President’s Message
Preserving Our Arboretum
by Ed Rogers

The UW-Arboretum was established in the 1930s, with Aldo Leopold as its first research director. Civilian Conservation Corps workers transformed the land into the ecological restoration of the “original Wisconsin” we have in Madison today.

To maintain the more than 1,000 acres of woods, prairies, wetlands, and gardens, the UW-Arboretum is looking for Restoration Team Leaders. It’s an opportunity for you to develop professional ecological skills, practice the land ethic, and give back to your community.

Team leaders play a critical role in restoring Arboretum prairies and savannas by supervising other volunteers at Saturday morning ecological restoration work parties. They also gain invaluable personal and professional experience as they learn about native ecosystems and plants, manage and maintain native landscapes, and develop leadership and communication skills. Team leaders get to know the Arboretum and how it works in every season.

If this sounds interesting to you, act now. Applications are due September 29th. The Restoration Team Leader Training will begin in October. Volunteers will participate in an extensive training that includes working outdoors, workshops, and Red Cross Certification. For more information, contact Marian Farrior at (608) 265-5214 or marian.farrior@arboretum.wisc.edu.

If the leadership program sounds like a big commitment, consider stopping in for a Restoration Work Party. Volunteer restoration work parties take place the first four Saturday mornings of each month, all year. Ecological restoration is the practice of creating and managing healthy native plant communities. The Arboretum relies on — and deeply appreciates! — volunteer labor to help with this ongoing work. Weekly drop-in work parties are an essential part of our land care efforts. Find more information about a Restoration Work Party at their website, https://arboretum.wisc.edu/get-involved/.
Neighborhood News Briefs

Neighborhood Roundtable Set for October 7
This year’s Mayor’s Neighborhood Roundtable will be on Saturday, October 7, from 9 a.m. to noon at Monona Terrace. The half-day event will bring together residents, nonprofits, city staff, and governmental officials to work on neighborhood-related issues.

Why come? We all need to work together to make our neighborhoods great places to live for everyone. Come share your skills and ideas with others who are working to make their neighborhoods better. Everyone brings skills and expertise that can help make their neighborhood a welcoming place.

Doors will open at 8 a.m., with the roundtable beginning at 9 a.m. with an address from the Mayor. Workshops will run from 10 a.m. to noon.

Visit the workshop website at www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods or call 608-267-8727 for more information as the date approaches. There will be free childcare and language assistance at the event.

Friends of the Library Book Sales
Upcoming book sale dates are September 16, October 7, and November 4 at Westgate Mall next to TJ Maxx from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A $2 bag sale on discounted items begins at 2 p.m. “Back to Learning” is the theme for September. In addition to hundreds of children’s books, the Friends have classics, biographies, history, art, religion, self-help, parenting, travel, science books, and more, including CDs, DVDs and records.

Donations can be left at the library or brought to the Friends of Sequoya Shop on book sale days or on our Thursday morning volunteer work day. We also can pick up large donations. Contact the Sequoya help desk, come to the shop at Westgate on Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, or call the shop at 608-288-9848 and leave a message.

Green Team News
The Midvale Heights Green Team has announced that there will be no fall cleanup in the Tokay medians this fall. The city will be mowing the medians in anticipation of major replanting in Spring 2018. Watch upcoming issues of the Messenger for more news about the median improvements. In the meantime, contact Nan Lager at nan.lager@gmail.com with any questions.

Welcome MHCA Members—New and Old!
Thank you for supporting the Midvale Heights Community Association in 2017-18. Your MHCA member directory and discount cards should reach you shortly if you have not already received them. Take a look at this Messenger to find out what we have been up to and what we have planned. Feel free to attend our monthly meetings and annual meeting to learn more about the neighborhood and suggest ways we can make it better for everyone who lives here.

Welcome!
Neighborhood Watch News
by Kris Schutte, MHNW Program Coordinator

Wendy Reichel usually writes this column as part of her responsibilities as the Midvale Heights Neighborhood Watch (MHNW) communications coordinator, which also include checking in with local police officers, extracting pertinent data from the Madison Police Dept. website and blogs, and composing and emailing the weekly digest of crime reports and safety tips to more than 600 NW members who have signed up to receive them. (You can sign up, too, at http://midvaleheights.org/neighborhood_watch.)

I've volunteered to write this month’s column to explain why I joined our MHNW group and to urge your participation. I've been a member of MHCA since my husband and I moved here in 1990. Though I was active in neighborhood activities in the 90s and 00s, I took a back seat until a couple years ago. That's when I learned about home and car break-ins right around the corner from my house. Attending MHNW meetings and events gave me valuable insights into what criminals look for, as well as practical tips to help me protect my household and feel safer.

I also learned what MHNW is not: It's NOT political; and we do NOT “patrol” or report to the police. Instead, I've been very impressed and encouraged by what MHNW is: A true grassroots organization that emphasizes education and community building. I genuinely enjoy each monthly event. It's an opportunity to connect with neighbors, become acquainted with the work of our dedicated and highly professional police force, and learn something new about our community and how to function in it more safely. For instance, one speaker told how to access MG&E’s many consumer services and “freebies”; at another meeting, police experts advised ways to improve internet and social networking security.

