

MEADOWORD

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

Apr.-May 2015

www.meadowoodneighbors.org

President's Message –Krista Ralston

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MEADOWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD: THE PICKLE BALL OF MADISON. The other day someone asked me to describe the Meadowood Neighborhood and *pickle ball* came to mind. "Why?" Because pickle ball is a unique hybrid sport and Meadowood is a unique hybrid neighborhood. And I'm a big sports fan and a big Meadowood fan.

Marty Evenson, our new Area 9 Co-Representative, recently introduced me to pickle ball, a unique sport that's fun and easy to learn and brings all kinds of people together. I quickly became a fan and saw it as a fitting metaphor for our neighborhood. Like pickle ball, Meadowood owes its character and appeal to a non-traditional mish-mash of traditional components. Invented in 1965, pickle ball is a combination of several traditional racquet sports; established in the late 1950s the Meadowood Neighborhood is composed of regular people of all ages, genders, ethnicities, professions, talents and backgrounds. Pickle ball is gaining popularity, and so is Meadowood. Imagination, open-mindedness and creative use of existing resources are the hallmarks of success for both pickle ball and the neighborhood; to envision and build a comfortable, desirable community. (The only thing pickle ball has that our neighborhood doesn't is a funny name. But that's another story).

Community enhancers in Meadowood includes many outstanding and visionary residents, organizations, agencies and businesses working together to make our neighborhood safe and inviting. Of course, like every neighborhood, we also have our share of trouble-makers who often require the creative use of community resources.

I assume everyone is aware of the bad things that have happened in Madison and in our neighborhood in the recent past. But rather than rehash the horror of those events, I'd like to dwell on the positive things we as a community are doing to make this a better place for all.

There are many places and activities in Meadowood where you can get involved and add your uniqueness to our community-building. Some of them are mentioned or featured elsewhere in this issue of the *Meadoword*. Others will be highlighted in future issues.

One of my favorite places in Meadowood is the **revitalized Meadowood Shopping Center**. Over the last few years several businesses have left, leaving vacant storefronts in their wake. This created a serious and asking-for-trouble location. However, instead of giving up, the city, small

business owners and dedicated community leaders found ways to turn the negative into positives. Because of their initiative we now we have a beautiful new library and community center connected by a communal activity room and kitchen (still under construction). We also have new Dana Leu's Laundromat and a local office for our new neighborhood police officer, Kraig Knutson, who epitomizes the ideal of "serve and protect". In addition to these new attractions and services, the mall continues to be anchored by Walmart on the east and Anchor Bank on the west, with several popular businesses in between: Chang Jiang Chinese Take Out, the new Meadowood Barber Shop, Best Cleaners of Madison Inc., and Family Insurance. Does that sound like a dying mall? – NO WAY! If you haven't been there for a while, go patronize it. Your patronage helps with Meadowood's revitalization.

SEE YOU AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD! Feel free to contact me any time. And if you want to learn to play pickle ball, Marty Evanson or I will be happy to introduce you to the game. 274-2210; 577-7728

Meadowood Community Supper Brats and Bingo Tuesday May 12 6 PM Good Shepherd Church

Thank you to Dana Leu's Laundry Parlor on Raymond Rd, Whitney Way HyVee, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for helping to sponsor this supper;



Thank you to Meadowood Barbershop, Walgreens on Raymond & Whitney, and PDQ for donating Bingo prizes!

More details coming soon-check the Meadowood Neighborhood Association Facebook page or look for flyers at the library.

Emerald Ash Borer infestation expands to Madison's south side

The City of Madison Forestry Section has confirmed an Emerald Ash Borer infestation on Madison's south side at Doncaster Park. This infestation site is the first on Madison's south side and adds to previous finds on the City's north side at Warner Park, multiple finds thru the east side following closely along I-90 and on the City's west side along the border with the City of Middleton.

The Parks Division recommends that property owners who have ash trees in their own yards:

Keep a close watch on ash trees for signs of possible EAB infestation: Thinning in the canopy, D-shaped holes in the bark, new branches sprouting low on the trunk, cracked bark, and woodpeckers pulling at the bark to get to insect larvae beneath it.

Consider preventive treatments if your property is within 15 miles of an infestation. Treatment costs vary depending on size of the tree and whether you do the treatments yourself or hire a professional.

