



Midvale Messenger

January-February 2024

Calendar:

January 6: Friends of Sequoia Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

January 11: MHCA-Sponsored Blood Drive, Sequoia Library, 12-5 p.m.

January 23: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoia Library, 6:45 p.m.

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

February 27: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoia Library, 6:45 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

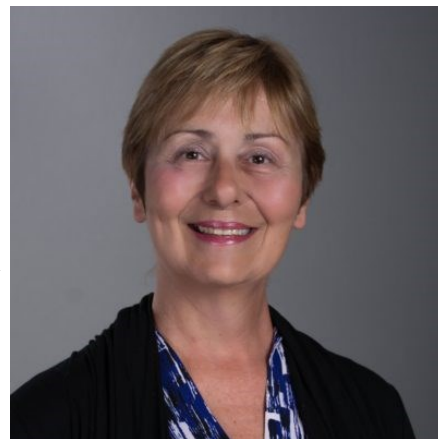
Happy New Year, Neighbors!

By Joy Cardin

President of the Midvale Heights Community Association

I hope you enjoyed your holidays and that 2024 is getting off to a good start for you and your family. It promises to be an eventful year!

The Midvale Heights Community Association's Board of Directors and volunteers are looking forward to planning our annual events like neighborhood picnic in June and the Summer Nights at Segoe Friday night park concerts in July and we are hoping to sponsor and organize new activities as well. We welcome your ideas and participation. Watch for more information in upcoming Midvale Messenger newsletters, on our Facebook page @midvaleheights and our website midvaleheights.org.



We also hope to bring back a tradition. We are working on developing a packet of information and freebies to welcome all new residents to the community. Many people have moved in and out of the neighborhood in recent years and we would like them to learn more about Midvale Heights and the association. We could use your help in identifying new residents when they move in near you. We'll get them (and you!) a welcome bag of goodies when it is ready. If you own or work at an area business that might be willing to donate some sort of small gift to put in the welcome packet (that can promote your goods or service) we want to hear from you too!

Please feel free to email me with your information and ideas for the neighborhood welcome packet or with any other suggestions or questions about neighborhood activities at cardinjoy@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Neighborhood News Briefs

What's New at 99.1 FM, Our Neighborhood Radio Station?

By Carl Wacker
Friends of WIDE-LP

WIDE-LP, 99.1 FM broadcasts from Orchard Drive in the Midvale Heights neighborhood. The station is able to operate in Midvale Heights thanks to the generous help of neighborhood volunteers.

We're always looking for new programming. A recent addition is the Badger Talks Podcasts, airing on WIDE-LP at 1:30 pm on Sundays. An exciting new initiative is our *"Know Your Neighbor"* series which will begin early in 2024. We'll record interviews with neighborhood residents to be aired on WIDE-LP. If you'd like to be interviewed or have other ideas for new programming, please send an email to radio@widelp.org.



Friends of Sequoya Library Needs Newer Fiction and Literature Donations

By Nadine Pfotenhauer
Friends of Sequoya Library

Best wishes for a happy New Year from the Friends of Sequoya! We are so thankful for the community support we received in 2023 with book donations for our sales, memberships and monetary gifts. Your support

helps us continue to provide books, materials and programs specific for Sequoya. Most recently, some of the money from the Friends was used to take advantage of a year end sale of e-books and audiobooks. Ironically, we suspect that the increase in e-books is the reason for the decrease in our book donations. Our "Newer Fiction" and "Classics and Literature" shelves are particularly depleted.

If you have books you would like to donate, volunteers are at the Friends of Sequoya Shop in Market Square on Mondays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and noon to accept donations and donations are also accepted at Sequoya. We request that large donations are brought to the shop or call the shop at 608-288-9848 and leave a message. We can arrange a pick up of large donations.

Our next sales are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on January 6, February 3, and March 2 and 16. 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/>.

WIDE-LP operates entirely on donations, grants, and volunteer help. Donations from MHCA and neighborhood residents totaled \$590 in December. Thanks to this generous sup-

port, we'll be able to continue broadcasting in 2024. If you'd like to get involved or learn more, please visit the WIDE-LP website: widelp.org.

2024 Budget Bolsters Dane County's Social Safety Net

By Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive

In the fall, I joined partners from across the Dane County community to introduce my 2024 budget proposal. It makes investments in the emergency food supply, mental health, services for the most vulnerable, and more to bolster our community's social safety net.

Millions in new support is included for local food pantries, as they continue to see an increase in service demands. Dane County's popular Farm to Foodbank program, which links local farmers and growers with the area's network of food pantries and is administered by Second Harvest Foodbank of South-Central Wisconsin, will continue in 2024. The budget also includes funding for Badger Prairie Needs Network to expand a food storage warehouse and for Extended Hands Pantry to focus on providing ethnic and culturally appropriate foods.

These funds are in addition to a grant program that will expand the CARES mobile crisis program to communities outside of Madison. My 2024 budget also creates a new pilot team of crisis counselors directly embedded in Dane County's 911 Center to help work with those experi-



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encing a behavioral health emergency. This new team will provide frontline behavioral health support to those in crisis, reducing the need for in-person responses by mobile crisis teams or law enforcement.

