



Midvale Messenger

September-October 2023

Calendar:

September 2: Friends of Sequoya Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September 16: Friends of Sequoya Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September 26: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoya Library, 6:45 p.m.

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

October 24: MHCA Annual Meeting, Sequoya Library, 7 p.m. to 8:30 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

Join MHCA!

by Joy Cardin

President of the Midvale Heights Community Association

The Midvale Heights Community Association's 2023-25 membership drive is winding down. If you would like to be included in the new MHCA Directory and receive a discount card hot off the press, please fill out a membership form and submit your dues by September 22. Your dues help pay for your favorite neighborhood activities and can fund new events. Here's a [link to the MHCA membership form](#).



Also, please mark your calendar for the MHCA annual meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, October 24 at the Sequoya Library in Conference Rooms A and B from 7pm-8:30pm. Please note the later than usual start time due to room availability. All Midvale Heights residents are invited to attend the annual meeting. We will hold elections for MHCA board members representing Areas 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15. You can see the a [map of the neighborhood](#) areas here: https://www.midvaleheights.org/Midvale_Heights_area_maps

We will invite local government representatives to update us on issues of interest to the community and to answer your questions. So far, District 11 Alder Bill Tishler has confirmed. Refreshments will be served. Please join us!

Neighborhood News Briefs

Fall Means Lots of Activity for Friends of Sequoya Library

Thanks to the generous community and the great donations of books, CDs, DVDs, games and puzzles, the Friends of Sequoya have had some wonderful book sales at our shop in Market Square and sales of books at the library on the shelves near our workroom. With the proceeds we are sponsoring the following: STEM Force Saturdays (robotics and rocketry for youth), a metal smithing workshop, a water color workshop, and two more Saturday afternoons of Jazz at Sequoya with Les Cordes en Blue September 16 and Gerri Di Maggio Quartet on October 21 both at 2 p.m. Volunteers are at the Friends of Sequoya Shop in Market Square on Mondays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and noon to accept donations. Donations are also accepted at Sequoya, but we request that large donations are brought to the shop. Our next sales are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 2 and 16, October 7 and November 4. If you have any questions ask at the Sequoya Help Desk, come to the shop to talk with us on our donation days or leave a message on our shop phone: 608-288-9848. Also find us on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/>.

A Little History—Of Parking

By Bill Tishler
Madison Common Council
District 11 Alder

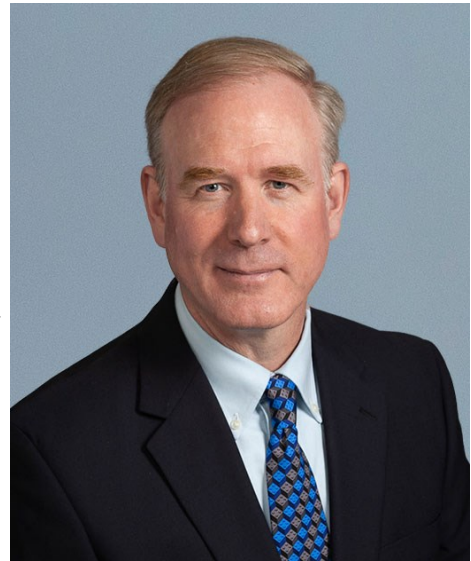
The growth of District 11 in the late 1950's coincided with the increasing availability and convenience of automobiles for the average Madison family. Wide, four-lane boulevards, curved residential streets to discourage speeding, two car attached garages, and large surface parking lots became distinctive characteristics here on what was then farmland in the far West side of Madison.

As local businesses moved into the area, everything residents needed was now just a short drive away. The first shopping mall to open in our area was Midvale Shopping Mall in 1957 in what is now Sequoya Commons. In 1960, Westgate shopping mall followed at 600 South Whitney Way with 30 stores and parking for 1,000 cars. The Hilldale Shopping Mall opened just two years later with more than double the amount of stores and parking spaces for shoppers.



This abundance of free parking at our area shopping malls had a significant impact on downtown Madison as city planners sought to lure shoppers back to the city center by creating more parking.

Today, acres of land that were once paved over for free parking are now being turned into apartment and condominium units for people, (article continues on next page under **Alder Bill Tishler (continued)**)



Dane County is Taking Action on Clean Lakes and Climate Change

by Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive

This summer's persistently bad air quality resulting from Canada wildfires is our latest reminder of a rapidly changing planet and why it's critical communities follow our lead to aggressively reduce emissions and confront climate change.

Our ground-breaking clean lakes program "Suck the Muck" is now going on its sixth year of cleaning miles of streambeds to prevent one of the causes of blue-green algae we see in our lakes. We've removed 180,000 pounds of phosphorus and 56,000 tons of sludge from four miles of Dorn, Token and Six-Mile Creeks. In 2023, I've allocated \$2 million to next tackle phosphorus-laden muck in Door Creek.

Our flood risk reduction dredging within the Yahara River continues to progress, and we are on track by the end of this year to have removed over 40 million gallons of debris and dirt that contributed to our lakes rising faster from the heavy rains caused by climate change. In just a couple of short years we have removed the

equivalent of 13,400 dump trucks of built up sludge. Since 2019, our "Continuous Cover Program" has converted nearly 2,000 acres into pastures for grazing, native prairies, and pollinator habitats. Those lands alone have helped trap 800 tons of carbon dioxide and stopped the flow of over 15 million gallons of phosphorus loaded rain run-off from racing toward our lakes.

