



# Midvale Messenger

November-December 2024

## Calendar:

**November 12:** MHCA Green Team "Common Ground" Documentary Screening, Sequoya Library, 6:30pm to 8:45 p.m.

**November 13:** WIDE-LP 99.1 FM Annual Meeting, 626 Orchard Dr., 2-3 p.m.

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

**November 26:** MHCA Board Meeting, Sequoya Library, 6:45 p.m.

**December 18:** Friends of Sequoya Library Special Holiday Sale, Market Square, 2 p.m. to 6 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

### Community and Voting

By Joy Cardin

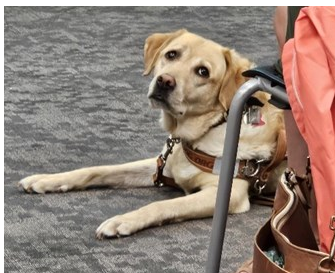
President of the Midvale Heights Community Association

The Midvale Heights Community Association held its election for board members during our annual meeting on October 29. The election was civil and uncontested! You can find the contact information for MHCA officers and directors here: [https://midvaleheights.org/MHCA\\_Contacts](https://midvaleheights.org/MHCA_Contacts).



Meanwhile, outside the conference room where we were meeting at Sequoya Library, a long line of voters waited patiently (often over an hour) to vote early for the candidates of their choice on the November ballot. I am writing this column before the outcome is known on the many consequential races and referendum questions. We'll likely be talking about the results of the Madison budget question and whether the community will be facing cuts to services or higher property taxes with Alder Bill Tishler at our next MHCA meeting on November 26 at 6:45pm at Sequoya Library.

Hoping for the best. Preparing for the worst. Hang in there everyone!



## Neighborhood News Briefs

### Don't Miss the Friends of Sequoya Library Holiday Sale

By Nadine Pfotenhauer  
Friends of Sequoya Library

With Halloween behind us the winter holidays will be upon us in no time! Thanksgiving is always a wonderful time to remember with gratitude the kindness of our community and the lovely donations we receive to sell at our book sales. Thank you, thank you Midvale Heights residents for your support. The Friends of Sequoya have some exciting news! After our two November sales, and our usual first Saturday Sale December 7, on Wednesday December 18 from 2-6 p.m. we are having a special holiday sale! This event will be for holiday shoppers, no scanners will be welcome. "The Holiday Twilight Sale" will feature gift quality books and stocking stuffers as well as our usual inventory of lovely donated books, CDs and DVDs. 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 or 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 on our shop phone: 608-288-9848. Remember, upcoming sales at the Friends of Sequoya Shop are 9 to 4 on November 2 & 16, December 7 & 18 (2 to 6 p.m.) and January 4, 2025. Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/>



### Santa Claus is Coming to Midvale Heights

By Gwynneth Schell

Once again, Santa Claus will be visiting Midvale Heights on the Thursday evening before the week of Christmas, December 19. Santa has agreed to stop at homes

throughout our neighborhood, bringing early Christmas wishes to neighborhood children and their families. Santa has asked us to help him with his travel arrangements. If you would like Santa to visit your home, please email [SantaVisits@midvaleheights.org](mailto:SantaVisits@midvaleheights.org) or call 608-622-5388 (text ok).

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](mailto:SantaVisits@midvaleheights.org) or 608-622-5388.

### WIDE-LP FM Wants YOU!

Midvale Heights' own radio station, WIDE-LP 99.1 FM, is holding its annual meeting at my house. Join us to share your ideas for programs and activities. We're looking for new voices and perspectives to keep our programming fresh and engaging.

**Ever wanted to be a radio host?** We're especially seeking someone interested in interviewing our amazing Midvale Heights neighbors for our ***Know Your Neighbor*** show. Come learn more about this exciting opportunity and other ways that you can help keep the station going!

**Date:** Wednesday, November 13th

**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00 PM

**Location:** 626 Orchard Dr.

**Agenda:** <http://widelp.org/2024agenda>

## Permission to Procrastinate + Let's Talk about Soil, Part 3

By Wendy Weber and the MHCA Green Team

There is an annual debate about when you should clean up your garden, but the answer is that you should do what's best for you. Still, there are at least four compelling reasons to sit tight until spring to clean up your garden.

