



Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

Your Local Neighborhood Newsletter

www.regentneighborhood.org

Spring / 2010

University Avenue Corridor Plan

Several years ago, a devoted group of residents and business representatives set out to prepare a plan for University Avenue Corridor (UAC). Working with a consultant, a preliminary plan was prepared which focused on design guidelines for the corridor. During the final stages of putting the Plan together, it was determined that more neighborhood-based discussion was necessary to ensure the vision, value, and design for the corridor. We are fortunate to have recently secured city staff resources from the Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development (DPCED) to work with Regent neighbors and business community to complete the planning process.

A Way to think about the Corridor

We want to think about the key factors that make the corridor work. An integrated approach will have the vision as the foundation and address the factors that make the corridor flourish or flounder. Three important components for this study:

1. Community Participation. Effective citizen participation during the planning process helps in shaping the outcomes to maximize its community benefits and in identifying and resolving potential issues as early as possible. As part of the planning process, it is our belief:

- The residents who live in Regent Neighborhood know most about University Avenue. DPCED will use results from a community survey and open houses to solicit input. A project website

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May 19th — RNA Spring Meeting: Old University Avenue Corridor Plan Kickoff and RNA Board Elections

The Regent Neighborhood Association, Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and the City of Madison will host an open house on the Old University Avenue Corridor Planning process, as part of the Spring RNA Membership Meeting.

We'll gather on **Wednesday, May 19th, starting at 7:00 p.m. at West High School.** The exact location at West High — the West High library or cafeteria — will be posted on the RNA website, the RNA listserv and at the West High Ash Street entrance.

The goal of the meeting is to: (1) give the neighborhood an opportunity to provide the RNA Board, Alder and City with feedback on the elements of the Old University Avenue Corridor planning process; and (2) elect new RNA board members.

University Avenue Corridor Plan

Jule Stoick, City of Madison planner, will be in attendance to provide an overview of planning process and garner neighborhood feedback on the proposal for finalizing the Corridor Plan.

RNA Board Elections:

We are looking for some new members to join the RNA Board: officers, at-large board members and committee chairs. The RNA is looking for folks to fill the positions of President elect, President,

(continued on page 3)

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

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darsi@tds.net

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jerrydiana@sbcglobal.net

Joanne Kloppenburg, 231-3058
kloppenburgj@DOJ.STATE.WI.US

Committee Chairs

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sarnowski@mac.com

Greenspace Conservation Committee

Steve Arnold, 233-1784
siarnold@sbcglobal.net

Membership Committee

Peg Cullen, 238-4090
pegeen14@yahoo.com

School Relations Committee

Marcia Vandercook, 236-9028
marcia.vandercook@gmail.com

Streets & Transportation Committee

Jason Bittner, 233-5236
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Sustainability Committee

Brent Sainsbury, 843-7355
brentsainsbury@gmail.com

UW Relations Committee

Laura Rose, 238-4386
ldykstal@yahoo.com

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 Karen Richardson, 238-0930

Area 7 Sherry & Wally Block, 233-5612

Area 8 Jim Fortner, 238-9221

Presidential Ramblings—

Volunteers needed to run the RNA

Village! We need your time to help us with the following RNA activities:

• **RNA Garage Sale – Summer 2010**

A big thanks to Jeff Pfundt for his annual efforts to coordinate the RNA Garage sale. He is retiring from this position, and we are looking for one or more persons to step into his shoes. Let us know if you or a team of folks would be willing to step forward to take over this important event.

• **July 4th Extravaganza — Summer 2010**

We need volunteers to do just about everything associated with the RNA July 4th festivities. Please let me know if you can spare an hour or two to help.

• **Rosebed Angel**

We need a volunteer to maintain the rosebed traffic island gardens on Breese Terrace. Email me, darsi@tds.net.

