

MEADOWOOD

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

April - May 2026
www.meadowoodneighborhood.org

President's Message – Jay Close

MNAboard1@gmail.com; (612) 454-9690

We had our high school basketball tournament blizzard, and now April sees us through the other side of winter. Happy Spring of 2026!

Have you heard that 2026 has been declared Wisconsin's Year of the Neighbor? I am looking forward to meeting with you, and participating in our neighborhood's social events. All of you have experiences and gifts that shape our neighborhood. The more we chat, the more we learn, the more we all blossom. Tis' the growing season, neighbors!

April will start with election season, tax season, followed by an Earth Day celebration. For some of us (depending on where you vote) we can participate in these 3 events all at the Meadowridge Library.

March 24th to April 5th is In-Person Absentee Voting. April 7th is the in-person spring election. And a bake sale at Orchard Ridge Elementary from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can vote and have dessert too! To be sure of your polling place check: [Find-My-Polling-Place](#)

April 25th is our Earth Day Cleanup. Come meet your neighbors and let's work on picking up our sidewalks and parks. We will start at 9:30 a.m. And yet again, there will be snacks and refreshments. For more details, go to the [Meadowood Neighborhood website](#).

There will be another Toki and Orchard Ridge new construction planning meeting on April 22nd, 5:30-6:30 pm, at the school cafeteria (and on April 23rd, 5:30-6:30 pm virtually) to review the potential zoning changes, with more snacks at the in-person meeting.

May 30th there is an Orchard Ridge Elementary Spring Fling 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. [Orchard Ridge Elementary Spring Fling](#)

With spring's arrival we are met with our growing season and more fresh air. Have you dog owners noticed your pets new found excitement? Dogs know it's time to get their owners on the move. It's time to take them for more walks! If you don't have a dog, pull up a chair near your sidewalk, I am sure it will be a short wait for the next dog to arrive, pulling their human to say hello.

We have a wonderful neighborhood. Whether you say hello, wave, or wag your tail, each of us can help make each other's day.

Our neighborhood association is welcoming too. If there are any ideas or concerns you would like to share, everyone is welcome to our board meetings. Or you can text or email a current board member, or myself.

The MNA Board meets the first Wednesday of every month (less July) at 6:30 p.m. at Meadowridge Library. All are welcome.

Take Care,
Jay Close
President, Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board.



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: Julie & Dennis Ahnen, ahnen@countyofdane.com

Area 2: VACANT

Area 3: Mike Edmonds, 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 Secretary, mtevenson@gmail.com

Area 10: Kara Pezzi, kapezzi@gmail.com

Area 11: Jack Nee, Board Vice President, jnee3@yahoo.com

Area 12: Jay Close, Board President, jaymclose@gmail.com

Area 13: Sheray Wallace, sheraywallace44@gmail.com

Areas 14 and 15: VACANT

Board Treasurer, Ron Monson, meadowoodtreasurer@gmail.com

Member at Large: Lisa Schulz, buttonldy@aol.com

Member at Large: Mary Lee Gleason, mtagleason@gmail.com

If you live in an area not currently represented, 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

2026 Meadowood Neighborhood Association (MNA) Events Calendar:

Friday-Saturday, May 8—9: Meadowood Neighborhood Garage Sales (see article, page 5)

Sunday, June 21: Make Music Madison, Meadowood Park. More details to follow in our next newsletter.

Saturday, Aug. 15: Meadowood Neighborhood Association Annual Picnic at Meadowood Park.

Community Suppers: These will be held on: **April 15th; June 17th; August 12th; October 14th; and December 16th.** Community Suppers are held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5701 Raymond Rd.

For updates on additional events in the Meadowood area, please refer to the 'Events' page of the MNA website:

meadowoodneighborhood.org/events

Garden Plots Available at Meadowood Community Garden!

Looking for a place to grow your own vegetables, flowers, or herbs this season? Plots are still available at the Meadowood Community Garden!

Whether you are an experienced gardener or just getting started, the Meadowood Community Garden offers a welcoming space to grow fresh food and be a part of a community of local gardeners.



Plot fees are based on income. To find out more or reserve a plot, please call Rachael at 414-324-0146 or email : meadowoodgarden@gmail.com

Earth Day in Meadowood – Meet Neighbors, Beautify Our Neighborhood

Celebrate Earth Day 2026 by meeting with neighbors and picking up trash that's accumulated in Meadowood over the winter months. MNA is sponsoring a neighborhood Earth Day Clean-up on **Saturday, April 25, 9:30 to 11 a.m.** Individuals and families are invited to meet at the Meadowridge Library at 9:30 a.m., where groups will be assigned to various locations near the center of Meadowood to collect trash. Starting at 10:30 a.m., pastries, coffee and juice will be served at the library.

