

# MEADOWWORD

Newsletter of the Meadowood Neighborhood Assn [www.meadowoodneighbors.org](http://www.meadowoodneighbors.org)

Sept.-Oct. 2012

## President's Message – Lisa Veldran

[lveldran@yahoo.com](mailto:lveldran@yahoo.com) 271-0722

I want to begin my column by thanking you for re-electing me as the president of the Meadowood Neighborhood Association. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve the Meadowood community in this capacity. I know that my fellow board members share this sentiment as well. Given the heat, we had a great turnout at our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bike Parade & Annual Picnic at Elver Park. Thank you to those members who made this another successful event.

This is also our Membership Drive Kickoff and I hope you consider joining the MNA either as a long-time resident or someone who has just moved to Meadowood. Dues continue to be \$5, a real deal compared to other neighborhood associations, and your membership includes the newsletter, hard and/or e-copy five times a year, a membership card for participating in our bingo party, family Pizza/Vitense party, a listing in our garage sale ad and our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic.

But really membership in the neighborhood association means you care about our community and are willing to join others in Meadowood to continue the proud tradition of **working for community betterment and promoting fellowship**. That was the vision in 1958 when the MNA was created and it remains true today.

I look forward to the upcoming year to bring more rewards as we meet the challenges we encounter. I hope to continue to work together to create a wonderful neighborhood for future Meadowood generations to enjoy.

## Every Wednesday:

### Southwest Community Farmers Market

There are still weeks to enjoy local, fresh, healthy produce! Plan on visiting the market this fall! Seasonal produce and baked goods are sold every Wednesday, from 3 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Orchard Ridge UCC Church Parking Lot, 1501 Gilbert Road. Find the market on Facebook: Madison, WI Southwest Community Farmers Market

## Every Saturday:

### Fresh Foodmobile in Meadowood

[www.marketonwheels.com](http://www.marketonwheels.com)

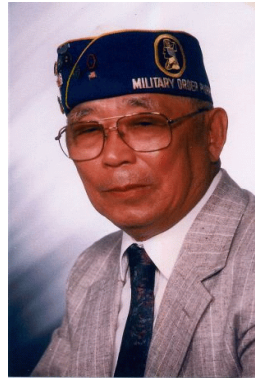
Remember to visit the Freshmobile on Saturday from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Parking Lot! The Freshmobile is a refrigerated trailer FULL of fresh produce and grocery staples like milk, cheese, eggs, butter and juice as well as chicken and hamburger. Freshmobile accepts cash, Visa/MC, Discover, WIC and EBT.

## Toki Middle School:

### A New Beginning & Goodbye to a Life Well-Lived

Nicole Schaefer, Principal, Toki Middle School, 608.204.4744

[nbschaefer@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:nbschaefer@madison.k12.wi.us)



Akira Toki

We were saddened by the loss of our school's namesake, Akira Toki. Mr. Toki died at the age of 96 on June 29th. The school was renamed in his honor in July, 1993. For those of you fortunate enough who had the opportunity to meet and talk with Mr. Toki, you know what a gentle, kind person he was. I encourage you to watch an interview with him filmed, in 2006, in celebration of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

<https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/node/10220> or read his biography, *The American Japanese: Akira Toki, an American Patriot* by Arthur C. Rathburn. He was an amazing person with a wonderful story to tell and I look forward to sharing his story with the Toki Community in the future.

As we leave summer behind and begin a new school year, there is plenty of excitement. As a principal, one of my favorite days is the 1<sup>st</sup> to watch students return to school filled with excitement and energy. A few days before the start of school, we welcomed our faculty and spent time in the final preparation for a new school year. It is great to have everyone back in school.

We are off to a solid start with approximately 530 students, 75 staff members and lots of Toki Dragon spirit. Each year we identify a theme which describes our goals. This year our theme is "We are Crew, not passengers." As a school, we will spend the year focused on the following:

**Assessments:** we will continue with Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and MAP and Explore Assessments for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Crew** is a daily structure for developing relationships so that every student has at least one trusted in-school adult. Crew lessons follow specific protocols and focus on relationships, literacy, service, adventure and fitness, and post-secondary opportunities.

**Expeditions** are ways to examine, process and problem-solve issues in our students' communities. Social studies, science, math, reading and writing use case studies, fieldwork and projects based on these issues and problems to bring learning

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](http://www.facebook.com/Meadowood.Neighborhood.Association)

alive for students. This allows students to see the connection between what they are learning to the real world and gives them avenues to impact their community.

**Communication** is essential to a successful school. Our monthly newsletter, *Toki Times*, is going green and will be e-mailed to families. *Dragon Tales* is a weekly email updating families about school-wide events. Each team will send a weekly bulletin, via Infinite Campus Messenger, informing families about what their child is doing at school. Also, be sure to check out grade-level display cases in the foyer of the school for student work and updates.

**Tutor/Mentoring opportunities are available by contacting our Youth Resource Coordinator, Ariana Stuhl at 204-4763 or by email [alstuhl@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:alstuhl@madison.k12.wi.us)**

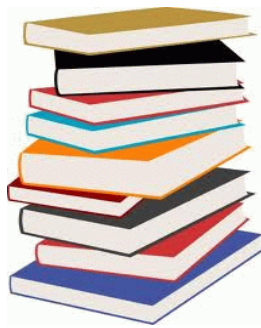
**Construction** and building improvements is an ongoing process, especially for a building, like ours, constructed in 1958. This year the Toki/ORE campus received new boilers and bathroom sinks, and more visibly our new elevators, one each for Toki and Orchard Ridge. Their projected completion is January 2013.

***We believe it takes a community to raise a school. It takes a school to build a community. We appreciate the support that you have provided to our school over the years. You are always welcome to visit us and check out our website ([tokiweb.madison.k12.wi.us](http://tokiweb.madison.k12.wi.us)). We look forward to working together to actively build a positive school community.***

### Dream BIG–Read!

#### Meadowridge Library, October 22-27, 2012

Join Madison Library this fall for nine week-long community celebrations highlighting the role Madison's libraries play in promoting literacy, civic engagement, and vibrant neighborhoods. Each week they will highlight a different Madison library and showcase its history, special collections and unique features, from one-of-a-kind artwork to sustainable design features.



You'll also have a chance to meet the new library director, Greg Mickells, at a reception at each library, as well as win fun prizes featuring a brand new logo.

The Meadowridge Library reception is on Thursday, October 25, 4-5:30 pm, followed by a Community Supper at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center.

Other upcoming events from Friends of Meadowridge Library: Saturday, October 27, 2012 Halloween Book and Bake Sale  
Tuesday November 20, 2012 Thanksgiving Pie Sale

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Annual Meadowood Picnic at Elver Park

Thanks to Patsy Ragland for coordinating this year's picnic and the subcommittee of Sally Stix, Linda Kubly and Lisa Veldran who met and worked on the details and tasks.

Mark and Janice Bauman and Dottie Loehrer were instrumental in securing 32 door prizes ranging from \$20 gift cards from Babe's, Bavaria Cheese & Sausage Haus and Copp's to several parties for four from Ten Pin Alley. **A big thank you to the Baumans and Dottie.**

PLEASE visit the businesses which contributed door prizes to our July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, listed on the back of the *Meadowood*, and let them know that we appreciate their being a part of our neighborhood!

### Balsam-Russett Neighborhood Resource Team

Jessica Leclair, RN, Madison & Dane Public Health

Greetings from the Balsam-Russett Neighborhood Resource Team! NRTs have an important mission: to help combine and coordinate the strength of City Departments with neighborhood stakeholders to improve the quality of life for Madison residents. NRTs help ensure that City programs and services are responsive to and reflect the aspirations and values of the neighborhood. The goal is to have a self-sustaining community where opportunities exist and needs are met.

This summer, Meadowood residents might have seen or visited with Balsam-Russett NRT members as they toured the area. NRT members have also attended the January, April, and August Meadowood Community Suppers. Please get to know your NRT members, and share your experience as a Meadowood resident!

This summer, the NRT divided into 5 subgroups to represent issues identified at the January community supper, including safety, housing, economic development, youth programming, and neighborhood beautification. The subgroups are currently comprised of NRT City staff, Meadowood residents and others interested in the community. Each subgroup will spend the next couple months gathering data and getting up-to-speed on their issue. In the coming months, we plan to hold resident focus groups to strategize moving forward. Please consider becoming involved with a Meadowood focus group!

