

# MEADOWWORD

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

Jan.-Mar. 2015

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

## President's Message –Krista Ralston

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My wish for 2015 is PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL! I know that's a pipe dream for the world, but it's definitely something we can and should aspire to in Meadowood. People often accuse me of being a "Pollyanna", and I guess the accusation is true. I can't help it – I love people and always expect the best from them. But I'm also a realist and cynic when necessary, and recognize that bad things happen to good people. If we want peace, we have to fight for justice. I'm not willing to give up that fight. Not here or anywhere.

Despite the troubling recent reports of increased criminal activity in southwest Madison, Meadowood is still an attractive, safe and family friendly neighborhood. The West District Police, together with various neighborhood groups and organizations, is working hard to control and minimize illegal activity in our area. Neighborhood policing is one positive policy being used. Neighborhood officers are visible and interactive not only when called to an "incident", but also at community meetings and social activities. I must admit that my instinctive distrust of police officers continues to decrease the better I get to know the individual officers serving our area. That doesn't mean, of course, I think police officers can do no wrong. They are human beings prone to error and bad judgment, biases and prejudices just like the rest of us. The scary part (sometimes also comforting) is that they have a lot more power than the rest of us. Clearly, they must be trained to exercise their power fairly. And just as clearly, if we hope to build the kind of community we can all enjoy and in which we can thrive without fear, we must work together to overcome biases and prejudices on all sides and achieve mutual respect.

In my January, 2014 message I promised to bike and walk through the Meadowood neighborhood in order to get better acquainted with the area and the residents. I did that and, in the process, met a lot of warm, friendly and talented people of all ages, religions and ethnicities. I really enjoyed doing that and learned a lot. Many of the people I met have lived in this neighborhood for decades. Others are younger and newer to our neighborhood. I love the growing diversity and especially the energy and creativity sprouting all around. I also love the tremendous community effort being made to harness and mold all that energy and creativity into positive forces. I know it's not always (or ever?) easy, but it's always worth the effort. Special congratulations and thanks are owed to the many unsung organizers and volunteers in the community as well as the dedicated staffs and volunteers of the Meadowood Library and the Neighborhood Center.

## MNA Winter Bingo Party

Saturday, January 24, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall, 5256 Verona Rd.

Entrance on Anton Drive south of Williamsburg Way (see directions below)

The MNA is sponsoring its annual Bingo Party. There will be snacks and a cash bar. This event is for ADULTS MNA members ONLY. Bring your 2015 membership card or join on site for \$5.00 per household (must be a Meadowood resident). Directions: Whitney Way south to Williamsburg Way; left on Williamsburg Way to Anton Dr. Right on Anton. The KofC Hall. is next to the Chalet Ski Shop and is handicapped accessible.

## Community Suppers: Confronting Our Biases History and Importance of the Meadowood Suppers

Madison and Dane County public health nurses started the first Meadowood suppers several years ago, as part of their community organizing efforts. When their department was reorganized and focused elsewhere, residents from community who were on the planning committee decided it was valuable to continue the community organizing through Meadowood suppers; now organized with neighborhood funding and volunteers.

Meadowood is home to people of different races, economic classes, ages and walks of life. Meeting, talking and recognizing each other makes our neighborhood stronger and safer. Adults, not the children, often find it awkward to socialize and begin conversations with people who are different. At Meadowood suppers, we try to find ways to break the ice, and, hopefully biases, with group games, dancing, discussions. Suggestions are welcome!

A coalition of Meadowood organizations and individuals all support the community suppers. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been generous in providing both funds for food and use of their facilities in the past year. Meadowood Neighborhood Association provides funds and publicity. Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ donates printing services for the flyers.

Meadowood Neighborhood Center, Meadowood Library, and West District Police all provide staff time to assist with serving the suppers, and adults and students from the Meadowood Foundation have assisted with clean up and other tasks. Dozens of individuals from the Meadowood neighborhood volunteer for each meal, doing everything from planning and cooking the supper to passing out flyers for each supper.

