

MEADOWWORD

Newsletter of the Meadowood Neighborhood Assn

www.meadowoodneighbors.org

Nov.-Dec. 2012

President's Message – Lisa Veldran

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There is a definite chill in the air, leaves have been raked and gardens harvested – fall is here with winter not far behind. I hope the snow holds off until December but as I sit here writing, it feels a bit nearer. However, chilly weather does not mean that work and events in the Meadowood neighborhood slow down!

Meadowood Ace Hardware will be closed for business by the time you read this newsletter. Although Denny and Sharon Lochner met with the MNA Board in September, and we discussed the initiatives underway in the neighborhood and ways to promote their business, it was not enough to convince them to stay.

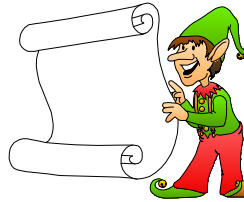
One response was that Ald. Matt Phair organized a meeting inviting neighborhood association presidents, the tenants and owner of Meadowood Shopping Center, city staff and members of the Meadowood Economic Development Work Group in October. It was a very positive and motivating meeting for all in attendance. Several ideas were generated, including expanding the library and the neighborhood center, and suggestions for possible tenants—a laundromat, restaurant, bakery, etc. This was good information for the leasing agent, John Bergh, to use when promoting the shopping center. If you have any possible leads or thoughts about tenants, please email Mr. Bergh at jbergh@sq-re.com.

In the GOOD NEWS department, a budget amendment was recently approved by the Board of Estimates to expand Meadowridge Library! It will be part of the Council's budget deliberations in November. Thank you to all who emailed the Council members asking them to support that budget amendment! There was an outpouring of support from Meadowood neighbors. It is not too late or too difficult to email your support for expanding the library: allalders@cityofmadison.com (your email will go to all the alders) and the Madison Public Library Board at libraryboard@cityofmadison.com. Watch for updates on our Facebook page, as this issue evolves.

Now would be a good time for you to **join the Friends of Meadowridge Library** as well! Membership is \$5 for an individual and \$15 for a family. Membership forms are available in the Meadowridge Library or can be downloaded from our website,

Wishing all my neighbors in Meadowood Happy Holidays and safe travels. I hope to see you at any one of the many events happening in our neighborhood!

A special invitation to children who have been nice (not naughty) for the last year: Santa Is Coming to the Meadowood Neighborhood Center!



Saturday, December 8, 2012,
1 p.m.-3 p.m., 5734 Raymond Rd.

Santa will be visiting the Meadowood Neighborhood Center this year! All children in the neighborhood are welcome to stop by and let Santa know how good they have been.

Holiday tunes and refreshments will be provided. Santa's visit is being sponsored by the Greentree, Meadowood, Prairie Hills and Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Associations. If you can donate a dozen cookies/bars, please email Lisa Veldran. Any leftovers from the event will be donated to the Meadowood Neighborhood Center and/or Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

Meadowridge Library Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Tuesday, November 20, 2012 starting at 10:00 a.m.
Meadowridge Library, 5740 Raymond Road
The Friends of the Meadowridge Branch Library will once again be holding their Thanksgiving Pie Sale until the pies are gone. All pies are \$10. If you would like to bake any pies for the sale, contact Jacky at madcity99@tds.net and let her know how many. Otherwise, please stop in at the library and buy one or two or more! A delicious deal for a good cause.

MNA Winter Bingo Party

Saturday, January 12, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall



The MNA is sponsoring its annual Bingo Party. The K of C Hall is located on Anton Dr. next to Chalet Ski Shop. There will be snacks and a cash bar. This event is for ADULTS ONLY who are current MNA members. You can join that night for

\$5.00. For more information contact Lorene Wendricks at 271-5054.

Directions: Whitney Way south to Williamsburg Way. Left on Williamsburg Way to Anton Dr. Right on Anton (M&I Bank is on the corner). The KofC bldg. is on the left. The building is handicap-accessible.

West Madison Little League 2013 Season

Executive Director, Bill Battista, 608-239-6161, board@wml.org
Online registration from January 7 to February 29, 2013.
www.wml.org

Meadowood Community Suppers Featured at Mayor's Conference!

On Saturday, October 13, the Mayor's Neighborhood Conference featured a workshop presented by the Meadowood Community Supper planning committee: "Come to Dinner: Building Community and Partnerships Across the Table." The conference attendees, residents, neighborhood association members, and community leaders throughout Madison asked questions and gained insight on how they could learn from the development of Meadowood's successful community supper project. The Meadowood committee, some of whom were at the conference, is comprised of Shirley Culp, Ray McNight, Aislynn Miller, Sherri Schwartz, Leslie Stephany, Sheray Wallace and Rose Mary Wise.

