

MEADOWWORD

Newsletter of the Meadowood Neighborhood Assn

www.meadowoodneighbors.org

Nov.-Dec. 2011

President's Message – Lisa Veldran

lveldran@yahoo.com 271-0722

I'm afraid fall is rapidly moving over to let winter in! Most of the leaves are off the trees but some hang on until November (our backyard trees are a case in point). Please read the article in this newsletter about leaves and our lakes. Some people believe they don't make much of a difference in quality of our lakes and continue to place their leaves in the street. But when we ALL put our leaves on the terrace vs. the street, we make a BIG difference!

In December, we will hear if Toki Middle School received an Open Spaces, Sacred Spaces grant. This grant would fund the creation of an Open Space Sacred Place, which are designed to study and communicate the impact of a specific type of urban public green space on users. The grant application was co-authored with input from a variety of organizations, including the Southwest Community Organizing Committee (SWCOC). To find out more about SWCOC, please read the article included in this newsletter.

Winter can be a time where we hunker down and wait for spring but I would encourage you to get involved in any of the initiatives Meadowood is working on; the farmers market, the community garden, Project Meadowood walks or flag football program, or supporting our schools.

If you have any questions about our neighborhood activities, feel free to contact me.

MNA's WINTER BINGO PARTY **Saturday, January 21, 2012, 7:00 pm**

The MNA is sponsoring its annual Bingo Party on Saturday, January 21st at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located on Anton Dr. next to Chalet Ski Shop. There will be snacks and a cash bar. This event is for ADULTS ONLY who are current MNA members. If you are not a member, you can join that night for \$5.00. The building is handicap accessible. For more information call 271-5054.

Pie Sale at Meadowridge Library – November 22nd

The Friends of the Meadowridge Branch Library will once again be holding their Thanksgiving Pie Sale on Tuesday, November 22 starting at 10 a.m. until the pies are gone. All pies are \$10. If you would like to bake some pies for the sale, contact Jacky at madcit99@tds.net and let her know how many, otherwise just stop in at the library and buy one or two or more!

Santa Visits Meadowood December 10

Santa will make his annual visit to Meadowood children on Saturday, December 10 starting about 6:00 p.m. He visits children up to age 10 whose families are current MNA members. Children who want a visit can write a letter to Santa. The letter can be mailed to:

Santa Claus
c/o Loehrs
5810 Crabapple Lane
Madison, WI 53711



Santa has joined the technology age and families this year can send an email instead of a letter to:

dcloehrer@att.net

Both letters and emails should include the full name, address and age of each child. Santa visits children in their homes and brings a small gift for each one.

The deadline for the letters and emails to be received is Thursday, December 8. If you are not a Meadowood Neighborhood Association member you can send your \$5 membership fee in your letter.

West Madison Little League 2012 Season

The league currently serves over 1000 children in the spring/summer program (approx 900 west side families). Participation boundaries are the West, Memorial and Middleton high schools attendance areas.

West Madison Little League includes youth baseball (girls & boys) & girls-only softball. Ages 8 to 16, as of 4-30-12 for baseball & 12-31-11 for softball. Online registration begins Jan. 5, 2012 (www.wml.org) and ends Feb 29. Register by the deadline and you are guaranteed a spot on a team! Partial scholarships available. WMLL also offers a Fall Ball program which includes baseball, softball and a league for Children with Disabilities. For further information: contact WMLL Executive Director, Bill Battista, 608-239-6161, or email board@wml.org.

Winter Art Festival–November 12 & 13

More than 140 Wisconsin artists and artisans will exhibit their work at the 22nd annual Winter Art Festival, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 12 and 13, at Monona Terrace. There also are children's activities and a silent auction. Hours are 9 to 5 Saturday and 10 to 4 Sunday. artcraftwis.org

The Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board of Directors meets at 7:00 pm the first Wednesday of every month (except July when there is no meeting) at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center. Meetings are open to the public.

www.meadowoodneighbors.org

Supervisor Veldran's Column

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



Meadowood neighbors, cooler days are upon us and winter's breath is sure to follow. We turn our attention to more indoor activities with family, friends and neighbors.

Here are some of the issues that the county board is considering and what is on the horizon.

2012 budget – The county board is about to begin full deliberations. County oversight committees have completed their respective department reviews. As the chair of the Public Works and Transportation Committee, I have spent time reviewing one of the county executive's proposals to have parks department employees work in the highway department to plow snow when there are large storms. This is being done as a result of severe state budget cuts. While I welcome this creative solution, I want to make sure that our county workers are safe and our roads are cleared in the best and most efficient way.

I am also working with the committee that oversees the sheriff's department to request he add a position to the gang task force.

Another large issue that will take serious consideration will be the start of the process for siting a new county landfill. While this can be a contentious process, it is important that a Dane County "public" landfill remain a viable alternative. Typically when municipal landfills close, private landfills dramatically increase their rates. Currently, our landfill rates are far below the private ones and our landfill staff is one of the most creative around! Dane County continues to generate revenue through the conversion of waste to electricity which we sell to MG&E. Also in the budget is a plan to build a new highway garage, at the landfill, which will be completely off the power grid! We have made a large investment in converting many county vehicles to use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). CNG is another product created from our landfill, which both reduces vehicle emissions and is only about \$1.10 a gallon!

The County Executive restored the Joining Forces for Families (JFF) position that many of you wrote to me as a necessary position for our southwest-side neighborhoods. This came as a welcome relief. He also restored about \$1.9 million in department cuts for our most vulnerable citizens. But that still leaves about \$2 million in unfunded programs in the Human Services Department.

The budget proposed by the county executive will increase property taxes on the average Madison home about \$27/yr.

I received some good news from the Wisconsin Department

of Transportation about the Verona Road project. Because of changes in the state's definition of sound walls, the DOT will be adding two walls, one of them from Raymond Road to Williamsburg Way, an area many of us asked DOT, in all of its meetings, to consider.

On the other hand, I received a letter from ATC about the beginning of construction of the power line project along the beltline corridor, which many people, including me, opposed. I considered it a small victory that the power line will go on the northside side of the beltline and will not impact the property of our Orchard Ridge neighbors.

Finally, as of this writing I intend to run again for the county board in 2012. I hope to remain as one of the many positive voices in Meadowood and on Madison's southwest side. Thank you for your continued support. As always feel free to contact me on any issue of concern to you.

Notes from the West District **MPD West District Listening Session** **Madison Memorial High School** **November 9, 2011, 7 PM to 8:30 PM**

Meeting for West District MPD to hear from the residents on what their concerns are and ideas of making the West District safer and better. Please put this on your calendar and pass the word around about this upcoming listening session.

2011 Wrap up

2011 has proven to be an eventful year. In addition to assisting patrol officers, detectives and the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force, the West Community Policing Team (WCPT) also conducted several ongoing investigations that resulted in numerous arrests involving approximately 35 felony charges, 38 misdemeanor charges, 25 arrest warrants, three search warrants and 73 municipal ordinance citations. WCPT focused on traffic safety throughout the year, having conducted several, targeted speed enforcement projects as well as enforcing other moving, registration and equipment violations. As a result of these efforts, unit members have issued approximately 376 traffic citations and 91 warnings.

Heroin

In 2011, there was an increase in heroin-related arrests, overdoses and police contacts. As noted in previous articles and in recent news coverage, heroin usage and crimes fueled by heroin addiction (robberies, burglaries, thefts, shoplifting) continues to be a growing epidemic throughout the City of Madison. Madison appears to be the distribution hub for Dane County, where users from the suburbs and outlying areas travel to purchase heroin and other illicit substances. Once having purchased heroin, users will often go to a nearby parking lot to use it, typically by injecting or snorting it. At street level distribution, heroin is generally purchased in small amounts, \$20-100. Often heroin use

involves small groups, in which users pool their money and buy the drug more cheaply. Grouping together also ensures that someone will be present to call for an ambulance if a user overdoses, not uncommon.

