



# Midvale Messenger

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

## Calendar:

**November 24:** MHCA board meeting via ZOOM, 6:45 pm. If you wish to attend, contact Elizabeth Mackey at [area6@midvaleheights.org](mailto:area6@midvaleheights.org).

**December 15:** Copy deadline for the January-February *Messenger*.

**No MHCA meeting in December.**

**January 26:** MHCA board meeting via ZOOM, 6:45 pm. If you wish to attend, contact Elizabeth Mackey at [area6@midvaleheights.org](mailto:area6@midvaleheights.org)



### 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.

Editor: Denise Lamb  
[madmiz4009@gmail.com](mailto:madmiz4009@gmail.com)

Distribution: Kelly Murdock  
[kelly2.murdock@gmail.com](mailto:kelly2.murdock@gmail.com)

President: Elizabeth Mackey  
[area6@midvaleheights.org](mailto:area6@midvaleheights.org)

## President's Message **Coping with Covid** by Elizabeth Mackey

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us all to reorganize our personal and professional lives as well as the ordinary operations of our organizations. The MHCA is no exception, as we have had to cancel numerous events this year and use ZOOM for our board meetings. If you have ideas about how we can keep serving our members during this time, please share them with me at [area6@midvaleheights.org](mailto:area6@midvaleheights.org).

I believe that our neighborhood is trying its best with respect to Covid-19. Its Covid-19 infection rates on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website are relatively low compared to elsewhere in Wisconsin or in Dane County. I recognize that this is the result of both privilege and choice. Many of us are able to work from home, reducing our exposure to the virus. Others can't do our jobs from home and are putting themselves and families at risk by continuing to serve our community in public. With respect to our ability to make choices, I am proud of our neighborhood, because I think the low rates of infection reflect the choices that we are making to wear masks and physically distance ourselves from those not in our households. Sometimes that's not enough. But when we take precautions when we are able to do so, we are better able to protect those of us working in the public for the benefit of all of us. This has to be a group effort, I am grateful to live in a neighborhood where people are making this effort.

Such care for our neighbors is also reflected in a recent effort to explore racism in our community: Some Midvale Heights residents have asked the MHCA to explore forming an anti-racism committee. The Dungeon-Monroe neighborhood has an anti-racism committee, and a representative from the group will join our November board meeting to share what that committee is doing to reduce neighborhood racism.

If you are interested in serving on a similar MHCA committee, please plan to attend our November meeting. We will meet via Zoom at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday November 24, 2020. The Zoom information is as follows: Meeting ID: 868 3171 7259 and Passcode: 313229. If you are unable to attend but are interested in being on the committee, please contact me at [area6@midvaleheights.org](mailto:area6@midvaleheights.org).

## Neighborhood News Briefs

### Santa Cancels Visits

Due to the Corona virus, Santa will not be making his traditional visits to Midvale Heights homes during the Christmas season. Santa is quarantining at the North Pole and hopes that next year he will again be able to visit children in the neighborhood.

### Fall Leaf Pickup Schedule

The city will start its third and final round of leaf pickups on Monday, November 16. To check when your street will be picked up, check at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/yardWaste/leaf/index.cfm#collectiondates>. Don't forget to rake the leaves

onto the terrace and not into the street.

### New Construction Proposed for University Research Park

A mixed-use development that will include housing and public services is being proposed for the southwest corner of the Park at Whitney Way and Mineral Point Road, across Whitney Way from the section of the Park located in Midvale Heights. According to a postcard sent to Midvale Heights residents announcing a virtual neighborhood meeting, construction will include a food hall with events space, a fitness center, multi-family housing, a lab, and a future hotel.

Those interested in attending a virtual meeting about the development to be held on Monday, November 16, at 7 p.m., should register at <https://madisonwi.link/mandelv1>; once registered, residents will receive login information for the meeting.

### Midvale Heights Voters Top 90% of Registered Voters in Ward

Midvale Heights once again had an excellent turnout for the November election. With over 91% of registered voters casting ballots, Ward 79 joined 13 other wards with over 90% voter participation. Those voting absentee made up 75% of our ward's vote total.

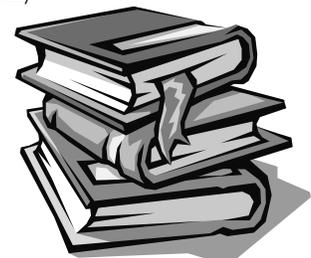
## Friends of Sequoya Library Sets Limited Shopping Hours by Nadine Pfothauer

The Friends thank everyone who has given us generous donations of books and AV materials over the past months. We are able to continue supporting the Sequoya Branch Library even in a time of COVID. Proceeds from our book sales, have allowed us to give a generous donation to buy book kits (multiple copies of the same book) for book clubs meeting virtually. We are also supporting the Sequoya staff as they work under stressful conditions to diligently keep our neighborhood reading.

