



Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

www.regentneighborhood.org

YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

SPRING / 2009

RNA Spring Meeting — Wednesday, May 27, 7–9:00 p.m. West High School Cafeteria

The Regent Neighborhood Association Board invites all neighbors to the Spring Membership Meeting.

The meeting will feature: Marla Eddy, City of Madison Urban Forester; RNA Board Elections; and Babcock Dairy ice cream. Here's the agenda:

- 7:00 p.m. • Welcome and dishing of ice cream from Babcock Dairy
- 7:15 p.m. • Preserving our stately neighborhood trees—Marla Eddy, Urban Forester, City of Madison, will speak on:
 - The importance of urban trees and promoting diversity
 - Champion trees in Madison, and in the Regent Neighborhood
 - What to do if your tree doesn't look healthy—public or private tree—resources & city role, services, etc.
 - Current threats to Madison trees: gypsy moth and emerald ash borer
 - What to do if a tree comes down—choices (good public and private choices), timing, etc.
- Question and answer time
- 8:15–9:00 • Spring Elections for RNA Board

Gauging the Pulse of the Regent Neighborhood—The Listserv

One of the key ways that the RNA can promote citizen involvement is to have an active and well-used listserv. As you may know, a listserv is an automated email distribution list you can sign up for on the RNA web page. It is an instant way to communicate with your neighbors.

Also, there are times our city alder or county supervisor has a last-minute issue they need feedback on. Being a member of the listserv gives you a voice in the neighborhood, when time is of the essence. While the RNA Board's preference would be to host a face-to-face discussion on all significant topics of concern to the neighborhood, that cannot always occur. This is why being part of the listserv and having your voice heard takes on greater importance. City staff and alders can get an idea of the volume and types of concerns on the listserv. For the shy members of the neighborhood, you can reply directly back to the person that posed the question and not have your response shared with the larger group.

Therefore, we urge you to sign up for the listserv, if you haven't already. You should be aware that if you have a non-Yahoo email account that you use on a daily basis, you can set up the listserv to send emails to your non-Yahoo account. Sign up today at: <http://www.regentneighborhood.org/listserv.html>.

(More info about the RNA Listserv on page 20)

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

Officers

President

Darsi Foss, 233-0699
darsi@tds.net

Secretary

Karen Mittelstadt, 262-0416
kmittelstadt@admissions.wisc.edu

Secretary-Elect

OPEN

Treasurer

Lynn Fortner, 238-9221
fortner@itis.com

Treasurer-Elect

OPEN

Board Members At-Large

Jerry Greenberg, 232-0217
jerrydiana@sbcglobal.net

Troy Thiel, 238-7677
troythiel@yahoo.com

Lydia Reitman, 231-3185

OPEN

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Committee Chairs

Communications

Mary Sarnowski, 238-1224
sarnowski@mac.com

Greenspace Conservation Committee

Steve Arnold, 233-1784
siarnold@sbcglobal.net

Membership Committee

Peg Cullen, 238-4090
pegeen14@yahoo.com

Neighborhood Activities Committee

OPEN

School Relations Committee

OPEN

Strategic Planning Committee

George Hall, 238-7490
geohall@mailbag.com

Streets/Transportation Committee

OPEN

University Avenue Corridor Plan Committee

George Hall, 238-7490
geohall@mailbag.com

University Relations Committee

OPEN

Zoning Committee

Ron Rosner, 238-1828
rosner7@charter.net

Area Liaisons

Area 1 Sarah Kissel, 233-5236

Area 2 Jim & Marion Force, 238-3233

Area 3 Jean Parks, 233-1418

Area 4 Mary Niedermeier, 233-1882

Area 5 Marcel Maul, 231-0621

Area 6 Helen Findley, 233-9583

Area 7 Sherry & Wally Block, 233-5612

Area 8 Jim Fortner, 238-9211

Musings from the RNA President—

Someone once told me that the key to survival in the real world is to never make eye contact when they are looking for volunteers. I never got that quite straight. So here I am, as your new neighborhood president, ready to plunge into new territories. And while it's kind of scary, it's also kind of exciting.

What's exciting is that this neighborhood, as well as our country, is at a crossroads. We can continue to do the same things the same way, and ultimately we will reap the benefits and consequences of those choices. From our financial challenges to climate change, the choices we make will impact us for years, if not decades, to come.

But I think we can make a difference by the way we choose to live. We are smart, caring people. We have the power to buy locally and invest what extra time we have in the day to helping improve our neighborhood and our community. The discussions on the RNA listserv about urban farming, victory gardens, buying local, and concerns about environmental quality go to the heart of what makes Madison a great place to live.

As we go through this year, with the coming changes all around us, I'd like to challenge the neighborhood to consider becoming a leader in Madison on sustainable practices. That challenge would apply not only to new development in our neighborhood, but to our own households as well. I will be asking the board to create a Sustainability Committee to focus on best practices for new developments and households in our neighborhood.

My last challenge to you is to ask you to donate some of your time to the Regent Neighborhood Association Board. In this issue of the newsletter, we have a number of positions open on the Board. Please check them out, and let me know if you are up for the challenge of making this great neighborhood an even better place to live and do business in. I look forward to hearing from you. My email is always open at darsi@tds.net.

— Darsi



*RNA Board President
Darsi Foss*

This newsletter is a tri-annual publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,700. The deadline for next edition is September 30, 2009. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood, discussions of local issues, personal interest stories, etc. Please address items or inquiries, or for current ad rates, to Mary Sarnowski, 238-1224, sarnowski@mac.com. Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Regent Neighborhood Association.

Changing of the Guard in the Regent Neighborhood

Thank you to the following people who, over the last year or more, have dedicated countless hours to making our neighborhood a better place:

- Dave Worzala, our former county supervisor
- Hamilton Arendsen, for his bid for city alder
- Brad Wolbert, for his bid for county supervisor
- Robbie Webber, our retiring city alder
- Troy Rost, our former RNA president
- Karen Mittlestadt, our retiring RNA secretary
- Joy Drummond, our former advertising coordinator
- Lynn Fortner, our retiring RNA treasurer
- Sue Brook and Maggie Coluccy, for the 2008 Fourth of July blast
- And the countless other volunteers that make this all happen.