The result of heroin usage in the City of Madison has led to numerous arrests, traffic crashes, drug overdoses and several fatalities. Street level heroin distribution often occurs in parking lots, driveways or on the street/sidewalk. Purchasing illicit substances takes only a few minutes, where dealers and users meet up in a public or semipublic place to complete the transaction.

Please be on the look out for any short term drug activity in your neighborhood. When in parking lots, be cognizant of the people and cars around you. Signs of drug activity are someone driving into a store parking lot, briefly making contact with the occupants of another vehicle, and leaving having never entered the store. If you observe suspicious drug activity, please call the police immediately, and be able to provide vehicle descriptions and most importantly, registration/plate information. Remaining anonymous is always an option, and if you have any ongoing drug issues in your neighborhood, please call your local police district, Madison Area Crime Stoppers (608-266-6014) or Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force (608-245-5783).

New MPD Captain Coming to the West District Station

Starting in 2012 Captain Jay Lengfeld will be assigned to the Executive Captain of Operations (ECO) position and Captain Vic Wahl will be assigned as the District Captain of the West Police District.

Read the latest MPD West District Newsletter online at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/west/newsletters/Documents/WPD201107-09.pdf>

At The Meadowood Neighborhood Center
5734 Raymond Rd. www.msccr.org/meadowood
Full schedules are also available at the MNC

Adult Programming?

Adults are surprised when they discover the Center has things for adults. We try to offer a little bit of everything and adults are included. We have adult and senior exercise classes, knitting and writing groups, computer classes, computer lab, job search and resume writing help. If there is something you want to see offered, please contact Cristine at 467-8918. There are a couple blocks of time available.

Updates and Upgrades!

By the end of November we will have completed a number of updates. They include:

- * New office and reception desk area
- * 4 new flat screen computer monitors

- * 2 additional computers/monitors bringing our total to 6 stations
- * 6 new computer chairs
- * 3 new computer tables
- * 40 new chairs

Funding was provided through the City of Madison, Madison School & Community Recreation Department and the Madison Metro School District.

New Computer Classes at MNC

Thanks to Susan Koller and Robert Hosken for volunteering to teach basic computer classes at the MNC. We offer classes on Tuesday mornings and are adding an additional day soon. Many of our classes are for novice or beginning computer users, including a class for those who have never used the computer. The classes are free! Please call to register for these classes at 467-8360.

MNC Support & Donations


During the holiday season, we are frequently asked about how to donate to the MNC. Many times people donate on behalf of someone else. We do accept monetary donations made out to the Meadowood Neighborhood Center. (We also have a list of material items that we are accepting available from the center.) And YES, we can provide a letter for your tax purposes. Donations can be dropped off or mailed directly to the MNC.

responsibleenergy


Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient while adding value

- New program from the City of Madison for homes to help offset the cost of making energy improvements.
- Work with a local energy advocate that will help guide you through the process.
- Get a professional evaluation, testing and written recommendations from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Get access to low-interest financing from Summit Credit Union (summitcreditunion.com) to finance your project and Cash-Back Rewards from Focus on Energy to help offset the cost of eligible improvements.

Call Green Madison at 877-399-1204 or visit cityofmadison.com/greenmadison



GREEN MADISON



focus on energy
Partnering with Wisconsin utilities



MGOE
your community energy company

GS1641 04/04/2011

Alder Phair's Column

district20@cityofmadison.com (608) 266-4071 or 298-7602



Hello Meadowood neighbors. I hope you are enjoying these last few days of fall and everyone is ready for the winter ahead (as much as you can ever be ready for 4 months of snow and cold). As we all are doing the autumn rituals that are required of us this time of year, I, and the other members of the Common Council, am also busy doing what we do this time of year: the City budget! At the time of print, we are in the process of having last minute conversations and proposing amendments as we get close to the official 2012 budget deliberations on November 15th and 16th (if necessary).

