



Midvale Messenger

MARCH-APRIL 2019

Calendar:

March 16: Friends of the Library book sale, Westgate, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 18: District 10 alder forum, Sequoya Branch Library, 7 to 8 p.m.

March 26: MHCA board meeting, Sequoya Branch Library, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

April 2: Election Day. Ward 79 polls at Sequoya Branch Library will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

April 6: Friends of the Library book sale, Westgate, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 9: Neighborhood Watch, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

April 15: copy deadline for May-June **Midvale Messenger**.

April 23: MHCA board meeting, Sequoya Branch Library, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

May 4: Friends of the Library book sale, Westgate, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 14: Neighborhood Watch, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Vice-President's Message

Voting—A Midvale Heights Tradition

by Gary Poulson

It's 5:50 a.m. and several people stand outside the Sequoya Library. These brave souls are not waiting to pick up the latest best-seller or the most-in-demand DVD. They are standing in the dark early morning to set up the Ward 79 polling place, which shares its boundaries with the Midvale Heights neighborhood. Most of the poll workers live in Midvale Heights and know many of the people who will be voting. At 7:00 a.m., the polls open and must be ready to receive the steady stream of voters casting their ballots in Ward 79, where Election Day is a neighborhood event: Nearly 93% of eligible Midvale Heights voters participated in last November's election. And despite a much lower turnout for the primary, Ward 79 still had the second highest number of voters in the city.



I have been the Chief Election Inspector for Ward 79 since the two previous Midvale Heights wards were combined after redistricting in 2010. One of my duties includes opening the polls with the declaration, "Hear ye hear ye the polling place at Sequoya Library is now open and will remain open until 8:00 p.m." With that announcement, voter #1 comes through the door. In February, this was former MHCA president Ed Rogers. Another 1127 neighbors voted before poll worker Jill Hynum brought up the rear and we closed the polls.

These numbers suggest that our residents believe that a functioning democracy requires all voters to participate, as voting is the one direct way to participate in governing. Our neighborhood was developed in the 1940s and 50s by members of the Depression/WWII generation who saw voting as a precious right. Like much of the west side, Midvale Heights now includes baby-boomers, genXers, and millennials as well retirees who arrived in the 1960s. Our voting numbers suggest that all Midvale Heights generations take voting seriously. It is great to see young parents arriving at the polls with their children. I believe that this voting ritual makes an impression on the young ones (of course available free stickers don't hurt).

In April 2's general election, we will again have an opportunity to select individuals we believe will serve our neighborhood, city, and state well. Please join your neighbors at Sequoya Library to help select our next Supreme Court Justice, mayor, alderperson, and several School Board members. We'll be open at 7:00 a.m., once again waiting for our neighbors to participate in our democracy.

MIDVALE MESSENGER

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Neighborhood News Briefs

District 10 Alder Candidate Forum Set for March 18

MHCA is sponsoring a forum for neighbors to learn more about the alder candidates for the Common Council seat for District 10, which includes Midvale Heights. The incumbent, Maurice Cheeks, did not run for re-election. Zachary Henak and Kristin Johnson, both political newcomers, are seeking to replace him. Come hear what they have to say and ask them your questions. Gail Bliss, from the League of Women Voters, will moderate the forum.

The event is scheduled for Monday, March 18, from 7 to 8 p.m., at Sequoya Branch Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd.

Registration for Summer Baseball Leagues Now Open

The MHCA sponsors a three-league summer baseball program for children ages 3 to 9.

This year, the season will run from the week of June 4 to the week of July 23.



Tee-Ball League: Tuesdays at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. at Piper Park and Segoe Park. Tee-ball players should be beginners between the ages 3 and 5. The games focus on fun while introducing the basics of baseball.

Minor Coach Pitch League: Thursdays at 5:45 and 7:00 p.m.



at Piper Park and Segoe Park. Minor leaguers are kids ages 5 to 7, who are fresh from Tee-ball or have one year of coach pitch experience. Focus is placed on hitting and base running as well as basic fielding skills.

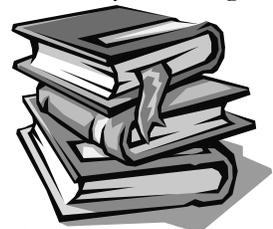
Major Coach Pitch League: Wednesdays at 5:45 and 7:00 p.m. at Midvale School diamond. Major leaguers are kids ages 7 to 9+ who can hit coach pitching. Fielding skills, as well as base running and hitting, are emphasized.

The cost for the first child in a family is \$50, with the second child \$40. Applications to participate are due May 1 and are available at the Sequoya Library or at midvaleheights.org. For any questions, contact Mike Pressman at 608-288-0993 or at mmpressman@charter.net. Play ball!

Friends of the Library Book Sales

Do you have books, CDs, DVDs or records that are no longer giving you joy? The Friends would be happy to ac-

cept your donations for our book sales. The upcoming sale dates for the First Saturday Sales are March 16, April 6, and May 4 at Westgate Mall next to TJ Maxx from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our \$2 bag sale on discounted items begins at 1 p.m. Donations can be left at the library or brought to the Friends of Sequoya Shop on book sale days and on our Thursday morning volunteer work day. We also can pick up large donations.



To volunteer with the Friends ask at 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. Follow us on Facebook at Friends of Sequoya Library.

Bethany Rummage Sale Set for April 13

Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Rd., will hold its annual rummage sale on Saturday, April 13, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Organizers promise bargains galore from furniture to toys, with a "Bag Sale" starting at noon. All proceeds bene-



fit The Playing Field Early Childcare Center. For more information, see www.playingfieldmadison.org.

