

MEADOWOOD

Newsletter of the Meadowood Neighborhood Assn, Inc.

www.meadowoodneighbors.org

June-Aug. 2014

President's Message –Krista Ralston

kralston@wisc.edu 274-2210; 577-7728

Despite the construction projects going on in and around the Meadowood neighborhood, plans for fun summer activities are evident everywhere. Neighbors are organizing block parties and neighborhood bar-b-ques and children are looking forward to lots of out-door play time. Our Meadowridge Library and Meadowood Neighborhood Center continue to be the hub of many varied activities for young and old. And beginning on June 19th the city will again hold the Meadowood Meet & Eats every Thursday in the empty lot on Raymond Rd. next to the Meadowood shopping mall. So come out and meet some of new neighbors.

Summertime means more free time for children and more challenges for their parents. We have many programs and activities for children in the Meadowood neighborhood, but there is always a need for additional volunteers to make these programs succeed. For example, Coach Assad's Mellowood Foundation flag football program is starting up again, but he needs more volunteer coaches and assistants. Volunteers are also needed to help plant and maintain the Community & Kid Gardens, help elderly or disabled adults with house work and yard work, and participate in the Meadowood Neighborhood Association [MNA, Inc].

The Meadowood Neighborhood Association will again hold its annual bike parade and picnic on July 4th. We also plan to put on a second annual Festival in the Meadowood Park in August, and a summer Community Supper. Of course we need volunteers for these projects.

Speaking of MNA volunteers, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest Board member, Jennifer Trueman. She and her family have just recently moved into the neighborhood and she has already volunteered to represent Area 9 on the Board. That's the kind of spirit we need!

Senior Meals

Nutritious and affordable meals are served to seniors every Wednesday and Friday noon at the Lussier Community Education Center, 55 S. Gammon Rd (near West Towne Mall) and Mondays at 5:00 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at the West Madison Senior Center, 602 Sawyer Terrace (near Hilldale Mall). The cost is a donation for anyone 60+ with a suggested minimum donation of \$4.00. and \$7.50 for those younger. For more information, call 238-7368.

West Madison Senior Coalition newsletters are available at all westside libraries and at the Senior Center or go to: www.westmadisonseiorcoalition.org

Annual July 4th Parade and Picnic

Don't miss this year's Independence Day neighborhood events on Friday, July 4th! Come out and enjoy the fun with your family and neighbors at the children's parade in the morning and at the picnic in the afternoon.

10:00 a.m. – Bike Parade at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

This year's theme is "**AMERICA'S HEROES.**" There will be prizes for the best-decorated bikes, wagons and children in the parade in the following categories:

- Individual ages: 0-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years
- Groups: 2 or more children
- There will be treats for all parade Sh participants.

Assemble at the Church (corner of Whitney Way and Raymond Rd):

- 10:00 a.m. Bikes Assemble
- 10:15 a.m. Judging begins
- 10:30 a.m. Parade begins

12:30 p.m. – Neighborhood Picnic/Election of MNA Board at Elver Park

As in the past, our annual election picnic will be held at the Elver Park shelter. Food will be served from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Please bring a dessert to share. The picnic is free to MNA members—don't forget your membership card for check-in. Guests with MNA members are welcome for \$1 each person.

Representatives/Call for Nominations

The nominees listed below will appear on the ballot at the picnic. If you wish to also run for an officer position or as an area representative contact Mark & Janice Bauman, 1817 Lynndale Rd., 277-0860, by Friday, **June 20, 2014** so your name will appear on the ballot. The ballot will also have a write-in option for each position. Nominees must be members in good standing of the Meadowood Neighborhood Association. Check neighborhood boundaries on the insert in this newsletter issue. For more information on the duties of an officer or area representative check out the MNA Bylaws online at www.meadowoodneighbors.org

Offier and Area Candidates

President Krista Ralston
Vice President Mark & Janice Bauman
Secretary Joyce Dingman
Treasurer Anne Marie Herman

Area Candidate

1 Sally Stix	8 Mark & Janice Bauman
2 Krista Ralston	9 Jennifer Trueman
3 Bob Rabehl	10 OPEN SEAT
4 Dorothy Loehr	11 Linda Kubly
5 Sheri Rembert	12 Patsy Ragland
6 Lisa Veldran	13 Sheray Wallace
7 Lisa Schulz	14 & 15. OPEN SEATS

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.facebook.com/Meadowood.Neighborhood.Association



Alder Matt Phair 772-1187

district20@cityofmadison.com

Dear Meadowood neighbors,

Summer is finally here and I hope you are enjoying it! As the warm weather approaches there are many events coming up and issues that may surface. Let me discuss some of them with you here:

As I'm sure most of you are aware, there has been a spike in burglaries in southwest Madison this spring. Overall, the number of burglaries and break-ins throughout the city are down but that is little solace when you or a neighbor experiences one. However, the West District Community Policing Team is now taking a more proactive, evidence-based approach to this ongoing problem.

When a burglary occurs an officer will immediately contact the resident(s) where it took place. Officers will also go door-to-door in the vicinity close to where the crime was committed. They will provide a letter of notice about the burglary and any suspect description they might have, explain any patterns of behavior they may be seeing, provide crime prevention information as well as seek information that neighbors may have of suspicious activity.

According to studies that MPD is using, when a burglary happens, surrounding neighbors have a 60% increased likelihood of being burglarized in the next three weeks. Therefore, they are implementing the above strategy to bring that likelihood down. In places where this strategy has been employed, crime has decreased significantly. I am pleased that the West District is trying something new which is based on successful outcomes and will do what I can to make sure we see that same type of success.

On a brighter note, the Meadowridge Library and Meadowood Neighborhood Center construction project is underway and on schedule! The remodeled and relocated library is slated to be finished by mid-August and the neighborhood center by sometime in the fall. I think these new and improved facilities will bring life back to the Meadowood Shopping Center and, hopefully, entice some new businesses to open up shop in a vacant storefront. Also, the Meadowood "Meet and Eat" will be back soon. The food carts will arrive June 19th and will be at the vacant lot next to the shopping center every Thursday until August 23rd, excluding July 3rd due to the Elver Park fireworks that evening. Yes, the fireworks at Elver will be back this summer! Mark your calendar.

I have been working on all of these issues/events in one form or another but there are many other issues both district and city-wide that I am involved with. Some of them include, the development of the Madison Out of School Time (MOST) project, the West Police District's focused deterrence project, Theresa Terrace neighborhood center and development, the City's Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative, the issue of spaying/neutering of Pit Bulls and other dogs, and a Council

report and action plan around Madison's long-term Demographic Change. I don't have the space to go into all of these in detail, but if you are interested to learn more or ask questions about these or other issues please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

MEET AND GREET YOUR NEIGHBORS--

MS. MARIA MALDONADO miamorlego0823@gmail.com



In this new column we will introduce you to some of your Meadowood neighbors. If you would like to be introduced, or know someone you'd like to introduce, please contact our "roving reporter" Krista Ralston (kralston@wisc.edu, 274-2210).

Maria Maldonado is friendly, outgoing and easy to get to know. I met her while visiting a friend on Balsam Rd. She invited me over to her apartment where I interviewed her and her 9-year old daughter, Jennifer, a 4th grader at Orchard Ridge School.

Maria came to Wisconsin from Puerto Rico 16 years ago. She speaks fluent English and Spanish and is an accomplished baker and seamstress. Maria and her husband of two years and their beautiful blended family consisting of two sons and two daughters (see photo) have lived in Meadowood for three years. She is an active community member who is very invested in making and keeping her neighborhood safe and attractive.

Although Maria has held many jobs, including her current position as a manager at Hardy's, her real loves are baking and sewing. She has two cake decorating certificates and a room full of baking and sewing materials. She bakes and sews for many community events and farmers markets when she has time, and is happy to take orders for custom cakes or sewing. (phone # 250-0674).

**Prairie Unitarian
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**Matt Veldran, Dane County,
District 7**

Veldran@co.dane.wi.us (608)235-8369

Greetings Meadowood Neighbors!

First, I want to thank everyone for giving me another term on the County Board! It is a privilege and an honor to represent you. Now I'd like to update everyone on what has been going on in Dane County and what I have been doing for the past few months.

I changed my main committee assignment this term and am now on the Health and Human Needs Committee. This committee oversees half of the county's budget on various human service programs, thus, it was important to me to address issues that affect residents in Meadowood and other areas in the district.

Two developments prompted my move. The first was the Racial Disparities Report. It showed that Dane County has the highest rate of incarceration of African Americans in Wisconsin. This is truly troublesome to me and should be to all of us. We need to make sure that we, as a community, and a county are doing what is necessary to dramatically change these numbers. One way is to ensure that the educational gap and the graduation rates between white and minority students continue to decrease. Only then, I believe, we can truly look at our Dane County communities with a positive view. But that will take hard work from many public and private entities.

Secondly, an outside audit was recently completed of the agencies that contract with the County and a presentation was made to the board last month. There are both positives and challenges. This is an area where duplication can be eliminated to maximize efficiency that will allow us to deliver more services to more citizens.

