

DOWNTOWN DIALOGUE

CAP RAPS

The Holiday Season

by Adam Plotkin, President of Capitol Neighborhoods



With the first days and nights of Hanukkah just around the corner (as I write this) and the celebrations of Christmas and Kwanzaa soon to come, it seems appropriate to write about the reason we celebrate these holidays this time of year. The common theme across all denominations is a celebration of faith, family, charity, and community. Charity and community are also the backbone of neighborhoods.



On Thursday, December 9 Capitol Neighborhoods will host our annual Holiday Party at Restaurant Magnus. Starting at 7:00pm at 120 E. Wilson, we will have hors d'oeuvres, a raffle and a chance to visit with your neighbors. This year, we will also be collecting hotel and travel sized soaps, shampoos and other products for donation to the YWCA on the Square.

We also celebrate the community that we share downtown and the multitude of reasons that living downtown is an exciting and unique option. The options available a short walk from home for dining, entertainment, and commerce combine livability with living options from new condominiums to historic homes from the earliest days of Madison. It is difficult to quantify all of the factors that make living downtown unique, but for those of us that call downtown, to paraphrase U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, we know it when we see it.

As always, our city is growing and changing. Things that make downtown great, and the future improvements that could, are not guaranteed to be around forever and will not materialize without constant effort by stakeholders. The future of high speed rail is at risk with the result of the November election and the incoming Governor. As residents of downtown Madison, we know the potential benefits of having a high speed rail station on East Wilson Street. If we do not remain engaged, the needs of residents will be lost to the petty politics that look only to the next election, not the next generation.

And so, in the spirit of the season, let's give thanks and celebrate our neighbors and our unique neighborhood. And always remember that Madison would not be one of the most desirable places to live in American without the input of our residents. I hope to see many of you at the holiday party - Restaurant Magnus, 120 E. Wilson, Thursday December 9, 7:00pm.

Here's wishing everyone a pleasant holiday season and a Happy 2011! ❖



Reflecting on 14 Years of Working for You

By: Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

With a mixture of sweet sadness and hope for the future I announced recently my intention to step down as county executive. Over the past 14 years I've given this job my all and am deeply grateful for the opportunity you have given me. Together, we've done important and meaningful work on the problems people care about and made a difference for our friends, neighbors, and our future.



I've been elected more times and served five years longer than any other Dane County Executive. My election as the first woman Dane County Executive was historic and I'm grateful that now any woman can believe she has the opportunity to serve.

portunity to serve.

In my 14 years, the three principles I tried hard to follow were taught to me by my parents and grandparents: don't waste land, don't waste money and don't waste kids. I'd like to think they'd be proud of my 14 year record on each.

We've created unique programs to help moms and dads get jobs

We've created unique programs to help moms and dads get jobs so the next generation has a healthy start and can move out of poverty. We've created national "firsts" for environmental protection and protected over 10,000 acres of land for future generations to enjoy forever.

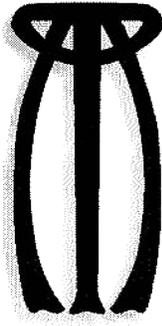
We've proven that progressive policies and fiscal restraint can go hand-in-hand. I've fulfilled the two promises I made when I was last re-elected in 2009: to build the first ever community manure digester in the nation to keep phosphorus out of our lakes and to launch real cultural change around the costs and suffering from our community's abuse of alcohol - our coalition has already made a difference!

I don't know what the next chapter is for me, but changing the world is what I will continue to do! I will leave with profound gratitude for the honor of serving you and nearly one-half million Dane County citizens.

Thank you all for all that you have done to help me serve you. ❖

Jeff Kuesel Honored.

At the annual meeting of the Fauerbach Unit Owners Association on November 3rd, Jeff Kuesel was honored for his work with the Blair Street Garden Committee with a mayoral proclamation. In this proclamation, Mayor Cieslewicz declared November 3rd as Jeff Kuesel day in "recognition and appreciation for his commitment to the beautification of Madison, Wisconsin." This honor was bestowed in recognition of Jeff's 25 years of work on the Gardens. He has "provided leadership" and "has also personally done much of the planting and tending of these gardens alone and in conjunction with other volunteers." ❖



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Meeting with Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

by Adam Plotkin

In November several members of the Executive Council met with Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and his aide Chris Klein to discuss several topics. I accompanied Executive Council members Melissa Berger, Scott Kolar, Davy Mayer, Bert Stitt, and Pete Ostlind

Our first topic was the draft Downtown Plan. Melissa Berger, chair of the CNI Ad-Hoc Downtown Plan Committee gave an overview of our opinion on the plan. On the whole the plan reflects the goals of CNI with a handful of suggestions for improvement. The Mayor said he is pleased with the emphasis that the plan places on the importance of the lakes. Pete Ostlind, Bert Stitt, and Scott Kolar talked about the importance of emphasizing livability and the factors that make downtown Madison a desirable place to live.

