



Midvale Messenger

May-June 2024

Calendar:

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

May 28: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoia Library, 6:45 p.m.

June 1: Friends of Sequoia Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 15: Friends of Sequoia Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 20: MHCA Annual Picnic, Segoe Park, 6 p.m. to dusk

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.

Editor: Dustin Beilke
dustinbeilke@yahoo.com

President: Joy Cardin
cardinjoy@gmail.com

www.midvaleheights.org

President's Message

Gearing Up for Summertime Fun

By Joy Cardin

President of the Midvale Heights Community Association

Hello Neighbors,

The Midvale Heights Community Association is busy planning some of your favorite spring and summer activities right now. It won't be long before we see kids playing baseball in the parks, families enjoying brats and burgers and ice cream during the annual picnic in June, and hear toe-tapping music from the popular bands performing every Friday in July for Summer Nights at Segoe. In addition, Midvale Heights will once again help sponsor the 4th of July Festival in Westmorland Park.



There will be more information on these fun and (mostly) free events as we get closer to them. You can take part in these activities even if you aren't a member of the Midvale Heights Community Association, but please note MHCA membership dues help pay for these longtime traditions.

It's only \$15 to join MHCA for 2024-2025. You will receive a Midvale Heights membership directory and a discount card good at participating area businesses - and the good feeling that comes along with being a good neighbor! You can find more information, and a membership form, at Midvaleheights.org.

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.

Neighborhood News Briefs

What's New at Our Neighborhood Radio Station?

By Carl Wacker
Friends of WIDE-LP

WIDE-LP radio will again be sponsoring a Make Music Madison venue on Friday, June 21 from about 3:30 pm until 5 pm. Seating will be available on the front lawn of 626 Orchard Drive.

In case of rain, the show will go on and musicians will perform from the garage. Part of the event will be broadcast live over WIDE-LP, 99.1 FM.

The schedule of performers is still being developed. Musicians of all ages are invited to perform by emailing the station at: radio@widelp.org. For 2023, performers included Vets on Frets, Tite2Nite, the Raging Grannies



**Your Neighborhood
Radio Station**

Community Supported / Ad-free



Donate to Keep Friends of Sequoya Library Strong

By Nadine Pfothenhauer
Friends of Sequoya Library

Spring has really sprung for the Friends of Sequoya! April (National Library Month) kicked off our campaign requesting support from community members. Our new 2024 brochures are available at the library and also at our book shop in Market

Square. All contributions go directly to supporting Sequoya. This spring you can look forward to the following programs sponsored by the Friends: Saturday Jazz, finger style guitar and water color classes, Fall Prevention lectures, 4 sessions of TaiChi for Fall prevention, Pogie the Yogi, Chinese story time and very popular weekly events which bring teens to Sequoya. We *always* need your donations of books, DVDs and CDs to keep our sales vibrant! You can bring your donations to the shop Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. We also accept them at Sequoya every day. 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/>. Our next sales at the Friends of Sequoya Shop in Market Square are May 4, June 1 and 15 and July 6.

and The Folk Circus.

Photos from past MMM events can be seen at:

madisonwi.us/WIDE-LP/photos/MakeMusicMadison

WIDE-LP 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. Please email us at:

radio@widelp.org if you are interested in volunteering.

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](http://midvaleheights.org/Annual-Neighborhood-Garage-sales) starting July 1. Registrations will be due in early August (date to be determined).

Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is May 11

Letter carriers in the Midvale Heights neighborhood and across the country head out on their routes each year on the second



Saturday in May to collect donations of non-perishable food items to benefit local food pantries. Since launching in 1993, the National Association of Letter Carriers' annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has grown into the nation's largest one-day food drive, helping to fill the shelves of food banks in cities and towns throughout the United States.

The need is great, but you can help. We invite you to join letter carriers and our partner organizations in the fight to end hunger in our communities by participating in the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Every unexpired and non-perishable food item is important and appreciated!

Simply leave your donation of non-perishable food in a bag near your mailbox on the second Saturday in May, and your letter carrier will do the rest.

MHCA Youth Baseball: It's Not Too Late to Register

By Michael Pressman

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](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.



County Board Update

By Aaron Collins
District 10 Dane County Board Supervisor

I'm happy to announce that since my last update I have been re-elected to my second term on the Dane County Board in District 10. I appreciate all of your support and it continues to be an honor to serve in this role. With another two-year term in front of me, I wanted to share my top 5 priorities that I'll be working on. It's important for me to reflect the will of the people in Spring Harbor and the rest of District 10 while also working on policies that benefit the whole of Dane County.

1. Protecting our lakes and natural spaces: This continues to be a top priority for me. During my first term, I was proud to serve on the Environment Committee and work on issues concerning water quality, lake levels, PFAS mitigation, and land conservation. I look forward to diving more deeply into these issues after two years of experience.

2. Supporting children and families: County staff does admirable work in caring for and supporting vulnerable youth in our community but due to a lack of resources, there are some children who fall through the cracks and need more help. The county plays a critical role in the foster care system within the Human Services department. I will be working to address this in the upcoming session to ensure every child is offered the best opportunities to succeed. I will also be looking at ways the county can bolster our overstretched child care infrastructure. With the state legislature refusing to extend funding for Child Care Counts, we are at a crisis point for parents and providers. I'm hopeful the county can find creative solutions to make some headway on this issue.

3. Advocating for the rights and equality of people with disabilities: Last session, I was successful in making it the policy of Dane County that all county facilities of a certain size have a restroom with a height adjustable changing station for families or caretakers who have a child with disabilities. I'm confident we can do more to make all our public spaces accessible and enjoyable for everyone. It is my goal that Dane County becomes the most accessible county for people with disabilities in the nation.

4. Addressing Dane County's racial disparities with equity-focused policies:

Dane County must do more to reduce the deplorable racial disparities that have persisted over the years. We have made strides with the jail consolidation project to ensure that the necessary services are available to those within the criminal justice system. But our racial disparities touch so many other areas including poverty, education, and health outcomes. Addressing this will require collaboration between different levels of government, school districts, and the nonprofit sector. This has to be addressed with urgency so future generations aren't experiencing these same disparities.



5. Finding solutions to create affordable housing options amid rapid growth: Dane County is experiencing rapid growth which creates many challenges but also huge opportunities moving forward. This all starts with housing. We need to work at all levels of government to make sure there is affordable workforce housing available throughout Dane County, but especially here in Madison where many young families are being priced out of the market. Last budget, we invested \$10 million into the Affordable Housing Development fund which will open up new opportunities, with projects even right here on the west side.

Finally, we need to maintain our capital budget at a reasonable rate that holds the line on property taxes. This especially impacts seniors who want to stay in their homes but with property taxes increasing year over year, it becomes challenging. I'll work to create a responsible budget that invests in our community in a smart way. My list of priorities could go on and on, but I wanted to give you a broad overview of what I'll be focusing on as this new term begins. As always, please never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Email: Collins.Aaron@countyofdane.com

Phone: 608-512-8389

Don't Miss Dist. 11 Book Club Discussion on Jens Jensen, Importance of Parks and Wilderness Areas

By Bill Tishler
District 11 Alder

Hidden along the Southwest Commuter bike route lies Glenwood Children's Park, a former sandstone quarry that was active over 175 years ago. It is believed the oldest buildings on Bascom Hill were crafted from stone hewn from this quarry. By the 1920s, the quarry lay abandoned and overgrown, yet it drew the attention of the Madison Parks and Pleasure Drive Association, who saw it as an ideal park location. However, it wasn't until the 1940s that efforts were made to turn this old quarry into a public park by the famous landscape architect Jens Jensen (1860-1951), celebrated for his naturalistic approach to design. In his 2012 book, "Jens Jensen: Writings Inspired by Nature," my father, William H. Tishler, Emeritus Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin wrote that, "Jens Jensen is considered one of America's most distinguished landscape architects, known for his contributions to both the prairie style of landscape architecture and the land conservation movement."

Jens Jensen came to Madison and spearheaded the design and oversight of the creation of the Glenwood Children's Park, which involved clearing away invasive plant species, planting indigenous flowering shrubs and trees, and constructing one of his distinctive "council rings," which has since inspired the installation of new Council Rings all over Madison. The



Glenwood Children's Park was completed in 1945 and later designated a City of Madison landmark on April 14, 1975.

Join me and my father on June 26th at the Sequoia Library from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm for another District 11 Book Club discussion to learn more about Jens Jensen and the importance of parks and wilderness areas in our city. We will be reading excerpts from Jens Jensen's writings that were published in the Capital Times. Copies of these articles, spanning from 1940 to 1947, are available for you to pick up in person at the Sequoia Library. I am looking forward to seeing you on June 26th for a discussion about Madison Parks, conservation, and the legacy of Jens Jensen.

