

egent Neigl

Spring 2011 Newsletter | www.regentneighborhood.org

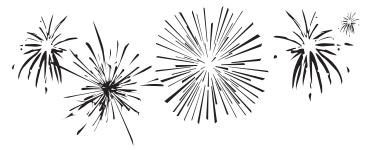
2011 RNA Spring Meeting Wednesday, May 25 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Best Western InnTowner, 2424 University Avenue

Refreshments Served

Featuring Neighborhood Updates:

- University Avenue Corridor Plan
- · Olive Jones-Randall School Playground
- West High New Basketball Courts
- Street Work on University and Highland Avenues
- Spring RNA Board Elections



RNA Fourth of July Festival: Four for the Fourth by June 4th

Each year, the Regent Neighborhood hosts one of the best neighborhood events in the city — the July Fourth Festival at West High practice field.

To continue this tradition, we need four more people for the coordinating committee. This group not only divides and conquers the tasks needed to make this great event happen each year, it also helps to organize the volunteers for the event.

Please respond by June 4th, when the committee will make a go, no-go decision on the 2011 Festival.

If you'd like to join the coordinating committee, or can help in other ways, please contact Mary Sarnowski at 238-1224 or sarnowski@mac.com. ■

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

Officers

President/Past President Darsi Foss, 233-0699, darsi@tds.net

President-Elect JoAnne Kloppenburg, 231-3058 jfkloppenburg@gmail.com

Secretary
Brad Wolbert, 236-0535, bbjs@charter.net

Secretary-Elect Rachel Currans-Sheehan, 230-5334 ms.rachelcs@gmail.com

Treasurer Elizabeth Greene, 233-3819 e_greene@charter.net

Treasurer-Elect Maggie Coluccy, 238-4655 mpcoluccy@charter.net

Board Members At-Large Sarah Canon, 238-0034, sfcanon14@ yahoo.com

Cathy Cetrangolo, 283-1703 ccetrangolo@boardmanlawfirm.com

Ronnie Hess, 238-1828, rlhess@wisc.edu LD Oakley, 263-5866, ldoakley@wisc.edu John Schlaefer, 886-3456 john_schlaefer@yahoo.com

Committee Chairs

Communications Mary Sarnowski, 238-1224 sarnowski@mac.com

Greenspace Conservation Steve Arnold, 233-1784 siarnold@sbcglobal.net

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School Relations

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

Streets & Transportation Jason Bittner, 233-5236 jbitt@yahoo.com

Sustainability

Brent Sainsbury, 843-7355 brentsainsbury@gmail.com

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UW Relations

Laura Rose, 238-4386 ldykstal@yahoo.com

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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

Final Presidential Musings — Thank You, Regent Neighborhood!

Just a quick and short "thank you" for the honor of serving as your neighborhood president the last two years. It has been a pleasure working with you on a number of new and exciting initiatives in the neighborhood, and also trying to tackle some of the continuing issues that face our neighborhood.

I would like to thank the great folks that serve or have served on the Regent Neighborhood Board, and the countless good neighbors and volunteers that make our neighborhood special. A



RNA Board President Darsi Foss

special thanks to Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff for her energy, commitment, intelligence and compassion for those she serves. I feel truly blessed to have served with her as your neighborhood president. You are all in good hands. ■

— darsi

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, 2011. 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.



Looking For a Few Good Volunteers — RNA Board Openings

Perhaps you've thought about stepping forward to help out the neighborhood in the past? 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 at the Best Western InnTowner 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 atlarge 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 2012-13 term) would be best. ("Elect" positions are not voting members of the board unless the officer is absent.)

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.

We are required by the RNA bylaws to have a nominating committee. We will slate the interested candidates in advance of the May 18th Spring 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 12th.

The following board positions are open:

President-ElectOPEN

This position is the understudy to the president. This position attends all RNA board meetings.

Secretary.....OPEN

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-Elect.....OPEN

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. Treasurer.....OPEN

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-Elect.....OPEN

Understudy to the treasurer.