Our bookstore at Market Square is open by appointment only. We have a huge selection of gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and vinyl. We are also overstocked on wonderful children's books: board books, picture books, readers, chapter books, teen fiction and science fiction.

To make an appointment to shop, send an email to [tflore52@gmail.com](mailto:tflore52@gmail.com) or call and leave a message at (608) 288-9848. We will reply with detailed information and schedule your time to shop. (Note: Masks are required, the number of patrons is limited, and each appointment lasts 45 minutes.)

We are accepting donations at the Friends of Sequoya Book Store on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsequoyalibrary/>. You do not have to be on Facebook to access our page, just click "not now" on sign in page.



## **GNP Farewell Zoom Meeting Features UW's Dr. Jeff Pothof**

### **by Kris Schutte and Wendy Reichel**

Tuesday, October 20, was the last Midvale Heights Good Neighbor Project (GNP) monthly event for 2020, and we saved the best for last. Neighbors logged into the virtual meeting to hear local COVID-19 expert Dr. Jeff Pothof answer their questions about masks, gathering with others as it gets colder, whether public bathrooms are safe, when a vaccine may be available and much, much more.

Dr. Pothof is UW Health's Chief Quality Officer as well as a practicing physician and a Med Flight critical care flight physician. He's offered his expertise to media outlets and the public throughout the pandemic. You may have seen him on both local and national TV news programs. He also was the first person in the UW trial to get the Phase 3 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

For those unable to attend, the entire 90-minute Q&A is available at <https://youtu.be/BK7IL4NiCo>

### **Good Neighbor Project Takes a "Pandemic Pause"**

This fall the Midvale Heights GNP celebrates its 6th anniversary. During 2020's "Safer At Home" restrictions, organizers tried to continue hosting meetings via Zoom, but found it less satisfying than getting together with neighbors in person. As a result, GNP will discontinue its monthly events for the foreseeable future, taking a "pandemic pause."

Communications Coordinator Wendy Reichel will continue her weekly GNP Digest newsletters. Emailed each Sunday, they will list incidents that occurred in the Midvale Heights area during the week, plus safety updates and announcements of upcoming meetings and events. Sign up for the Digest at: [http://midvaleheights.org/Good\\_Neighbor\\_Project\\_Newsletter](http://midvaleheights.org/Good_Neighbor_Project_Newsletter)

Did you know? Over the years our Midvale Heights GNP has: Emailed more than 250 weekly Digest newsletters, currently reaching

more than 850 neighbors and friends; hosted 63 monthly safety education events, introducing members to 92 different community speakers; and made it possible for neighbors to get to know our police and sheriff's department staff personally. We've offered classes on self-defense, active shooter training, and anti-Covid meditation, sponsored family-friendly encounters with police dogs and horses, and led 11 private tours of places like the 911 Center, County Jail, and TV weather studios.

GNP Steering Team volunteers who've made these programs possible are Steve Fitzsimmons, who started the GNP as a neighborhood watch group in late 2014, Wendy Reichel, Duane Reichel, Kris Schutte, Marge Sutinen, and Joe Keyes (representing the adjoining Hill Farms neighborhood). We've enjoyed bringing neighbors together to build friendships and to hear from some of the wonderful people who work and serve in our community.

It's our hope that, when the pandemic has abated, there will be new interest in volunteering so the Good Neighbor Project will continue. Perhaps some of you will help us pick up where the Steering Team paused, so our GNP Mission Statement may be carried forward: "Neighbors working together for a safe and caring community through cooperation, education and awareness."



## County Board Supervisor Report by Carousel Bayrd



I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. It's been a challenging time on the Dane County Board due to the Corona virus. Here is some of the work that I've been doing recently:

**2021 Budget:** The county is currently developing its 2021 budget. Due to a loss of county revenue, there will be a 5 percent cut in every department. I am working on several budget amendments to address criminal justice reform, affordable housing and access to food and basic needs, and more, and I will report more details in the next newsletter.

**Mental Health Crisis Center AND the Behavioral Health Resource Center:** I am very excited to announce that Dane County will be building a mental health crisis center. This is a big deal! I have been working with many others for years to make this happen. The new crisis center will allow individuals to come in on their own to receive immediate mental health care, as well as allow paramedics and law enforcement officers to bring individuals to the crisis center instead of the emergency room or Dane County Jail. The center will combine with the newly launched Resource Center, which helps individuals and families navigate mental health systems.

**Affordable Housing:** The County just awarded \$4.45 million in Affordable Housing Trust funds to building hundreds of affordable housing units across the county in 2021. Awarded projects are in Madison, McFarland, Fitchburg, Cambridge and Verona. Additionally, I am working with the county to fund the affordable housing project at

Westgate Mall. More details on that in the next newsletter!