New RNA 'Hood Assignments:

- Laura Rose has taken over for George Hall as the RNA representative on Joint West and with UW Relations in general. Laura can be contacted at ldykstal@yahoo.com.
- Brent Sainsbury is our new Sustainability Coordinator. More info on Brent on page 3 of this newsletter.

A Big RNA 'Hood Thank You to:

- Larry Jacobsen for his dedication to the neighborhood and his retirement from taking care of the rose bushes on the Breese traffic islands. Larry, rest easy and thank you.
- George Hall, who retired from the RNA board and serving on Joint West, after several decades of service to the Regent Neighborhood. Thanks George.
- To the neighbors in the Hillington Green area who get up at dark thirty to drag big hoses out to the green to make ice. Thanks for allowing our kids to "drop the puck" each winter.
- Thanks to Shiva Bidar-Sielaff for being a big advocate for our neighborhood. Her tireless efforts are much appreciated.
- The volunteers who are working to make the Randall Playground-Olive Jones Park improvements a reality. Please donate and make this a reality.
- Those folks that took a minute or more to help out a neighborhood this winter, from shoveling snow, to pet sitting, to stopping by to check on someone's welfare. Thank you for making our neighborhood a special place.

It takes a village. Thanks for being part of it. Peace. — 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 March 31, 2010. 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.

Meet Our Sustainability Coordinator—

My name is Brent Sainsbury. I am a local alum of West High and UW-Madison with degrees in Real Estate and Accounting. After seeing Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* 3 years ago, I started Enlightening Real Estate and promoted it as Madison's first environmentally conscious real estate group. Currently, my organization partners with Focus on Energy's Home Performance with Energy Star to provide clients with energy saving information about their home. I became more interested in building a greener and more sustainable life by organizing an EnAct: Steps to Greener Living group in my previous neighborhood, and in August 2007, I decided to "divorce my car" and use Community Car and my bike. Along with my wife and puggle, I moved to Regent Street in 2008 in order to be within walking and biking distance of downtown and all the neighborhood has to offer. The past year has been a busy one for me; we installed 4.62 Kilowatts of Solar PV last year and delivered a daughter in January.



*Brent Sainsbury,
RNA Sustainability
Coordinator*

In my position as the Sustainability Chair for the Regent Neighborhood Association, I am hoping to form a neighborhood EnAct group that would promote education and conservation in order to reduce individual carbon footprints and build community. It is important to me to encourage residents to reduce their vehicle and home energy use, grow trees and native plants using water from rain barrels, and reduce and dispose of home waste materials properly. I am happy to be used as a resource, especially regarding energy reduction. Please call me at (608)843-7355 or email at brentsainsbury@gmail.com

RNA Listserv—Catch the News from the Regent Neighborhood Association!

Want to keep attuned to what is going on in the Regent Neighborhood and on the RNA board? It's easy, and it's free:

Register by clicking on regntneighborhoodassn | Google Groups and following the directions that say "sign in and apply for membership."

If you don't have a Google account, you'll need to set one up. You can sign up to get (1) all postings/emails; (2) a daily summary of postings; or (3) only for access to view the postings, similar to viewing a blog on a website.

Once you have a Google account, here is the info on our Google Group name and our group home page.

- Group name: regntneighborhoodassn
- Group home page: <http://groups.google.com/group/regntneighborhoodassn>

To send an email to the RNA Google Group: regntneighborhoodassn@googlegroups.com

Spring Meeting (cont'd from page 1)

and committee chairs. Please let me know if you are interested in throwing your name in the hat. A listing of the RNA board positions can be found at: <http://www.regntneighborhood.org/gpage8.html>

The best way to keep apprised of upcoming RNA Corridor Planning events and other RNA events and news is to join the RNA listserv at: http://groups.google.com:80/group/regntneighborhoodassn/members_invite

— Darsi Foss, RNA President



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Corridor Plan (cont'd from page 1)

(www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/) and e-notification system (<https://my.cityofmadison.com/>) will be operating soon so you can check on what is happening day or night.

- Involving business interests in project development contributes to the continued or improved economic health of the area. Outreach serves as a way to communicate short- and long-range benefits for improvements, provide us with a glimpse of how businesses are doing, and what type of improvement could help to grow businesses in the area. At least ten face-to-face business interviews will occur this Spring.
 - Open communications with UW-Madison, UW Hospitals, and other major stakeholders about current and future planning and/or project helps maximize the corridor investment.
- 2. Function and Design.** We want to look at local community character, relationships to surrounding land use patterns and scale, and set the stage for transformation of the corridor into a more livable, multi-modal street. We will revisit the work of the 2007 Draft UAC Plan, and other neighborhood planning-related documents,

and keep what is good and refine what isn't.

Many factors contribute to community character, such as site design, including placement of buildings, street and pedestrian access, parking, landscaping, local travel patterns and street configuration, and cultural/natural amenities. Several Open Houses are planned for neighbors and businesses to voice the importance and to react to what is proposed for the corridor.

3. Implementation. Public and private collaboration and what role they play are important for changes to occur on the corridor. The UAC Plan and Implementation Strategy will be review by various City boards and commissions and ultimately adopted by the Madison Common Council within the next twelve months.

Stay tuned for more information about the University Avenue Corridor Plan in the next few weeks. Join the e-notification list so you know what is happening and how to get involved in the planning process.

— *By Jule Stroick, City of Madison Neighborhood Planner; Darsi Foss, RNA President; and Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, District 5 Alder*

Old University Avenue Corridor Plan Timeline

April 2010

Community Input

- Community Survey
- Business Interviews
- Stakeholders Interviews

May 2010

Community Kickoff

- Open House — May 19th
7 pm West High School

June 2010

Corridor Design

- Design Workshop

July 2010

Alternative Scenarios

- Open House II

October 2010

Vision & Design Strategy

- Open House III

Mullins Group to Solicit Neighborhood Input on Development Project

We wanted to make you aware that the Mullins Group will be soliciting the neighborhood's input on its plans to move ahead with a development at the 2500 block of Old University Avenue. The RNA board would have preferred that this development occur after the Corridor Plan was submitted to the City, as articulated in a February 2010 letter to the city on this topic.

The RNA board has requested that, if the Mullins Group moves forward, it solicit the neighborhood's input on its proposal in an open and transparent process. The Mullins Group has hired Vandewalle and Associates to assist them with the public engagement process. The

Mullins Group, based on their presentation to the RNA Board in March, would like to submit a general proposal to the City in June/July 2010, for City approval to move ahead with the full development process. The Mullins Group has committed to return to the RNA board in the late Spring to discuss the outcome of the public engagement process on their conceptual design for the 2500 block, prior to submitting a proposal to the City.

We will use the RNA listserv to keep you apprised of these events.

— *Darsi Foss, RNA President*

District 5 Alder Report — Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

Sitting at home writing this update and listening to our first spring thunderstorms, I have been reflecting on the past year. What an amazing year! Thank you for the honor to serve as your alder. I am encouraged by what we have been able to accomplish together and look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in the coming year. I want to also take this time to thank the RNA Board, with special thanks to President Darsi Foss, for their tireless work on behalf of our neighborhood.



*Shiva Bidar-Sielaff,
Alder, District 5*

Here is a summary of some key District 5 and city issues:

University Avenue/Campus Drive Intersection:

The University Ave. & Campus Dr. reconstruction project is scheduled for this summer. Although it was originally planned as a sewer replacement and repaving of the intersection as is, as a result of a series of very productive discussions, we are going to take this opportunity to do a major redesign of the intersection, one that I believe is going to dramatically improve the intersection and make it a much more bike and pedestrian friendly area. RNA board members, UW, City traffic engineering, City engineering, and I have worked on this intersection redesign over the past few months. The proposal has been approved by the Pedestrian/Bike/Motor Vehicle Commission, the Board of Public Works and the Common Council. Main changes include bigger medians, adding a traffic light on the westbound side, adding landscaping to signal entrance to a neighborhood/campus for Old University, and an improved bike route.