There is no doubt that next year's budget will be difficult on City agencies as they will be asked to do more with less. However, because of their sacrifices and prudent budgeting, an agreement between the local firefighters union and the City, and lower than expected health insurance costs we will manage not to lay off anyone thereby making sure our roads are plowed on time, garbage picked up as usual and parks maintained. Not to mention, tax increases will be modest. My concern is that we cannot sustain this. If the state continues to cut its aide programs for municipalities and impose strict levy limitations and the economy doesn't come back in a strong way, next year and beyond, we will be left with extremely hard choices; lay people off and see our basic services diminish, or drastically raise taxes...maybe both. I realize this isn't pleasant news but I believe it is what we will be facing if things don't change.

Getting back to this budget... I, along with Alders Subeck and King, proposed a \$30,000 amendment to the 2012 operating budget that would fund a Southwest Safety Initiative in the police department. The money would be used for extra police work in the areas of prevention, intervention and targeted patrol in Southwest neighborhoods. Our amendment failed to pass at the Board of Estimates (the City's finance committee), but we hope to bring it back for discussion at the November 15th budget deliberation and pass it on the Council floor. I continue to believe public safety should be at the top of our priority list. This initiative wouldn't meet all of our challenges but it would be a part of our comprehensive effort to build a sustainable and safe neighborhood.

As for the rest of the budget, it will be déjà vu all over again: the Edgewater and Overture Center. Wish us luck!

As always, if you have questions or concerns about something in our neighborhood, district or city, please feel free to contact me.

If you're not part of the solution...

Get involved in neighborhood issues

Interested in the Southwest Community Farmers Market? Join the Farmers Market Task Force
Contact: Amy Skora, Student Intern, 225-8154 or askora@publichealthmdc.com

Interested in attracting more businesses to the Meadowood Shopping Center? Join the Meadowood Economic Development Work Group – Contact: Matt Phair at 298-7602.

Interested in Traffic Safety in Meadowood?

Join the Meadowood Traffic Safety Work Group – Contact: Lisa Veldran at 271-0722 or lveldran@yahoo.com

Join the Southwest Community Organizing Committee

Next meeting is December 3rd from 9-11 AM at the MNC.

You may have heard there is a committee that has formed to organize around common issues in Southwest Madison. Initially, the group started with 5 Meadowood neighbors in the summer of 2010. It has now grown!

Currently, the SWCOC is comprised of 13 community leaders living in 4 Southwest Madison neighborhoods. The goal is to implement the Public Health-Madison and Dane County Violence Prevention Model by building leadership capacity within the neighborhood, creating forums that break down social barriers, and engaging residents in community organizing and collective action. In 2009, the murder of a youth in the Meadowood Neighborhood ignited residents' concerns over an increase in crime; a 64% increase in SW Madison vs. 4.2% for the city overall. Residents were eager to organize around improving the safety of our neighborhoods.

SWCOC consists of a diverse group of leaders from varied backgrounds who volunteer their time and make significant contributions to their neighborhoods. These individuals are hard-working, dedicated and passionate about strengthening their community. As individuals they have helped run neighborhood associations, implement a farmer's market, coordinate community gardens, advocate for increased youth programming, revitalize their neighborhood park, advocate and implement traffic safety improvements, lead community-building events including quarterly community suppers, and collaborate with police on safety projects. They are working together to build capacity in all SW neighborhoods.

While our neighborhoods still have serious challenges (high levels of poverty and mobility, and continued issues with crime), the area has undergone very positive changes. Madison Police report a 24% decrease in the number of juvenile complaints in the summer of 2010, and the neighborhood is calmer. Residents are feeling a stronger sense of place and are identifying more strongly with their

community. This grassroots approach to addressing issues on a local level, developing leaders from within, and recognizing the assets of all residents, not only improves the area's public health outcomes, but builds the capacity of the City to address troubled neighborhoods.

