

# MEADOWOOD

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

January - March 2025  
[www.meadowoodneighborhood.org](http://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org)

## President's Message – Mike Edmonds

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### Happy New Year!

You might be exhausted from the election and the holidays, but there is a lot going on this winter.

### Southwest Area Plan

The City of Madison is in the initial stages of developing an area plan for the southwestern part of the city. This Meadowood neighborhood is included in this plan. The plan is important to our neighborhood as it will “guide changes that occur over time to the physical aspects of our community, such as land use, housing, transit, streets, bike paths, and other community facilities” for the next 10 years. There is a plan website which is full of materials and has a map upon which you can insert comments. Take a look. The Southwest Area Plan website can be found here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced//planning/southwest-area-plan/3929/>

### Elections

Just when I thought I was done with elections, I was reminded that there is a Common Council election coming up. This election is particularly important for our neighborhood. The Spring Primary election is Tuesday, February 18, 2025. There are three candidates for District 10 Alder: Sheri Carter, Yannette Figueroa Cole, and Lisa Veldran. The Spring General Election is Tuesday, April 1, 2025, in which the two candidates with the most votes face off. Also on the ballot are elections for school board and for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board does not endorse any candidate, but we do encourage you to vote!

### B-I-N-G-O

You're tired of politics, shoveling, the cold? Warm up with the Meadowood Neighborhood Association's Bingo Night. Pizza and prizes! Friday, February 21, 2025 at Ten Pin Alley, 6285 Nesbitt Road, Fitchburg. Be there!



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](mailto:ahnen@countyofdane.com)

Area 2: Miguel Benson & Sammy Clevenger,  
[miguel.a.benson@gmail.com](mailto:miguel.a.benson@gmail.com)

Area 3: Mike Edmonds, **Board President**, [m.edmonds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.edmonds@sbcglobal.net)

Area 4: Tony Smick, [skyumahwi@aol.com](mailto:skyumahwi@aol.com)

Area 5: Lisa Kass, [lkpenguins@gmail.com](mailto:lkpenguins@gmail.com)

Area 6: Lisa Veldran, [lveldran@yahoo.com](mailto:lveldran@yahoo.com)

Area 7: Ruth Kleban, [rmfkleban@gmail.com](mailto:rmfkleban@gmail.com)

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

Area 9: Terry Evanson, **Board Secretary**, [mtevanson@gmail.com](mailto:mtevanson@gmail.com)

Area 10: Kara Pezzi, [kapezzi@gmail.com](mailto:kapezzi@gmail.com)

Area 11: VACANT

Area 12: Jay Close, **Board Vice President**, [yourjaybird@hotmail.com](mailto:yourjaybird@hotmail.com)

Area 13: Sheray Wallace, [sherayw@yahoo.com](mailto:sherayw@yahoo.com)

Areas 14 and 15: VACANT

**Board Treasurer**, Ron Monson, [meadowoodtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:meadowoodtreasurer@gmail.com)

Member at Large: Lisa Schulz, [buttonldy@aol.com](mailto:buttonldy@aol.com)

Member at Large: Mary Lee Gleason, [mtagleason@gmail.com](mailto:mtagleason@gmail.com)

Area 11 is not currently represented on the MNA Board.

***If you live in this area, 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](http://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org/contact-us)

## 2025 Meadowood Neighborhood Association (MNA) Events Calendar:

**Friday, February 21, 6:30 pm:** MNA Bingo Game (in person); Location at Ten Pin Alley, 6285 Nesbitt Rd, Fitchburg.

**Friday-Saturday, May 2-3:** Meadowood Neighborhood Garage Sales.

**Saturday, June 21:** Make Music Madison, Meadowood Park. More details to follow in our next newsletter.

**Saturday, August 16:** Meadowood Neighborhood Association Annual Picnic at Meadowood Park. Stay tuned for more details.

**Community Suppers:** These will be held on: **Feb. 19th; April 16th; June 18th; August 20th; October 22nd; and December 17th.** Stay tuned for updates on times and locations of the community suppers.

*For updates on additional events in the Meadowood area, please refer to the 'Events' page of the MNA website: [meadowoodneighborhood.org/events](http://meadowoodneighborhood.org/events)*

## On the Threshold

*by Heidi Schultz, our neighborhood poet!*

Every year we  
bring a feast

set upon a  
mantle,

scattered seeds  
spreading

a wealth of wishes

a new year's resolution – an offering.

Tiny feet settle in for a landing

minuscule beaks gather and graze

dark eyes gaze.

Does faith's fortune nimbly rest

among the boughs of abandoned nests

or does it stretch

with hollow boned bodies filled with wings  
and song

before taking flight to destinations long –  
airborne on a prayer

regaling us with certain ambition



Dear Friends,

As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to wish you and your loved ones a year filled with health, happiness, and success. I hope your New Year is already off to a strong start.

This time of year is always a natural moment to reflect on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. With an incoming administration at the federal level, there will undoubtedly be new hurdles to overcome. Yet, here in Dane County, we remain steadfast in our commitment to leading with hope and optimism.