Good Neighbor Project Reveals Spring Schedule

by Kris Schutte

The Midvale Heights Good Neighbor Project invites everyone to learn from the many great programs it has lined up for 2019. All events are on the second Tuesday of the month at Midvale Community Lutheran Church (4329 Tokay Boulevard).

Tuesday, April 9: In 2018, Dane County deputies were called into service for such high-profile incidents as the Beaver Dam explosion, an active shooter incident in Middleton, and last summer's area flooding response and rescue. Join us to learn more about these incidents and progress on the new jail with Sheriff Dave Mahoney.

Tuesday, May 14: ReadyWisconsin educates Wisconsin residents about responding to weather and other natural emergencies, technological disasters, and potential terrorist attacks. Join us to hear from ReadyWisconsin Public's Information Officer, Andrew Beckett.

Tuesday, June 11: UW Forest and Wildlife Ecology Professor David Drake will answer urban wildlife questions, giving an update on the UW Urban Canid Project and a new program

that can help residents provide attractive habitat for urban and suburban wildlife.

Tuesday, July 9: (SPECIAL TIME 5:30pm).

The MPD's Mounted Patrol Unit returns for another visit. Join us for this crowd-pleasing event where families can meet the horses up close, learn how they serve our police department, and participate in crowd control demonstrations!

Important Reminders

As many readers know, over 95% of theft crimes in Madison are known as crimes of opportunity: those in which home and auto doors are left unlocked and car keys are left in cars, sometimes even in the ignition. You can help stop such crimes by remembering to lock your car, garage, and home doors. Try to establish a "9 p.m. routine" of checking your home's doors and windows, along with those of your car, to make sure they are closed and locked. And don't forget to keep your car doors locked when driving to reduce your chances of carjacking. It's all about keeping you and your family safe.

Support Pollinators with Your Garden

by Susan Jacobs, Master Gardener

We hear about pollinators often, especially in news about Monarch butterflies. But birds (especially humming birds), bees, beetles, ants, bats, and other small mammals also pollinate plants, helping them reproduce and bringing us one out of every three bites of our food. Pollinators are sustaining our ecosystems: Our food supply and its agricultural economy, as well as the landscapes we love, depend on their work. Encouraging their presence in our yard and neighborhood benefits us all. To help them help us:

1) Plant for pollinators no matter how small your garden. Choose a site with sun, partial protection from wind, and a source of water. Use native plants. Cluster plants and try for continuous blooming, spring to fall, to ensure color and fragrance to keep pollinators in your garden for a long season. For more info see the [BeeSmart Pollinator](#)

[App](#) and [Ecoregional Planting Guides](#).

- 2) Reduce or eliminate pesticide impact on pollinators in your own garden or patio.
- 3) Learn and act to conserve resources, use less, and reduce your impact on the environment. Pollinators are extremely sensitive to extremes in weather related to climate change and habitat loss resulting from unchecked development of their natural areas.
- 4) Support local beekeepers by buying local honey; buy organic which is less dependent on pesticide use; buy local whenever possible. When goods travel less distance getting to your home they have less impact on pollinator habitat and global carbon emissions.
- 5) Support the work of groups promoting science-based, practical efforts to promote pollinators such as the Pollinator Partnership at pollinator.org.

County Board Supervisor Report by Carousel Bayrd



Hello Midvale Heights. Don't forget to vote on April 2.

2019 Dane County

Government Budget The 2019 budget is very strong, one of the best I have

worked on during my time

on the board. It focuses on proactive moves to help create a better county and stay ahead of challenges as we grow, as well as direct service support for those facing crises already. Dane County has increased funding for essential human services, environmental protection and water management, and criminal justice reform. I'll expand on some of the highlights below.

Housing Services: Dane County is committed to addressing housing instability and homelessness. We increased our affordable housing trust fund by \$3 million, to \$6 million in total. The fund has been a great success, and we are working with developers across the county (including the west side of Madison) to increase the stock of affordable housing. We also increased funding for eviction prevention. Every year, this pot of money is quickly used by those facing eviction for failure to pay rent due to unexpected setbacks, such as medical bills, automobile repairs, etc. It is far too easy for people to suddenly find themselves behind in rent and facing eviction, and these funds keep people in housing. Finally, we also increased funding for The Beacon, Dane County's homeless day resource center, which is seeing greater use than expected.

Youth Services: We expanded our very successful school-based mental health services, and we are now in 11 Dane County school districts (including Madison). This program supports students and schools in two critical ways: First, by providing emergency services to youth experiencing mental health crises in our schools; and second, by providing wrap-around services to

find long-term treatment. We also increased support for the Rainbow Project, an incredible non-profit that helps children healing from trauma and abuse. Finally, we created a new position dedicated to better understanding the growing youth sex trafficking in Dane County.

Immigration Services: I was part of a team that created our Immigration Assistance Fund in 2017. With this budget, we have increased services and made the fund a permanent part of our annual budget.

Environmental Protection: This is a huge priority for Dane County. We increased funding for water management and sediment removal to address flooding throughout Dane County. We also expanded our work on solar and green energy by launching the largest municipal solar panel grid in the state. Our goal is to power a large percentage of county facilities through solar energy.

Criminal Justice Reform: This budget continues and increases funding for our most successful past initiatives. We will continue full funding for our successful bail reform, lowering the number of individuals in our jail. We are also expanding our pre-trial assessment and alternatives to incarceration programs, and consolidating initiatives under one roof to ensure that we prioritize both safety and rehabilitation. We are also expanding our very successful restorative justice alternative to go county-wide. Finally, my proposal to eliminate fees assessed to families when their child is incarcerated by Dane County was included in the budget.

This budget reflects our values and continues to work to make our community better; I am very proud of our 2019 budget.

As always, there is a lot going on at the county board. Please contact me with your questions or comments. My cell is (608) 658-7333, email is bayrd@countyofdane.com.