



Midvale Messenger

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

Calendar:

November 8: Election Day, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

November 29: MHCA Board Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Sequoya Branch Library (note that this is the 5th Tuesday of the month).

There is no MHCA Board meeting in December.

December 15: MHCA Santa Visits (see page 2 for details).

December 15: Copy deadline for January-February *Messenger*.



MIDVALE MESSENGER

The Midvale Messenger is published six times a year by the Midvale Heights Community Association. Copy deadlines are the 15th of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

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President's Message

Civic Participation Matters— And Takes Many Forms

by Joy Cardin

There was a strong turnout of voters at Sequoya Library on the first day of in-person absentee voting (early voting) before the important November 8, 2022, election. When I arrived at the library to prepare for MHCA's annual meeting just before 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25, there was a steady stream of early voters who had ventured out on a cold, rainy night—eager to cast their ballots. It will be interesting to see if Madison can top its record turnout of 92 percent in the 2018 midterms. Our community clearly knows that voting matters!

Whatever the outcome is on Election Day, I urge you to stay involved in civic life and make your voice heard in ALL elections. The 2023 spring election of non-partisan local and state offices will be as important as this November's. We will decide who serves on the Madison City Council and in the Mayor's office as well as choose a new Justice who will sit on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The holders of these positions have much influence over the issues that affect our daily lives. The MHCA is ready to bring you local candidate forums in contested primaries.

I also urge you to get involved with your local neighborhood association. The MHCA is looking for volunteers to serve as area directors (board members) and in our various sponsored activities. We would also appreciate your ideas for new activities in the neighborhood. Perhaps you can start a new tradition. Those who attended the 2022 MHCA annual meeting in October elected directors representing our even-numbered areas (2-14) for the next two years. Thank you to the MHCA board members who have been serving for many years and those who were recently appointed. A map of the Midvale Heights Areas and a list of officers and directors can be found at midvale-heights.org. Please reach out to your area director or to me (cardinjoy@gmail.com) if you would like to be more involved in making the Midvale Heights neighborhood an even greater place for everyone to live!

Neighborhood News Briefs

Friends of Sequoya Sponsor Summer Programs, Saturday Jazz . at Library

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Friends of Sequoya Library want to thank our generous Midvale community for their book and AV donations. We also want to thank those who purchase books from the Friends' shelves at Sequoya Library and purchase books during the First Saturday sales at our Shop. The proceeds allowed us to provide summer programs and children's reading incentives. This fall, we also sponsored Saturday Jazz at Sequoya.

Books can be donated at the Friends of Sequoya Book Shop in Market Square on Mondays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and noon. Donations are also



being accepted at Sequoya Library, but we request that large donations are brought to the

shop. We also have a volunteer who picks up larger donations. For pickup, call the shop at 608-288-9848 and leave a message. Our next sales will be on December 3 and 17. Our first sale of 2023 will be on January 7. For more information, check out our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/>

Calling All Writers



In the past, the *Midvale Messenger* has included regular feature columns on gardening, neighbors with interesting jobs or hobbies, the housing market in Midvale Heights, and other topics written by neighbors that we hope made the *Messenger* interesting and useful to our readers. With writers moving on or retiring, we have not had any regular columnists for some time.

We would like to again feature these (and other) topics, and we are looking for volunteers to report on areas they are interested/expert in that might also be of interest to other MHCA members. If you would like to write a column, please contact our newsletter editor, Dustin Beilke, at dustinbeilke@yahoo.com to discuss your ideas.

News From the MHCA Green Team

If you remember “Let’s Talk Climate, Let’s Talk Recycling” or “Let’s Talk Gardening,” sponsored by the Green Team and Sequoya Library, then you might be happy to know there will be information about the next “Let’s Talk” series in the January-February Midvale Messenger. There could be a speaker on the benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act or presentations by organizations or businesses that offer services to help us be more energy efficient and climate friendly. Please email Wendy at wendyweber@att.net with questions.

Santa Claus is Coming To. . .Midvale Heights!!

Santa Claus will be visiting Midvale Heights on the evening of Thursday, December 15. Santa will stay outside this year and will be stopping at porches throughout our neighborhood, bringing early Christmas wishes to neighborhood children and their families.

Given his very busy December schedule, Santa has asked us to help him with his travel arrangements. If you would like Santa to visit your home, please contact SantaVisits@midvaleheights.org or 608-622-

5388 (text ok) and his elves will discuss the details of his visit with you!

Because he is so busy, Santa is looking for volunteers to help him during his visit. Jolly men are particularly welcome, but there are many small ways to help out for this special event. If you have volunteered in the past, you know how much fun it is. If you know someone who fits the bill, please encourage them to contact SantaVisits@midvaleheights.org or 608-622-5388.



Happy Holidays!

Dane County Making Investments in Mental and Behavioral Health Resources for 2022 and Beyond

by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi



**Dane County Executive
Joe Parisi**

Each year around this time, local leaders set work priorities for the coming year by building a budget. As County Executive, I take what I hear from you throughout the year and create a vision for a county government that works the way you want it to. What we have in store in 2023 reflects what you tell us time and time again—a desire for highly livable communities where empathy and compassion for our most vulnerable thrive.

We are now only weeks away from being the first county government in the region to achieve 100% renewable energy status—meaning we will soon produce more clean electricity through our solar developments than all our facilities

use. We are leading the way on the hard work needed to stem the advance of climate change, setting the template for how communities can become both more sustainable and resilient.

We're also advancing our work to improve access to behavioral health services. My 2023 budget adds more teams of mental health professionals in our schools and our rural sheriff's precincts and adds staff to our Dane County Behavioral Health Resource Center, which continues to see increasing call volumes. These comprehensive efforts will improve access to mental health care.

Dane County's 2023 budget infuses \$6 million into our food pantries and local growers to keep Dane County's "Farm to Foodbank" initiative going through the coming year. Teamed with another \$1.5 million to build a new pantry and \$2 million in emergency food grant awards, we can help buffer the impacts of high grocery prices on those in need.

In the midst of all the noise and distraction of these times, it can be easy to tune out—but it's important people know that their county government is hard at work, always innovating and building smarter ways to do the work they value.

It's an honor to serve as your County Executive, and I'm grateful for all of the ideas I have received from you this year—ideas that in turn shaped the 2023 Dane County budget.

Town Hall Meeting Focuses on Housing, Transportation

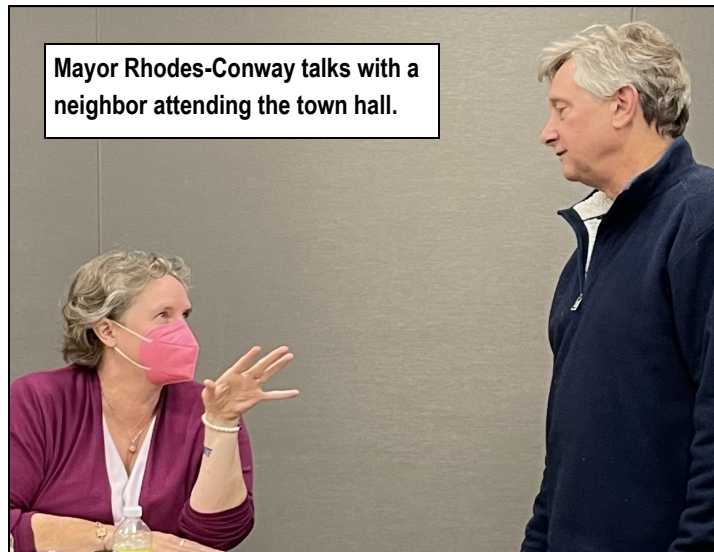
By Denise Lamb

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway addressed concerns about housing and transportation at a Town Hall meeting attended by residents of Midvale Heights and other neighborhoods in District 10 on Monday, October 24. The event was organized by District 10 Alder Bill Tischler.

Rhodes-Conway advised attendees that Madison is suffering from a severe housing shortage, noting that the city needs 4,000 additional housing units now and will need 2,000 more units each year for the foreseeable future. She noted that the current housing market would be graded “unhealthy” with its 3% vacancy rate: A 6% rate is considered a healthy rental market.

While working to ensure a fair rental market, the city also supports home ownership by sponsoring classes to “get people ready to buy” by explaining how to budget to save for a down payment and helping seniors to stay in their homes.

The city is also trying to make home ownership easier by adjusting laws regarding how many unrelated people can live in “single-family housing” and loosening regulations on “accessory dwellings” (AKA “grannie flats”) that can share a lot with an existing home.



Mayor Rhodes-Conway talks with a neighbor attending the town hall.

The mayor also discussed Madison’s efforts to increase housing density near transit routes to make public transportation accessible to increased numbers of Madison residents.

For more information on what was discussed at the town hall meeting, you can view a video of the entire session at:

<https://media.cityofmadison.com/Mediasite/Channel/neighborhoodmeeting/watch/be4f41e3b0c7430e9a2bab38a0b5f55b1d>



News From the County Board: Budget Amendment Would Fill Gaps in Reproductive Health Care

by Cecely Castillo, Dane County Supervisor, District 7



Fall in Dane County brings us fall color, crisp mornings, and the Dane County budget process. The budget process involves two separate budgets: the operating budget and the capital budget. The County Executive's proposed budget, along with county supervisor amendments, have been making their way through the various committees in the past few weeks.

The Personnel and Finance Committee started taking up the budget and amendments in late October, and the full Dane County Board starts its deliberations on November 7. I am closely following the numerous proposals and investments in the budget to reduce homelessness in our community, protect our lakes and waterways, support the Henry Vilas Zoo, and expand healthcare access for people in Dane County.

I authored a budget amendment that would add two full-time patient navigator positions within Public Health Madison & Dane County to address gaps in reproductive health care in the post *Roe v. Wade* world we are living in. This will allow the Public Health department to connect patients with the healthcare they need, and also add capacity for the prenatal care coordination which has seen a steep increase in demand over the past few years. I am optimistic that these two positions will be included and pass in both the City and County budgets, and that these patient navigators will be hard at work directly assisting people in our community in 2023.

To learn more about the Dane County budget or to reach out to me and/or other supervisors on items and topics you care about, please visit <https://board.countyofdane.com/budget>. I'd love to hear from you and am available to answer your questions about Dane County issues.



Good Neighbor

by **Bill Tishler, Alder, City of Madison District 11**



We all have those neighbors who seem to be too good to be true. They keep their yards looking better than ours, always shovel their driveways and sidewalks first thing in the morning, and then proceed to help other neighbors who need assistance after a big snowstorm. They walk around the neighborhood picking up trash, take in others' recycling and trash bins that tip over in the road, never rake leaves into the street, clear out the storm gutters, and check in periodically on elderly residents. They set a high standard and care about those living around them.

In the 2003 book, *The World According to Mister Rogers*, published shortly after his death, Fred Rogers said, "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to

bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

Unfortunately, not all of us live in the world that Mister Rogers inspires us to work toward. Since becoming your Alder I have been getting phone calls and emails from many of you who live in District 11 about various residents who don't seem to respect those living around them. Maybe it's the person with uncollected bags of yard waste piled up in front of their house. Maybe it's the person

with multiple trucks parked in front of your house. Maybe it's the person with the barking dog. No matter the reason, be a good neighbor and talk with them and try to work towards a resolution. The City of Madison also has resources available to help residents address problems such as noise violations, snow removal, overgrown vegetation, and so on. To report a problem in your neighborhood, visit <https://www.cityofmadison.com/reportaproblem/>. You are not required to provide your name when you report an issue. However, adding your name gives the city some measure of credibility regarding the complaint and provides us with a point of contact for any follow-up questions.

Have a beautiful day in the neighborhood!

MHCA Annual Meeting Brought Treats but No Tricks

It was a dark and stormy night, but a small, hearty group of MHCA members attended the annual meeting to elect Area Directors, hear neighborhood news from MHCA president Joy Cardin, and learn about the work of the Dane County Humane Society Wildlife Center from guest Jackie Sandberg, the Wildlife Program Manager at the Center.

Sandberg provided information and pictures related to rehabilitating injured wild animals. She shared some of the highlights and challenges of wildlife rehabilitation from the past year, how the DCHS Wildlife Center strives to release rehabbed animals back into the wild, and how you can determine if an animal or bird is ill, injured, or orphaned and what you should do (and not do) to help, stressing that young birds and animals are rarely abandoned by their parents. More likely—the parents are out searching for food for their babies, and the best way humans can help is to leave the offspring alone.

The meeting also featured Halloween treats and a drawing to receive one of four composting bins donated by the city for residents' use. Winners were Denise Lamb, Lorie Raihala, Janine

Even Area Directors for 2022-2024

Area 2	Joy Cardin
Area 4	Jim Thoreson
Area 6	Elizabeth Mackey
Area 8	Lorie Raihala
	Tom Jarvis
Area 10	Wendy Weber
	Dustin Beilke
Area 12	Gregory Fischer
Area 14	John Lager

Veto, and Simon Arno.

Attendees also elected area directors for 2022-2024, with the directors listed here. These directors will serve until November 2024, and will vote to elect the board's officers at their November board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, November 29. (Note that this is the fifth and not the fourth Tuesday of November.)