Please let us know if you'd like to volunteer, by emailing Darsi Foss at darsi@tds.net ■

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Attic Angel Association's House & Garden Tour in University Heights



University Heights has been chosen for "The Grand Finale", Attic Angel Association's 58th and final House & Garden Tour that will take place Monday, June 20, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

We are delighted to feature five fabulous homes, including Olin House at 130 N. Prospect, Pence House at 168 N. Prospect, Kahlenberg House at 234 Lathrop, Storybook House at 2114 Van Hise, and the distinctive contemporary at 1833 Van Hise. Come see what your neighbors have done to these grand homes and gardens!

Parking will be provided at Edgewood High School with buses transporting visitors to the homes. Complimentary refreshments will be served at Olin House throughout the day. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$16 at Attic Angel Association, 640 Junction Road, Madison, and at the Attic Sale, Madison's largest one-day resale, on June 16 at High Point Church. Tickets the day of the Tour are \$18. For more information, please see our website at **www.atticangel.org**, or call 608-662-8900.

Attic Angel Association is a 122-year old non-profit of over 580 volunteers dedicated to serving the community. The beneficiaries of the 2011 House & Garden Tour will be Porchlight's Family Housing First Program, Middleton Outreach Ministry's Housing Assistance Project, S.A.I.L. (Supporting Active Independent Lives), and the Attic Angel Resident Aid Fund. We truly appreciate your support of the Tour and look forward to seeing all of you on Monday, June 20! ■

— for the Garden Tour Committee, Pat Wood, 233 4680





University and Highland Road Construction Projects Will Cause Summer Traffic Issues

The City of Madison will begin a much needed resurfacing project this Spring on "old" University Avenue. Also in the works for the summer construction schedule are reconstruction efforts on Highland Avenue, and small portions of Van Hise, Walnut, and Forest streets. Paunack Place will be rebuilt this summer as well.

Obviously the University and Highland projects will be disruptive to the neighborhood's traffic patterns. The resurfaced corridors will allow for better bicycle and pedestrian access, improved parking availability, and improved ride and pavement conditions.

University Avenue will be affected in phases from Grand Avenue to Breese Terrace. Beginning in mid-April, the City will restrict traffic to one lane Eastbound from Grand Avenue to Walnut Street. For approximately four weeks, coinciding with the end of the UW's spring term, University Avenue will remain open for two way traffic east of Walnut Street. Bus routes will continue to serve the entire corridor eastbound, however westbound routes will detour at Walnut Street and proceed north to Observatory Drive to parallel the closed part of the corridor. From mid-April to mid-May Walnut Street north of Kendall will also be closed to through traffic.

In mid-May, the most disruptive period for University Avenue access begins following the end of the spring term. The entire University Avenue corridor will be restricted to one-way Eastbound movements from Grand Avenue to Breese Terrace. Walnut and Forest north of Kendall will remain closed and Paunack Place will be restricted as well. All old University Avenue westbound bus routes will be detoured. The 19 route will head south to Regent Street along Breese and the

other routes will follow a northern path along Observatory Drive through campus, ultimately destined for Highland. Eastbound routes remain scheduled in the corridor as usual. Some stops may be temporarily adjusted based on work and lane restrictions. On Route 2, riders will be able to transfer from westbound busses at Highland Avenue (with estimated 5 minute wait times and a street crossing) to access University Avenue stops as needed. This situation is expected to last four weeks as well through mid-June.

Starting in mid-June, following the summer dismissal for West High, the western end of the corridor should reopen west of Allen Boulevard. Eastbound traffic from Allen to Breese will still be one lane. Highland Avenue will close to all through traffic. The 2400 block of Van Hise will also be closed to through traffic. Westbound busses will detour around the closed segments of University Avenue, but are expected to return to University Avenue at Walnut Street. This condition is expected through mid-August.

