

# MEADOWWORD

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

[www.meadowoodneighbors.org](http://www.meadowoodneighbors.org)

Nov.-Dec. 2015

## President's Message –Krista Ralston

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This is our last *Meadowood* issue for 2015. Starting in 2016 we will have a new editor. Please join me in **thanking SALLY STIX, our outgoing *Meadowood* editor, and welcoming MARK BAUMAN, our incoming editor.** Being editor of the *Meadowood* is one of the most challenging and time-consuming positions in the MNA. Sally has done an outstanding job and I'm confident Mark will continue that tradition. Over the past 55+ years the MNA has grown from a small neighborhood social club to a non-profit association integrally involved with the challenges of a growing and changing neighborhood. Despite the advent of social media, the *Meadowood* continues to be an important vehicle for keeping Meadowood residents informed not only of neighborhood happenings, but also of the larger city and county issues affecting our neighborhood. We look forward to continuing publication of the *Meadowood* in 2016, and perhaps even expanding it. Therefore, we strongly encourage input from our members as to what types of additional items and news articles you wish to have included.

Recently Madison's southwest neighborhoods, including Meadowood, have been the focus of considerable media attention, both positive and negative. Unfortunately, the negative publicity seems to stick more than the positive. As a result we are getting the reputation of being a "troubled" area, which in turn tends to arouse undue fears and misunderstandings among some segments of our community. On the positive side, efforts by many neighborhood and city-wide groups are beginning to reap the benefits of their hard work and vision. This includes receiving both small and not so small grants and donations to allow community improvement projects. In that vein, the MNA has recently succeeded in becoming a non-profit corporation. That means we can now seek and accept tax exempt donations and grants through which we'll be able to expand the services we provide to the community as well as sponsor more fun activities in the neighborhood.

Other recent positive developments include the completion and opening of our expanded library and community center on Raymond Road, the increasingly positive influence of Coach Assad's Mellowood Foundation youth mentoring program, the growing popularity of our Community Suppers, the increased use of the Nextdoor Meadowood site as a means of exchanging ideas and notifying neighbors of incidents of concern, and the efforts of many dedicated (and often unsung) heroes of the community who selflessly reach out to others every day despite their own busy lives. All this good work has motivated other groups that have recently been awarded sizeable grants for community projects, (e.g., the Justified Anger Coalition and the Madison Police

Department), to "target" Madison's southwest side as a worthy area upon which to focus. I applaud them but strongly encourage them to include the residents and community leaders of the area in their planning and implementation of worthwhile programs. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AT EVERY STAGE IS VITAL!

Speaking of listening to the voices of community leaders, I want to give a shout-out to the planners and organizers of the most recent "Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable". It was extremely well attended and many creative and useful ideas were exchanged. What we need now is implementation.

## Alder Matt Phair,

298-7602 [district20@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district20@cityofmadison.com)

Hi everyone. I hope this finds you well and you have had the opportunity to enjoy the fall weather. Let me get you up to date with what I have been working on lately.



### City issues:

**2016 Budget:** We are in the middle of our annual budget process right now. The Council has received the mayor's executive capital and operating budget and the full Council will have the opportunity to review, amend and adopt it. As with every year I've been on the Council, there will be difficult decisions to be made in regards to maintaining

basic services, investing in the future of our city, keeping our commitments to our employees, and being fiscally prudent in a time of austerity at the state and federal levels.

Of course, there is a lot in the budget but here are some highlights that will specifically effect our neighborhoods.

**Midtown Police Station**—The mayor took funding for construction of a new police station, and the correlating creation of a sixth police district, out of the capital budget improvement plan. In other words, he proposes to put off building that station for at least five years. As of last year, the plan was to begin construction in 2016. I agree with so many of my constituents who have reached out to me about this topic; it is past time that this station gets built so pressure can be alleviated from the overburdened West District. It is anticipated that to compliment a new district, 8-10 positions will be added to the department staff. I and eight of my colleagues sponsored an amendment that passed the Board of Estimates (the city's finance committee) which puts construction for the station back on line for next year. The full Council will have to approve that at its final budget deliberations on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Neighborhood Centers**—While capital dollars for construction or renovation of neighborhood centers has been cut dramatically in the executive budget, funding for renovation of the Griff's property on McKenna Blvd. is included. I know that this particular neighborhood center will not be in Meadowood, but it will impact our neighbors. The early idea is that this center will be programmed with employment in mind; skills training, placement, etc. Many folks from Meadowood can benefit from these type of services. In fact, the Council just authorized the city to seek bids for design work on that property. Conversations and community engagement about more specific types of programming for that site will be starting very soon.