The Dane County Way has always been about resilience—about refusing to succumb to external pressures and instead rising above them. Together, I know we will find innovative solutions and forge new paths, ensuring that our community continues to thrive no matter the obstacles.

In this spirit, I'm excited to roll up my sleeves and get to work building upon our successes and navigating the road ahead in 2025. Stay tuned for updates on how we are working together to ensure Dane County remains a place we're all proud to call home.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Here's to a bright year ahead!

In Service,

**Melissa Agard**  
Dane County Executive



## Southwest Area Plan

*Submission from Urvashi Martin, City of Madison Planning Division*

City of Madison staff has begun working on the [Southwest Area Plan](#). The Southwest Area is approximately 5,400 acres (8.4 square miles) and is generally bounded by the West Beltline Highway to the north, the City of Fitchburg to the east, and S. High Point Road to the west. The planning process was kicked off by three public engagement meetings. Approximately 80 community members attended the In-Person Open House at the Toki Middle School on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 40 attended the Virtual kick-off meetings on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to contribute feedback.



Area Plans guide changes that occur incrementally over time to the physical aspects of our community, such as land use, housing, transit, streets, bike paths, and other community facilities. The Southwest Area Plan will be the third Area Plan that will be created under the City's new [Planning Framework](#), which was adopted by the Common Council on August 2, 2022. With the new framework approach, the Planning Division will create 12 Area Plans over the next 8 to 10 years that will cover the entire City.

The City invites residents, community organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to share feedback about the future of their neighborhoods. Keep up to date on events and ways to participate by subscribing to the email list on the [project webpage](#). The webpage also has many project resources such as background maps, past meeting recordings and other informational materials. There is also an [online commenting map](#) that you can use to add your ideas and feedback. You can place a pin on the map and add a comment to tell us about your experiences.

Help us shape the future of the Southwest area. We look forward to your input!



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The Board of Directors meets at 6:30 pm the first Wednesday of every month (no meeting in July) at the Meadowridge Community Room. Meetings are open to the public. [www.meadowoodneighborhood.org](http://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org) Like us on Facebook!

## Keeping Our Sidewalks Safe

*Submission from Kara Pezzi, MNA Board Area 10 Representative*

Walking around Meadowood, you can't help but notice pink and white markings on the sidewalks. What do these markings mean?

According to the [Sidewalk Repair and Rehabilitation Program](#) brochure, pink markings indicate that the sidewalk will be sawcut to reduce the offset between two slabs and eliminate a trip hazard. White markings indicate that the sidewalk slab has deteriorated and may be replaced. The replacement decision is made at the time of construction and is determined by the appearance of the sides and ends of the concrete.

Improving sidewalks is a benefit to all residents of Meadowood by improving access to safe pedestrian travel. In November 2022, the [City of Madison Policy for the Assessment of Street Assessments](#) changed the way improvements costs were assessed and sidewalk replacement is no longer assessed to the property owner.

The city assesses and repairs sidewalks every 10 years in each aldermanic district. Look for our sidewalks to be repaired in the spring and summer of 2025.

Keeping sidewalks in good condition is the responsibility of the property owners, however. Winter snow and ice removal can damage sidewalks as well as soil and local waterways due to chloride ions that are components of the two most common deicers: rock salt (sodium chloride) and ice-melt (calcium chloride).

Ice melts when the deicer lowers the freezing point of water below 32 °F. Rock salt is effective to about 15 °F and ice-melt is effective to -20 °F. The melted deicer-water mixture enters pores in the concrete and may freeze. The frozen water expands and enlarges pores and cracks in the concrete. Repeated freeze-thaw cycles continue to break up the concrete.

The best way to keep sidewalks clear and safe for pedestrians is to clear the snow as soon as possible after a snowfall and before the snow is compacted by foot traffic. When conditions are icy or if snow is already packed down, try to apply sand to improve traction.

Minimizing the use of deicers will protect the concrete, soil, and waterways saving resources for everyone.

### References

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/documents/projects/SidewalkBrochure.pdf>

<https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11414776&GUID=271780AA-8EA4-42C5-ABBF-C9DA591592DD>

**ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

**VOTE VELDRAN for MADISON**



**District 10 Madison Common Council**

Not going to be available on February 18? Vote Absentee!

Visit City Clerk's website for more information

[www.cityofmadison.com/clerk](http://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk)

Authorized and Paid For by Veldran For Madison, Val Schend Treasurer

Lisa is deeply dedicated to Madison's neighborhoods and will leverage her extensive knowledge of city government along with practical, common-sense solutions to serve the residents of District 10 effectively:

- A 25+ year **resident of Meadowood**
- **Board Member, Meadowood Neighborhood Association** since 2006 - former secretary, newsletter editor, webmaster and President
- **Orchard Ridge Elementary School PTO** - former Co-President
- Former **Staff to the Madison Common Council** for 30+ years

To learn more about Lisa visit

**[www.veldran4madison.com](http://www.veldran4madison.com)**

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## Home Heating Fiction and Facts

From: *Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)*

**Fiction:** It costs as much or more to heat a home back up after a thermostat setback (or to cool the house after a summer setup).