Kendall/Bluff Bike Boulevard: The goals of the Kendall/Bluff Bike Boulevard are to create a safe bike route and to discourage car traffic, especially commuter (non-local) car traffic. A neighborhood meeting sponsored by the RNA, City Traffic Engineering and me was held on March 10. Dan McCormick, City of Madison Traffic Engineering, described the different options for a comprehensive bike boulevard approach to Kendall/Bluff. These options were arrived at after an initial discussion of the concept at the August 2009 RNA Board meeting and through subsequent discussions between Darsi Foss, RNA Board President, Jason Bittner, City Traffic Engineering and me. Attendees expressed much

support for a comprehensive bike boulevard approach.

The intent of the Kendall Boulevard is to serve an already highly used bicycle corridor even better. The western boundary will extend deep into the Hilldale area. This route has also already officially been a bicycle route for over 15 years. The Kendall bike boulevard is an appealing initiative because it not only creates a safer, improved bike route but, as importantly, it creates “barriers” that discourage commuter vehicle traffic. Given the impact of car traffic in our neighborhood, it provides an important opportunity for comprehensive traffic calming on Kendall.

Next Steps: Darsi Foss, RNA Board President, Jason Bittner, RNA Streets and Transportation Committee Chair, and I will meet with Dan McCormick, City Traffic Engineering, to discuss the feedback received at the March 10 meeting and finalize implementation plans. I will be sure to keep you updated.

I can’t finish this section on the Kendall Bike Boulevard without thanking Jason Bittner for his expert input and work on this project—thank you, Jason!

Clean Streets/Clean Lakes Program: I sponsored an ordinance change to add District 5 to the districts participating in the Clean Streets/Clean Lakes program. The Clean Streets/Clean Lakes program will prohibit parking one morning a week on blocks with no alternate side parking so plows and sweepers can access both sides of the block once a week. We have already successfully implemented this program on Arlington Place and on the 2500 block of Kendall Ave. Given the overwhelming support for this program, I am working with City Streets and Traffic Engineering on a district wide implementation plan.

Olive Jones/Randall School Park Renovation:

This has been a long-time dream for our neighborhood. It has been an exciting few months. A fantastic group of volunteers led by campaign chair Alison Alter and vice-chair Marcia Vandercook have been working very hard on this project. We are on our way to turn the first phase of the renovation- installation of a new playground into a reality this summer. Marcia is providing a more detailed update in her newsletter article, but I want to make sure to ask you to check the project website www.randallschoolpark.org. It truly takes a village!

Wisconsin Energy Institute Building (1552

University Ave.): We held a second public information meeting on January 26 to receive your feedback. The meeting

(continued on page 6)

Alder Report — cont'd from page 5

minutes and additional information on this project can be accessed at www.news.wisc.edu/wei. The timeline for the project is on a holding pattern for now. I will keep you abreast of any new details as I learn them.

Old University Ave Corridor Plan: We have been working on setting a process and timeline for the Old University. More details in a separate article in this newsletter.

Redevelopment of the 2500 Block of University Ave. (aka the Mullins Project): The Mullins Group is proceeding with a redevelopment proposal for 2500 block of University Avenue. They plan to hold a number of neighborhood meetings this spring/summer and submit a proposal to the City this summer. Vandewalle and Associates will be leading their public engagement process. I will be carefully listening to your feedback on the project.

Central Library: A few weeks ago, the Mayor informed the Council that negotiations with the Fiore-Irgens group that involved the construction of a new Central Library as well as the redevelopment of the entire block had broken down. A resolution to consider the complete renovation of the Central Library on its current site will be introduced by Alders Clear and Palm at our April 13 Council meeting. The Council will be discussing and voting on how to proceed in late April or early May. I am extremely supportive of a strong public library system

and look forward to evaluating feasible options in the weeks to come.