Community suppers are for everyone in the Meadowood

## Community Supper, Fri., Feb. 13, Good Shepard

The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 pm the first Wednesday of every month (no meeting in July) at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center. **Meetings are open to the public.** [www.facebook.com/Meadowood.Neighborhood.Association](http://www.facebook.com/Meadowood.Neighborhood.Association)

community, not the "needy," although it's certainly a hearty meal!

The main reason the community has continued the Meadowood Suppers is to give people an opportunity to socialize and meet each other--and you can't do that if you stay home! If you have the means donations are always welcome to help fund future suppers.

### 2015 Meadowood Suppers

Friday February 13 2015 6 PM, Good Shepherd Church--see flyer in this issue of the Meadowood

Tues. May 12 6 PM, Good Shepherd Church--Brats & Bingo

Tues. Aug. 11 6 PM, Meadowood Park--Community Potluck Picnic and Festival

Tues. Oct. 20 6 PM, Meadowridge Library (new common room)--Menu and speaker to be announced

To volunteer send an e-mail to [mwsuppers@gmail.com](mailto:mwsuppers@gmail.com), or contact MNA President Krista Ralston at 274-2210.

### Mayor Soglin's Blog Club Today Not Tomorrow Community Forum

December 19, 2014

I recently joined Chief Koval, Alder Phair, and several other Madison Police Department representatives for Club Today Not Tomorrow's Peacemakers program community forum at the Meadowood Community Center. The Peacemakers program, which was launched in February, 2014, is focused on creating and strengthening relationships and cooperation between residents and police officers. The community forum had a great turnout, with Madisonians of all ages engaging in conversations and asking questions of their Madison police officers. I would say that the community forum achieved its goal of fostering open and honest communication between police and residents. Events like these are increasingly important in light of recent events.

Check out Club Today Not Tomorrow's Facebook page to learn more and see more photos from the event

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## Supervisor Matt Veldran's Column

Dane County, District 7, [Veldran@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:Veldran@co.dane.wi.us) (608)235-8369



Hello Meadowood Neighbors and Happy New Year!

As the Dane County Board begins 2015, we will be working on the important priorities that were outlined in the new budget as well as on-going issues. Underlying all new legislation will be how the county addresses decreasing the racial divide that exists. The "Race to Equity" report issued last year by the Wisconsin

Council on Children and Families stated that Wisconsin is ranked last, and that Dane County is last in Wisconsin when it comes to racial equity issues. Unless you are close to both the human services and criminal justice systems, this is an issue that seems impossible. Because of the dismal numbers, the Dane County Board and the County Executive have dedicated both policy and procedure to work to narrow the equity and achievement gap. A great deal of the measures are done at the department/staff level, but the county board is consciously writing any new resolution or ordinance with increasing equity in our communities.

One measure is expanding the Youth and Drug Court programs. These programs target minor ordinance violations in minority communities; small misdemeanors will be dealt with by peers, rather than municipal or civil court. Otherwise, these small crimes stay on people's records for many years, which can affect their employment and housing opportunities. There will also be a study on the use of body cameras by the sheriff's department. Sheriff Mahoney is highly in favor of the study, especially if it helps us feel safer and knowing that our officers are responsible for their actions.

As we saw our first snowfall of the year, the county is expanding snow cleaning of additional county highways to 24-7 coverage. This is a big deal, especially as we continue to grow, despite our sluggish economy. This should make trips into and around Madison and Dane County safer. The "long-anticipated" Phase One of Verona Road expansion got underway in earnest last year. I intentionally take Verona Road on occasion to see how the construction impacts our commute. I also asked the cities of Madison and Fitchburg and the sheriff to cover more of our neighborhoods as people will look for "shortcuts" through our streets. As my family and I (now four drivers!) negotiate getting on to Whitney Way in the morning, we can see first hand how many of us are dealing with the expanded traffic. My personal unscientific survey is that though there are more cars during the morning and evening rush, it seems tolerable and traffic thins out quite quickly after the heaviest hours.

