

MEADOWOOD

MEADOWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.meadowoodneighbors.org

November/December 2009

Reminder: Yes, it's the \$\$ economy \$\$! Due to rising costs for printing, starting with the January 2010, issue of the *Meadowood* only PAID MNA members will receive it.

You can visit the website and download a copy of the MNA membership form at www.meadowoodneighbors.org or call your area representative.

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President's Column- Lisa Veldran

lveldran@yahoo.com, 271-0722

Most of the leaves have fallen off the trees, holiday decorations will soon be on display and holiday music is already on the airwaves - that means the "white stuff" is on its way. Our new directory will contain information on kids available to shovel snow but that information won't be available until April. Until then if you are in need of someone to shovel snow you can contact Cristine Reid at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center at 467-8360. Staff can put you in contact with kids (and their parents) who are willing to shovel snow.

The Madison Board of Education will be deciding on the continuation of Madison School & Community Recreation's (MSCR) involvement in the Meadowood Neighborhood Center at a future meeting in December (currently scheduled for December 14). **Please email the School Board at comments@madison.k12.wi.us to support MSCR's continued involvement and staffing of our neighborhood center.** The city has voted to continue funding the location for another year **so it is important to let the School Board know that we value the Meadowood Neighborhood Center.** If you do not have email, please send a letter to:

Madison Metropolitan School District
Attn: Board of Education Members
545 West Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53703

Happy and Safe Holidays to All Meadowood Neighbors!

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2009-2010 MNA Events - Please mark you calendars!

Santa Visits	December 12, 2009
Bingo Party	January 23, 2010
Vitense Golf Event	March 6, 2010
Meadowood Garage Sale	May 15, 2010
July 4th Bike Parade & Picnic	July 4, 2010

Santa visits Meadowood December 12

Santa is packing his bag for his annual visit to Meadowood children on Saturday, December 12. He will be arriving around 6 pm, visiting children through age 10 who have not pouted, have been nice and **written Santa a letter**. Letters must include name, address and age of child(ren) and be sent to:

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

Santa's deadline for receiving letters is Thursday December 10. If you are not a current member of the Meadowood Neighborhood Assn, please include in the Santa letter a \$5 fee for membership. Light your porch on December 12 to help Santa find his way.

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MNA Officers 2009-2010

President	Lisa Veldran
Vice President	Bob Rabehl
Secretary	Joyce Dingman
Treasurer	Lorene Wendricks

Area Representatives 2009-2010

1. Sally Stix	271-7609
2. Karen Boedecker	274-2574
3. Bob Rabehl (V-Pres)	274-3125
4. Dottie Loehrer	271-5994
5. Sherri Rembert	273-0960
6. Lisa Veldran (Pres)	271-0722
7. Lisa Schulz	271-7831
8. Janice/Mark Bauman	277-0860
9. Dave Glomp	271-9531
10. Vacant	volunteer
11. Mary Conlin	271-1320
12. Patsy Ragland	273-4040
13. Darlene Burrell	608-317-3294
14. Vacant	volunteer
15. Vacant	volunteer

Meadowood Neighborhood Center

The Meadowood Neighborhood Center is accepting monetary, tax-deductible donations. Please make checks out to **MSCR/Meadowood Neighborhood Center** and drop off at the Center, Attn: Cristine Reid. The Center is located at 5734 Raymond Road, next to the library and is open M-F, 9 am - 8 pm. For more information contact Cristine.



MADISON ALDERPERSON
Thuy Pham-Remmele
district20@cityofmadison.com
 274-0752 or 608.957-4433

While many may be disappointed that Chicago lost its bid for the 2016 Olympics, I am relieved that now we can truly focus our resources and attention on real basic, local needs without a major distraction.

The Midvale Boulevard reconstruction has progressed smoothly and should be completed on schedule before winter arrives. Madison has committed millions of stimulus money to purchase 14 hybrid buses for Metro Transit. This should enhance bus services in both scheduling and routing. I will continue to push for stimulus funds to be channeled toward projects that create jobs, particularly at the entry level, for the many limited income residents within District 20.

Our nation is experiencing a serious H1N1 flu epidemic that forced school closings and impacted workplaces all over the United States. Please make sure that you and your family (especially those at higher risk: people with asthma, women who are pregnant, and the elderly) get immunized as soon as the vaccine is available. Meanwhile, everyone is encouraged to take precautions and maintain healthy habits as extra protection.

In November 2007 a Chronic Nuisance Abatement ordinance was passed thanks to our District 20 Listening & Response Sessions with the Madison Police Department. The ordinance was scheduled to sunset November 1, 2009. This ordinance has proven to be an effective tool for law enforcers to curb negative activities and maintain quality of life for Madisonians. I am very happy to report that the Council has made it a permanent law.

