



Midvale Messenger

November-December 2023

Calendar:

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

November 9: MHCA-Sponsored Blood Drive, Sequoya Library, 12-5 p.m.

November 28: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoya Library, 6:45 p.m.

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

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

MIDVALE MESSENGER

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President's Message

Giving Thanks

By Joy Cardin

President of the Midvale Heights Community Association

I hope this last Midvale Messenger of 2023 finds you well and looking forward to the fast approaching winter holidays. Speaking on behalf of the Midvale Heights Community Association Board of Directors, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to serving you in 2024.



Thanks to those of you who participated in our October annual meeting and elections. We are pleased to welcome three new Area Directors/Co-Directors to MHCA to fill vacancies in Areas 7 and 11. Thanks to our new and longtime directors for their volunteer service. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the neighborhood: https://www.midvaleheights.org/MHCA_Contacts

And I would also like to thank you for your patience for the later than usual delivery of your MHCA membership directories and discount cards. By now you should have received them if you joined by the printing deadline. You can still join the association and receive the membership materials, but your information won't be in printed in the directory. Your membership dues help fund the many activities you enjoy year round in Midvale Heights: <https://www.midvaleheights.org/>

If you have a new neighbor, please tell them about the Midvale Heights Community Association and encourage them to join us!

Neighborhood News Briefs

Friends of Sequoya Library Asking for More Books

Our book donations are down. The Friends of Sequoya Book Shop in Market Square depends on the book, CD and DVD donations from the community to generate funds to enhance the book collection at Sequoya and sponsor many popular programs. We have faithfully sponsored Saturday Jazz for all to enjoy, Pogie the Yogie for preschoolers, STEM force Saturdays programs for youth, and more. We want to continue to keep Sequoya a strong resource in the community by providing opportunities the city budget does not cover. Please consider donating materials for our sales, making a monetary contribution or becoming a member of the Friends of Sequoya. 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 November 4, December 2 & 16 and January 6. If you have questions ask at the Sequoya Help Desk, come to the shop or leave a message on our shop phone at 608-288-9848. Also find us on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/>.



Santa Claus is Coming to Midvale Heights on December 21

By Gynne Schell

Hello Neighbors!

Once again, Santa Claus will be visiting Midvale Heights on the Thursday evening before the week of Christmas, December 21. 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 or 608-622-5388 (text ok) and his elves will discuss the details with you.

Santa is very busy this time of year and he's 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 or 608-622-5388.



Dane County is Building Bridges to Address Youth Mental Health

By Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive

A decade ago this fall, I announced the creation of Building Bridges – a Dane County funded school-based mental health support program that has since served hundreds of young people and their families in 11 local school districts.

Anxiety, depression, and other behavioral health needs remain great among an increasing number of young people. We launched Building Bridges to intervene and focus on prevention, reducing the downstream impacts of mental illness that can impact academic performance and be a barrier to personal and professional success.

The program receives an annual county budget allocation of over \$1.9 million, and local school districts partner to financially support the program.

With new dollars in this year's county budget, the Madison Metropolitan School District will add another Building Bridges staff team to their networks, expanding the program's reach to even more students.

New data from Building Bridges indicates the program is seeing successful outcomes go be-



yond the time students and families participate in the program. For example, 76% of Building Bridges participants in the 2021-22 school year were considered to have significant impairment at the start of their treatment. Assessments taken six months after program completion showed that number was down in the 40-45% range.

More than one in three students and families reported sustaining overall improvement even six months after departing Building Bridges.

We know the need is great when it comes to helping our young people navigate today's realities. We also know programs like Building Bridges help meet the challenge of the moment, and I'm grateful for the continued support and participation of our partner Dane County schools who share our commitment to this next generation and their families.



It's Fall Median Green Team Cleanup Time

By Wendy Weber and the MHCA Green Team

Thanks for your past cleanup help and we welcome anyone who would like to and be able to join us on Saturday, November 4.

- Saturday, November 4, 9 – 12 p.m.
- Come for an hour or however long you would like
- Check in at the table on the median at the corner of Tokay Blvd. and Piper Dr.
- Bring your own flask for coffee/tea to enjoy with breakfast snacks
- Please bring your favorite garden tools, gloves and don't forget some water!

If you would like to help but are not available that day, please email me at:

wendyweber@att.net

City of Madison Sustainability Survey

The City of Madison is updating its Sustainability Plan to reflect the City's achievements, work underway, and priorities for the future. The plan's goals and actions aim to ensure that Madison is a green and resilient place to live today and for future generations. Now, it's time to hear from you if you haven't already done so. By taking this survey, you are helping ensure these goals reflect the community's vision for a green and resilient Madison: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability/highlights/take-the-sustainability-plan-community-survey-today> Upon the completion of this survey, you will be given the opportunity to enter a gift card giveaway for 1 of 10 \$20 Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream gift cards.

Let's Talk Solar?

Let's Talk Solar scheduled for November 11 at Sequoya Library has been postponed. Look for details in the January/February *Messenger*.



Why Be Concerned About Stormwater?