Last but not least, to the more “mature” (in age) members of our neighborhood, we appreciate your dedication and commitment to the Regent neighborhood. Yes, you know who you are. Thank you for the countless hours of volunteer time, the attendance at board meetings, candidate forums, visiting new students, and the like. Thank you for setting an example for future generations on how to make a difference by simply making one small contribution at a time.

— The RNA Board



Neighborhood Hero Salute

The Regent Neighborhood lost two of its heroes this winter with the passing of

Jerry Vogt

and

Phil Keillor

A humble thank you to these two men for their devotion, to their making the world a better place, one small kindness at a time.

Meet Our New Alder — Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

Dear Neighbors,

Over the last three plus months, I have talked with hundreds of Regent Neighborhood residents. You validated my reasons for running and my sense of the people of the Regent area: We are an engaged and thoughtful neighborhood. We care about our own issues right here but are well-versed and connected to larger topics in the city, county, region, country, and world.

Staying connected with you after the election is my top priority:

- My alder website through the city will be a place for you to get information. In addition, I will start a new Facebook site for you to visit for up-to-date information. Details to follow.
- Please continue to email and call. I will have an alder email I will share, but in the meantime, please use shivabidar@tds.net and 220-6986.
- I will set up regular briefings and/or reports with key city departments to stay on top of what is happening in the district and share important information with you through RNA and the web.

I would like to thank you for being so civic-minded and generous with your time as I knocked on your doors, called, dropped off information, and otherwise connected with you. A special thanks to outgoing Alder Robbie Webber for her years of service and my appreciation to Hamilton Arendsen for a good race. I look forward to working with all of you in the next two years for the good of our wonderful neighborhood and city.

Respectfully,

Shiva



*Shiva Bidar-Sielaff,
Alder, District 5*

Looking For a Few Good Volunteers — RNA Board Openings

Perhaps you've thought about stepping forward to help out the neighborhood in the past, but never quite picked up the phone or sent that email. Maybe it wasn't the right time or you were a little shy? Well, we'd love to hear from you today about serving on the Regent Neighborhood Association Board.

Generally, the Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month from August through May. The meetings are in the West High School library and run from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It's a great way to support our neighborhood and get to know some really fascinating people.

What do you need to do to volunteer? Well, first read through the list of officers and at-large Board positions to see if there is a good fit for your interests. Do you want to step up right away and take on some specific responsibilities, such as the Secretary or Treasurer duties? Or would you like to serve in that role in the future, but you'd like to observe the Board this first year? If you are more in the observe mode, then one of the officer-elect positions (i.e., you'd be an officer in the 2010-11 term) or at-large positions would be best.

Next, make sure you are a RNA member in good standing. Your membership in the RNA for this year needs to be paid, as well as for next year. Next, you can email your interest in the position to darsi@tds.net or call her at 233-0699. We are required by the RNA by-laws to have a nominating committee. We will slate the interested candidates in advance of the May 27th annual RNA meeting. So, please let us know if you'd like to get involved in this great organization. We'd like to hear from you by May 13th.

The following Board positions will be filled at the May 27th RNA Spring Meeting:

Officers—all positions are voting members of the Board:

President-ElectOPEN

This position is the understudy to the president. This position attends all RNA board meetings and is a voting member on the Board.

SecretaryOPEN

As secretary, the primary role is to take and distribute minutes from the monthly board meetings. The incumbent estimates a time commitment of no more than four hours a month, including meeting time.

Secretary-ElectOPEN

In the event the Secretary is unable to attend any meeting, the Secretary-Elect shall perform the functions of the Secretary. This position is an understudy to the Secretary.



Typical Regent Neighborhood Association Board meeting

TreasurerOPEN

The Treasurer maintains the accounts of the RNA, invoices businesses as requested by committee chairs, attends monthly board meetings and presents the Treasurer's report, completes and presents to the board an annual income statement and balance sheet, and attends any Executive Committee of the board meetings called. On average, approximately 4 hours per month is spent on Treasurer duties. Also includes picking up the RNA mail weekly from the Hilldale post office box.

Treasurer-ElectOPEN

Understudy to the treasurer.

Five, At-Large Board Positions.....OPEN

Responsible for attending meetings and being a voting member on the Board.

Coordinator(s) Needed—

Annual Regent Fourth of July Celebration

We are looking for one or more energetic folks to coordinate our annual Fourth of July celebration. Maggie Coluccy, last year's co-chair, has offered a crash course—over tea or coffee—in patriotic coordination duties. Please let us know if you'd like to volunteer to keep this great event going. Email Darsi at darsi@tds.net.



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RNA Committee Openings

More opportunities to serve your neighborhood! We have a number of standing committees that have openings for chairpersons. All of them are important to our neighborhood. These chairpersons are voting members of the RNA Board. They differ from officers in that they are not elected by the RNA at large, but rather are appointed by the President and voted into office by the RNA Board. Please email Darsi at darsi@tds.net if you are interested.

Neighborhood Activities Committee. Chair:..... Open

The Neighborhood Activities Committee plans the general membership programs and coordinates neighborhood activities, including the annual Fourth of July celebration and the annually alternating Garden Tour and Yard Sale. We are looking for new ways to engage our neighbors and have fun. Join us!

School Relations Committee. Chair:OPEN

The School Relations Committee works with the neighborhood schools principals and parent-teacher organizations to find effective ways for neighbors and schools to support each other. Some activities include welcoming new students, encouraging carpooling, and supporting litter prevention campaigns.

Streets and Transportation Committee. Chair:...OPEN

The Streets and Transportation Committee advocates for safe streets for our residents as we walk, bike, and drive through our neighborhood. We work with city officials and staff on developing equitable and appropriate solutions. We provide leadership and education on neighborhood traffic and parking issues.

University Relations Committee. Chair:.....OPEN

The University Relations Committee monitors impacts of UW actions on our neighborhood and works toward an equitable solution for all. Issues include development, Camp Randall events, parking, traffic, boundaries, and student behavior. Each year the Committee—in collaboration with the Madison Police Department—welcomes students to the neighborhood with information on personal safety, parking, garbage pick-up, and issues surrounding noise and vandalism.

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Message From the Mayor—

Using the Economic Stimulus For A Transformative Recovery

Several weeks ago President Obama signed the massive federal economic stimulus bill, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, into law. Since then, we have been working hard to understand the legislation and to take full advantage of it for Madison.