Other recent developments in Dane County include:

Recent issues at the 911 Center. There have been many articles written about the current situation. There have already been changes to streamline procedures to get first responders to emergency locations faster. There are additional changes in place that should get response times to emergencies closer to the national standards. The main thing I want to stress is that you **should not** hesitate to call 911 in an emergency.

The selection and purchase of a homeless day center. This has been in the planning stages for many months and the shelter was voted and passed by the county board at its last meeting. The location is just off of Fish Hatchery Road on Martin Street. While the location isn't perfect, there will be many services available that will, hopefully, get many people

going in the right direction to make them productive in our community.

Temporary Department Moves—New Addresses

The Register of Deeds department along with the Planning and Development department will be temporarily moving to the **third floor** of the Meriter Clinic building located at **345 West Washington Avenue Madison WI 53717**. This building was selected due to the close proximity to the City County Building to help make this the best transition for Dane County residents. The move is due to a redesign of the first floor offices. So if you have any business in the coming weeks at any of these departments please take note of the temporary address.

As a reminder, if you need to pay your 2nd half taxes, they are due by July 31st at the County Treasurer's office, which is relocated to room **3rd floor in room 340** in the City County Building.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Orchard Ridge Elementary School (ORE)



Dolphin Update

New Garden!

As part of the Growing Outdoor Classrooms Program, educators, parents, students and community members joined together to build an outdoor classroom. With help from the GROW Coalition, a school garden was recently created and planted. Check out the awesome raised beds and fruit tree planting as you drive down Gilbert road.

New Principal

Becky Kundert will replace Barb Dorn for the 2014-2015 School Year. Barb has been Principle of Orchard Ridge Elementary for the past — years and we thank her for her outstanding service! She will be missed.

Thank You!

Thank you to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for adopting ORE. The generous donation of school supplies, snacks and volunteer time was greatly appreciated!

ORE School Picnic June 11

Last Day of School June 12

Look for more exciting updates at ORE in future newsletters!

Meadowridge Library Summer Corner

Here's some news about Meadowridge: "We're busy as bees"! We're happy to report that construction of our new library space is progressing nicely. As photos of the new space become available we'll post them at the library!

We'd love to hear your ideas for adult programs and classes in our new space. We've created a small form that's available at the reference desk for you to fill out to let us know what interests you!.

It's almost summer which means Summer Reading Club time for kids and adults. Registration begins on June 2nd, you can either register at the library or online at reading.madisonpubliclibrary.org.

The second Wednesday of each month Meadowridge hosts Poetry Night from 6:30-7:45. Please feel free to share your own poetry, discuss other poets' work and just hang out with poetry buffs.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Meadowridge this summer!"

responsiblEnergy

Save money this summer with tips from MGE

- Set the thermostat at 78°F or higher. Turn the air conditioner off when no one is home.
- Use ceiling fans instead of air-conditioning. Use exhaust fans to remove heat and moisture from cooking and showering.
- Close drapes during the day to keep the sun and heat out.
- Cook outside or use your microwave. Using your oven adds heat to your kitchen.
- Turn off lights and TVs when you are not using them.

Call the Home Energy Line at 252-7117 or visit mge.com.

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Tacos and Talent Recap: April 29th Meadowood Community Supper

The Spring Meadowood Community Supper was a great success. Thank you to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for providing the space and contributing to the cost of the meal. The theme this time was "tacos and talent", and both were enjoyed thoroughly by all. About 100 people from various parts of Meadowood and Southwest Madison attended. The tacos, beans, rice, salads, deserts, etc. were delicious and the entertainment was awesome.

As usual, Sherri Swartz and Sheray Wallace were the moving forces behind the supper, but many other volunteers, including two West District police officers, helped set up, serve, cook and clean up. Sheray also took the initiative to organize the talent portion of the evening and even secure a DJ for the event. We were treated to lively dancing and singing, and a poetry reading. Anne Marie Herman, our MNA Treasurer, got the dancing started with some of her Caribbean Dancers (see photo). Soon other talented children and adults overcame their shyness and got on the stage to perform. At times the whole room joined in to sing and clap to the music. The evening ended with the children gathering around a candy-filled piñata and taking turns to try to break it. The successful hit was delivered by one of the smallest little girls in the group. All those tacos must have given her strength.

ELVER PARK FIREWORKS

The Elver Park Fireworks, presented by Madison Parks will held on Thursday, July 3, 2014. Fireworks begin at 9:30pm

Celebrate with us!

Join us at this family-friendly event at Elver Park. The event does not have a rain date, and will not be rescheduled. The final call will be made by 8 pm and announced on the Madison Parks facebook, and twitter @playmadison.