If you identify a community-wide issue in the Balsam-Russett road area that might benefit from more than one City agency's involvement, please contact one of the Balsam-Russett NRT Leaders. The Team Leader will work with other NRT members, discuss the topic, and recommend possible solutions or referral to the appropriate City agency. The Balsam-Russett NRT looks forward to sharing our progress with you through the *Meadowood*. If you would like more information on the Balsam-Russett NRT or any of the NRTs please visit our new website: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/nrt/>

## Supervisor Matt Veldran,

[Veldran@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:Veldran@co.dane.wi.us) 235.8369



Hello Meadowood Neighbors!

The Dane County Board has finished its summer "recess," having met only once in July and August. We will be turning our attention to the 2013 budget. There will be upcoming hearings on the Human Services budget requests on Wednesday September 12 and 19 at the Alliant Energy Center, starting at 6:00 PM each night. The remainder of the

departments' budget requests hearing will be on September 13 at the City-County Building in the newly remodeled chambers. It is important to hear from as many constituents as possible on programs and services that you believe need to be kept, strengthened or eliminated.

The board has also been looking at long and short term solutions to the issue of homelessness. We are looking at temporarily using county facilities and a few parks. I support this effort in general, and the Public Works & Transportation Committee (PWT) voted unanimously to explore using some areas of the Alliant Energy Center for homeless folks, when there are no events scheduled at the facilities. However, I do not look at this as a long term solution. The committee also added in an amendment that there would be a deadline to present a permanent solution by March 2013. There is a homeless issues committee that is looking at solutions utilizing private and other municipal partners.

The board also adopted a youth mentoring program this term. Two high school students have been assigned to each county standing committee, after a selection process earlier this year. I am a mentor for one of the students assigned to the PWT. It is a great way of engaging and teaching young people who are interested in local government to be part of the civic process.

## Introducing the SW Side Housing Organizer

by John Wroten 5810 Russett Rd. Apt # 1, email:

[John@cwd.org](mailto:John@cwd.org); (w) 608.273.6623; (c) 608.516.5332

I was recently hired as housing organizer for SW Madison (approximately the Toki attendance area). My position is funded thanks to a 2-year grant from Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ and is aimed at addressing homelessness, mobility, and family stability. The idea was developed by the SW Housing Partnership, an active collaboration of Common Wealth Development, Madison and Dane Public Health, Joining Forces for Families, and Orchard Ridge U.C.C. Goals are to create an accessible *Housing Services Center* and enhance community stability in this area which contains many mobile families.

I am excited to get to know the larger Meadowood community. In the coming months, I will be focused on listening to the concerns, ideas, and plans of residents of how to apply community assets to issues in the neighborhoods. I am interested in hearing from anyone who would like to be involved in this effort, has ideas or suggestions or has any questions about my position. My core focus is to create a collaborative effort, grounded by residents and other interested parties on the SW-side. All are welcome and, more importantly, **needed**, as it is clear that our best chance to progress is to work together towards common goals. Anyone who is interested should feel free to contact me to set up a time to meet and discuss your thoughts.

## MPD Gang Activity Presentation , August 27, 2012

by Lisa Veldran

Shane Olson and Lester Moore, officers with the MPD's Crime Prevention Gang Unit, presented information, including a power point presentation on local gangs to the approximately 100 neighbors in attendance at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, a big thank you to the church. We learned what gangs were in Madison and its environs, saw gang symbols and signs, and their behaviors. It is not against the law to be a gang member. Like everyone else, it is against the law when a gang member participates in criminal behavior. But the presence of gangs goes hand in hand with certain criminal activities such as drug dealing and retail theft. We also learned that resources are stretched and that the Madison Police Department and Dane County Sheriff's Office are tackling this issue through education, prevention, intervention and enforcement but that they also need the help of those in the community...in other words you and me.

## Take-Aways (or What I Learned I Can Do)

### **Report! Report! Report!**

If you see gang graffiti or suspect gang graffiti contact the MPD/City of Madison. By removing graffiti immediately you remove the gang brand from the neighborhood. Gang graffiti is one way of marking territory. A former MNA board member who lived on Russett Road routinely and aggressively reported gang graffiti on that street and it was effective.

City's Report Graffiti Online Form: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/reportaproblem/graffiti.cfm>  
Madison Police Department's Non-Emergency Number: 266-4275.

Suspected criminal gang activity, drug deals, and the like should always be reported! Even if the police cannot respond it is important for them to have the data.

