

# MEADOWWORD

Newsletter of the Meadowood Neighborhood Assn

[www.meadowoodneighbors.org](http://www.meadowoodneighbors.org)

Apr.-May 2012

## President's Message – Lisa Veldran

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It appears that spring has sprung early this year! With the summer-like weather and sunshine, I see more and more of our Meadowood neighbors out walking and biking in the neighborhood. Lots of exciting events are happening, again, in the neighborhood: MW Community Garden signups, MW Neighborhood Center spring activities, Southwest Community Farmers' Market is gearing up for a June start. Exciting volunteer opportunities are available as subcommittees consisting of our southwest neighbors are meeting and organizing around programming, economic development, safety and housing issues in the area... I could go on and on but much of what is happening in Meadowood can be found in this newsletter or our website: [www.meadowoodneighbors.org](http://www.meadowoodneighbors.org).

I encourage you to find the time to become involved in our neighborhood! It takes an involved individuals to create a safe and caring neighborhood and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Please attend any of our meetings held the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center (no July meeting).

## March 3<sup>rd</sup> Golfland Gala Recap

We had a great time on Saturday, March 3 at Vitense Golfland. 50 people attended to eat and play mini-golf. Photos of the event can be viewed at our Facebook Page: Meadowood Neighborhood Association.

## Next Meadowood Community Supper

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner Starts at 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meet and greet your neighbors at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center! Make new friends, enjoy a free delicious meal and learn about all the great things happening in your area and how you can get involved!

## Congratulations to Mike Bruce!

In celebration of Social Worker Month, the Department of Children and Families is honoring the contributions of WI social workers. Our very own Mike Bruce from Joining Forces for Families program on Russett Rd. was nominated and selected to receive the 2012 Caring for Kids Award.

Mike was chosen because of his extraordinary commitment to the children and families in Southwest Madison. His dedicated service to the social work profession has impacted the lives of many in the community. Congratulations, Mike, on being a recipient of this award!

## Meadowood Neighborhood Garage Sale

Friday and Saturday, May 11-12, 2012

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Want to participate in the Meadowood Neighborhood Garage Sale? Contact Patsy Ragland by Saturday, May 5, 2012 to include your address in the WSJ and Craigslist ads. Patsy can be contacted at: 273-4040 or [patsyr0614@gmail.com](mailto:patsyr0614@gmail.com).

## Neighborhood Walk and Litter Pick-up

Saturday, April 14th

by Maria Ticali 906-2051

Greetings Neighbors. Happy Spring! Now that the snow has melted, you may have noticed the litter on the boulevard and sidewalk of Raymond Rd. My 7 year-old daughter has recently been picking up litter on our walks to the library and explained to me that she is working for the Lorax. I observed that her efforts made a noticeable difference and it got me thinking what a group could accomplish.

If you would like to work for the Lorax and beautify our neighborhood for the upcoming summer, please join us at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 14th. We will walk west and pick up litter on Raymond Rd. to Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Park and back. If possible, bring a plastic bag and gloves. (I will bring some extra bags.) Hope for nice weather! The rain date is Sunday April 15th from 3 p.m.

## A Meadowood "Green Madison" Experience

by Faith Howe

Have you noticed them? Signs are popping up all over Madison—"We're Saving Some Green - Are You?" Green Madison, a federally-funded program that works with the City of Madison, started last year to help people to save energy and money at home and work. Last May, looking for something on the [Meadowood Neighborhood website](http://www.meadowoodneighbors.org), I saw the link to the [Green Madison program](http://www.greenmadison.org) and was curious enough to click on it.

Little did I realize what that click would lead to. I signed up for the program and was first contacted by an Energy Advocate who did a walk-through of our house and identified ways to save money and energy. Light bulbs - CFL instead of incandescent - was an easy one, but information he sent later, showing that our refrigerator used at least three times as much energy as an Energy Star one, really got me thinking. My husband and I followed up with one of the Home Performance experts who did a blower door test and was appalled at the lack of insulation in our garage. There were other issues, too, but the garage was the big one. The blower door test was a lot cheaper through Green Madison and

The Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board of Directors meets at 7:00 pm the first Wednesday of every month (except July when there is no meeting) at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center. **Meetings are open to the public.**

[www.meadowoodneighbors.org](http://www.meadowoodneighbors.org)

helped us prioritize our improvements. Green Madison has a list of contractors who understand the program, and has also arranged for Summit Credit Union to offer a reasonable loan option so needed changes can be made without all the up front costs.

Overall, between having the initial test, meeting and getting bids from contractors, comparing prices and deciding what we wanted (and could afford) to do, the project took a few months, but we could not be more pleased with the results.

Everyone we worked with along the way was professional and did top-notch work. Without their guidance, we would not have known the problems our house had, or where to start to try to fix them. But by the time winter (such as it was) rolled around, our house was comfortable, energy-efficient, and, yes, saving us some green! According to our MG&E records, we are using about 1/3 less energy than we were before our improvements, and on top of that, Green Madison offers incentives for different levels of efficiency goals that can be met ranging from \$1000 to \$2000 depending on the work that is done. There are also additional rewards on top of that through the Focus on Energy program which really makes the work affordable! The program is really easy to find on the internet just by searching for "Green Madison" or calling 877.399.1204.

### Sign Up Green Power Tomorrow Program

MGE has clean electricity available right now. Wind and solar power are ready for you to buy. And for every kilowatt-hour of green power you purchase, there's a kilowatt-hour of electricity that won't be generated with nonrenewable fuels. So take this simple and effective step. Sign up for Green Power Tomorrow from MGE and offset a portion of the carbon dioxide emissions from your electricity use. Choose a monthly cost that's comfortable for you. Just visit [www.mge.com/greenpower](http://www.mge.com/greenpower) and sign up online.

### So what are your plans for the summer?

#### Sweltering in the heat or cooling off by the pool?

Ridgewood Pool is accepting summer membership applications. New members can take advantage of a special non-stock summer membership option at a discounted rate. And you can pay your membership online by credit card.

Ridgewood Pool is a stockholder, membership pool operating from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The facility is tucked into a quiet corner of the Orchard Ridge neighborhood, off Gilbert and Hammersley Roads. In addition to two regulation-sized pools for recreational and competitive swimming, there is also a separate diving well with high and low dives and a fenced-in toddler pool of 6" depth. For more information: <http://www.ridgewoodpool.com/>

### Madison Community Budget Conversation

Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5701 Raymond Rd.

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/budgetProcess>

Join your neighbors, city staff, Mayor Soglin and alders to

help develop the city's 2013 budget. In these challenging times, citizen involvement is more important than ever.

### Greetings from the Madison Police Department's West District by Captain Victor Wahl

As the new district captain, I wanted to reach out to the neighborhood and condo associations in the district to introduce myself, and to make sure everyone is aware of how they can stay informed on police and public safety issues in their area. Here are some ways you can stay informed:

The MPD West District page (contains contact info for district command staff, as well as current district news).

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/Police/west>

Incident reports and press releases:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/Newsroom>

Sign up to receive City of Madison email and text message alerts like construction and snow plowing: <https://my.cityofmadison.com>

You can receive specific MPD alerts (including the West District newsletter and Updates) and sign up for blogs from your elected officials.

Follow MPD on twitter: @madisonpolice

Like the City of Madison on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofMadison>

**responsibleEnergy**

**Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient while adding value**



- New program from the City of Madison for homes to help offset the cost of making energy improvements.
- Work with a local energy advocate that will help guide you through the process.
- Get a professional evaluation, testing and written recommendations from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Get access to low-interest financing from Summit Credit Union ([summitcreditunion.com](http://summitcreditunion.com)) to finance your project and Cash-Back Rewards from Focus on Energy to help offset the cost of eligible improvements.

Call Green Madison at 877-399-1204 or visit [cityofmadison.com/greenmadison](http://cityofmadison.com/greenmadison)




GS1641 04/04/2011



**Alder Matt Phair** 298-7602  
[district20@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district20@cityofmadison.com)

Hello Meadowood neighbors. As I write this I feel like I should be saying something like "I hope you're enjoying this beautiful summer weather." While this warm-up probably won't last, spring has definitely come early and I'm sure many of you are busy trying to "catch up" with yard work as

none of us were prepared for such an early arrival! I continue to stay busy working on projects that I think will be good for the overall health, vitality and safety of the neighborhood. These range from the way in which we fund and provide services in neighborhood centers throughout our city to how we can create a meaningful and lasting partnership with the Madison schools to the continued work of making our community a safe place to live.

Speaking of safety, I have been working with the police department, specifically West Captain Vic Wahl, on a 2012 budget amendment that Alder Lisa Subeck and I co-sponsored last November; the Southwest Safety Initiative. We are in the final stages of the draft plan and will then move it through the appropriate city committees before it gets final Council approval sometime this month (I hope). The comprehensive initiative is an allocation of resources to be used mostly for police overtime pay and designates five specific uses for the funds:

1. Concentrated education and enforcement period during the spring and summer of 2012
2. Targeted patrol in areas of high numbers of service calls
3. Relationship building with residents in those areas
4. Coordination with landlords and an emphasis on targeted properties with high numbers of calls over an extended period of time
5. Targeted intervention/prevention of gang and drug activities; especially as it pertains to youth

Geographically, the plan specifies targeted areas:

- Park Ridge/Park Edge
- Hammersley Road/Theresa Terrace/Bettys Lane
- Balsam Road/Russet Road

The intent of the initiative is to allow the West police department to do more focused work where the needs are high, and do it in a comprehensive fashion. We hope this will allow them some more flexibility to respond to areas, streets, blocks or buildings that need law enforcement services.

We also think the extra hours the officers will be spending forging positive relationships with neighborhood leaders, landlords and residents will carry over and be beneficial even after the money for this plan is spent. As I said, the final plan

will be approved in a month or so. At that point if you wish to read the entire initiative, you will be able to find it on the City's police department webpage.

At the city-wide level the Council is contending with several development proposals that are at various stages of the approval process. They include a grocery store on the east side, a renovation of the 100 block of State Street, and a mixed used development, including a fire station, that is proposed as a private/public partnership. In general, I am an advocate for growth and economic development but will study each of the proposals thoroughly before I decide whether to support or oppose. The question always comes down to, has the neighborhood in proximity been included in the process, has the developer done his/her due diligence, and is the project good for the City of Madison. I will weigh those questions as I make my decisions.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or need help with an issue pertaining to the City, please don't hesitate to contact me. Here's to more summer-like days!

### Neighborhood Resource Teams

In 2012, the City of Madison redeveloped the Neighborhood Resource Teams (NRTs) and created nine teams to service neighborhoods throughout the city. One will serve the Balsam-Russett Road area. The concept of the NRTs is an innovative Citywide effort to improve the delivery of services and connect City government directly to Madison neighborhoods.

NRT have an important mission; to combine and coordinate the strength of City Departments with neighborhood stakeholders to improve the quality of life for Madison residents. The NRTs will help ensure that City programs and services are responsive to and reflective of the aspirations and values of the neighborhood. The goal is to have a self-sustaining community where opportunities exist.

If citizens identify a community-wide issue in the Balsam-Russett Roads area that might benefit from more than one City agency's involvement, please contact one of the Balsam-Russett NRT Team Leaders. The Team Leader will work with other NRT members, discuss the topic, and recommend possible solutions or referral to the appropriate City agency.

