

MEADOWOOD

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

September - October 2024
www.meadowoodneighborhood.org

President's Message – Mike Edmonds

edmondslaw@gmail.com; (608) 843-0292



Join Up! - Back To School - Fast Cars - Food Insecurity

If you have received this newsletter and are not a member of the Meadowood Neighborhood Association, please consider joining. The Meadowood Neighborhood Association's purpose, since its inception in 1958, is to promote community and fellowship. To that end, we sponsor events like Bingo Night, a neighborhood rummage sale, and a picnic. In addition we meet with our Alder, County Board Supervisor, and the Madison Police Department to voice our concerns. You can check us out at <https://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org/> and, if you like what you see, you can join online.

My quiet summer is coming to an end as school is back in session (I live across the street from Orchard Ridge Elementary). I don't mind the traffic from parents dropping off their children or the shouts from the playground: education is the key to a strong community.

However, Orchard Ridge Elementary and Toki Middle School now have separate start times. While a later start time for middle schoolers makes educational sense, it means that there will no longer be crossing guards for middle school students, as crossing guards are only assigned to elementary schools. My message to parents: Alert your students! Remind them to watch out for cars. My message to drivers: Slow down! There may not be a crossing guard but there are still children on the way to school.

Finally, September is Hunger Action Month. A number of our neighbors don't have enough food. Consider donating or volunteering at our food pantries. Our community is stronger if everyone has the nourishment they need. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the Meadowood Neighborhood Center operate food pantries. You can find information about these and other food pantries at the Second Harvest Food Bank [website](#).

The leaves will be turning soon. Enjoy the color!

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: Maggie Dugan, **Board Secretary**, maggiedugan24@gmail.com
- Area 2: Miguel Benson & Sammy Clevenger, miguel.a.benson@gmail.com
- Area 3: Mike Edmonds, **Board President**, 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 Treasurer**, mtevenson@gmail.com
- Area 10: Kara Pezzi, kapezzi@gmail.com
- Area 11: Jacob Kriegisch, jacob.kriegisch@gmail.com
- Area 12: Jay Close, **Board Vice President**, yourjaybird@hotmail.com
- Area 13: Sheray Wallace, sherayw@yahoo.com
- Areas 14 and 15: VACANT
- Member at Large: Lisa Schulz, buttonldy@aol.com

Two (2) areas are not currently represented on the MNA Board. ***If you live in one of these areas, 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

Join Meadowood Neighborhood Association TODAY!

Please continue to support Meadowood Neighborhood Association by renewing your membership or joining for the first time. The cost is \$10 per household for the year. You will receive a membership card, subscription to the Meadowood (5 issues per year), free participation in all our activities, free community suppers and be kept up to date on neighborhood news. Your dues also helps support Meadowood Health Partnership, Friends of the Library, food pantries in Meadowood and more.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

If you have an email address you will receive an emailed PDF of the Meadowood, unless you check the box below.

Check here if you want a hard copy of the Meadowood newsletter delivered to your house. (Meadowood will be delivered electronically to all members with email addresses)

Re-join/join: On-line at <https://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org/membership>. Or fill out and return this form and \$10.00 to MNA Treasurer, P.O. Box 45528, Madison, Wi 53744-5528.

Meadowood Neighborhood Picnic

by Lisa Kass

The weather cooperated for the annual Meadowood Neighborhood Picnic on Saturday, August 17th. There were rainy clouds and sunny skies, but people were able to mix and mingle with lively conversations. The food was delicious and thank you to the board for the set up, serving and clean up. Thank you also to our representatives who came and spoke to the crowd of 60 people. These included Matt Veldran, District 4 Dane County Supervisor, Yannette Figueroa Cole, Madison City Council President and our District 10 representative and John Duncan, Madison City Council Vice President. Thanks also to Lucas Hale, our neighborhood police officer who brought the trailer with the tables and chairs.

Congratulations to all the winners of the fabulous door prizes!

A HUGE thank you to the following businesses that donated those door prizes!

