



Midvale Messenger

JULY-AUGUST 2020

Calendar

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

No MHCA board meeting in July.

August 11: Primary election, Sequoya Branch Library, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

August 15: Copy deadline for the September-October *Messenger*.

August 25: MHCA board meeting via ZOOM, 6:45 pm. If you wish to attend, contact Elizabeth Mackey at mackeylawyer@gmail.com.

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

Taking Care of Ourselves and Each Other During the Pandemic

by Elizabeth Mackey

When the MHCA decided to cancel Summer Nights at Segoe this spring, the number of people infected with Covid-19 in Wisconsin seemed to be decreasing. At the time, the decision to cancel seemed prudent, but perhaps not completely necessary. Unfortunately, circumstances have changed since then. We have cancelled all our summer activities: no concerts, no picnic, no t-ball, and no neighborhood garage sale. We have also stopped producing and delivering the paper version of the *Midvale Messenger*. We will deliver only the electronic version via email, for at least the duration of the pandemic.

In light of our decision to cancel most events, and in recognition of the economic hardship many members of our community are facing, we are also suspending our membership drive. If you are currently a member of the MHCA, you will continue to receive the *Midvale Messenger* via email. Non-members can access the newsletter on our website at <http://www.midvaleheights.org/>. We have determined that our next membership drive will be for a biannual, rather than an annual, membership. The price of membership (\$30 per household for two years), will not change.

Links to the Emergency Orders of Public Health Madison & Dane County are also available on our website. The most recent emergency order (Order #8), which goes into effect at 8 a.m. on July 13, 2020, requires individuals aged five and over to wear a mask while in any enclosed building where other people who are not part of the individual's household are also present, as well as while waiting in lines, and on public or for-hire transportation. While the order also provides that individuals should "consider wearing a face covering while outside," it does not require that masks are worn outdoors.

While the pandemic is universal, the difficulties it creates for each of us are unique. Those who live alone suffer differently from those who live with frustrated children. Those who are out of work suffer differently from those whose employment might cause them to be infected with Covid-19. Children, unable to maintain virtual friendships and deprived of the sense of purpose school provides, suffer differently from their parents, who worry about how to care for them. I encourage neighbors to check in on each other (from an appropriate distance), and to both offer and request help from each other when possible.

County Board Supervisor Report

by Carousel Bayrd



I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. Here's what we've been up to on the county board:

New Subcommittee to Review Fines and Fees:

I helped create the Fines and Fees Subcommittee to look at eliminating or reducing fines and fees in our system that have a long-term negative financial impact on payers. The subcommittee will make a comprehensive review of the fines and fees assessed in our civil, criminal, and human services systems, with three specific goals: 1) creating a comprehensive inventory of the fines and fees we have in these systems; 2) determining if these fines and fees, when unpaid, are leading individuals, especially individuals of color, into (or further into) the criminal justice system; and 3) recommending elimination or reduction of these fines and fees. I have been looking at fees within our system for several years, and I introduced budget amendments in both the 2019 and 2020 budgets that eliminated fees within the criminal system. This subcommittee is short-term and action oriented. We hope to start in August or September and meet monthly for 10 months.

Mental Health First Responders: I'm collaborating with the city to pilot a program of mental health first responders who will answer mental health crisis calls. I have been working on this for several years, and this is one step toward reducing the burden and funding for mental health services currently with the police and shift it to where it actually belongs--with mental health professionals, not law enforcement. I am hopeful

the pilot will launch this fall.

Coronavirus and Forward Dane: The United States is doing a horrendous job as a nation in protecting us from the coronavirus. As I said in the last newsletter, is unfathomable that we are relying on local governments to manage and navigate through an international pandemic. With the complete absence of both national and state leadership, Dane County Public Health has been forced to oversee our corner of this national emergency. We all owe tremendous gratitude to Public Health Madison Dane County Director Janel Heinrich, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, and Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway.

Dane County issued a revised order on July 1, 2020. Only 10 people can gather indoors in private residences, with a limit of up to 25 people outdoors. Restaurants are limited to 25% indoor capacity and bars cannot provide indoor dining. Please remember, **this still requires social distancing!** Beginning on July 13, masks will be required for anyone in a public place. Please see the article in this newsletter that describes the new regulations in further detail.

