

# DOWNTOWN ✦ DIALOGUE

## SPECIAL EDITION



Photo by Zane Williams

### Welcome to Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.

Our organization represents folks who live in the six neighborhood districts that surround the state capitol of beautiful downtown Madison, Wisconsin. We are an organization dedicated to improving the experience of residing in Madison's vibrant downtown. Spend some time here on our site, get to know us, and understand our mission...Join up and join in the fun, the excitement and the challenges of living in the heart of one of U.S.'s greatest cities.

### Districts of Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.

Bassett, First Settlement, James Madison Park, Mansion Hill, Mifflin West and State/Langdon.



Photo by Lynn Phelps

Web-site: [www.capitolneighborhoods.org](http://www.capitolneighborhoods.org)

## Bassett District

The Bassett District has witnessed a tremendous resurgence of resident interest and involvement in neighborhood activities. Numerous residents have stepped forward to take up the challenge of building on our assets to create an engaging and vital neighborhood district and it is becoming more proactive. For instance, Operation CUB (Clean Up Bassett) is a volunteer effort to reduce the incidence of trash in the public right-of-way as well as on private property visible from the street.



Increasing owner-occupied housing is a goal of the Bassett District Neighborhood Plan and that trend has continued with the opening of the Fourth Ward Lofts and the construction of the Nolen Shores condominiums. The conversion of small one- to three-unit rental properties to owner-occupied housing in Block 49 along Doty, Henry and Wilson Streets has brought new life to those houses. The historic Tobacco Warehouses that have languished for years are undergoing an incredible restoration. We're proud of these changes and look forward to further improvements in our district.

## First Settlement District

The First Settlement neighborhood was the home of Madison's first residential settlement in 1837. As the nineteenth century progressed, more modest frame houses were built in the area, with finer brick residences sprinkled throughout. The neighborhood remained fairly stable until after World War II when development of the downtown began to encroach on the area. In the late 1970s, though, pioneer downtowners began to move back to the area and restore the simple houses of a bygone era. In the late 1980s, it became a district of Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. Neighbors created a First Settlement master plan in 1995 and in 2002 residents succeeded in having the area designated as Madison's fifth historic district.



Residents of First Settlement are encouraged to join the neighborhood list serv at [FirstSettlementNeighborhood-Subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:FirstSettlementNeighborhood-Subscribe@yahoo.com) to receive district meeting information and other announcements.



## *James Madison Park District*

Welcome to the James Madison Park District! Our district is named after James Madison Park because the park is a place where members of the community can gather for fun, sun, and relaxation. Those who gather at the park are a diverse group of people from all walks of life and in this way the park is representative of our district.



The park is not the only attraction our neighborhood has to offer, of course. We have many businesses as well, from a health club to convenience stores and more.

We encourage everyone in the district to be a part of CNI. It is a great way to find out what's going on in the neighborhood and what to do if there is a problem. If there are concerns about safety, traffic issues, the sidewalks being covered in snow, community members will know who to contact to help get these issues resolved. Plus, it's a great way to get to know people.

Check out the map to learn about our boundaries and join us in making the district a great place to live.

## *Mansion Hill Historic District*

The Mansion Hill Historic District remains one of downtown Madison's jewels. It contains many of the old architectural giants of the late 19th and early 20th century. From the up-scale Mansion Hill Inn to the conversion of the Moderne style Quisling Clinic as the Quisling Terrace Apartments, Mansion Hill has continued to preserve its historic place in downtown Madison.



A new Master Plan for the District is in the process of being developed, which will also help in preserving the ambiance of the area. The plan will contain clear guidelines for improving the original vintage building stock as well as standards for infill and peripheral development.

From the old to the new, we now have 100 Wisconsin Avenue, the only condominium structure directly on the Square. Mansion Hill Historic District continues to lead the way in downtown Madison. Check our boundaries on the map and please join us as members of Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.

## *Mifflin West District*

The old Capitol Centre District has a new name. It's Mifflin West District. The district continues its transformation, becoming Madison's premier entertainment center as well as a fine residential area for long-term owner occupants and student renters alike.

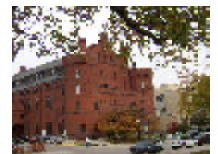


Much has been happening in the district, and now our area enters the "Season of Phase II's" for the Overture Center, State Street Reconstruction, and Metropolitan Place. These projects and other developments are brush strokes that add to the portrait of our neighborhood. A portrait that hangs outside our doorsteps for us to experience on a daily basis. When one walks down State Street, a new, updated, Madison can be seen. The new street lights, bus shelters, and planters all add to the new energy and dynamics of downtown Madison.

We of Mifflin West District are always seeking new members, who are concerned about the future growth of downtown Madison. Please join us by becoming members of the Mifflin West District of Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.

## *State/Langdon District*

Hi, my name is Jeff Erlanger and I am the president of the State/Langdon District, one of the newest members of the downtown neighborhood association, Capitol Neighborhoods Inc.



Our district is unique as many of our residents are students and thus transient but we also have a handful of residents, like myself, who have lived in the neighborhood for years. This diversity sometimes makes it difficult for our district to come to a consensus on issues as people who feel one way may be replaced a year later with someone who feels the opposite way. Because of this, it is sometimes difficult to get the city council to listen to us. That is why I'm glad to be part of CNI. I think State/Langdon and CNI can mutually help each other.

State/Langdon is a fun district. We have State Street, much of the university and of course the Memorial Union. If you haven't been in our area in a while, come down and shop, take in a movie or an event at the Overture or relax with an ice cream at the Union!