When replanting, consider planting a variety of tree species that are not susceptible to EAB.

Call a professional arborist for expert advice, and visit emeraldashborer.wi.gov for detailed information.

Emerald ash borer is native to China and probably entered the United States on packing material, showing up first in Michigan about 10 years ago. It was first found in Madison in 2013 in Warner Park. EAB adults lay eggs on the bark of ash trees in mid to late summer. In summer, the adults emerge through D-shaped holes in the bark.

Contact: Ann Shea, Parks Public Information Officer, 608-266-5949, ashea@cityofmadison.com

Supervisor Matt Veldran's Column

Dane County, District 7, veldran@countyofdane.com
(608)235-8369



Dear Neighbors,

The Dane County Board continues to work on the challenge of racial equity. I have been directly involved in the process as a member of the Health and Human Needs Committee. We recently held a joint public hearing with the Public Protection and Judiciary Committee on pending legislation that addresses incarceration issues and mental health needs for people who are housed in the three Dane County detention facilities. One of the challenges is to figure out a way to address much-needed repairs to the county jail at the same time providing improved space for inmates with severe mental health issues. The lack of mental health beds is one of the major shortcomings in the county detention facilities. While trying to meet the immediate needs, there is also the pressure to address the county's dismal record of racial justice.

We are now doing this against the backdrop of the Tony Robinson tragedy. I am a firm believer that we must let the formal review process of this case go through the state justice department and then District Attorney Ismael Ozanne, before any real conclusions can be reached.

The pending legislation will create three new work groups to address racial disparities, current jail needs in terms of mental health treatment and sentencing (where Dane Co. can make changes). I expect this to be passed and signed by the County Executive in April. The groups will get to work immediately and will conclude their respective work by August in order to have input for next year's budget.

I encourage anyone who is interested, particularly minority residents, to apply to be on one of the work groups. Please contact me directly and I will pass along your name and willingness to serve in this important community role.


On a positive note, the county board along with Executive Parisi just passed legislation to address one of the issues that keep many residents in our area from getting out of poverty. We have invested in an ongoing program through the YWCA that works to get people who have lost their driver's licenses legally back on the road. In addition there are funds available which will be used in the Madison Metropolitan School District to help minority youth pay for driver education courses that may be too expensive for them (and encourages illegal driving out of necessity).

responsiblenergy


Recycle your old refrigerator or freezer

Chances are the older refrigerator or freezer in your basement or garage is running up your utility bill by an average of \$150 a year. Recycle it, reduce your energy use and keep harmful materials out of landfills. We'll pick it up for free, and you'll pick up a \$40 reward.

For a FREE pickup, call 1.855.398.5226 or visit focusonenergy.com/appliance.



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GS1729 01/29/2014



Finally to switch gears, as nicer weather approaches along with the summer months I encourage everyone to enjoy the Dane County Park system and our lakes. The board continues to invest in keeping our lakes clean and reducing algae that plagues these county gems!

As always if you would like to discuss any issue, concern or want more information on the racial equity work groups, please contact me!

Enjoy the advent of blooming flowers and warmer weather!

Neighborhood Police Liaisons Summary

Dave Glomp/Merle Bengston

February was a relatively quiet month in terms of numbers of crime and public safety issues compared to previous months. That said, there were several incidents of shots being fired on Russett Rd. behind the Meadowridge Shopping Center. The most recent on 2/28 resulted in an 18-year old victim shot multiple times requiring surgery. There was also a cab robbery on Russett Rd. where a knife was used as the weapon shown. Police did arrest the alleged perpetrator of that robbery.

On Feb. 20, police also made an arrested an individual for drug dealing in the shopping center and confiscated 1,075 grams of marijuana and \$23,500 in cash.

Fortunately, the West District also opened their Meadowridge Shopping Center Office in February housing the Russett/Balsam Rd. neighborhood officer, Kraig Knutson. It is hoped that his presence will lower incidents in the area.

There were burglaries reported on Leland near Raymond and another on Janie Lane near Pilgrim Park.

A significant event was the community meeting held on February 16th when MPD Police Chief Mike Koval spent more than 1-1/2 hours answering questions of over 100 residents who came to Good Shepard Church for the Chief's

Listening Session. Very positive comments came from most in attendance who applauded the Chief for his interest in hearing from the residents.

Unfortunately, March was not nearly so quiet.