Our second topic was the draft of the Economic Development Committee's (EDC) Development Process Reforms. Unlike the Downtown Plan draft, there are several areas of concern in the draft. Pete Ostlind mentioned that the focus of the EDC is on economics, but they've been asked to draft a report on the area of development process in Madison. The intent of the Mayor's charge to the EDC was not followed in the tone of the first 4 pages, starting with the quote on the front page. Pete asked about the timeline for the adoption of the recommendations. The Mayor said that he did not have a problem extending the timeline for review and comment and that expecting it to be done by the end of the year was unrealistic. As this was a topic of discussion at the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable in October, I asked what his "takeaways" were from that meeting. The Mayor felt that the discussion at that event was productive. He would like to know what could be done prior to a development proposal formally hitting the city process. He also felt that neighborhood associations, and in turn developers, would benefit from a dedicated neighborhood facilitator from the City. Mayor Dave also re-emphasized the desire often expressed by the development community of wanting predictability in the process. Bert Stitt offered that more speed in the process is not necessarily good and that perhaps developers would also benefit from receiving training in the city's development process. Bert also emphasized the need for confirmed and auditable economic figures from developers to support their proposals. The Mayor agreed that there does need to be expectations placed on developers as well. I pointed out that the request for predictability often is heard as a desire that all neighborhood associations operate exactly the same despite socio-economic and geographic differences throughout the city. The Mayor agreed that all neighborhoods are not the same and cannot all be

expected to operate the same. Bert and Pete Ostlind reminded the Mayor of the CNI Developer Protocols document that has been used with success and positive feedback from developers and offered that that document in conjunction with others could be used as a template for other neighborhood associations.

Our third topic was the Public Market Square Development, which encompasses the high speed train station, additional underground parking and an office building with a Public Market component on the Government East parking ramp and current Municipal Building site. Given the potential for positive development at this site, we asked how we could collaborate to ensure a high quality final product. The Mayor emphasized that the project will go forward, but may change depending on the outcome of the high speed rail debate. He suggested possible city staff to liaise with. This led to a discussion about ways in which the Mayor has been fighting to save the high speed train proposal following the election of Scott Walker as Governor and his pledge to kill the project.

Our final topic was to ask about ways that the Mayor's office and CNI can better collaborate on future events and topics in the downtown. We wanted to make sure the Mayor was aware that we are happy to lend our support for the projects and initiatives that are seen as beneficial to downtown residents.

Future meetings will continue to be held with the Mayor. Anyone that has topics they feel should be discussed is welcome to contact me at plotkinaj@gmail.com or talk to any of their district representatives on the Executive Council. ❖

Sponsors of the Geranium Sales. Many thanks to them for helping make the sale a success!!

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Crowley Station Gets TLC from First Settlement Neighbors

by Bert Stitt

On a gray November Sunday First Settlement neighbors gather to plant Prairie Dropseed and Feather Reed grasses with a newly painted railing in the background. The transformation of the Water Utility's Crowley Pumping Station in the 400 block of East Wilson Street begins!

The Crowley Station project tells a story about planning and networking, cooperation, support, asking and receiving, and using the modern technology of the list serve.

In writing the First Settlement Neighborhood Plan in 1995 (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/ndp/firstsettlement.pdf>) neighbors had the foresight to identify the Water Utility's Crowley Station pumping facility as an important site for future attention. Now, fifteen years later, new neighbors, Michelle and Craig Jolly, living across the street look out the window of their apartment at their view of Lake Monona and ask; 'What can happen to beautify this otherwise mundane structure?'

This simple question stimulates a whole new energy in the neighborhood. In addition to the people pictured below, and other neighbors not present that particular day, we have the excellent support of **Water Utility staffers, Gale Gawenda and Joe Demorett;** local business owner **Jon Hinds, from the Monkey Bar Gym; Ed Linville of Linville Architects;** and **Ed Freer, Principal with JJR;** a Landscaping Architecture, Planning, Urban Design, Civil Engineering, and Environmental Science firm located at Machinery Row.

