



Regent Neighborhood

ASSOCIATION

www.regentneighborhood.org

Your Local Neighborhood Newsletter

Winter / 2010

RNA Board Launches New, Improved Listserv on Feb. 1, 2010

The RNA board is pleased to announce that it has created a new and improved listserv email group that it plans to launch on February 1. As with the new RNA web site, we are revisiting our existing communication tools and attempting to improve how we serve the neighborhood.

We will be using Google Groups, rather than Yahoo for the new listserv. Our new listserv — regentneighborhoodassn — can be accessed by either going directly to the Google Group RNA page at: <http://groups.google.com/group/regentneighborhoodassn>; or by going to the RNA website, and clicking on RNA Listserv at: <http://www.regentneighborhood.org/gpage5.html>.

If you want to receive RNA board, neighborhood planning, and other community information via email, you will need to sign up at the Google Group web site. This site will allow you to: (1) receive one email a day with all posting listed; (2) all postings via individual emails; or (3) no emails at all — that means you can use it as a web site and view information that you chose to access. The Google Group allows the RNA to use this site like a web page and to post important information, documents and to have on-line discussions.

The new, RNA listserv will have a set of simple, but important “etiquette” guidelines. (continued on page 4)

Neighborhoods Compete For Green Power Leadership

Sixteen Madison neighborhoods are competing to become leading supporters of green power. The competition, sponsored by Madison Gas and Electric, awards cash prizes to the two neighborhoods with the highest percentage increases in participation in MGE’s Green Power Tomorrow program. Enrollments in the program will be tracked by neighborhood from January through September 2010.

The Regent neighborhood is participating in this competition. It would be nice to win the cash price and some bragging rights. But in the bigger picture we know that a cleaner environment depends on making green power a larger portion of our electricity supply.

MGE, like all Wisconsin utilities, must provide a small percentage of their electricity from renewable energy sources to meet state requirements. This requirement calls for 10% by the end of 2015. Many of their customers have asked to go (continued on page 9)

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Area 8 Jim Fortner, 238-9221

Presidential Ramblings—



*RNA Board President
Darsi Foss*

- **First, Thank You to the City Snow and Ice Removal Crews!** In a city where it seems it can be hard to please everyone, I would like to thank the City's snow and ice removal crews for their heroic efforts this winter. So my hat's off to Street Superintendent Al Schumacher and his dedicated crew for keeping us going this winter.
- **Looking ahead to summer, the July 4th Planning Committee Needs Volunteers.** Be part of one of the most enjoyable events in the Regent Neighborhood — the annual 4th of July celebration. We are looking for three to five people to join the planning committee for the 2010 event. We have five subcommittees that could use volunteers as well: Food; Games; Outreach; Supplies and Equipment; and Set up & Clean up. If you can give a couple of hours, please contact Darsi Foss at darsi@tds.net or Mary Sarnowski at sarnowski@mac.com.
- **Volunteer Needed to Maintain RNA Website.** The RNA is looking for a creative and diligent individual willing to dedicate two to five hours a month to help us maintain our website. Duties would include updating information and uploading documents. Host Excellence hosts the website and provides the software on-line. No HTML or programming experience is needed, however, it is easier to maintain if you have a PC rather than a Mac computer. Please contact Mary Sarnowski at sarnowski@mac.com or Darsi Foss at darsi@tds.net.
- **Consider Being on the RNA Board.** In May, we will be electing a new Regent Neighborhood Association Board. We have openings for president, president-elect, treasurer-elect, secretary-elect, at-large board members, and some committees. If you are interested in serving in 2010-2011, please contact Darsi Foss, RNA President, at darsi@tds.net.
- **Thank you to all of you who do the big and little things around the 'Hood,** like shovelling your neighbor's walk, clearing a storm drain, raking leaves out of the street to save the lakes, supporting local businesses, and using the listserv to repurpose household items instead of adding to the landfill. These are just a few things that make this a great place to live. It takes a village. Thanks for being part of it. Peace.

