

MEADOWOOD

Newsletter of the Meadowood Neighborhood Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 45528, Madison, WI 53744-5528

November - December 2025
www.meadowoodneighborhood.org

President's Message – Jay Close

jaymclose@gmail.com; (612) 454-9690

As we approach year's end and the season changes, many of us change gears and focus on preparing for winter. School is in session, holiday planning is in full swing, and of course there are outdoor projects to be done. Leaves and brush to be disposed of....and then there will be snow.

Meadowood Neighborhood Association will share resources in our newsletter, Facebook page and webpage with updates on the city's pickup schedules and any alerts regarding services and road work. If you have any news, please feel free to connect with us and we can publish to our fellow neighbors. Here's a link to the city's street department: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/brush-yard-waste/yard-waste-leaves>

Our December 3rd MNA Board meeting will include a discussion of organizing a Meadowood Neighborhood volunteer group (sometimes called a TimeBank). We do know some of the discussion will include helping one another with yard cleanup and snow removal. We know "many hands make light work", and that will include establishing our new volunteer group.

Please consider attending (**12/3/25 at 6:30 p.m. at Meadowridge Library**) and please share your ideas and experiences.

The MNA Board works closely with Alder Figueroa-Cole, County Supervisor Matt Veldran, the West Police District, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Meadowridge Library, and other community groups to represent your interests and build a strong, safe and vibrant community.

Please feel free to share any news or topics of concern with our Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board.

The MNA Board meets the first Wednesday of every month (less July). All are welcome.

Thank you for continuing to support the Meadowood Neighborhood Association.

Take Care,

Jay Close
President, MNA Board



The Meadowood Neighborhood Association (MNA) Board of Directors consists of the area representatives and officers, and up to two at-large members. Here is the current board membership with contact information:

Area 1: Julie & Dennis Ahnen, ahnen@countyofdane.com

Area 2: VACANT

Area 3: Mike Edmonds, m.edmonds@sbcglobal.net

Area 4: Tony Smick, skyumahwi@aol.com

Area 5: Lisa Kass, lkpenguins@gmail.com

Area 6: Lisa Veldran, lveldran@yahoo.com

Area 7: Ruth Kleban, rmfkleban@gmail.com

Area 8: Mark & Janice Bauman, **'Meadowood' Editor (MB)**,
msbauman57@gmail.com

Area 9: Terry Evanson, **Board Secretary**, mtevenson@gmail.com

Area 10: Kara Pezzi, kapezzi@gmail.com

Area 11: Jack Nee, **Board Vice President**, jnee3@yahoo.com

Area 12: Jay Close, **Board President**, jaymclose@gmail.com

Area 13: Sheray Wallace, sheraywallace44@gmail.com

Areas 14 and 15: VACANT

Board Treasurer, Ron Monson, meadowoodtreasurer@gmail.com

Member at Large: Lisa Schulz, buttonldy@aol.com

Member at Large: Mary Lee Gleason, mtagleason@gmail.com

If you live in an area not currently represented, please consider serving on the neighborhood association's board.

To determine which area you live in, visit the MNA website at:
www.meadowoodneighborhood.org/contact-us

Leave the Leaves?

By Kara Pezzi

We all know that we're supposed to shovel our sidewalks in the winter, but how many of us have thought about our sidewalks in the fall?

As the chlorophyll in the leaves breaks down, the green pigment vanishes as beautiful reds and purples appear from anthocyanins are produced in the leaves and oranges and yellows appear from carotenoids already present in the leaves.

While colorful leaves on the trees are beautiful to behold, leaves, twigs, and sticks on sidewalks present obstacles or hazards for people with mobility and vision disabilities. If you have a sidewalk, take a couple of minutes and clear it off to help our neighbors have a safer and more pleasant experience.

It's not totally necessary to remove every leaf from your lawn this fall, however. Leaves provide benefits for the environment as well as wildlife. Leaves are full of nutrients that can be returned to the soil in your garden or even in your lawn. You can spread the leaves around garden plants to give them some protection from cold, or you can mow and leave the shredded leaves on your lawn as a natural fertilizer.

—This article by Kara Pezzi is continued on the next page.

The Friends of Meadowridge Library Annual Pie Sale is Back!

By Lisa Veldran

*Meadowridge Library – 5726 Raymond Road
Tuesday, November 25, 2025 | 10 AM – 2 PM (or until pies sell out!)*

Get ready to sweeten your Thanksgiving table! The Friends' ever-popular **Pie Sale** returns — featuring delicious homemade pies for just **\$12** (and **\$15 for nut pies**). Come early... these pies go fast!



Calling all bakers!

We need your help to make this year's sale a success. The more pies we have, the more funds we can raise to support our Meadowridge Branch Library.

If you can bake one or more pies, please contact **Jacky Byrnes** at madcity99@tds.net to let her know how many to expect and to get drop-off details.



