

# MEADOWOOD

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

January - March 2026  
[www.meadowoodneighborhood.org](http://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org)

## President's Message – Jay Close

[MNAboard1@gmail.com](mailto:MNAboard1@gmail.com); (612) 454-9690

Happy New Year to all!

Hoping everyone had a nice and peaceful holiday season. May the New Year and your resolutions find you in good health!

2026 is the celebration of the United States Semiquincentennial. That's a tongue twister for 250 years of independence for our nation. As a young person in 1976, I found the bicentennial year to be an inspiring display of civic pride. I hope to show my kids (and neighbors) how to celebrate freedom, justice, and community involvement, much like my elders did for me!

2026 also brings to Meadowood Neighborhood a January planning meeting by the school district. There will be a Toki Middle School and Orchard Ridge new construction planning meeting, open to all. The preparation, construction, and the changes to the property and traffic flow will impact our neighborhood as well as the adjacent neighborhoods.

### Toki and Orchard Ridge new construction planning meeting:

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

ORE School Cafeteria, 5606 Russett Rd.

Light refreshments will be served. Childcare will be available. Interpretation will be provided onsite.

### Bingo Night—brought to you by Meadowood Neighborhood Association

February 27th, 6:30 pm at Ten Pin Alley, 6285 Nesbitt Rd., Fitchburg

Pizza and refreshments, and prizes too!

Along with our February 4th monthly meeting, we have 3 great early 2026 opportunities to gather, chat, and discuss any ideas or concerns for the year.

The MNA Board meets the first Wednesday of every month (less July), 6:30 p.m. at Meadowridge Library. All are welcome.

Stay warm, drive safe, and let someone know if you need help moving snow.

Take Care,  
Jay Close  
President, Meadowood Neighborhood Assn. 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](mailto:ahnen@countyofdane.com)

Area 2: VACANT

Area 3: Mike Edmonds, [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, [mtevenson@gmail.com](mailto:mtevenson@gmail.com)

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

Area 11: Jack Nee, Board Vice President, [jnee3@yahoo.com](mailto:jnee3@yahoo.com)

Area 12: Jay Close, Board President, [jaymclose@gmail.com](mailto:jaymclose@gmail.com)

Area 13: Sheray Wallace, [sheraywallace44@gmail.com](mailto:sheraywallace44@gmail.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)

***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](http://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org/contact-us)

## 2026 Meadowood Neighborhood Association (MNA) Events Calendar:

**Tuesday, January 27, 5:30—7:00 pm:** Orchard Ridge and Toki Schools, new construction planning meeting, ORE School Cafeteria, 5606 Russett Rd.

**Friday, February 27, 6:30—8:30 pm:** MNA Bingo Game (in person); Location at Ten Pin Alley, 6285 Nesbitt Rd, Fitchburg.

**Friday-Saturday, May 8—9:** Meadowood Neighborhood Garage Sales.

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

**Saturday, Aug. 15:** Meadowood Neighborhood Association Annual Picnic at Meadowood Park.

*For updates on additional events in the Meadowood area, please refer to the 'Events' page of the MNA website:*

[meadowoodneighborhood.org/events](https://meadowoodneighborhood.org/events)

## February Is For Bingo! (And You Thought It Was For Lovers)

Sorry Cupid, but the Meadowood Neighborhood Association is holding its annual Bingo Bash.

- ⇒ When: Friday February 27, 2026
- ⇒ Where: Ten Pin Alley, 6285 Nesbitt Rd, Fitchburg
- ⇒ Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- ⇒ Cost: Free to members

There will be pizza and soda. It will be a great time to hang out with your neighbors. It will also be a great time to help your neighbors as we will be collecting food and collecting items for the Meadowood Neighborhood Food Pantry. The pantry is in need of the following items:

- Canned goods
- Rice Cereal
- Diapers-any size
- Baby wipes
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry supplies
- Personal hygiene products such as soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste

## Meadowridge Library News

In 2025, Madison Public Library celebrated a major milestone: its 150th anniversary. Today, the library system welcomes more than 1.3 million visitors each year across nine locations, continuing a long-standing tradition of promoting education, literacy, and community connection throughout the City of Madison. Meadowridge Library is proud to be part of this legacy and to serve our Meadowood neighbors.

