



Midvale Messenger

September-October 2024

Calendar:

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

September 12: MHCA Green Team Let's Talk about Soil, Part 1, Sequoia Library, 6:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m.

September 24: MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoia Library, 6:45 p.m.

October 3: MHCA Green Team Let's Talk about Soil, Part 2, Sequoia Library, 5:30 p.m.

October 5: Friends of Sequoia Library Bookshop Sale, Market Square, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October 27: MHCA Annual Meeting with veterinarian Dr. Carrie Bunger, Sequoia Library, 6:30 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.

Editor: Dustin Beilke
dustinbeilke@yahoo.com

President: Joy Cardin
cardinjoy@gmail.com

www.midvaleheights.org

President's Message

MHCA Annual Meeting Celebrates Our Neighborhood's Pets

By Joy Cardin

Do you share your home with a cat or a dog or another animal companion? Maybe you have more than one pet? My husband Rob and I are the fairly new owners of two orange kittens, Jay and Juna. They are super adorable and big troublemakers. We even had to put child-proof locks on our kitchen cabinets because they learned how to open them! Their health and safety are very important to us as with all caretakers.



We had a health scare with them recently that had us worried sick. Without going into great detail, we were worried enough to take them to an emergency veterinary clinic. After some very expensive tests, we learned they might need surgery to remove possible intestinal blockages. Thankfully, the areas of concern seen on the x-rays were no longer visible after the kittens were given IV fluids. This scare was on my mind when I reserved the conference room at Sequoia Library and started planning the Midvale Heights Community Association's Annual Meeting in October, where we hear from a guest speaker who shares their expertise on a topic of interest. Since our pets are a big part of the quality of life in Midvale Heights, I reached out to neighborhood resident and veterinarian Dr. Carrie Bunger to see if she would join us to talk about pet care. Dr. Bunger is the owner of Paws and Claws Mobile Veterinary Service (pawsnclawsvet.com/) and a Midvale Heights resident. She will join us at the annual meeting on Tuesday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Sequoia Library. She'll share advice on ways to keep our pets happy and healthy. Come to the meeting with your pet care questions - but the library asks that you leave your pets at home!

Please note the date of the annual meeting, October 29, is the fifth Tuesday, not the usual fourth Tuesday of the month. The conference room at the library was not available on our usual date. We'll post more information about the MHCA annual meeting on our website (midvaleheights.org/) and Facebook page (facebook.com/MidvaleHeights)

Neighborhood News Briefs



First Ever Midvale Heights Westmoreland Olympics Wins Gold

By Alexandra Salmon

The Olympic Games between Team Midvale Heights and Team Westmorland on July 28 was a great success! There was a lot of energy, enthusiasm, and great team spirit. Team Midvale Heights first met at Piper Park to do some warm-up exercises and get each other excited about the day. They then paraded down Tokay together with their team flag, cow bells, drums, and entered Westmorland Park for the opening ceremony.

The games included Capture the Flag, Badminton, Ultimate Frisbee, a Running Relay, Kids' Only Water Balloon Toss, and Tug of War. Team Midvale Heights gave it their all and ended up taking home the gold! Even after the competition concluded, a lot of athletes from both teams stuck around to play



Friends of Sequoya Library are Counting on Your Donations

By Nadine Pfothenauer
Friends of Sequoya Library

As students and teachers are back at school, and the warm summer days are turning toward fall, we hope you all have fond memories of the beautiful summer and great expectations for the upcoming season. If you are

wondering what to do with last year's school books, or in fact any book, DVD, CD, game or puzzle that you no longer use, we would like to remind you that we need your donations to help our wonderful Sequoya Branch Library. We sell those donations to generate funds for new books - best sellers, "too good to miss" current children's and teens' favorites, and any lost or damaged - which fill the shelves at Sequoya.

We accept donations at Sequoya Library every day but you can also bring them to the Friends of Sequoya Bookshop in Market Square on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. We request that large donations are brought to the shop only but, if you have mobility issues, leave a message at 608-288-9848 so we can arrange a pick up. If you have any questions about donations or volunteering with the Friends of Sequoya, ask at the Sequoya Help Desk, come to the shop to talk with us on our donation days or leave a message at 608-698-9848.

Upcoming sales at the Friends of Sequoya Shop are September 7, October 5, and November 2 & 16. Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/).

soccer and volleyball. We probably had 100-150 people attend, and thanks to the Midvale Heights Community Association's generous donation, the athletes and spectators were well-nourished with snacks and juice.

It is events like these that bring people of all ages together and

help strengthen our community. Often these types of events start as a small idea amongst a few friends, and with vision, organization, and help from the community, they become a reality. Here's to all the community gatherings that start off as a small idea but end up forging lasting bonds and memories!

Dane County Board Update

By Aaron Collins

Dane County Board District 10 Supervisor

I hope you all enjoyed the summer in Madison as much as my family did. We spent our days exploring County and State Parks, visiting the Union Terrace, and enjoying everything our corner of the world has to offer.

As we're rapidly approaching budget season, my update this month is about the annual County Budget. It's said that our Dane County government is in charge of everything from the airport to the zoo. That's very true and, with a roughly \$1 billion annual budget, there's a lot that goes into creating and implementing this document every year.

First things first, the budget is divided into an operating budget and a capital budget. The Operating Budget funds expenses like staff, operating costs, contractual costs, and on-going activities in county departments. The Operating Budget is funded from a wide variety of sources such as intergovernmental revenues, grants, fees, property taxes, the vehicle registration fee, and sales tax. The Capital Budget funds one-time projects. Some examples are the Conservation Fund for land purchases, building remodeling, highway construction and major technology upgrades. The Capital Budget is primarily funded with the proceeds of bonds and notes issued by the County.

In 2024, the operating budget totaled over \$789 million, while capital spending came in at \$179 million. Property taxes on the average Madison home increased by \$147.22.

Coming into 2025, I wanted to highlight some things I'm focused on when approaching the budget process.

First, we have to hold the line on property taxes.

While I am a firm believer in public investments, we also have to ensure people can afford to continue living in Dane County, and specifically in our neighborhoods on the west side of Madison.

Property taxes play a role in whether someone can afford to move into a house or remain in a home, specifically for those on a fixed income.

Second, I want to increase accessibility for individuals with disabilities. I often say that my goal is for Dane County to be the most accessible county in the nation. I will keep working to ensure all public spaces are viewed with a lens of accessibility for all residents.

Finally, with human services making up almost half of the county budget, I want to ensure our most vulnerable residents are supported. This includes providing access to youth social services, increased housing options, and more support for senior citizens. All of these programs make our community stronger. I have always liked the Hubert Humphrey that states, "The true measure of a society is found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."

I firmly believe our government in Dane County lives by those values and we must continue to do so in this budget and beyond.

As always, please never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the budget or anything else on your mind.

Email: Collins.Aaron@countyofdane.com

Phone: 608-512-8389



District 11 Book Club Opens a New Chapter

By Bill Tishler

Madison District 11 Alder

This fall marks the one-year anniversary of our District 11 Book Club. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the participants and authors who joined me throughout the year as we explored a variety of topics affecting our district, from free parking and restrictive zoning to the housing shortage and environmental issues. We even read a book about how minds change, which raised the intriguing question of whether politicians can change their minds.

For me, the hundreds of residents who participated in the book club, asked insightful questions, and shared their perspectives on the issues discussed in the books we read have significantly influenced how I vote and think about city policy. This past year has reinforced my belief that books have been, and will continue to be, a powerful tool for political persuasion and public engagement.