### 1. Support Your Garden's Ecosystem

Letting plants stand for winter provides a host of benefits for the critters that you share your garden with (whether you realize they are there or not). Birds forage from seed heads, mammals find shelter, and insects hole up in nooks and crannies, or hollow stems. A thriving ecosystem is a boon for any garden, not to mention the environment in general.

**2. Beautiful Winter Interest:** "Dead" plants can be beautiful. Shades of yellow and brown that catch the sun just so accent textures that rise above dull, dormant lawns or snow. Snow sits on seed heads like adorable little caps. OK, maybe that's all a little romantic, but if you've ever toiled through a long, bleak winter, you know that anything that makes the gray outdoors a little bit more interesting is a good thing. Your plants are up for the job.



### 3. Your Plants Will Thank You:

Snow is an excellent insulator, and anytime there is a big shift in temperatures in winter, plants fare much better with a blanket of snow protecting them from those extremes. Standing plant material helps snow collect around the crown of a plant—the most delicate part—and adds extra protection on the root zone. And when temperatures start warming, that snow melts and provides a nice drink for plants.



**4. It's Easier:** Embrace your inner lazy gardener and take the easy way out by cleaning up in spring. There's less plant material to clean up in spring as some has been dealt with by animals or simply already broken down into a state that doesn't need cleaning up. The plant material that is left tends to be light, crispy and brittle so it can be broken off and, should it need to be moved, it's much lighter than it was in spring. You can leave the wheelbarrow parked behind the garage if you employ the "chop and drop" method in which you simply chop the standing material up into pieces and let it lie where it lands. (continued on page 4)



## Permission to Procrastinate + (continued)

From a functional standpoint, it's a perfect mulch, returning nutrients right back to where they came from, covering the soil around plants and quick to break down. It lacks a bit in the aesthetics department, but since it breaks down quickly it doesn't take long for the garden to look perfectly tidy again, especially as new foliage covers the worst bits.

There's no law that says you have to choose the same strategy for your entire garden. You can do a thorough cleanup on parts of the garden that immediately border a walkway or patio that will need to be shoveled when the snow flies. If there are plants that have flopped over in an unappealing fashion, don't feel bad giving them the chop in fall.

So plant some bulbs, pick some apples or carve some pumpkins. Enjoy autumn without stressing over having to clean up the garden.

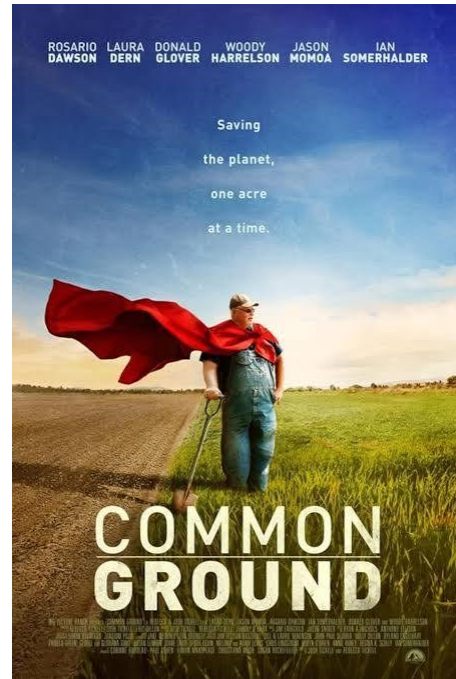
Read more from the Impatient Gardener:  
<https://www.theimpatientgardener.com/>

## Leave The Leaves: Winter Habitat Protection

Where do insects and other invertebrates go in the winter? The vast majority "overwinter," or spend winter, right where they spent all summer — just less active and more hidden.

Think twice before you rake, mow, and blow this year. Invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and other organic debris to cover and insulate them from the elements. Whatever your landscape, you can ensure that resources for nests and overwintering habitat are available.

Read more about winter leaves hear:  
<https://xerces.org/leave-the-leaves>



## Let's Talk About Soil, Part 3: "Common Ground" Documentary Screening

*Sequoia Library, Meeting Rooms A and B Combined,  
 Tuesday, Nov 12, 2024, 6:30pm to 8:45 p.m.*  
<https://commongroundfilm.org/about/>

By fusing journalistic expose' with deeply personal stories from those on the front lines of the sustainable food movement, "Common Ground" unveils a dark web of money, power, and politics behind our broken food system. "Common Ground" is the highly anticipated sequel to the documentary "Kiss the Ground."