University Houses Preschool

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Now Registering for our NEW location at
6033 Odana Road for
Summer 2014, Monday-Thursday, 8:45-11:45
And
Fall 2014/Spring 2015
Ages 2 – 6

Morning Class: 8:45-11:45am
5 days(MTWRF), 3 days(MWF), or 2 days(TR)
Optional Lunch Bunch: 11:45 – 12:45pm
Afternoon Class with MMSD 4K: 12:45 – 3:45pm
5 days(MTWRF), 3 days(MWF), or 2 days(TR)

- Parent cooperative preschool with member and nonmember options.
- MMSD 4K openings in our 3-6 year old afternoon class
- Morning openings for children 2-6 years old
- Part-day program, morning or afternoon – optional lunch bunch to extend am or pm
- Mixed ages classroom
- Dynamic and gentle learning community with strong home/school partnership
- International population
- Play-based learning in a stimulating environment
- Qualified, dedicated teachers with decades of experience
- One of the first state licensed and city accredited preschools in Madison
- Convenient west side location at the intersection of Odana Road and Research Park

45 years...the neighborhood preschool
for Madison Families!

238-3955, Karen Beck, Director
kbeck@uhpparentcooperative.org
<http://uhpparentcooperative.org>

UHP is a part-day program which means children can come in the morning or afternoon, not all day.

2nd Annual Meadowood Park Festival

Plans are beginning for the 2nd Annual Meadowood Park festival proposed for, Saturday, August 16. Right now we are in the initial planning stages and would like more people for our organizing committee. We have much to do to prepare in the month and a half until August 16. We are lining up a variety of entertainment, including music and dance groups as well as more activities for the children than we had last year. We will, again have a community supper in the early evening. We'd like to spread, and have you spread, the word about a couple of things:

Community Groups

We want to have community groups set up tables and give people information about what's going on (pictures, please) and what needs doing in the neighborhood.–the front yard gardens, the mosaic project, Friends of the Library, farmers market, flag football league, and any others who want to distribute information.

Artists and Crafters.

We want to have artists and crafters display and sell their works and wares. One way of fundraising for the festival will be to charge a fee for what is sold. The suggested percentage is 35%.

If you know of arts/crafts folks, please let them know about the festival or let me know about them. My contact information is sastix@tds.net or 271-7609.

Make Music Madison

When: June 21, 2014, 8am to 9pm

Where: At 100+ venues all throughout the city of Madison

Make Music Madison – all day, all outdoor, all free. This year's event will feature 380 free concerts performed at outdoor venues downtown, north, east, west and south side neighborhoods all around the city of Madison.

Make Music Madison celebrates all genres, styles of music, skill levels and ages of musicians. The entire city will be filled with music from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. hosted by local businesses, community centers, private residents, neighborhood parks and other public spaces. Start a summer solstice tradition by enjoying free music with your friends, family and neighbors at Make Music Madison.

Learn more at www.makemusicmadison.org See the schedule. Download the app.

Balsam/Russett NRT Community Engagement Overview

The Balsam/Russett NRT held a small focus group with six residents of the neighborhood. Participants were invited based on recommendations from Joining Forces for Families, The Road Home, and the Meadowood Neighborhood Center.

Originally the NRT was going to use a community survey but there were concerns about interfering with a broader survey effort that is being conducted by the Southwest Madison Community Organizers.

Residents identified the following as positives in the neighborhood:

There is a good police presence

The neighborhood is quiet

Good neighbors make a beautiful neighborhood

Diverse community and cultures

Lots of families and kids playing in the park

A lot of resources

Positive parent/child groups are forming at The Road Home

Parents want to volunteer at Orchard Ridge Elementary and Toki Middle schools

Residents identified the following as issues or needs in the neighborhood:

Need more affordable programs for the elementary school age children that also promote parent involvement

Need affordable childcare

Need more opportunities and structure for parent involvement; a more welcoming community in the school

Need crossing guard and traffic safety improvements at Leland and Balsam

The schools should represent the neighborhood. More adults at the schools need to look like the kids in the schools

Need coordination and communication of area resources; especially for new residents to the area

Grow a Clean and Freshie

Jessica LeClaire

<http://www.gofundme.com/8oi3rk>

Help us grow opportunities for neighborhood youth! The Clean and Freshie program demonstrates the value of community gardening, provides access to healthy food for low-income people, and positively displays the competencies of neighborhood youth. During their employment, youth learn basic job skills related to effective communication with co-workers, teamwork, how to respond appropriately to supervisory directives, and effective work habits. Project work is designed to: 1) recognize and strengthen the connection youth have to their community; 2) display the competencies of young people; and 3) bridge inter-generational and cultural gaps in the neighborhood; and 4) address the issue of youth unemployment which is a correlate of delinquent and truant behavior.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND SEE YOU IN MEADOWOOD PARK AND AT A MEET AND EAT!