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chuck Kime (Greentree)
 Iiona Virgin (Prairie Hills)
 Larry Nelson (Orchard Ridge)
 Lisa Veldran (Meadowood)
 Rebecca Schrader (Prairie Hills)
 Ronnie Thornton (Meadowood)
 Tamar Pardee (Prairie Hills)
 Tania Banak (Prairie Hills)
 Winton Boyd (Orchard Ridge)
 Dan Parker (Prairie Hills)
 Sally Stix (Meadowood)
 Sheray Wallace (Meadowood)
 Charly Jordan (Meadowood)

Loving the Lakes is Easy

Football, chill in the air, kids back in school, apples, leaf raking... all signs of fall. **But leaves in the street this fall result in green lakes next summer.** By keeping leaves and other yard waste out of the street, you are proudly displaying your love of Dane County's lakes and streams.

Leaves or grass clippings in the street can get washed directly to the nearest lake or stream via storm drains when it rains. Even if the leaves never move, rainwater running over and through them makes a nutrient-rich tea that's carried directly to the storm drains promoting algae growth.

As the leaves turn glorious colors and fall onto lawns, it's time to **"Love Your Lakes, Don't Leaf Them."** There are some easy alternatives to raking. Simply use your lawn mower to mulch leaves directly on your lawn. These shredded leaves act as a natural fertilizer returning nutrients to your lawn. If you prefer to bag your grass clippings and shredded leaves, empty them on your vegetable and flowerbeds or around your trees and shrubs to help suppress weeds. Compost your leaves and use them next year in your gardens.

If you rake, keep leaves on the terrace, not in the street. No matter how far you live from the water's edge, storm drains lead to the nearest lake or stream.

Did you know.....

When you place your leaves in the street instead of the terrace you are violating Madison General Ordinance 10.18 (d)(1)(c)? **Prohibited Yard Waste and Brush Disposal. No person shall: c. Deposit yard waste or brush in or upon any public street, water, or grounds in the City of Madison.**

New Voter ID Required

Do you have an ID for voting? What about your neighbors, friends, and family members? The City Clerk's Office recommends checking your ID now to make sure your vote will be counted in 2012. State law now requires voters to present identification when voting. The law is very specific about which forms of ID will be accepted:

- Wisconsin driver's license expiring after 11/2/10
- Wisconsin DOT-issued photo ID card expiring after 11/2/10
- U.S. passport expiring after 11/2/10
- Military ID card expiring after 11/2/10
- Certificate of naturalization issued within last 2 years
- Unexpired Wisconsin driver's license or state ID receipt
- ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- Unexpired ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college—must contain issuance date, student signature, and expiration date within 2 years of issuance—along with proof of current enrollment.

Voters who do not have an acceptable ID at the polling place will need to vote on a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots will be counted only if the voter brings an acceptable ID to the clerk's office by 4 p.m. the Friday after the election.

If you are eligible to vote and do not have a Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin ID card, you may obtain an ID card for **free** from the Division of Motor Vehicles. The DMV will require you to prove your name, date of birth, identity, citizenship, Social Security number, and Wisconsin residency.

Documents often presented to the DMV are a certified birth certificate, Social Security card, marriage certificate (if you have changed your name) and utility bill. Obtaining a certified birth certificate costs \$20 if you were born in Wisconsin. It can take up to 10 weeks to get your certified birth certificate if you were born in another state.

Voters will no longer be able to have someone vouch for them when registering to vote on election day. However, you do not need to prove your address when registering to vote more than 20 days before an election, and may register at any Madison Public Library.

For more information, see www.cityofmadison/election or call the Clerk's Office at 266-4601.

