



Midvale Messenger

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020

Calendar:

January 14: Good Neighbor Project, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

January 28: MHCA board meeting, Sequoya Branch Library, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

February 1: Friends of the Library book sale, Market Square Mall, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

February 11: Good Neighbor Project, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

February 15: Friends of the Library book sale, Market Square Mall, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

February 15: Copy deadline for March-April Midvale Messenger.

February 25: MHCA board meeting, Sequoya Branch Library, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

March 7: Friends of the Library book sale, Market Square Mall, 9

President's Message

by Elizabeth Mackey

Westgate Redevelopment Proposed/ New Board Member, Officer Elected

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season.

New Westgate Development

We have recently learned that the north half of the former Westgate Mall site is scheduled for redevelopment. JT Klein Co., a Madison development company that has completed several local projects since 2014, is under contract with Hy-Vee to purchase the nine acres north of the Hy-Vee store for redevelopment. The current structures will be demolished and replaced by new mixed-use construction. The \$100 million project could include housing, retail, office space, and restaurants. Midvale Heights neighbors who were involved in preparing the Neighborhood Plan in 2008-9 may remember that that plan called for mixed-use construction for the entire site. The Westgate redevelopment, which would include retail along South Whitney Way and housing to the east, would be JT Klein's largest project to date.

Jacob Klein, founder and president of the development company, will be meeting with the MHCA board and with Midvale Heights neighbors twice in the coming weeks. Klein plans to attend the January MHCA board meeting to discuss his plans and get input from the board and neighborhood residents. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting at Sequoya Branch library on Tuesday, January 28, beginning at 6:45 p.m. Alder Zachary Henak is also organizing a second neighborhood meeting for Friday, January 31, location and time to be announced. According to Klein, "We have a concept we are refining, but it has to be a plan that makes sense for everybody." Plan to join your neighbors at one of this month's meetings to ask questions, make comments, and get more information on the development.

Changes to MHCA Board

At our November board meeting, we elected officers for the 2019-2020 year, with Joy Cardin, Area 2 Director, replacing Gary Poulson as vice-president. We also elected a new director for Area 7. Carissa Wegner, who lives on Piper Dr., has volunteered to serve on the board. Her term will run until October 2021.

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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County Board Supervisor Report

by Carousel Bayrd



Happy New Year! I am looking forward to a great 2020!

The 2020 Budget

I am pleased with how the 2020 budget reflects many of our county priorities. The total county budget is

\$663 million. Here are some of the highlights:

Housing: We created the Division of Housing Access and Affordability in order to combine all our housing activities into one division. We increased the affordable housing fund by \$1 million, to \$4 million annually, so the county can invest in building and sustaining affordable housing throughout Dane County. We increased our eviction prevention funds by \$50,000, and we also contributed to the Salvation Army Shelter expansion.

Mental Health: The budget related to mental health services has seen several changes. We created a one-stop mental health resource center to help patients navigate through the maze of mental health services and insurance challenges. We also expanded our successful mental health programming to more public schools in the county (it is already in Madison Schools). And we created a permanent fund to address mental health crisis needs. A lead committee of county board and community members is already working to determine the best use of these new funds.

Support Services: We also expanded many successful county programs: We increased our community-based Joining Forces for Families staff, who help with housing, education, parenthood, employment, and other core needs. We increased our senior meals funding and created a Healthy

Food position within our food services to increase food access.

Criminal Justice: We added two additional victim services positions within the District Attorney's office (my budget amendments) to work with victims of youth crime in our city and county, and we expanded the youth and young adult restorative justice programming. I also wrote budget proposals that eliminated fees charged to youth's families when a youth is placed in juvenile detention or put on home detention.

Floodwater Proactive Prevention: We increased funding to remove sediment and sludge from our lakes and waterways, which obstruct water flowing out of Madison and Dane County.

February 18 Election

Remember to vote on Tuesday, February 18, in the non-partisan Wisconsin Supreme Court race.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. My cell is (608) 658-7333, and my email is bayrd@countyofdane.com.

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Good Neighbor Project Marks Five Successful Years

by Wendy Reichel, MH GNP Communications Coordinator

As it begins its 2020 scheduling, the Good Neighbor Project (formerly Neighborhood Watch) has hosted 57 monthly safety events over the last five years, with a total attendance of over 2,700 neighbors.

In those five years, the group's meetings have featured 87 different speakers, including burglary crimes detectives; Bob Lindmeier, meteorologist from WKOW; a representative from the Better Business Bureau; and Beltline Bob to name just a few. Meeting attendees have met dozens of Madison police officers and sheriff's deputies and learned more about what they do and how they keep our community safe. They have also spent time with Madison's police chief, Dane County's sheriff, district attorney, and 911 operations manager, as well as an FBI spokesman, TSA agents, a municipal judge, and an investigative reporter.

This spring, the group will offer neighbors a chance to participate in a first-of-its-kind urban wildlife pilot program in partnership with a UW-

Madison Forestry and Wildlife Ecology professor. The Good Neighbor Project couldn't have done any of this without the support and participation of neighbors. Thank you for taking the time to get to know your neighbors and for joining us at our monthly events to have fun and learn more about your community and how you can help keep it a safe, caring place.

The January 14 meeting will feature Madison City Streets Division Public Information Officer, Bryan Johnson, who will fill attendees in on city recycling and snow plowing operations. On February 11, Madison Police detective Roger Baker will detail how to recognize the signs of human trafficking and explain how this underground industry has become pervasive in our city.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the community room of Midvale Community Lutheran Church, located at 4329 Tokay Blvd.

Neighborhood News Briefs

Library Friends' Sales Continue at New Site

The Friends of Sequoya Library will hold Saturday book sales on February 1 and 15 and on March 1 at their new site at Market Square Mall, 6672

Odana Road. Patrons' continued support in the form of buying and donating used books, CDs, and DVDs is needed to keep the shop a reliable source of reasonably priced books, the sales of which creates the income that the Friends use to provide books, programs, and services for the Sequoya Branch Library. Donations can be

brought to the library or to the new shop on Thursday mornings. To volunteer with the Friends, ask for information at the Sequoya Help Desk and follow them on Facebook at Friends of Sequoya Library.

TRIAD Program Dates Announced

TRIAD has announced dates for early spring programs for seniors, held in Madison at the RSVP office, 6501 Watts Rd., Madison, WI.

Burglary Prevention: Speaker to be announced. January 22, 10 a.m.

Aging in Place:

Mike Thomsen, Stark Company Realtors, Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association, West Madison Triad, February 26, 10 a.m.

Safety Tips and Resources for those Living with De-

mentia: Heidi Musombawa, Sales Manager, Brookdale Senior Living Solutions, March 25, 10 a.m.

Verona programs are held at the Verona Senior Center, 108 Paoli Street, Verona, unless noted.

Coffee with a Cop: Dane County Deputy Chris Kauer, January 13, 9 a.m.

Dane County Working to Combat Human Trafficking

by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Human trafficking is entirely unacceptable and illegal, but it is still pervasive in Wisconsin and in Dane County. The National Human Trafficking Hotline says nearly 11,000 cases of human trafficking were reported in 2018, with 134 reported in Wisconsin—up from 94 cases the year before.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and I want to call attention to the work Dane County is doing to support the survivors of sex trafficking and address this crisis in our community.

The 2020 Dane County budget included \$80,000 for Project Respect—which has been a key community partner in advocating for survivors of sex trafficking. These funds will be used to create a new, full time position that will help with safety planning, crisis intervention, and intensive case management services to juvenile and adult sex trafficking survivors.

I chose to include this funding after meeting with Attorney General Josh Kaul, Dane County's Neighborhood Intervention Program social workers, detectives from the Dane County Sheriff's Office, and the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes to receive feedback on what they believed was most needed to address trafficking in our community.

This 24-hour crisis response worker will help reunite survivors of sex trafficking with their

families and stabilize their living situations. The worker will also provide rapid response to calls for service from partners in the Dane County community and the coordination of social services to reach highly marginalized survivors and families who may not typically ask for help.

Complementary to this new funding is the full time position I created for Dane County's Neighborhood Intervention Program in the 2019 budget. This position receives referrals from community partners for youth considered at-risk of being sex trafficked and provides ongoing support, education, safety planning, and advocacy.

Whether it be during Human Trafficking Awareness Month or any other month of the year, Dane County is committed to doing everything we can to stop sex trafficking and advocate for survivors.



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