It has been worthwhile to be a part of the MHNW effort as program coordinator, working with other volunteers to plan our monthly meetings and events. Please contact me at kris.schutte@webchord.com if you have any suggestions or ideas or concerns so that the programs MHNW offers can be responsive to your needs. And please join us at upcoming events, all at 6:30 p.m. at Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Boulevard. I look forward to meeting you there!

Tuesday, September 12: MPD’s West Community Policing Team will talk about how to prevent crimes in our neighborhood and the team members’ role as jack-of-all-trade officers for the department.

Tuesday, October 10: Bernadette Galvez from the Madison Fire Department will teach fire safety and prevention practices as fall and winter arrive.

Tuesday, Nov. 14: To be announced.

Tuesday, December 12: Holiday social with Police Chief Mike Koval and Jay Lengfeld, future captain of the Midtown Police Station

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Hello Midvale Heights neighbors! I hope you’re having a nice start to the fall. Here’s what I’ve been working on:

Condemning Charlottesville Violence: It is astonishing that in 2017, elected officials need to make it clear that they oppose Nazis. But, unfortunately, these are the times we live in. Supervisor Shelia Stubbs and I introduced a Dane County proclamation that condemning the actions of white supremacists in Charlottesville. My goal was to make this non-political: This isn’t about what other political leaders have said, this is about stating our values. I am ashamed to say that not all of my colleagues signed on in support. The final vote will occur in September. I will call out any fellow county board supervisor who does not vote “yes”, and I will campaign against them next election. But I am hopeful that everyone votes in support of condemning Nazis, white supremacy, and white nationalists. I will update you in the next newsletter.

No Profiting off Inmates: I am the lead sponsor of a proposal to ensure the Dane County Jail does not profit from inmate phone, video conferencing, or laundry services. We can charge enough for reimbursement of our costs, but we will not make a profit off of inmates in our jail.

Affordable Housing Grants: The Dane County Board awarded $2 million total to six affordable housing developments throughout the county. The grants will result in 275 new affordable housing units, including a 59-unit building at Union Corners in east Madison and a 57-unit senior development on Normandy Lane here on the west side of the city.

Updating Dane County’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan: Dane County experiences many natural hazards such as winter storms, tornadoes, and flooding. Our natural hazard mitigation plan identifies initiatives to eliminate or reduce damages caused by natural hazards. This update addresses climate change and its projected impacts on natural hazards such as flooding and extreme heat. The plan directs all Dane County governments on how to protect citizens’ personal and economic safety, now and in the future.

“Univercity” Collaboration: The Dane County Board is teaming up with UW Madison professors and students to develop solutions to local challenges. UW professors selected four topics for research this fall: economic development, affordable housing, frequent users of human services, and water quality management. Students will receive experience with real world issues and Dane County will benefit from their research and hard work.

As always, let me know if you have any questions or comments. You can reach me by cell phone at 608-658-7333 or by email at bayrd@countyofdane.com.
Back to school season is here. As I write this, UW students have just moved back to the city, and MMSD teachers are prepping for school to start. This is an exciting time of year.

This is also the time that seems to sneak up on us as the summer ends: city budget season. Madison passes a budget each year November for the following year, which means that your alders spend September and October working through the budgeting process in a series of committee and council meetings.

Last year, in an effort to hear more from our constituents, Alder Matt Phair and I partnered to hold our own budgeting listening sessions during these months. In addition to any city-wide budget listening sessions that might be scheduled, Matt and I will hold at least two in our districts. Sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Meadowridge Library, 5726 Raymond Road, and on Saturday, September 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Sequoya Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd. Feel free to attend either or both sessions.

In these listening sessions, we’ll focus our discussion on topics that I’ve continued to work on for the past four years: prioritizing community safety, pursuing racial and social equity in our city, and ensuring economic opportunity that allows all residents to thrive in our modern society. If you want to participate in a conversation about any of these topics as they relate to the city, please attend these budget sessions so we can hear from you.

Other updates on previous columns include:

First, I have no news to report on potential Westgate development. While I had hoped to hear from the developers this summer, they have not contacted me, suggesting that they are not moving forward in the near future.

Second, last year I advocated for a major investment into an evidence-based crime reduction program known as the “peer support model.” This resulted in $400,000 being set aside to invest in programming to interrupt the cycle of violence. While much needed, these funds were administratively delayed until recently. I’m pleased to report that the RFP for this project has been released and we are moving forward on my plan, our largest new investment in reducing crime outside of policing.

As always, stay in touch with your suggestions, ideas, or feedback. You can always reach me at district10@cityofmadison.com or 608-620-1994.
Bison Prairie Update
by Nancy Kieraldo, Master Gardener

I am happy to report that the first phase of diversifying the Bison Prairie is underway. With help from Kimbrin Cornelius and Barb Bielec, the Canada Goldenrod at the site was cut and moved to the terrace for disposal. Our consultant from Good Oaks Ecological Services recently spent three hours painstakingly painting each cut goldenrod stem with an herbicide with a roller paint brush. This avoided any undo spray that could harm any other plants or animals.

However, there is still work to do to maintain three areas of the Bison Prairie: the rain garden, the sundial area, and the plantings around the sign. One approach would see volunteer(s) claim a specific area to maintain: Someone responsible for the sundial area could work whenever it fit their schedule and be only responsible for that area during the growing season.

That being said, there are times in the spring and fall season that we need more “hands on deck,” including the March spring cleanup and/or burning the prairie; May/June planting; and October’s fall cleanup.

As someone once said to me, “Prairies are low maintenance, but not “no maintenance.” If we can create systems to keep this park maintained, without creating an undo workload for volunteers, I believe that we all can take pride and ownership of this great gateway park to Midvale Heights. Contact Nancy Kieraldo at nkieraldo@gmail.com if you are interested in claiming an area.

Leaf Season!
by Susan Jacobs, UW Extension/Dane County Master Gardener

Falling leaves will soon be part of the landscape as summer slips away. Lawns are healthier when leaves are removed and not left to form a matted winter layer. Sidewalks are less slippery without wet leaves, and snow is easier to remove. Here are some considerations for this fall.

In our wooded neighborhood, there’s a very real temptation to use a labor- and time-saving leaf blower. But leaf blowers are also noise and air polluters: In 2017 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention listed leaf blowers as a common noise that can contribute to permanent hearing loss. In addition, the two-cycle engine gas blowers used by most landscapers create a mix of toxic fumes and particulate matter that add to local smog and greenhouse emissions.

An alternative is electric equipment, which is 40 to 70 percent quieter than gas machines and has 90 percent efficiency. Replacing fossil fuel-powered machinery lowers the overall lawn care carbon footprint. Rechargeable electric blowers using lithium batteries are an affordable choice.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute has a Guide to Safe and Courteous Use of leaf blowers for those who choose a machine (gas or electric): http://opei.org/content/uploads/2015/10/OPEI-Guide-to-Safe-and-Courteous-Use.pdf. Furthermore, raking leaves has many benefits, including keeping us active. If you are not up to it, remember the old-fashioned approach to leaf clean-up: Hire the kid on your block to rake your yard. No matter your choice your neighbors will appreciate a quieter approach to fall clean-up.

Remember that we all benefit from keeping leaves out of the lakes. Pile leaves on the terrace not in the street. And enjoy the crisp days ahead in your yard and garden.
Summer Nights at Segoe Sees Record Crowds

This year’s July concert series at Segoe Park drew large audiences with crowds at most concerts estimated between 250 and 300 people. That’s partly because the bands were already well known around town, and partly because food carts were on hand to offer tasty snacks for parents and kids alike, says organizer Denise Lamb. Picnic suppers, playground equipment for the youngsters, and music for the grownups proved to be a winning combination.

Organizers are pleased that the Friday night concerts have hit their stride in their third year and are already planning for next year’s concert series. If you would like to nominate a band for consideration or have suggestions to further improve the event, please contact Denise Lamb at deniselamb@sbcglobal.net.

The Cajun Strangers and other bands attracted large crowds and got people dancing.
Annual Meeting Set for October 24
by Denise Lamb

Phil Pellitteri, Midvale Heights neighbor and UW Emeritus Professor of Entomology, will be the guest speaker at MHCA’s annual meeting, speaking on “What’s Bugging You?” The Tuesday, October 24, meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Sequoya Branch library, 4340 Tokay Blvd. Bring your questions on the insect pests that are “bugging” you and get some entertaining and informative answers. Other invited speakers include our city, county, and state representatives. MHCA president Ed Rogers will also give a brief “state of the neighborhood” address.

Also on the agenda will be elections for area directors in odd-numbered districts. Most of these directors have agreed to serve again, so the current slate consists of:

Area 1—Chuck Kreimendahl  
Area 3—Jim Thoreson  
Area 5—Denise Lamb  
Area 7—vacant  
Area 9—Ron Rotter/Jane Sherwood  
Area 11—Ed Rogers  
Area 13—Mary Jane Armstrong  
Area 15—Kay Reuter-Krohn/David Krohn

Although he still lives in the neighborhood, Tim Trapp has moved out of Area 7, so we are looking for someone to replace him. In addition, Steve Fitzsimmons has retired as a Co-Director of Area 13, and we are looking for a new co-director for Area 13, one of the largest in Midvale Heights.

The board would also like to hear from members about any new initiatives they would like to see in the neighborhood, so plan to attend both to listen to the speakers and to voice your opinions. This is a great chance to meet your area director and MHCA officers and get to know them better. New residents are especially invited to attend and meet their neighbors.

Watch for a reminder post card in early October with further details on the meeting, where we hope to see many old and new MHCA members. Join the board and your neighbors for an informative evening and our traditional Halloween treats.