



# Midvale Messenger

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

## Calendar:

**January 7:** Friends of Sequoya Book Sale, Friends Shop in Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**January 24:** MHCA board meeting and Madison Library Planner via Zoom only, 6:45-8:00 pm.

**February 4:** Friends of Sequoya Book Sale, Friends Shop in Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**February 4:** Let's Talk The Inflation Reduction Act with the MHCA Green Team and Dane County Office of Energy and Climate, Sequoya Library, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

**February 21:** Spring Primary Election Day

**February 28:** MHCA board meeting, 6:45-8:00 p.m., Sequoya Branch Library.

### 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

### Happy New Year from the Midvale Heights Community Association

by Joy Cardin

Established in 1954, the Midvale Heights Community Association is one of the oldest neighborhood associations in the city. Now, nearly 70 years later, your MHCA Board of Directors and other neighborhood volunteers continue efforts to make our community a better place for all to live, work, learn and play.

Throughout 2022, we continued to sponsor or support a variety of civic activities including youth baseball in the spring, our annual picnic in June, the Summer Nights concert series in July, the neighborhood garage sale in September, and Santa visits in December.

We arranged opportunities for you to meet and talk with your new City Council and County Board representatives, our Green Team organized forums on environmental topics, and we heard about how to help our neighborhood wildlife at our annual meeting in October. We also started sponsoring blood donation drives with the American Red Cross of Wisconsin and Sequoya Library in 2022. We will continue all of these activities and more in 2023.

We need your help in spreading the word about the Midvale Heights Community Association's activities and services. If you have a newer neighbor, or even someone who's been living here for a while but might not be reading this newsletter right now, tell them they can find it on the [midvaleheights.org](http://midvaleheights.org) website along with other information about life in our community. Let's help make Midvale Heights the best neighborhood it can be in 2023.

### Madison Library Planner Seeking Public Input at MHCA January Board Meeting

Madison Library Planner Rynn Kerkhove will join the Midvale Heights Community Association meeting on January 24 at 6:45pm to explain the library's strategic planning process and to gather your feedback. The meeting will be held via Zoom only:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9948378693?pwd=TlpLdWw4QjhGMlZnR1drZVozekZwUT09>

Meeting ID: 994 837 8693

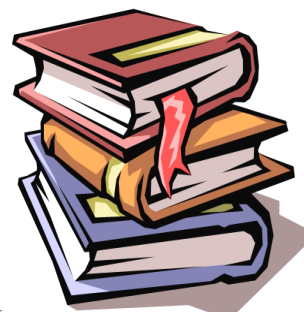
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## **Friends of the Sequoya Look Forward to Continued Support in 2023** **by Nadine Pfothenhauer**

As the Friends of Sequoya put up our 2023 calendar, we look back on another wonderful year of support from the community which translates into materials and programs for our beloved Sequoya Branch Library. Your donations of books, CDs, DVDs, games & puzzles, and the faithful shoppers at our book sales have kept our support for Sequoya going strong. Thank you so much! Your support has enabled us to commit funding for Jazz at Sequoya in 2023. Our next sales at the Friends Shop in Market Square will be from 9 to 4 on January 7, February 4 and March 4. We also have books at the Sequoya Branch on the shelves and a cart near our work room. Volunteers are at the Shop on Mondays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and noon to accept book donations. 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. If this is needed, call the shop at 608-288-9848 and leave a message. Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/>. If you would like to become a volunteer or a sup-

porting member of the Friends of Sequoya ask at the Sequoya reference desk for information or a membership brochure.



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## **Tune In To Midvale Heights' Own Radio Station**

**by Carl Wacker**

Did you know the Midvale Heights neighborhood has its own radio station? WIDE-LP, 99.1 FM broadcasts 24/7 from a site on Orchard Drive. We are an FCC authorized, non-commercial radio station with a range of a few miles. WIDE-LP broadcasts a mix of talk shows and "music off the beaten track". We provide programming not easily available elsewhere, air neighborhood news, and provide an opportunity for residents to develop and host their own programs, serve on the Board, or volunteer as a Friend of WIDE LP, helping with outreach.

In March 2022, we began adding music from Ukraine, which pops up during the weekly "World Music Hour" each Wednesday from 9 to 10 p.m., and on the 11 p.m. to midnight hour on

Friday night. In addition, from time to time, music from Ukrainian artists or groups can be heard during "Featured 'til 5" where each weekday, between the end of the 4 p.m. talk show and the start of the 5 p.m. talk show, a particular artist or group is featured all week.

Our little volunteer-operated, local radio station always welcomes more local involvement. If you'd like to know more about the station, please tune in. Or, visit our web page at: <http://widelp.org>. We're able to stay on the air because of our dedicated volunteers and supporters, and thanks to generous grants from the City of Madison Neighborhood Grant Program and the Midvale Heights Community Association. If you would like to get involved, please email: [radio@widelp.org](mailto:radio@widelp.org). We'd love to have your help!

## Madison's Housing Crisis Spawns Development Conflicts

by Bill Tishler

District 11 Madison City Council

Madison is ranked one of the best places to live in the United States and the fastest growing city in Wisconsin. I have lived half a century in the city of Madison and witnessed our population nearly double in size. This rapid growth has created a housing crisis and prompted many elected officials to search for ways to build more housing anywhere and everywhere possible.

This brings to mind something Winston Churchill is credited for having once said: "Never let a good crisis go to waste."

The city's Plan Commission recently approved increasing housing along the city's bus rapid transit lines. In our district, the new Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) would rezone from single-family to multi-family housing a stretch of 1/4 mile on either side of the Bus Rapid Transit route that runs through the Hill Farms neighborhood. Originally, residents were told historic districts like Hill Farms would be excluded from the plan, but an amendment to add them was approved by the Transportation Planning and Policy Board at their December 5, 2022 meeting. The Plan Commission approved it the following week.

In a December 11, 2022, letter to the Plan Commission opposing the addition of the historic districts to the TOD, Joe Keyes wrote, *"I was chairperson for the University Hill Farms Neighborhood Plan adopted by the Madison Common Council on January 5, 2016. That neighborhood plan contemplated dense development with the addition of 2,000 carefully located apartment units. Our committee worked with city staff to assure the dense development would integrate and harmonize with the residential neighborhood of single-family homes."*



The later 2018 Comprehensive Plan for the city of Madison included recommendations to add Transit-Oriented Development overlay districts in the City's zoning ordinances to increase housing in select areas. However, this same 2018 plan also recommended a strategy to preserve historic and special places that tell the story of Madison and reflect racially and ethnically diverse cultures and histories.

We are now at a crossroads with the addition of historic districts into the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). As the city moves toward addressing both the housing crisis and reducing our dependence on automobiles, we cannot let the BRT be used as a vehicle for unnecessary changes to zoning in historic districts. Policymakers need to respect the time and effort residents and city staff put into years of planning or risk eroding public support and confidence in our city government.

## **Dane County Board: Looking Back and Looking Ahead**

**by Aaron Collins**

**District 10 Dane County Board Supervisor**

Hello Midvale Heights Neighbors,

My name is Aaron Collins, and I'm the Dane County Board Supervisor for District 10 which includes a large portion of Midvale Heights. I hope you and your loved ones had an enjoyable and peaceful holiday season. As we enter 2023 I want to give you some updates on things I've been working on this past year on the Board, and my plans for the year ahead.

When I ran for this position, one of my top priorities was working to protect our lakes and natural spaces. As a member of the Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee I have been able to work directly on these issues. Our recently passed county budget included historic investments in clean lakes. The budget added \$2 million for the ongoing "Suck the Muck" efforts to remove phosphorus from our waterways. To date, this innovative project has removed 180,000 pounds of phosphorus and 56,000 tons of sludge from four miles of Dorn, Token, and Six-Mile Creeks that all flow toward Lake Mendota. Bottom line, this will help keep our lakes clean and lower flooding risks moving forward.

In addition to environmental efforts, I have also worked to make Dane County more accessible to all residents. I was proud to author my first resolution that passed that County Board this Fall which makes it the policy of Dane County that electric, height-adjustable universal changing stations be available in properties owned and operated by the county, where there is adequate space. This will have a real life, positive impact on people with disabilities as well as their families, caregivers, and advocates.

Everyone deserves to live with dignity and respect. Currently, families with an older child or



adult with disabilities are often faced with the reality of changing a loved one on a bathroom floor or forced to leave a public event due to a lack of adequate facilities. Having our county buildings equipped with universal, adult-sized changing stations will increase accessibility. I'm proud that Dane County is the first county in the state to set a policy like this to help those with disabilities access public spaces.

For 2023, I will continue to work on progressive environmental policies to improve our lakes and watersheds. Other legislation and issue areas I'm working on are improvements to the foster care system, helping vulnerable county residents achieve housing, and working to address racial disparities.

Happy New Year, everyone. Please never hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments, or if you'd just like to grab a cup of coffee.

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Phone: 608-512-8389



## Let's Keep Talking

*by The MHCA Green Team*



The members of the Midvale Heights Community Association Green Team are happy to continue to sponsor the Let's Talk series with Let's Talk The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) with Kathy Kuntz at Sequoya Library on Saturday, February 4, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m..

Kathy Kuntz from the Dane County Office of Energy and Climate will share information about how the IRA helps individuals and non-profits get funds to take climate action.

In August, the U.S. Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which includes the largest investment toward climate action in U.S. history. The IRA makes federal assistance available in the form of tax credits for individuals, making clean energy technologies more affordable and it will also assist local climate efforts.

As director of the Dane County's Office of Energy and Climate Change, Kathy Kunz is leading efforts to implement the Climate Action Plan. Prior to coming to Dane County, Kathy led Cool Choices and, prior to that, Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program.

This event is sponsored by the Midvale Heights Green Team and Sequoya Library.

### Let's Talk The Inflation Reduction Act

Saturday, Feb. 4, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Sequoya Library

Coffee will be available—please bring your own coffee mug or flask

### City Snow Regulations

To make public sidewalks safe for pedestrians, the owner or occupant of property immediately adjacent to a public sidewalk is responsible for the removal of any snow or ice that accumulates on the sidewalk. Residents are required to clear snow from their sidewalk by noon of the day after the snow has stopped. And remember, snowplows might create a blockage even after your drive has been cleaned.

If the removal of ice is impossible, the property owner or occupant is required to use sand, salt or other suitable substance to pre-vent the ice from being dangerous. This should be done by noon of the day after the snow/ice stopped. How much of my sidewalk do I have to clear? The Ordinance requires the property owner to clear the entire width of the sidewalk, from edge to edge.

#### What the snow removal ordinance says (MGO 10.28):

\*You are as responsible for clearing ice on your sidewalk as clearing snow. Ice can be more dangerous and intimidating than snow.

\*The sooner and more completely you shovel, the less likely ice will form. Make arrangements for someone to take over while you are on vacation.

\*If the sidewalk has not been cleared by the required time, the property owner will be issued a citation with a fine.

Be a good  
Neighbor!  
Join the  
Midvale  
Heights  
Neighborhood  
Association  
today!