



# Midvale Messenger

September-October 2025

## Calendar:

**September 6:** Friends of Sequoya Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**September 10 & 13:** MHCA Green Team Median Clean Up, Tokay Blvd. between Midvale and Segoe, 4-6 p.m..

**September 15:** MHCA Green Team Median Clean Up, Tokay Blvd. between Midvale and Segoe, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**September 18:** MHCA Green Team Median Clean Up, Tokay Blvd. between Midvale and Segoe, 4-7 p.m.

**September 23:** MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoya Library, 6 p.m.

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

**October 30:** MHCA Annual 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

### Autumn Doesn't Mean MHCA Slows Down

By Joy Cardin

It's hard to believe summer is almost over. As always, it was a fun one in Midvale Heights and vicinity. I hope you were able to enjoy some of the events sponsored by the Midvale Heights Community Association. From youth baseball to the annual summer picnic in June; from the 4th of July Celebration to the Summer Nights at Segoe concerts; and from the National Night Out Picnic in August to the just-concluded Midvale Heights Garage Sale, there was plenty to do right here in our own backyards. Thank you to all the members of our association and the volunteers who made all these events possible. Your MHCA membership dues help pay for these activities that make Midvale Heights such a great place to live. Our 2025-2026 membership drive just wrapped up on August 31. All of you who joined by then will be included in the new Midvale Heights Membership Directory that is being printed and mailed to members in early September. You will also receive the new member discount card, good for discounts at area businesses. If you missed the deadline - you can still join MHCA and receive the discount card and printed directory. You can get more information and join MHCA here: [https://midvaleheights.org/MHCA\\_Membership](https://midvaleheights.org/MHCA_Membership)



The Midvale Heights Community Association board meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month (except for July and December) at 6pm - usually in meeting room A at Sequoya Library. You are invited to join us anytime. We would love to have you participate in our annual meeting in October. In fact, we need you to elect the slate of candidates who will be running for election or reelection to the MHCA board. Please mark your calendar for the 2025 Midvale Heights Community Association Annual Meeting and plan to attend. Due to a room scheduling conflict with the usual fourth Tuesday of the month, the annual meeting will be held on the fourth Thursday - October 30 at 6 p.m. in meeting rooms A and B at Sequoya Library. We will invite our state and local elected officials to hold a town hall meeting on issues you want to discuss. We promise it won't be too scary and seasonal refreshments will be provided.

# Neighborhood News Briefs



## Newest Little Free Library Enhances Neighborhood's Collection

By Amalia Fung-Jenkins,  
West High School Senior

We recently installed a Little Free Library at the edge of our lawn at 4909 Woodburn Drive and added our library to the many Little Free Libraries throughout the Midvale Heights neighborhood. Please help yourself to these books and share any related books you would like to pass along. Most of the books are for younger kids, but we aim to keep it stocked with a few selections for middle grade and older readers too. Big thanks to The Book Deal for helping us stock the library with many donations.

The library features books that highlight underrepresented stories, such as those of people of color, those with disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and non-traditional families. All people, especially children, deserve to see themselves in the media that they consume. Representation in literature is also a powerful tool



## Back to School & Back to Books With Friends of Sequoya Library

By Nadine Pfotenhauer  
Friends of Sequoya Library

September brings to mind back to school and books. The Friends of Sequoya have MANY children's books to encourage pre-readers, children and teens.

Our Midvale Heights Community is so generous! Thank you for the wonderful book donations for all ages! In addition to giving money towards the book collection with the proceeds from our book sales, we have been able to continue to sponsor children's and family programs like the All that Jazz Combo on September 20 and Les Cordes en Blue on October 18.

Next sales at our shop in Market Square (6672 Odana Rd.) are September 6, October 4 and November 1. If you can't make the sales, shop the shelves of books available at Sequoya. The Friends accept book, CD and DVD donations at Sequoya Library every day and we take donations at the shop on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. We ask that large donations are brought to the shop rather than the library—or 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 at our book sales or on donation days or leave a message at 608-288-9848. Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/](https://facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/).

for teaching young readers about identities and ways of living differently from their own. My hope for this library is that by providing free books that highlight a variety of practices and perspectives, I can support kids and young adults in my community in learning about new identities or in find-

ing a book that they can see themselves in.

To find this and other Little Free Libraries in Midvale Heights, go the interactive map at [littlefreelibrary.org/map/](https://littlefreelibrary.org/map/) or download the Little Free Library app.

# Neighborhood News Briefs



**Your Neighborhood  
Radio Station**

Community Supported / Ad-free

## WIDE-LP Appreciates Your Support

By Bob Park

Your Midvale Heights low power radio station, 99.1 on the FM dial, is licensed by the FCC as noncommercial, which means we air no ads. All our support comes from contributions. That includes a much appreciated \$500 per year from the Midvale Heights Community Association, covering about a quarter of our annual budget. The rest comes from listeners and other supporters in the neighborhood and beyond. About half our budget goes to pay music royalty fees, with much of the rest paying for the electricity we use and our broadcast computer's connection to the internet. Nothing goes for salary since we are 100% volunteer operated. You can help by donating items for our annual garage, by buying items at the sale, and by using the Donate button on our Sponsor Page at <http://radiosponsors.madisonwi.us/>. (Our credit union account is very low at present.) Many thanks to those who have donated in the past.

You can also help by volunteering. If you are a whiz with computers and electronic equipment, you might want to volunteer to be the station's Technical Director. If you are a people person, you might

want to be our Outreach Coordinator, publicizing next June's Make Music Madison event and organizing next fall's garage sale for example. If you have program ideas that you want to put on our airwaves, let us know. The newest addition to our broadcast schedule is *Sounds From The Bunker*, produced locally for WIDE-LP, featuring music and commentary, and heard every Wednesday morning from 7 to 8 AM. Give it a listen and see if it inspires ideas on a program you might like to do. In addition, we are looking for someone to do *Know Your Neighbor* interviews and suggestions of neighbors willing to be interviewed.

Finally and most importantly, we are looking to begin training a new Program Director to take over all or part of that volunteer position by this time next year. This is the person who picks the talk shows we broadcast, remotely programming them into the broadcast computer's schedule from his or her home computer. If you have questions, suggestions, or listener feedback, please contact us by email at [radio@widelp.org](mailto:radio@widelp.org).

## National Night Out

By Bonnie Roe

It was an evening of food, music, laughter and community spirit at the 3rd annual National Night Out Picnic at Westmorland Park on August 5. K9 Carl and Mounted Patrol horses Buckets and Cooper joined in the fun, and officers also brought along a motorcycle, a squad car and a drone for families to see up close.

The Mad City Ukes returned this year to serenade neighbors and

officers who lined up for the free taco bar and treats. But biggest smiles of the night came when uniformed officers joined kids for a spur-of-the-moment kickball showdown! Thank you to the Westmorland Neighborhood Association for co-sponsoring this event. And thank you to the volunteers and police officers who worked together to make it happen.



## Santa Time 2025

By Gwyn Schell

Once again, Santa Claus will be visiting Midvale Heights on the Thursday evening before the week of Christmas, December 18. Santa has agreed to stop at homes 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](mailto:SantaVisits@midvaleheights.org) or 608-622-5388 (text ok) and his elves will discuss the details with you. Santa is looking for volunteers to help him during his visit. Jolly men are particularly welcome, but there are many small ways to volunteer 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](mailto:SantaVisits@midvaleheights.org) or 608-622-5388.

## Dane County Board Update

By Keith Furman

Dane County Board District 10 Supervisor

I want to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me already. I was appointed to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in late December following Aaron Collins' resignation and was elected in April to serve the remainder of the term, which ends in April 2026. My wife, Sandi Reinardy, and I have proudly called Madison's Spring Harbor neighborhood home since 2013.

My experience in public service is extensive, from chairing Hoboken's Planning Board in New Jersey to serving as Alder for Madison's District 19 from 2018 to 2023. In my final year as Alder, I was honored to serve as Council President. I also have a background as a technology consultant and most recently served as Chief Technology and Chief Strategy Officer at CenterX, a Madison-based healthcare technology company.

Currently, I serve on three County committees:

**The Public Protection & Judiciary Committee (PP&J):** This committee provides oversight for our court system, jail, District Attorney's office, and Sheriff's department. My goal is to support reforms that enhance justice, equity, and public safety.

**The Lake & Watershed Commission:** As a Spring Harbor resident, I've developed a deep appreciation for our precious water resources, and this committee allows me to help protect them.

**The Airport Commission:** I help guide one of our region's vital transportation hubs.

### The Dane County Budget

I want to make sure you're all aware of the county's financial situation. The **2025 Adopted Operating and Capital Budget** has total combined expenditures and revenue of \$926,179,104. A large portion of our revenue comes from outside revenue (\$415,596,636) and county property tax (\$260,451,849). The biggest expenses are Health & Human Services (39.6%) and Public Safety & Criminal Justice (21.5%).

Looking ahead to the **2026 Budget**, Dane County faces a **\$31 million structural deficit**.

The County Executive has requested a 4% base reduction from departments and asked them to refrain from requesting new staff positions or major capital projects. There are several upcoming public hearings on the budget, and I encourage you to participate:

**September 9, 10, and 11 at 5:30 pm:** Public Hearings on Department Budget Requests

**October 20 at 7:00 pm:** Public Hearing on the 2026 Dane County budget

**November 3 at 6:00 pm:** Public Hearing on Personnel and Finance Committee budget recommendations



You can find more details about the budget process at <https://board.danecounty.gov/budget>.

### Discriminatory Deeds

Did you know that 4,200 properties in Dane County have a historic discriminatory document buried in their records, including some in the Midvale Heights Community Association area? The County launched a project, called "Prejudice in Places," to raise awareness about this history of structural racism. I discovered my own deed has a discriminatory covenant, which says, "said premises shall never be sold or leased to people of African descent." While these covenants are no longer legally enforceable, the project has identified and mapped them. You can learn more at <https://www.danecountyplanning.com/Prejudice-in-Places> and see if your home has a discriminatory covenant. You can get assistance in removing these deed restrictions from [CloseWithPurpose.org](https://CloseWithPurpose.org).

### Contact Me

I welcome your feedback and questions. Please feel free to reach out to me via email at [furman.keith@danecounty.gov](mailto:furman.keith@danecounty.gov), or by phone at 608-912-0000. You can also keep up with my work by following my blog at <https://keith.li/d10blog>.



## Unit Well 12 Upgrades: Reliable Drinking Water for the Midvale Heights Area

By Bill Tishler

Madison District 11 Alder



Madison Water Utility (MWU) is preparing for major upgrades at Unit Well 12, located at 801 South Whitney Way. This well provides water to several District 11 neighborhoods, including Midvale Heights, University Hill Farms, and Westmorland.

Built nearly 70 years ago, Unit Well 12 has served our community reliably. However, it is now due for full modernization to ensure it continues meeting our water needs for decades to come.



On August 11th, I toured the well with city staff: Peter Holmgren, Chief Engineer; Krishna Kumar, General Manager of MWU; and Joe Grande, Water Resources Manager. Their insights into the well's history, operations, and planned improvements highlighted how important this project will be for both water quality and reliability.

The project will rebuild the facility, replace and resize the onsite reservoir, and upgrade pumps, piping, and equipment. These improvements will make the facility more resilient and add the ability to serve two pres-

sure zones. This flexibility ensures MWU can deliver water where and when it is needed most.

Rebuilding the facility also provides an opportunity to meet modern codes and design standards. A properly sized reservoir will allow new pumping equipment to operate more efficiently. This reduces wear and supports long-term sustainability.

Well 12 continues to provide excellent-quality water. Unlike some other city wells, it has not shown impacts from road salt. MWU's wellhead protection ordinance restricts certain land uses near the well, helping safeguard this vital resource.

While the well is located near the Beltline, potential impacts from traffic or accidents are considered manageable. MWU closely monitors these risks as part of ongoing operations.

The upgrades at Well 12 represent an investment in both infrastructure and community health. A modernized facility at 801 South Whitney Way will continue delivering safe, high-quality water efficiently and reliably to the neighborhoods it serves.

Stay tuned for upcoming public information meetings about the well reconstruction and the continued safety of our drinking water.



## Help Needed: Medians & Bison Prairie Plus, Landscaping Habits to Protect Habitat & Waterways

By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling  
The MHCA Green Team

The Midvale Heights medians need some tender loving care! Please consider volunteering for 1-2 hours. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Wendy if you are willing to help. Thank you! [wendyjaneweber@mc.com](mailto:wendyjaneweber@mc.com).

Wed., Sept. 10, 4-6 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 13, 4-6 p.m.

Mon., Sept. 15, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Thurs., Sep. 18, 4-7 p.m.

Please bring your favorite tools, gloves, and water. You can find us/me somewhere on Tokay Blvd. between Midvale Blvd. and Segoe Rd. Thanks in advance for considering this request.



### Skip the Rake, Leave the Leaves

The following are some tips for supporting wildlife and our beautiful lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands, which we hope you will consider:

#### Skip the Rake

Leaving the leaves is a best practice for invertebrates and keeps nutrients out of our waterways. Nitrogen feeds lake weeds and algae, which can bloom and make the water unsafe – even deadly.



Leaves left whole (as mulch, e.g.) house and feed wildlife. Mulch mowing or keeping a thin layer of leaves chopped up by your lawnmower, feeds your lawn and builds your soil as it mulches over winter – and saves time, effort and expense. Whole leaf mulch or a leaf pile, space permitting, is even more beneficial, especially for eggs, caterpillars and cocoons. Learn more here: [xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves](http://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves).

#### Relax Yard Cleanup

It's beneficial to a range of wildlife to leave yard waste. For a “nature made” bird feeder, leave native plants up as a food source for birds and wildlife over winter. If you do trim your plants and flowers, leaving “straws” or stalks of varying heights and calibers can house native bees and their eggs. If you leave things a bit messier in fall/winter, postpone spring clean-up until after the pollinators emerge after hibernation. You can plan your spring cleanup without killing all the invertebrates you protected over winter and then “chop and drop,” so the plant/stem pieces settle in and decompose: [xerces.org/blog/dont-spring-into-garden-cleanup-too-soon](http://xerces.org/blog/dont-spring-into-garden-cleanup-too-soon).

(Continued on Page 7)



## Recycle Landscaping Habits to Protect Habitat and Waterways

(Continued from Page 6)

### De-Lawn

De-lawning, a growing trend in native landscaping from the UK, replaces turf grass with alternatives like sedges or no-mow lawn mixes (e.g., Prairie Nursery's blend). Avoid invasive groundcovers like pachysandra, vinca, or ajuga. For shade, try native wild ginger; for sun or part shade, wild strawberry is a great option. Start small and expand gradually. For inspiration, visit Olbrich's Meadow Garden—featuring drought-tolerant fescue, wildflowers, and bulbs—mowed just twice a year.



**SKIP THE RAKE.  
LEAVE THE  
LEAVES.**

**MAKE YOUR YARD AND GARDENS  
HEALTHIER WITH FALL LEAVES.**

- MOW THEM SEVERAL TIMES AND LEAVE THEM ON THE LAWN AS MULCH.
- ADD THEM TO YOUR COMPOST PILE AS LAYERS TO COVER FOOD WASTE.
- SPREAD A THICK LAYER AROUND TREES AND FLOWER BEDS.

### Leave a Brush Pile

Leaving brush and cut-off stems and branches provides habitat to a number of species from swallowtail butterflies to luna moths to stick insects. Other critters like chipmunks, voles, and squirrels, along with amphibians and reptiles such as salamanders and snakes, also reside in brush piles. Critically, old chipmunk, mice or rabbit nests provide nesting space for bumble

bees, which are struggling here and worldwide. The American bumblebee population has plummeted by 90% in the last 25 years!