The Edgewater Project: This most talked about project received the recommendation for approval by the Urban Design Commission (initial approval) and the Plan Commission. It is scheduled to go back to the Landmarks Commission on April 14. The TIF application still needs to be submitted. The full project is scheduled to be discussed and voted on by the Common Council in April or May.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at district5@cityofmadison.com or (608) 220-6986 with any questions or concerns.


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Message From the Mayor—

Springtime in Madison

Warmer weather is upon us and that means it's spring clean up time.

The city began spring cleanup efforts on April 5 with the start of brush collection and leaf and yard waste collection. This year, brush collection will use the same rotation as leaf collection.

We're also hard at work minimizing potholes in the city, building upon an effort we launched two years ago. The Pothole Patrol is a comprehensive, 3-part approach that focuses on street repair and maintenance, use of innovative technology and long-term investments in rebuilding our streets to keep potholes from forming in the first place.

Our goal shouldn't be to fill in more potholes each year, but to avoid having them in the first place. The City Council and I have made a strong commitment to rebuilding main roadways that are in dire need of repair, and we are now seeing results with fewer



Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

potholes. The city repaired 50,569 potholes in 2008, 29,435 in 2009 and 10,291 so far in 2010.

Last year, the city reconstructed 9 miles of street and resurfaced 15 miles of street, including a long section of University Avenue and completion of the East Washington Avenue project. This year, the city will reconstruct another section of University Avenue with the final section out to Middleton slated for 2011.

Warmer weather also means Madison Parks are getting into full swing. All of the city's four golf courses are now open and signup is open for summer swim lessons, the Earth Day challenge and much more.

You can stay informed about Madison Parks, as well as spring cleanup, road construction and Pothole Patrol by visiting the city's spring webpage at www.cityofmadison.com/spring.

From this site, you can report a pothole to the city, sign up for email or text alerts or find the city on Facebook for more spring updates.

— Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
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Dane County Board Report, District 10—

I hope this edition of the RNA Newsletter finds you and your family well. As you read this the spring elections are over, and I'm honored to be entrusted with another 2-year term to serve District 10.

On March 4, the Dane County Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board of Directors held their first meeting, voted for officers, and adopted a resolution that says they will not vote to establish a sales tax without the passage of a referendum providing for that sales tax, and also includes a plan for transit. The referendum will be held at a future regularly scheduled election for the RTA area. District 10 resident Steve Hiniker is a member of the RTA Board.



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

The County Board passed a resolution to support new initiatives for encouraging sustainable agriculture in the county at our April 1 meeting. The Sustainable Agriculture Agenda for Dane County is the result of an 18-month process. A Sustainable Agriculture subcommittee was appointed in the spring of 2009 to set priorities. The subcommittee, co-chaired by District 10 resident Margaret Krome, reviewed recommendations from public work groups on Beginning Farmers, Profitability, Farmland Preservation, and Urban Agriculture & Food Security in formulating its proposal for the Board. Those recommendations include establishment of an incubator farm for new entrepreneurs, and an inventory of county lands available for agricultural lease.

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

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Hillington Green Ice Rink

The neighbors and friends of Hillington Green, also known as Triangle Park, wrapped up the 5th successful year of our outdoor ice rink. By the time you read this, there will be no trace of what, a short time ago, was a bustling sheet of ice with lots of happy skaters and hockey players. It's amazing what vision, a water source, and many, many volunteer hours will create. You may not know that while we are supported by the city, we use all of our own community resources to keep the rink going all winter—from snow plowing by neighbor Brian Steele, to shoveling, to icing (sometimes into the wee hours of the morning to get those sub-20 degree temps)—all of the work is done by neighbors who step up, or rather bundle up, to volunteer their time. This year, we also introduced “no stick & no puck” hours. By community consensus, weekends from 11 am to noon were reserved for anyone to skate on the rink sans hockey paraphernalia. It was a wonderful skating season.