I meet weekly with our city Stimulus Team, we get regular updates from the city's Washington lobbyist, we update the Common Council's Board of Estimates every two weeks and we've even set up a website to get information out to citizens as quickly as we can. You can visit that site at www.cityofmadison.com.

Right now our best estimate is that stimulus money coming to the city itself could total around \$20 million. This is only an estimate because some resources come directly to us by formula and some need to be applied for either directly to the federal government or to the State of Wisconsin.

As of this writing we know we will receive the following:

- \$9.5 million for transit capital grants to Madison Metro



Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

- \$1.4 million for public housing capital
- \$1.2 million for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
- \$530,000 for Community Development Block Grant
- \$500,000 for Employment and Training Grants
- \$817,000 for Homeless Prevention Grants
- \$704,000 for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
- \$9.75 million for the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

As we consider how to deploy these resources. We should keep in mind that our goal should be not just to recover back to the old economy but to reshape and transform our economy into something that is stronger and more durable. If the old economy was based on consumption, the new economy should be based on production. If the old economy was based on debt, the new economy should be based on saving. And if the old economy was rooted in environmental degradation, the new economy should be built on concepts of environmental sustainability.

As we decide how to use the stimulus dollars we'll keep those goals of a transformative recovery in mind.

— Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
www.cityofmadison.com/mayor

Representative Terese Berceau—Legislative Report

State Budget

The 2009–2011 legislative session got underway in January. The priority for this spring is the state budget. The Joint Committee on Finance held six public budget hearings around the state and should begin voting on individual provisions by mid-April. The Assembly and Senate will then make their revisions. Ideally, a new budget should be passed by the time the state's fiscal year ends June 30th.



Rep. Terese Berceau

Some of My Policy Initiatives

- Preserve the rights of consumers by prohibiting insurance companies from using credit scores to determine premiums for insurance on your home or vehicle.
- Address the problem of drunk driving by raising the beer tax for the first time in 40 years and targeting additional resources and money to AODA programs.
- Maintain the existing property tax exemption for non-profit organizations that provide housing to low-income or disabled people.
- Safeguard children by requiring parents to seek recognized medical treatments for minors in danger of harm or death due to illness or injury.

— Rep. Terese Berceau
www.terese.org

Dane County Board Report, District 10—

I hope this edition of the RNA newsletter finds you and your family well. As I write this report, the spring elections are still a week away, but by the time you read this our neighbors will have elected a new alder who I look forward to working with towards the betterment of our community.

On June 1st, Dane County will welcome John Dejung as the new director of the Dane County Public Safety Communications Center. Dejung, a Wisconsin native, served as the 911/311 Director for the City of Minneapolis for the past 12 years. During his tenure, the Minneapolis 911 Center was awarded the 911 Call Center of the Year for 2008 by the 911 Institute for its handling and emergency response coordination of the 2007 Minneapolis I-35 bridge collapse. While Dejung's hire follows on the heels of Matrix Consulting's independent audit of the Dane County 911 Center which identified the Center to be "operating at a high level of effectiveness and efficiency", my hope is that John's leadership, along with the additional staff and technological upgrades included in the County Budget, will enable the Center to provide even an greater level of service and protection to Dane County residents.

Many travelers will be pleased to learn that on March 30th Dane Co. Exec. Kathleen Falk successfully lobbied the federal government for \$4 million to expand Taxiway B at the Dane County Regional Airport. The funding, made possible by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will be used to improve efficiency and safety at the airport and is also expected to add long-term value to the region's economy. Without the ARRA funding, this project and the jobs it is expected to create, would not have been realized for several years. As a result, we can expect the immediate creation of many family-supporting jobs without delays or disruption in service.

The taxiway expansion is just one of many projects expected to receive ARRA funding in Dane County. Governor Doyle, Dane Co. Executive Kathleen Falk and many County Board members spent countless hours ensuring that ARRA funding would actually provide relief to state and local governments and the citizens it serves. As a result, Dane County can expect to receive stimulus funding for highway and bridge improvements, alternative energy research, foreclosure prevention initiatives, public safety grants, environmental protection



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

efforts, and more. As a participant at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, DC in March, it was an honor and a privilege to add my voice to the already effective Dane County contingent on this and a host of other issues facing county government.

Of late, my work on the Health and Human Needs (HHN) committee has centered on the county's possible implementation of FamilyCare, the state's long-term care program. As a result of much deliberation, Dane County will ask to delay the implementation of the program now scheduled for January 1, 2011. This impetus for this request stems from reports from other counties that have already implemented FamilyCare that state funding has been insufficient to cover start-up and operating costs. Due to the State's plan to retain increased federal Medicaid reimbursement rather than passing it through to the County (at a cost of \$4 million to the county) and a variety of other concerns, stakeholders determined that implementing FamilyCare in 2011 could mean decreased services to our most vulnerable residents.

You may also be interested to know that the county has recently re-opened the bidding process for the construction of the new Badger Prairie Health Care Center in Verona. The project is expected to create up to 200 jobs for the area and will utilize geo-thermal technology to heat and cool the facility and a solar domestic hot water system to help furnish hot water. The County Board supported the increased use of "green technology" through its approval of additional, earmarked dollars in the 2009 county budget for the project. Groundbreaking for the nursing home is expected to occur this June with full completion of the project expected to occur by mid-to late-2010.

As always, please feel free to contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 608.577.9335.

— Sup. *Jeremy Levin*
levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us

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A stylized illustration of a person with short hair swimming in a pool. The water is represented by wavy lines. The person's head and one arm are visible above the water.

Madison West High School Brick Campaign

The alumni, parents, and friends of West High School are embarking on a fundraising campaign to renovate the Ash Street entrance to create both an accessible entrance and a public green space that can be enjoyed by the entire near-west community. This campaign is ongoing through the summer.

Madison West High School is a landmark on the near west side, home to more than 2,000 students, and its more than 30,000 alumni have made contributions in math, science, the arts, and humanitarian efforts both citywide and in all parts of the world.

With its proud 78-year history has come some wear and tear. The Ash Street entrance features crumbling and inaccessible stairs.

That is all slated to change this summer, when the eastside entrance receives a restoration that will provide accessible entry, a new outdoor gathering plaza, green spaces with benches, and dramatic landscaping.

The School District has approved \$250,000 toward the project and Madison-based architect Ken Saiki (West '72) has generously donated his talent for a dynamic design. But to implement to full vision, the project needs \$150,000 in private donations. Extra funds will be directed to the West High Endowment Fund.

Alumni, West families, student groups, local businesses and anyone interested in supporting this project by purchasing an engraved, personalized brick on the central plaza into West High is invited to contribute at: <http://www.bricksrus.com/order/madisonwest/>.

Brick sizes and shapes start at \$100. For that price, an individual or group gets three lines with 18 characters per line. Honor family and faculty. Remember a departed friend. Or just put your name in stone.

Online forms available at www.madisonwestalumni.ning.com.



Vision for West High School's new Ash Street entrance

For more information on the Ash Street Campaign, contact Foundation for Madison's Public Schools, Martha Vukelich-Austin (West '75) at (608) 232-7820.

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Garrison Keillor Plans Benefit For Tenney Park Shelter To Honor Late Brother

Author and public radio host Garrison Keillor will play a benefit show May 6 at Overture Hall in Madison to honor his late brother and raise money for a new shelter at Tenney Park.

Details of the event, including ticket price, have not been worked out, but Keillor wants the show to be both entertaining and a meaningful tribute to his brother, said Doug Keillor of Madison, Garrison Keillor's nephew and the son of John Philip (Phil) Keillor Jr., who died Feb. 27 in Madison at age 71.

The show will not be a live broadcast of Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion," his nephew said.

Phil Keillor was a UW-Madison coastal engineer and one of the founders of a Madison homeless shelter that evolved into Porchlight Inc. Memorials from his funeral benefited the nonprofit organization.

He died from injuries suffered in a fall at the Vilas Park ice skating rink. Garrison Keillor told family members at his brother's funeral that he wanted to come back and do a memorial event, said Doug Keillor, who was aware of the Tenney Park fundraising campaign. His father was a "Madison parks kind of guy" who swam at city beaches, sailed on its lakes and picnicked at many of its shelters.

"My dad was really big on outdoor activities, especially those available to everyone regardless of economic means," he said. "It seemed like an ideal tribute."

The shelter is expected to cost about \$1.6 million, with \$500,000 coming from the city. Volunteers are attempting to raise the rest and so far have about \$165,000 in pledges, said Mary Lang Sollinger, chairwoman of the effort.

"We're all kind of star-struck by it," Sollinger said of the Keillor family's offer. "It's such a huge gift, and a miracle, I'd say."

Ticket information likely will be posted in a week or so at www.tenneyshelter.org, she said.

— Doug Erickson
Wisconsin State Journal

Dear Neighbors,

Sometimes as we drive or walk or ride our bikes around our neighborhood, we see things we've never seen or paid attention to before...that home that looks cool or a business we've never been inside of. Sometimes we have no need or desire to enter one of them.

Unfortunately, over the course of two weeks in February, I visited one of those unknown places to me, along with literally hundreds of friends and family members that I saw there at the two memorials I attended...Cress Funeral Home.

As the old saying goes, "Death is a part of Life", but it doesn't mean that we have to like it. Our neighborhood has lost two special members recently, Jerry Vogt and Phil Keillor, and they will definitely be missed by many...and that was clearly evident by their memorial services at Cress.

Jerry was paralyzed in an auto accident at the age of 21, but he didn't let that stop him from being one of the most productive community members I've ever seen. His enthusiasm for life, our neighborhood, the University of Wisconsin, and always doing the right thing in advocating for Accessibility and Disability issues was amazing. Jerry lovingly opened his home for our annual Holiday Party and at the party and at his services, it was clear how his zest for making a difference affected so many.

My interaction with Phil was oriented around a shared interest and involvement in making sure that our Old University Corridor Plan process was a quality one...and that our neighborhood would be better off with a Plan that helped lead it into a new future with appropriate and desired types of land uses, quality, size and feel for what fits here. I didn't know Phil well beyond that but in the tributes following his passing, it is evident that he was special in countless ways, including his career as a teacher, founding member of the Porchlight group, and a person who definitely put his family at the center of his life.

I'll miss my two friends.

RNA Membership — What's In It For You...?

As a recipient of the newsletter you currently hold in your hands and are eagerly reading, you are one of about 6,343 similarly-located denizens of the area that comprises the Regent Neighborhood.

As a resident of this neighborhood, you automatically qualify to receive the Regent Neighborhood Association's thrice-annual newsletter, without ever lifting a finger. Here comes the pitch...

As a member of the RNA, you will not only continue to receive this informative newsletter each spring, fall, and winter, but will also receive an informative annual directory—your personal guidebook to everything you need to know about our thriving neighborhood. Need a shoveler during that mid-winter getaway, a sitter for an upcoming night out, or the location of the closest carryout food? Maybe you'd just like to call a neighbor down the street whose paint job you admire!

Joining the RNA means that in October a Membership Directory will be delivered to your door, along with all of the information you need to find that shoveler/sitter/neighbor's house painter. Membership is only \$5.00 for an individual and \$10.00 for a family, so please consider joining this year if you're new to the area, and re-upping if you've joined in the past. Use the form in this newsletter, download one from the RNA website, or email me at pegeen14@yahoo.com and I'll send one your way. If you have questions, send them my way too, or call me at 238-4090. There are many ways, and reasons, to be involved in the Regent Neighborhood Association ... joining is the first step, and it helps promote a dynamic and diverse community that will work to sustain and improve the quality of life for all RNA residents.

Yours in membershipiness,

— Peg Cullen
Membership Chair



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Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

for membership year

JUNE 1, 2009-MAY 31, 2010

Join or Renew Today!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS	Newsletters and Directory	• Garden Tour	• Neighborhood Beautification
July 4th Festival	• Volunteer Community Watchdogs	• Garage Sale	• Neighborhood Forums

REGISTRATION FORM	Join by July 31 and we'll include your name in the 2008-2009 membership directory, due out in September. All paid members receive directories. Please include an email address so we can send renewal notices.
-------------------	--

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION		Renewing Member <input type="checkbox"/>	New Member <input type="checkbox"/>
Street Address: _____		Phone: _____	Zip: 53 _____
Adult #1	Adult #2		
First Name: _____	First Name: _____		
Last Name: _____	Last Name: _____		
Occupation: _____	Occupation: _____		
Email Address: _____	Email Address: _____		
Do you want your email published in the directory?	Yes No	Do you want your email published in the directory?	Yes No
May we send RNA-related email to you?	Yes No	May we send RNA-related email to you?	Yes No
Interested in volunteering?		Interested in volunteering?	
Work on RNA committees or board	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work on RNA committees or board	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan RNA Neighborhood events	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan RNA Neighborhood events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Become block captain or area rep	<input type="checkbox"/>	Become block captain or area rep	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHILDREN			(Optional) List any children at home and jobs they'll do:		
B-Babysitting O-Odd Jobs P-Pet Walking S-Snow Shoveling Y-Yard Work					
Child's Name	Birth M/Y	Jobs (Circle)	Child's Name	Birth M/Y	Jobs (Circle)
_____	_____	B O P S Y	_____	_____	B O P S Y
Child's Name	Birth M/Y	Jobs (Circle)	Child's Name	Birth M/Y	Jobs (Circle)
_____	_____	B O P S Y	_____	_____	B O P S Y

DUES/REGISTRATION	
Dues - Check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Family <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 - Individual
Mail completed form and check payable to RNA to:	Regent Neighborhood Association c/o Peg Cullen 2514 Kendall Ave. Madison, WI 53705
Questions? New to the neighborhood? Contact Peg Cullen at pegeen14@yahoo.com or 238-4090.	

Thank you! Your involvement keeps our neighborhood thriving!

RNA use: Date rec'd: _____ Amt: \$ _____ Check #: _____ Cash: ☐ 03/09

Building Community, One Block Party at a Time

This is a continuing series of block party stories, written by our neighbors for our neighbors, hoping to document and inspire community. In this issue, neighbor Skip Heffernan shares his block's story as well as his recipe for Partying With Your Block.

❖ Our Ely Place block party initially started as a housewarming party when we (the Heffernan family) moved into Professor Parsons' house at 110 Ely Place in 1999. We had a band, basic picnic food (including my Texas venison chili), and beverages. Neighbors were invited as much to keep peace in the neighborhood as well as to help us christen our new home.

One comment I heard during the initial party from a neighbor across the road was "This is the best time we've had in this neighborhood since Professor Parsons' 90th birthday party".

The 2nd year was a surprise 50th birthday party for my wife, Jeanette (also known as Ruby). She was especially surprised since the party was 4 days after her July 10 birthday, and she had just turned 49, not 50. It was great fun watching her try to tell people she was only 49! Another neighbor suggested: "We should make this a block party and do it every year". Since a surprise like that usually only works once, I quickly agreed.

It did not hurt my feelings to share the expense as well. We initially shared expenses equally but, for simplicity, have gravitated to each neighbor paying for the items they provide. Some neighbors just contribute the amount of cash that is comfortable for them.

We had a neighbors meeting in late spring to plan the 1st "Ely Place Block Party". Various people volunteered for the tasks needed. A short to-do list included:

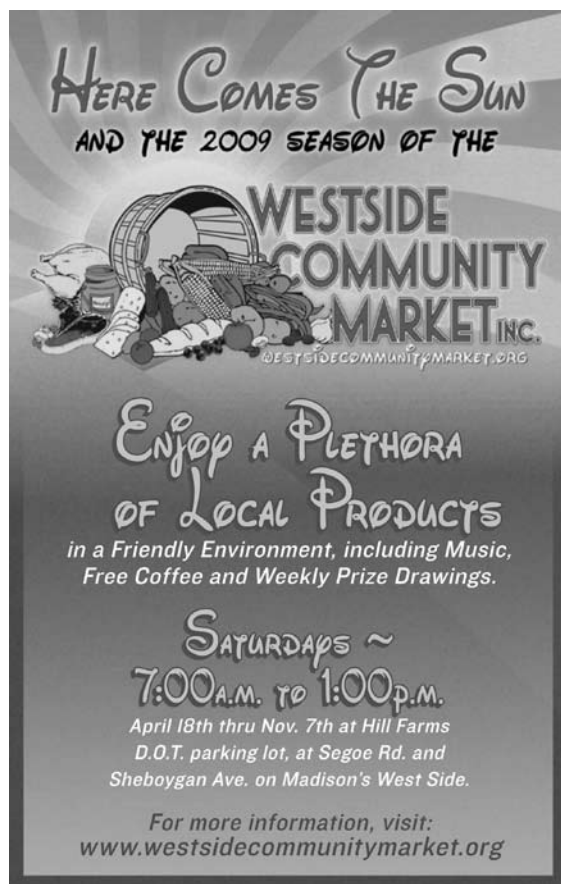
1. City Permit (\$50) signed by 75% of neighbors to block off the street. Do this several months in advance at City Hall.
2. Pick up and return street barriers from city before and after party (large truck or trailer is helpful).
3. Prepare and send out invites, flyers, or email. We ask people to bring a dish and a chair, we supply serving tables, beverages, brats and hot dogs, plates, cups, napkins and utensils.
4. We have settled on the last Saturday in July as our annual party date.
5. Someone has to buy and/or prepare beverages, brats and hot dogs, plates, cups, napkins and utensils.
6. Choose and arrange for the band for dancing and/or entertainment for kids (slip and slide, water balloons, games, etc.).
7. Serving tables with paper tablecloths and set up.
8. Clean up.

It is a great way to see old neighbors and meet new ones. You are welcome to come see us on July 25th this year!

— Skip Heffernan

We'd love to hear your block party stories. Be sure to give as many details as possible—how many years you've been doing it, who organizes it, what is eaten and played, how late you keep the party going, favorite memories, and your recipe for a block party.

Email your contributions to Mary Sarnowski at sarnowski@mac.com



I Learned It on the Listserv: Plant Exchange

The beautiful weather has gotten me thinking about spring, and how soon before I can get out into my garden! That line of thought of course got me thinking of the plant exchange! The Froth House has generously offered to sponsor the event this year, providing free coffee, and we will hopefully have a better handle on organization since we have a better idea what to expect. Last year's event was such an over-whelming success that we are doing it again—only earlier, for those who get out early to divide and thin their perennials.

What is a plant exchange? First, and most importantly, it is NOT A SALE. All plants are joyfully given and freely received. One gardener's invasive pest is another's heart's desire. If you have no plants to bring for trading, please still come! There are often many more plants than homes for them and we would love to spread the wealth of our gardens. If you'd like, you can bring a breakfast pastry or donuts to pass if you feel you must bring something, but this is not at all required. There will be juice and coffee provided—thank you again to The Froth House!

This is a great opportunity to come meet old and new friends alike, re-home plants you don't have a need for or already have too many of, or an opportunity to establish a new perennial garden without the cost of new plants. There is no one-to-one ratio for giving/taking, many people just drop off without taking anything! Please be respectful, however, and don't take ten of one plant and not leave any for others.



Photo by Mary Sumowski

Purple coneflowers on Chamberlain Avenue

When: May 9, 2009, 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
(or whenever people stop showing up!)

Where: I am planning on hosting this at my home, as I did last year, at 1 North Prospect Ave, but if the number of RSVPs is too large we may relocate to a larger space (such as Olive Jones Park).

We will try to group similar plants together—you drop off what you've brought with other plants of the same kind and then take as many others as you can provide homes for. The mix of offered plants is mind-boggling. I had a very esoteric wish list for myself last year and got everything I wanted and some that I never could have hoped for.

Although this is happening in the Regent Neighborhood, I am opening it to anyone in the “gardening” neighborhood—the more the merrier, and the better selection for all. Annuals, vegetables, shrubs, trees, and native plants all welcome and encouraged. Hostile invasive plants will be removed from the offerings, and used to educate—I know last year I was so charmed by the petite white flower that showed up in my moonlight bed only to discover it was garlic mustard.

Anyone who would like to help organize or setup would be greatly appreciated! Please feel free to send this to any and all gardeners you think would be interested—during this economy it gets harder and harder to justify paying for something that so many others would freely give—or that would likely end up on compost pile or in the trash.

Please RSVP for The Froth House to prepare enough coffee, and for us to be sure we are holding it in the best possible location for the expected turnout.

— Elizabeth Kerwin
1 N. Prospect Ave.
658-0999
lkerwin@mailbag.com

The RNA Listserv is RegentNeighborhoodAssn@yahoogroups.com.
See page 18 for instructions on how to join and post to the listserv.

Rain Garden Workshop

The Friends of Lake Wingra will be conducting a rain garden workshop on Saturday May 23rd. The workshop will be held on the Edgewood campus at the Mazzuchelli Center from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A plant sale will also be a part of the program. Space is limited to the first 25 registrants. Reserve your space by calling 608-663-2238 or by sending an e-mail to info@lakewingra.org.


Lake specialists cite the use of rain gardens as an effective tool to improve water quality in the Madison lakes. Run off from roofs, driveways, lawns, sidewalks and streets eventually ends up in our lakes via the city's storm water system. Rain gardens slow the rate of runoff, filter water that does find its way to the lakes, and recharges the water table thus allowing long dormant springs to provide clean water for our lakes.

It is now standard practice for the city to assess the feasibility of installing rain gardens in the terrace area whenever a street is being reconstructed. It is important for private property owners to join the city in recognizing the connection of rain gardens to improving water quality in our lakes. As the city works to manage storm water runoff that flows from the streets to the lakes, so too should homeowners work to reduce or eliminate the amount of water that runs off their property and into the streets.

Conduct an assessment of your property during a hard downpour. If a significant amount of water is running off your property and to the street or a storm water conveyance system in your backyard, then consider building a rain garden to capture that water. If the biggest need for a rain garden is in the terrace in front of your home, then contact the city and inquire about the feasibility of them assisting in having one built there.

The recent construction of 15 rain gardens during street reconstruction last summer (Eton Ridge, Rugby Row and Vista Road), the planned construction of several more during street reconstruction in the neighborhood this summer, plus those built on private property, represent a good beginning at establishing the Regent Neighborhood as a leader in rain garden construction. Consider becoming an informed advocate of rain gardens by being a participant at the May 23rd workshop.

— Steve Arnold
RNA Greenspace Committee Chair



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Garden Tour Set — Chickens, Veggies, Workshops

The 2009 RNA Garden Tour is set for Sunday, July 19 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. It will feature gardens in the neighborhood south of West High, including some on Regent. Taylor Elkins, this year's organizer, has assembled 15 gardens, including his own, to demonstrate what homeowners can accomplish in a small yard.

A key theme of the tour is how urban homeowners can integrate food production into their landscaping. Since 2004, City residents have been permitted to keep chickens on their property and many have opted to do so, including three who have joined this year's tour. So here's a chance to see how raising chickens can be creatively integrated into the home garden design.

Growing fruits and vegetables has always been an important component of the home garden, both esthetically and as a source of fresh food for the table, and the tour will include some excellent examples.

Shade gardening, important in older neighborhoods like ours, will be reflected in most of the gardens featured this year. We'll also note the terrace rain gardens installed last summer in the lengthy process of rebuilding Eton Ridge.

At least 2 workshops are planned. One on trellis and fence building with willow, and the other on how to convert a styrofoam container into an attractive and

serviceable planter. The workshops will be held in the garden patio behind the Froth House. Thank you Froth House!



Volunteers are still needed for specific tasks, some on the day of and some in preparation for the tour. Give one of us a call if you'd like to help out:

Ron Rosner: 238-1828, rosner7@charter.net

Pat Wood: 233-4680, pwood@wisc.edu

Taylor Elkins: 238 2464.

Tickets, including a tour map and schedule of workshops, will be available the day of the tour at the corner of S. Allen St. and Commonwealth Ave., and at The Froth House. The cost is \$5 for adults, children are free.

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Hoyt Park News—

It's that time of year when we can finally get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather! If you are looking to spend some time outdoors and also help to better your community green space, head over to Hoyt Park for a volunteer workday! Volunteers meet every third Saturday of each month from 10 am until noon and work on different areas of the park, like the prairie, woodlands, and overlook. The May 16th workday will be in the prairie, where volunteers will plant new prairie plantings as part of the on-going process of creating a native Wisconsin prairie habitat.

