

MEADOWWORD

Newsletter of the Meadowood Neighborhood Association

April-May 2011

President's Message – Lisa Veldran

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As I write this, the last of the snow has disappeared from our yard and our dog, Jack, is enjoying some quality time outside fetching his Frisbee. My crocuses are blooming and the daffodils and tulips closest to the house are already up six inches. Please stay away snow! After what seemed a very long winter, warmer weather and sunshine have been bringing out more neighbors walking and biking on our blocks. Lots of great and positive things are happening, again, in the Meadowood Neighborhood: community garden signups have started, the Meadowood Park playground renovation will begin shortly, positive Meadowood Neighborhood Center youth activities are being implemented (pick up a copy of their latest newsletter/activity guide at the center or visit the MNA website), subcommittees of various southwest neighbors have been meeting and talking about programming, economic development, safety and housing issues in the neighborhood...I could go on and on but much of what is happening in Meadowood can be found in this newsletter or at our website. I hope that you can find the time to become involved some way in our neighborhood...there are certainly plenty of opportunities to do so. If you want to know what the MNA Board is doing, feel free to attend our meeting held the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center (exception: no meeting in July). Our next meeting is May 4th. Happy Spring!



Southwest Community Farmers Market Starts Wednesday, May 25th!

The Southwest Community Farmers' Market reopens on Wednesday, May 25th. The market is in the Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ parking lot at 1501 Gilbert Road from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday through October 26. (Hours during the fall will be adjusted.) Market manager and farmer, Robert Pierce, estimates the market will have 15 returning vendors who will, again, offer their fresh food products. "Of course, the market's continued success depends on community support by buying food there," he added.

A process has been implemented to accommodate people shopping with Quest vouchers. Those participants will be

able to exchange Quest funds for farmers' market tokens, which can then be used to purchase approved products such as fruit, vegetables, meat, cheese and more. Our Farmer's Market will once again feature neighborhood talent and highlight organizations at the Community Table. So plan to stop by to pick up something fresh and tasty, socialize with neighbors and enjoy some entertainment. If you enjoy or have time to be part of this communal effort, please consider volunteering. Contact Lisa Veldran or Marlys Miller mmskyumah@aol.com for more information.

Next Meadowood Community Supper

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Meet and greet your neighbors at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center! Make new friends, enjoy a free delicious meal and learn about all the great things happening in your area and how you can get involved!

2011 Community Supper schedule: Thursday, July 21, Wednesday, October 12.

Home Composting Classes Scheduled

Saturday, April 30, 10:00 a.m., Meadowridge Library

Spring is here, well almost, and with the warmer weather come preparations for gardening and landscaping. A home composting class, presented by the [City of Madison Streets Division](#), will be held at the library on Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m. Taught by George Dreckmann, Madison's Recycling Coordinator, these always-popular classes cover home compost basics, including an introduction to compostable materials, where to place your bin, and how to tend to your compost. Plans for building a compost bin will be available, and information regarding leaf management will also be



presented. All classes are offered free of charge.

MNA Board Nominations– Get Involved!

The annual MNA Board election is approaching. There are openings on next year's Board and **we need you!** Share interests and thoughts about our neighborhood. The Board meets monthly except July. Each Area Representative represents a specific district and works with block captains to distribute newsletters and conduct the annual membership drive. Area reps and board officers serve a one-year term. There are no term limits for reps but officers are limited to five consecutive years. Nominees must be members of the Meadowood Neighborhood Association. Check neighborhood

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

boundaries on the website or call any current Board member. Send your nominations to Robert Rabehl, 2117 S. Whitney Way, Madison 53711, by May 31st. Include your name and phone number or those of the person you are nominating, and what area it is for. Nominations will appear in the June-July *Meadoword* and voting will take place at the annual July 4th picnic or by absentee ballot.

**** Vacancies exist for Areas 10, 13, 14 and 15****

Current MNA Officers and Representatives:

President: Lisa Veldran

Vice President: Bob Rabehl

Treasurer: Lorene Wendricks

Secretary: Joyce Dingman

Newsletter Editor: Sally Stix

Webmaster: Joyce Dingman

Area 1 Representative: Sally Stix

Area 2 Representative: Krista Ralston

Area 3 Representative: Bob Rabehl

Area 4 Representative: Dottie Loehrer

Area 5 Representative: Sheri Rembert

Area 6 Representative: Lisa Veldran

Area 7 Representative: Lisa Schulz

Area 8 Representative: Janice & Mark Bauman

Area 9 Representative: Dave Glomp

Area 10 Representative: **VACANT**

Area 11 Representative: Linda Kubly

Area 12 Representative: Patsy Ragland

Area 13 Representative: **VACANT**

Area 14 Representative: **VACANT**

Area 15 Representative: **VACANT**

Meadowood Neighborhood Center: Donations

The neighborhood center is in need of copy paper, pens, pencils, markers, resume paper, sharpies, plain white envelopes, post its, batteries – AA, AAA, C, D, 9 volt, coffee, coffee filters-large, Styrofoam/paper coffee cups, plastic/paper bowls, paper plates, paper towels, plastic forks/knives/spoons. A detailed list can be found at the center or on their website. Monetary donations are accepted and should be written out to the *Meadowood Neighborhood Center*.

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say watt?



252-7117. It's the number to call to reduce the cost of lighting your home. Our MGE Home Energy Line experts help estimate energy savings and suggest important features to look for. But there's more than watts on our mind. We answer all kinds of home energy questions. Our experts have more than 200 combined years of energy-saving experience. Need bright answers? We have a line for you. 252-7117.



MGE
your community energy company

CS1413 09/10/2008

City Launches Green Madison Program with \$7.2 Million DOE Grant

Public Can Now Apply for Low-Interest Energy Efficiency Loans:

www.cityofmadison.com/greenmadison

Community Development Division, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation and Summit Credit Union recently rolled out the new Green Madison Program, thanks to a \$7.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. A partnership with Focus on Energy, the new program leverages the grant funding to provide low-interest loans to help homeowners take on comprehensive energy efficiency improvements. In addition to low-interest loans, Green Madison will also provide access to local energy advocates that help guide homeowners through the process and connect them with current incentives available. **This is a great program that many in our neighborhood could take advantage of to make their homes more energy efficient and lower their heating/cooling bills.**

West Community Policing Team by Sgt Lori Chalecki

Each February officers move to new assignments and 2011 brings 7 new officers and a K9 to the West Community Policing Team (CPT). I remain the supervisor to the unit.

Officer Teresa McKenzie and K9 Josh—Officer McKenzie has been on the MPD for 24 years. She has been a member of the blue blanket task force, neighborhood officer, traffic specialist, traffic enforcement team and her current assignment as a K9 officer with the West CPT. In 2010,

Officer McKenzie was partnered with Josh, a 2-year old German Shepherd, who is trained in narcotics detection, tracking, building and area search, article search, apprehension, and handler protection. He is named after Army Sergeant Josh Brennan, son of Officer Mike Brennan, who was killed in Afghanistan.

Officer Michael Ott—started working for the MPD in May 2000. He has been assigned to patrol since graduating from the police academy. He has worked almost exclusively in the West District. In addition to his regular duties, he has been a field training officer since 2004, helping new officers learn the job.

Officer Caleb Bedford—has been a police officer since May 2001. He has been a training instructor in constitutional law and defense and arrest tactics. From 2007-2009, he taught the constitutional law update for new field training officers. During 2006 and 2007, he was the neighborhood officer for the Hammersley Road area. Officer Bedford has a law degree from UW Law School. He worked as an attorney for two years before starting his police career. He has served as a field training officer and mentor for new officers.

Officer Alex Berkovitz—has been with the MPD for approximately nine years and has worked as a patrol officer in four of the five districts. He is a mental health liaison and field training officer. Before becoming an officer, he worked in the federal court system as well as a case manager for the mentally ill.

Officer Trish Drury—has been with MPD for nine years, having worked 6 years in the Central and 3 years in the West Districts. Trish is on the afternoon shift and is also the patrol liaison to the Muir Field Road area. Trish is proudly 50% Comanche Indian from the Comanche Nation of Cache, Oklahoma.

Officer Colleen Michelson—joined MPD in 2003. Along with her duties in the CPT team, she is also the Schroeder Road Liaison officer and one of West District's mental health liaisons.

Officer Brian Vandervest—has been with the MPD since 2004. Brian has spent a good portion of his career working in the West District and has been involved in numerous projects, including working undercover. Brian teaches landlord/tenant law for the MPD recruit academy, is a graduate of the Marquette Law School and prior to coming to the MPD, specialized as an environmental lawyer at Quarles and Brady.

Book Talk for Adults at Meadowridge Library

Wednesdays, April 13 & May 11 - 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand! Join other adults at the library for a discussion on anything and everything you have been

reading. This is a great opportunity to share titles and authors with your neighbors and a perfect alternative for busy people who like the idea of a book club but can't carve out the time. No registration required.

Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program for Rain Garden Projects in Dane County

You can make a difference by installing a rain garden which help rain and melting snow soak into the ground instead of washing pollution in the nearest lake or stream. Plant Dane! helps you by providing native plants for only \$1.80 each! Order online by May 31, 2011 at:

www.myfairlakes.com/plantDane.aspx. Choose from over 50 popular species. Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership 608-224-3746. e-mail: info@myfairlakes.com

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Happy Hour
Mon-Fri 4-7p: Serving half priced appetizers
and reduced drink specials

Ladies Night
Thursdays: Select martini's
and glasses of wine \$5
5-6p: Serving free appetizers in the bar

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Free First-Time Home Buyer Education Classes Offered at Project Home

Project Home and GreenPath Debt Solutions, both not-for-profits in Madison, are offering free First-Time Home Buyer Education classes that will be held monthly at Project Home's Education Center at 1922 S. Stoughton Rd, Madison

The 2-part class with 7 hours of free instruction is based on the NeighborWorks America's *Realizing the American Dream* curriculum and manual; [which you will receive](#) free of charge. Classes are on the second and third Tuesdays of each month, April through October. The first sessions will be Tuesday, April 12 and 19, 6:00-9:30pm. (Other dates are: May 10 and 17; June 14 and 21; July 12 and 19; Aug. 9 and 16; Sept. 13 and 20; Oct. 11 and 18.) This is a first come, first serve basis each month.

Who is this for?

People interested but not ready for first-time home buying can attend the first session. People interested in home buying should attend both classes. To meet the home buyer education certificate requirements for down payment assistance and lending programs, BOTH classes are required. In addition to the classes, home buyers who complete the two classes will be able to receive one-on-one budget and credit counseling at GreenPath, Inc. local office. This one hour appointment, in addition to the 7 hours of instruction, fulfills the standard for national home buyer education certification programs. **Call Project Home at 246-3737 to register.** The class schedule can be found on the website: <http://www.projecthomewi.org/the-housing-center/class-schedule>

MY ACCOUNTS for Neighborhoods

The Planning Division has set up a convenient way to receive news about neighborhood training, grants, and other updates. We will only send out news that is neighborhood worthy and not more than a couple of times a month.

Neighborhood News & Updates: This email list provides general information useful for business and neighborhood organizations. Includes announcements from other agencies and departments, such as the recent meetings for Emerald Ash Borer, Traffic Signal Priorities, and Downtown Plan.

Neighborhood Conferences & Roundtables & Trainings: Periodic announcements on the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable and other training events that are valuable to neighborhood leaders. You will probably receive around 5-10 messages annually.

Neighborhood Grant Announcements: Around the first of the year, the Planning Division sends out announcements about the Neighborhood Planning Grant Program. The announcements will inform users of grant guidelines, application deadlines, and grant funding limits.

You can sign-up to be a member of the email lists. Go to: <https://my.cityofmadison.com>. After registering/logging on, click on one of the "Email Lists" links. Select all email lists you would like to subscribe to by checking the box next to the name of the list. To view email lists in each category, click on the name of the category to expand the lists. The email lists mentioned above are listed under NEIGHBORHOODS.

Matt Veldran, District 7, Dane Co. Supervisor

veldran@co.dane.wi.us, 608.235.8369

Spring has arrived and everything is greening up! It's time to get outside and begin to enjoy our area and our neighbors once again! As of this writing we are on the eve of electing a new county executive for the first time in 14 years. It will be a new experience for me whoever is elected. There will certainly be some changes for all of us on the county board.

The obvious big change regardless of who is elected will be how Dane County manages the budget presented by Governor Walker. I have attended various briefings with Dane County and the state association staff about what the budget will mean specifically to us, how we live and the values that we share.

I'll touch on some of them here and will expand on the website version of this article. We have all heard about the changes to public sector employees, mainly through the changes in collective bargaining. It is important to note that Dane County negotiated new contracts in December, prior to the Governor introducing his "budget repair" bill. We asked and received concessions from the entire county-represented employees which will amount to savings of \$1,000,000 for taxpayers during the length of the contracts. We negotiated, through the long-established collective bargaining process, concessions and at the same time labor and budget certainty.

Some of the preliminary numbers that will affect Dane County are daunting. It will take creative approaches and difficult decisions later this year if the Governor's budget stays as presented. The county executive and her staff presented some of the impacts to the board in March. The county will lose about \$500,000 in 2011, \$3.3 million 2012 and \$4.2 million in 2013. This is a 24% loss in revenue from the state.

Here are a few of the programs that may be cut or severely reduced that the new county executive and the board will have to consider:

Child support services – Vital services that take children out of dangerous home environments, an area the board has worked diligently in the past few years to increase support through increases in staff.

Long term support of community based services– Services that have allowed more of Dane County's most vulnerable citizens live and work more independently.

Income Maintenance programs – Services that low income citizens utilize which includes the Food-Share program. The county has been running this federal program effectively and efficiently, but the changes that the governor has suggested moves this program to the state, which will create a waiting period of up to two-weeks. When a family is in need of financial support, they can't wait that long to eat. These are programs in which Dane County has invested staff to keep families, who are living on the edge, from completely falling. The County has done this quickly, formerly with the state as a partner, to serve as a one-stop-shop for these programs including jobs programs.

Recycling programs – Elimination of the requirement that municipalities operate a recycling program. Madison and Dane County have some of the best programs in the country and by eliminating the state share in the program and making it voluntary, there is a growing concern that many municipalities will drop the programs altogether. The impact on Dane County could be felt in more trash, formerly recycled-materials, being dumped in the landfill, thus shortening its useful life.



Phosphorous regulation changes – Changes in regulations that could eliminate some of Dane County's laws to keep our lakes as clean as possible. Dane County has worked with area municipalities and farmers to keep much phosphorous out of the area lakes which reduce algae.

Road aids – Decreases in money already planned for road improvements in Dane County for 2011 and cuts for 2012. The governor increased the overall highway budget for "mega" projects, but cut local aids for projects we utilize daily.

Regional Transit Authorities – Remain in budget but any increase in taxes to fund the transportation program must be first approved through a binding referendum. I have always been in favor of a binding referendum, but when it was eliminated from Governor Doyle's budget, I didn't feel that we should eliminate the entire program. Some of these short term changes for the rest of 2011 will be offset by recent increases in sales tax revenue of the last few months, which is the main funding component for Dane County, not property taxes. We often hear that local control is an important part of how governments, which actually administer federal and state programs, function and operate. The governor has severely limited our ability to govern in a way that reflects the values we hold important and why many of us choose to live and work here.

I will continue to review and update you on the budget process. I will sit down with Representative Berceau to discuss the budget and continue to get briefed from Dane County Staff.

As always, please feel free to contact me on specific questions or comments on the budget or any other matter.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

We are still in need of a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. It seems that people in the community are looking for ways to prevent crime and this is a perfect opportunity for someone to step up to help our community. If anyone in Meadowood is interested in picking up the program, please contact Lisa Veldran.

New Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

The State of Wisconsin has revised the requirements for carbon monoxide alarms in one- and two-family homes. The new requirements became effective on February 1, 2011.

Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless and tasteless, but highly toxic. It can build up over time, with unrecognized symptoms such as headaches, nausea, disorientation, or irritability eventually leading to unconsciousness and fatal poisoning. Carbon monoxide alarms warn of the gas before it reaches dangerous levels.

Examples of some carbon monoxide sources are stoves, grills, vehicles, heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, or appliances using coal, wood, oil, kerosene, or other fuels. Electric appliances are not carbon monoxide sources.

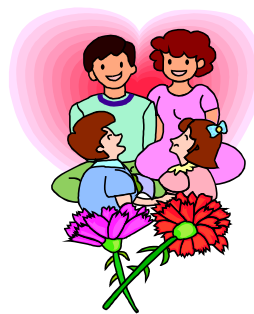
For additional information, please visit www.madisonfire.org or call the Madison Fire Department Community Education Office at 266-4709.

The Dane County Difference

News Column By: Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

Reflecting back on the past 14 years, together we've accomplished so much.

When you first elected me as County Executive in 1997, there were around 390,000 of us who proudly called Dane County home. Today our population is some half-million citizens strong, making our county the fastest growing in the state.



Families continue to choose our county because of the high quality of life we offer here. We have earned a reputation for working together and pursuing bold innovations.

Over the past 14 years, we've solved challenges and gotten things done by bringing people together to ensure our county is the best place for families to work, live, and raise their kids.

Our shared accomplishments are even more notable given the sharp contrast in leadership style we've seen from our state elected officials in recent months. Instead of pushing

diverse and sometimes competing interests apart, we've brought them together.

We worked with our unions and negotiated pay cuts and higher benefit co-pays at the bargaining table, respecting bargaining rights while savings taxpayers millions of dollars.

We brought together builders and environmentalists to create our Conservation Fund under which we've protected more than 10,000 acres in our quickly growing county.

We partnered on innovative reforms to our criminal justice system that saved taxpayers millions while making our communities safer.

Over 14 years we've led major improvement projects - - a new state of the art courthouse to support our criminal justice system for decades to come, a fabulous new airport terminal that's a beautiful gateway to our county, our first-of-its kind "Cow Power" facility to keep pollutants out of our lakes while generating locally grown, "green" energy and most recently we opened our new Badger Prairie county nursing home to care for our most vulnerable citizens.

Alder Thuy, District 20, City of Madison

district20@cityofmadison.com, 608.957.4433

District 20 should be very proud of our accomplishments:

In 2007, we held unprecedented listening sessions that added 30 police officers to the force and made public safety one our top priorities. The Chronic Nuisance Ordinance was passed to provide law enforcement with a better tool. My Taxi Prepay Ordinance helps cabdrivers protect their livelihood while serving residents.

My top aldermanic priority was to connect my constituents to City services. Getting to know many of you on a personal level as we learned to navigate City systems together has been the most treasured part of my job.

I solicited Habitat for Humanity to renovate at-risk properties on Russett Road to bring in responsible new homeowners, improving our community "one home at a time."

We worked with city traffic engineering to improve safety at dangerous intersections in District 20: the stop lights at Raymond Road and S. Whitney Way, the modifications on S. Whitney Way at Hammersley Road, and the redesigned multi-traffic lights at Segoe Road, Tokay Boulevard and Independence Lane.

Listening to your expressed needs of an intergenerational gathering place for our community, I successfully pushed for a neighborhood center at Meadowood Mall. Opened in February 2009, the pilot center has exceeded most expectations and become permanent in less than one year.

In spite of these achievements, I am disappointed with the following:

I was saddened by the senseless homicide in our district. Young lives taken so violently are a tragic community loss.

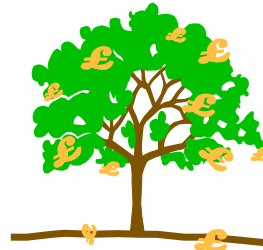
The Hy-Vee proposal to build a grocery store at Westgate Mall with the promise of 400 jobs for area residents didn't materialize.

I am thankful for the opportunities to give back to the community that has embraced me and become my home for so long. Public service has been both an honor and a lesson in humility. I found it interesting to learn how the City operates. I am grateful for the many City staff whose patience and assistance have helped me serve my constituents well. Their professionalism, dedication and integrity keep our city operating.

I will always treasure the years spent in your service on the Madison Common Council. I hope my beloved District 20 will continue to have the best representation it so deserves. My sincere good wishes to all of you and your families, now and in the years to come.

Spring Is Meadowood Community Garden Time!

Meadowood Community Garden is getting ready for a new season! The community garden in Meadowood Park offers area residents the chance to lease a whole (20' x 20') or half plot (20' x 10') of garden space to grow herbs and/or vegetables. Plots are available to lease, and fees are based on household income. Contact Mike Kiergaard at mkiergaard@uwalumni.com, 608-278-8613, for more information. If you would like to be



part of the community garden's youth gardening, and/or beautification projects, please contact Leslie Stephany, leslie.stephany@gmail.com, 608-438-2109.

This season we will be installing a mosaic stepping stone path, fence and enhancing the entrances with pergolas. Helping hands are needed, so please consider pitching in!

Orchard Ridge Open School House

Every Thursday - 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Orchard Ridge Elementary School, 5602 Russett Rd.

This is a collaborative program with a number of organizations: Urban League, Literacy Network, Meadowood Neighborhood Center and UW Extension. Check out the resources and classes offered: employment resources, reading nights, cooking classes, science nights and open gym for Grades K-5. For more information call 204-2320.