## Madison Police Department

Captain Vic Wahl was also present and encouraged residents to report incidents. He also noted that this was a community problem that was not going to be solved solely by police enforcement but needed to be addressed by our policy



makers, social service agencies, schools and residents.

File a report online using the Citizen Self Reporting System: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/police/selfreport/selfReport.cfm> Or you can call and file a report with the Madison Police Department Self-Reporting Unit. 608.245.3662, Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Closed on holidays. If you are asked to leave a message, SRU staff will try to get back to you within one working week. You can pick up a paper Self-Report Form from the West Police District Station, 1710 McKenna Boulevard.

#### Dane County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Dave Mahoney was also present and encouraged residents to report incidents as well. He also said a report will be issued soon on results from the Dane Co. Enhance Youth Gang Prevention Task Force recommendations from 2007. A copy is posted on the MNA website.

Sheriff Mahoney also encouraged residents to send their suggestions to our elected officials: Ald. Matt Phair, Supv. Matt Veldran, Mayor Paul Soglin and Dane Co. Executive Joe Parisi. **O n - L i n e R e p o r t i n g :** <http://www.danesheriff.com/drugReport.aspx>; 608. 245.5783; or write: Dane Co. Sheriff's Office, ATTN: DCNAGTF, 115 W. Doty Street, 53703

This presentation has been in the works since June and, unfortunately, recent events made it all the more pertinent. While people have a right to be upset, we can't just complain and leave doing something about it to others. We have to do our part as positively and pro-actively as possible; we have to actively organize to oppose gang influences. If you are interested in being part of the solution, please contact me by mid-September. I would like to get together a group of residents to brainstorm and put some ideas on the table...ideas that can be accomplished. Asking the city to fund a police officer on every corner is not realistic...figuring out a way to be a positive influence against gang activity in Meadowood is.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic Bike Parade Winners!**

We had a great turnout for the bike parade this year. Thank you kids and parents for braving the hot morning and making this a wonderful event!

0 to 5 years—1st place—Callum Mutch; 2nd place— Keevon Swenson; 3rd place—Tianna Phillips

6 – 8 years—1st place—Abbey Mutch; 2nd place—Kya Harmes; 3rd place—Emily Kunkel

9 – 12 years— List was misplaced so if you were a winner in this category email [lveldran@yahoo.com](mailto:lveldran@yahoo.com) and your name will be in the next issue of the *Meadowood*!

Groups— 1st place— JJ, Sawyer, Marie & Baedon Ackerman; 2nd place—Sam & Max Knight; 3rd place—Cameron & Ali Moll.

**Alder Matt Phair** 298-7602 [district20@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district20@cityofmadison.com)



Dear Meadowood Neighbors,

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer and managed to survive the heat waves. I was able to spend some time away from Madison and relax with my family, but overall it has been a busy summer both here in our neighborhood and at City Hall. I spent a lot of my time working on what I believe is the neighborhood's number one issue: sustainability. By that I mean, sustaining Meadowood as the safe, affordable and attractive neighborhood that it has been and can continue to be! As I'm sure you are aware, we have had our challenges this summer; primarily in the form of criminal activity by a relatively small group of individuals. But I know we stand together in our belief that violence of any kind is not acceptable and we will work together to minimize that activity.

The question then becomes...how do we do that? And this is where we may have some disagreements. I've heard from many of you with opinions on how to improve neighborhood safety and I appreciate your emails and phone calls. We have many thoughtful and dedicated people in Meadowood and I truly value the concerns and suggestions I hear from so many of you. I continue to believe that to make our community safer we need to have a comprehensive approach to neighborhood improvement that specifically focuses on bottom-up organizing and empowerment. We need services such as community centers and to involve police, public health nurses, County social services, building inspection, traffic engineering and most importantly, engaged Meadowood residents willing to stand up for our neighborhood, in order to create a sustainable community.

I think it is also important to point out that our efforts will take time and there will be bumps along the road. However, if we keep focused on the fact that we all want the same outcomes – safe streets and a good quality of life – we can achieve our goals.