Highland Avenue and Van Hise will likely remain closed through early September. If projects stay on schedule, Highland Avenue would be re-opened at the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

A website has been set up for the projects. Visit www. cityofmadison.com/engineering/universityAvenue/grandBreese.cfm for complete details. Details on bus route changes should also be available at this website. Questions and comments may be directed to Glen Yoerger in City Engineering (608) 261-9177 gyoerger@cityofmadison.com

— Jason Bittner Streets & Transportation Committee





Historic Architecture Tours To Begin in May

Madison Trust for Historic Preservation celebrates ten years of architecture tours in Madison's historic neighborhoods. The University Heights tour is one of seven tours offered this summer.

University Heights developed as an early suburb beyond the edges of the downtown area, and primarily attracted employees of the University of Wisconsin. Residential designs in the neighborhood span a range of trends that includes Victorian designs, Revival styles, the Prairie School, Arts and Crafts, the Modern Movement and Post-Modernism. The neighborhood is unified by high-quality designs and construction, and retains a high degree of historic integrity. The tour focuses on the residential work of world-famous architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan, as well as famed local architects Claude & Stark and Alvan Small. Fifteen homes are highlighted during the tour.

The 75-minute University Heights tours begin at the corner of Prospect and Van Hise Avenues, in front of Sullivan's Bradley House,

- at 11:00 a.m. on the following Saturdays:
 June 25, July 16, August 27 and September 24.
- at 6:00 p.m. on the following Thursdays: July 21 and August 25.

Tour cost is adults \$10, seniors and college students \$5. Tours are always free for MTHP members. Please join us, rain or shine, for an up-close look at the varied architectural styles of this charming neighborhood.

For information about other historic architecture tours offered by MTHP, including State Street, King Street, Mansion Hill East, Mansion Hill West, Bascom Hill and the East Isthmus Bike Tour, please visit our website at **www.madisonpreservation.org.**

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation is a member-supported advocacy and education organization working for conservation and awareness of Madison's important historic places. MTHP is a local partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



The Bradley House



The Airplane House



More Exciting Changes for Randall School Playground

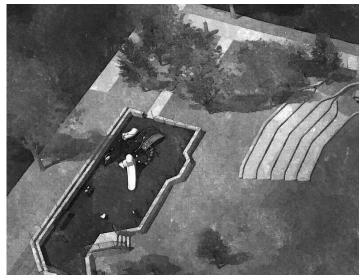
Anyone driving down Regent Street has probably noticed the significant upgrade in playground equipment at Randall School. If your kids go to school there, you know how much they enjoy it. It's already made such a difference that our project was recently honored by the Madison Parks Foundation as "Volunteer Project of the Year."

This summer, in Phase 2, we hope to make more exciting improvements, including a neighborhood playground for younger children, an amphitheater for school and community events, new landscaping, and improved fencing and accessible entrances.

There are two ways you can help us finish Phase 2 this summer. First, the City of Madison's People for Parks fund will match all donations to the park, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000. This means your donation this spring will go twice as far.

Second, you now have the opportunity to engrave a personal message on the park walkways or walls. You can inscribe your child's name or honor a favorite teacher from your past - become a part of Randall School history! For a donation of \$250-\$499, your inscription will appear on a 10"x10" paver on the path or amphitheater floor. For a donation of \$500 or more, your message will appear on a large capstone on one of the new retaining walls. You can also join with others to make a collective gift honoring a street, a Girl Scout troop, or a favorite school or neighborhood

We must meet our fundraising goal this summer to get the matching grant and other city funding. We understand these are uncertain times for many



View from above of new addition to Randall playground

families, but this is a small positive step we can take locally to support our schools and neighborhoods. We're just \$30,000 away and we think we can do it - with your help!

Please visit **randallschoolpark.org** to see drawings of the new park features and details on the donor recognition program. You can make a tax-deductible donation online or send it to Foundation for Madison Public Schools, 455 Science Drive, Madison 53711, and note that the gift is for Randall School - Olive Jones Park. Because every neighborhood deserves a space to play, gather and grow.