Anticipated funds from the national opiate settlement will be allocated to confront the ongoing scourge of opiate and fentanyl addiction in our community.

I'm also setting aside another \$1.5 million in county funds to support the City of Madison in constructing a purpose-built emergency overnight shelter for men experiencing homelessness. The funds bring Dane County's total investment in the facility to \$10.5 million.

In 2024, Dane County will build on past successes and invest in new opportunities to make a substantive difference for our residents. Learn more about the budget at www.countyofdane.com.

Planning Your Garden—Before Planting Your Garden

By Wendy Weber

The MHCA Green Team

In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water. ~ Doug Tallamy, co-founder of Homegrown National Park (HNP)

Winter allows us time to envision what we may want to consider regarding our gardens and lawns and to plan ahead. Here's a start: Homegrown National Park (<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>). Our birds, butterflies, bugs and other species require our consideration and HNP can move us in the right direction. Some plant, tree and shrub species can have a very positive impact in our yards and gardens by being host plants.

HNP is an initiative of the writer Dave Tallamy (*Nature's Best Hope, The Nature of Oaks, Bringing Nature Home*), and it informs us about restoring biodiversity and natural habitats in OUR own backyards and helping spread the awareness of this grassroots project to contribute to a solution to the biodiversity issue. We join people throughout the U.S. and Canada who plant native species and document the plants on a map to create the Homegrown National Park.

By doing the simple act of planting natives in the ground or in a container, we regenerate biodiversity one plant and person at a time. <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/keystone-container-gardening/>

HNP focuses on Keystone Plants, which are good choices for biodiversity and provide a critical source of food and/or shelter for a large number of other species. One study ([https://](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19565-4)



www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19565-4) found that 90 percent of all caterpillar diversity is centered around just 14 percent of plant species. While the main contributors are tree species, shrubs and wildflowers can also play an important role with their sheer numbers and variety. The five heavy-lifters among trees are the oaks, willows, cherries (and other prunus species), pines, and poplars. Here in the Midwest, goldenrods and wild sunflowers are important keystone plants that together support caterpillars of over well over 100 different species of butterflies and moths.

The same can be said for Keystone Trees and Shrubs, the cornerstones of a thriving ecosystem! Planting one oak tree is an investment that provides habitat and sustenance for thousands of species for hundreds of years. A PDF of each list is linked beneath the map of the corresponding ecoregion. Please remember to log your container plants on the HNP Biodiversity MAP.

Every square foot counts! Follow the link and then click on the map for more trees and shrubs: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/keystone-trees-and-shrubs/>

Prairie Nursery in Westfield (<https://www.prairienursery.com/>) and Two Ferns (<https://www.twofernsmadison.com/>) here in Madison are excellent sources for plants and information.

District 11 Book Club: How Minds Can Change and Why That's a Good Thing

By Bill Tishler
District 11 Alder

Is it possible for individuals and politicians to shift their perspectives and transcend the prevalent "us-versus-them" mindset that pervades our society? The next book in our District 11 Book Club Discussion is the 2023-24 Go Big Read book, "How Minds Change: The Surprising Science of Belief, Opinion, and Persuasion" by David McRaney. Copies of the book are available for you to check out from the Sequoya Library at 4340 Tokay Blvd. This book illustrates that disengaging from tribal conflicts during discussions can promote a higher level of critical thinking. Borrow a copy of 'How Minds Change' from the library and join me and others for a lively discussion on Wednesday, January 17, at 7:00 pm.



I'll be hosting back-to-back events in January, and I invite you to apply the skills you learned at the book club by joining me the next evening, also at 7:00 pm, at the Midtown Police Station, conveniently located at 4020 Mineral Point Road, for a discussion about a proposed "Road Diet" on this busy street. Mineral Point Road from Midvale Blvd to the Speedway/Glenway intersection is on the list to be resurfaced in 2024. Mineral Point Road is currently four lanes with directional peak-hour lanes. On-street parking is allowed during off-peak times, although not heavily utilized.

This resurfacing project was put on the agenda at the November 29, 2023, Transportation Commission meeting for their input. The consensus from the commissioners was for staff to look into a "road diet" on this section to reduce the travel lanes and allow for the installation of bike lanes. However, due to high traffic volumes on

this section of Mineral Point Road caused by construction on other arterial roads in the area, city traffic engineering decided to delay any consideration of a 'road diet' on this section of Mineral Point Road until 2025. Despite this delay, now is the best time for you to weigh in on the advantages and disadvantages of putting Mineral Point Road on a "Road Diet." Join Alder Vidaver (District 5), Traffic Engineering Staff, and me on January 18 at the Midtown Police Station for a neighborhood discussion about future changes to the configuration of Mineral Point Road from Midvale Blvd to Speedway/Glenway Street.

Check the District 11 blog (<https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district11/>) for more details or contact me at district11@cityofmadison if you are interested in participating in these events.