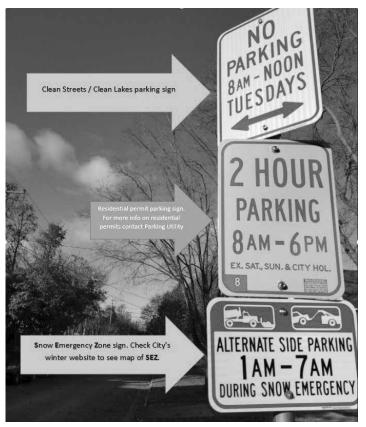
In May 2019, representatives of the Regent Neighborhood Association met with Madison Streets Superintendent Charles Romines to discuss full program implementation, which later was delayed by the Covid pandemic. During this meeting the RNA expressed its support of the program. It also encouraged thoughtful implementation to provide nearby parking availability to allow for shorter walks when sidewalks are icy during the winter. Streets did try to implement our ideas; "proximal street segments" may vary. The City has also tried to make contiguous sections of the same street similar to help snowplow drivers and street sweepers in their work.

What's it all about?

Road debris contains oil and solvents from cars and trucks, salt and sand spread in winter, lawn chemicals, and phosphorous-containing leaves. The debris accumulates in our street gutters, which often lead directly to our lakes. Cars parked on the street prevent street sweepers from collecting what is lying in the gutter. Street sweeping stops this material from washing into our storm sewers and then out to our lakes and streams.

Additionally, as snow piles up along the curb, parked cars begin to creep away from the road edge and into travel lanes, making for narrow streets and blocked bike lanes. The simplest way to prevent the parking-creep is to push the snow all the way out of the road to the terrace. However, parked cars prevent this work. The year-round Clean Streets/Clean Lakes program gives plows an opportunity to keep streets wide and safe for all roadway users, including emergency vehicles and refuse and recycling collection.

Wide winter streets also mean that the Streets Division won't need to initiate the slow, cumbersome, and confusing "post and tow" process where streets have parking temporarily prohibited for an entire day, cars are towed, and Streets crews scoop and haul snow away to make the streets safe again.



New signs in the neighborhood as Madison implements Safe Streets. Photo: City of Madison photo

A new map showing when the Clean Streets/Clean Lakes program will be implemented by block can be found at: cityofmadison.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=06d9cce4b62f493784dc fcbbfdce646b



Susie Moberly (continued from page 19)

RNAN: You've been a teacher at Franklin and West, and live in the neighborhood. Can you describe what you like(d) most about teaching? What you think the students took away from your teaching?

SM: What I like the most about teaching are the amazing relationships that are built. Relationships with peers, with students and with families. Franklin school and its wonderful staff formed me as a teacher, person, and parent. Very whole child. I view those years as some of my best. When I transferred to West for the Metals position, I once again had some of the same Franklin kids in my high school classes. That was fabulous!! At the high school level, I was part of a strong department where we could collaborate, commiserate and be a team. I still love

talking about educational best practice! I hope that students knew that I saw them, cared about them, respected them, and that I wanted my classroom to be a fun and safe creative space.

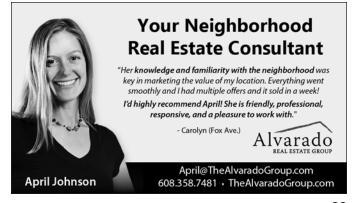
RNAN: What's the appeal to you about having a piece of original work by a silversmith, as opposed to something that's been mass produced?

SM: Handmade means a person has designed, touched, formed, and labored over something. That human touch means something to me. Maybe that comes back to a relationship thing again. Having something handmade means I value that person's time and care.











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

Welcome Rudi, The Neighborhood's First Pig

Rudi the Pig is declared a resident in good standing of the Regent Neighborhood.

At the City's Common Council meeting, on Tuesday, September 19th, Alders passed an ordinance that allows dwelling units to house a single pet pig within Madison limits. Under the ordinance, pigs must be:

- Less than 24 inches at the shoulder
- Under 300 pounds
- · Fully vaccinated
- Microchipped
- · Spayed or neutered
- Licensed with the State of Wisconsin through the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
- Leashed when off-premises

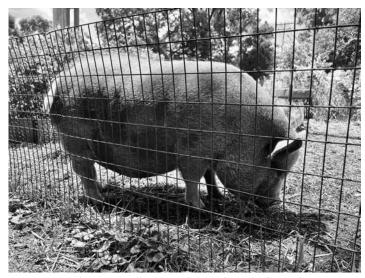
Any concerns regarding the safety or well-being of any pet, or the cleanliness or smell of the area where any animal is kept, should contact the City/County Department of Health—publichealthmdc.com/environmental-health/animals

Thanksgiving at First Congregational Church

Free Thanksgiving meals will be available at First Congregational Church, 1602 University Ave., on Thursday, November 23, 2023. Turkey, fixings, and pie will be ready for pick-up or home delivery. Visit firstcongmadison.org or call 608-233-9751 by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20 to place your order.

Best regards,

Brenda Burke, on behalf of First Congregational UCC ■



Welcome Rudi, the neighborhood's first pig. Photo: Paula Niedenthal



At the Neighborhood Art Walk on September 30, Kris Gruninger's handwoven throws were on display. Two dozen creatives showed their wares at over 15 outdoor locations.