### Plant Natives

Whether you want to support pollinators, endangered species (e.g., the rusty patched bumble bee or Karner blue butterflies), lightning bugs, birds or more, just plant native.

### Avoid pesticides

Pesticides kill the insects, which are the foundation of our food web. Pollination is an essential ecological function upon which the human race and terrestrial ecosystems are based. According to the National Park Service, "One out of every three bites of food you eat exists because of the efforts of pollinators, including many fruits, vegetables, and seeds. Pollinators not only are necessary for our own food but support the food and habitat of animals."

### Think Before You Fertilize

Chemical fertilizers don't stop at your yard. When it rains, nitrogen and phosphorus wash into waterways, overfeeding algae and aquatic plants. As these die off, they trigger algal blooms that block sunlight and deplete oxygen, creating "dead zones" where fish and other life can't survive. Decaying algae consumes even more oxygen and harms recreation like swimming and fishing—and can even impact drinking water. Warming temperatures make algal blooms more likely and increase greenhouse gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and methane.



## What is Sun Day in Madison, September 21?

By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling  
The MHCA Green Team

Sun Day, September 21, is an international Day of Action to celebrate the power of clean energy. People everywhere will showcase solar installations, electric homes, and vehicles running on clean power. But there will be events throughout the month of September. For a full listing of events go to [sunday.earth/events](http://sunday.earth/events)

One of the featured events in Madison will be a Free Concert and Celebration of the Power of the Sun at Westmoreland Park from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Register here: [actionnetwork.org/events/sun-day-madison-free-concert-celebration-of-the-power-of-the-sun](http://actionnetwork.org/events/sun-day-madison-free-concert-celebration-of-the-power-of-the-sun).

Another related event will be a tour of a solar and all-electric 90-year-old home here in west Madison. **Note: this tour will be on Sunday, September 7, and you must register in advance for this event.** Read about the home and register for the tour here: [thirdact.org/wisconsin/events/tour-of-an-all-electric-solar-powered-home-in-madison-wisconsin/](http://thirdact.org/wisconsin/events/tour-of-an-all-electric-solar-powered-home-in-madison-wisconsin/)

The Solar Walking Tour of Madison may interest you as well. Note, this tour will be held on Thursday, **September 18** from 5-6:30 p.m., starting at the Madison College Truax Campus. Please register in advance: [actionnetwork.org/events/solar-walking-tour-madison-madison-area-technical-college-and-environs](http://actionnetwork.org/events/solar-walking-tour-madison-madison-area-technical-college-and-environs)

With thousands of events on the fall Equinox, Sun Day can regenerate enthusiasm about our clean energy revolution: we have the technology and the solutions, but we need to build political will to scale-up and accelerate in the U.S. what's already happening around the world.

### Who is Organizing Sun Day?

A coalition of grassroots organizations, clean energy experts, solar industry and worker organi-



zations, schools, affordable housing, farmers, and creative partners. For more, go to [www.sunday.earth](http://www.sunday.earth). Third Act Wisconsin is our leading organization. Click on the link to learn more about this great organization connecting older adults: [thirdact.org/](http://thirdact.org/)

### Why September 21?

It's the solar equinox - one of two days the whole world gets an equal amount of sunlight, showing how the sun unites us. September 21st is also right before the UN General Assembly's annual meeting, so we can send a message to US and world leaders on the urgent need to accelerate and scale-up clean energy.

### Why Do We Need Sun Day?

To show decision makers and thought leaders of all kinds - local, state, and federal elected officials, business leaders, civic leaders, labor unions - that Americans of all walks of life, and all incomes want affordable, reliable clean energy for all. We are the majority and we want a clean and healthy future for ourselves and coming generations.

Affordable solar is really taking off around the world. Let's get onboard!

Go to [SunDay.Earth/events](http://SunDay.Earth/events) for a full listing of Sun Day events (map is updated frequently).