

MEADOWOOD

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

November - December 2023
www.meadowoodneighborhood.org

President's Message – Mike Edmonds

edmondslaw@gmail.com (608) 843-0292

If you had told me, when I first moved to Meadowood, that a strip mall was an important part of our community, I probably would have said that there are many things that make a community but a strip mall is not one of them. Yet the Meadowood Shopping Center on Raymond Road is an important part of our community. I suspect that when we think about the strip mall, it is the retail establishments – the drug store, the laundromat and restaurants that come to mind. However, there are other groups located in the strip mall that do great work for our community:



Meadowridge Library - is a whole lot more than just books. You can use a computer to do research or check your mail. You can reserve a meeting room. And check out (pun intended) the recent post from the Friends of Meadowridge Library on what the library is doing to encourage kids to read. <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmeadowridge/>.

Meadowood Health Partnership - <https://mwhp.org/>
Located in the Meadowridge Library (it's more than just books), the Meadowood Health Partnership "exists to strengthen families, promote health literacy, and provide neighborhood-based health care by using a community health worker model to educate and provide wraparound services and resources to residents."

Meadowood Neighborhood Center - Located next door to the library, the Meadowood Neighborhood Center provides youth after-school programs, a food pantry, storytelling, computer lab, fitness, art and more.

NewBridge - <https://www.newbridgemadison.org/> NewBridge provides services to older adults including support needed to live independently, nutrition, basic household chore help, and mental health services.

Of course, the foundation of any community is its people. As I write, the temperature is dropping, a sure sign of winter. Let's look in on each other. Who among us might need food, leaves raked, snow shoveled or simply, a hot cup of tea and warm conversation?

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: Maggie Dugan, **Board Secretary**, maggiedugan24@gmail.com
- Area 2: Miguel Benson & Sammy Clevenger, miguel.a.benson@gmail.com
- Area 3: Mike Edmonds, **Board President**, edmondslaw@gmail.com
- 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, mtevanson@gmail.com
- Area 10: Kara Pezzi, kapezzi@gmail.com
- Area 11: Jacob Kriegisch, jacob.kriegisch@gmail.com
- Area 12: Jay Close, **Board Vice President**, yourjaybird@hotmail.com
- Area 13: Sheray Wallace, sherayw@yahoo.com
- Areas 14 and 15: VACANT
- Member at Large: Lisa Schulz, buttonldy@aol.com
- MNA **Board Treasurer**: Ron Monson, ronemonson@gmail.com

Two (2) areas are not currently represented on the MNA Board. **If you live in one of these areas, 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

Donuts in the Driveway

Submission from Lisa Kass

On Saturday, September 23rd, neighbors gathered in the driveway of Tom and Mary Lee Gleason to drink coffee, eat donuts and discuss who has lived in the area the longest. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that some of our neighbors are new to Meadowood and some have lived here since the subdivision was first built. It was interesting to reminisce about the good old days.

At the same time, it was interesting to learn about our new neighbors. We have some families from Bolivia, Mexico and Venezuela. It was mentioned that a new family that just moved in down the block and only spoke Spanish. So another Spanish speaking neighbor went down to introduce herself and invite the new neighbors to the party!

Meanwhile, the little ones connected with each other by exploring the "woods" next to the driveway. A little sprinkle of rain could not dampen the event.

Thanks to Tom and Mary Lee Gleason for coming up with the idea, getting out the invitations by going door to door and providing the yummy treats!



Musings by a New Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board Member

Submission from Kara Pezzi

Hello Meadowood Residents! I have certainly enjoyed visiting all the homes in Area 10 for the 2024 Membership Drive. I had the pleasure of meeting several neighbors, a few friendly kitties, and several dogs who are very protective of your homes when you are not around!

Did you know that one of our Area 10 neighbors is one of the original homeowners? I'm sure he has plenty of interesting stories that could be shared. Another neighbor remembers when the price of membership was \$5 and was shocked (!) at the current rate (although I think we can agree it is still a bargain).

As I walked down one street and up the other, I noticed several vegetable gardens, native flower plantings, and lots of shrubs, bushes, and trees. There is a wealth of expertise out there for anyone who is interested in creating habitats for birds, insects, and other critters in the area. Wouldn't it be nice to connect these isolated areas and increase the biodiversity in our corner of Madison? For anyone who is interested, check out *Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards* and *Planting Noah's Garden: Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology* by Sara Stein. Both books are available at the Madison Public Library.

If you or anyone you know is enrolled in any level chemistry class in high school or general chemistry in college (MATC, UW-Madison, Edgewood, etc.) and would like some no-cost tutoring, please sign up at the Madison Public Library Events & Classes page (<https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/events/chemistry-tutoring-high-school-and-college-students-1262176>) or stop by Meadowridge Library Tuesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 PM, or Saturday mornings, 9:00-11:00 AM. A passionate, former teacher is there to help you see the beauty of chemistry. Please check the website for details.