Looking ahead to 2026, Meadowridge Library is excited to offer a wide variety of programs and events for all ages and interests. From the Seed Library to the Knitting Club and Chess Club to Teen Cooking Club and Silent Book Club, there are plenty of ways to connect, learn, and have fun. Mystery lovers won't want to miss our special celebration of all things Agatha Christie coming this March! To find all the upcoming events visit <https://bit.ly/48X9Ex8>

The Friends of Meadowridge Library invites you to deepen your connection by joining the Friends in 2026. Membership forms are available at the library desk or at the self checkouts. Your support helps make these programs and community experiences possible.

### Music Avenue at Meadowridge

*January 7, January 21, February 4, February 18; 10:30am - 11:00am*

These fun, interactive music classes invite infants, toddlers, and young children (ages 0–5) to explore singing, movement, steady beat, and listening alongside their caregivers. Older siblings and childcare groups are welcome too! Always free and open to the public.

**This article is continued on page 5...**

## New Year's Resolutions Can Be Successful!

By Kara Pezzi

We recently celebrated the start of 2026 and maybe you're one of the 31% of US adults who say they are going to make a New Year's resolution (Ballard, 2025). If this year's pattern is like 2025, approximately 60% of the people who make resolutions will keep them. (Gracia, 2025).

The start of a new year is a wonderful time to make changes in our lives, but it's important to understand why we want to change and what we hope to achieve. If you are looking for help making a positive change, consider these ideas based on an article in [Psychology Today](#) (Morin, 2024).

If you have decided to make a change this year, start by writing it down along with the reason you are making the change. Then, share what you wrote with someone who can be there for you to offer encouragement, celebrate your successes, and support you during setbacks. Aim for gradual change and have a way to track your progress (use a calendar or spreadsheet) so you'll be able to see your journey.

Every so often, go back to what you wrote and see if you still want to pursue that goal. If you do, that's great! You are constantly growing, so if the original goal no longer works for you, try something different!

One goal I recommend is becoming more involved in our neighborhood. If you don't know your neighbors too well, say hi when you see them. Attend a neighborhood supper hosted by the Meadowood Health Partnership and supported by the Meadowood Neighborhood Association. Donate to the [Meadowood Neighborhood Center](#) foodbank or volunteer for [New Bridge](#).

Let's make 2026 a memorable year in our neighborhood!

### References

<https://today.yougov.com/society/articles/53789-americans-new-years-resolutions-2026-poll>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/01/29/new-years-resolutions-who-makes-them-and-why/>

<https://www.msqr.org/registration-information/program-locations/meadowood-neighborhood-center/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/what-mentally-strong-people-dont-do/202412/why-new-years-resolutions-set-you-up-to-fail>

<https://www.newbridgemadison.org/volunteer-services>

## Poem by Heidi Schulz

### At This Moment

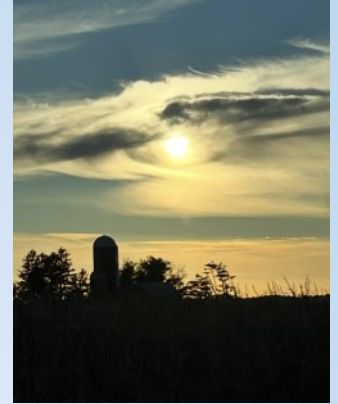
The world is crumbling,  
but hasn't it always?  
A Tsunami of trouble,  
more turning of tides

A shadow only bares its  
face when there is light  
right behind it  
A rainbow only arcs after  
the ravage

For now, the sun still shines through the smoke and  
mirrors  
For now it is enough to pay attention

For hope is more than an aspiration  
It is an ambition, an awe inspiring attraction

And it is happening all over  
Right Now.