If possible, please bring the following to help with the clean-up: **bright vest/outer jacket, gloves, grabbers, paper or plastic bags for trash collection** (small bags work well. They can be consolidated into larger bags).



All are welcome. If possible, please [sign up](#) beforehand to let us know you're coming.

Earth Day Cleanup

Join us to help clean the neighborhood!

Meet at the Meadowridge Library

Coffee and Pastries starting at 10:30



**Saturday
April 25th
9:30-11**



MEADOWOOD
Neighborhood Association



Meadowood Neighborhood Center Food Pantry

by Lisa Kass

Kesheria Walker is the Food Pantry Manager located in the Meadowood Neighborhood Center. She has shared a list of items of which the pantry is in need.

- Personal hygiene products - this includes deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry supplies
- Diapers - any sizes
- Baby wipes
- Rice
- Canned goods
- Cereal

It would be appreciated if expired or outdated items were NOT given to the Food Pantry. They cannot use them.

Other suggestions were for gift cards from businesses that are nearby. These include WalMart, Walgreens, Woodmans and Target. These could be used to purchase fresh produce.

Cash donations can be made at: <https://www.msqr.org/get-involved/donate/> Nonperishable donations can be dropped off at the Neighborhood Center: 5740 Raymond Road, Madison.

The center is open:

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Food Pantry is open:

Tuesday 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 12 - 2:30 p.m.

For more information you can call 608-467-8918.

At future Meadowood Neighborhood Association events, we will be asking for donations from the list above. People attending can drop the items at the event and they will be delivered to the Food Pantry.

Fool's Spring

by Heidi Schultz

At first they
hesitate.

They have been
snowed once
before.

But now, curious, they poke
tiny fingers

out of tightly bound buds

look around, unfurl their curls,

flip on the airwaves to the trill

of the blackbird, a backdrop

of melted ice and cattails

hope on the horizon still setting sail.


The soft season is here.



Pussy Willow buds


HERE IS HOW YOU CAN JOIN US IN THE FIGHT TO END HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

FRIENDS OF MSCR

DONATE 



TO THE MEADOWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER FOOD PANTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL US AT (608) 467-8918 OR VISIT
[MSCR.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/DONATE](https://www.msqr.org/get-involved/donate)

SCAN ME! 

SELECT "MEADOWOOD FOOD PANTRY" FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU
ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
"THE FRIENDS OF MSCR" AND CAN BE MAILED OR DROPPED OR
DROPPED OFF TO OUR SITE.

5740 RAYMOND RD, MADISON, WI 53711

Five Tips to Save Energy This Spring

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

Are you doing some spring cleaning and organizing? Be sure to add energy efficiency projects to your list!

Consider a smart thermostat. You can save an estimated 10% on your heating by turning down your thermostat 10 degrees* for eight hours a day. Smart thermostats make setbacks almost effortless. Visit mge.com/setback for guidance.



Clean appliances and vents. Keeping appliances clean and maintained can help them operate more efficiently. Be sure to hose off the outdoor central air-condensing unit to remove dirt and leaves, and choose a qualified contractor to service your central air every two years. Replace your furnace filter if it's dirty, and take a few moments to wipe any dust from your vents.

Check your high and low return vents. If your home has both high and low air returns, give them a quick switch. When the seasons change and we go from heating to cooling, it's more efficient to close the lower return and ensure the higher one is open.

Reduce hot water use. Water heating is typically the second-highest home energy user for most households in Wisconsin. Be sure to set your water heater between 120 and 125 degrees, and if you're going on a trip, turn your gas water heater control down to the "vacation" or "pilot" setting if you'll be gone for two or more days. If possible, always wash full loads in your dishwasher and clothes washer. Clothes should be washed in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible.

Unplug. Did you know many electronics in your home may be using energy when they're plugged in, even if they are turned off? When you add it up, unused devices can impact your monthly energy use. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, phantom power can account for 5% to 10% of residential energy use.

Using energy efficiently and conserving it are some of the ways we all can reduce our environmental footprint and save energy!

**Setting your thermostat back is a way to save energy. However, depending on the type of heating system, a setback may not be right for you. Visit mge.com/setback for additional information.*



GS3418

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TIME TO SPRING CLEAN AND DECLUTTER — MEADOWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALES SET FOR MAY 8 and 9!!

The Meadowood Neighborhood Association (MNA) is sponsoring the annual Meadowood Neighborhood Garage Sales event for Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. Garage sale participants need to be located in the Meadowood neighborhood, but it is not necessary to be a MNA member for this event. All participants will be included in an interactive map online map which will be available on the MNA website (<https://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org/>) The Meadowood garage sales will also be advertised on different community calendars and signs will be placed around the neighborhood. If you're interested, just scan the QR code and sign up so that your home will be on the map. An added bonus—Orchard Ridge Neighborhood will also be having their sales on the same weekend, which will bring more traffic to our area of town. Please call or email Janice

Bauman with any questions or issues:
608-298-8025,
jdbauman4@gmail.com.



SCAN ME

AND, if you are not planning on having a garage sale this year, please check out your neighbors' sales. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and you never know what you'll find. Be sure to put May 8 and 9 on your calendar!



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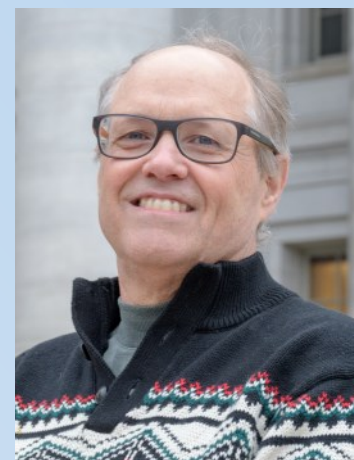
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The Board of Directors meets at 6:30 pm the first Wednesday of every month (no meeting in July) at the Meadowridge Community Room. Meetings are open to the public. www.meadowoodneighborhood.org Like us on Facebook!

Welcome Spring!

Hello and I hope we're all doing well considering the national news coming out of Washington DC. On the eve of spring elections, the county board has still been busy.

- The county executive and her team are currently reviewing and negotiating with Frank Productions. Dane County issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) to repair, update and modernize the Dane County Coliseum. We only received one bid, that was from Frank. Its proposal is to take over the Coliseum, make all necessary repairs and change the entirety of the inside of the building. It will be smaller and will be primarily a music event space. Some events will not be able to return because of the redesign. The county will not be spending any money to repair as part of Frank's bid. Frank will invest approximately \$100 million on renovations. There were two public meetings held the last few weeks and there have been regular meetings with a county committee. The county board also held a meeting where the director and a consultant, hired by the county, discussed the bid and also responded to questions by the supervisors. This meeting is available to watch on the county website. It was held on Thursday March 19th.



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

This will be constantly moving in the next month or so and the county board will approve or deny the proposal. This is a big change to the governance and control of the Coliseum, so any input from you will be welcomed. I am generally in favor of the proposal as it will save millions to the county and taxpayers and it will, hopefully, be a place where many new memories can be made for generations to come. There will also be other improvements to the entire campus and the convention center building.

- On a different topic, and one I don't discuss much, is the construction of one of the apartment buildings that the county has invested in through its affordable housing fund. This particular project is in the district and under a great deal of scrutiny, particularly from residents in the Orchard Ridge Neighborhood. An apartment building will be built in the parking lot where the Home Depot is located. It will be constructed on the old Feiler's and Nakoma Auto properties, in the northeast part of the area by the Beltline and Highway 151. The county is partially funding it. It has many units that will be at or below the market rate and some will be available to homeless folks in our community. This is good progress for Madison and Dane County, but I think this location has too many issues of concern to make this a positive experience for potential residents. I don't believe that there is anything else that can be done, so expect construction to start soon.
- Finally, an issue of a local nature, which has to do with housing in our area. This is mainly a city issue, but may involve the county as well. In 2022, the city did a large zoning re-write. One of the results from this change of policy was that owners of single-family houses could build another unit on their property. These are known as ADU's or Accessory Dwelling Units. I believe the intent for this change was to add a unit for one person, possibly two people to live in on the same lot, which would hopefully make more affordable housing. A property on Meadowood Drive is currently owned by a company that is using the house as a residential facility for people with developmental disabilities. However, this owner is adding two separate buildings, one of which is a duplex, in the backyard.