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ◆ Gino's Italian Deli | ◆ Elements Massage |
| ◆ Glass Nickel Pizza | ◆ Walgreens Pharmacy |
| ◆ Half Price Books | ◆ Star Nails |
| ◆ Dana Lou's Laundromat (Kwik Trip gas cards) | ◆ Vintage Brewing Co. |
| ◆ Chang Jiang Chinese Restaurant | ◆ Los Atlantes Mexican Restaurant |
| ◆ Heartland Credit Union | ◆ Hy-Vee Grocery (Whitney Way) |

Renewing Your MNA Membership Online

You can join/renew your [MNA membership online](#) and pay the \$10 dues by PayPal or Zelle. The link to donate through PayPal is found on the MNA website. It is highly likely that you can send funds using Zelle via your bank's website or mobile app. All you will need to use Zelle is the MNA's treasurer's email, meadowoodtreasurer@gmail.com. The app or your bank's website/app should guide you from there. There are **no fees associated with using Zelle**.

Web Master Needed for MNA

Our MNA web site needs a Web Master. Heidi Wiley, who did a masterful job in building the site, has moved out of our neighborhood. The website is built on Wix.com and much of it is automated. Site maintenance is minimal, with a commitment of one hour or less a month. Please send an email to MNABoard1@gmail.com or contact a Board member if you are able to help maintain our website.

.We need YOU!

We have several open seats on the MNA board:

Area 1, Tawhee and the Courts off of Tawhee, Teal Dr, Aspen Rd, and associated area of Raymond Rd.

Area 2, Between Aspen and Manor Green. (Miguel and Sammy Benson, current reps are looking for a replacement representative).

Area 11, Malabar, Mayhill, Jonquil and the associated area of Prairie Rd.

Area 14 and 15 – Apartments north and south of 5700 to 6000 blocks of Raymond Road

Anyone over 18 years old who lives within Meadowood boundaries can serve on the MNA Board. You do not need to live within the boundaries of an Area to represent that Area of Meadowood. We also have an opening for an At-Large board member. At-Large members usually take on specific roles, such as Web Master or help organize social activities.

Stop by and see our board in action at the Meadowridge Library on the first Wednesday of each month (except July). We meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. You can find more information on board responsibilities in our bylaws at our web site, meadowoodneighborhood.org. Please send an email to MNABoard1@gmail.com to volunteer or ask for more information.

New to Meadowood Neighborhood?

(or for those that have been here awhile and didn't know)

Did you know that just putting that old couch or that pile of wood out on the curb doesn't ensure that the city will pick it up? Did you know that when you put brush or yard waste out to the curb you may have to wait a month before it's picked up? What's a neighbor to do? Well the city has you covered!

To find out how to schedule large items or appliances to be picked up by the city go to

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/refuse/largeitems.cfm>

To find out when the city will pick up your brush or yard waste go to following website and enter in your address:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/yardwaste/>



FIND YOUR LOCAL FAMILY FUN

GET YOUR **FREE** CALENDAR FOR THE LATEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS, PLACES, AND ACTIVITIES IN THE MADISON AREA



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Changes Coming to Madison Metro *Article Submission from Kara Pezzi*

Madison Metro bus service is changing to meet the needs of a growing city. According to *Psychology Today*, changes are difficult because we are comfortable with the present situation and are unsure of how the change will affect our lives. If we can see change as a new opportunity, we are more likely to see the positive aspects of the change.

As you may know, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) begins on Route A (an east-west route from Sun Prairie to the far west side of Madison) on September 22. This route has dedicated bus lanes and traffic signals to improve the commute for Metro passengers. Most of the bus stops (except for areas around the UW campus and Capitol Square) are on the median between the traffic lanes. This type of bus boarding is common for BRT systems in other cities.

Bus fares will change slightly with the elimination of 10-ride and 30-day passes. Each bus ride will cost \$2, but the cost will be capped at \$5/day for passengers using the Fast Fare card. This card can be purchased at BRT stations, Metro Transit's office (1245 E. Washington), or at neighborhood locations during information sessions. Meadowridge Library information sessions are scheduled on:

Tuesday, September 10, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 26, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Cash will still be accepted on all buses except BRT. Try riding Madison Metro for your next trip, especially if it's been a while since you've been on a bus!

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/smashing-the-brainblocks/202010/what-makes-change-difficult>

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro>



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Meadowridge Library Needs Your Support! *(Submission from Lisa Veldran)*

The Madison Public Library has proposed a budget for 2025, with the Meadowridge Library branch facing potential cuts. Here's a breakdown of the situation:

Proposed Budget: \$21,773,982 for the library system in 2025. This increase from 2024 is due to rising costs for Dane County expenses, utilities, and digital library materials.