Work on the parking lot garden has begun with the purchase of four new types of plants, and planting can begin as soon as the summer park ranger starts. The plants purchased include sky blue aster, columbine, elm leaf goldenrod, and Jacob's ladder, all plants that thrive in the partial shade, savanna habitat of the garden.

Also, an event to note is the Friends of Hoyt Park annual meeting, which will be held Thursday, April 23rd at Hoyt School at 6:30 pm. There will be a speaker from the Lakeshore Nature Preserve speaking about the cultural history of the Picnic Point area. This would be a great time to come and meet the Friends and sign up to become a member!

— Ariel Debroux
RNA Liaison to the Friends of Hoyt Park



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1721 MONROE STREET
255-8211**

2009 Hoyt Park Volunteer Workdays:

All workdays begin at 10 am and go until noon

May 16	Ready Prairie—new plantings and seedings (Tim K. & Janet)
June 20	Woodlands cutting invasives (Tim A.)
July 18	Ready Prairie—deheading, weeding (Ranger Ariel & Perri Liebl)
August 15	Buckthorn Busting (Nancy Dott)
September 19	Overlook prep and plantings (Deborah & Janet)
October 17	MULCH MADNESS (John & Jean)
November 14/21	Weather Permitting (tba)

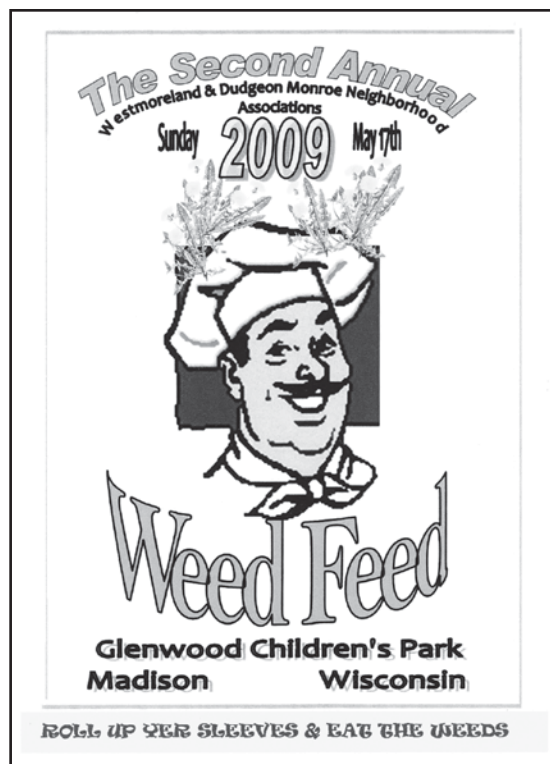
Weed Feed Festival

The Dudgeon Monroe and Westmorland Neighborhood Associations are joining together for their second annual Weed Feed Festival on May 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Glenwood Children's Park located at the intersection of Glenway and the SW bike path. The festival will provide attendees with the opportunity to sample a variety of dishes containing the garlic mustard or other edible weeds. Admission to the food tasting is by helping pull some weeds on the day of the event, bringing a weed-inspired food dish, or helping organize the event.

Adventuresome cooks are encouraged to participate with any dish made with edible weeds—recipes abound on the web. A collection of printed recipes will be at the Reference Desks at both Sequoya & Monroe Street Libraries. One important ingredient in last year's successful event was the incredible diversity of weed recipes. Knotweed Apple Pie garnished with Wild Violets, and Garlic Mustard and Artichoke Lasagna were examples of some of the unusual and tasty dishes at last year's tasting. While many individuals contributed their own dishes last year, a professional touch was provided by Dardenelles Restaurant and RP's Pasta.

Check the DMNA website (DMNA.org) for more details, weed recipe links, and a blog being launched in April to provide updated event info, like the sheltered location of the food-tasting if outdoor weed-pulling is rained-out. Questions can be directed to Peter Nause (206-1463: pan@secondnature.biz).

The intent of the Weed Feed is to draw attention to the proliferation of invasive exotic weeds like Garlic Mustard and Japanese Knotweed in our parks and greenways. A children's one-act skit is part of this year's event which will dramatize the problem native weeds pose to native plants. Last year, Weed Feed volunteers eliminated all the 2008 'crop' of flowering garlic mustard from the 4-acre Glenwood Children's Park. Replacement of the invasive weeds with native grasses and flowers



enhances the aesthetics of the bike path and its surroundings and is also a strategy that effectively reduces sediment being washed into our lakes.

The RNA bike path committee will be pulling Garlic Mustard on the day of the Weed Feed. RNA residents interested in joining in the effort should meet at the Virginia Terrace ramp at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 17th. At around 12 noon, we will journey up the path to the Glenwood Children's Park to sample the dishes featured at this year's festival. Bring your willingness to help improve the bike path, the Lake Wingra watershed, and if possible, a weed dish of your own.

— Steve Arnold
RNA Greenspace Committee Chair

Friends of the UW-Madison Arboretum

 Native Plant Sale 
 Saturday, May 9: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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- Shrubs
- Trees



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Madison Trust for Historic Preservation Announces Tours

Please join the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation for another summer of historic walking tours in the University Heights historic district.

University Heights Walking Tours Schedule:

Saturday, May 23, 11 a.m.

Saturday, June 27, 11 a.m.

Thursday, July 23, 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 25, 11 a.m.

Saturday, August 22, 11 a.m.

Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m.

The full schedule can be seen at www.madisontrust.org. As always, the tours last about an hour and cost \$5 unless you're a member of the Madison Trust, then they're free!

The Madison Trust annually features successful restoration projects at their Preservation Awards. This year come and see who in your neighborhood will get an award! Join us at the Orpheum, Thursday May 7, 6:30 p.m.



Photo by Paul McMahon

*Madison Trust For Historic Preservation's
Summer Walking Tours in University Heights*

For more information, see www.madisontrust.org. Members will receive an invitation in the mail.

— Erica Fox Gehrig
Madison Trust for Historic Preservation
www.madisontrust.org

University Heights Architectural History Series—The Olin House



Wisconsin Historical Society, AHI # 100014, WHS HPPH

The Olin House, circa 1974

The Olin House, a stately English style home at 130 N. Prospect Avenue overlooking Lake Mendota, was built in 1911-12 as a residence for John M. and Helen Olin. Olin, known as the “father of Madison’s Park System”, was president of the Park and Pleasure Drive association in Madison and a prominent attorney, serving as a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin Law School and president of the Wisconsin Bar Association from 1911-1913. Helen Olin graduated from UW in 1876 and was also a mover and shaker in the community, denouncing UW President Charles Van Hise’s proposal to segregate classes in 1907 and leading a clothing drive out of the house for WWI orphans.