(Editor's note: Please sign up for and join: https://meadowooddane.nextdoor.com/news_feed/. That is a site we use just for Meadowood although you can include other neighborhoods. Our police liaisons post there promptly as they learn of incidents and our public officials also provide information.)

"Simple Strength" Classes at MNC by Dick Radtke

The Meadowood Neighborhood Center is a gathering place for neighbors of all ages.

The MSCR Goodman 55+ Simple Strength class, meeting on Tuesday mornings at the Center, uses the new fitness space. There's plenty of room for participants to move freely and enjoy the equipment and weights. A mirrored wall is especially helpful to monitor form while exercising under the expert instruction of Tanya, who has been leading the class for five years.

Many participants are veterans of the Simple Strength course and feel that the fact it is in the neighborhood makes it special.

Tanya works full time but still finds time in her schedule to lead the class. "Participants improve their ability to do everyday things easily," she says. With a class size of 17-20, the Center offers a chance for neighbors from all walks of life to interact.

"Tanya is good about letting us be social," one participant reports. "That's an important element of the class."

Lois, a five-year participant in the class says: "We benefit from increased strength, increased balance, and camaraderie. "It's a win, win, win combination."

As a bicycler, Gloria likes the class because it is age appropriate. Gloria focuses on upper body strength, since she gets a lower body workout in her daily routine. "Women don't consciously do a lot of upper body strengthening," she says. "I have developed my triceps and biceps from being in the class."

Another participant, a caregiver, takes the class for its strength training benefits. She needs to be strong for her clients. Meeting with her neighbors weekly is a bonus.

Grace lives a couple minutes away and says she has gotten a lot stronger. "The best part is that it is part of the neighborhood," she says. And Diane bicycles to class, reporting that she is "completely inspired by the other participants."

JR's Mulch Sales

Spread It Around

692-BARK

Print a coupon at www.jrsmulchsales.com

4230 Acker Road • Madison, WI 53704

Orchard Ridge Elementary School Dolphin Update

Spring is in the air, and that means that soon the students of Orchard Ridge will resume working in their school garden.



Until then, they have had plenty of opportunities to eat fresh fruits and vegetables through a fresh food grant. This grant has provided students with fresh fruits and veggies during snacktime four days per

week. It also helped fund a garden bar in the cafeteria, which allows children to select a variety of produce to complement their hot lunch entrees.

Orchard Ridge Elementary has received a grant for \$1500 called the Art in the Garden Grant. With our students' help, along with financial, labor and material assistance from Olson-Toon landscaping company, we have planned an outdoor stage as our project for the grant.

This Winter, each student created a small clay tile in the

shape of their team ocean animal. They were glazed and will be set into a ground mosaic that will serve as the floor of our stage. Our current vision for the project and the location was decided with a great deal of student input. During art class, students debated and collaborated in determining the best location for the project, as well as what it should look like.

The project is part of the "Outdoor Classroom" vision that started with the garden and is expanding to this performance space, improvements to the school forest, and a sensory garden in the courtyard over the next few years. The project gives students an actual voice in shaping their learning environment. It also gets them outside and helps them learn not only applied academics, but also about nature, their food, their community and themselves with practical, hands-on learning.

RSVP Helps to Meet Transportation Needs

It's no secret; a large portion of our population is aging and bringing new dynamics to our community. People no longer are guaranteed to live in the same city as their family, leaving some seniors to seek help from outside sources, especially for transportation, which is one of *the* biggest challenges seniors and veterans face to remain independent. That's where RSVP comes into play with its Bus Buddy Tours and Driver Services program.

Bus Buddy Tours – Helping Seniors Ride the Bus

Navigating the bus system -- daunting or doable? RSVP is

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working to make the answer “doable” and fun with its newly expanded Bus Buddy Tours. Seniors get first-hand experience riding the bus as part of a group traveling to an enjoyable local destination. Included in each tour is a free lunch, destination entrance fees, a goodie bag, Madison Metro Ride Guide, and a 10-ride bus pass to encourage future bus use.

Bus transportation is an accessible, affordable and dependable way to get around every day of the week, and especially nice to use for people on limited incomes. With a generous grant of \$5,000 from AAA WI, as well as support from Dane County Human Services, the program will expand this year to include four fun-filled trips: Chazen Museum of Art, April 29; Capitol building, June 10; Olbrich Gardens Butterfly Exhibit, August 5; and a movie at Market Square Theater, October 14.