As we look ahead to what's next on our literary journey, we'll begin by reading a book about transportation, exploring the history of public transit, and examining how the automobile has reshaped American cities in recent decades. On October 9, we will discuss Tom Standage's 2021 book, ["A Brief History of Motion: From the Wheel, to the Car, to What Comes Next."](#)

In his New York Times review of Standage's book, Simon Winchester writes, "Shopping malls, gas stations, drive-ins — and redlining, Robert Moses, urban blight, white flight — all were born of this utopia turned dystopia, and Standage writes with a masterly clarity before turning his attention, as need dictates, to the topic of Our Automotive Future."

Borrow a copy of "A Brief History of Motion" and join me and others for a lively discussion at the Sequoya Library on Wednesday, October 9, at 7:00 pm. After Labor Day, a few free copies of the book will be available at the Ask Desk at Sequoya Library starting, first-come first-served.



Our Green Team Keeps People Talking

By Wendy Weber

The MHCA Green Team

The MHCA Green Team has organized three events this fall focusing on soil, agriculture, climate change and other crucial environmental issues. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Let's Talk About Soil, Part 1: Kiss the Ground (documentary)

Thursday, September 12, 6:30-8:45pm
Sequoia Library - 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison

Narrated and featuring Woody Harrelson, *Kiss the Ground* (2020, 84 minutes) is an inspiring and groundbreaking film that reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis. The solution is under our feet.

Kiss the Ground reveals that, by regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. The film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle.

We invite you to join us to learn and be inspired as well as encouraged!

This free screening is made possible by ROCO Films and is hosted in partnership with the Midvale Heights Community Association Green Team.

Let's Talk About Soil, Part 2: Making and Using Compost in Your Backyard

Sequoia Library, Meeting Rooms A and B Combined, Thursday, Oct 3, 2024, 5:30pm to 6:30pm

What is compost and how can I use it in my yard? Why should I compost? What are the ben-

efits of composting? Can I make my own compost? A certified Master Gardener Volunteer will answer these questions and many more during this talk. You will learn the role that oxygen, food and water play in the composting process. You will also learn what materials should never go in a compost pile.

About the presenter

Speakers for this program are Dane County Extension Horticulture Volunteers who serve their community through activities and educational presentations on a broad range of horticultural subjects. This talk will be presented by Mary Collet. dane.extension.wisc.edu/

Let's Talk About Soil, Part 3: Common Ground (documentary)

Tuesday, November 12, 6:30-8:45pm
Sequoia Library - 4340 Tokay Blvd., Madison

Common Ground is the highly anticipated sequel to *Kiss the Ground*.

There will be more info about this event in the Nov./Dec. issue of the MHCA Messenger.



Recycle Food Scraps Close to Home, Including in Midvale Heights

Food scraps recycling drop-off is available **right here in Midvale Heights** and at two other locations around Madison.

Drop-Off Locations:

West Community Market
westsidecommunitymarket.org/
 505 S. Rosa Rd; within the Research Park area,
 until **October 5, 2024**, funded by the City of
 Madison

Drop-offs also now available every Saturday, 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. until **November 2, 2024**, thanks to a Youth Climate Action Grant won by Sustain Dane.



Check out the website for other drop off locations, lists of food scraps you can and cannot drop off at the market sites, a guide to composting at home and much more here:

cityofmadison.com/streets/food-scraps
[Scrap.cfm#BannedFromMarketDropOff](https://scrap.cfm#BannedFromMarketDropOff)



It's a Native Plant Sale—Benefiting Wild Ones

You may be interested in this online native plant sale that will bring perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees to Madison from Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls. This sale will benefit Wild Ones, an organization connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet. Wild Ones promotes native landscapes through education, advocacy and collaborative action.

Act fast! Online ordering ends September 6.

Pickup is Friday, Sept. 13, at 3030 Gateway Place, Madison, 53704, very close to Olbrich Gardens. This website has more info on the sale and ordering: <https://madison.wildones.org/treeandshrubsale/>