Please stay safe and make good decisions. I am wearing a mask when I know I will interact 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.

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

Good Neighbor Project News

by Kris Schutte, MH GNP Programs Coordinator

ZOOM Meeting on July 14

This month, the Midvale Heights Good Neighbor Project begins using Zoom to bring neighbors back together—virtually—for our first meeting since the pandemic began in March. On Tuesday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m., neighbors are invited to learn about stress coping strategies with Distinguished UW Professor Emeritus, Bob McGrath. He will guide participants through mental and physical exercises to help them meditate, be mindful, and take a break from stress. Professor McGrath suggests you eat lightly before the Zoom meeting and clear an arm-span-wide space in which to sit and stand to follow along as he demonstrates the exercises.

The GNP is providing this special Zoom presentation in cooperation with the UW Badger Talks program. Save the date, and sign up for the GNP's weekly newsletter to learn how you can participate. Go to the MHCA website at http://midvaleheights.org/Good_Neighbor_Project_Newsletter

Midvale Heights Area Continues to Suffer Vehicle Break-ins

Thieves have again been breaking into vehicles

Friends of Sequoya Library News

by Nadine Pfothauer

The Friends of Sequoya Branch Library are again accepting donations of books, CDs, DVDs, games, and puzzles on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at their shop in Market Square at 6672 Odana Rd. (next to Play it Again Sports). Unfortunately, Sequoya Library is still unable to accept Friends' book donations. We aren't quite sure when and how we will begin having sales again, but our Board has been meeting regularly to think through what changes would make it possible for us to re-open. We are also working with our insur-

overnight in nearby areas. Your chances of being a victim decrease dramatically if you make it a habit to check that your vehicles, garage, and home are locked up tight before turning in for the night.

Police tell us to report unusual behavior so they can check on a situation as it is happening rather than learn about it hours or days later. If you are letting the dog out at 3 a.m. and see a car driving slowly down the road with no headlights on, please call 911 and report that information to a dispatcher. Remember:

- ◆ If it's happening NOW, dial 911.
- ◆ To report an incident that occurred previously, or if you have information to share with police, use the non-emergency dispatch number: 608-255-2345.
- ◆ To file a Citizen Self-Report for incidents like damage to property, ID theft, or a stolen bicycle, use the Madison Police Department's self-report form at: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/police/selfreport/selfReport.cfm>

ance company on best practices for re-opening the shop for the safest experience for our customers and most of our volunteers, who fall into the "vulnerable" category. We will have to limit the number of people in the shop to keep safe practices for the coronavirus and are considering having two-day sales to allow for fewer people in the shop at one time. Look for information in the next *Midvale Messenger* or on Next Door. You can also check our Facebook page at Friends of Sequoya Library for updated information.

State Senate Primary on August 11 by Denise Lamb

Midvale Heights is in State Senate District 26, and its long-time state senator, Fred Risser, announced his retirement earlier this year. Seven people are running to be the Democratic nominee in November. Given the Democratic leaning of the district, whoever wins the Democratic primary will likely win the seat in the November general election.

Those running in the primary include:

Nada Elmikashfi, an organizer with NextGen America and former staffer in Governor Evers' and then-Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling's offices.

Aisha Moe, who has worked as a Capitol staffer and as a 2018 Democratic Party field organizer.

William Henry Davis III, a write-in candidate for lieutenant governor last cycle.

Kelda Roys, a former state assembly member and unsuccessful 2018 gubernatorial candidate.

John Imes, Wisconsin Environmental Initiative executive director and unsuccessful candidate for the 77th Assembly District in 2018.

Brian Benford, a former Madison City Council member and current success coach for the UW-Madison Odyssey Program.

Amani Latimer-Burris, a Democratic Party organizer and small business owner.

Midvale Heights resident and WORT host, Carousel Bayrd, interviewed all seven of the candidates on her radio show. Each 25-minute interview was recorded and can be accessed at <https://www.wortfm.org/elections-2020/>

In addition, the **Cap Times** will sponsor a candidate forum for District 26 contenders on July 29. The forum will be livestreamed on the **Cap Times**' Facebook page., beginning at 7 p.m.

The Sequoia Branch Library will be open for in-person voting on Tuesday, August 11, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



**STAY SAFE—
WEAR A MASK**