THANK YOU to everyone who got involved. We'll no doubt be gearing up again in November or December, so please consider coming out to help so that we can have a successful 6th season. In the meantime, get ready for movies in the Triangle Park, softball Wednesdays, the July 3 Little Music Festival ...

— The Friends of Hillington Green



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Madison Trust Begins 2010 Tour Season Memorial Day Weekend

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation will begin its 2010 Tour Season with several historic tours on Saturday, May 29th. Scheduled for the Tour Kick-Off are two walking tours and one (new!) bike tour:

State Street 10 a.m.

Mansion Hill East 11:30 a.m.


Historic East Isthmus bike tour 1:00 p.m.

Please see www.madisontrust.org for meeting places and full summer schedule, or call 608-441-8864. All tours cost \$5 and include a free treat at a locally-owned business. Reservations required for East Isthmus Bike Tour, as space is limited. Bikes can be rented at Machinery Row Bicycles.

The Madison Trust is now taking applications for people interested in training to be a historic walking tour docent. Three training sessions will take place in April. Please direct inquiries to Volunteer Coordinator Jane Crandall, 608-441-8864.

— Erica Fox Gehrig
Madison Landmarks Commission
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3rd Annual Plant Exchange, May 15

It's that time of year again! Time to start getting ready for the Third Annual Regent Neighborhood Plant Exchange on Saturday, May 15, 2010, from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm (or whenever people stop showing up!)

Where: I am planning on hosting this at my home, as I have the last two years, at 1 North Prospect Avenue, but if the number of people who RSVP is too large, we may relocate to a larger space (such as Olive Jones Park, adjacent to Randall Elementary School).

We had 150+ people last year and an enormous list of plants—all free! The Froth House has again generously offered to sponsor the event with free coffee, and I will provide juice. Thank you Froth House for your continued support of this event.

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.

Annuals, perennials, vegetables, shrubs, trees, and native plants all welcome and encouraged. 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 five of one plant and not leave any for others.

Although this is happening in Madison's Regent Neighborhood, I am again opening it to anyone in the gardening community—the more the merrier, and the better selection for all. Please feel free to tell any and all gardeners you think would be interested.

Please RSVP so 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. Anyone who would like to help prepare for the event or with the "day of" setup - it would be greatly appreciated!

— Elizabeth Kerwin
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Shop Local — What Does It Mean To You?

We hear a lot these days about the benefits of shopping local. When we spend our money at locally owned businesses, more of that money continues to circulate within the local economy, helping our neighbors and friends and other local businesses, providing resources for needed services, and helping build a vibrant and thriving community. We're more likely to find local foods in locally owned stores, too. More abstractly, supporting small, local independent businesses keeps the forces of corporate homogeneity at bay and provides some needed balance to the power of big national and global companies in lobbying for government policies that so often run counter to the interests of families and the environment.

Principles aside, with the recent economic woes, a lot of people are starting to see some of the practical advantages in shopping local, too. I'll speak from my own experience. I can walk or bike to the co-op and pick up what I need for supper tonight or family meals for a week. Not only do I save gas, but more importantly I save an hour or more of my time over a trip to Woodmans, which used to be my first choice for food shopping. More and more, I find myself taking the easy option of running quickly to the co-op for my grocery needs. It doesn't hurt that I often run into friends there, and get to catch up on news from friends in my community.

There's no denying that I do pay more for a gallon of milk at the co-op than I would at Woodmans. I also pay more for a head of lettuce at the farmer's market than I do at the store. But just as I've always felt it silly for people to drive across town to save three cents per gallon on gas, I've come to see the value of the farmer's market and the co-op in broader terms than just the total on my receipt. And it's not just measured in my time and money, either. I know that the suppliers to the co-op and the farmers at the market are receiving fair value for their goods. I don't know that about the suppliers to the big stores, who have to shave margins relentlessly, maybe even at the expense of quality.

