



Midvale Messenger

May-June 2026

Calendar:

May 2 & 16: Friends of Sequoia Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 16: MHCA Tokay Boulevard median clean-up, 9-11:30 a.m.

May 26: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoia Library and via Zoom, 6 p.m.

May 30: Judy Cardin Talks about Native Pollinators and Bumblebees, MHCA Green Team, Sequoia Library, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

June 2: Celebrate Comish Michael Pressman's 30 years with MHCA Baseball, Oak Park Heights Park, 6 p.m.

June 6: Friends of Sequoia Library Bookshop sale, Sequoia Library, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 23: MHCA Annual Neighborhood Picnic, Segoe Park, 6 p.m.

MIDVALE MESSENGER

The *Midvale Messenger* is published six times a year by the Midvale Heights

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President's Message

Summer's Coming

By Joy Cardin

President of the Midvale Heights Community Association

Your Area Directors on the Midvale Heights Community Association board and other neighborhood volunteers are gearing up for MHCA-sponsored summer activities. You can read more about many of them - including the annual picnic in June and Summer Nights at Segoe in July - in this edition of the *Midvale Messenger*.



Besides our traditional neighborhood summer fun, some very special events are also being planned. MHCA wants to pay tribute to the Midvale Heights Commissioner of Baseball Michael Pressman. Michael has been volunteering with our youth baseball program for 30 years now and we think it is high time to say thank you in a big way! Alder Bill Tishler is working on a proclamation that will tentatively be issued in a public ceremony before the opening game at Oak Park Heights Park (more often called Piper Park) at 821 Hilltop Drive on June 2. You are invited to join us there. We will also celebrate the program and Michael with a party following the final game of the season on or around July 23. Stay tuned for more updates.

We are also hoping to spruce up the Midvale Heights Bison Prairie Gateway with fresh paint on the neighborhood sign, new plantings of pollinator-friendly native plants, and most importantly - some much needed preservation work for our beloved bison. (Continued on page 4, "President's Message.")



Neighborhood News Briefs

Friends of Sequoia Library Appreciate You

By Nadine Pfothhauer
Friends of Sequoia Library

The Friends of Sequoia have their new 2026 brochures available at the Sequoia Library. In it you can see how the Friends have supported the library through monetary gifts towards books, subscriptions, children's programs, reading prizes, and adult programs. The brochures also offer an opportunity to become a supporter of the Friends. But remember your donations of books, CDs, DVDs and records are our main source of income. We accept donations at Sequoia Library every day. You can use the Friends' drop slot (not the book return) or give them to staff at the check out desk. For large donations, leave a message at our shop (608-288-9848) so we can arrange a pick up. We also take donations at the shop in Market Square on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. If you have questions about donations or would like to volunteer, ask at the Sequoia Help Desk, come to the shop on our book sale or donation days or leave a message (608-288-9848). Next book sales at our Market Square shop are May 2 & 16, June 6 and July 4. There are also books on the shelves near our workroom at Sequoia. Find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/>



Open House and Music at WIDE-LP Transmitter Garage

By Ken Skog

The Midvale Heights neighborhood is invited to an afternoon of music performed on my front deck at 626 Orchard Drive on Sunday, June 21. My garage is the home of the WIDE-

LP radio transmitter. (If it is raining the event will be moved to the garage.) The event begins with an open house from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m., offering a chance to meet the station's board members, tour the transmitter facility, and enjoy light snacks. Visitors will learn more about WIDE-LP's role in supporting local voices and community broadcasting.



Your Neighborhood Radio Station

Community Supported / Ad-free

Live music follows from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. as part of Make Music Madison, the annual citywide celebration of music. The performances open with the Raging Grannies of Madison, performing from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. Additional neighborhood musicians are invited to participate. Local performers interested in joining the lineup are encouraged to email radio@widelp.org. This event offers an opportunity to enjoy live music, connect with neighbors, and learn more about the work of our local low power radio station. You can also learn more about WIDE-LP at <http://widelp.org/>.

MHCA Baseball Starts June 2

By Michael Pressman
Commissioner

MHCA is a fun league for players from 3 to 9 years old. It is a good way for players and parents to meet people. T-Ball is played on Tuesdays, Major Coach Pitch on Wednesdays, and Minor Coach Pitch on Thursdays. The games are played at Piper and Segoe Parks.



The season will begin the week of June 1 and end the week of July 20. The cost is \$50 per player, and each player receives a hat, T-shirt and baseball. Applications are available on the MHCA website. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Mike Pressman at mmpressman@charter.net or 608-288-0993.