The Meadowood Community Suppers strive to bring together the diverse residents of the Meadowood Neighborhood, share a delicious meal, meet each other, make connections, deepen understanding and facilitate discussion about strengthening the Neighborhood. There are the great things happening in the Meadowood Community and "greater South West Side". In practicing cooperation, the community suppers are potlucks; where people can socialize about what is happening in the Neighborhood, connect, learn and voice opinions.



Celebrating Three Years of Progress

The first community supper was January 27, 2009 at Toki Middle School and supported by local churches, businesses and the Neighborhood Center. The 15th community supper was celebrated this past summer in the Meadowood Community Park. Residents supported by a Reilly-Baldwin grant, a Southwest Madison Community Organizers, Dane/Madison Public Health and UW-Madison partnership, have made the quarterly community suppers a success. The suppers have become so popular that they have outgrown the 120-person Neighborhood Center capacity.

The suppers resulted in beautification projects, economic development, dealing with housing problems, park improvements, safety, and youth programming over the last few years and have led to significant results! Trash clean-up days and front yard gardens developed from the beautification workgroup, enhanced playground equipment and a water fountain at the Meadowood Park was obtained from the park improvement work group, and the flashing pedestrian crossing light at Leland and Raymond Rd. came from the safety workgroup. Other workgroups are ongoing and seek to move forward in the Meadowood Community by listening to and acting on residents' concerns.


As the suppers have shown, the engine of success is an involved community. Any time you can volunteer for one of these groups or committees will return your investment by helping to achieve an open, welcoming, and friendly community.

The 16th community supper will be held Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 6:00pm-7:30pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The supper is a potluck. Doors will open 5:30pm and dinner is served at 6:00pm. For more information please contact Aislynn Miller, jerace91804@me.com, or (608) 442-8624. Hope you can join us!

how can you turn this down?

It's that time of year for a simply irresistible energy-saving opportunity. By setting back your thermostat just 1° Fahrenheit, you could save \$25 per heating season. Bigger setbacks save even more. If we all set back just 1° Fahrenheit this winter, we could save enough gas for 3,100 homes. To find out how much you can save with larger setbacks, visit mge.com/setback and use the calculator.



your community energy company

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Interested in being Master Gardener?

The UW-Extension Master Gardener Program provides horticultural training to adults who, in turn, volunteer to help with horticulture-related projects that benefit their local community or County Extension office. Master Gardener Volunteer General Training is designed to cover many areas of horticulture for a solid foundation in horticultural practices to assist master gardeners in their volunteer activities. In Dane County, two class sections are offered from February to Aug. The entire course consists of 16 sessions. Each class is three hours, offered either from 6-9 pm or 9 am-noon, depending on the section you are in. Classes are held every other week, with some exceptions for holidays, etc. There are a limited number of scholarships available. For more information visit www.meadowoodneighbors.org and download the brochure.



Alder Matt Phair 298-7602

district20@cityofmadison.com

Dear Meadowood Neighbors,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying these last days of autumn before winter is upon us. As we all prepare for the change of the seasons, I and my colleagues on the Common Council have been spending a lot of our time preparing for what I think, in the end, will be a sound and fair 2013 City budget. As we go through the process I will continue to keep these four questions in mind; are we:

- maintaining the current level of basic services?
- investing in neighborhoods that need it, like ours?
- honoring the City's commitments?
- keeping property taxes affordable for our constituents?

To that end, I either have or will be sponsoring amendments that restore funding for senior programming, leaf collection and hours available to pick up free mulch. I found places to make cuts as well by co-sponsoring amendments to erase several line items.

In addition, I have proposed to expand the Meadowridge Library into the space that is currently occupied by the Meadowood Neighborhood Center. I am hopeful that, with the help of all of you, we can persuade the rest of the Council that a Meadowridge expansion will be a wise investment for the City.

We have an opportunity due to the vacancies in the shopping center and a real need for more library space, services and programming. When those two things coincide, opportunity and need, we should act! If we are successful, I will work with the owners of the shopping center to relocate the neighborhood center; possibly expanding it and adding programming as well.

Citywide, there are big decisions left to be made with this year's budget. As I'm sure many of you are aware the executive budget significantly cuts Overture funding, proposes to raise bus fares by twenty-five cents, makes big changes to how our golf courses are operated and adds \$2 million for neighborhood centers. You can be sure there will be healthy and robust discussions at our budget deliberation meetings in mid November about these and many other issues! With all of them I will use those four guiding principles I outlined above when weighing our options and deciding how to vote. As always, I welcome your thoughts and opinions on any matter that comes up in the budget or otherwise.