Popular Offerings Not Included: The budget doesn't account for popular programs like Kanopy, Dream Bus Operations, or the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park. (To find out more about the Madison Public Library's proposed 2025 Budget go to this link to see the full presentation slides <http://bit.ly/3YZ7ybz>)

Why You Should Advocate for Meadowridge Library:

Show Your Support: Let the Mayor and Common Council know you oppose cuts to the Meadowridge Library branch.

Highlight What Matters: Think about what you use the library for. Do you enjoy picking up holds, attending children's programs, participating in clubs, reading newspapers, or seeing teen programs offered?

Take Action Today!

Email:

Mayor:

mayor@cityofmadison.com

Common Council:

council@cityofmadison.com

Write a Letter:

Mayor Rhodes-Conway: 210
Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Room
403, Madison WI 53703

Common Council: 210 Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd, Room 417,
Madison WI 53703

Don't wait to see what happens with the November 5 referendum to raise taxes. Let them know how much the Meadowridge Library branch means to you and our Meadowood community today!

[madpl.org/budget/#getinvolved](https://www.madpl.org/budget/#getinvolved)

Quiescence

by Meadowood Resident, Heidi Schultz

In the midst of fall
there lies a mist

A migrating fog

A subtle shift.

Tired trees, weary
and wearing

Dressings of green,
delicate slips,

Prepare to descend, quaintly shedding

Their robes, sifting through branches and

Downward they drift

Towards subdued and vibrant

Velvety ground, linger in the light

Of the sun's last rounds, succumb quietly then

To a regal repose,

I suppose

That the leaves have learned to love their melt

Back to earth,

The subtle relief of the ragged rotations

Cycling them home,

But as they linger so lightly

In elegant gowns, they'll give us one

Last wink

Before eroding their crowns.



KEY DATES

- **August 6:** Common Council Meeting. Open to public comments on referendum
- **August 20:** Special meeting of the Common Council to vote on and approve language that could be added to the ballot for the November 5, 2024 election.
- **October 8:** Executive Budget introduced to Common Council
- **October 28:** Finance Committee amendments meeting
- **October 30–November 8:** Common Council amendments week
- **November 5:** Election Day— if a referendum is introduced, it will appear on the ballot
- **November 12–14:** Common Council budget adoption meetings

Hola!

As we step into the final stretch of the City Budget season, a crucial period for our city's financial planning, it's important to note that the Mayor's Executive Budget will be available on the city's Finance website. This season also brings a significant referendum question on the November ballot, proposing a \$22 Million levy increase, which translates to about \$20 per month for the average assessed home value. The referendum will shape our city's future. While news outlets have been covering the story, it's essential to approach this issue with a clear understanding, free from the fear, misinformation, and disinformation that often cloud such discussions.

Empower yourself with the truth by exploring the city's budget history, available online from 2011 to date. Watch videos from prior years' budget meeting discussions; you'll also see some familiar faces. City budgets reflect our values and priorities and hold the city's history. While we can't change history, we can gain knowledge and understanding. This knowledge will equip you to engage in informed and impactful budget conversations.

I stand by the decisions made in the past three budgets, and I recognize that these decisions have a significant impact on this and the future budgets, just as prior administrations also influenced us today. It's crucial to understand the ripple effect of past decisions on our present financial situation, as it fosters a sense of awareness and responsibility among us all. To learn more, a full version of this article will be posted on my city blog. (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district10/blog>)

The role of Alders and the Mayor is to safeguard the health and well-being of all residents, not just in a fair but equitable manner. Making decisions that impact individuals' finances is not easy, and it's equally challenging to make cuts that affect those whose finances put them at a disadvantage. However, by prioritizing equitable decision-making, we can ensure that all residents' concerns are heard and addressed. Every dollar invested in prevention ensures a healthier and safer Madison.

To learn more about the budget, check out the city finance page (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/budget>) . If you have any questions about the budget, please reach out and subscribe to my blog for updates. (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district10/blog>).