Neighborhood News Briefs

Annual MHCA Picnic Set for June 23

By Cathy Rotter

Save the date for the MHCA Neighborhood Picnic Tuesday, June 23, at 6:00 pm (Rain date Thursday, June 25.)

Meet your neighbors and share some food. We will revive the potluck for this year's picnic! The picnic began more than 20 years ago as a potluck picnic the year after a tornado swept through the neighborhood. It was originally in Piper Park (Oak Park Heights Park) and was then moved to Segoe Park several years ago.



Bring something to share! Make your favorite side dish or bring an appetizer, chips, salad, fruit, or main dish. MHCA will provide hot dogs, veggie hot dogs, condiments, ice cream, cookies, and paper products and utensils.

Watch for a postcard reminder in your mailbox in early June. Hope to see you there.

Summer Nights at Segoe Concerts Return July 10

By Carl Wacker

On July 10, the popular MHCA Summer Nights at Segoe concerts return, and continue for the next three Fridays in July. Round up your family, pack your lawn chairs, and come on down to Segoe Park, 502 S Segoe Road,

for great music, food truck fare and mingling. Food trucks arrive about 5:30 p.m. and the music begins at 6:30. Food trucks include Jakarta Café, Jamaican Kitch'n, Common Pasta, Kona Ice, and the Chocolate Shoppe. More information is at: https://midvaleheights.org/Summer_Nights_at_Sego



The concert series kicks off on July 10 with the incredible 15-member (or more!) **Waunakee Big Band**, playing up-tempo jazz, swing, and blues. On July 17 the **Honey Pies**, a favorite in past years, bring their highly acclaimed jazzy Americana music to Segoe Park. On July 24 the **Cajun Strangers** return, with their award-winning Cajun and Zydeco music. The Cajun Strangers have roots in the Midvale Heights neighborhood and have been a staple at our concert series for many years. At our final concert on July 31, the **Madtown Man-nish Boys** with their exuberant Chicago-style blues will make you want to get up and boogie!

Summer Nights at Segoe concerts are sponsored by your friends and neighbors at MHCA. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear some of Madison's finest bands at a casual family event. Donations are accepted, but there is no admission charge.

Seeking Midvale Heights Neighborhood Photos

The MHCA board is embarking on a new website project, and we need your input! We are looking for your high-resolution original photos of the neighborhood. Flora, fauna, friends, gatherings, events, historical snapshots... anything you have, we will take it. They might be used for the website, or for use in future projects, both online and in print. You can upload photos here: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/urMUYQ4ERaOeDOSzlzuk> or use the QR code.



Neighborhood News Briefs

Changes and Updates

By Troy Thiel
MHCA Vice President

Whew! What a Spring we've had so far here at MHCA! Snow, sun, sleet, storms. And Summer is coming. This Summer we will see many of our classic MHCA events, includ-



ing the Summer Nights at Segoe concerts, our neighborhood picnic, annual membership drive, co-sponsoring the 4th of July events at Westmorland, Green Team events, board meetings and more. We're Busy!

But as the old saying goes, "Change is the Only Constant" and know that MHCA is working on many things that include key changes to our efforts and operations including; finalizing a new website for our association (hopefully up and running by June), marketing review and adjustments to help promote our efforts, celebrating Michael Pressman's 30th year as the T Ball League President event and very importantly our new People First Streets Committee is working with Alder Tishler, city staff and the other neighborhood associations near us and safety advocates to work to improve and enhance how we transport around our area and region of Madison more safely.

Also, another big change is coming, the rehab of Odana Golf Course and replacement of the clubhouse...that will be a public process with many key meets to come (and hopefully some fundraisers near the end of the year. I second the motion for a "Caddyshack Night" at the old clubhouse before it's gone, complete with costume competition.)

Other changes coming are the soon-to-be retirements from key MHCA positions. We thank Joy Cardin for her six years as our president, ending in the fall. We also thank Tom Jarvis, who for 20-plus years has been our webmaster and email promotions director. Joy and Tom have done so much to keep MHCA going and growing and we thank them for their efforts and passion for our neighborhood.

With everything happening, and changes coming to MHCA operations, please consider figuring out how you can help the MHCA. None of the above comes without a lot of effort and we can always use new active members helping through volunteering. It's a fun, fulfilling thing to do to help our neighborhood keep, and improve, it's special character that makes it such a great place to live.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

We contacted the artist who designed the project, Bill Grover, to fix some cracks and holes that had developed in the almost 25-year-old sculptures. He patched the worst of them up last summer but told us we should have an expert at take a look at them to offer a longer term fix. So, we did. And with your help - we can have one of best there is restore the Midvale Heights bison sculptures. Ben Caguioa is a professional sculpture conservator and art preservationist specialized in the restoration of



outdoor concrete sculptures. He took a look at them last fall and says he can help us keep them strong so they can continue greeting folks on the Southwest Bike Path and Midvale Boulevard for a long time to come.

We'll ask you for your donations to help restore the Midvale Heights Bison Sculptures and to contribute to the Michael Pressman Tribute when we ask you to join or renew your membership in the Midvale Heights Community Association. The membership drive will kick off in June with the distribution of the Membership Messenger newsletter and membership form.

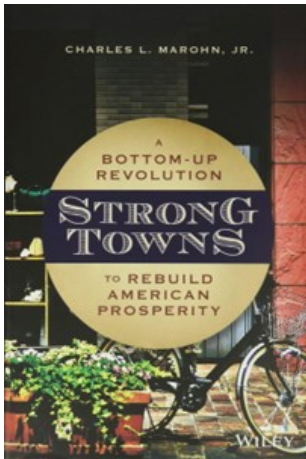
The Case for Slow, Steady Change

By Alder Bill Tishler

Madison Common Council District 11

Neighbors are invited to the next District 11 Book Club discussion of “Strong Towns: A Bottom Up Revolution to Rebuild American Prosperity” by Charles L. Marohn Jr., a book published in 2019 whose ideas are continuing to influence how communities think about growth, infrastructure, and long-term financial health.

Marohn suggests that many American communities, especially postwar neighborhoods like our own Midvale Heights, are carrying financial responsibilities that are easy to overlook. Even when everyday services run well, the long-term cost of maintaining streets, utilities, and public services can grow faster than what local tax bases can support.



We have read several books relating to housing and zoning in the District 11 Book Club, and Strong Towns both echo and challenge those earlier perspectives. Rather than relying on large, top-down projects or rapid outward expansion, Marohn advocates

small, incremental changes guided by residents and businesses. These might include allowing a wider mix of housing types such as duplexes or small apartment buildings alongside single family homes, and encouraging gradual reinvestment that strengthens neighborhoods, block by block and slowly over time.

For Madison residents, these ideas are particularly relevant. As housing costs continue to rise, the challenge is not only how to add more homes, but how to do so in ways that preserve neigh-



borhood character while supporting long term financial stability. Marohn emphasizes flexibility, local decision making, and careful stewardship of public resources as key tools for building communities that can adapt and thrive.

Readers familiar with past District 11 Book Club selections will notice both alignment and contrasting views. Like “Arbitrary Lines: How Zoning Broke the American City”, “Strong Towns” critiques zoning, though its focus is more on municipal finances than sweeping regulatory reform. Compared to “Shrink the City”, it favors steady, incremental change over bold transformation. And unlike “The Art of Community”, which centers on social connection and belonging, Marohn’s approach is more financially driven and places less emphasis on emotional experience.

The District 11 Book Club will meet on Wednesday, June 24, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Sequoia Library. Join us for a thoughtful discussion about how the choices residents, planners, and local leaders make now about housing, infrastructure, and neighborhood design can have long term effects and help build stronger, more resilient neighborhoods.

Introducing: People First Streets

By Clinton Castro
 Chair, MHCA People First Streets
clinton.g.m.castro@gmail.com

From its abundance of mature trees to its easy access to the Southwest Commuter Path, Midvale Heights is an extraordinary neighborhood to explore by foot or wheel. However, there are still areas that are unsafe for pedestrians, especially kids. To better bring our streets into alignment with our community's values—and make them safer for all residents—the Midvale Heights Community Association has formed the People First Streets Committee.

Our goal is to advocate for streets that are great places for everyone, whether they're biking, scooting, or walking a dog. We also hope to add or make better use of green space, bringing more trees and native plants into our community. By championing safe and leafy corridors, we aim to create streets as welcoming as the homes they connect.

While we are just getting started, the People First Streets Committee has already logged two small victories we'd love to share.

First, we've improved a key crosswalk by Segoe Park. Due to its width, crossing Segoe Road can feel exposed. This is a particular concern for children heading to Van Hise, Hamilton, and local parks. With the assistance of the Safe Communities program, we have installed pedestrian flags at the intersection of Segoe and Hillview/



Laub. This is a simple, effective step toward a less stressful walk.