Here is what I have been involved with in our district this summer:

**Police** -- I have kept a close relationship with the police department, specifically our Captain, Vic Wahl and Lieutenant, John Patterson as well as our neighborhood officers. As always, the police are doing their best to patrol the neighborhood and make arrests of the people who are causing harm. In addition and, in part, due to the Southwest Safety Initiative I co-sponsored in the 2012 budget, the department has stepped up its efforts by focusing on certain blocks and buildings where many of the problems arise from. Specifically, the police have begun to engage and/or pressure landlords who own properties that have unusually high numbers of calls for service. The goal is to work with these

landlords to help them get rid of the tenants or guests engaged in illegal activity. If there isn't cooperation from the landlord, the City will move to hold him or her accountable. The police have also been working to identify the youth who are involved with drug and gang activity and engage them and their parents in the hopes of reaching them before it's too late.

**Hammersley/Theresa Terrace** – I have spent a lot of time working in this neighborhood. Even though it isn't in Meadowood, the ramifications of letting the problems go unabated would be felt throughout southwest Madison. I have been meeting regularly with a group of residents in the neighborhood who decided they were fed up with what was happening and wanted to make a difference. I helped them get a street use permit that has allowed them to block off Theresa Terrace to traffic every Monday this summer so they could have activities for the many young people living the area who have too few options to keep them occupied. We are now working to achieve their long range goal which is to have a community gathering space located in their neighborhood. The prospects are very promising! Even though there is a lot more to do, the work being done in that area of town is an excellent example of bottom-up organizing and of the value of neighborhood/City partnerships.

**Traffic** -- The City's traffic engineer and I have gotten to know each other quite well this summer! We have worked together with residents to make improvements in several areas in the district; including adding a stop sign near Heugel School and continuing to educate people pedestrians and drivers about the proper use of the intersection of Raymond Rd. and Leland Dr.

**Meet and Eat** – Many of you know about and have even enjoyed a meal from one of the food carts at a "Meet and Eat" this summer. For those of you who haven't heard, the Mayor and I and members of our dedicated City staff organized an event in which a dozen or so ethnic food carts set up in the vacant lot next to the Meadowood Shopping Center on Raymond Rd. We've had such great success with the event that it was extended into September. There will be two more this year, September 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-7:30 pm. I hope to see you there! If you want to learn more, go to the City's website and type in "Meet and Eat" in the search engine.

**City wide issues**--Budget season – Chances are by the time you are reading this the Mayor will have introduced his capital budget and soon he will introduce the City's operating budget for 2013. It will be another challenging budget as levy limits mandated by the state take effect and costs go up. Given that reality, I and my colleagues on the Council will do our best to maintain services at the level we expect and deserve. For more information about the City budget process go to the City's website and scroll down until you see "City Budget" and click on it.

**Education** – In June, I assumed the chair of the newly

reconfigured education committee. The committee is made up of two alders, two county board supervisors and two members of the Board of Education as well as a designee of the Mayor's and the MMSD superintendent's offices. As I have been emphasizing for a while now, I believe the City (and County) has the responsibility to partner strongly with the public schools. It's a tired cliché but so true: our community is only as strong as our public schools and the students we produce. As chair, my vision for the committee is that through diligence, cooperation, and research we will come up with a strong and meaningful community initiative that helps the school district close the achievement gap. We don't know what that will be yet, but I look forward to working with my colleagues to find out!

These are really just a few of the issues I have been working on lately, so if you have any questions on these or other topics that are concerning you, as always, please contact me. Otherwise, enjoy the beginning of fall, school (kids are out of the house!) and football season!




**Get ca\$h back for making your home more comfortable**

1. Program for homes in the city of Madison.
2. Work with a local energy advocate to guide you through the process.
3. Get an energy audit (starting at \$200), testing and written advice from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide program for energy efficiency.
4. Make energy improvements and get cash back from both the Green Madison program and Focus on Energy.

Call Green Madison at 877-399-1204  
or visit [cityofmadison.com/greenmadison](http://cityofmadison.com/greenmadison)




CG-1730 04/09/2012

## City of Madison Neighborhood Conference

Saturday, October 13; 8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center

The 2012 Mayor's Neighborhood Conference will be a dynamic event for community leaders to share, network, and take steps to ignite ideas within our extensive networks of neighborhoods. The full-day event will feature hands-on workshops covering organizing, neighborhood-based projects,

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](http://www.facebook.com/Meadowood.Neighborhood.Association)

and ways to connect in the community. Participants will have the opportunity to network with neighborhood leaders, governmental staff, and local resource representatives.