The program is designed to ease the way for those who have little or no experience using public transportation, while creating a fun social group outing for participants age 60 and older. Last year’s trips to the WI State Historical Museum and the new Madison Central Library were well attended and met with rave reviews. If you’re interested in joining the fun, please contact Diana Jost at 608-441-1393 or djost@rsvpdane.org. If you’re unable to make any of these trips, RSVPs Bus Buddy program also offers one-on-one guides on Madison Metro, which are also scheduled by Diana.

Driver Services’ Growing Demand

Every day, volunteers from RSVP’s Driver Services programs are out in Dane County driving eligible seniors, veterans, and veterans’ family members, as well as delivering meals in rural Dane County. You may even know someone who benefits from our services – a neighbor, a friend or a family member, or maybe volunteers in your hometown are providing similar services to a family member or dear friend. It’s a beautiful system of people helping people.

Last year, 362 volunteer drivers provided 8,703 rides across Dane County for 1,128 passengers – of these rides 3,800 were for 500 veterans of all ages and their families. In addition, 392 RSVP volunteers delivered 70,840 meals to 808 frail elderly in Dane County.

With the increase in the number of seniors, comes an increase in demand for rides. RSVP has experienced a decrease in the number of volunteer drivers during the past two years, leaving a gap between the number of rides requested and the number of volunteer drivers available – RSVP is working to recruit more drivers to fill this gap and prepare for future needs. Volunteers receive mileage reimbursement, extra accident/liability insurance coverage and the satisfaction of helping seniors/veterans remain independent. Come volunteer, your neighbors need you! Contact Mary Schmelzer at 608-310-7280 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org.

Life stories writers mine gold nuggets

by Dick Radtke

On Monday mornings a dedicated group of Life Stories Writers gathers at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center to recall valuable bits and pieces of their lives. The group, now in its fifth year of operation, shares experiences that shaped their growth and maturity.

Life Stories facilitator Dick Radtke observes: “Our group has bonded to a degree that we are comfortable sharing even the most personal experiences of our lives with each other, and understanding that each of us is a unique human being with never-to-be-repeated stories to tell.” During its time at the Center the group has published four volumes of essays and poems based upon its Monday morning work sessions. These books are available at Lulupublishing.com, or at the Neighborhood Center.

The first 20 minutes of these hour-and-a-half meetings are devoted to catching up and listening to short pieces members may have prepared since the previous meeting. Then the group takes pens in hand and gets to work. For fifteen to twenty minutes they write furiously on a selection of subjects suggested for that particular day. Later they may develop these ideas further. Cues provided to the group for exploration in recent sessions include:

- Write about a phobia you have or had.
- Tell us about your favorite teacher.
- Write about an experience involving religion.
- Write about your in-laws.
- Go back to when you were eight years old and write about a holiday you have experienced.
- Write about roller skating or ice skating.

The life stories writers group is currently at capacity, but prospective members can be placed on a wait list. Contact the Neighborhood Center or Dick Radtke at dick.radtke@gmail.com for further information.

Ed. Note: Clare and Dick Radtke are longtime residents of Madison’s southwest side. Clare works part time and currently is tending 5 horses, and training one of them. She looks forward to tending her annual vegetable and flower garden. Dick is a veteran of more than 40 years in the corporate communications field. The Radtkes are frequent clients of both the Meadowridge Branch Library and the Meadowood Neighborhood Center.

Library 2.0: Building Foundations for the Future Toki Library Media Center: Ready to Renovate!

Want to help renovate the Toki library media center (LMC)? Please consider writing a check to Toki PTA LMC Renovation, 5606 Russett Rd., 53711; supporting student and PTA events and informing family, friends and local businesses of renovation.

MSCR Fit2Go Van



Time: 4:00-6:00 pm
Location: Meadowood Park

Dates: Mondays

June 16th, 22nd, 29th

July 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

August 3rd, 10th, 17th

The MSCR Fit2Go Van is going to be in Meadowood Park every Monday to provide fun games and activities. This is a drop-in program and no pre-registration is required. **An adult 18 and over must be present to sign in participant and are encouraged to stay and play with the youth!** Please come and join the fun each week!



Questions? Contact:
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(608) 204-3031

A department of MADISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT 