



Midvale Messenger

May-June 2025

Calendar:

May 3: Friends of Sequoya Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 3: Tokay Median Spring Cleanup, 9 to noon

May 10: Bison Prairie Spring Cleanup, Midvale Blvd and South Bike Path, 11 a.m.

May 17: Friends of Sequoya Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 5: Green Team screening of "Bad River" documentary film, Sequoya Library, 6:30 p.m.

June 7: Friends of Sequoya Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 19: MHCA Annual Picnic, Segoe Park, 6 p.m.

June 21: WIDE-LP Open House + concert, 626 Orchard Dr., 2:30-3:30 p.m. +

June 24: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoya Library, 6 p.m.

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

Community Matters

By Joy Cardin

President of the Midvale Heights Community Association

You should have received or will soon receive a copy of the Membership Messenger - a printed publication hand-delivered to your door by your Area Director or another volunteer with the Midvale Heights Community Association.

The Membership Messenger is chock full of reasons why you should join or renew your membership with the Midvale Heights Community Association. For a donation of \$20 or more a year you and your family will become members of MHCA. You can join online starting May 1 or just fill out and return the MHCA membership form you'll find in the Membership Messenger. Please note we have decided to go to an annual membership period rather than a biannual membership. Everyone's membership will expire at the end of this summer and your new membership should you join or renew will be good through the end of next summer. We'll ask you to renew each year in the weeks between May and July.



Members receive the 2025-26 Midvale Heights Directory containing the names and contact information of other association members who wish to be listed. It also includes a list of neighbors who are offering to perform services like snow shoveling or babysitting. You will also receive the Midvale Heights member discount card entitling you to discounts at nearby restaurants and businesses. You will be the first to know about the digital publication of the Midvale Messenger, our bimonthly newsletter, and will be notified about upcoming events. Plus, you will get the satisfaction of knowing you have contributed to the many neighborhood activities that make Midvale Heights such a nice place to live - like the **June 19 MHCA Annual Picnic** at Segoe Park and the **Segoe Summer Nights concerts** at Segoe Park on Friday nights July 11-August 1. (Continued on page 3, See "President's Column")

Neighborhood News Briefs

WIDE-LP Open House and Music June 21

By Carl Wacker
Friends of WIDE-LP

Your neighbor Ken Skog is hosting two events on June 21 this year. That date falls on a Saturday, and you are all invited to drop in for an open house from 2:30 to 3:30. Enjoy some snacks, meet the neighborhood radio station board, and see how a 100-watt radio station can broadcast from a garage and backyard pine tree! Then stay to hear the live music starting at 3:30 as the station once again becomes a venue for Make Music Madison day.



Your Neighborhood Radio Station

Community Supported / Ad-free

Listeners sit in chairs on the front lawn while performers use the front deck at 626 Orchard Dr., weather permitting. If it rains the music will be in the nearby garage, where seating is limited, but hardy listeners with umbrellas will have standing room available in the driveway. As an alternative, tune in to 99.1 FM where at least part of the live music will be broadcast. To see this year's lineup of per-



Home Again

By Nadine Pfotenhauer
Friends of Sequoya Library

The Friends of Sequoya Book Shop received wonderful news. Play it Again Sports does not want to expand and our lease at Market Square is being renewed. We won't have to move! Our next book sales will be at the same old shop May 3 and 17, June 7, and July 5. With summer fast approaching, remember to take advantage of many summer activities and programs at

Sequoya that the Friends of Sequoya have sponsored. Thanks to the generous donations of books, CDs, DVDs, games and puzzles from our wonderful Midvale Heights neighbors and surrounding community we have the resources to generate funds for such programming. The Sequoya Friends accept donations at Sequoya Library every day. We even have our own drop slot there. We also take donations at the shop in Market Square on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. We ask that large donations are brought to the shop. If you leave a message at 608-288-9848 and we can arrange a pick up. If you have questions about donations or would like to volunteer with the Friends, ask at the Sequoya Help Desk, come to the shop to talk with us on our book sale or donation days, or leave a message on our shop phone: 608-288-9848. Find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/>



formers visit the station web page at <http://madisonwi.us/WIDE-LP/photos/MakeMusicMadison/index.htm>

in mid June. There you can see lots of photos of this annual event from years past.



Neighborhood News Briefs (continued)



Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale Set for August 29-30

This year's annual Midvale Heights Neighborhood Garage Sale will be on Friday, August 29, and Saturday, August 30 (Labor Day weekend).

Start cleaning out those closets now and watch for more information about the sale and a registration form in the July-August issue of the Midvale Messenger.

The registration link will also be available online at <http://midvaleheights.org/Annual-Neighborhood-Garage-sales> starting July 1. Registrations will be due in early August (date to be determined).



President's Column (continued from page 1)

The Midvale Heights Community Association will also help make sure your voice is heard on the local issues that matter to you. Our Madison and Dane County elected officials regularly attend our monthly meetings and MHCA can set up special forums and town hall meetings as warranted.

The MHCA board meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. (except in July and December) at (usually) Sequoya Library and via Zoom.

The upcoming May 27 MHCA meeting is an exception. We will be meeting with police officers assigned to Midvale Heights at the Madison Police Department's Midtown District building at 4020 Mineral Point Road at 6pm. You are encouraged to attend this special meeting to share any questions or concerns that you may have about public safety in Midvale Heights. We are also hoping to arrange a drone demonstration as a part of this meeting. Stay tuned for more details on our website (midvaleheights.org) and on social media.

Hope to see you there - or at another Midvale Heights Community Association event this spring and summer!

MHCA Youth Baseball Resumes the Week of June 2

By Michael Pressman
MHCA Youth Baseball
Commissioner



MHCA Baseball is a fun league for players from three to nine years old. There is T-Ball on Tuesdays, Major Coach Pitch on Wednesdays, and Minor Coach Pitch on Thursdays. The games begin the week of June 2 and are played at Segoe, Piper and Midvale parks in Midvale Heights. The season ends the week of July 22.

Each player receives a T-shirt, hat, and baseball, and the cost is \$50 per player.

If you have questions, please call Mike Pressman at (608) 288-0993 or email him at mmpressman@charter.net.



Are We on Track to Meet Madison's Housing Needs?

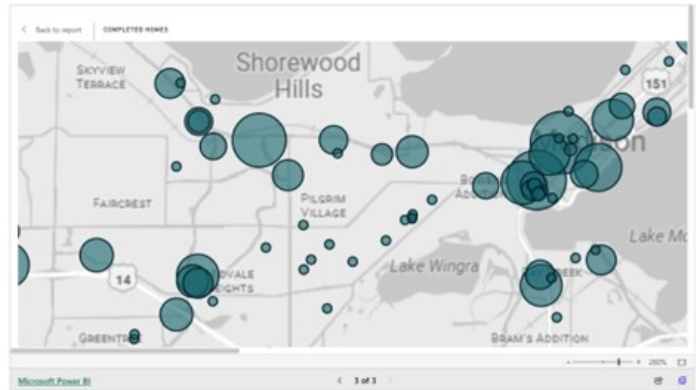
By Bill Tishler

Madison City Council District 11 Alder

According to the latest city growth projections, “the City of Madison had about 134,800 homes at the beginning of 2025 and will add more than 9,300 new households (containing approximately 18,400 people) by 2030.” To track progress toward these goals, the City of Madison recently launched the Housing Tracker, a website that provides data on new developments and compares them to housing targets. I encourage you to explore the data online on the city website. (See QR Code) <https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/community-development/housing/housing-tracker>



When I reviewed the Housing Tracker, I found that since I joined the Common Council as your Alder in 2022, over 700 new homes—including both houses and apartment units—have been built in District 11, with only one house demolished. The majority of this new housing has replaced surface parking lots, transforming underutilized spaces into apartments and condominiums with limited surface parking and increased underground parking for tenants. Sequoia Commons, University Park (formerly Westgate Shopping Mall), Madison Yards, and the redevelopment of the former M&I Bank



building at Hilldale Mall are all examples of this transformation. Turning land that once housed cars into housing for people has made a significant difference.

Adding this many apartment units in our district allows more people to live near jobs, schools, and public transit, reducing commute times and traffic congestion. This higher-density housing supports local businesses and helps create vibrant, walkable neighborhoods. Furthermore, by building more senior housing—particularly condominiums within existing neighborhoods—older residents can downsize while staying connected to their communities, potentially freeing up single-family homes for the next generation.

The Housing Tracker website is a valuable tool for assessing how to meet Madison's growing housing needs. While it currently doesn't provide data on the number of Accessible Dwelling Units (ADUs) being built, I've been informed that this information will be available in the future. Through thoughtful planning, sharing housing data, and fostering collaboration, Madison can expand housing options and continue to grow into becoming a more welcoming, livable city for all.

Upcoming Green Team Events: Two Medians and a Documentary

By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling

Tokay Median Spring Cleanup Saturday, May 3

The cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Let's try something different and make the rain date Wednesday, May 6, from 4-8 p.m. as Saturday, May 10 is Mothers Day.

Helping even just an hour is fine.

If you would like to help out and can't make those dates, please email wendyweber@att.net to learn where clean up would be appreciated.

Please bring your gloves, clippers, a rake, other garden tools you find useful, and water.

Please stop by the Green Table at the corner of Piper and Tokay to check in and enjoy some treats and coffee.

If you are interested in adopting a median, please go to this website: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/programs-initiatives/adopt-a-median>

Bison Prairie Spring Cleanup Saturday, May 10

This is another opportunity to help beautify Midvale Heights! Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Where? At Midvale Blvd. and the Southwest Bike Path heading west.

Please bring gloves and a rake.

Let's Watch and Talk about Bad River (a documentary)

Thursday, June 5, 6:30 – 8:45 p.m.

Sequoia Library Rooms A and B

Popcorn? Yes!

We are very excited to be able to offer a screening of "Bad River." Maybe you have already seen "Bad River"? How about inviting a friend and bring yourself to see it again?

The "Bad River" documentary chronicles the Wisconsin-based Bad River Band of Lake Superior or Chippewa's ongoing fight for sovereignty and protection of Lake Superior from the aging Line 5 oil pipeline. The film highlights the tribe's deep connection to the land and their resilience in the face of historical injustices and current threats, showcasing their David and Goliath battle against the pipeline and corporate interests. The documentary is produced by 50 Eggs Productions.

The documentary is being offered by the Midvale Heights Green Team and Sequoya Library.



INVASIVES: What are They and Why Should I Care?

By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling
The MHCA Green Team

The UW Arboretum describes invasives as “a plant or animal that is not native (i.e., is exotic) to a particular ecosystem and has the potential to spread widely at the expense of native species. A single species can severely impact biodiversity and alter the ecosystem’s function.”

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, expenses associated with ecological damage and control of invasive species were estimated at \$137 billion per year in 2001 in the United States and have been increasing ever since. According to the DNR, in Wisconsin alone, 2015 spending on invasive species totaled some \$8.4 million, and that doesn’t count the incalculable impact on our ecosystems, food webs and displaced native species. From the [emerald ash borer](#) to [jumping worms](#) to [scilla/Siberian Squill](#) (now blooming beautifully in our yards!) and [Dame's Rocket](#) (coming soon!), invasives are a quickly growing and [ever-more-costly problem](#).

Because the consequences are remote (e.g., parks, forests and natural areas, the UW Arboretum or roadsides) and somewhat vague, it can be easy to ignore invasives. However, as the growing season starts, one way you can “green” your yard is to eradicate any invasives you might have. Lots of these plants were sold in nurseries – some still are! The reason they were desirable is hardiness, disease resistance – and many are gorgeous. The “takeover” sometimes takes decades. Honeysuckle and buckthorn, once popular ornamental shrubs, now menace our fields, forests, ecosystems and budgets. Here’s how to help:

1. Remove. If you do have invasive plants, removing them is recommended. Eradicating invasive species can be lots of work – hello [goutweed](#). There may be expenses to remove an established [buckthorn](#) or [Callery \(AKA Bradford\) pear tree](#), for example. If you can do only one thing, removing invasives is an excellent start. (Minimally, don’t let the plant go to

seed if you can’t remove it.)

2. Prevent. Do not plant exotic ornamentals (non-native plants grown primarily for their aesthetic beauty, often due to its unique or striking features). Unfortunately, nurseries and big box stores often stock them, so they are cheap and readily accessible. One has to be more intentional about planting native.