Second, we have been invited to collaborate directly with the city. We are thrilled to announce that we will soon host Christoph Spieler, renowned transportation expert and City of Madison's Director of Transportation, for a walk-through along Segoe Road. We'll be discussing creative ways to calm traffic and introduce more "living" infrastructure, such as trees and native plants.

The People First Streets Committee is a voice for the neighborhood, and that means we need yours. If you're interested in joining our group or simply want to share your thoughts on a specific street, crossing, or stretch of bike lane, please reach out via email: clinton.g.m.castro@gmail.com. Let's make our streets safer for all residents.

We'd love to hear from you!

A New Term, a Big Challenge and Work Already Underway

By Keith Furman

District 10 County Board Supervisor

It is an honor and a privilege to write to you as your returning Dane County Board Supervisor. On Tuesday, April 21, I was sworn in to begin a new two-year term representing this community, and I want to start by saying simply: thank you. The support of this neighborhood means a lot, and I do not take lightly the trust you have placed in me to represent your interests at the County. I look forward to remaining a consistent and accessible presence. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your concerns, questions, and ideas.

The Budget: Our Most Pressing Challenge

I want to be straightforward with you about what lies ahead and provide some details about the county's fiscal situation.

In February, Dane County Controller Chuck Hicklin issued a detailed budget outlook memo to County Executive Agard projecting a \$31.8 million operating deficit for the 2027 budget. That number reflects a convergence of difficult trends: slowing sales tax growth, plateauing investment income, significantly higher health insurance costs, and a sharp decline in the year-end surplus funds the county has historically relied upon to bridge budget gaps. To put that surplus decline in perspective — the county applied \$58.9 million in surplus to the 2025 budget, but only an estimated \$7 million was projected to be available for 2027.

An April update brought some welcome news: after closing the books on Fiscal Year 2025, additional surplus resources were identified from across county operations. That revised the projected deficit down from \$31.8 million to approximately \$15 million. A \$15 million gap is still a very serious challenge — and the Controller's memo is clear that external instability could make it worse.

What concerns me most is the structural nature of this problem. This is not simply a one-year shortfall that a surplus can paper over. Expenses — particularly personnel costs and health insurance — are growing faster than revenues. The county's own anal-

ysis projects that even after 2027, annual gaps of \$5 to \$7 million could persist if cost growth continues at current rates. That means the solutions we develop for

2027 need to be real, lasting changes to how we operate — not one-time fixes. Addressing this will be one of my highest priorities as a supervisor, and I am committed to asking hard questions and insisting on thoughtful, responsible answers.



Proposed Ice Safety Regulations: Chapter 71

On a different note, I wanted to give an update on the work being done to Chapter 71 regulations governing the use of icebound inland waters. The County Board will be considering a proposal in the coming weeks. These proposed rules have been developed through an extensive public engagement process, including multiple public hearings and significant community input, and I want to make sure the neighborhood is aware of what is being proposed.

The key changes under consideration would: allow registered recreational vehicles — including ATVs, UTVs, off-highway motorcycles, and snowmobiles — on icebound waters; remove existing weight restrictions and flotation requirements; require anyone operating or riding in a vehicle on icebound waters to wear a personal flotation device; and create consistent rules that apply uniformly across all icebound waters in Dane County.

I welcome your feedback before the Board votes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I am energized, ready and eager to engage, and I am ready to get to work. Please feel free to reach out to me via email at 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>.

Let's Talk About Pollinators & Bumblebees Plus, Please Help Us Clean Up Our Medians and Bison Prairie



By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling
The MHCA Green Team



- Saturday, May 30
- 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
- Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Boulevard
- Please bring your own mug or flask.
- FYI: Judy Cardin is really the native bee expert and you won't want to miss this! PS. We really, really need bees!
- This event is co-sponsored by the Midvale Heights Green Team and Sequoia Library.

The Buzz in our Gardens: Helping Wisconsin's Threatened Native Bees

Please join local native bee expert, citizen scientist and educator Judy Cardin on [Saturday, May 30, from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM](#), who will discuss Wisconsin native pollinators with a particular focus on bumblebee conservation and habitat. The session will take place at Sequoia Library, Rooms A & B. While Wisconsin is home to over 400 native bee species, at least 11 bumble bee species are in serious decline, and the rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) is a federally endangered bee species, largely due to habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change. Learn more about the problem and solutions and leave with practical ideas on what you can do to get a better buzz in your garden, community and state.