Update on City Redistricting Process

The City of Madison has wrapped up the redistricting process. Maps with the new aldermanic districts and wards, and the new list of polling places, can be accessed on the "home" page of the redistricting website:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/cityHall/redistricting>

Note: The new districts go into effect on January 1, 2012

School Corner: Toki Middle School

tokiweb.madison.k12.wi.us

Toki Middle School was pleased to participate in the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools 8th annual Principal for a Day event on Tuesday, October 18. Secretary Cathy Stepp, from the Department of Natural Resources, joined us for a morning full of activities with students and staff. Secretary Stepp observed Dan Schroeder, from the DNR, instructing our physical education classes in an archery lesson. We are pleased to continue our Adopt-a-School partnership with the DNR. Our Principal for a Day is one of more than 60 business and community leaders to serve as principals in every Madison public school.

The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools sponsors the Principal for a Day event to bring a variety of community leaders to our schools so that they can experience first-hand the joys and challenges of public education. The Foundation advocates and facilitates partnerships between the schools, community groups and businesses and the Principal for a Day event is crucial to developing valuable partnerships.

We would also like to thank the efforts of ExxonMobil, Kelley Williamson Company and manager Debbie Viederis, of Westgate Mobil, at 699 South Whitney Way. Toki Middle School has been awarded a \$500 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance grant to support our school's programs. The money will be used to purchase curriculum materials for science and math. Funded by the ExxonMobil Corporation, the Alliance program is designed to provide Mobil retailers, with an opportunity to invest in the future of their community through educational grants to neighborhood schools.

Orchard Ridge Elementary—NEEDS YOU TO VOTE!

Orchard Ridge is a nominee in The Clorox Company's Power a Bright Future grant program, and needs you to help us win much needed funding to build an inclusive playground that will allow children of all abilities to play.

From Oct. 24, 2011 through Dec. 9, 2011, you have the opportunity to vote online or via text once a day for our program. **The program that receives the highest number of votes will be awarded the \$50,000 grand-prize grant**, and the next top vote-getters in the Play, Create and Explore categories will each be awarded a \$25,000 grant. One additional lucky school will be selected to receive a \$25,000 judge's choice grant. Visit www.PowerABrightFuture.com for official rules.

Vote via text – clorox7943 to 44144
Vote one time every day! Spread the word!

Vote online at:
www.powerabrightfuture.com/gallery/detail/?nid=1025
Vote one time every day! Spread the word!

Please pass along and invite your family, friends and colleagues to spread the word and help bring new resources to these students.

Project Home's Free Home Maintenance Classes

The Housing Center is a joint collaboration between non-profits Project Home and GreenPath Debt Solutions with the mission to expand and sustain affordable homeownership. The Housing Center offers classes on home maintenance and first time home buyer education, all free and open to the public.

The basic home maintenance classes provide education on house systems and instruction on do-it yourself projects and when you may need to call a professional. Get specific house questions answered, with no sales pitch. These classes are taught by industry professionals and Project Home staff who volunteer their time.

First-Time Home Buyers classes run monthly throughout the year. They are a comprehensive two-part class geared to first-time home buyers and what it takes to become mortgage-ready including budgeting and credit, working with real estate agents, homeowners insurance, home inspections and more. The classes are led by professionals in lending, real estate, insurance, and home inspection, and facilitated by a Housing Counselor. A free one-on-one financial counseling session is also required after the classes. Attendees who complete the classes get a certificate required by many financial institutions.

All Home Maintenance Classes and First-Time Homebuyer Classes are held at Project Home's Education Center 1922 S. Stoughton Rd., Madison (between Buckeye Rd. & Pflaum Rd).

Pre-registration is required for all classes. To register call Project Home at (608) 246-3737, or email michellek@ProjectHomeWI.org. Space is limited on a first come, first-serve basis

Upcoming Classes:

First-Time Home Buyers Classes, Tuesdays, November 8 & 15, 2011, 6:00-9:30 pm
Eliminating Water & Mold, Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 6:00-8:00 pm
Treating Ice Dams, Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 6:00-8:00 pm

Did you know?.....

When you park your car on the grass of your yard you may be in violation of Madison General Ordinance 28.11? A legal driveway is one that leads from the street to a legal parking space, either in a garage or outside of the required front yard.