3. Do not compost invasives, such as garlic mustard or creeping bellflower, in your home or city composting systems. Bag garlic mustard for disposal and label, “Invasive Plants – Approved by DNR for Landfill.”

4. Advocate. Contact the City and ask them (1) to not plant invasive trees and shrubs and (2) to remove invasive street trees: Email: forest-ry@cityofmadison.com / phone: (608) 266-4816.

5. Help out. Madison Parks, the UW Arboretum, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, and “friends of” parks associations, among others, have volunteer opportunities to participate in garlic mustard pulls, habitat restoration, etc. Training may be required for some tasks, but many opportunities exist for novices. Check websites and social media for details. Elderly or infirm neighbors also might need a hand.

6. Learn more. The Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW, ipaw.org/) has a great online plant list with images: sewisc.org/invasives/invasive-plants. Midwest Invasive Plant Network www.mipn.org/ is another good resource.

Finally, Good Oak Ecological Services has created a basic guide to [controlling weeds and invasive plants](#), and a list of [weed identification and control guides](#) for 70+ species of Midwestern invasive plants, which are user-friendly and highly recommended. We are trying to secure a speaker to present on invasives as a follow-up, so stay tuned!



Rain Gardens and Downspout Gardens

By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling
The MHCA Green Team

Did you know the City of Madison Engineering Division has a rain program called “The Roger Bannerman Rain Garden Initiative?” Did you know he was a Midvale Heights resident? If you’re rain garden curious, this site has plenty of resources to support you:

www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/programs-initiatives/rain-gardens

But, before we get ahead of ourselves, what is a rain garden? Rain gardens are small, shallow areas filled with beautiful native plants and/or hardy perennials, which reduce polluted runoff from entering Wisconsin’s waters by creating “holding basins.” Why should you care? Here are five good reasons:

Rain gardens direct stormwater to infiltrate into the ground rather than allowing it to run into the storm sewer or backing up in basements. This is critical for the health of our local waterways and groundwater – not to mention your downstairs living, storage and workspaces.

Rain gardens trap and filter pollutants such as chemicals, fertilizers, oils, yard waste and sediment that might otherwise end up in our waterways, wetlands and groundwater. Nutrient rich water is a major contributor to cyanobacteria or blue green algae, for example, which can be harmful to humans and pets.

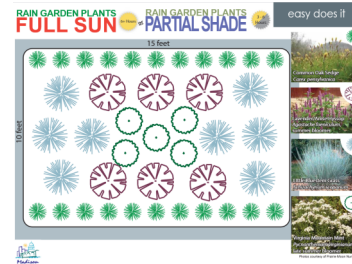
Gardens provide nectar and pollen for pollinators, foraging for birds, and habitat for native insects.

Rain gardens rarely need watering once established.

Rain gardens provide colors, textures and scents for all to enjoy.

If you’re interested in helping storm water management, trapping pollution, and beautifying your yard, which sounds like a heck of a deal, the Wisconsin DNR provides free information online: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stormwater/raingarden. Also check the Olbrich Garden class schedule since they have taught classes on rain garden design.

If you’re not quite ready or able to commit to a rain gar-



den, consider a downspout garden – a smaller garden of native plants near a downspout. Urban lawns can become compacted over time and may not soak up rainwater efficiently, instead, allowing it to run off into the street, down a storm drain, and into local waters. Planting a rain garden or a downspout garden can help soak up stormwater runoff.

Downspout gardens function like a rain garden “lite.” They’re easier to install, can take up less space and may cost less. Even a small (5'x5') garden can have a huge impact! These small gardens are located near the discharge of a downspout, have compost added to the soil, and are planted with deep rooted native plants, sedges or grasses, which wick the water down. Downspout gardens protect our water, add a fun feature to your landscape and provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Win, win, win!

Just remember, native gardening is slow gardening. Many of the “done” pictures in guidance materials don’t do justice to what the garden will become over the next few years as it fills out – on top of its ecological function.

1000 Rain Gardens

When you take the plunge, be sure to register your garden with the City of Madison’s “1000 Rain Gardens” initiative. At the time of writing, the count is 773.

www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/programs-initiatives/rain-gardens/1000-rain-garden-goal

Our final tip is to reach out to neighbors who are often happy to share their lessons learned and insights.