— 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 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.

RNA Looking for a Sustainability Coordinator — First Step is to Coordinate EnAct Program in Regent Neighborhood

The RNA board created a “sustainability” committee last May to help promote greener practices in our homes and throughout the neighborhood. The board is seeking a volunteer for this important board position. One responsibility of this position would be to help coordinate the EnAct program in the Regent Neighborhood.

EnAct is a greener living program available in Dane County. Their website is www.enactwi.org.

As a neighborhood, we are interested in:

- Making our lives and neighborhood more sustainable;
- Improving the environment, but we're busy or don't know where to start;
- Finding ways to have a lighter, healthier lifestyle for themselves and the Earth;
- Meeting neighbors and talking about what sustainability means in our community; and
- Setting Green Resolutions to kick off the New Year,

EnAct is an action-oriented book club and discussion group. It is completely self-guided but—thanks to the generosity of our sponsors—the EnAct staff is available for free to help us get started, find information, and stay motivated.


Using the “EnAct: Steps to Greener Living” book as a guide, people can work on their own or create a team of friends, coworkers, or neighbors. The book can be purchased from EnAct, at local bookstores, or downloaded for free on their website.

Each EnAct team sets its own meeting schedule. Each team meets 7 times (usually once or twice a month). The “EnAct: Steps to Greener Living” book guides teams through discussions about sustainability and provides more than 1,000 action ideas to help people:

- Conserve energy,
- Waste less,
- Save water,
- Drive less,
- Eat well, and
- Save money.

So, if you are looking for a way to get involved in the neighborhood by donating a couple of hours a month, there may not be a more rewarding way to help out. Please contact Darsi Foss, RNA president, at darsi@tds.net.

— Darsi Foss
RNA President



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New Listserv (cont'd from page 1)

The board has developed these etiquette guidelines based on experience monitoring the existing listserv and the review of guidelines used by other community listservs. The following guidelines will be posted to the RNA's Google Groups welcome page:

New RNA Listserv Etiquette Guidelines

Thank you for being part of the Regent Neighborhood Association listserv. By joining this e-mail listserv and communication group, you agree to follow the etiquette guidelines set for this listserv by the RNA board. You need not be a member of the RNA to use this listserv, but must adhere to the etiquette guidelines, in order to be a member in good standing.

The RNA welcomes all residents of the neighborhood to use this communication tool. If you do not live within the boundaries of the Regent Neighborhood, you are welcome to use this listserv with "guest" privileges.

Since the listserv serves the Regent Neighborhood Association, postings to it should relate to the goals of RNA:

The Regent Neighborhood Association (RNA) is an all-volunteer organization. According to its by-laws, the RNA strives to maintain and improve neighborhood civic mindedness; to improve and maintain the family and residential qualities of the community; to maintain appropriate relations with local businesses, landlords, and renters; and to improve the quality of schools, green spaces, transportation, and other municipal services to the neighborhood.

The RNA recognizes that the articulation of common interests, strong communication links with residents, and the constant pursuit of broad-based participation in Association activities are critical to the success of the Association, and shall be fundamental considerations guiding Association action.

RNA listserv etiquette guidelines:

- Be courteous and keep it impersonal.
- Don't challenge or speculate about others: individuals or businesses.
- Humor is wonderful, but be mindful that it can be misunderstood.
- Information is more powerful than emotion. If you feel strongly about something, share the facts with the RNA. Let the reader make informed decisions.
- No commercial postings or business marketing, endorsements, solicitations or promotional messages.
- No political endorsements or political campaign postings.
- RNA "guests" should use the listserv judiciously, and sparingly post comments.

Examples of permitted uses: homeowner looking for contractor references; individuals (not realtors) seeking housing or homeowners (not realtors) offering houses for rent or for sale; announcing rummage sales; posting notices of neighborhood school events and school fundraisers; expressing concerns about neighborhood & community issues; and announcing small items to give away or sell on a non-regular basis.


Examples of uses NOT permitted: advertising, marketing or promoting business services or products; posts seeking clients or business opportunities, such as realtors seeking homes for rent or sale; advertising of services for home maintenance, web services; and political endorsements or campaign postings.

By virtue of joining this group or posting to the discussions or using the listserv, you have agreed to follow these etiquette guidelines.

The RNA board, after fair warning, reserves the right to suspend listserv membership for anyone who repeatedly violates one or more of these rules.

The RNA board reserves the right to modify these guidelines. If you have questions or concerns about the RNA listserv, please contact the RNA president at darsi@tds.net.

— Darsi Foss
RNA Board President



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District 5 Alder Report — Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

Time truly flies! I have been your alder for almost ten months, a busy and active ten months. Here are some updates on some key District 5 and city issues:

Traffic/Parking/Bike/Pedestrian Issues

- Digital speed reader boards: Traffic Engineering is installing a speed board by West High School, in the westbound direction on Regent Street just past Allen Street. By the time you receive this newsletter, the speed board should be fully installed.
- Kendall Bike Boulevard: RNA Board representatives and I continue to hold regular monthly meetings with David Dryer and Dan McCormick from Traffic Engineering. Come Spring, we hope to be able to present a suggested phased plan to the neighborhood for your feedback.
- Shorewood Hills and the City of Madison have hired a consultant to study and propose improvement options for the University Ave & Farley/University Bay Dr. as well as University Ave. & Ridge intersections. The final report should be available soon. My priority is to improve pedestrian crossings at these intersections and I will share the suggested improvements through the RNA listserv for your feedback.
- Clean Streets/Clean Lakes Program: I am sponsoring 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 on Thursdays mornings (garbage collection day) so plows and sweepers can access both sides of the block once a week. It is especially helpful in avoiding the snow accumulation on street blocks with no alternate side parking restriction. We have already implemented this program on Arlington Place and I am working with neighbors on getting this program implemented on Kendall Ave. between Highland and Lathrop. If you are interested in helping with a petition to implement this program on your block, please contact me.

Olive Jones Park Renovation

I was able to successfully include \$25,000 in impact fees in the 2010 City budget and funding commitments have been made by the Franklin/



*Shiva Bidar-Sielaff,
Alder, District 5*

Randall PTO. Additional fundraising efforts led by Friends of Olive Jones will be underway soon. An Olive Jones “task force” had been meeting to turn this longtime proposal into reality. Members of the “taskforce” are John Wallace, Randall School Principal, Sabrina Frey, Franklin/Randall PTO representative, Jodi Knauss, Friends of Olive Jones, MarciaVandercook, RNA school liaison, Kay Rutledge and Bill Bauer from the City Parks Division, and me. Our goal is to have a project timeline and phased plan by early February. I am committed to get phase 1 of the renovation done in this summer.

Wisconsin Energy Institute Building

As you know, the University of Wisconsin is building a new facility, the Wisconsin Energy Institute, on the campus at 1552 University Avenue (site of the old University Health Services building) at the corner of University Avenue and Breese Terrace. By the time you read this article, a second public information meeting will have been held on January 26 to receive your input. The project has also started to make its way through the city approval process. The project website is www.news.wisc.edu/wei

One exciting new development is the discussions with the city engineering to use the opportunity created by this project to reevaluate the Old University and Campus Drive intersection to decrease traffic flow into Old University and to improve bike & pedestrian traffic. I encourage you to contact me with any feedback about this project.

Old University Ave Corridor Plan

One of the most critical issues for District 5 is to finish the University Ave. corridor plan in the next year. I am working closely with the RNA Board and the City Planning Department to make this happen.

The Edgewater Project

This is certainly the most talked about issue of the past few months. I have heard from many of you and I have spent countless hours analyzing and thinking about it. The majority of those who have contacted me have expressed their support for the project. Those who have expressed their opposition have raised important concerns. Without describing the entire process thus far, as I am submitting to the newsletter and have limited space, the current project status is: the Common Council voted on January 5 to “refer of the appeal by the Hammes Company of the Landmarks Commission decision for the Edgewater redevelopment to the February 23rd Common Council meeting following project deliberations and a recommendation on the project (continued on page 6)

Alder Report — cont'd from page 5

being made by the Urban Design Commission to the Plan Commission and a recommendation of the Plan Commission to the Common Council by February 23, 2010. Additionally, the Common Council supports the rehabilitation of the 1940s building and redevelopment of the Edgewater site as a whole.” I worked on and fully supported the referral. I feel that it allows the project to make its way through the rest of the city approval process and come to us for a final decision on the entire project. I will continue to actively participate in discussions about this project as it makes its way through Urban Design Commission and Plan Commission. I have sent regular updates on my thoughts and votes on this project to the RNA listserve and will continue to do so.

Plastic Bag Recycling

The City of Madison joined a nationwide movement to ban and/or recycle plastic bags by starting a plastic bag recycling program in December. There are a number of city drop off sites as well as about 15 drop-off bins at retail outlets. A complete list of those locations can be found at www.cityofmadison.com/streets

Zoning Code Rewrite

This is a major undertaking for the City since it is our first complete code rewrite since 1966. The draft code text is currently being closely reviewed by the Plan Commission and has also been referred to five boards/commissions for their review and comment. Once the boards/commissions provide their recommendations (likely in January) and the Plan Commission finishes the bulk of their work on the project, there will be a Plan Commission public hearing to receive feedback on the revised draft. It is anticipated this hearing will be scheduled for late February or sometime in March 2010. You may follow the progress of the code by checking the project website: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/zoningrewrite/index.cfm>

City Budget

The City Budget was approved in November after careful deliberations. We were able to approve a budget that protects basic services and avoid cuts while keeping the tax levy increase at 4.1%. I am particularly proud that we continued our commitment to our city's non-profit partners by supporting our community services funding at a time where, given our country's economic situation, the need for social services is at an all time high in our city.

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.



Listening Session

Sponsored by Alder Bidar-Sielaff and the RNA

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: West High Library, 30 Ash Street

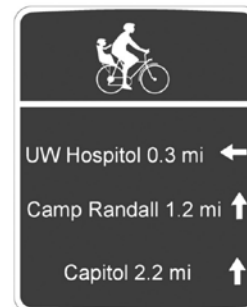
Guest: Dan McCormick, City of Madison



**Join us for a brief presentation
on the Kendall Avenue
“Bike Boulevard” proposal.**

Maps of the route, ideas on traffic calming,
and sample signage will be available
to view and comment on.

We look forward to seeing you at the event!



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RNA Board Plans to Finish University Avenue Corridor Plan – 2010

The RNA board plans to dedicate human and monetary resources to finishing the University Avenue Corridor plan this year.

In March, the RNA board will be applying for a City planning grant funds to finish this project.

The RNA Spring newsletter will include a neighborhood survey to kick off the public engagement process.

We will be looking for people who can not only attend some public input sessions to give us feedback, but also for folks willing to dedicate some large chunks of time assisting with public outreach, organizing, writing, and general committee work. If you have experience in neighborhood planning, outreach and a related area, we'd love to hear from you. To volunteer to be part of the planning committee, please contact

Darsi Foss at darsi@tds.net.

In September, we had 2 key leaders from the Westmoreland and Midvale neighborhoods come and talk to the RNA board about how they accomplished their new neighborhood plan. The City provided them with a large grant, and they also got donations and in-kind professional contributions.

In my opinion, this is an excellent neighborhood plan that was recently adopted by the City. <http://www.mhwplan.org/document-library>

Similar to the efforts by these two neighborhoods, the RNA board is committed to facilitating community input and involvement in a transparent fashion.