As stormwater runs over lawns, streets and other man-made surfaces, it picks up pollutants – phosphorous and nitrogen from fertilizers, bacteria from pet waste and road salt, to name a few – and carries them into local streams and lakes. It also picks up leaves. Did you know that leaves are the #1 source of phosphorous in Lake Monona? So whether we're talking about Lake Mendota or Lake Monona, remember that we want leaf-free streets!

If you have an interest in stormwater here in Madison, you may be interested in the listening sessions at Sequoya Library on November 20 at 6 p.m. To register, or to attend a different listening session, go to this link: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/listening-sessions-scheduled-for-citys-first-stormwater-utility-vegetation-management-plan>



An Update on the Dane County Budget

By Cecely Castillo

Dane County Board District 7 Supervisor

It was a pleasure visiting with many of you at the recent Midvale Heights Community Association's annual meeting in October. I'm always impressed by the level of engagement at these meetings. I mentioned at the meeting that we are in the midst of County Budget season and I wanted to provide some general information about the budget process and upcoming dates.

On October 2, 2023, County Executive Parisi released his proposed budget, which includes operating budget spending of \$787.6 million and capital spending of \$149.8 million - for a total of \$937 million.

I was recently appointed to serve on the Personnel & Finance Committee and have a front row seat for the County Budget process. Our committee finished up our round of budget hearings and made our committee recommendation to the full county board.

Highlights of the budget are investments in mental health, public health, and making sure people have access to nutritious food and a safe place to sleep. Always front and center are how our investments can reduce our jail population and address inequalities in our community. Some of the higher profile building projects included in the 2024 budget are the giraffe facility at the Henry Vilas Zoo and a modern 911 center.

Upcoming Dates

- November 2nd: The final 2024 budget public hearing at 6pm. You can attend in person or virtually (register at <https://board.countyofdane.com/meetings/attend-meeting>)



- November 6th: 2024 County Board deliberations

Some additional resources:

- View additional budget information and documents at <https://board.countyofdane.com/budget>
- View all committee and board meetings and agendas at <https://dane.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
- You can view county board proceedings: <https://media.cityofmadison.com/mediasite/showcase/madison-city-channel/channel/dane-county-board-of-supervisors>
- Contact me at cas-tillo.cecely@countyofdane.com or (608) 616-0312

Benefits of Mulching Fall Leaves

By District 11 Alder Bill Tishler

This year I had the opportunity to kick off the fall season by participating in a press conference with the Mayor and city staff to inform residents about leaf pick up times and phosphorus impacts to area waterways and to demonstrate how to mulch leaves into lawns: *"Mulching your leaves right in place by mowing your leaves into your lawn is a great way to keep the leaves from going into our streets,"* Mayor Rhodes-Conway said. *"Mulching recycles nutrients used by the trees to feed your lawn, helps your soil absorb more rainwater and is less work for both you and City employees collecting leaves."*

The City of Madison works across multiple agencies to help residents manage leaves in their yards. Engineering Division Stormwater Engineer Phil Gaebler described how residents can avoid overwhelming their lawns with mulching, by putting excess leaves in garden beds: *"You can rake some of the mowed leaves and put them in your garden beds,"* Gaebler said. *"Those nutrients that cause a problem in the lake are actually beneficial to the plants growing in your garden. If you leave some whole leaves in your garden beds as well, they provide a home and an overwintering habitat for insects."*

I concluded the press event with a reminder that we need to be good stewards of the land by keeping leaves out of our lakes. When leaves are not mulched onto lawns or placed in gardens, they often end up in city streets and get washed down storm drains into area lakes, contributing to algae blooms in warmer months that are harmful to both people and pets. You can learn more about the benefits of mulching and city leaf collection dates by visiting the city website at: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/yardWaste/leaf/>.

Good Neighbor Project

By Bonnie Roe

Studies show that our communities are more divided than they were before the COVID-19 pandemic. The Midvale Heights Good Neighbor Project hopes to reverse that trend in our community. Our goal is to



encourage the people who live and work in our neighborhoods to purposefully connect, communicate, and come together because safe, caring neighborhoods start with Good Neighbors.

We believe that informed and connected residents make our community a safer place to live. Neighbors care for each other, keep an eye out for each other, and can go to each other for help.

Knowing the police officers and other first responders and partnering together as a community can go a long way. Recently our district's police captain, Jason Freedman, put out some tips for this time of year:

"The coming colder weather means warming up unattended cars, all of which increases vulnerability to opportunistic (and sometimes organized) thieves. I am reaching out to you because MPD needs your assistance in order to prevent and reduce property crime. Policing in partnership with the community is not only a core value of ours, but it is also a requirement to effectively combat crime, especially property crimes which can literally happen anywhere at any time. The fact is, we can't always be where you live, work, and play—and it is with that truth in mind that I am asking for your help."

"What can you do? Keep your homes, garages and cars locked up, with valuables out of sight. Removing valuables from your car is better than hiding them. Leave exterior lights on at night or use motion-detecting lights. The harder you make it for thieves, the less likely you will be a victim! And finally, report any criminal or suspicious behavior immediately."

Thank you for being a Good Neighbor! If you would like to help us bring the community together, or you have ideas for events, seminars, or topics you think would be helpful, please email Bonnie at bonnie.roe@gmail.com.