Fred Kent, President, Project for Public Places, will be the keynote speaker and workshop presenter at the conference due to the generous contribution from Madison Gas & Electric Co. Fred will talk about the "Power of 10" in Placemaking. The core of this concept is that any great place needs to offer at least 10 things to do or 10 reasons to be there. Madison neighborhoods already offer unique experiences but this is a forum at which we can learn about additional "placemaking" opportunities.

Information will be available later this summer at [www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods). Contact Linda Horvath, Planning Division, [lhovath@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lhovath@cityofmadison.com) or 608.267.1131.

## Southwest Madison Community Organizers

<http://swmadison.org> by Lisa Veldran,

If you are interested in making a difference, then being part of this group may be for you. Commitment can be long-term, short-term, yearly, one time only – how, when and where you get involved is up to you.

SWMCO is an independent, informal organization that welcomes all interested individuals to participate. Its mission is to empower citizens by organizing and supporting actions that create and sustain equitable, peaceful, and welcoming neighborhoods.

Objectives are to:

- Improve and increase cross-neighborhood communication;
- Replicate the organizing process used in Meadowood in other neighborhoods;
- Build leadership within neighborhoods;
- Engage youth and develop youth leadership;
- Provide problem-solving and other support for groups trying to improve our neighborhoods;
- Establish a website where current activities, agendas and minutes are posted;
- Support and sustain Meadowridge Library and Meadowood Community Center;
- Be administratively self-sufficient by 2013;
- In the long term, hire a organizer.

## Transit Corridor Study Public Meeting

**Monday, September 10, 2012, 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Madison Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin Street**

The Madison Area Transportation Planning Board, in cooperation with Metro Transit and the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC), is leading a study to explore where and how to implement a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in the Madison metropolitan area. The study is part of the Capital Region Sustainable Communities (CRSC) Initiative

led by CARPC.

BRT is a high-frequency, limited-stop service that offers improved customer experience on busy transit corridors. Faster service is accomplished by speeding passenger boarding, transit priority at traffic signals, and express service. Station improvements, information technology, improved service reliability and vehicle comfort create a more user-friendly experience.

Please join planning staff and the consultant team at a public meeting on September 10 to learn more about BRT and provide your input on what you want from a Madison-area BRT system.

For more information on the BRT Study, <http://www.madisonareamapo.org/BRT.cfm>

For more information on the overall CRSC Initiative, <http://www.capitalregionscrpg.org>

## Pedestrian/Bicycle Ambassador Pilot Program

by Lt. David Jugovich

This month marks the start of a pilot program whose mission is to improve our quality of life in Madison. The Pedestrian/Bicycle Ambassador Program seeks to educate our pedestrian and bicycling communities on applicable laws and best practices when navigating the City. Ambassadors have already been working in the community, attending events such as National Night Out, Ride the Drive and Ethnic Fest. They have connected with neighborhoods through events such as the graduation ceremonies for Latino and Black Youth Academies and the recent Meadowood Meet and Eat evenings. Ambassadors will be working with youth at schools, sharing the message of safety.

I am proud to have the caliber of our two ambassadors, Zachary Barnes and Jennifer Laack. Zachary and Jennifer are committed to making Madison the best it can be and truly understand the needs of our pedestrian and bicycling communities. If you see them out and about, please welcome them!

Zachary is a relatively new full-time Madisonian though he has worked and lived throughout Wisconsin over the last nine years. He is a car-free resident, owning three bikes (one self-built out of bamboo) which serve as his primary mode of transportation. He enjoys empowering others while becoming more mindful in commuting and recreating. Fluent in Spanish, he listens (and dances) to La Movida and WORT Community Radio. He calls the near eastside home where he enjoys playing kubb, meeting neighbors, cooking and dreaming up a plan for an around-the-world bike tour.

Jennifer is a returned Madisonian and has lived here the last five years. She enjoys all things outdoors especially biking and walking (of course), jogging, kayaking, canoeing, ice skating and skiing. She lives just beyond the near eastside

and enjoys how easily she can travel by bicycle. She promotes cycling as a great first mode of transportation. Jennifer lives with her husband and will be adopting another rescued Rottweiler.

### Madison Water Utility: Project H2O

Madison Water Utility has begun installing new meter reading technology in every home and business in the city. This "Project H2O" will automate water meter reading capabilities through a fixed-base radio network to increase accuracy and provide customers with the timely information they need to better manage their water usage.