— Darsi Foss
RNA Board President

City Façade Grants Available For Regent Street and University Avenue Businesses

The City of Madison is offering façade grants to encourage business owners to reinvest in neighborhood business areas with exterior renovations of these otherwise sound and vital properties.

Property owners of service or commercial/mixed-use structures and building tenants, with leases of more than one year in length, located within the target area, are eligible for funding.

The program is intended to assist projects that promote retail activities, create an attractive environment, encourage neighborhood character and architectural design, use quality materials, and incorporate good design concepts. Projects meeting

these objectives are eligible for a grant for up to one half the cost of facade improvements.

Regent Street, all of Monroe Street and Old University Avenue from Chestnut Street to Farley Avenue are part of the “target area” for this city grant program. More information on this grant opportunity can be found at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/facade.html>

— Darsi Foss
RNA Board President

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Plant Dane! Program Makes Native Plants Available at Greatly Reduced Prices — March 6 Workshop with Orders Due May 15

Everyone seems to be putting in rain gardens these days. And now, the Plant Dane! cost-share program provides native plants to fill those rain gardens for less than half of retail prices. Rain gardens are an attractive way to reduce lawn maintenance time and costs, beautify your yard and help your lakes, rivers and streams all at the same time. Go to <http://www.myfairlakes.com/> for an online application. A free rain garden workshop will be offered on March 6 to participants. Orders may be placed through May 15th, 2010. Plants will be delivered on June 26th.

Now in its sixth year, the Plant Dane! cost-share program provides homeowners, schools, and nonprofit organizations with native plants, seeds, and information to establish rain gardens and restore prairies through a gift from the Graham-Martin Foundation.

The Plant Dane! Program has provided tens of thousands of plants, resulting in hundreds of acres being planted with native species throughout Dane County. Plan your rain garden today! Contact: Marcia Hartwig, MAMSWaP Storm Water Education Coordinator, 608-224-3746, hartwig@co.dane.wi.us.

Lake Wingra Publication Available

The Friends of Lake Wingra is trying to expose as many people as possible to a publication they recently produced titled *Lake Wingra: A Vision for the Future*.

You can download a free copy of the publication by going to the Friends of Lake Wingra website at www.lakewingra.org.

Learn about Lake Wingra's storied past, its current status as a neighborhood resource in peril, and our bold but practical expectations for the lake's future improvement. Discover what drives today's water quality problems in the lake, and how life below the surface is affected by our actions.

We highlight four specific goals for improvement that scientists agree are well within our reach. We also present common-sense "health indicators" that can be used to track our progress over time, as well as simple tasks each of us can perform to make a real and positive difference.

— Friends of Lake Wingra Board of Directors

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Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff Honored

Congratulations to Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, a recipient of the 2010 City-County Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award. Humanitarian Award winners are recognized for reflecting the values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Citing her service as a member of the Madison City Council, her professional work as Director of Community Partnerships and Interpreter Services at the UW Hospital, and her extensive volunteer work including the Rainbow Project Clinic, the Latino Support Network and the YWCA, Bidar-Sielaff was recognized for her collaboration and ability to build bridges in the areas of social justice, health care, community development and safety.

The City-County Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission also honored Professor Emeritus James H. Latimer and Madison Memorial student Jarrel-Brandon Luke Montgomery with their Youth Award.

Green Power (cont'd from page 1)

beyond the minimum requirement. Green Power Tomorrow is the option to do more.

You can add renewables to your energy mix by paying a premium to go above state standards for green power. For 1.25 cents extra per kilowatt hour, you can choose to offset 100% of the carbon dioxide emissions from your electricity use. For an average household the cost is an extra \$7.50 per month.

If you're interested in helping the world and our neighborhood, just visit mge.com/greenpower and sign up today.