The Balsam-Russett NRT looks forward to sharing our progress with you through the Meadowood Neighborhood Association's newsletter. If you would like more information on the Balsam-Russett NRT or any of the NRTs please visit our new website: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/nrt/>





### Home Composting Class

**Sat. May 5, 2012, 10:30 a.m.,  
Meadowridge Library**

Spring is just around the corner, and with the warmer weather come preparations for gardening and landscaping. A Home Composting Class, presented by the [City of Madison Streets Division](http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/leavetheleaf), will be held at Meadowridge Library on Saturday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m. Taught by George Dreckmann,

Recycling Coordinator for the City of Madison, these always-popular classes cover home compost basics, including an introduction to compostable materials, where to place your compost bin, and how to tend to your compost. Plans for building a compost bin will be available, and information regarding leaf management will also be presented. All classes are offered free of charge. Leaf Management Also Covered - In addition to home composting, the people attending the class will get information on how to manage leaves on their property. Learn more about the City of Madison's new Leave the Leaf program: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/leavetheleaf>

### Time for MNA Board Nominations

Annual MNA Board elections are coming up and your participation is needed. There are openings on the Board for next year and we need you! Share interests and thoughts about our neighborhood. Engage in making Meadowood a better place to live!

The Board meets monthly except in July. Each Area Representative represents a specific Meadowood district and works with block captains to distribute newsletters and conduct the annual membership drive. Area Representatives and Board officers serve one-year terms. There are no term limits for Area Representatives but officers are limited to five consecutive years. Incumbents must nominate themselves or be nominated by others in order to run. Nominees must be members of the Meadowood Neighborhood Association. Check neighborhood boundaries on the website or call a current area representative or board member.

**Send your nominations to Andy Halada**, 6121 Raymond Road, Madison WI 53711 by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Include the name and phone number of the person being nominated, and what area the nomination is for. Nominate yourself or someone you know to represent your area. Nominations will appear in the June-July newsletter and voting will take place at the MNA annual July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic or by arrangement for absentee ballots.

Current MNA Board Officers and Representatives:  
President: Lisa Veldran  
Vice President: Andy Halada (vacant: 2012-2013)  
Treasurer: Lorene Wendricks  
Secretary: Joyce Dingman  
Newsletter Editor: Sally Stix

Area 1: Sally Stix  
Area 3 : Bob Rabehl  
Area 5: Sheri Rembert  
Area 7: Lisa Schulz

Area 9: Dave Glomp  
Area 11: Linda Kubly  
Area 13, 14 & 15: VACANT

Area 2: Krista Ralston  
Area 4: Dottie Loehrer  
Area 6: Lisa Veldran  
Area 8: Janice & Mark Bauman  
Area 10: Rose Mary Wise  
Area 12: Patsy Ragland

### Yard Waste Drop-Off Sites Open

The City of Madison yard waste sites are open for the season. They will remain open through Sunday December 2nd.

The yard waste sites are open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. seven days a week and until 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The sites are located at 4602 Sycamore Av. on the east side, 1501 W. Badger Rd. on the south side and 402 South Point Rd. on the west side. **Brush is not accepted at 402 South Point Rd.**

The sites are for the use of City of Madison residents only. People wishing to use the sites should have some identification that shows they either live or own property in the City of Madison.

Complete information is available at the City's web site [www.cityofmadison.com/streets](http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets). Residents can also get recorded information 24 hours a day by calling 267-2088.

### LOST PETS - I'M HERE AT THE SHELTER!

Each year Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) receives approximately 3,000 dogs and cats brought to the shelter as strays. In 2011, the total was 1,109 dogs and 1,915 cats several of which came from this neighborhood.

There is a wealth of information on the DCHS website ([giveshelter.org](http://giveshelter.org)) where one can search to determine whether your lost pet may be there or to learn how to search for and find your pet. Just click on the "Owner Support" link.

Sometimes circumstances arise that result in owners becoming unable to keep their pets. Some people release their pet into the wild or near a farm with the false belief that it will settle in and find a new home. Doing this is actually a very stressful experience and is an inhumane solution.

If you need to find a new home for your animal, DCHS provides a free rehoming service via their website. Or, you may make an appointment to surrender your animal to DCHS for a small fee which goes to the care of the animal.

And for those of you looking to add a new pet member to your home... "don't shop – adopt!" at Dane County Humane Society 5132 Voges Road, Madison WI 53718.