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## Community Invited to Shape the Future of Toki & Orchard Ridge Schools

◆ **When:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 5:30—7:00 pm

◆ **Where:** Toki / ORE School Cafeteria, 5606 Russett Rd.

The Madison Metropolitan School District is inviting neighbors to take part in an important community meeting about the future of Toki Middle School and Orchard Ridge Elementary School. Plans are underway to demolish the current school buildings and rebuild new, modern facilities as part of the 2024 Facilities Referendum—and community input is a vital part of the process.

This meeting is not just for families with children currently attending these schools. Whether your children are in MMSD today, graduated decades ago, or you don't have children at all, this project will affect everyone who lives nearby. Large-scale school construction and rebuilding can have a significant impact on the neighborhood, including changes to traffic patterns, parking, pedestrian safety, construction noise, and long-term use of school grounds and community spaces.

Attendees will learn more about the proposed designs, timelines, and goals for the new schools, as well as have opportunities to ask questions and share feedback. Your perspective as a neighbor matters—schools are community hubs, and their design and location influence daily life far beyond the classroom.

If you care about how traffic flows through the neighborhood, how green space is used, how long construction may last, or what these schools will look like for the next generation, this meeting is for you. Community voices help ensure that the final plans reflect not only educational needs, but also the character and well-being of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Please consider attending and being part of shaping the future of our community.



## Save the Date: Shaping the Future of Toki Middle School and Orchard Ridge Elementary School!

Join us for a community information session.  
Let's build a stronger, brighter future together!

This is your opportunity to share your thoughts, stay informed and to help shape the future of our schools. Your feedback is important in ensuring that we create the best learning environments for all of our students and build spaces the entire community can enjoy. Thank you for your continued support of the 2024 referendum – together, we're building a stronger future for our community!

### Event Details:

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**  
**5:30 - 7 p.m.**

School Cafeteria, 5606 Russett Rd.

### What to Expect:

- **Overview of 2024 Referendum Projects:** Be one of the first to see at preliminary site plans and concepts for Toki Middle School and Orchard Ridge Elementary School.
- **Opportunities for Feedback:** Share your thoughts and ideas about the plans to help inform the design and implementation process. Your input is valuable when making decisions about the future of our schools.
- **Q&A and Discussion:** Ask questions and discuss the projects.

### Please Note:

Light refreshments will be served. Childcare will be available. Interpretation will be provided onsite.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



Scan the QR code to  
**Learn More**  
about the 2024  
Facilities Referendum



## Meadowridge Library News (continued from page 2)

### Tertulia - Conversations about Outcasts, Outsiders, Mavericks, Bohemians and Free Thinkers

Join Meadowridge Library Supervisor Yesianne Ramirez for a different kind of conversation each month. Have conversations about authors, literature, film, art, philosophy, poetry, history or popular culture. This is a meet up space for curious people, you don't need to be prepared or have read anything to attend.

*Friday, January 30 | 11 am - Noon - Conversations About Poe*

*Friday, February 27 | 11 am - Noon - Domino, Tertulia and Coffee*

*Friday, March 27 | 11 am - Noon - Conversations About Agatha Christie*

### Cooking with Chef Angela

Join Chef Angela as she prepares a new globally-inspired recipe each month while teaching cooking skills in this demonstration with hands-on opportunities. In this program for adults, participants will learn how to prepare a flavorful new recipe and improve their plate presentation skills. Check back for menu details closer to the event date. (Registration Required)

*Saturday, January 17 | 1:00 - 2:30 pm*

(children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)

### Lego Club

Are you a kid who loves LEGOs? It's time for LEGO Club! The library will provide the LEGOs, you bring the creativity. No registration required, this is a drop-in program. Best for ages 5 and up as they will be using standard LEGO pieces.

*January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 6 | 4:00 - 5:30 pm*

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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!