Lastly, by the time the next *Meadowood* comes out it will be a new year and, believe it or not, another election season will be underway. While I haven't officially declared yet, I do plan on running for a second term. It has been an honor to serve as your alder on the Common Council and I look forward to giving it another shot. Thank you to all of you who have expressed your support and good wishes. I have enjoyed the challenge and want to continue the important work we still have to do to improve our neighborhood and our city.

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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



Dane Co. Sup. Matt Veldran
235-8369, veldran@countyofdane.com

Greetings Meadowood Neighbors!

It's budget time! We are in the process of reviewing the county executive's recommendations and the county board will be finishing up work on the budget within the next two weeks. The county is still working under some very difficult constraints imposed by the state legislature last year. Though we were able to keep the budget mostly intact and maintain core services, there are still areas which need to be addressed. As of this writing, there are several amendments designed to strengthen county programs, departments and services. Some may be part of the 2013 budget, others may not.

Madison has been working on creating a downtown park off E. Washington Ave., to be named "Central Park". Central Park will have a "skatepark," the first in the city. The projected cost is \$750,000. Mayor Soglin put \$300,000 in the city's budget and I proposed the county add \$200,000. The remainder will be privately funded. The park is an important addition to the city. It will help a diverse group of young and not so young people enjoy a growing sport. From the county's perspective, the skatepark can be an important regional attraction and help bring people to Madison. We heard from many citizens interested in this project during the budget hearing.

The budget also contains funds to build a homeless day shelter in downtown Madison with additional assistance being sought from the city. There is added funding for temporary lodging for victims of domestic violence to provide them with time to find a safer environment.

We continue to expand alternative energy programs; adding bicycle lockers and electric charging stations and expanding the use of our landfill-generated compressed natural gas vehicles to the county's fleet. The landfill expansion is now in process and we are adding three new facilities at the site all designed to increase sustainable and environmentally safe practices.

A building scheduled to be completed by year's end is the construction waste transfer station and clean sweep facility. This project will divert construction waste from the landfill and provide a year round facility for the disposal of hazardous liquids. Prior to this, Dane County did not collect these materials during the winter months. Finally, we will be building a virtually energy independent new highway garage at the landfill with solar panels on its roof and heating from the landfill gas.

We are looking at revamping and reorganizing the planning department to be more customer friendly and to address more long term planning being done throughout Dane

County. With all the progress, the county taxes may increase slightly over last year.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone happy holidays in the coming months. As always, feel free to contact me by either phone or email.

Exciting things are brewing at Orchard Ridge Elementary this year! by Kate Bast and Julie Theado

"A morning without coffee is like sleep." — Author Unknown

The playground is getting a make over, ensuring it is accessible to all ORE children. Currently it is not fully accessible to students with physical disabilities, and the addition of a successful 4K program requires developmentally appropriate play equipment for the youngest students. We'd like the playground to be welcoming and appealing to *all* Orchard Ridge and Meadowood residents, so please take an opportunity to get involved in this exciting project!

One such opportunity is about to fill your coffee cup. Local roaster EVP Coffee is crafting three blends exclusively for ORE: Orchard Ridge Roast, darker blend; Meadowood Morning Blend, milder coffee; and Dolphin Decaf. Bags of ground and whole beans will be available for purchase from ORE PTO for \$12/pound and \$8.50 half-pound. Proceeds from coffee sales will go directly toward our playground fund. Check your email, neighborhood listservs, and orepto.com for ordering details and forms. Brew a blend of premium neighborhood coffee, raise your cuppa joe and contemplate what's great about living in Orchard Ridge and Meadowood.

Toward the end of October, the State issued School Report Cards for every public school in the state. The report card looked at five priority areas: student achievement in reading and math, growth from year-to-year, ability to close gaps between different student subgroups, on-track to graduation/post-secondary readiness, and student engagement. The report cards, while based on a scale of 0-100, have a rating in points, not percentage. A rating of 75, for example, should not be seen as 75% or a grade of "C". The School Report Card for Orchard Ridge – and all of Wisconsin's schools – can be viewed at dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability/html.

The ORE staff are working hard in the priority areas. A 2nd/3rd grade team won a grant that is giving each of its students access to an iPad allowing for individualized practice in math, reading, and spelling. The school is implementing school-wide, a Comprehensive Literacy Model. Finally, engagement is addressed through activities such as B.L.A.S.T., Second Step Curriculum, and Morning Meetings. They continue to look for ways to close the achievement gap and ensure success for all students.

Thank you for your support!
"Come play with us!" — ORE PTO