I still shop all over town, but I think local first. It works for me.

— Brad Wolbert
Regent Market Co-op

The above ideas are explored in greater detail in an excellent article by Stacy Mitchell of the New Rules Project. See "A New Deal For Local Economies" at <http://www.newrules.org/retail/article/new-deal-local-economies>.

Neighborhood Events

4rd Annual Bike Rodeo Thursday, May 27th, 6:30-8:30 Randall Elementary School Playground

Join your neighbors for the 4th Annual Bike Rodeo! Come get your helmet and bike adjusted, learn safety tips and signals, practice your skills in a small obstacle course, and meet bike racers from the UW-Madison cycling team. Snacks, water, and small giveaways for every child. Jointly sponsored by the Regent Neighborhood Association and Vilas Neighborhood Association, The City of Madison and Trek Bicycles. Please contact Troy Thiel at troythiel@yahoo.com if you'd like to volunteer.

This year the rodeo also teams up with the Olive Jones Playground Committee and Franklin/Randall PTO to showcase the new playground equipment for Olive Jones park. Please bring your checkbook so you can contribute to this terrific project.

RNA Board Meeting Schedule

April 28	The InnTowner, 7 pm
May 19	West High School, 7 pm
June 23	The InnTowner, 7 pm



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A Block Party with International Flavor

Once again, the residents of the 2500 block of Kendall Avenue celebrated their annual block party on the Saturday after Labor Day, a tradition that's been happening for at least 18 years, though no one's memory is really good enough anymore to be very precise on this particular point. To set the stage, the street, as in years past, became home to some fine wicker furniture that is usually found gracing some of our block's coveted front porches, with potted plants, woven rugs, and an outdoor fireplace completing the scene.

This year by chance, we had the great fortune to count among our guests friends and visitors from several different countries. These included Ireland, Viet Nam, Switzerland, Italy, South Africa, and Mt. Prospect, IL. (This last guest did not win the award for traveling the farthest distance, though his presence was certainly notable.) Other countries represented (albeit by food, rather than human beings) included...uh... Germany! (provided one can assert that Regent St. Co-op brats and Sprecher Amber are, essentially, German foods.)

I suppose I could go on and on, (ping-pong was played, which originated in England) but I think you get the point. Please send your extra-special neighborhood block party stories for inclusion in our next newsletter! Ciao!

— Peg Cullen



Kendall Avenue neighbors move the livingroom to the street for their annual block party.

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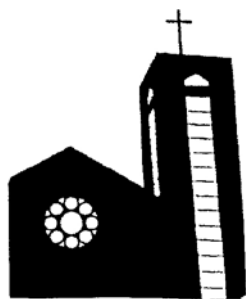
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A Youthful Journal Comes to Light

The best minutes of a neighborhood meeting I've read recently comes courtesy of a group of teenage girls living in University Heights over a hundred years ago. And from neighbor Dave Mickelson who brought them my way.

The girls were sisters Pauline and Mary Buell, their friends Catharine Jackson, Margaret Knowlton, Leola Lorenz, and Margaret McGilvary, all founding members of a literary club that, from 1906 to 1909, was a lively counterpart to their parents' poetry club. These families were among the first residents of University Heights.

Perhaps newsletter readers know the story of the University Heights Poetry Club. From October 31, 1896 to the 1960s, it was an important medium of entertainment and intellectual exchange in the neighborhood. The group included University of Wisconsin-Madison professors and their spouses, and business and civic leaders. They had enough of a sense of history to keep records of their meetings, which are now in the archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society and UW-Madison.