Our supportive **Alder, Marsha Rummel,** has secured \$16,000 in funding for the project in next year's city budget! We hope to leverage that for more private contributions that will provide the means to make this a stellar site. **Carol Crossan,** our neighborhood historian, will research the 'Crowley' connection for an historic site sign we intend to erect as the

project comes along.

In the words of Ed Freer: "The existing Crowley Station structure provides a wonderful opportunity to leverage the public investment of our infrastructure and enhance the public realm through creative programming. Its prominent location, accessibility and the view of Lake Monona allow it to become a significant amenity for both the immediate neighborhood and residents of Madison at large."

Our initial thoughts are inspired by an attempt to reinterpret the traditional meaning of a "Community Green." From the original thirteen colonies through the settlement of the nation's western territories, communities platted and created public greens; they took many shapes and served multiple purposes. Their locations were chosen to frame views, take advantage of natural features, accommodate public structures and provide access to all.

We feel that the "Crowley Station Roof Deck" provides our community an opportunity to redefine this concept of "Public Green" by expanding and embracing today's concept of 'Sustainable Green' and thus, as we redefine 'green' we will explore a wide breadth of creative ideas and at the same time maintain focus on creating a special landmark open space.

Stay tuned! We'll keep you posted over the next year. ❖



Left to right: Bert Stitt, Megan Christiansen, Steve Rubin, Jim Skrentny, Zane Williams, Michelle Jolly

(Photo by a kindly passerby)

Reflections On a Colorful Summer

by Joe Bonardi

Without a doubt, 2010 was great year for plants! Maybe it wasn't a stellar year politically, but I can say without a doubt that Period Garden Park had it's best growing season to date. I hope most of you saw the results at the different peaks of spring, summer and fall. As always, it was a joy for me to work there again, alongside my friends who also did their share of the work that it takes to keep the park beautiful.

We will be beginning our seventh year of restoration next spring, and we are prepared in planning the coming years' volunteer efforts. Next spring may not be as grand a floral show as in the past, due to lack of funding and donations. That may sound harsh, but it is true, that like other neighborhood projects that depend on their communities for support, we did not receive enough needed funds for things such as tulip bulbs that are planted in the fall to be seen next spring. Believe me when I say we do all that we can with what we have, and our annual budget is only \$4000 to keep an entire garden blooming all season long. I'm hoping with the coming holiday season people will follow the wonderful trend to donate in someone's name to their favorite causes and that Period Park will be high on that list.

A tax exempt contribution can be made out to Capitol Neighborhoods Inc./ Period Park, and the receipt can be used to notify the recipient of the gift made in their name. Sending this gift to a friend will ensure the year 'round beauty of their neighborhood park. Please consider this an option for your holiday giving!

I want to take up some print in thanking those who helped us in our efforts this past year, and to express my gratitude for all the help and time that was given. First and foremost, thanks to Fred Mohs and Ledell Zellers, without whose support none of the park in its present state would be there today, and to MG&E, for their generous contribution. The volunteers that have given so much, Sandra Jones, John Steines, Jake Guellor, Joyce Voight, Mike Port, Angela Ramirez, John Rieghn, Ken Miller, and Paul Wilhite. Much thanks to the volunteers of Blackhawk Church and the young women of Kappa Delta Kai. A special thanks to Megan Christansen for keeping all the records in such good order. Thank you to Lisa Mensink of Aca-



cia Web Design for the fine work on the park website. Thanks to Jim Manchowski of JBM Patrol in helping keep the park safe, to Bill Bauer of the Parks Dept. for fixing the retaining wall around the park, and to A-I Cement, that did such a careful job of replacing the cement steps on Gorham St this year. Thanks also to Jason Tish of the Historical Trust for his continued support and to anyone else that contributed in some way this year.

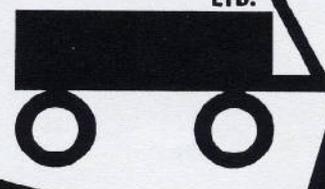
Remember to check the website: <www.periodgardenpark.org> and see the new photos that were added for 2010! Happy holidays to all and remember at this time of year of what makes our city such a great place to live. ❖



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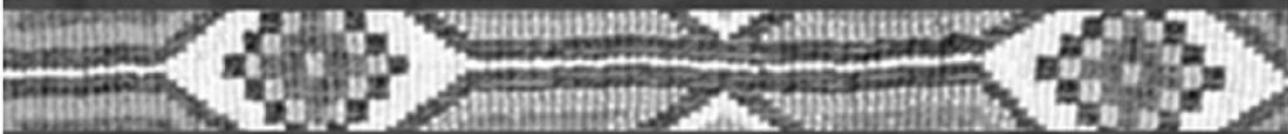
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Madison Public Library — Events and Classes at Central Library

by Liz Amundson

Community Cinema

Community Cinema features a sneak peek of nine documentaries before their broadcast on the award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Madison Public Library is joining with The Independent Television Service (ITVS), the leader in independent public media, to present this Community Cinema program in Madison.

Screenings run through June at the Central Library on the third Saturday of each month. Join us after each screening for a panel discussion with community based organizations and guest speakers.

The Calling

by Danny Alpert

Saturday December 18, 1 p.m.

A behind-the-scenes look at young Americans - Christian, Jewish, Catholic, and Muslim - preparing to become the nation's next generation of religious leaders. The Calling follows their transformation from idealistic students into ordained religious professionals.

For Once in My Life

by Jim Bigham and Mark Moormann

Saturday January 15, 1 p.m.

Made up of 28 musicians and singers who all have severe mental and physical disabilities, the Spirit of Goodwill Band challenges preconceived notions of what it means to be disabled.

Researching Your Business Idea

Have you made the decision to go into business? The next step is to explore the potential of your business idea. We will focus on examining the feasibility of your business idea, exploring ways to market the product or service, and identify resources for starting your business including an introduction to the business plan. Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation will host the class at Central Library.

December 16th 10 a.m. to Noon - Central Library, room 202

Call WWBIC to register at 257-5450 or register online at <http://wwbic.com/>

Free Tax Filing with Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA)

Free Tax Filing for Individuals (no businesses) begins in late January and runs

through early April. Register starting mid-January for tax filing appointments. This year all appointments will be on Saturdays 1/29/11 - 4/9/11. Call 266-6350 for more information (there are a few restrictions) and to sign up. ❖



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by Kira Young

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) works to empower those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education and outreach. Our vision is a non-violent community that actively promotes safety, peace, justice and hope. We have been in Dane County for over 26 years working to make our community a safer, more just, more equitable place for people who have experienced domestic violence, their children, and the people who love them.

We offer many support services, and volunteers are essential in providing these services to our clients and are involved in every aspect of the work we do. Our volunteer program increases support services to victims by two-thirds of what staff alone can do.

The following are ongoing DAIS Volunteer Opportunities:

- Crisis Line Advocate
- Crisis Response Advocate
- Shelter Advocate
- Children's Advocate
- Marketing and Media Advocate
- CAPE (Community Awareness and Prevention Education) Advocate
- One-Time Service Projects
- Donations

If you are interested in volunteering with DAIS or for more information please contact:

Kira Young, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services

kiray@abuseintervention.org, 251-1237

http://www.abuseintervention.org

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Megan Christiansen
Dan Cornwell
Pat Cornwell

Bob Davenport
Reginald Emshoff
Susan Goeres
Susan Goldwomon
Dr. Mary Johnson
Sandra Jones
Carol Katz
Gregory P. Lawinger
Joe Lusson
Patrick Meehan

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*Madison Magazine's 2008 Reader Poll

Urban Ecology

by Ruth Sandor

Hawks, owls, crows, ducks & geese, rabbits, opossum, racoons, mice, squirrels, butterflies, moths, ladybugs, spiders...even once an antlered whitetail...and now...chickens!

Not in a woodlot, field or nature preserve: all these and more are wildlife sightings on, around or near the Capitol Square. When the chickens escaped from their coop on top of the Madison Children Museum I argue they were wild, not domestic, for that brief span.

A Cooper hawk perches frequently in the vicinity of the rooftop coop, using the YWCA height, the structures on Capitol Point terrace, or Dr Evermore sculpture at the Museum overlook. Is it eyeing the chickens? Perhaps the flocks of pigeons and small birds are too elusive, and the mice do get flattened by cars, those competitive mechanical beasts.

The crows I have written about before, their winter flocking and roosting behavior, their family units and feeding habits. I find them fascinating still, and many other Downtown residents and workers attend to their raucous calls.

In November a grey squirrel dashes from one doorway to the next in the block of West Main near Walgreen. Frightened by the expanse of concrete sidewalk he seems to see the revolving doors to a bank lobby as an escape when he should dart back across traffic to the green expanse of the Capitol.

A young boy attempts to trap a butterfly against the wall of a building elsewhere on the Square, from his point of view, nature found.

Eddee Daniel, author of Urban Wilderness, gave a presentation at the UW Arboretum with photographs and comments on the Menomonee River urban watershed in Milwaukee. He highlights our paradox, living in nature, even in the city.

Slowing down sufficiently to see what normally goes unseen helps to release the tensions of an urban life-style. ❖

Ruth Sandor, a Central Madison resident for 42 years. She can be reached at sandor@ssc.wisc.edu, Senior Special Librarian Emerita University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. Downtown Dialogue

August-September, 2010

Vol. 16 No. 4

Published bi-monthly.

Lynn Phelps, *Editor*

Distribution: Ilse Hecht, Adam Plotkin,

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Get To Know Your CNI Website: <www.capitolneighborhoods.org>

By Lynn Phelps, Webmaster

The Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. website was originally designed by Scott Pauli and funded by Fred Mohs. Lynn Phelps has been keeping it up to date as the current webmaster.

You can access the site by going to capitolneighborhoods.org. The index page includes a map of downtown Madison with the five districts labeled. It also has five tabs at the top of the index page: About Us, Districts, Membership, Resources and Contact.

About Us includes a recent President's Message, the current by-laws (last modified in February, 2009), access to the Downtown Dialogues (the official newsletter for CNI) for the past year, members of the Executive Council with minutes of the monthly meetings and the annual meeting, other Committees with their mission statements and members, and sponsors over the past several years.

Districts provide separate pages for each of the five districts of CNI, First Settlement, Mifflin West, Bassett, Mansion Hill and James Madison Park. You can also access the separate district pages by clicking on the districts on the Index page map. The districts that have regular meetings also have their minutes on their pages.

The Membership Tab provides you with the

membership application form, statement about volunteers for the various committees, and how you can donate to the organization for the betterment of downtown Madison.

The Resources Tab gives you current planned events, links to other websites of interest to downtown Madison residents and articles of interest.

Contact gives you a quick means of contacting members of the association, the email address, downtown alders and the mayor.

If you prefer a quick link to many of the functions of CNI, you can use the shortcuts along the left margin of the index page. They are self explanatory, so I won't list them here.

We are able to determine how many "hits" we have had on the site as well as where they come from. We had 10615 visits during 2009, or about 885 per month. They naturally come mostly from the USA, but they come from all over the world including Russia, Great Britain, Romania and Ivory Coast among many others.

We are in the process of updating or re-configuring the website. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the process, let Erik Paulson, Chair of the Membership/Media/Development Committee know. He can be reached at epaulson@unit1127.com or by phone, 239-0820. ❖

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Become a Member of Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.!

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____</p> <p>Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____</p> <p>E-mail address: _____</p> <p>Capitol Neighborhoods, on occasion, has made its mailing list available, commercially, to those we feel assist the neighborhood. However, we're concerned about your wishes as our member. If you do not want these mailings, please check this box: <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership: \$20.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Household Membership: \$10.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership: \$20.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership: \$100.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sliding Scale Membership: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donations to CNI: _____</p> <p>Please mail your completed membership form and payment to: Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. P.O. Box 2613, Madison, WI 53701-2613</p>
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Capitol Neighborhoods is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership fees and all donations are tax deductible



CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS
P.O. BOX 2613
MADISON, WI 53701

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Capitol Neighborhoods Upcoming Programs

CNI Holiday Party, December 9, 7:00 p.m.
Restaurant Magnus, 120 East Wilson St.



Join your CNI neighbors at the Annual Holiday Party. Enjoy delicious appetizers prepared by Chef Eric Johnson, as we connect with our neighbors, bringing in the cheer of the holiday season. There will be a selection of local items and services from our downtown neighbors raffled off at this event.

******Donations of personal care items (travel, hotel-size shampoo, soap, etc.) will be collected and donated to the YWCA.******

Mayoral Candidates Forum
January 20, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Capitol Lakes Retirement Center, Grand Hall



Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. will hold a forum of mayoral candidates. Join us as we ask the candidates to answer questions about their perspectives, ideas and goals for our great city. This program will help inform city of Madison residents as we near the Mayoral primary election, February 15, 2011. The meeting is open to the general public.
