



Midvale Messenger

March-April 2024

Calendar:

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

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

March 26: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoia Library, 6:45 p.m.

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

April 23: 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

What Does Midvale Heights Mean to You?

By Joy Cardin

President of the Midvale Heights Community Association



Hello Midvale Heights Neighbors.

The Midvale Heights Community Association recently received an email from a local newsletter called Madison Minutes that wants to publish a neighborhood guide on Midvale Heights. I would like your help in answering their questions. Your answers will also be published in a future Midvale Messenger and may help MHCA serve you better.

1.) What sets Midvale Heights apart from the rest of Madison? AKA what makes the neighborhood unique? 2.) Where are the standout spots to grab something to eat/drink and what are some of the must-see/do activities in the area? 3.) Does Midvale Heights have any hidden gems or longtime traditions. 4.) Anything else you'd like to add about the neighborhood?

You can email your answers to me at cardinjoy@gmail.com. If you have suggestions for MHCA to make the neighborhood better for you, please add those as well.

Save the Date

The MHCA annual picnic will be held on Thursday, June 20 at Segoe Park. The rain date is June 27. Once again we will have the picnic catered by HyVee. All Midvale Heights residents are welcome to attend this free event. More details will be in the May/June edition of the Midvale Messenger.

Neighborhood News Briefs

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

By Carl Wacker
Friends of WIDE-LP

The first WIDE-LP *Know Your Neighbor* interview, with lifetime neighborhood resident and APT actor Sarah Day, was aired at 5 pm on Sunday, February 18. You can listen to the interview here: www.madisonwi.us/WIDE-LP/KYN



Your Neighborhood Radio Station

Community Supported / Ad-free

Sarah, and our host, Andy Garst, had a delightful and wide-ranging conversation, getting our *Know Your Neighbor* interviews off to a great start. More interviews are coming. If you'd like to be included or know of a friend or neighbor who would like to be interviewed, please send an email to WIDE-LP radio at: radio@widelp.org.

Andy will contact you to provide more details and set up an



Our First Million: Friends of Sequoya Library Reaches a Milestone

By Nadine Pfothenhauer
Friends of Sequoya Library

In February the Friends of Sequoya gave a gift of \$30,000 to MPL-Sequoya Branch for new books, periodicals, e-books and more. This was a very significant donation for us. The Friends of Sequoya have now

surpassed one million dollars in gifts for the library! Our wonderful Midvale Community is the first to know this because we are so proud of our neighborhood for their generous donations of books, CDs & DVDs which are used for our book sales. We are also proud of our wonderful, dedicated volunteers. The next sales at the Friends of Sequoya Shop in Market Square are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 2 and 16, April 6 and May 4. If you have books you would like to donate, we accept donations Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Friends of Sequoya Shop in Market Square. Donations can also be left at Sequoya Library. We request that large donations are brought to the shop or call at 608-288-9848 and leave a message so we can arrange a pick up. 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/>.

interview time, if you decide to proceed. The *Know Your Neighbor* interviews provide a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our friends and neighbors in Midvale Heights and to share your own story. Every resident of Midvale Heights has a story to tell. Please consider sharing yours.

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 and support from the Midvale Heights Community Association.

Neighborhood News Briefs (continued)

Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale Set for August 30-31

By Michelle Kempf-Weiber

This year's annual Midvale Heights Neighborhood Garage Sale will be on Friday, August 30 and Saturday, August 31 (Labor Day weekend). Start cleaning out those closets now and watch for more information about the sale and a registration form in the July-August issue of the Midvale Messenger. The registration link will also be available online at <http://midvaleheights.org/Annual-Neighborhood-Garage-sales> starting July 1. Registrations will be due in early August (date to be determined).



Midvale Heights Police Demonstrating Drone Technology April 7

By Bonnie Roe
Good Neighbor Project

Have you ever wondered how our Madison Police Department uses Unmanned Aircraft Systems (aka "drones") to save lives and keep



our city safe? From assisting in search and rescue operations to providing aerial documentation of crime scenes and so much more, this technology is helpful to our community.

April 7 is a great opportunity to meet our Neighborhood Resource Officer Kelly Powers and learn about this vital technology. We'll start with a show and tell inside the Community Room at the Midtown Police Station and then, weather permitting, a UAS pilot will fly a drone off the porch outside and broadcast live images to the big-screen TV while another UAS Team member helps us understand what we're seeing.

Bring your questions and concerns and don't miss the chance to meet some neighbors and enjoy refreshments and conversation. Bring your family members and invite some friends:

Sunday, April 7
7:00 p.m.
Midtown District Station
4020 Mineral Point Road

And keep your eyes open for an upcoming presentation on avoiding scams, frauds, and identity theft.

MHCA Youth Baseball Resumes June 4

By Michael Pressman
MHCA Youth Baseball

MHCA Baseball is a fun league for players from three to nine years old. There is T-Ball on Tuesdays, Major Coach Pitch on Wednesdays, and Minor Coach Pitch on Thursdays. The games begin the week of June 3 and are played at Segoe, Piper and Midvale parks in Midvale Heights.

The season ends the week of July 22.

Each player receives a T-shirt, hat, and baseball. Applications are available online at <https://www.midvaleheights.org/MHCA-Baseball> and at Sequoya Library. The cost is \$50 for a family's first player and \$40 per player for the rest of the family. If you have questions, please call Mike Pressman at (608) 288-0993 or email him at mmpressman@charter.net.



Thanks For Embracing the Dane County Way

By Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive

This spring marks 13 years since I was first sworn in as Dane County Executive. Within that time, our community has experienced tremendous change. And while today's headlines often tout nationwide dysfunction and division, Dane County government has remained steadfast in championing our people and shared future:

Our staff and partners worked tirelessly to provide timely resources and financial support during COVID-19. From millions in small business grants and food pantry funding, to emergency rental assistance and mass testing/vaccination efforts, we used an all-hands-on-deck approach to help our community rebound from the pandemic's worst impacts.

Improving access to behavioral health support through "Building Bridges" school-based mental health teams and the Behavioral Health Resource Center has benefitted thousands of residents. My final budget pushes for even greater accessibility by adding crisis counselors to the 911 center and expanding Madison's CARES program to more communities.

Since Day #1, we've prioritized protecting our lakes, caring for farmland, providing outdoor recreation, and combating climate change. Our programs within the Departments of Land & Water, Waste & Renewables, and the Office of Energy & Climate Change have made us a national leader and will pay dividends for generations to come.

We've also fortified Dane County's social safety



net. Through my additions of the Office of Immigration Affairs, the Division of Housing Access & Affordability, and the Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity & Inclusion, Dane County government stands at the ready to serve our most vulnerable and improve outcomes for everyone.

It has been the honor of a lifetime serving the people of Dane County, and I want to thank you for joining me in this endeavor. Your support for county-led initiatives, resilience during unprecedented times, and hope for a better tomorrow have allowed Dane County government to achieve remarkable things.

While my time as Dane County Executive is ending, I have no doubt that if our community sticks together, we will continue to overcome. We will continue to chart our own path. We will continue to build a better, brighter future for all who call this place home.

It's the Dane County Way.

Spring Events in District 11

By Bill Tishler
District 11 Alder

I am hosting three upcoming events at the Sequoya Library this spring, on March 20th, April 11th, and May 15th, all starting at 7:00 pm and open to the public. The first will be another in our series of District 11 Book Club discussions on March 20th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Given the zoning changes over the past year, from owner-occupied accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to Transit-oriented development (TOD), it's a fitting time to delve into the 2022 book by M. Nolan Gray, "Arbitrary Lines: How Zoning Broke the American City and How to Fix It." Copies of the book are available for in-person checkout from the Sequoya Library at the Ask Desk while supplies last. This event will be in-person only.

The second event will take place on April 11th at the Sequoya Library starting at 7:00 pm. During Madison's recent heavy snowfall and subzero temperatures, I was peppered with angry emails from residents about salt usage on city streets and the effectiveness of snow plowing. With outdoor temperatures rising again and residents' tempers starting to cool down a bit, it's an opportune moment to gather for another town hall discussion on April 11th at the Sequoya Library regarding snow plowing and salt use on Madison streets. Joining us at this town hall will be Madison Streets Superintendent Charles Romines and Wisconsin Salt Wise Program Manager Allison Madison, to explain Madison's winter weather policies and practices and discuss ideas for im-



provements for next year. Both presenters will be available to answer questions from the audience. This event will be in a hybrid format for those wishing to attend remotely. Please contact me at district11@cityofmadison.com if you would like me to send you the Zoom link.

The third event will address the absence of condominium construction in Madison over the past 15 years and explore strategies to encourage more mixed-use developments like we see at Sequoya Commons, which integrates shops, apartments, and condominiums within the same area. This event is still in the early development stages but will be on May 15th at the Sequoya Library at 7:00 pm. More information about this event will be posted on the District 11 blog soon. Please visit: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district11/blog>

Let's Talk...Gardening with Native Plants, Restoring Native Plant Habitats and Spring Median Cleanup

By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling

The MHCA Green Team

- Saturday, March 16
- 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
- Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd, Madison

Susan Carpenter is the Native Plant Garden curator and gardener at the University of Wisconsin–Madison Arboretum. Since 2003, she has worked with students and community volunteers to maintain and monitor a 4-acre garden representing the plant communities of southern Wisconsin and has done much more in the area of Native Plant Gardening.

Susan's Badger Talks presentation will center on native plants being the basis of sustainable, diverse, and beautiful gardens supporting pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife. These gardens thrive without fertilizers, pesticides, mowing, or supplemental watering. We will share garden examples, plant sources, and practical tips for garden care. A Q&A session will follow.

*Let's be a really sustainable **Green Team** and bring our own coffee mugs or flasks to enjoy with a snack.*

Presented by the Midvale Heights Green Team in partnership with Sequoia Library.

Let's Talk *Restoring Native Plant Habitats at Home*

This April 4 Let's Talk is a great follow-up to the Saturday, March 16, Let's Talk Gardening with Native Plants presented by Susan Carpenter. This event is for those of you who want to learn more about native plants, getting help designing your garden and more.

- Sarah Savage, owner, Tend Native Plant
- Talk: Helping Gardeners Restore Native Plant Habitats at Home



- Thursday, April 4, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison
- <https://www.tendnativeplants.com/>

Sarah Savage opened Tend Native Plants in 2023 to help gardeners restore habitat at home. The small nursery in Blue Mounds specializes in pollinator-safe native plants for the Madison area. She will share some of the best native plants for small yards, how they support the local ecosystem, and tips for plant shopping.

Presented by the Midvale Heights **Green Team** in partnership with Sequoia Library.



Spring Median Cleanup

By Wendy Weber and Jenny Pilling
The MHCA Green Team

It's almost spring and that means it is soon time for sprucing up the Tokay medians. It's a great way to celebrate a belated Earth Day and do something great for our neighborhood! The cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.** The following weekend is Mothers Day, so let's try something different and make the **rain date Wednesday, May 8, from 4-8 p.m.** Or a date that works for you. If you would like to help out and can't make those dates, please email wendyweber@att.net to learn where clean up is needed.



Please bring your gloves, clippers, a rake, other garden tools, etc. you find useful, water and coffee flasks as well as enthusiasm to the Green Table at the corner of Piper and Tokay for work assignments, coffee, and a snack.

If you are interested in adopting a median, please go to this website: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/programs-initiatives/adopt-a-median>

So, you're taking the native plant plunge and decided to support your local food webs and ecosystems. Unfortunately, it can feel challenging to source native plants, since they're not carried at big box or hardware stores, but we're here to help. The following shortlist of local resources will support your efforts:

Plant Dane (ripple-effects.com/Plant-Dane)

Plant Dane, an initiative of Ripple Effects, supports water quality in our waterways. Individual flowers, grasses, legumes, sedges and rushes have a minimum order of 4. Garden kits (Rain Garden, Downspout, Pollinator, and Pops of Color) span full sun to shade and come with 16 or 32 plants. It has *great* prices. Ordering opens early in the year and they sell out fast. Plant orders will be accepted **through March 19th** (or while supplies last). Collect plants on May 18.



Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale (foamadison.org/)

The FOA Native Plant Sale, open to all, is a great source for ethically and responsibly grown Wisconsin natives. Proceeds help FOA support the Arboretum's work and mission. There are plant sales **online: Jan. 1 – March 31, 2024** and **on-site: May 18, 2024** (10 AM – 2 PM).

Olbrich Garden (www.olbrich.org/)

Olbrich Garden offers curated native plant selections of 32 plugs, which should cover a 50'-75' garden: a "sedge sampler," "shady carpet," and "bumble bee" mix. You can order online **Feb. 1 – May 6, 2024** and pick up plants at Olbrich in early May. Individually potted perennials will go on sale April 16 at 10 a.m.

More links and resources are available at: <https://weac.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Education-in-Native-Plants.pdf>

Fill the Gaps: Have You Noticed Our Neighborhood's Disappearing and Reappearing Sidewalks?

By Matt Wise

MHCA Resident and Member



My family and I moved to Midvale Heights just more than three years ago to be closer to my wife's parents. My wife grew up in Midvale Heights and her parents still live in the same house. We're close enough to walk, but we soon realized that the best walking route took us down Hilltop, which lacks sidewalks on the northern section. We also have cousins in Midvale Heights who won't walk their kids to school because of missing sidewalks on Hilltop and Ames. Then I started to notice that Hilltop is actually a heavily walked section. I regularly see people out for a stroll, walking their dogs, or kids walking to school—all in the street and unprotected from car traffic. The intersection between Hilltop and South Segoe is particularly dangerous, there is no stop sign on South Segoe, and cars turning right from South Segoe to Hilltop have their view obstructed by bushes as they take (often high-speed) right hand turns onto Hilltop.

I started talking with a few people about the possibility of getting the city to put in sidewalks

on that section of Hilltop. I spoke with our alder Bill Tischler as well as seeking advice from the board of MHCA. Sidewalk projects seem to have a history of being very divisive. Historically, if the city decides to install a sidewalk, the homeowners are charged for at least half of the cost. No wonder people are against it!

I learned from our Alder last year that the city passed a new resolution stating that homeowners would not be charged for the installation of infill sidewalks. Bill checked with city staff and has confirmed that sidewalks on Hilltop would qualify as infill and homeowners would not be assessed for installation costs. The city is also no longer assessing homeowners for sidewalk repairs and maintenance.

So, I come to my question for you, the members of MHCA. Do we want to ask the city to install sidewalks along Hilltop and some of the surrounding gaps? With the new city resolution meaning the city would cover the entire cost of installation, this might be the time to try and make it happen.