## Hello and Happy New Year 2026!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season going through the twists and turns of southern Wisconsin weather. Snow, cold, warm, snow, cold, warm; it sounds like “wash, rinse, repeat”! I will be on the upcoming Spring ballot once again and, as always, I thank you for your support as your county representative. As of this writing, I do not have an opponent. But should that change, we will all know by the time you read this.

I know some of you might have read my newsletter on Facebook. But if you didn't get a chance here is a budget recap that I included in it.

The County Executive proposed a budget that closed a \$33 million budget deficit, and the board wrestled with trying to maintain some of its priorities and promises to all residents. While our two visions were not completely opposing each other, there were differences in how the county can achieve them, like maintaining a strong safety net through the human services department, keeping our commitment to increase low-income and affordable housing, continuing to invest in the environment and expanding the parks and open spaces in the county. It was difficult and some projects and goals have been put on hold while we wrestle with balancing the budget.

Some major highlights:

- ◆ Reducing a 4% cut to our contracted human service agencies to only 1%.
- ◆ Maintaining all positions requested by the sheriff as he begins to plan for the opening of the new consolidated jail next year.
- ◆ Keeping our commitment of expanding homeless services by investing over \$800,000 towards the new Men's shelter in Madison
- ◆ Keeping the County Executive's commitment of open space purchases of \$10 million..

The County Executive has instituted a hiring freeze with only critical positions allowed to be filled immediately, such as sheriff's office positions, 911 center employees, and certain human service social worker employees.

Other upcoming issues like the redevelopment of the Coliseum. We now have received one (1) bid and it is currently being reviewed. Also, making sure our roads are maintained and keeping our lakes as clean and safe as possible through new E-coli testing as well as the continual removal of the algae bloom infestation.

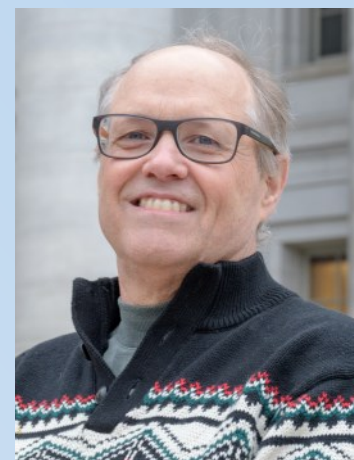
Finally, the county is now trying to come up with a solution to address the detox center. We have had a contract with Tellurian for quite some time as the agency to care for the center and help and assess the people that come in, either voluntarily or involuntarily by law enforcement. The county board put in additional funding for three months, which was thought to have been agreed to by Tellurian, while the county sends out requests for a new provider. Tellurian has said that because it is losing money every month and wants to pursue different ways of treatment that are outside of the contract, which would address their funding gap were not acceptable to the county under the current contract. Without getting further into the weeds, the county executive is pressing Tellurian to honor its current agreement to continue to oversee the county's detox center. I'll update you as changes occur.

I was recently appointed to the Madison Metropolitan School District Steering Committee. We will be meeting for the first time in January. I will report on the developments in my next writing here.

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

[matt.veldran@danecounty.gov](mailto:matt.veldran@danecounty.gov)



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

## Greetings from Alder Figueroa Cole

Wish you all a New Year filled with blessings. 2025 was a challenging year for many of our neighbors, but Madison's sense of community remains very strong overall. I am privileged to be surrounded by people who see the humanity of those who are more vulnerable in our city and who care enough to be engaged. As we enter 2026, I encourage you to commit to volunteering and contributing to a better Madison. Don't wait for a decision that directly affects you to raise your voice. Educate yourself on the issues impacting others and use your privilege to stand against hate and disinformation.

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, check out the [United Way Volunteer website](#). A [PDF directory of local agencies and programs is available here](#). If your schedule is busy, consider supporting causes close to your heart, like the [Shelter Friends of Dane County](#), to make a meaningful difference in our community.



Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole  
District 10

Thank you for your engagement on the Southwest Area Plan. The show of appreciation and gratitude to City Staff was a positive contrast to our first round of plans. This round has enabled fluent conversations and an openness to understanding the planning process and the legal constraints. You can still contribute your input by visiting the [Southwest Area Plan](#) page and sending us your feedback.

**Another opportunity to engage:** Three of the schools scheduled for reconstruction are [located in District 10](#). The school team presented their plans at the [Plan Commission Special Meeting](#). Join MMSD in sharing their vision and collecting your input. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the School Cafeteria, 5606 Russett Rd. Light refreshments will be served, childcare will be available, and MMSD will arrange on-site interpretation.

2026! Here we come! Let's face this year together!

Gracias! Yannette  
Alder Figueroa Cole (she/her/hers/ella) ([district10@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district10@cityofmadison.com))

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Links for newsletter printed version:

[www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/volunteer/](http://www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/volunteer/)

[www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Agency-and-Program-Directory.pdf](http://www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Agency-and-Program-Directory.pdf)

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/5N6GOW?vid=1o0j0u>

[www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/southwest-area-plan/3929/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/southwest-area-plan/3929/)

[www.cityofmadison.com/council/district10/blog/2025-12-17/mmsd-announcement-january-meeting](http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district10/blog/2025-12-17/mmsd-announcement-january-meeting)



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## **What the Southwest Area Plan Means for Meadowood, *by Lisa Veldran***

The City of Madison's Southwest Area Plan outlines long-term priorities for land use, transportation, housing, and parks that will guide public and private investment for decades. While the plan does not schedule construction, it sets the direction for how Meadowood may change over time—affecting how we move through the neighborhood, how safe our streets feel, and how local spaces evolve.

### **Raymond Road: Near-Term Safety, Long-Term Decisions**

Raymond Road is a major focus of the plan due to ongoing concerns about speeding, traffic volumes, and pedestrian safety. In the near term, the City proposes safety improvements such as curb bump-outs, enhanced crosswalks with flashing beacons, and other traffic-calming measures to slow vehicles and improve visibility for people walking and biking.

Transit riders would also benefit from new bus shelters at Raymond Road and South Whitney Way, recognizing heavy use of these stops and the need for year-round weather protection.

Looking ahead, once a future street connection elsewhere in the Southwest Area is completed, the City plans to evaluate reducing the number of travel lanes on Raymond Road. While no decisions have been made, such a change could significantly affect traffic flow, noise, and the overall feel of the corridor—making resident input especially important.

### **South Whitney Way: Clearer, Safer Design**

The plan also proposes separated bike lanes along the full length of South Whitney Way. North of Hammersley Road, this would likely replace underused on-street parking. South of Hammersley—closer to Meadowood—the redesign would clarify currently undefined pavement space, creating a more predictable and safer street for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. Improvements near the Beltline interchange are also planned in partnership with WisDOT.

### **Meadowood Shopping Center and Green Connections**

The Meadowood Shopping Center is identified as an area for potential long-term reinvestment. While no specific projects are proposed, the plan encourages more pedestrian-friendly redevelopment and allows tools like Tax Increment Financing to support improvements.

The plan also supports expanded shared-use paths connecting Raymond Road, High Point Road, and Elver Park, along with future enhancements through an Elver Park Master Plan.

### **Parks, Paths, and Elver Park Connections**

Meadowood residents would also benefit from improved connections to green space. The plan supports expanding shared-use paths linking Raymond Road, High Point Road, and Elver Park, making it easier to walk or bike through the neighborhood. A future Elver Park Master Plan would explore new entrances, better signage, and enhanced paths—strengthening Elver Park's role as a community hub.

### **Why It Matters**

The Southwest Area Plan influences future decisions about traffic, housing, businesses, and neighborhood character. A draft final report is expected in January 2026. Meadowood residents are encouraged to stay informed and share input.

Learn more and sign up for updates at: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/southwest-area-plan/3929>