As we enter the holiday season, think about what gifts you have that could be shared with those around you. Do you love to cook, make jewelry, or play board games? I'm sure there are others in our neighborhood who share your interests and would enjoy building community and making new acquaintances and friendships. Let me know how I can help!

Yesianne Ramírez-Madera, Meadowridge Library Supervisor

By Nancy Saiz

Yesianne has been fascinated by books and learning, since she was a little girl growing up in Lares, Puerto Rico. She has never been able to sit still, except for when she found a book that interest her, which were many. She remembers skipping school as a young girl to go to the community library in her town.

When it came to her love of books her parents encouraged and fostered her curiosity to learn. As soon as she graduated high school Yesianne attend the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) where she received a BA in Comparative Literature. During her time as an undergrad she noticed a need for community and information sharing across the island. In 1999 she was an integral part of creating the Alma Universitaria with friends and emerging young college writers from different universities throughout the Island.

In 2005, Yesianne decided to pursue her Master's in Library and Information Science at the UPR, where she met her husband. Her passion for learning and sharing continued through her educational and professional journey as she encountered and assisted people with library information and system navigation. The connections she made with the public and community solidified her calling. Safe to say that eventually she felt the Midwest calling her with opportunities that interest her and eventually she and family settled in Madison.

Yesianne began as acting Supervisor during the COVID Pandemic. In less than a year she demonstrated her capacity and knowledge as acting supervisor and became the permanent Supervisor at the Meadowridge library. She appreciates and feels fortunate for work in a library system that provides a safe learning space for community to gather through



programming or individuals wanting a quiet place to read. I asked Yesianne who impacted her to become who she is and to focus on information attainment and delivery. Her answer said so much, "it is not one person but all the people from my past and those I continue to encounter as people search for resources or information. As connections are built many people have and continue to provide inspiration. It is important to be able to step into someone's shoes. It gives you the perspective of coming to a place and recognize peoples resiliency. It is important to understand cultural differences and commonalities. Meadowridge, is an unrepresented community, mainly African American/Black and increasingly Latino with other communities of color being represented. Needs are very specific, identifying those service areas and how they can grow is part of how the Library works with all communities. Libraries support the work of community providers by providing space and disseminating information about community events. We are here to support the community and we need more involvement from the business community.

Yesianne is not only a Supervisor of 8 locations in the Madison Library system, she is a coleader for the Balsam and Russett Neighborhood Resource Team for the City of Madison. In 2021 Yesianne was recognized as a Mover and Shaker for the Racial Equity and Social Justice work done in the Madison Library Systems by the National Library Systems. She has been publishing her thoughts and poetry in her blog since 2009. <http://yesianne.blogspot.com/>

"I am where I am supposed to be." Yesianne Ramirez Madera, August 2023.

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2023 County Budget Seeks to Make Opportunity Out of Adversity

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Each year around this time local leaders set work priorities for the coming year by building a budget. As County Executive, I take what I hear from you throughout the year and create a vision for a county government that works the way you want it to. What we have in store in 2023 reflects what I hear time and time again—a desire for highly livable communities where empathy and compassion for our most vulnerable thrive.

We're now only weeks away from being the first county government in the region to achieve 100% renewable energy status—meaning we will soon produce more clean electricity through our solar developments than all our facilities use. We are leading the way on the hard work needed to stem the advance of climate change, setting the template for how communities can make themselves both more sustainable and resilient.

We're also advancing our work to improve access to behavioral health services. My 2023 budget adds more teams of mental health professionals in our schools and our rural sheriff's precincts and adds staff to our Dane County Behavioral Health Resource Center, which continues to see increasing call volumes. These comprehensive efforts will improve access to mental health care.

My 2023 budget infuses \$6 million into our food pantries and local growers to keep Dane County's "Farm to Foodbank" initiative going through the coming year. Teamed with another \$1.5 million to build a new pantry and \$2 million in emergency food grant awards, we can help buffer the impacts of high grocery prices on those in need.

In the midst of all the noise and distraction of these times, it can be easy to tune out—but it's important people know their county government is hard at work, always innovating and building smarter ways to do the work they value. It's an honor to serve as your County Executive and I'm grateful for all of the ideas I heard from you this year that shaped my 2023 Dane County budget.



Dane County Executive
Joe Parisi



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Friends of Meadowridge Library Annual Pie Sale

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

10am - 2pm

Meadowridge Library, 5726 Raymond Road

The Friend's popular Pie Sale is back! Pick up a pie or two for your Thanksgiving table this year. Pies are only \$12 and \$15 for nut pies.

Calling all bakers out there - we need pies! The more we have to sell the more successful this fundraiser is. All proceeds directly benefit the Meadowridge Branch Library.

If you can bake one or more pies please contact Jacky Byrnes at madcity99@tds.net to let her know how many to expect and find out pie drop off information. And if you don't bake, but want to contribute, feel free to drop off your donation at the pie sale on November 21 or at the library's front desk.

Thank you for your support of Meadowridge Library!



Hello Neighbors!

I hope you have enjoyed the mild weather we've had but it looks like we've made our final turn to colder temps toward winter. Here are some updates on Dane County Board happenings.

The county board is now finalizing its budget and will be voting on it the second week of November. There will be more funding for existing homeless programs. Improvements at the zoo for the giraffes, as it also starts a new overall design, and an increase in mental health funding.

Our focus continues on more ways to keep folks out of jail through improved funding for diversion programs. We also have joined in with the city of Madison with the CARES team, which identifies people who are having acute mental health crises and address them outside of the justice system. We have invested in more funding for our main mental health partner, Journey Mental Health Center for their front line people.

There will be two new areas that are being funded. First, we are setting up the first funding settlement money from the Opioid epidemic. Some of the funds will be distributed to areas of immediate need, low-income individuals and families who were deeply impacted by this scourge. Secondly, the sheriff will be starting a body-worn camera pilot project in western Dane County.

We are also using our final COVID funding for improvements and funds for Second Harvest Food Bank. We heard from many people that keeping up this vital need is important to our community. There are more improvements to our parks, so please plan a visit if you're a "fall park" user or wait until the spring to enjoy the new facilities around Dane County.

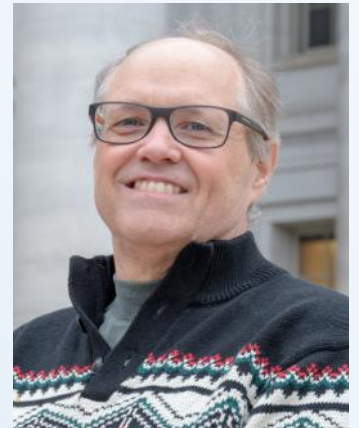
Finally, as many trees are just now dropping their leaves (ours have just started falling), please keep the leaves out of the gutter and street. If you have a sewer drain on your property please keep that clear as well. It is the best way for us to keep the lakes clean!

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

veldran@countyofdane.com



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

Stay Safe This Winter With These Tips

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

Safety has been and continues to be our top priority at MGE. We are committed to meeting our fundamental responsibility of providing safe, reliable energy to those we serve. Follow these tips to stay safe this winter.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a clear, odorless gas produced by burning fuels like natural gas, propane, oil, wood, kerosene or charcoal. At high levels, CO can kill a person in minutes. Fetuses, infants, older adults and people with anemia or a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible.

Common CO causes:

- Fuel-burning appliances that are not vented properly or that are used incorrectly including gas ranges/ovens, water heaters, furnaces, clothes dryers, etc.
- Gasoline-powered snow blowers, emergency generators, lawn mowers, etc.
- Idling cars.
- Charcoal or gas grills.

Symptoms of CO poisoning:

- Low levels of CO poisoning may cause shortness of breath, nausea or headaches.
- Moderate levels can cause severe headaches, dizziness, confusion, nausea or fainting.
- Moderate levels of exposure over a long period of time can cause death.

Many of these symptoms are similar to those caused by the flu, food poisoning or other illnesses. If you think you have symptoms caused by CO poisoning, leave the house to get fresh air immediately and be sure to call 911 and seek medical attention.

Steps to prevent CO poisoning:

- Have appliances and equipment that burn fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil or wood inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. This includes your furnace, water heater, range, oven, dryer, space heater and fireplace.
- Purchase and install CO alarms that are Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved. Do not use an alarm as a substitute for proper use and maintenance of your appliances and equipment.
- Make sure the exhaust vents, flues and chimneys in your home are working properly.
- Don't use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time.
- Don't use a charcoal grill indoors, even in a fireplace.
- Don't ignore symptoms, especially if more than one person has them. If you do nothing, you could lose consciousness and die.

Keep Your Vents and Meters Clear of Ice and Snow

We want you to be safe when the snow piles up. That's why we recommend you keep the area around gas meter equipment clear of snow and ice. Be sure to carefully remove heavy snow and ice by hand to avoid damaging the meter. Blocked vents also can cause furnaces and water heaters to shut down, potentially leading to a buildup of carbon monoxide or a costly service call. Use a long screwdriver to clear snow and ice carefully from the end of the pipes.

Visit mge.com for more information on gas and electric safety.

Behind on your bill? MGE is here to help.

We're here to work with you.

MGE representatives are here to help households and businesses that may need help. If you need assistance or have questions about your account, please visit the Customer Service section of mge.com or call us at (608) 252-7144.

Scams are on the rise. Make sure it's us.

If you receive a call, email or visit that you suspect is fraudulent, please call MGE at (608) 252-7222.

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