I have been in touch with Representative Subeck and neighbors are discussing it as well with city agencies. There is no question that they are legal units. It brings up many questions about neighborhoods and what they should look like in the future. Since some of the agencies will be under county contracts, I will ask the county Human Service Department Director if this is a good use of county funds to invest in facilities such as this.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Matt Veldran,
Dane County Supervisor, District 4
608-235-8369
matt.veldran@danecounty.gov

Greetings from Alder Figueroa Cole

Spring has arrived!

Stop by the Meadowood Library to collect a variety of flowers, herbs, and produce seeds for free. Each seed packet contains 10-15 seeds apiece.

The [Capitol Farmers Market](#) begins May 27, hope to see you there supporting our local vendors and farmers!

Know your Rights!

The city of Madison has put together a [list of resources](#) to support our immigrant community. The most impactful thing you can do is to know your rights. When you know your rights, you are able to help others in a factually informed way.

Remember, everyone has constitutional rights regardless of legal status:

- You have the right to remain silent under the 5th Amendment.
- You do not have to allow entry into your home without a warrant signed by a judge or magistrate with your name on it (4th Amendment).
- You do not have to consent to searches of your belongings (4th Amendment).

Budget Season is Here

Last year, I worked closely on both the City and County budgets, and I'll be continuing that work this year. I invite you to follow along with my **"Let's Talk Budget"** blog series to stay informed.

The Mayor has already issued directives to staff for the capital budget.

Learn more:

City Budget: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/budget>

County Budget: <https://board.danecounty.gov/budget>

Spring Election is April 7th

Make a plan to vote! Visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> to see what's on your ballot. This election includes races for Justice, Judges, Supervisors, Alder, and School Board.

Your voice matters! See you at the polls!

Have a great Spring!

Gracias! Yannette

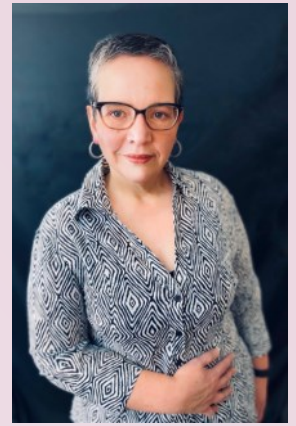
Alder Figueroa Cole (she/her/hers/ella) (district10@cityofmadison.com)

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Links: <https://www.capitolviewfarmersmarket.com/>

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/priorities/know-your-rights>

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/documents/2027/capital/2027CapitalKickOff.pdf>



*Alder Yannette Figueroa Cole
District 10*

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

The Meadowood Neighborhood Association formed a Membership Committee to find ways to better meet the needs of our neighbors. The committee's goals are to find ways to engage more of our members in local activities, retain more members year after year, and to encourage neighbors who are not members to join the organization.

The committee needs your ideas and help! We are looking for members to join the committee. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, April 14, 6:30—7:45 pm** in the Community Room of the Meadowridge Public Library.

If the idea of being on a committee makes you want to run the other way, you can still help us out. Within the next couple of months, we will be asking Meadowood residents to complete a survey that will provide information to help us make MNA truly represent the needs of our local community.

If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, please fill out this [Microsoft Form](#).

The QR code below can also be used to access the Microsoft Form. Thank you for participating!



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Dear Dane County Residents,

Across America, uncertainty is in the air. We're seeing economic chaos fueled by reckless tariff policies that hurt Wisconsin farmers and small businesses. We're watching a cruel, haphazard immigration system tear apart families and betray the very ideals inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. And we're seeing a federal government that prioritizes the wealthiest 1% and giant corporations over the needs of everyday people.

At moments like these, it's easy to feel powerless. But here's the truth: you are not powerless. The strongest response to dysfunction in Washington DC is *local action*.

This is Democracy 101 — and the first lesson is this: Democracy is a verb.

It's not something you watch. It's not something you inherit. It's something you *do*. Rest assured that democracy is alive every day in our neighborhoods, our schools, our workplaces, and our town halls. And it's where real change begins.

So when you see something in the news that makes you throw up your hands and ask, 'What can I do?' I've put together some simple, effective ways you can take action and make a difference.

1. **Know your elected officials**
2. **Support causes that reflect your values**
3. **Invest locally**
4. **Support Fair, Balanced Media Sources**
5. **Say "Yes in my backyard"**
6. **Get involved directly**
7. **Vote**

In Service,
Melissa Agard, Dane County Executive



Dane County Executive
Melissa Agard