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

## Dane County Board Updates

By Aaron Collins

Dane County Board District 10 Supervisor

I hope you're all enjoying this unseasonably warm autumn. I've been getting out to a lot of our community's outdoor spaces lately and enjoying all the sunshine.

On the County Board we're in final deliberations of our annual county budget. As I type this we're finalizing the last amendments and it should pass later tonight! I'll lay out details of the finalized budget in my next update.

In this County update, I wanted to share some encouraging events regarding the Ho-Chunk people in Dane County. But also troubling news on opioids in our community.

As always, you can contact me if you have any questions or concerns: Email: [Collins.Aaron@countyofdane.com](mailto:Collins.Aaron@countyofdane.com); phone: 608-512-8389

### Dane County Honors Ho-Chunk Legacy

In March 2024, the Dane County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution which provided that the Ho-Chunk flag would permanently be flown at the City-County Building (CCB). I was thrilled to vote for this resolution.

The goal and aspirations of the resolution became a reality two weeks ago when, during a celebratory event, the Ho-Chunk flag was officially flown for the first time in front of the CCB in downtown Madison with members of the Ho-Chunk nation and many elected officials present.

Our community and our nation have a long path toward healing. But we are taking some important symbolic steps including this flag raising and honoring, for the first time in Dane County

history, an official Indigenous Peoples Day holiday.

Unraveling a long history of injustice, marginalization, and racism will clearly not be accomplished by a holiday or flag raising alone, but it is a starting point and recognition that we must address our history and honor the rich cultural history and diversity the Ho-Chunk people have brought to Dane County.

We must continue to celebrate and reflect upon the contributions and resilience of the Indigenous peoples who have taken care of the environment, the lands, and communities throughout history, and respect the Tribal Nations sovereignty.

### Public Health Madison Dane County Report on Opioid Fatalities

Every year, our public health agency produces a report that reviews data from local opioid fatalities. The numbers are alarming to say the least. The individuals impacted by this opioid epidemic are our friends and neighbors. They deserve our recognition, and to right systems that have let families down.

With the aid of Opioid Settlement funds and existing county resources, we're starting to make investments but it's going to be a long road.

To read the entire report you can go to <https://publichealthmdc.com/>



## Back to the Future: Exploring Madison's Past to the 1970s

By District 11 Alder Bill Tishler

For our next District 11 Book Club on December 11th, we'll embark on an unconventional journey through time by exploring a book before it's even published! I'm thrilled to announce that joining us that evening will be Stu Levitan, a distinguished community leader, historian, radio personality, and local author. Stu has played an active role in local governance, serving on various City of Madison committees, and is widely recognized for his deep knowledge of Madison's history. He'll provide us with a special sneak preview of his forthcoming second volume on the history of Madison, which continues the story from his 2006 publication, *Madison: The Illustrated Sesquicentennial History, 1856-1931*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press. A limited number of copies of the first volume will be available at the Sequoya Library for checkout at the "Ask Desk" on a first-come, first-served basis. I encourage you to read his first book to prepare for what is sure to be a fascinating exploration into Madison's past.

Since it would be impossible to cover all of Madison's history in just one evening, I asked Stu which time period he would like to focus on for a presentation and discussion, showcasing photographs and illustrations from his new book. He chose the 1970s, a transformative decade in which Madison embodied the spirit of the times, marked by the environmental movement, anti-war demonstrations, and a vibrant community of progressive thinkers dedicated to advancing civil rights and promoting feminist movements. The city's legacy of 1970s protests, community organization, and progressive thought remains an essential part of our identity today.

The District 11 Book Club will be held on December 11 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the



Sequoya Library located at 4340 Tokay Boulevard. This informal public event is open to everyone, and even if you haven't read the first volume of *Madison's History*, I encourage you to join us and contribute to the conversation! Your insights and perspectives will be valuable additions to the discussion. Contact me at [District11@cityofmadison.com](mailto:District11@cityofmadison.com) if you are interested in participating in the book discussion or just show up on Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00 pm with friends for a lively discussion about Madison's history.