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Message From the Mayor—

The Year Ahead

There would be no point (and no fun) in having this job if I weren't an optimist by nature. So here are ten great things that I hope we can accomplish together next year.

First, let's improve our local economy and our labor climate. Too many people are out of work, especially in the building trades, but Madison has tremendous potential if we can find a way to seize opportunities when they come up.

Second, we need to keep becoming a safer city. Crime is low and decreasing in the city as a whole. Let's work with the police, neighborhoods and community groups to make sure that's true in every Madison neighborhood.

Third, it's time to move forward on regional transit. I'd like to see a referendum as soon as 2010 on the regional sales tax that will move us toward a truly regional workforce transportation system.

Fourth, let's get going on high-speed rail connecting us to other cities in the Midwest. We're hopeful about a green light coming from the federal government early next year.

Fifth, let's see if we can't jump start some stalled projects like Union Corners, projects studied over the last few years like the Madison Public.



Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

Sixth, we need to make sure that the historic, new Central Library gets to ground breaking on time and on budget with an excellent building in the works.

Seventh, let's get the remaining debt laid to rest on Overture and move forward on a new, sustainable management structure. I will not ask City taxpayers to be involved in paying off the long-term debt, but once that's taken care of, we need to put in place a structure that really makes Overture an asset for the entire community.

Eighth, we'll continue to move forward on making Madison the municipal green leader in America through energy efficiency programs both within city government and in the broader community.

Ninth, we need to continue to build on the strong foundation of inter-governmental and regional cooperation with the school district, Dane County, the state, MATC, the UW and the economic development group Thrive.

Tenth, we'll continue to focus on providing excellent basic services through systematic management tools including The Natural Step, Madison Measures, Report-a-Problem, Neighborhood Indicators and our annual customer survey.

There's more to do, and, of course, much will happen that we can't predict. I'm looking forward to 2010 with a great deal of optimism and hope.

— *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 in the New Year. Towards the end of 2009 we passed a county budget of shared sacrifices, having to increase the levy, but also asking all county employees to take a three percent decrease in salary. Providing human services during these tough times is more essential than ever, and it is one of Dane County's primary responsibilities. I was successful in protecting funding for the county's detox program and adult mental



Supervisor Jeremy Levin

health programs, restoring a reduction in state funding for the Interim Assistance Program, as well as expanding a successful youth diversion program to West High.

On November 6, the County Board passed a resolution to formally create the Dane County Regional Transit Authority (RTA). This formally created the RTA and will allow for additional steps to secure federal funds and hold a referendum on implementing a dedicated sales tax as a source of revenue for the RTA.

I am also honored at the chance to serve District 10 for another 2-year term. On April 6 I will run unopposed for reelection to the County Board.

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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West High School Volunteer Opportunities

Help our students! West High has a number of volunteer opportunities for local adults.

Literacy Center: The mission of the center is to create a love for reading and writing, while supporting all reading and writing needs across content areas. Tutoring opportunities are flexible and vary based on tutor schedule, but most tutors come once or twice a week for 1-4 hours and work with students on either a drop in or long-term basis.

Schools of Hope: This is a community initiative created to help close the racial achievement gap and to ensure that all Dane County students live up to their full academic potential and graduate from high school. Tutors meet one-on-one or with a small group

of students for at least one class period each week. Tutoring happens at school, Monday through Friday, during the school day, lunch, or after school (3:45-4:45pm).

Cross-Grade Peer Tutorial: In addition to peer tutors, West recruits UW students and adults from the community to help during study halls (between 8:12 and 3:30) one or two hours per week. We particularly need math, science, and Spanish tutors. Several of our adult volunteers return year after year. Tutors get great satisfaction from those “ah-ha” moments when their students reach an understanding of a problem!

Souper Bowl XIV to be held February 6th at West

The annual Souper Bowl fundraiser for the UW-Madison Chapter of Habitat for Humanity of Dane County will be held Saturday, February 6, at West High School from 3:00-8:00 p.m.

The cost is \$15 for a bowl (meal provided) and/or \$35 for a family of four (two bowls, four meals). The student chapter will be constructing its ninth student build home in Dane County. The home is located on the Eastside of Madison on the 800 block of Fair Oaks Ave. Last year the Souper Bowl raised a record \$32,000.

Souper Bowl is an evening of food, art, and entertainment, bringing the Madison community together to support Habitat for Humanity. Mark your calendars!



For more information, contact Souper Bowl Coordinator Garret Olsen at souperbowl@uwhabitat.org.



Former West High students (now college students) enjoying the ice at Hillington Green.

Neighborhood Events

Regent Drama Club Spring Musical: *Gyps & Dolls*

March 5, 6, 12, and 13, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

All the hot gamblers are in town, and they're all depending on Nathan Detroit to set up this week's incarnation of "The Oldest Established Permanent Floating Crap Game in New York"; the only problem is, he needs \$1000 to get the place. Throw in Sarah Brown, who's short on sinners at the mission she runs; Sky Masterson, who accepts Nathan's \$1000 bet that he can't get Sarah Brown to go with him to Havana; Miss Adelaide, who wants Nathan to marry her; Police Lieutenant Brannigan, who always seems to appear at the wrong time; and the music/lyrics of Frank Loesser, and you've got what many consider to be the perfect romantic musical comedy.

Ticket Prices: Adults \$10 Students \$5, available at the door and online at <https://tix.seatyourself.biz/webstore/webstore.html?domain=mwht&event=>.

Call 608-204-3182 for more information.

You can stay up-to-date with Regent Drama Club through its Facebook page, Madison West High School Theater, and its website, <http://madisonwesttheater.squarespace.com>.

West High Spring Concert Schedule — all concerts start at 7:30 p.m.

February 3	Collage concert
March 17	Choir concert
March 24	Orchestra concert
April 21	Band concert
May 25	Choir concert
May 26	Front Yard concert
June 4	Pops concert

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Edgewood High School A Capella Singers To Debut As Opener For Wisconsin Singers

Edgewood High School's new "EdgeTones" a capella singers and the EHS Show Choir will open for the Wisconsin Singers' EHS benefit performance on Sunday, January 31, 4:00 p.m., in the Sr. Kathleen O'Connell Auditorium.

The EdgeTones group was begun this year by Chemistry teacher Eric Pantano, himself a member of an a capella quartet. The EdgeTones are 18-singers strong.

"I started the group," explains Pantano, "because..."

The Edgewood Show Choir will also offer a short opening set.

The 2009-'10 Wisconsin Singers include two EHS alumni — Kiley Hearn '06 and David Porto '04 — as well as office manager (and former singing member) Bobby Arnold '05. Proceeds from the performance will benefit EHS Fine Arts programs.

This year's theme, "Don't Stop the Music," features Rock and Roll, Broadway, TV themes and American Popular Music vocals, as well as energetic choreography and laughter the entire family can enjoy.

Tickets are \$12 for the general public and \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets are available by calling 257-1023, extension 369. All seats are reserved.

Monroe Street Branch Library's Spring Fling Book Sale April 24th, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Donations Needed!

You are welcome to drop off gently used books, DVDs, videos, and CDs to the library anytime before the sale (no textbooks, magazines or records, please). We also need storage boxes — copy paper and liquor boxes, both with lids, are the perfect size.

The sale will be held in the basement of the Monroe Street Branch Library, 1705 Monroe Street.

In addition to a huge selection of wonderful used books and other media, library book bags featuring a "Lilly" illustration by local author Kevin Henkes will be for sale.

Proceeds from this sale will be used to help pay for special library programs.

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Navigating the (Regent) Streets With Your Dog

The city can be a great place to raise a dog. It is easy to socialize dogs in an urban area, especially with all of the dog-friendly parks Madison has to offer. However, the distractions are endless: noise, crowds of people, cars, buses, bicycles, sewers, roadways, and other dogs, just to mention a few! According to Cis Frankel, author of *Urban Dog*, "if you can walk your dog and drink coffee simultaneously, then you have a well-trained dog!" Here are a few pointers to help you and your dog navigate the streets.

The number one thing to do is observe and anticipate. Keep a look out at what is in your path ahead to decide ahead of time how to deal with the obstacle. You are then able to avert from it and keep your dog safe and content.

Unless you are in an off-leash dog park, keep your dog on leash. Not only is it city law in Madison, but it is the best way to keep your dog safe and under control!

Every sound, sight, and scent will be an exciting (or scary) discovery. It doesn't take much for your dog's attention to turn from being on you to the rustling leaves, the napkin on the sidewalk, or any other distractions they may find intriguing. Using a motivator will give you the power to regain their attention. Find something your dog really loves and


can't resist, like a tasty treat, a squeaky toy, or a measly stick and take it along on your walk. Your dog will quickly discover how much fun you are and that listening can actually be rewarding!

Even if walks are more for pleasure and exercise than for training, every dog can benefit from learning to sit at street corners and by staying safely at your side while crossing busy streets. You'll be surprised how quickly they catch on!

Always remember to stay calm even in the most chaotic situations. If your dog is pulling towards or away from a distraction, keep walking at a steady pace to show your dog the distraction doesn't affect their leader. If a person or dog would like to greet yours, have them sit calmly first — getting to say "hi" acts as their reward.

By leading your dog in a calm, confident manner, your experiences will be new and exciting while boosting their confidence as well. Before you know it, you'll be navigating the streets safely and more enjoyably.

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Cooperatives — More Than Just Granola and Tofu

Co-ops made the Madison news in an unexpected way a few weeks ago when a state legislator proposed to revoke Madison's right to plow its own streets. Madisonians, he opined, were unable to handle the duties of maintaining their streets because they were too busy walking to their jobs at the co-op. Take that, Madison.

Now admittedly, he was probably only half serious. Still, to those of us involved in the Regent Market Co-op, the idea that co-op employment could be leveled as a slur was, well, interesting. I think the legislator in question would be surprised to learn how broad a cross-section of Wisconsinites would be encompassed by his humorous potshot. Cooperatives are everywhere, and I have no doubt that this legislator has benefitted from them himself, though he may not know it.

A cooperative is a business owned and democratically controlled by the people who use its services and who benefit equitably on the basis of how much they use the cooperative. The first cooperative business in America was probably the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire, established in 1752 by none other than Benjamin Franklin. It still operates today.

Many residents of the Regent neighborhood belong to the Regent Market Co-op, and they cut across all demographics and political persuasions. But co-ops are good for more than just groceries. Farm cooperatives are an essential part of the agricultural community and are important parts of many rural communities nationwide. Rural electric and telephone cooperatives modernized much of the nation. Credit unions are cooperatives, and CUNA Mutual in Madison is a federation of cooperatives. Housing cooperatives are common in cities across the country.

Here are some other cooperatives you may have heard of: Best Western Hotels; REI; Group Health Cooperative; Ace Hardware; True Value Hardware; Associated Press; FTD Florists; Land O'Lakes; Ocean Spray; Sunkist; Swiss Valley Farms; IGA Supermarkets; NAPA Auto Parts; Union Cab. And this is but a subset of a very much larger list—over 47,000 in all, directly serving over 100 million people.

So, ironically, the legislator was right — a lot of Madisonians are busy working at co-ops. A lot of people in that legislator's home town do, too. More power to them if they're lucky enough to be able to walk to work. And should this legislator ever happen to stop by the Regent Market Co-op as he navigates the snowy streets of Madison, we'll welcome his patronage and encourage him to join. Cooperatives are great for the neighborhood, the community, the economy and the country, and they're as American as apple pie and politicians.

— Brad Wolbert
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