**Nonpartisan Redistricting:** Every 10 years, the county board must redraw the county board districts in accordance with the national census numbers. This is called redistricting. In 2016, the county board approved a law requiring redistricting to be done on a nonpartisan basis. I voted for this law, and now a new, nonpartisan committee will begin its important work. The committee will submit at least three draft supervisory district maps to the County Board by May 31, 2021. The process also includes an opportunity for the public to submit maps for consideration. Information on the public mapping software will be available soon.

**Coronavirus:** Don't forget that Public Health Madison Dane County's Emergency Order is still in effect. It can be found at: [https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/2020-09-01\\_Order\\_9amendment.pdf](https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/2020-09-01_Order_9amendment.pdf). Masks must be worn indoors, except in your own home. Indoor social gatherings are limited to 10 people, outdoor gatherings to 25 people, with some exceptions. Please do your part in keeping yourself and your friends safe!

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

**MIDVALE  
COMMUNITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**All are welcome. There  
is a place for you here.**

Pastor Katie Baardseth and  
Pastor Blake Rohrer

### Join us for online worship!

Live stream worship Sundays at 9:00 am on Facebook  
or viewable anytime at [midvalelutheran.org](http://midvalelutheran.org)

4329 Tokay Boulevard, Madison, WI 53711  
[midvalelutheran.org](http://midvalelutheran.org) 608-238-7119



## County Invests in Mental and Behavioral Health During COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a tremendous strain on our community, negatively impacting many struggling with mental illness and addiction. Dane County has a long commitment to addressing behavioral health challenges, and our latest efforts keep these issues a top priority during the pandemic and beyond.

Previously, Dane County built a one-million-dollar a year school-based mental health program, partnered with community centers to provide on-site mental health programming for youth, and expanded opportunities to address trauma and addiction. Now, we're opening the much-anticipated Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC) and including funding in the 2021 county budget to plan a mental health triage and restoration center.

The BHRC, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, will serve as a one-stop shop by bridging private and public mental and behavioral health care providers—making it easier for patients, their families, and even providers to navigate care and advocate for loved ones.

The project will be funded solely by Dane County, at a little more than \$1 million a year. Hours of operation will initially be from 7am to

7pm, with navigational support available outside normal business hours. We hope to have the BHRC's 24/7 service operational in early 2021.

Additionally, County Board Chair Analiese Eicher and I are including \$300,000 in the 2021 budget to plan a mental health triage and restoration center. This initiative will divert those with behavioral health challenges from the criminal justice system, and further extend recovery services available in our community.

The Center will be grounded in the concept of “no wrong door” and individuals will be able to access services by walking in, receiving a referral from a community partner, or being brought by law enforcement.

Nationally, one in five individuals struggle with mental illness, meaning that almost every family has direct experience with the challenges individuals face. And, as the months of the global COVID-19 pandemic accumulate, we know access to mental and behavioral health services will continue to be vital. With the BHRC and mental health triage and restoration center, we hope to coordinate care and improve outcomes for Dane County residents.

## Let's Try This Again

by Denise Lamb

Some of you may remember that I announced my desire to retire as editor of the *Messenger* a few years ago. Yet, here I am! An assortment of scheduling conflicts, my travel, and now the Covid pandemic has made finding and training a new editor a challenge.

As a quick review of this issue will show, there is often not much writing involved. The newsletter has several consistent contributors, and much of the work of the editor is layout, reviewing/editing columns, and billing for ads. We will likely go back to a hard copy of the newsletter eventually, and this would require a little more

work in scheduling with a printer.

I use Microsoft Publisher to prepare the paper, but any program that can produce a four-to-eight page issue is fine. My version of Publisher is somewhat ancient at this point, so there would be no pressure to use what I do.

This also does not have to be a one-person project. Two or more people could divide the work into reviewing submissions, writing some articles, laying out the paper, and so on.

If anyone is interested in taking over or if you just have questions, please email me at [madmiz4009@gmail.com](mailto:madmiz4009@gmail.com).



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.

*Give blood.*



**35th Annual Holiday  
Blood Drive  
Exhibition Hall at the Alliant  
Energy Center**

**Hall A  
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way  
Madison, WI 53713**

**Thursday, December 24, 2020  
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
Enter sponsor code: HBDMadison

Walk-ins taken as space allows.

All blood donations are now tested for COVID-19 antibodies. [redcrossblood.org/antibodytesting](http://redcrossblood.org/antibodytesting)

All presenting donors will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross holiday T-shirt and be entered to win some great raffle prizes! Donors will also be treated to special snacks and refreshments!

Free parking will be provided, however due to Covid-19 childcare will not be provided this year.



**Come to give Dec. 18-Jan. 4 for a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt,  
while supplies last!**

**Give Something that Means Something® | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS**