



# Midvale Messenger

MAY-JUNE 2020

## Calendar

**June 23:** MHCA board meeting via ZOOM, 6:45 pm. If you wish to attend, contact Elizabeth Mackey at mackeylawyer@gmail.com.

**June 26:** Copy deadline for the July-August *Messenger*.

**July 14:** Good Neighbor Project meeting via ZOOM; see p. 3 for more information.

**No MHCA board meeting in July.**

**Cancellations/Changes:** The 2020 MHCA neighborhood picnic and Segoe Park July concert series have been cancelled due to Covid 19 limitations on crowd sizes. The Friends of Sequoia have cancelled their book sales and donation collection for now. See p. 4 for more information. The *Messenger* will be issued only in electronic form until further notice.

The MHCA website at [midvaleheights.org](http://midvaleheights.org) is posting all notices regarding COVID-19 from the city. Check it out for up-to-date information.

### 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—Past and Present— Makes Midvale Heights a Haven by Elizabeth Mackey

My last column, for the March issue of the Messenger which sadly, never came out, featured both skiing and taking time to find joy in the morning, before the rest of the world wakes up and starts expecting things from you. I wrote that column in a very different world. And while it wouldn't be appropriate now, I hope it might be appropriate again someday.

One of the primary functions of our neighborhood association is facilitating social activities for members of our community. Most of those activities have been cancelled because of the threat of Covid-19. The loss of concerts, picnics, and t-ball seems insignificant compared to the widespread and unexpected losses facing so many of us today: the loss of school, homes, livelihoods, health, and food security. The loss of social activities also pales in comparison to our society's necessary and long overdue confrontation with racism, including racism against people of color perpetuated by state actors and institutions. You might think of social activities as the icing on the cake: They are things we enjoy only after our basic needs have been met.

But I think it's ok to mourn the loss of our social connections along with everything else, while also acknowledging that there are greater losses and problems. "Postmen like doctors go from house to house," wrote Philip Larkin at the end of "Aubade," his poem about death. I think about this hopeful line all the time these days. Postal-carriers are like doctors because they connect us, and through our connections, we help and heal each other. In that sense, our social activities are not trivial. Connecting with each other is how we are able to face and move through life's challenges.

My family moved to Midvale Heights in 2015, after renting an apartment in downtown Middleton, which was very cute and very walkable. I walked to the library and the park with my children almost every day, and I was sad to leave. But once I got here, my children and I met many more children and parents at the parks here. I don't know why, but we hadn't found that community during our time in Middleton. And so, after moving here, I never once regretted the loss of cute Middleton. The friendships and connections we've made here are more important. I'm sad that we've had to put on hold the social interactions that add so much to life, and I hope we can safely resume them soon.

## County Board Supervisor Report

by Carousel Bayrd



These are challenging times. I hope everyone is staying safe! Here's what we've been up to at the county:

Coronavirus and Forward Dane!: It is unfathomable that we are relying on local govern-

ments to manage and navigate through the international pandemic caused by the corona virus.

With the complete absence of both national and state leadership, Dane County Public Health has been forced to oversee the local response to this national emergency. We all owe tremendous thanks to Public Health Madison Dane County Director Janel Heinrich, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, and Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway.

On May 26, Dane County entered Phase 1 of reopening. Under Phase 1, Many places, including restaurants, bars, and retail stores, were allowed to open to 25% capacity. Up to 10 people can gather in private residences, and up to 50 can gather outside. Please remember, **this still requires social distancing!** Please stay safe and make good decisions. I wear a mask when I know I will be interacting with people. Dane County's decision to move from one phase to another will be based on science and medical metrics only, not economic factors. Public health is our priority.

Community CARES ACT Funding: Dane County was awarded \$95 million in federal funding to address the economic fallout in our county due to coronavirus. The money has to be spent by the end of the year and is meant to be immediate, stop gap-funding. We have already

awarded tens of millions of dollars to food banks, child care services, local businesses, homeless and housing providers, eviction prevention funds, public health funding, community arts, and more.

Murder of George Floyd: I join my county board colleges in condemning the murder of George Floyd. I hope everyone spends this time learning more about the institutional racism ingrained in our nation. If you are white, please educate yourself on white privilege and what you can do to support intentional, systemic change. Black Lives Matter.

Youth Mentoring Collaboration: Dane County will be expanding our successful pilot program connecting youth with adult mentors. The pilot started in October of 2018 with students at La-Follette High School. The intensive, full-time mentoring program connects youth with adults who have similar experiences. Youth in the program very quickly started engaging in new activities and experiences that improved their self-sufficiency—learning to cook, applying for jobs, and communicating their emotions. Dane County is partnering with United Way, MMSD, Madison Police Department, Juvenile Court, and others to expand this successful program.

2020 Census: You should have gotten information about the 2020 Census. It is essential that everyone be counted! You can answer the census by going online, calling-in, or completing the paper questionnaire you received in the mail. Billions of dollars in government funding, as well as redistricting/ representation on the local, state, and national level are determined based on the census. Please do your part.

Please contact me with any thoughts or questions. My cell is (608) 658-7333, and my email is bayrd@countyofdane.com.

## Midvale Heights Good Neighbor Project to Host Zoom Events

by Kris Schutte, MH GNP Programs Coordinator

Along with many other organizations, the Midvale Heights Good Neighbor Project cancelled its regularly scheduled meetings for April and May to avoid possible spread of the coronavirus. We are organizing online Zoom events, which will be open to anyone who has signed up for our weekly GNP Digest newsletters.

On Tuesday evening, July 14, well-known UW-Madison psychologist Bob McGrath will talk via ZOOM about resilience in times of stress. Dr. McGrath is an expert on mind/body wellness and thriving in the midst of change--we could all use a little of that! His presentation is available to our group through the University of Wisconsin-Madison Badger Talks program.

[TO SIGN UP FOR THE GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT DIGEST](http://midvaleheights.org/Good_Neighbor_Project_Newsletter), go to:

[http://midvaleheights.org/Good\\_Neighbor\\_Project\\_Newsletter](http://midvaleheights.org/Good_Neighbor_Project_Newsletter)

Emailed every Sunday, the digests have many timely updates and handy links to trusted websites: Recent issues have included reopening plans for the Sequoia Library and city parks, warnings about coronavirus-related scams, summer weather and heat safety precautions, and incident reports of local thefts from autos and garages.

The Midvale Heights Good Neighbor Project is sponsored by MHCA. Our Mission Statement: "Midvale Heights Neighborhood Watch: Neighbors working together for a safe and caring community through cooperation, education and awareness."

## WIDE-LP Radio Station Applies for City Grant

by Timothy Dirkx

At its March meeting, the MHCA Board voted to sponsor the Friends of WIDE-LP Neighborhood Grant Program (NGP) Proposal. The WIDE-LP radio station (99.1 FM) is a low-power commercial-free radio station serving Midvale Heights, Westmorland, and near-by neighborhoods. The proposal, submitted under "Friends of WIDE-LP on Behalf of MHCA," seeks funding from the city for neighborhood outreach.

If approved, the outreach will include door-hangers with volunteer opportunities; a link to the WIDE-LP website ([www.widelp.org](http://www.widelp.org)), and an on-line survey for listener input and feedback (linked from the WIDE-LP website); Good Neighbor Project information; and an MHCA website link. A WIDE-LP brochure will be produced and distributed along with business cards to local businesses for distribution to customers. The WIDE-LP flyer will be posted in libraries,

on kiosks, and other public places of announcement.

The station, under the direction of Bob Park and Ken Skog, encourages participation in station activities, including operations, program development, production, show hosting, neighbor-to-neighbor interviews on-air, and increasing awareness of neighborhood issues.

If you would like to volunteer and become a Friend of WIDE-LP, contact the station at [radio@widelp.org](mailto:radio@widelp.org). Through expanded listener and volunteer input, WIDE-LP hopes to enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding. The City Council will decide which proposals will be funded for 2020 at its June 16 meeting. We hope to receive the grant and begin our outreach. Hopefully you'll see your door-hanger soon! Meanwhile, visit the website for the programming schedule.

## **Dane County's COVID-19 Response Efforts**

**by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi**

Between March 1 and April 28, the volume of calls to United Way's 211 line relating to food and meals jumped 300%; during that same period, approximately 30,000 Dane County residents had applied for unemployment. These numbers make it all too clear how much our community is being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. I've summarized what Dane County is doing to serve our residents and provide relief to those struggling during this difficult time.

To help those facing food insecurity, Dane County has given \$3 million to Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. This funding will be used to acquire food for Dane County food pantries over the next 90 days. Dane County is also acquiring four cold storage semi-trailers to bolster the ability for Second Harvest to store more meat, dairy, and fresh produce grown and produced locally. This effort will bring producers and consumers together to improve sales for farmers while resupplying dwindling cupboards of area food banks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another group that has taken a significant hit over the past few months is local businesses, leaving many owners to question what they can do to stay afloat. To help make ends meet during this difficult time, Dane County is putting \$10.8 million toward its Small Business Pandemic Support Grant Program. This funding will be used by local

businesses to help with employee retention and mitigate losses related to COVID-19. Dane County has partnered with Dane Buy Local to administer these grants.

Staff for Dane County and the City of Madison have been working tirelessly to protect our most vulnerable residents. Dane County has invested more than \$1.8 million in COVID-19 homelessness efforts. We've helped over 350 individuals experiencing homelessness get relocated to more than 180 hotel rooms with six hotel partners to help carry out proper social distancing. Limiting the spread of the novel coronavirus is Dane County's top priority, and these efforts have helped us flatten the curve in our community.

With an eye towards the future, Dane County and the City of Madison are amending our 2020 budgets to boost funding for Public Health Madison and Dane County by nearly \$700,000 for COVID-19 response efforts. These funds will help increase contact tracing, infectious control, disease prevention, and community education efforts needed to transition parts of the local economy into reopening and put us on a path to recovery.

I want to thank Dane County residents for their support and cooperation as we work to combat the spread of COVID-19. We're in this together, and we'll come through this together.

## **Friends of Sequoya News**

**by Nadine Pfothauer**

In March, precautions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Friends of Sequoya Library to stop accepting book donations and holding monthly book sales at our shop in Market Square. In the meantime, Friends are working with library staff to determine new ways to support the library by providing reusable cloth face masks for library staff, sponsoring on-line story times, and expanding the library's digital collections with a donation of \$5000.

We recently mailed our Friends of Sequoya 2020 Membership renewal letter. Community support in the form of memberships or financial contribu-

tions for the Sequoya Friends are very welcome in these challenging months when we cannot hold our book sales. To become a member or make a contribution, send a gift in any amount to the Friends of Sequoya at 4340 Tokay Blvd. Madison, WI 53711.

We miss our donors and patrons and look forward to seeing you all at the library or at our sales when life becomes safe and "normal" again. We hope to begin accepting book and media donations at Sequoya Library and resume our book sales soon. For updates, follow us on Facebook at Friends of Sequoya Library.