Let's Talk...Saving Our Songbirds and Spring Median Cleanup

By Wendy Weber

The MHCA Green Team

- Thursday, May 30, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** Enjoy a loop of great local bird video footage
- 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Presentation and Q&A
- Sequoia Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison 53711
- Presented by Lisa Gaumnitz, from SOS Save Our Songbirds

Join us to learn:

- ◆ What native plants, shrubs and trees are recommended here in Wisconsin for their pollination and shelter properties.
- ◆ How we can protect our songbirds by reducing deadly dangers of glass windows and doors.
- ◆ That most coffee is grown in ways that destroy migratory songbird habitats. In fact, vast swaths of forest have been cleared where many Wisconsin songbirds spend their winters.
- ◆ Major bird and nature conservation organizations launched SOS Save Our Songbirds in March 2023 to raise awareness of birds' dire situation and spur action at home.
- ◆ By providing basic Wisconsin-tailored information, hands-on events, discounts and supplies, we're helping people make small changes at home to give birds the habitat they need year-round and reduce window threats.

Together, we're saving Wisconsin songbirds one yard, one window, and one cup of coffee at a time!

This event is co-hosted by the MHCA Green Team and Sequoia Library.



Tokay Median Spring Clean-up is Saturday, May 4

It's finally 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**. By the way, thanks to those of you who have already done clean up! 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 would be appreciated. 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>

Saving Our Vanishing Songbirds

By Jenny Pilling and Wendy Weber

The MHCA Green Team

If you'd like to support our songbirds, first and foremost, having appropriate feeders with appropriate seed and protection from critters (here's looking at you raccoons!), such as a baffle, is a great way to start. I have had the best luck going with the professionals at Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) on Old Sauk Rd. in Middleton. Many native songbirds are remarkably fussy about what they eat, so I've learned the hard way to pay a bit more but get fresh, targeted seed and feeders from Wild Birds Unlimited, which also hosts a lecture series on a range of bird-related topics.

But don't stop there. Birds also need to drink and to bathe throughout the year. So, a heated birdbath is a good way to go. Or you could get a traditional birdbath and add a de-icer in winter. Local options for a heated bird bath include Farm & Fleet and WBU. There are countless options online in a range of styles and price points.

Another great resource is SOS Save our Songbirds. Their top three tips are: (1) add native plants for birds, (2) reduce window threats, and (3) buy bird-friendly coffee. Lots more information is available on their website: www.sossaveoursongbirds.org/.

In a nutshell, by planting native, you'll get more beneficial insects, which pollinate our food supply and feed the birds, and so on up the food chain – to us!



SOS also provides native plant lists: www.sossaveoursongbirds.org/free-native-plant-guide and an excellent handout by Wisconsin bird and native plant expert and author Mariette Nowak, "Beyond the Bird Feeder: Creating a Bird-Friendly Yard with Native Wisconsin Plants." (continued on page 8)



Saving Our Vanishing Songbirds (cont. from p. 7)

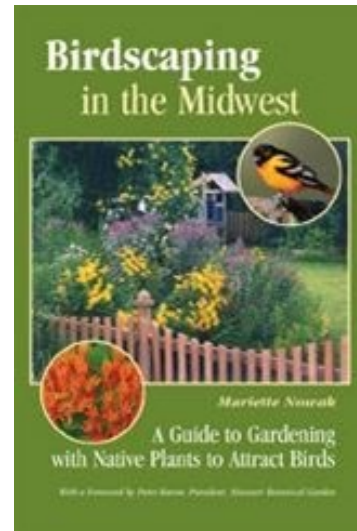
By Jenny Pilling and Wendy Weber
MHCA Green Team

Mariette Nowak also wrote *Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 9/2012), uwpress.wisc.edu/presskits/Nowak_Birdscaping.html, which has lots of color pictures and gives practical advice on using native plants, shrubs and trees to create habitats for hummingbirds, bluebirds, wintering birds, migrant birds, and birds that frequent prairies, wetlands, lakes, shrublands, and woodland, among other topics – and boxes, misters, perches – to support bird life.

If you're looking to support birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (www.birds.cornell.edu/home/) has excellent guidance and resources, including guidance for K – 12 educators and for families (Science & Nature Activities for Cooped Up Kids and Nature Quests for Families) and on feeders, birdhouses, etc.

If you want to help nesting birds, **do** provide any of the following:

- Dead twigs or leaves
- Dry grass (make sure the grass hadn't been treated with pesticides)
- Feathers
- Plant fluff or down (e.g. cattail fluff, cottonwood down)
- Moss
- Bark strips
- Pine needles



Do not provide:

- plastic strips
- Tinsel
- Cellophane
- aluminum foil
- dryer lint

Do provide nesting material in any of the following ways:

- in piles on the ground (works well for leaves and twigs)
- in clean wire-mesh suet cages or in mesh bags hung on tree trunks, fence posts, or railings
- pushed into tree crevices
- draped over vegetation
- in open-topped berry baskets
- spiral wire hangers made especially for putting out nest material

We hope that some of these resources will allow you to reconnect with the natural world - right in your own backyard.