Not a baker but still want to help?

Stop by the sale (or the library's front desk) to make a donation—every bit supports programs, materials, and community events at Meadowridge Library.



And don't forget!

Join or renew your **Friends of Meadowridge Library** membership for 2026, and you'll be entered in our **January 2026 drawing for TWO tickets** to *The Great Gatsby* musical at the Overture Center (coming Summer 2026)!

Thank you for supporting your neighborhood library — one slice (or membership!) at a time.



Intervals

A Poem by Meadowood Resident Heidi Schultz

When does a season start?
 Is it defined by a number, a cycle, a quarter -
 the flip of the atmosphere, a calendar date?
 Or is it our own expectations
 for a symbol or a sign,
 that one world will turn over,
 and leave the other behind.
 And what of the places
 where no seasons show?
 In the absence of changes,
 how do they grow?



“Leave the Leaves” by Kara Pezzi, continued...

Leaves provide winter habitat for insects and small mammals during the winter and serve as a food source for worms and fungi.

If possible, try to keep leaves out of the storm sewers. If the leaves enter the sewers, they will eventually make their way to the lakes around Madison. As the leaves decay in the water, nutrients are released which will fuel algae growth when the weather warms up again. Excessive nutrients reduce the water quality of our lakes, which in turn limits habitat and recreational opportunities.

If you need help this fall or winter with keeping your sidewalks clear, let your Meadowood Area Representative know and we'll try to find you some help. Have a safe and cozy fall season!

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Responding to Needs in Meadowood

by Lisa Kass & Terry Evanson

The holiday season is a time of cheer and generosity. If you are able to help struggling families in our neighborhood this season, please consider donating to one or more of the following non-profits in our neighborhood.

Kesheria Walker is the Food Pantry Manager located in the **Meadowood Neighborhood Center**. She has shared a list of items of which the pantry is in need.

- Personal hygiene products - e.g. deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry supplies
- Diapers - any sizes
- Baby wipes
- Rice
- Canned goods
- Cereal

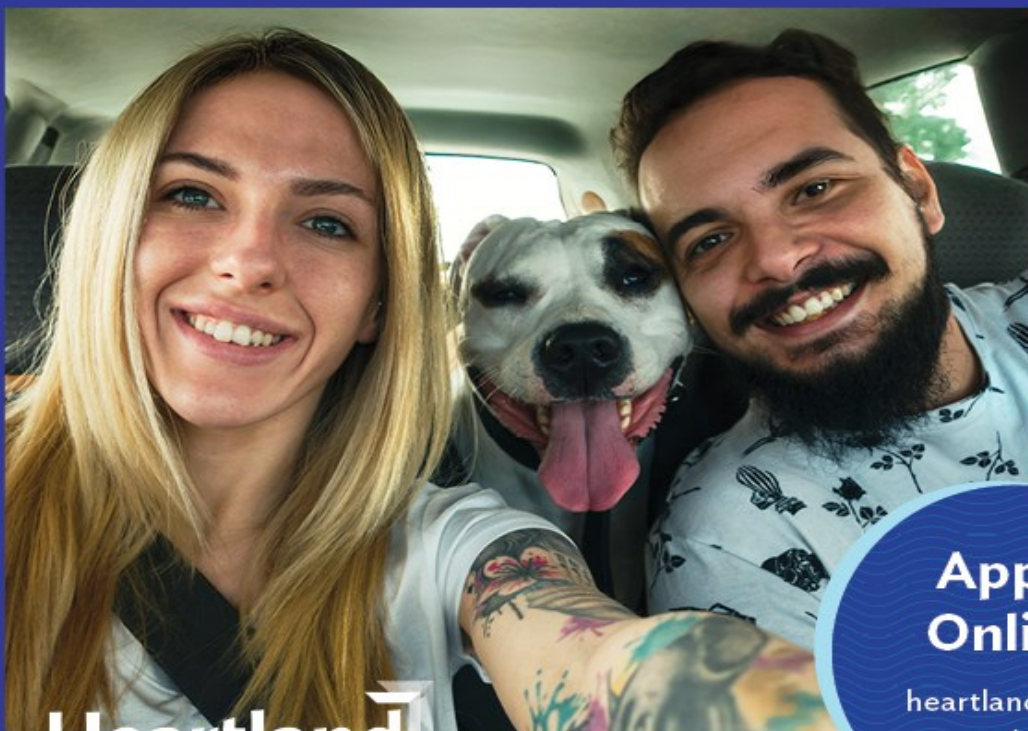
It would be appreciated if expired or outdated items were NOT given to the food pantry. They cannot use them.

Other suggestions were for gift cards from businesses that are nearby. These include WalMart, Walgreens, Woodman's and Target. These could be used to purchase fresh produce.

Cash donations can be made at: www.msccr.org/get-involved/donate.