The first HyVee grocery store on East Washington Avenue opened to very positive media reviews and 5,000 applicants for the 425 jobs it created. The second HyVee grocery store will soon begin construction at Westgate Mall and is slated to open next fall. I strongly supported this project that promises 400 jobs (many will be entry level positions) for area residents. These two stores will be quite similar with some modifications tailored to accommodate site specifications and meet concerns expressed by area residents during the approval process.

The City Budget is always the Council's focus every October and November. The Mayor declared this "the most difficult budget ever" and has proposed an increase of only 0.5% in city spending. Yet, this will require nearly a 4% increase in taxes on the average home next year. The budget includes three multi-million dollar, all

Downtown projects: a new Central Library, funding for a Central Park, and TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) benefits for the Edgewater Hotel overhaul. If approved, our City debt service and interest will increase 50% in future years. Please scrutinize these proposals and share your thoughts with me.

The Mayor hasn't proposed any cuts in Police, Fire/Ambulance, or Library services. Additional police allocations will depend on whether we receive Federal COPS funding. I pledge to maintain basic City services while holding the line on frivolous spending to avoid taxing residents out of their homes especially during this deplorable economic downturn. While we may need to accept some unavoidable changes in brush collection and large item pickup, I will fight to keep all city ice skate rinks maintained in response to many residents' strong requests.

My best wishes to all of you for a Safe Winter and a Happy Holiday Season with your loved ones.



Editor's Notes- Sally Stix
sastix@tds.net or 271-7609

This is my first *Meadoword*. On October 20, I attended my first community dinner at the Neighborhood Center. I've been meeting my Meadowood neighbors and have been impressed with the organization I've seen at the Neighborhood Center. What a great building block for strengthening the neighborhood and being a safe place for kids!

One idea I have for the *Meadoword* to add, in a small way, to the building blocks of a good neighborhood is to have a short story in each edition about one of our neighbors. We have master gardeners, police officers, playwrights, teachers and professors, veterans, musicians, plumbers, homemakers, students and others all of whom have interesting life stories.

Maybe your child placed first in a state meet or is the first in your family to graduate from college. Maybe your spouse got an article published or helps at a homeless shelter. If you know of someone you would like to see highlighted or a story you think should be told, please give me the information and I'll do the work.

The more we know and understand about each other, the stronger our neighborhood will be.

Habitat for Humanity is working at 5834 Russett Rd. converting the property from a 4-unit to a 2-unit owner-occupied town house. They need all-day volunteers Fridays and Saturdays. They also need people to provide and/or serve food to 25-40 volunteers. Their target is to finish in June 2010.



DANE COUNTY SUPERVISOR

Matt Veldran veldran@co.dane.wi.us
(H) 271-0722 or (C) 608-235-8369

Dear Meadowood Neighbors - By the time you receive this, the Dane Co. budget will be completed. One of the budget issues that I wrote about in the last issue, and received a great deal of input from residents, was to restore Mike Bruce's position at Joining Forces for Families (JFF) on Russett Road. I met with Executive Falk and requested that she restore both JFF positions that were cut by the Human Services Dept., which she did.

Currently the budget as presented will increase taxes by 7.9%, which translates to approximately a \$39 increase on the average Madison home. It continues to give priority to public safety, including the Sheriff's Dept. which accounts for 30%. It also includes a 3% cut for most departments. This will be difficult for some of our partner agencies that administer human service programs but we couldn't fully restore that cut. The Human Services Department accounts for 29% of the county budget.

On November 5th, the county board approved the creation of a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). I voted in favor because I believe it is the best way to address Dane County's current and future transportation needs. The legislation and language that passed was given to the County by the state and we do not have the power to alter it. The County originally asked for a binding referendum on any increase in the sales tax to fund the RTA. That provision was eliminated by the governor. While there will not be a County referendum, I fully expect the RTA board to hold one on any increase to the sales tax. As I told the MNA Board earlier this month, I could not vote to raise a tax that was convincingly voted down by the citizens who will be directly affected by it. I believe the RTA will lead to expanded bus service throughout Dane Co. There is also the possibility that the RTA will take over Madison Metro, which could lead to tax relief for Madison taxpayers in the future. As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or ideas you may have and thanks to everyone who took the time to contact me or testify at meetings on the above issues.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

MNA BINGO Party on January 23, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

The MNA is having a Bingo Party on Saturday, January 23rd at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The party is adults only and for current 2009-10 MNA members. You can join that night for \$5.00. The building is handicapped-accessible. Free snacks and a cash bar will be available. *Directions: Take Whitney Way south to Williamsburg Way; turn left and continue to Anton Drive; turn right. The KC building is on the left next to the Chalet Ski Shop.* For more information contact Lorene Wendricks at 271-5054.

Madison Police Column-Who Should I Call?

Sgt Lori Beth Chalecki: lchalecki@cityofmadison.com

Is a question we regularly receive at the police department. While there is no clear answer, here are some guidelines:

Emergency	911	
Non-Emergency	266-4275 or 255-2345	
West District	243-0500	
Self-Reporting	245-3662	or
www.cityofmadison.com/police/sru/		

911 Emergency!

If **you** believe it is an emergency, call 911. An emergency is based on how you "rate" what you are currently seeing or dealing with. Obvious emergencies are bad car accidents, heart attacks or other life threatening illnesses or an assault. What about the other things? A fight between kids, a minor car accident, a verbal argument; those are the calls that you have to decide for yourself if it is an emergency.

A couple things to think about that might make the decision easier –

Will what you want to tell the police still be important, current or pertinent once you have time to look-up and call the non-emergency number?

When police do arrive, will the problem still be there and be able to be located?

Is anyone in physical danger?

Never assume someone else called!

Non-emergency

These numbers should be used for all other reports or to reach a specific officer.

Consider programming the non-emergency number into your cell phone. With cordless phones at home, tape the number to the back of the phone so it is available immediately to everyone.

West District Police Station

The district station number has limited use. The district station is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm, and closed on holidays. You may leave a voicemail message which west district staff will receive the next business day.

Self-Reporting

Self-reporting is a huge asset to the Madison Police Department. It allows for tracking of crimes, data analysis for trends, and may ultimately be a tool that helps solve crimes. While you may not call to report your child's stolen

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

or missing bike, we would appreciate self-reporting. Below are examples of self-reporting situations;

Annoying Phone Calls - unsolicited/unwanted repeated phone calls, messages or texting

Damaged Property - damage to your personal property less than \$2500 value

Forgery or Fraud - victim of forged documents or fraud less than \$2500 value

Landlord Tenant Trouble - non-active issues related to landlord/tenant relations

Lost Property - personal property valued under \$2500 (not vehicles)

Noise Disturbance - chronic nuisance noise

Theft (including bicycles and property from autos) - less than \$2500 value

Traffic Complaint - no accidents; for accidents complete a State of Wisconsin Accident Report Form (MV4002)

MPD officers work rotating schedules and do not have the same days off. If you are trying to reach someone specific and don't get an immediate call back, they may be on their days off. Ask to talk to someone else if you need a quicker response.

Topics you would like covered in future *Meadowords*? Let me know and we'll see if we can make it happen!!

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Meadowridge Public Library Events & Notes

The Library is open M-F 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed for the holidays:

Thursday-Friday: November 26-27
December 24-25
December 31-January 1

Please contact the library staff at 288-6160 for more information.

Chess Club – All ages - **Wednesdays at 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Make Thanksgiving dinner easier on yourself and help out the Friends of the Meadowridge Library at the same time. The ever-popular pie sale will be on Tuesday, November 24 from 10:00 a.m. until all the pies are gone. Come early for the best selection. Pies are \$10 each. If you'd like to contribute one or more pies, call the library.

Preschool Story Time is now on **Mondays** at 10:30. If you

used to come on Tuesdays, please join us on our new day. No registration required! We also offer Storytime for the Very Young on Wednesdays at 10:30, which is specifically for babies and toddlers through 36 months.

You know you should rebalance your portfolio periodically, but maybe you keep putting it off. Not sure how to do it? We can help, and you don't even have to leave your house! Because Madison Public Library subscribes to Morningstar's Investment Research Center, you can attend a webinar from the comfort of home or anywhere you have access to a phone and internet connection. Morningstar's Director of Personal Finance, Christine Benz, will be your guide on December 16th at 3 pm. To register, send an e-mail to librarytraining@morningstar.com and, when you do, please mention Madison Public Library.

Remember, you can return items anytime in our 24-hour bookdrop and access your library record online at www.madisonpubliclibrary.org

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Meals on Wheels – Volunteer Opportunity - Do you have room in your heart and room in your car? Home Health United Meals on Wheels delivers the noon meal every day to the elderly and homebound in Madison, Monona and Middleton and we are always in need of new volunteers. A route takes about an hour with very specific instructions to each recipients home. We have four pickup points in Madison and will adapt to any schedule you may have. This is a great family activity and can also be used as community service hours for individuals, scout groups or service groups. **Contact Sue Barker at 276-7598 for more information.**



Southwest Community Farmers' Market –will reopen at the Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ in Spring 2010

Thank you for supporting the market's successful 1st season!

Quick Links to Community Information

H1N1 Information – City-County Public Health Dept.

<http://www.publichealthmdc.com/disease/swineFlu>

City Parks Newsletters

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/newsletters.htm>

West Police District Information & Newsletters

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/Police/west>

Remember alternate side parking is in effect