Council President Alder Figueroa Cole



Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole
District 10

Madison Metropolitan School District Referenda Information for November 5

Be informed and visit the MMSD website to find out more about the two referendums that will be on the November 5 ballot and more importantly use the calculator to see how your property taxes will be affected over the next four years <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/about/2024-referenda>

Want to know more? **MMSD staff will be holding a community engagement session on Thursday, September 26 at Toki Middle School/Orchard Ridge Elementary (Cafeteria) at 6:00 pm.** From the WSJ article (8/27/24): "Attendees will get an overview of the district's budget, discuss the current condition of facilities, fill out a survey and be presented a "dream board" by district staff."

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These internet-connected thermostats automatically adjust your household's heating and cooling systems, lowering the temperature when you're away in the winter or raising it in the summer. Like other smart devices, smart thermostats can be controlled remotely and automatically adjust to your household routine. Our energy efficiency partner, FOCUS ON ENERGY[®], offers a rebate or instant savings on smart thermostats for eligible MGE customers. Visit focusonenergy.com for details.

Already own a smart thermostat? Consider joining MGE Connect[®], a program that rewards you for allowing MGE to make minor changes to your thermostat to help reduce our collective energy use. Participants may override the temperature adjustments at any time. Visit mge.com/mgeconnect for details.

Explore Smart Plugs, Lights and Power Strips

Did the kids turn off the TV? Did we leave the lamp on? Investing in smart plugs or smart lighting can help you remotely control almost anything from electronics to light bulbs and lamps with a smartphone or virtual assistant.

Help reduce phantom energy by plugging electronics into a smart power strip that shuts off electricity to devices when they aren't in use. These items are available in a variety of styles and prices in local stores and online, including the Focus on Energy Marketplace at focusonenergymarketplace.com.

Save with Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy also offers free energy-saving kits, which include products such as LED light bulbs or a high-efficiency showerhead. To learn more, visit focusonenergy.com/smart.

You can also find instant discounts on other energy-efficient products at the Focus on Energy Marketplace at focusonenergymarketplace.com.

Get Free Energy-Saving Advice

MGE's energy experts are available to provide tips and to answer your questions about energy-saving technologies. Call the MGE Home Energy Line at (608) 252-7117 or send an email to AskExperts@mge.com.

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Newsletter from Matt Veldran

Summer is coming to a close, and we turn our thoughts to the fall season, returning to school, changing leaves and cooler weather. The county board is also winding down the summer and will be back in full swing with a regular meeting schedule. The upcoming county executive election has created an opportunity for the board and the interim County Executive, Jamie Kuhn, to adjust the budget schedule to have it finalized before election day on November 5th. Here is a rundown of upcoming dates if you want to follow the county budget process.

Wednesday, September 11 @ 6:00 PM - Department Budget Public Hearing (Dept's. Budget request)

Thursday, September 12 @ 6:00 PM - Department Budget Public Hearing

Wednesday, September 18 - Budget Released by County Executive

Wednesday, October 9 @ 7:00 PM - Executive Proposed Budget Public Hearing

Monday, October 28 @ 6:00 PM - Public Hearing on Final County Budget

Wednesday, October 30 @ 6:00 PM - County Board to begin Final Budget Deliberations

Monday, November 4 @ 6:00 PM - County Board Final Budget Deliberations (if necessary)

All of these hearings will be held in room 201 at the City-County Building. The individual committees will review the various parts of the proposed budget during the end of September and the beginning of October at different locations of county buildings in Madison. You can check the dates, times and locations at <https://dane.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> Also, any of the meetings can be watched online either live or later.

Our only August county board meeting was held at a Dane County Park, which has become customary, at Schumacher Farm Park, in Waunakee. The parks department presented its annual report and talked about the next Parks and Open Space Plan for 2025. While the report was mainly a status quo as it is in the midst of many projects around Dane County in the current plan. But I did learn something interesting that I would like to share with you. After the county's latest land purchase, Dane County Parks became the largest county park system in the state! We attribute that remarkable milestone to the great work done daily by the Land and Water Resources Department. So if you have some time in the next few months, visit one of our great parks. It is one of the investments that the board takes seriously because we know how important it is to all of our citizens.

Finally, as the leaves begin to fall, a reminder to please keep your leaves out of the gutters by keeping them on lawns and terraces for the city to pick up later in the season. It is the best way to keep leaves out of the lakes where the nutrients from them end up promoting algae bloom. THANK YOU!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.


Matt Veldran; 608-235-8369

veldran.matt@danecounty.gov



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

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