— Marcia Vandercook and Alison Alter

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Dear Regent Neighborhood Community,

For the past 4.5 years, it has been my great pleasure to serve our Regent Allen Neighborhood at the Froth House. I appreciate the support you have shown our business and count many of you as more than just customers, but as friends.

Therefore it is with sadness I am writing this letter to announce the plan to transfer ownership of the cafe by June 12th. I have decided to pursue new career interests at the end of this school semester.

We hope to make a smooth and orderly transition. It is our belief that public spaces are the lifeblood of the community and create value well beyond the goods and services sold. We have had excellent music, art, and poetry over the years as well as many intimate encounters with friends and family here, we hope this tradition can continue.

Stay tuned to our progress by subscribing to our Google Group 'Froth House Forum' or by stopping into the store. I would love to fill you in!

Sincerely,

Terese lucky13ent@gmail.com 608-231-0100

Old Regent Street Tennis Courts to Become Basketball Courts and a Park

After years of neglect, West High plans to make over the old Regent Street tennis courts this summer. Alumnus Ken Saiki '70 has contributed a design for two basketball courts and a community space. An overview of the design and many details can be seen online at http://madisonwestalumni.ning.com/page/new-campaign-regent-street.

The school district is providing enough funds for a basic refurbishment. To create a more beautiful space, the Madison West High Alumni Association is seeking private donations from alumni, neighbors, parents and friends. They hope to raise funds quickly enough to complete construction this summer.

The new park and courts will be open to the neighborhood. They will have lighting so they can be used until the evening, but the school has offered assurances that it will lock the gates and turn off the lights at night.



View from Regent Street of new community space at West High

Gifts can be made online or by contacting the Foundation for Madison Public Schools at fmps.org. All gifts are tax deductible and may be eligible for corporate matching gifts.

Marcia Vandercook,
 RNA School Liaison







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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 1300 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 a very cool and informative annual directory...your personal guidebook to everything you want and 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 September 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 (www.regentneighborhood.org) 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 membershipliness,

— Peg Cullen



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Field House Lights up Night Sky

If you've passed the Breese Terrace side of the Field House after dark you may have thought you'd come upon one of those over-illuminated used car lots that sit astride the Beltline.

Despite what appears to be adequate and discreet night-time lighting in the parking lot adjacent to the Field House, the Athletic Department has mounted two large lights at roof level. The resulting illumination is far in excess of what seems necessary and totally inappropriate for a residential neighborhood.

Equally troubling are the lights themselves. Driving east on Chadbourne they loom in the night sky like 2 locomotive headlights. They're also visible from the top of the Heights, at Summit and Ely.

RNA has been working, UNFORTNATELY WITHOUT RESOLUTION, with the University for over a year to address the problem. We're hopeful it will be resolved in the near future.

— Ron Rosner





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Public Art and Little Libraries for Bike Ramp Area

Volunteers from both the Regent and Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhoods worked throughout the summer of 2010 to landscape the Prospect Avenue Bike Ramp area. Over thirty bushes have been planted and numerous flower beds have been seeded. The project has sparked two new initiatives designed to add interest to the area.

Several of the landscape volunteers gathered this winter for the purpose of discussing the possibility of introducing public art to the Prospect Avenue bike path area. The area contains two 100-foot bike ramps, two sets of steps leading down to the bike path plus a 12x6 foot concrete slab alongside one of the stairways. A small wooded area is located next to the stairs on the Dudgeon-Monroe side.

Anyone with an interest in exploring the public art option for the area should contact either Steve Arnold at 233-1784 (siarnold@sbcglobal.net) or Jake Blasczyk at 251-9506 (Jacob84@charter.net).

A second initiative involves consideration of joining the Free Little Libraries movement. This movement, sparked by RNA resident, Rick Brooks, involves building a creative 20" wide by 15" structure on a sturdy post.