**Youth employment**— In response to last spring's high level violence in our city Alder Maurice Cheeks and I began to explore ways to systematically deal with the issue. The first thing we decided to focus on is youth employment. We know that a significant portion of our young people, especially kids of color in low-income families, get entangled in and/or are influenced by violent behavior. We also know that when young people have summer and/or year-round part time employment, their propensity to commit crimes or be a party to criminal behavior decreases—dramatically. So, I spent a lot of my summer reading, thinking and talking to people about the best way to “do” youth employment. That said, we have a long way to go but there are several agencies in town that are currently partly funded by the city who serve kids very well in youth employment. I met with those agencies and we worked out how they increase the number of kids they serve and how they could collaborate with each other to do it better. I advocated to the mayor to increase funding in the operating budget for youth employment, he did but I sponsored an amendment to increase that by \$125,000. It passed the Board of Estimates unanimously.

#### **Neighborhood projects:**

**Department of Justice Byrne Planning Grant**—The Madison Police Department in partnership with Common Wealth Development and UW-Milwaukee was recently awarded a planning grant of \$155,000. The grant will focus on the Raymond Rd. corridor with the goals to help overcome social divisions, improve trust between police and residents, and reduce crime within southwest Madison. The effort will be led by a project manager hired by Common Wealth Development working closely with many, many residents and the police department. This is very exciting news and I look forward to being a part of this work. If you'd like more understanding of the goals and objectives of this grant I'd encourage you to read Chief Koval's recent blog about it at: [www.cityofmadison.com/police/chief/blog/?Id=7917](http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/chief/blog/?Id=7917)

**Justified Anger's focus in Southwest Madison**—Another recent positive development is the announcement that Justified Anger will start its work by focusing on a geographic area that includes the Theresa-Hammersley neighborhood as well as other challenged areas in

southwest Madison. They are at the very beginning phases of this particular focus, so I do not know a lot of details in regards to how they will go about their work or what their specific goals are. However, I am very encouraged that this innovative and influential project will take place in our neighborhoods.

There are so many more issues and projects that I am involved with that affect Meadowood and the city. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like to discuss any of them or anything else that interests or concerns you.

#### **Message from State Representative Lisa Subeck**



Hello neighbors,

For those of you who don't know, I am your representative in the state assembly. I would like to take this opportunity to share news with you from the state capitol, winter preparation alerts, and information about how to reach me if I may be of assistance to you.

Here at the capitol, we are finishing out our fall floor period.

To stay up to date on the latest news from the capitol, I encourage you to sign up for my weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to subscribe, you can visit [www.legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/78/subeck](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/78/subeck) and click “subscribe to my newsletter,” email [Rep.Subeck@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Subeck@legis.wisconsin.gov), or call my office at 608-266-7521.

With fall coming to an end, it means the holiday season is upon us. I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. I hope these winter tips from our state agencies will help you and your family prepare for a safe holiday season:

Winter storms mean our state's roads are more dangerous than ever. In the last five years, Wisconsin has averaged 18,000 motor vehicle crashes during winter months. To avoid driving in a winter storm check for the latest weather status here: [www.511wi.gov](http://www.511wi.gov) or call 5-1-1.

Winter conditions mean slower going for all motorists. Allow additional time to travel to your destination and allow more distance to stop. Bus routes will remain open when possible. Make sure your car's battery is in good shape – cold temperatures can reduce the effectiveness of a battery by *50 percent*. Make sure your tires are suitable for winter driving conditions. Carry a winter storm survival kit in your car. You can find more information about winter storm survival kits by visiting [readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://readywisconsin.wi.gov).

Use caution when using alternative heating sources such as space heaters, ensure proper working condition and replace filters often. Confirm that *all* smoke alarms are in working condition. Wisconsin state law requires a smoke alarm on each floor level and in the area adjacent to furnaces.

When leaving your home unattended for several days, keep the thermostat set at 55 degrees or higher, and have a friend check your house to make sure it is warm enough to keep your pipes from freezing. If you will be away for a substantial length of time, you can also shut off and drain your entire water system.

Though Wisconsin winters can be cold and dangerous, they can also be a great time to get out and enjoy what our state has to offer. Our state parks have a lot going on in the winter months. If you have the right equipment and warm clothes, winter is a great time for camping with no crowds and no bugs. In addition to camping, there are plenty of activities to take part in, such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, animal tracking, bird watching and ice fishing. For more information visit: [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov). Get out and enjoy the season!

As your state representative, I am here to help you. If I can be of assistance in any matter please feel free to call or visit my office at the state capitol.

### Chief Koval's Blog

MPD Partners with Community Agencies for a New Restorative Justice-Based Program for Juveniles 12-16 Years of Age.

Issues of racial disparity in Dane County have been well-chronicled. Whether the context be education, economics or the criminal justice system, the sad fact remains that people of color are starkly impacted. In the near future, an ad hoc committee convened by the City will examine our policies, procedures, and training to see--among many items up for consideration-- whether there are any systems currently in place that may have unintended deleterious effects. MPD welcomes the opportunity to be a part of this review and I am hopeful that constructive suggestions can be brought forward. I am also confident that this committee will be provided a first-hand look at a number of things the Department is currently doing in the area of systems improvements, building trust and community engagement.

Earlier in the year, MPD formed a partnership with Dane County Human Services staff and the District Attorney's Office to create and participate in a "Community Restorative Court" (CRC) pilot project. Thanks to funding provided through the Dane County Executive Budget, we now have a program that launched on the southwest side of Madison to address misdemeanor violations for qualifying offenders between the ages of 17-25 in a restorative justice model (as opposed to the formal criminal justice system). Granted, this is a "baby" step that is modest as an initial offering, but the potential for expanding the eligible offenses and the reach of the program (geographically) holds great promise.

Most recently (September), MPD launched another new restorative justice-based model for juveniles (12-16 years of age\*) to whom we have issued a city ordinance citation. Unlike the pilot project in the southwest corridor, this initiative will have citywide application. In a review of the citations issued in 2014, juveniles of color comprised a significant majority of those who received tickets. As these are forfeiture actions (i.e., non-crimes), the municipal court has limited authority and few resources that can be offered to those youths who are having adverse contacts with law enforcement. Ironically, our juvenile system is structured in such a way that a youth must commit crimes before any meaningful interventions with social services agencies can occur. With this new initiative, we are working with community partners to implement a restorative justice based procedure in lieu of formally referring 12-16 year old offenders to the Madison Municipal Court. Under this newly-forged option, the juvenile can access a host of services that could not otherwise be obtained under a conventional/traditional referral process.

By way of illustration, all MPD officers who believe that a non-traffic ordinance citation is legally appropriate to issue to a 12-16 year old offender will provide the individual with a copy of a brochure which explains how they can opt in to participate in a new program. The YWCA, Dane County

**responsiblenergy**

**turn it down  
when you're not around**



Save energy and money this winter. Turn back your thermostat while asleep or at work. Each degree can save 1% on your heating bill. If we all setback 1°, we'll save enough gas for 3,100 homes. Bigger setbacks save even more.

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BS1181 12/28/2012

Human Services, Dane County TimeBank, Madison Municipal Court and MPD are working as partners in this venture. Should the juvenile elect to pursue this pilot program, the brochure describes how they can initiate contact with the YWCA Restorative Justice Program. The YWCA currently has a contract with Dane County Human Services to provide restorative justice alternatives and to coordinate the referral process. The YWCA and Dane County TimeBank will also be teaming up to provide services (i.e., peer circles or peer court, similar to those already being used in Madison high schools).

The YWCA will notify MPD when the offender completes the restorative justice process, or if they fail to complete it. MPD will re-issue citations to offenders who enroll but do not complete the requirements of the program; these matters will be referred back to Municipal Court for traditional resolutions. The "beauty" of a restorative justice process is that the program still holds youth accountable for their actions by trained peers who can assist the juvenile in fostering healing relationships with those in the community who have been harmed by the actions of the violator. There is an affirmative attempt to make the community "whole" again by finding an appropriate and compatible fit that identifies something the youth can relate to with a mechanism for "service" returned to the community

MPD will continue to explore other program options that balance keeping communities safe and restored, holding people accountable for their behavior(s), and finding alternatives to traditional brick-and-mortar criminal justice "solutions."

\*It should be noted that this program can only extend to juveniles under the age of 17. Under current Wisconsin law, a person 17 years of age or older who is alleged to have violated a criminal law (or non-status offense ordinances), is automatically waived into an adult court. There is currently a bill before the State Legislature that would return 17 year olds back to the jurisdiction of juvenile courts. I support this change as another way to avoid having youthful offenders (still in high school) of being thrust into adult courts and premature entries into Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP).

#### LIBRARY VOLUNTEER NEEDED

**Meadowood Library needs someone to water their plants weekly and occasionally repot them. Time needed is estimated to be about one-half hour per week. If you are interested, please contact Alice Oakey, Supervising Librarian, 608-243-0171, [Aoakey@madisonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:Aoakey@madisonpubliclibrary.org)**



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## Meadowood Neighborhood Association Leads the Way Supporting MidTown Police Station

The Meadowood Neighborhood Association board of directors voted unanimously as an organization to support the funding for the construction of the proposed MidTown Police Station. MNA, was the first such organization in Aldermanic District 20 to do so. Following MNA's lead both Prairie Hills and Orchard Ridge neighborhoods passed similar resolutions of support and like MNA conveyed their action to both the mayor and alders.

This communication is important, as the full city council will take up the matter at its meeting on Nov. 10 starting at 5 pm., 210 MLK Jr. Blvd. Citizens are encouraged to attend that meeting to testify to keep the funding in the 2016-17 City Capital Budget. Persons attending can speak for five minutes and also register in support. Your presence at the meeting will show the broad support for the construction and give alders a strong reason to vote in support.

A grassroots effort has also been mounted by MNA co-liaisons, Dave Glomp and Merle Bengston. They are urging every citizen in the west and south police districts to write personal letters to the mayor and alders expressing their individual support. Most of you know that the west police district is the largest of the five police districts in Madison encompassing more than 185,000 people and covering nearly 30 square miles geographically. One of the primary focuses of the new police station will be to shorten the response times of officers who receive calls for service from citizens calling 911.

By roughly dividing the size of the current district in half when the new station is up and running, police will be able to more effectively and efficiently serve the many neighborhoods in the west and south districts. It will actually enhance citywide policing due to the new configuration of the five districts. To give you some idea of just how big the current district is, if it was not part of Madison and was its own city, it would be the fifth largest city in Wisconsin!

We hope to see many of the MNA neighbors at the Nov. 10 meeting and if you can't make it please send a note to the mayor and alders expressing your support. Thank You!

## New Senior Meal Program Opening

At the Meadowood Neighborhood Center, 5740 Raymond beginning **Tuesday, November 24, 2015 (Thanksgiving dinner) (Closed on Nov 26<sup>th</sup>)**

Cost of the meal for anyone 60+ is a donation. Suggested donation is \$4.00, but you only pay what you can afford. So everyone can afford to eat! Cost for anyone under 60 is \$7.50.

Bus transportation is available for a \$1.00 donation. Walkers and wheelchairs can be accommodated.

Make meal and bus reservations before noon the day before by calling the West Madison Senior Center at **238-0196**.

Vegetarian and low salt meals are available. Please order when making reservations. Food is catered by Gaylord Catering.

Menus and information about our other three mealsites are in the West Madison Senior Coalition newsletter available at all westside libraries.

These meals are sponsored by a grant from the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, the Dane County Area Agency on Aging, the West Madison Senior Coalition, and the Meadowood Neighborhood Center.

Fill out a form to win a gift certificate for a free meal at the Meadowridge Library or the Meadowood Neighborhood Center.

### Volunteers Needed

Call Mary at 238-7368, ext. 12.

Would you like to volunteer to help with the meals or be on a planning committee ?

We are training volunteers on Nov 10 and 12, Nov 17 and 19 and we need people (60+) those days to practice on. Are you free and willing to act as our "guinea pigs"?

Lunch will be served to you and you will be asked to give us your feedback. Cost of the meal will be a donation,

**Saturday Playgroup at University Houses Preschool**  
Come along to play, chat and sing with your little ones. Bring a snack and talk to other families while the kids enjoy the toys and dramatic play area.

Saturdays, 10:30- Noon, November 14, December 12 and January 9, February 13, March 12, April 9, and May 14.

6033 Odana Road, Madison, WI 53719

Bring your friends! Everyone is welcome at this free, fun event.

Grupo de juego de los sábados en University Houses Preschool

Vengan a jugar, conversar y cantar con sus pequeños. Traigan un refrigerio y conversen con otras familias mientras los niños usan los juguetes y el área de juegos imaginativos de la escuela.

Sábados de 10:30 am a 12:00 del mediodía.

Fechas: 14 de noviembre, 12 de diciembre, 9 de enero, 13 de febrero, 12 de marzo, 9 de abril y 14 de mayo.

6033 Odana Road, Madison, WI 53719

¡Inviten a sus amigos! Todos son bienvenidos a este evento divertido y gratuito.

Happy Holidays from the MNA!

MNA 2016 Board of Directors:

President: Krista Ralston  
 Vice President: Sally Stix  
 Secretary: Krista Wozniak  
 Treasurer: Lisa Schulz

Area Representatives

Area 1: Sally Stix  
 Area 2: Krista Ralston  
 Area 3: [vacant]  
 Area 4: Dottie Loehrer  
 Area 5: [vacant]  
 Area 6: [vacant] (two write-ins who declined the position)  
 Area 7: Lisa Schulz  
 Area 8: Mark and Janice Bauman  
 Area 9: Marty and Terry Evanson  
 Area 10: Krista Wozniak  
 Area 11: Linda Kubly  
 Area 12: Patsy Ragland  
 Area 13: Sheray Wallace  
 Area 14: [vacant]  
 Area 15: [vacant]

Please volunteer to be an Area Representative if you live in one of the vacant areas. (Areas 3, 5, and 6 are located primarily south of Raymond Rd. and west of Gilbert Rd. Areas 14 and 15 include primarily the apartment buildings and duplexes on Russett Rd., Cameron Rd. and the south side of Raymond Rd.)

The History of Lake Mendota in the Palm of Your Hands  
 by Don Sanford

Have you ever wondered why someone built a road across Lake Mendota's North Bay? Or perhaps you want to know when a sea serpent was last spotted, or if your friend *really did* swim across the lake many years ago.

The answers to these questions, and many more, can be found in my recently published book, *On Fourth Lake: A Social History of Lake Mendota*. It is the story of the people, places and events that have shaped the shoreline of Lake Mendota, Madison's greatest lake, as we know it today—the story of Native people, settlers, iceboaters, sailors, fishers, hunters, explorers, politicians, entertainers, lifeguards, boat captains, inventors, scientists and Olympians, much of it in their own words.

I spent over a decade preparing this social history of Lake Mendota. My work combines the personal experiences of people who lived, worked and played on the lake with the events that shaped Madison, the Badger State and the nation.

The first book of its kind, *On Fourth Lake* takes you on a guided tour around Lake Mendota, looking at the lakeshore from the water. It is richly illustrated with more than 500 maps, newspaper articles and photographs. Many of the images were sourced from private collections and have never before been available to the public. This book is a must-have

for anyone who spends time on Lake Mendota or has an interest in the history of Madison and Dane County.

A Lake Mendota mariner, I am a member of the Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club, past Commodore of the Mendota Yacht Club, and Commodore of the International Nite Ice Yacht Class Association. I hold a 100-ton Masters License, Great Lakes and Inland Waters. Since 2006, I have been a captain for Betty Lou Cruises in Madison. I also host Madison School & Community Recreation's (MSCR) Lake Mendota celebrity cruises.

You may order *On Fourth Lake* online at: [LakeMendotaHistory.com](http://LakeMendotaHistory.com). The following Madison book and museum stores also carry the book: University Book Store, A Room of One's Own, Mystery to Me, and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art museum store. Visit the website for a list of upcoming book events. I can be reached at [Don@LakeMendotaHistory.com](mailto:Don@LakeMendotaHistory.com), (608) 225-7520.

**Bryan Stevenson Visits MPD's Academy**

Chief Koval October 27, 2015 2:30 PM

MPD was honored to host Bryan Stevenson who spoke to our recruit class on Monday, October 26. Stevenson is a New York Times Bestselling author of *Just Mercy*, a book which also won the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. The University chose Stevenson's book as the featured "Go Big Read" for the campus and community-wide reading initiative.

Stevenson's titles include defense attorney, activist, law professor and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). His capacity to engage and enlighten his audience(s) are both inspiring and motivational. Stevenson has won national acclaim for his work defending those most in need – the wrongly convicted, children, and the mentally ill. His challenging discussions on mass incarceration and excessive punishments are particularly concerning in examining the inequities of the criminal justice system. *Just Mercy* chronicles how "justice" has decidedly different outcomes for those who are persons of color and poor than for those who have means. . . and Stevenson has spent his entire adult life acting as an advocate for the "voiceless."

Stevenson described his work with EJI and a broken criminal justice system. His staggering statistical description of those who are either in prison or jail, on probation or parole, disenfranchised from ever being able to vote, and the consequences of how "getting tough on crime" legislation has branded millions in our midst left many of us dazed and discouraged. Stevenson's life experiences and the various cases he related are simultaneously provocative, sad, and oftentimes triumphant.

For those who have not had a chance to experience Bryan Stevenson, I strongly urge you to get the book or at least watch his TED talk presentation ([https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan\\_stevenson\\_we\\_need\\_to\\_talk\\_about\\_an\\_injustice?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice?language=en))