According to MWU General Manager Tom Heikkinen, "Our current Read-o-Matic meter registers, first introduced to the market in 1958, are obsolete and no longer being supported by the manufacturer, so this technology implementation is necessary. It will be a catalyst for significant improvements in water efficiency and customer service." Similar meter systems are already in use in Milwaukee and are common throughout the country.

When installations are complete, customers will be able to monitor their daily water usage online and sign up for leak alerts through an iOS or Android app. Measuring system water loss more accurately will enable MWU to optimize infrastructure improvements and future capacity planning. The new system will also enable the utility to switch from a six-month billing cycle to the more common monthly billing that most other utilities use. Usage will be shown in gallons rather than cubic feet, making bills easier to understand.

Project H2O Factsheet:

[www.cityofmadison.com/water/programs/projectH2O/documents/FactSheet.pdf](http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/programs/projectH2O/documents/FactSheet.pdf)

Meter Installation Schedule:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/programs/projectH2O>

Informational Open Houses on Project H2O will be held in September, with dates and locations forthcoming.

### Meadowood Membership-why you're important

by Sally Stix, Area 1 representative & editor

September is the time to renew your annual membership to the Meadowood Neighborhood Association. If you are a new neighbor or have never joined, now is the perfect time to join with others in the Neighborhood in building a community that is engaged! **Annual dues are still only \$5.00.**

We are expanding the opportunity to members to receive the *Meadowood* electronically and receive important community notices between issues.

Membership also includes admission to all Meadowood-sponsored events:

- A visit with Santa in December 2012
- Bingo party in January 2013
- Family Vitense Golf and event in March 2012
- Advertising in newspaper for Neighborhood Garage Sale in May 2013
- Participation in the annual July Fourth bike parade and picnic
- A copy of the Meadowood Neighborhood Directory.
- Copies of the *Meadowood* newsletter (via email, hard copy or both).

Your membership also supports these MNA functions:

Putting on the above events

Printing of the *Meadowood* Newsletter

Contributions to neighborhood activities, especially involving at risk children>

Below is the MNA's annual budget. You can see the neighborhood youth activities MNA supports and donations made to neighborhood improvement projects.

Please join YOUR neighborhood association when your area representative contacts you!

### ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT – 9/1/11 – 8/31/12

#### INCOME

Membership	3215.00
Donations	92.00
Newsletter Advertising	335.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3632.00</b>

#### BUSINESS EXPENSES

Newsletter Printing	1175.02
Website	295.83
P O Box	86.00
<b>Subtotal Business Expenses</b>	<b>1556.85</b>

#### EVENT & MISC. EXPENSES

Santa Visit	6.68
Bingo Party	184.23
Pizza/Golf Outing	283.83
Garage Sale	84.95
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Picnic & Parade	644.18
Donations*	1100.00
Misc. Exp. & Supplies	34.13
<b>Subtotal Expenses</b>	<b>2338.01</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3894.86</b>

\*Donations

Meadowood Community Center - flag football \$50.

Friends of Meadowood Library - \$175.

Good Shepherd – SNAP – \$175.

Good Shepherd Food Pantry – \$175.

Meadowood Neighborhood Center – MSCR – \$175.

Edgewood College – College Studies Club, Front yard gardens – \$175.

Millennium Soccer – \$175.

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](http://www.facebook.com/Meadowood.Neighborhood.Association)

**WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING AREA  
BUSINESSES FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO  
OUR MEADOWOOD 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PICNIC & ASK YOU  
TO PATRONIZE THEM:**

**ACE HARDWARE**

**LIQUOR TOWNE**

**ANCHOR BANK**

**M C SPORTS**

**BABE'S AMERICAN  
GRILL**

**McDONALD'S**

**THAI BASIL**

**BAVARIA SAUSAGE  
AND CHEESE HAUS**

**TEN PIN ALLEY**

**BEST CLEANERS**

**TOUCH OF CLASS  
HAIRSTYLING**

**COPPERTOP**

**VINTAGE BREWING**

**COPPS**

**VITENSE GOLFLAND**

**DANE COUNTY  
CREDIT UNION**

**WALGREENS**

**HOME DEPOT**

**WISCONSIN  
COMMUNITY BANK**