Donations can be dropped off at the Neighborhood Center at 5740 Raymond Road, Madison. The center is open Monday - Friday, 9 am - 6 pm; and Saturday, 11 am - 3 pm.

—This article, *Needs in Meadowood*, is continued on the next page.



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No-Cost Tips for Saving Energy

From Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)

Practice Energy Efficiency: Using is an easy way to reduce your environmental footprint and save energy. By working together with all our customers, we can meet our shared energy goals and achieve net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. Please join us by using these no-cost tips for saving energy at home!

Save Energy While Cooking: Match the pot size to the burner size for energy-efficient cooking. If using a smaller pot, then use the smaller burner. The Department of Energy also recommends using the oven light instead of opening the door to prevent heat loss when checking on a dish's progress.

Reduce Heating Costs, Increase Comfort: Open curtains or shades to let in the sun during the day to reduce heating costs. At night, close shades to improve comfort.

Wash With Cold Water: A washing machine spends an estimated 90% of its energy to heat water. Consider using cold water instead. In addition, try to wash full loads because the machine uses roughly the same amount of energy regardless of the load size.

Unplug Electronics: Unplug your phone chargers, printers, computers and other electronics when you are not using them. These devices can still use energy when not in use and can account for 5% to 10% of your total energy use. Consider using a power strip or smart power strip that further reduces standby energy use without even unplugging!

Set Furnace Fan to Automatic: Set your furnace fan to "auto" instead of "on." This is one of the biggest steps you can take to be energy efficient at home.

Get more energy-saving tips and information on our energy future at mge.com.

“Needs in Meadowood”, continued...

The Food Pantry is open Tuesday, 6:00 - 7:30 pm; and Saturday, 12:00 - 2:30 pm.

For more information you can call (608) 467-8918.

At future Meadowood Neighborhood Association events, we will be asking for donations from the list above. People attending can drop the items at the event and they will be delivered to the food pantry.

In addition, please consider giving to the **Meadowood Health Partnership (MHP)**. MHP provides Christmas gifts to over 100 needy children in our neighborhood. Donations for gifts can be made through the mwhp.org website or mailed to P.O. Box 45791, Madison, WI 53744. Or you can choose to shop for a child or family. Please contact Lisa Schulz, treasurer@mwhp.org if you'd like to help shop or wrap gifts.

Another important resource for low income families in our neighborhood is the **Good Shepherd Lutheran Food Pantry**. They are also in need of donations. Here is a link to their website: <https://qslcwi.com/connect/care-assistance/foodpantry/>

Budget Season, Community Care, and Standing Together

By Yannette Figueroa Cole

As budget season unfolds, I am grateful to everyone who supported the 2025 city referendum. Madison continues to be strong despite so much uncertainty coming from outside forces. Our city and county are making essential funding decisions that directly affect our neighbors' well-being. One key item of continued prioritization is the Bartillon Shelter—a 40-year-in-the-making project. A vital service that ensures people without stable housing have a safe place to sleep, access to basic needs like toilets, showers, and food. A 24-hour-a-day shelter enables the continuity of coordinated support services that move people toward long-term housing stability. These investments reflect our shared values of compassion and community care.



*Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole
District 10*

At the same time, many of our immigrant neighbors are feeling deep anxiety amid reports of increased immigration enforcement activity. These policies harm everyone in our community, including school-age kids who don't understand the complexity of having a classmate or a classmate's parent being taken. Fear and uncertainty can isolate people, but this is when we need to show up for one another. Being vigilant neighbors means not only watching out for safety, but also standing together in solidarity and kindness.

Knowledge is one of our strongest tools against fear, anger, and anxiety. Learn how to protect yourself and others by joining the **Know Your Rights** campaign and connecting with organizations like **Voces de la Frontera**, **Centro Hispano**, the **Immigration Affairs Office (IAO)**, to name a few. These organizations provide education, legal resources, and community support. You can support our immigrant neighbors by attending community meetings, volunteering with these organizations, or simply being a supportive presence. Check out this page to learn about your rights (<https://www.micentro.org/community-resources>)

Let's continue building a neighborhood, a district, and a city where we all feel safe and supported—because when we look out for each other, we all thrive. Another way to care for each other is to engage, stay connected, and follow the Southwest Area Plan. I know life is complicated for many, but please make the time to share your voice and vision.

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/southwest-area-plan/3929/>

Have an amazing and loving holiday season!

Yannette Figueroa Cole,
Madison District 10 Alder

“Meadow-Arts”, Take 2

Submission by Jack Nee

Do you have a photo or a painting that will be going up in a local art gallery? Are you in a band playing a gig in Madison later this year? Will you be stepping onto the stage or working behind the scenes on a local play?

If you are a Meadowood neighborhood resident and your creativity will be on display, we would like to highlight such opportunities. If you send in the details, we can inform the neighborhood via future newsletters.

Submissions can be sent into:
jnee3@yahoo.com

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