**Fact:** For a gas-fired furnace or boiler, the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more heat you save. If you have a heat pump or radiant floor heating, setbacks are not recommended.

**Fiction:** The house will warm up faster the higher the thermostat is raised.

**Fact:** The thermostat isn't like the gas pedal on a car. It's either calling for heat or not, so setting the thermostat too high may cause you to overshoot the desired temperature.

**Fiction:** The kids will kick off the covers and get cold.

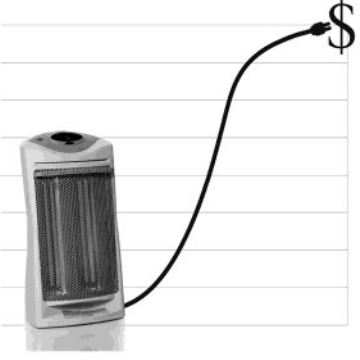
**Fact:** Children older than about two weeks can regulate their body temperature just like adults, so they don't need different temperature settings. If they kick off the covers, try using a sleeping bag.

### Energy-Saving Benefits

- **For your heating bills:** By setting back 1°F for 8 hours, you will save 1%. Bigger setbacks save even more.
- **For our community:** If we all set back our thermostats by 1°F this winter, we could save enough gas to fuel about 4,600 households.

MGE recommends 68°F\* when you're home and 60°F\* when you're gone or sleeping.

\*Or as low as health and equipment permit. Check the owner's manual for recommended temperature settings and if turning down the temperature for more than 24 hours.



**plug and pay**

Using a portable electric space heater is one of the most expensive ways to heat your home.

You will not save money with an electric space heater unless you turn your central heating system down many degrees and use the space heater to warm a small area.

Visit [mge.com/heater](https://mge.com/heater) to learn more.

**mge**  
your community energy company

GS1759 11/12/2021

## Learn to Cross-Country Ski

**Elver Park; Thursday, February 6, 2025; 6:00 - 7:00 pm**

Join us for a free cross-country ski workshop at Elver Park, hosted by Madison Nordic Ski Club (MadNorSki)! Open to all ages, you'll learn the basics and practice your skills while exploring the park. Limited to 30 participants. Advanced registration is required and may be done online or by calling 608-266-4711.

**What to Bring:** all equipment is provided or bring your skis, boots and poles if you have them

**If Borrowing Equipment:** arrive 30 minutes early to get fitted at the warming shelter.

**What to Wear:** Dress for the weather. Layers are recommended.

Register online: <https://webtrac.cityofmadison.com/wbwsc/parks.wsc/splash.html?interfaceparameter=WebTracParks>



## Hello and Happy 2025!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season as we welcome a new year. I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2025. We welcomed the new Dane County Executive, Melissa Agard. The county executive and I served together on the board before she went on to the legislature. I believe that there will be a more positive relationship with the board and the county executive. That should make legislation and policies that are more agreeable and understandable to all involved, including you, the citizens of Dane County.

We're just starting to get back to our regular schedule so we'll see what is coming down the pike. We'll have a long-awaited new human services director, which will be important for implementing the budget and a department that has been seemingly rudderless for a long time. The great employees there have just been going forward with what they do best, helping people.

I expect some positive changes at the county jail facilities related to the residents and our goals of reducing recidivism and affecting positive change while they are in the county's custody. One way we hopefully will be accomplishing this is through the new Office of Justice Reform that is now fully staffed and will be working closely with the Sheriff and Human Services Departments to make positive changes in peoples' lives who are in the justice system. The simple goal of this is to keep our jail population as low as possible and to keep people out of the system altogether with our different jail diversity programs.

A quick note on the jail consolidation project. It is well underway and we have not seen anything to concern us. It is targeted to open in 2026.

We also continue to look at the development of the Alliant Energy Center with the new county executive. We want to see how her vision for the campus and what the board has been working on for the past few years are compatible and how we can start to turn plans into reality. The county will, as usual, weigh how we can make improvements within our budget and if we can get additional funding from both the state and private partners.

Finally, if you want to get outdoors, try visiting one of our county parks and explore them during the winter months. Take a walk on a trail, watch nature in its many forms, try snowshoeing, ice fishing or sledding. When we get snow, watch for the opening of the snowmobile and cross-country skiing trails.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Matt Veldran,  
Dane County Supervisor, District 4  
608-235-8369  
[veldran@countyofdane.com](mailto:veldran@countyofdane.com)



*Matt Veldran, Dane Co. Board of Supervisors, District 7*

## FROZEN ASSETS FESTIVAL

Have you ever heard of a 5K held entirely on the ice? Well, now you have! After a week of pre-festival activities, the [Frozen Assets Festival](#), hosted by [Clean Lakes Alliance](#), kicks off on Saturday, February 8 at [The Edgewater](#) with a race on frozen [Lake Mendota](#). Following the race there are all-day winter-focused events to take part in including pond hockey, snowshoeing, skating on the Edgewater Ice Rink, and curling! The festival will also feature sky divers, an ice science lab, and kites on ice. These family-friendly activities, both on ice and at The Edgewater Plaza, continue on Sunday, February 9 for non-stop frozen fun!