Books are placed in the structure for public use.
Several of these Free Little Libraries currently
exist in Madison and other cities in

Wisconsin. One of the current suggestions is for the Prospect Avenue ramp Free Little Library to contain books related to the landscaping features of the Prospect ramp area. For example, the landscape project will contain a butterfly garden, another area contains wild flowers and other sections will contain edible berries. For more information, Google Free Little Libraries.

— Steve Arnold Greenspace Committee



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The Pattern Language of the Co-op

A few years ago our family was considering a major addition to our house and we were wrestling with design questions. An architect friend suggested I consult *A Pattern Language* by Christopher Alexander and others. This rich and classic book opened my eyes to a new way of looking at materials, structure, and spaces built and unbuilt to answer the question "what is it that makes some places comfortable and welcoming, and others not?"

Our house addition never materialized, and I set the book aside, moving on to other things. A few weeks ago, though, I spotted the same book on another friend's shelf and opened it by pure chance to page 440, "Corner Grocery," which begins with the following:

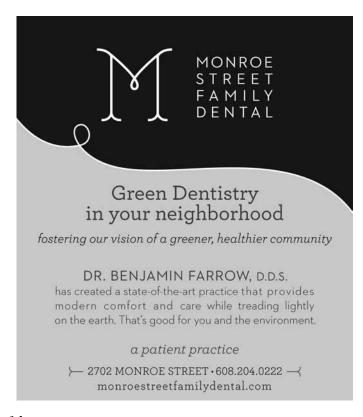
It has lately been assumed that people no longer want to walk to local stores. This assumption is mistaken.

I read further and found that the chapter could have been written specifically with the Regent Market Co-op in mind. It goes far to explain why so many of us have developed such a strong affinity to shopping at the Little Store. The book cites a study by the consulting firm Arthur D. Little "which found that neighborhood stores are one of the two most important elements in people's perception of an area as a neighborhood."

I turned to other chapters (the chapters or "patterns" in this book are very short, typically three or four pages with diagrams and photographs). In "Web of Shopping" (p. 104) I found the sensible observation that a stable, successful store should locate itself near its customers, away from immediate proximity with competitors, and within clusters of other kinds of shops. "Individually Owned Shops" (p. 432) distinguishes between large, absentee-owned franchise and chain stores, and stores owned and operated by individuals in the neighborhood. "Main Entrance" (p. 540), "Opening to the Street" (p. 773), and "The Shape of Indoor Space" (p. 883) all support the seemingly haphazard, but historically wise, web of design decisions that have resulted in the Little Store as we experience it today.

Languages convey meaning, and *A Pattern Language* elucidates the meaning that lies behind successful spaces, rooms, structures, and communities. We use the language, and generate meaning for the neighborhood, in every decision we make about what our houses, transport routes, schools and parks should look like. But as *A Pattern Language* makes clear, we also use the language and become part of this meaning every time we choose to shop locally.

— Brad Wolbert Regent Market Co-op President





District 5 Alder Report — Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

It is hard to believe that two years have already gone by since you elected me as your alder. I look forward to representing you for another term.

First and foremost, I want to thank Darsi Foss, outgoing RNA Board President, for her tireless work and advocacy on behalf of our neighborhood over the past two years. Darsi's energy and commitment to our neighborhood are inspiring. Namaste, Darsi!



Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Alder, District 5

Here is a summary of some key issues:

Construction season is here!

Unfortunately this will be an extremely disruptive construction season. In District 5, the construction season started on April 13. Here is a quick summary:

• Phase 1: April 13 to May 22

University Ave will be closed from Grand Avenue to Walnut Street, except for one eastbound lane of traffic. Walnut Street from University Avenue to Kendall Avenue will be closed to through traffic with local and emergency access only. All other street segments will remain open.

• Phase 2: May 23 to June 24

University Avenue from Grand Avenue to Breese Terrace will be closed except for one eastbound lane of traffic. Walnut Street, Paunack Place and Forest Street will be closed to through traffic with local and emergency access only. All other street segments remain open.