As more and more students and faculty sought housing in and around the university campus, the Olins moved from their previous residence on campus to the expanding community of University Heights, and chose architects Ferry & Clas to design their home. The Milwaukee architects also designed the Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee in 1890 and the State Historical Society in 1896.

The house is built in English style and contains 30 rooms covering 8 city lots. After Olin’s death, the house was deeded to the University to be used as the chancellor’s residence. In this function, the house has played host to a number of famous names, including Charles Lindbergh, Sinclair Lewis, Robert Frost, Arthur Rubinstein, Toni Morrison, Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter, and the Dalai Lama.

Today, Chancellor Biddy Martin resides in the house, which is also used for many fundraising and community events throughout the year. The Olin House recently underwent extensive renovation funded by the JM Olin Trust, making the historic house more energy efficient and functional, and allowing it to continue to serve the university and community for years to come.

— Madison Trust for Historic Preservation
www.madisontrust.org

Announcements—

RNA Garage Sale 2009

Looking for volunteers to help plan and organize the summer 2009 RNA Garage Sale. We need help picking a day, advertising, printing flyers, organizing donation pick-up times, handing out signs, and any other details that crop up. Our last sale in August 2007 had over 75 participants and was a great success. Help make 2009 bigger and better.

Contact Jake & Jeff Pfund at jeffpfund@yahoo.com or 238 1253.

Third Annual Bike Rodeo

Join your classmates and neighbors for the **Third Annual Bike Rodeo to be held on Thursday, May 14th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Randall Elementary School playground.**

Come and get your helmet and bike adjusted, learn safety tips and signals, practice your skills in a small obstacle course, and meet professional bike racers while you're there! There will be snacks, water, and small giveaways for every child.

This event is jointly sponsored by the Regent Neighborhood Association, Vilas Neighborhood Association, The City of Madison, Trek Bicycles, and the Wisconsin Bike Federation. Last year's event had over 100 children go through the bike, helmet checks, and safety course! It was a fantastic turnout and fun too!

If you're interested in helping with the event, we could use a few more volunteers. Please contact Troy Thiel at 347-9670 or troythiel@yahoo.com, or Brenda Baker at 255-6401 or bbaker@madisonchildrensmuseum.org.

First Unitarian Society Noon Musicales

Friday Noon Musicales – 12:15 p.m.
First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive
608.233.9774
Free admission

May 1: The Monroe Chamber Trio; works by Leclair, MacDowell, Reissiger, and more.

May 8: Tenor Jim Reilly, with pianist Jeff Wagner; songs by Icelandic composers, and the Norwegian composer Halvdan Kjerulf.

May 15: (final Musicale of the season)
The Murder Sisters: Balkan and Slavic folk music to murder ballads and humorous pop.

Second Annual Ronald McDonald House Charity Bike Ride

The Second Annual Ronald McDonald House Charity Bike Ride is a wonderful day for the family to spend together as well as an excellent opportunity for team building. The day will be filled with an excellent bike ride, great fun and great food, all while benefiting an absolutely wonderful cause, The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison. Please feel free to visit their website: www.rmhcmadison.org.

Ride options include family friendly routes of 10 miles and a 1-mile fun-loop. For the more avid cyclist there will also be routes of 40 and 60 miles. While these routes are very scenic, they are also very challenging and fairly hilly. The event will have a professional photographer strategically placed to capture all of the fun and highlights. As a fully supported ride, well-placed rest stops on each route provide great snacks, sports drinks, and wonderful hosts. At the end of the ride, enjoy a well-earned rest and delicious lunch! More details can be found at www.rmhcride.com. Day-of registration is available, but there is a fee increase. Volunteers are needed too!

Date: Saturday, August 22, 2009

Time: Sign-In 7am - 10am

Where: Tollefson Park - Verona, WI

Website: www.rmhcride.com

Routes: 1-mile fun-loop, 10, 40 & 60 miles

Register online:

<http://www.zapevent.com/ListActivities.aspx?eventid=376>

OR Register By Mail:

download a form at <http://www.rmhcride.com/register.html>

Contact: kim@rmhcride.com



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Neighborhood Events Calendar

Friday, May 1, 8, 15, 12:15 pm
Friday Noon Musicale Series,
First Unitarian Society, (see p. 19)

Wednesday, May 6
Keillor Benefit For Tenney Park
Shelter, Overture Center, (p. 9)

Saturday, May 9, 8am-2pm
Plant Exchange, 1 N. Prospect,
(see p. 13)

Saturday, May 9, 9am-2pm
Native Plant Sale, Arboretum
Visitor Center, (see p. 17)

Thursday, May 14, 6:30-8 pm
Bike Rodeo, Randall School
playground, (see p. 19)

Saturday, May 16, 10am-Noon
Hoyt Park Volunteer Workday,
(see p. 16)

Sunday, May 17, 10 am-2 pm
Weed Feed Festival, Glenwood
Children's Park, (see p. 17)

Saturday, May 23, 8:30-11 am
Rain Garden Workshop,
Edgewood Campus, (see p. 14)

Wednesday, May 27, 7-9 pm
RNA Spring Meeting, West High
School Cafeteria, (see p. 1)

Sunday, July 19, 10 am-4 pm
RNA Garden Tour, (see p. 15)

For more information, check the RNA web site and Listserv

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The Regent Neighborhood Association Listserv

You can keep abreast of what's going on in the neighborhood by participating in the *RNA Listserv*, a discussion group for residents in the Regent Neighborhood.

To subscribe, send an email to RegentNeighborhoodAssn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
(You will receive an automatic response to your email address to which you must respond in order to finalize your subscription.)

To unsubscribe, send an email to RegentNeighborhoodAssn-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

To post a message, send it to RegentNeighborhoodAssn@yahoogroups.com.

To visit the group on the web, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RegentNeighborhoodAssn/>

The list owner is Robbie Webber. Contact her at RegentNeighborhoodAssn-owner@yahoogroups.com.