But who knew there was another Heights social and reading club whose members also maintained a journal? Mickelson, a UW-Madison emeritus professor of geoscience, discovered the journal when he was organizing the papers of the late Jill Gonzalez-Jay along with those of her mother, Gertrude Knowlton Wilson. Wilson, who died in 1999, was Margaret Knowlton's baby sister, the youngest daughter of Amos and Jennie Knowlton, two of the founders of the Poetry Club. (Amos Knowlton was a UW-Madison professor of English.)

But back to the girls! The minutes of the group, called "Hill Folk," is a delightful read. There are details about dues-paying and the election of officers, along with accounts of what the group read – Winston Churchill's novel, *The Crossing*, a story by Herman Melville,

Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and more age-specific tales such as *A Cathedral Courtship*, by Kate Douglas Wiggin, author of *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*.

But other subjects make the journal particularly endearing and revealing. There are accounts of songs, dances, and games at the turn of the century. The girls – mostly in their pre- and early teens – also kept a faithful record of what they ate at their gatherings, including sugar cookies, molasses candy, toasted marshmallows, ice cream and fudge. And the girls knew how to write – the entries are at turns erudite and playful, artful and humorous. Take two entries for example. On January 18, 1907, one of the girls writes that the meeting could hardly be dignified by that name, "as it was chiefly composed of giggles and 'slams' and compliments to, well, I mention no names." Another entry, for the April 19, 1907 meeting refers to the appearance of two young male guests, "who sad to say demanded most of the attention."

The journal, some 100 pages in length, ends abruptly on March 12, 1909. That night, Anna Ely (who joined the group in 1907 – there were eventually about ten members) read a short story. The girls drank lemonade and ate "nabiscoes," then adjourned "a happy band." One wonders, did the girls outgrow the meetings, was the press of schoolwork and family responsibilities too great, was it too hard to keep things going given the absences that seemed to plague the group, or is there a second notebook, yet to be discovered, that continues the story?

Thanks to Mickelson, you can draw your own conclusions. He has donated the journal and other Knowlton family papers to the Historical Society. He's also made copies for the neighborhood, and I'm grateful to have one of them. And wouldn't the "Hill Folk" minutes make an excellent reading and writing project for a West High School English class?

— Ronnie Hess

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All For Youth — A West High School-Based Program

About a year ago I created a business not-for-profit called All For Youth. The reason was to be able to support the projects that students at West had that were not being taken into account mainly for a financial reason or just because they did not know who to go to. All For Youth only employs high school students, ages 16 and up, providing them with the possibility of an educational and economical development. After the students are paid by an hourly rate, all the profits are reinvested by them in the projects that they have created or that they would like to develop.

The prices of our services are extremely inexpensive in comparison to our competitors because our overhead is very small; the only cost that we truly need to finance is the kids' salary and utilize the rest as profit. For instance, to remove snow in the neighborhood we have been charging only \$15.00 per time and that includes salt.

We need more help to be able to have more students work for us. Our goal is to have one hundred houses for landscaping for the spring and summer season. The reason that we set these numbers is because we can have a rotation of eight to twelve students per day. If we estimate that we are serving these homes twice a month then we are employing 120 students per month and keeping their weekends free for them to enjoy their earnings.

I would not want the readers to mistake this program for a money-making business. Our belief is that closing the racial barrier and unifying youth is a necessity to the success of our community. Our youth come together to make decisions upon what they wish for the future of their community and to achieve what they believe would better serve their community. To give you an example, I personally lived through the recent earthquakes in Chile this past February. Once I arrived back in Madison my kids suggested we invest in having a month and a half of fundraisers for the victims of Chile. Not too many of my kids know


that I am Chilean but they still believed that this was a necessity. Our project is to travel to Chile and build homes for the victims with our funds raised by these events. So as you see, our youth believe that there is more to be done.

We saw that funding was always an issue for the success of entities such as ours so we went out to seek these funds through our own effort to be able to finance our youth needs and projects that they wish to accomplish. Our youth wishes to be the best and through All for youth they have created and found a way to do it, it is all theirs to succeed.

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