Help: Median and Bison Prairie Clean-up

The Midvale Heights Tokay Boulevard medians need some tender loving care. Please consider volunteering for 1-2 hours. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

- Thursday, May 7, 3-5 p.m.
- Saturday, May 16, 9-11:30 a.m.

Or contact Wendy at wendyjane.weber@me.com to say you can help at another time and find out what to do and where.

Please bring your favorite tools, gloves and water. You can find Segoe Blvd and us somewhere on Tokay between Midvale Blvd. and to help with the Bison Prairie, please contact Chuck Kreimendahl at chuckkrei@hotmail.com to find out when and where if you are willing to help with the Bison Prairie. Thanks in advance for considering these requests for help.

Help with your compost



It's garden season now and if you do not have a compost pile, how about if you consider taking advantage of the drop off possibilities around town and do something good for the environment? There is in fact one right around the corner at the **West Side Farmers Market on Rosa Road Saturday mornings from 7 am - noon** You can even get a nice compost bucket to fill up with the acceptable foods, stop by to empty it and then be compost free.

Check out what they accept and see the other drop off locations and days.

Check the Dane County government website for a map of Scrap Stop locations you can use year-round: <https://landfill.danecounty.gov/compost>

A Sustainability Calendar of Events

By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling
The MHCA Green Team

We are pleased to share upcoming events to help you stretch and strengthen your sustainability muscles.

Highway Cleanup

May 2, 8:30 a.m. to noon: Hosted by VFW Post 7591 and Madison College Vets Club. Give back to the community for our annual Day of Service Event. Meet at VFW, 301 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison.

Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters

Stewardship, education, and community connection along the Yahara River:

May 2, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: **Yahara River Spring Clean-Up** Meet at Veterans Memorial Park in DeForest to remove debris from river/banks, improve habitat and prepare for the paddling season. Safety and equipment orientation; tools and waders provided.

May 16 10:00 a.m. @ DeForest Public Library: **Annual Meeting** Presentation, “*Wisconsin Frogs & Toads – Experiences and Insights from the 2025 Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey*,” by Jeff Craig, ex-science teacher and volunteer citizen scientist.

2026 Earth Day & Repair Fair - Reduce waste, build community, and share skills

May 3, 12 noon – 4 p.m. at Goodman Community Center, Madison – Free! Open to all!

Join Green Box Composting & Green Life Trading Co. for their 3rd annual Earth Day Fair, featuring Zero Waste Madison’s inaugural Repair Fair and the launch of the Zero Waste Resource Map! Eco-Market with 18+ Vendors, including Dane Buy Local. Bring your items to be repaired by volunteers. Learn to repair with demos every hour.

International Compost Awareness Week

May 3 – May 9, 2026: Themed "Compost! Feed the Soil that Feeds Us," this initiative highlights the role of composting in building healthy soils and reducing food waste. Set up a backyard compost bin or find a drop-off site at a farmers market, Residential Food Scrap Stop, or community garden and learn how to Recycle Better.

Home Efficiency & Electrification Mini Course

(with Sustain Dane and MG&E)

Starts Tues., May 5,
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

- Over four evening classes, learn from a Madison Gas and Electric engineer to:
- Understand your home's energy performance
- Boost efficiency and comfort, and reduce your home's carbon footprint
- Plan for home electrification including obtaining contractor quotes
- Navigate state and federal rebates and incentives associated with upgrades

Participants will create a tailored plan for upgrades, a corresponding project budget, and potential contractors. Scholarships are available.

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology

May 15 – 17: 84th Annual Convention, For the Love of Birds, Best Western, 2424 University Ave.

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale

May 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Annual Tent Sale, in front of UW-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center, 1207 Seminole Hwy, Madison, offers 150+ native plant species of flowering plants, ferns, grasses and sedges. Download a pdf of the plants available. (NB: Online ordering has closed).

Holy Wisdom Monastery Native Plant Sale and Fundraiser

Order native trees, shrubs and plants from Johnson’s Nursery and support birds and Friends of Wisdom Prairie, Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance, and SOS Save Our Songbirds.

March 13 – May 11, 2026: Online ordering

May 17: Pickup Location 1: Holy Wisdom Monastery (4200 Co. Hwy M)

Friends of the Arboretum Luncheon Lectures

May 20, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Bird Friendly Chocolate and Songbirds You’ll Save, Lisa Gaumnitz, Save our Songbirds & Amy Haban, Barnwood Coffee

Company June 11, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Eyes on the Skies, Dr James Lattis, UW Space Place