• Phase 3: June 25 to Mid August

University Avenue from N. Allen Street to Breese Terrace will be closed except for one eastbound lane. Highland Avenue, Van Hise Avenue, Paunack Place and Forest Street will be closed to through traffic with local and emergency access only. All other street segments remain open.

• Phase 4: Mid-August to early September
Highland Avenue and Van Hise Avenue will be
closed to through traffic with local and emergency
access only. All other street segments will be open.

There is no doubt that we will see much disruption due to the extensive amount of construction in the two major arteries in the neighborhood (University Avenue and Highland) and that there will be an increase in traffic on other streets such as Allen, Farley and Franklin as well as Regent and Breese. I will certainly do my best to work with all of you and city staff to try to mitigate the impact of this construction project, but options will be limited. The upside is that there will be many pedestrian improvements to both University Avenue and Highland Avenue based on the feedback received during neighborhood meetings held as part of the construction planning.

UW Football Game

UW Athletics Department has announced that there will be a football game on Thursday, September 1 at 6 or 7pm. This will be in addition to a Saturday, October 1 evening game. I will be working with UW, alders and neighborhood association representatives from neighborhoods around Camp Randall, city staff, and Mayor's office to discuss and attempt to have our neighborhood concerns addressed.

Hotel Red

Over the past year, many of you have inquired about the status of the Hotel Red at Regent and Monroe in District 13. The Hotel is now under new ownership. Red Hospitality, based in Houston, Texas, will oversee its completion and operations going forward. Inn Development and Management Group (www.inn-devmgmt.com) has been hired to manage the hotel.

Zoning Code Rewrite

At its March 29, 2011 meeting, the Madison Common Council adopted the new zoning code. Work on the code began in December of 2007. While the new zoning code was adopted, the new zoning map and downtown zoning districts are not yet complete. Work continues on these items and is expected to continue through 2011. The new zoning code does not take effect until the new zoning map is adopted. The mapping process will involve extensive public outreach.

In the interim, the existing zoning code and map are in effect. Here is a where the new zoning code can be found: http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/attachments/a7261a03-67a8-413b-a97a-a07f72552155.pdf

(continued on page 16)



(continued from page 15)

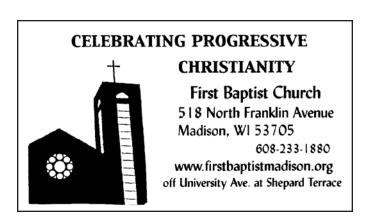
Aldermanic District Redistricting

The City has embarked on the process of redistricting our wards and aldermanic districts based on the 2010 census. This is an incredibly important process that impacts our democratic process and your representation at all levels of government. I encourage you to follow this issue and to provide your thoughts and input. There are a number of public hearings being scheduled to get citizens' input. There is a short timeline for this process: proposed new districts will come before the City Council in July. District 5 is definitely going to be highly impacted by redistricting so I very much urge you to come to one of the public

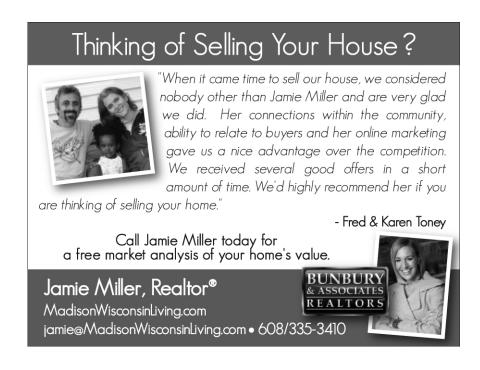
hearings, email me and/or the redistricting committee members to give us your feedback. Here is the link to the redistricting website (click on "Meetings" for information on past and upcoming meetings): http://www.cityofmadison.com/cityHall/redistricting/

Thank you for your continued involvement in neighborhood and city issues. I feel honored to represent you wonderful neighborhood on the City Council and look forward to serving you for another term. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, and/or concerns. I can be reached at district5@cityofmadison.com or (608) 220-6986. ■