I was thrilled to cut the ribbon at our new Yahara Solar Project—making Dane County the first county in Wisconsin and the fourth in the nation to reach the milestone of using 100% renewable electricity at our county facilities. The 33,000 solar panels at the 90-acre solar farm on county land will reduce climate-changing emissions equivalent to those produced by 5,000 cars.



Alder Bill Tishler (continued from page 2)

with limited surface parking and underground parking for tenants. Sequoya Commons, University Park, Madison Yards, and now the former M&I bank building at Hilldale Mall are examples of places that decided to turn surface parking lots for cars into new housing for people.

To examine how parking has shaped our community and to perhaps provide us with a roadmap on the direction our city is heading, starting this fall, I will be hosting several District 11 book talks. The first book we will be reading is, *Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World* (2023) by Henry Grabar. Check [the District 11 blog](https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district11/) (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district11/>) for more details or contact me at District11@cityofmadison if you are interested in participating in the book talk.

The Garden is Always Open

By Wendy Weber and the MHCA Green Team

Thank you, Marcel Wuethrich, for your enjoyable and educational prairie restoration garden tour on July 22.

Everyone is invited to visit anytime. The garden is always open at the end of the Odana Hills Golf Course parking lot, along the bike path spur leading to the Southwest Bike Path. You will receive a feast for your eyes filled with the sights of butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and bugs galore in the midst of the prairie flowers and plants. This is the season and you don't want to miss it!

Remember, don't pick the daisies! And please do not pick other flowers and specimens as well because we want them for all of you to enjoy, but **especially** the butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and the bugs as the stars of the prairie. The prairie is indeed a special gift to them and us. Thank you, Marcel, Heather, Liam and other volunteers!

Here is [a wonderful video from Marcel](#) of monarchs enjoying the sweet nectar of Meadow Blazingstar (*Liatris Ligulistylus*). You'll be convinced you want the Meadow Blazingstar in your yard

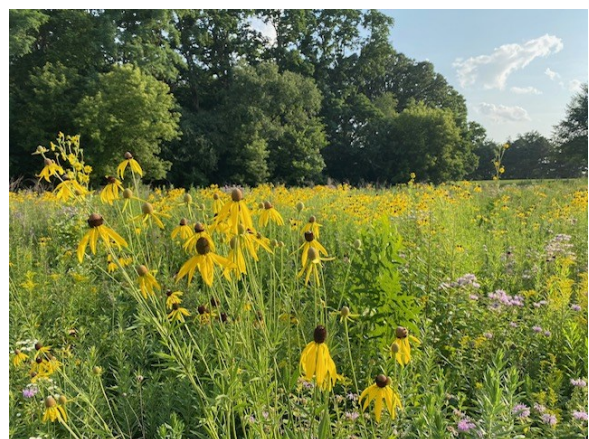


and garden!

What to watch for in the next couple of months:

- The signs about the Fall Median Cleanup (October or November)
- Info about the Let's Talk Solar Event
- 11 Important Things to Know about Clover Lawns by Bob Vila

Be healthy, **green** and think and act sustainably until next time and beyond!



An Update from District 10

By Aaron Collins

Dane County Board District 10 Supervisor

I hope you all got through the Summer heat and are ready for a beautiful Wisconsin fall - my favorite season. I wanted to share a few updates on the work I've been doing on the County Board over the past few months.

As a County Board Supervisor, one of my top priorities is to preserve, protect, and promote our natural spaces in Dane County. Environmental protection is embedded in the DNA of Wisconsin with strong local connections to conservation heroes like Aldo Leopold and Gaylord Nelson.

The Dane County Conservation Fund was established in 1990 with the goal of allocating dedicated funding to preserve natural, recreational, and cultural resource lands. This fund has been utilized effectively to purchase land for public use across Dane County over the past three decades.

I was proud to vote for a resolution that authorized the largest land acquisition in Dane County history with a \$12.1 million dollar purchase that will acquire 625 acres of land south of Verona along the Sugar River. I'm excited about this purchase for many reasons including (but certainly not limited to) protecting the Sugar River watershed, reducing runoff, addressing climate change locally by reducing our carbon footprint, protecting groundwater, and helping fish and wildlife habitats.

The plans for the land include the possibility to allow public access and trails, and linking with nearby kayak/canoe access, foot traffic, bicycling, horseback riding, and snowmobiling.

County Budget

Dane County operates on an annual budget cy-

cle. Each year, decisions are made to fund the priorities of our County residents.

People at the County love to say they work on everything from A to Z - the airport to the Zoo. And it's

true! County government is responsible for the County Park system, local Veterans services, Dane County Jail, Alliant Energy Center, human services and much more. Last year's budget was \$853 million dollars.

Going into my second budget cycle on the County Board, I am focused on ensuring that we continue to improve on water quality in our lakes, maintain our transportation infrastructure, and help our most vulnerable residents access housing and other needed services.

Governments at every level should be focused on long-term investments that improve quality of life and help those in need. I believe we can achieve our priorities while being good stewards of your tax dollars.

If you would like to weigh in on this year's budget, there will be numerous public hearings and other opportunities for input. If you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at collins.aaron@countyofdane.com or call / text at 608-512-8389.