We continue to address homelessness by funding different housing, shelter and other resources to help people. We

know from our own lives that small annoyances and emergencies can arise suddenly and throw us for a loop. This is multiplied many times for both the homeless and low-income populations in Dane County. These are issues we want to address that can make our county and neighborhoods stronger. So we continue to work with our partners, both private and other municipalities, to reduce duplication of services as all of our budgets are extremely tight.


As always, please don't hesitate to contact me on any issue, concern or an idea you may have!

### Flashing Lights at Raymond Rd. And Leland Dr. What are the rules?

Approximately 18 months ago, the city installed lights that flash yellow when activated and a "Yield to Pedestrians" sign at the intersection of Raymond Rd and Leland Dr. There still seems to be some confusion on what the motorist must do when the lights are flashing yellow. The law says that once a person/bicycle or wheeled vehicle has entered the crosswalk, all vehicular traffic is to come to a complete stop until the pedestrian, etc. has *reached the median*, not just gone past the stopped vehicle. The vehicle may then proceed with caution through the intersection. Of course, there are still pedestrians who cross without activating the flashing yellow lights. The motorist must still yield to the pedestrian/cyclist, etc. We want everyone in our neighborhood to be safe.

**responsibleEnergy**

**turn it down  
when you're not around**



Save energy and money this winter. Turn back your thermostat while asleep or at work.

Each degree can save 1% on your heating bill.

If we all setback 1°, we'll save enough gas for 3,100 homes. Bigger setbacks save even more.

Visit [mge.com/setback](http://mge.com/setback) to calculate your savings or call 252-7117.



your community energy company

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# Meadowood Community Supper

**MENU:** Lasagna, Mac & Cheese,  
lettuce salad, garlic bread  
**PROGRAM:** Performances by Princess Club  
Diamonds Dance Group  
Trivia Game with Door Prizes  
Police Update from Neighborhood Officers

Friday,  
February 13th  
6 PM

Good Shepherd Church  
Raymond Rd. & Whitney Way

Meal is free, but donations are appreciated.  
Children are welcome and must attend with an adult.  
If Madison schools are closed due to weather on Feb. 13th,  
meal will be Friday, Feb. 20th instead.



ORCHARD RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (ORE)  
DOLPHIN UPDATE



**FUNDRAISING**  
*OREPTO SCRIP Gift Cards Program*

**WHERE CAN I GET SCRIP?** 1) Download a form [www.OREPTO.com](http://www.OREPTO.com) . 2) Learn more at the "Get Involved link. 3) Join our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/orepto/> 4) Subscribe to/join our Listserv email group <https://groups.google.com/a/orepto.com/forum/#!/forum/listserv> . 5) Email Scott Thom [scottrok@charter.net](mailto:scottrok@charter.net) .

**WHEN CAN I GET SCRIP?**

SCRIP FORMS DUE	DELIVERY DATE
JANUARY 20	JANUARY 28
FEBRUARY 17	FEBRUARY 25
MARCH 17	MARCH 25
APRIL 21	APRIL 29
MAY 19	MAY 27

**BONUS!** Woodman's and Willy St. Co-Op gift cards are available the entire year! Try it! You'll love it!

**BOX TOPS AND LABELS FOR EDUCATION**

ORE is collecting Box Tops and Labels for Education. Please drop off at: ORE Office, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church OR send them to school with an ORE student. Please remember to check the expiration date!

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p><b>ORE Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meetings</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month 6pm-7:30pm free childcare provided</p> <p>January 26 February 16 March 16</p>	<p><b>Family Fun Night</b> February 12, 2014 6-730 Orchard Ridge Elementary School - Cafeteria</p> <p><b>Carnival</b> March 17, 2014 Noon-3pm</p>
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