Dane County Board Report, District 10—

I hope this edition of the RNA Newsletter finds you and your family well. The first few months of this year has seen Madison in political turmoil that will have significant repercussions for Dane County's budget. This year's State budget is probably one of the most unfair in recent memory. One of the most worrisome elements of the budget occurs in the Income Maintenance program. In



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

Dane County, this basic survival program is funded by the state and county and is implemented by county workers to ensure that our residents who ask for assistance such as Food Share (food stamps), Medicaid, or Badger Care are eligible for that assistance and then receive it. Obviously, these programs are critical for the families affected by the Great Recession and prevent other human services and volunteer programs from being overwhelmed. The total EAWD Division employs about 119 County staff and includes about \$3.5 million of County General Purpose Revenue (GPR) (\$1.5 million funds homeless and shelter services). The budget, in its current form, proposes that the state will take over most of the income maintenance program, including \$1.8 million of the County's \$3.5 million contribution (in the form of reduced Community Aids) and contract out its implementation. In addition to the loss of our GPR, we will lose \$4.5 million in state revenues and we may have to lay off 70 county employees.

A second blow to Human Services is an increase to the rate the County is charged for youth incarcerated in state facilities and a cut in Youth Aids. The cut in Youth Aids is significant and is one of the reductions scheduled to take effect July 1st of this year. This means that while the annual cut is approximately \$710,000, we face a cut of about \$355,000 this year. Another cut, somewhere between 10% and 15%, will affect Specialized Transportation services for seniors and disabled persons in the range of \$70,000-\$100,000 per year.

Other budget items include: Shared Revenue is cut dramatically, from \$2.1 million per year by about \$1.1 million. It appears that the budget caps cuts to individual counties to 50% and that Dane County will fall into that category. The Working Lands Initiative is eliminated. Besides eliminating a source of

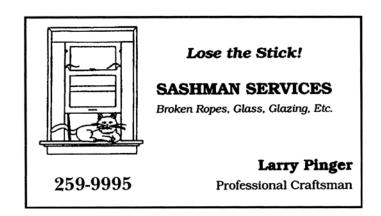
funding to preserve farmlands that several Dane County towns had already used, this action reduces revenue in the Department of Planning & Development by about \$25,000. With regard to highway maintenance, there is a 10% decrease in General Transportation Aids but a 2% increase in State Highway Maintenance. The loss to Dane County could be around \$370,000 but, again, more analysis is needed.

Additional reviews and restrictions will make Stewardship-assisted land acquisitions more difficult. The budget does not indicate how much Stewardship funding will actually be available over the next biennium. The budget proposes eliminating the stricter phosphorous standards the state recently adopted to improve water quality and comply with federal law. These rules are an important part of reducing the biggest source polluting our lakes.

In summary, a preliminary estimation of reduced revenue in the proposed budget to Dane County is a loss of \$492,000 for the remainder of this year and cuts of \$2.3 million in 2012 and \$3.2 million in 2013 (GPR only). There is another \$4 million in cuts to county revenues that will require us to lay off about 80 employees and reduce services to poor families and children.

Additionally, at our February 3rd meeting, the Board passed the final contract that will initiate the construction and development of the County's interoperable emergency system. This system has been a long-time coming that took a great deal of negotiation between the County, Madison and the surrounding villages and towns, and a requirement of the Federal government to be in place by 2013.

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. ■



Community Car: The Smarter, Greener Transportation Alternative

Community Car is the Madison-based carsharing organization that rents cars by the hour for individuals, families and businesses. Members share access to a fleet of hybrid-electric cars and high gas mileage vehicles in Madison.

Community Car provides an economic alternative to the high cost of individual car ownership. Currently, Community Car has 9 cars on the UW campus including a blue Toyota Prius named Parker that lives at the Welcome Center. Community Car offers a range of vehicles including hybrids, minivans, a Mini Cooper convertible, and a pick-up truck.

Community Car can be used for a variety of purposes: running errands, attending appointments, using the 7-passenger minivan to pick up friends and relatives at the airport as well as going on business trips across town or to Milwaukee.

Being a member gives you access to 19 cars throughout Madison with rates ranging from \$3.50-\$9.95/hour — gas, maintenance and insurance included. It's easy to sign up, just visit our website to apply!

Carsharing provides reduced traffic congestion, alleviates parking demand and encourages people to utilize alternative transportation by providing ondemand cars for occasional needs. If you bus or bike to work but occasionally need four wheels — join Community Car online at www.communitycar.com or by phone at 608.204.0000.

Thinking about joining but would like more information? Community Car celebrates Earth Day on April 22nd — join us for green events throughout March and April. Otherwise feel free to contact Alison Hohl, Member Relations Manager at alison.hohl@communitycar.com. ■





Volunteers Needed for Plan to Address Nuisance Urban Geese

Vilas Park and Vilas Beach are both important leisure destinations within the City of Madison. People use the large open spaces of the park for picnics, a game of kickball, softball or soccer, to play Frisbee, or to take a walk in a lovely natural setting. The park and beach has been entertaining people since 1904, when the park was first established by land received from William and Anna Vilas under the conditions that it be set aside "for the uses and purposes of a public park and pleasure ground."

Another inhabitant of the park and beach has increasingly been the giant Canada goose. A small flock of geese can be enjoyed by park and beach goers. However, the geese population has been increasing each year and causes health concerns due to large amounts of feces in the park lawns and at the beach. Each year, the beach has been closed for longer periods of time due to high bacteria levels in the water. In the summer of 2010, the beach was closed for 43 days.

A contributing factor to the high bacteria levels is, most likely, geese feces getting into the lake as runoff. The geese can also damage the turf when grazing which causes increased erosion.

A single Canada goose can eat up to four pounds of grass and produce up to two pounds of excrement each day. They can live up to 24 years and produce 3 to 12 eggs each year.

Canada geese prefer open grassy areas near bodies of water. Vilas Park provides the perfect habitat for geese and their population has been increasing dramatically since the 1980s.

A project is being planned to bring together neighbors and area businesses in an outreach and educational effort that is part of a larger management plan to reduce the goose population at Vilas Park. Local area businesses will be contacted to get involved. "Goose



Canada Geese at Vilas Park

cards" will be developed that include background on the Giant Canada Goose and the Vilas goose management plan. These cards will also have coupons for discounts at local businesses and an invitation to a website quiz where correct answers enter the respondent in a monthly prize drawing. Teams of volunteers will be organized to help implement a strategy for distributing the Goose cards, for engaging local businesses, and for participating in the Vilas Goose Management Ambassadors Program which will conduct outreach and education activities in classrooms, community meetings, and neighborhood events.

If you would like to volunteer for this project to help reduce the goose poop and keep our beaches open, please contact Terri Bleck at terribleck@gmail.com.

— Terri Bleck, Edgewood College Student in Sustainability Leadership



Patios Certified Retaining Wall Installer
Pruning Ornamental Trees & Shrubs

Designs Rain Gardens
Native Plants Rock Gardens
Yard Cleaning Perennial Gardens

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Shopping Local Pledge — Help Out University Avenue Businesses

With the construction of University and Highland Avenues starting this Spring, our local businesses will need our support more than ever.

We are promoting a "Shop-3" pledge from now through September. Please shop at least three times a week with one of the businesses on University Avenue, from Farley through Breese. Stop to eat, purchase a service or an item from the many great businesses on Old University Avenue.

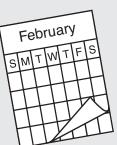




RNA Board Meeting Schedule

The RNA board meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except for July and December. Generally, meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Best Western InnTowner, at the corner of Highland and University Avenue.

These meetings are open to the general public. Agenda items are solicited through the RNA listserv or can be emailed to the RNA president.



- April 27
- May 25
- June 22
- August 24
- September 28
- October 26





(608) 233-8778 www.inntowner.com