

CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.

DOWNTOWN DIALOGUE

CAP RAPS

Downtown's Denizens, or Living Large

by Adam Plotkin, President of Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.

On Sunday, June 5, Madison sponsored Ride the Drive, an opportunity to bike on streets downtown that are better known for vehicular traffic. With a newborn that can't join us on a bike ride yet, my wife and I took turns making a lap around the circuit on a wonderfully sunny afternoon.

The June 5 ride will be the only one held this year since a planned event in September has been cancelled. Looking forward to 2012, a suggestion was made to change the location for the second ride to another area of the city to highlight a neighborhood. I didn't realize it until the loop back up John Nolen Drive, but I began to wonder if people realized that they've been riding through a neighborhood at all the other Ride the Drive events. Downtown is not simply a center for commerce and government, it is home to the most rapidly expanding population center in the City of Madison. In the redistricting process, the only aldermanic district that is decreasing in area is the 4th District, ably represented by Mike Verveer. The reason for the decrease in area is the massive increase in population.



These new residents aren't camping on the street (well, maybe some are!), they're living in newly constructed homes. These are homes and projects that were made possible in part with the input of Capitol Neighborhoods residents. Downtown neighborhoods are not homogenous within CNI. The five member districts (Mansion Hill, James Madison Park, First Settlement, Bassett, and Mifflin West) each have their own unique characteristics, and sometimes vary within those districts as well. The phenomenal part about Capitol Neighborhoods existence is that it brings these diverse neighborhoods together for the common purposes of representing the needs of residents in a mixed use area. The beauty of our downtown is its diversity and ability to grow while honoring the historic nature of our downtown.

Each block has different needs and different uses, but in the end, we are all residents of one downtown. A downtown that lives, eats, plays, and grows. Without support for all aspects, our neighborhood loses the attraction that makes Ride the Drive worth having. ❖

The 2011 Annual Report is included in this issue of Downtown Dialogue. Please go to pages 7 through 14 and remove for reference. Thank you. Editor

Working With You to Keep Dane County Great

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Growing up in Middleton, I always knew that Dane County was a special place. Our community has given me so much, and has inspired me to give back. I am honored to serve you as your new Dane County Executive.



Our home has changed a great deal from when I was younger. Dane County's population is now 490,000 people and is the fastest growing county in Wisconsin.

While determining how to grow at the same time we protect our farms and lakes will continue to be a challenge. We now face new hurdles - - including how the state budget will impact our quality of life for years to come.

As Dane County Executive,

I will meet these challenges head on - by working with you to find solutions, and without sacrificing everything that makes our community great.

My first priority will be finding a way to balance the county budget in the face of deep cuts from the state. Hours after I was officially sworn in, I met with my budget team to begin addressing the changes that may come from the Governor's budget proposal.

We do not yet know the final impact of the state budget, but we know that it could greatly affect human services, more than half of the county's annual budget.

Prioritizing economic development is also key. I've been meeting with some of our county's economic development leaders, including representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and THRIVE, to make good on the creation of my new Dane County Office of Economic Development.

And I'm committed to making Dane County a clean energy jobs leader. As the price of gasoline climbs, we must re-double our efforts on creating jobs pursuing innovative, cost-effective sources of alternative energy.

I'm looking forward to working with you to achieve these goals. ❖

Joe Parisi is the new Dane County Executive.

Welcome to the pages of the Downtown Dialogue

Fromagination Named 2011 Outstanding Retailer by National Specialty Food Association

MADISON, Wis. - Already recognized as one of the state's best cut-to-order artisan cheese shops, Fromagination was recently named an Outstanding Retailer for 2011 by the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade.

Lauded for its dedication to serving cheesemakers and small artisans, its attention to customer service, and its commitment to the environment, Fromagination was one of only six retail shops in the nation to earn the 2011 award. As a result, owner Ken Monteleone will be presented with a gold statue at the Summer Fancy Food Show in Washington, D.C. in July, and featured in the June issue of *Specialty Food Magazine*.

"It's an incredible honor," Monteleone said. "We look forward to accepting this award and coming home to celebrate with all of our customers."

In choosing the specialty shop for the award, a panel of industry peers from NASFT commended Fromagination for attracting food lovers from all over the world by offering a carefully edited selection of 400 products, including artisan and specialty cheeses, of which more than 60 are sourced from Wisconsin.

The eco-friendly store, built with several recycled and reclaimed materials, opened on Madison's downtown Capitol Square in 2007. Since the very beginning, Fromagination has focused on forging close relationships with Wisconsin cheesemakers, and as a result, is often one of the first retailers many artisans contact when a new cheese is developed and ready for tasting.

Monteleone sources as many local products as possible, with nearly 60 percent of the shop's total offerings coming from an area stretching from Minneapolis to Madison to Chicago. Fromagination also offers several recycling programs, such as Bring Your Own Bag, Picnic Blankets, Gift Basket Return and Reusable Cookbooks.

Located at 12 S. Carroll Street, Fromagination is open Monday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information on classes, catering opportunities and gift ideas, visit www.fromagination.com or call 608-255-2430. ❖

Capitol Update

By: Rep. Mark Pocan

Everywhere I go, whether it's the grocery store, walking my dog around the neighborhood or checking my facebook page, people always ask me about the tone at the Capitol. There's a lot that can be said about the tone at the Capitol these days, and most of it isn't good. In the past year, Wisconsin has gone from a moderate "purple" state to a polarized "purple" state. There doesn't seem to be much room for compromise anymore. It's either the conservative way, or the ultra-conservative way. The progressives and the moderates are still out there. They are still voting. But Legislative Republicans don't care about them and you can bet Governor Walker doesn't care about them.



When Democrats controlled the Governor's office, State Senate and State Assembly last legislative session, Democratic legislative leaders regularly stood up to our Democratic governor, ensuring the position of the Legislature as a co-equal branch of government. And while we might not have liked what the Republicans had to say, we also protected their right to speak their mind.

This legislative session, however, has turned political reality on its head. Legislative Republicans are bending over backwards to give away the power of the Legislature to Republican Governor Scott Walker, including giving away legislative oversight of state agency's rule making power and handing him dozens of more political cronies he can appoint to high-paying jobs in state government.

While Republicans surrender power to the Executive Branch, they run the Legislature with an iron fist. Rarely in Wisconsin's political history, if ever, has the majority party so ruthlessly and effectively silenced the minority party. During the budget "repair" bill, Republicans shut down a public hearing, shut off debate on the floor and even dishonored our own clean government tradition and rules by violating the open meetings law.

The coming weeks will be very interesting at the Capitol, with Republicans making fast work of a state budget that will do so much harm to our economy and cut the ropes

of the very safety net each of us might need one day. Keep your eyes peeled for political slight of hand and even more overt disrespect, both for the institute of the Legislature and for everyone who doesn't share their far right-wing ideology.

In the middle of it all, you'll find me standing up for the Legislative Branch, the institution of the State Assembly, the rights of the political minority and, most importantly, you. I will continue to fight for progressive values on the floor of the Assembly, in legislative committees and in the media. Recently, people have asked me how they can stay informed as to what's going on at the State Capitol. I do my best to keep people informed through my blog, which you can reach at www.markpocan.net and through my facebook page.

However, the most direct way to stay in touch is to contact my office. Each legislative session, we hear from thousands of constituents and I encourage you, if you have not done so already, to contact me at rep.pocan@legis.wisconsin.gov or call my office at 266-8570. ❖





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Maxwell Street Days Summer Sidewalk Sale on State Street, July 15-17, 2011

by Mary Carbone

The 2011 Maxwell Street Days Summer Sidewalk Sale will take place on State Street in downtown Madison, Wis., from Friday, July 15 through Sunday, July 17. Hours are Friday-Saturday 8am to 6pm, and Sunday 10am to 5pm. For information (including where to stay, park, shop, dine, and things to see and do), see www.maxwellstreetdays.org or call (608) 512-1342

This annual sidewalk sale and community event showcases Madison's unique State Street and Capitol Square shopping district. More than 100 shops, boutiques, galleries and restaurants—many locally owned—offer terrific bargains on clothing, jewelry, gifts, artwork, food, drink and more in this festive, family-friendly event.

Maxwell Street Days is the perfect centerpiece of a summer weekend getaway to Madison, where you can shop 'til you drop, and then relax on the shores of Lakes Mendota and Monona, dine at one of more than 80 downtown restaurants, catch a show at the Overture Center for the Arts, or visit the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, the Madison Children's Museum, or the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace and Convention Center.

For more than 35 years, Maxwell Street Days has provided bargains, culinary delights and music for more than 30,000 annual attendees. Why is there a "Maxwell Street Days" on State Street? Maxwell Street in Chicago, Ill., was home to a famed outdoor market and "urban bazaar" from 1871 to 1994. In 1975, Martin's, a Madison, Wis., clothing store and tailor shop, founded an outdoor sidewalk sale to showcase the State Street shopping district, starting Madison's very own "Maxwell Street Days" tradition.

Maxwell Street Days is organized by the Greater State Street Business Association (GSSBA), with support from Madison's Central Business Improvement District (BID). ❖

Mary Carbine, Executive Director (BID)

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Celebrating Gates of Heaven's 40th Anniversary

by Lynn Phelps

In 1996, the Gates of Heaven, that glorious landmark at James Madison Park, celebrated its 25th anniversary. Here are some of the notes written at that time.

The Gates of Heaven opened in Madison in 1863. Not the actual gates to God's kingdom, but the one-story sandstone and brick synagogue that remains one of the finest examples of 19th century Romanesque Revival architecture standing in Wisconsin's capital city.

Although the building was slated for demolition, a group of Madisonians arranged to move it from its place on West Washington Avenue to its current location on the shores of Lake Mendota.

Since then, it has become a city landmark and is used by many different groups for religious traditions, folk dancers, chamber musicians and weddings. My own son was married within its walls.

On July 17, we will have another anniversary party commemorating the move to its present site, from 2 until 4 p.m., sponsored by the Madison Parks Department.

I obtained further information from the Wikipedia Website. "According to Jonathan Pollack, history instructor at Madison Area Technical College, the 19th-

century Shaarei Shamayim congregation was founded in 1856 by Jewish immigrants from Germany. The congregation erected a synagogue building in 1863, but the Panic of 1873 forced the lease of the building to a Unitarian congregation.

Designed in the Rundbogenstil style by German immigrant August Kutzbock and built in 1863, the building is now the eighth-oldest synagogue building still standing in the United States. It was originally located at 214 W. Washington Avenue. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, and in 1971, thanks to the efforts of local citizens, it was purchased by the city, restored, and moved to James Madison Park. Now located at the corner of Gorham and Butler Streets, the building is used for concerts, weddings, and other gatherings.

The modern congregation was formed in 1989 by people who had attended Rosh Hashanah services led by Rabbi Hannah Rosenthal at the Gates of Heaven Synagogue in James Madison Park."

For remembrances and photos to be added to the collection, please address them to the Parks Department, P.O. Box 2987, Madison WI. 53701. ❖



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2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Capitol Neighborhoods' purposes are enhancement of the neighborhoods' attributes and character and the promotion of camaraderie among the neighborhoods' residents.

Who's house? Our house!

By: Rep. Mark Pocan

Downtown Madison residents regularly are greeted with change; whether it's the building of a new building, businesses moving in and out and changing bus routes among other things.

Downtown residents are used to the occasional yet consistent political rallies, even marches up State Street that block off traffic. However, downtown Madison looks a lot different today than it did just one year ago.

Living with the State Capitol in your neighborhood, it is often easy to overlook. It's so much a part of our community that it is easy to take it for granted, until its taken away from you; both politically and accessibly.

The policies of Governor Walker and the Fitzgerald brothers in the State Assembly and Senate awoke a sleeping giant, also known as the Wisconsin majority. Walker's historic attack on more than fifty years of labor peace in Wisconsin riled up not only public employees, but friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Downtown residents have been greeted with a great deal of change these past few months, whether it's hundreds of thousands of people gathering at rallies outside the Capitol, closed down streets, alternate bus routes

to accommodate protests, people sleeping in tents just off the Capitol Square and much more. Quite possibly the biggest inconvenience is the heightened security we've seen at the State Capitol recently.

I've heard from many constituents about the recent lock-down at the Capitol. The State Capitol is so much a part of our community that we frequently cut through in the winter to get out of the cold, enjoy the

building's beauty while at the Farmer's market or even drop into your Representative and Senator's office to share your thoughts. Now, you are greeted by locked doors and metal detectors behind those that are open. I believe that ensuring the security of visitors and employees at our State Capitol is important. However, that must be balanced by ensuring the people's access to their State Capitol.



I hope that by the time you read your next annual report, the Wisconsin political pendulum has swung back in the other direction. Hopefully, that shift will provide a political check on the government's current "leadership" that will help facilitate the return of the downtown and the Wisconsin we have all come to know and love, including returning Capitol access to the people.

2011 President's Annual Report

by Adam Plotkin

Thank you for your interest in Capitol Neighborhoods and for reading our 2011 Annual Report. 2011 has been a good year for Capitol Neighborhoods. We have seen several new members become active in the organization, bringing new ideas and new energy. I'd like to thank everyone that participates, but would particularly like to recognize Scott Kolar and Stacy Grandt. Scott is a District Representative from Mifflin West who jumped into district and CNI issues with both feet. He is rapidly learning the ins and outs of the development process in Madison, having led the Mifflin West Steering Committee on four large and involved projects. He has been a dedicated volunteer for several other initiatives, often giving countless hours and always going above and beyond the call of duty. Stacy has taken over leadership of the CNI Program Committee and reinvigorated the committee with energy, organization, and creativity. Just in the first 5 months of 2011, Stacy has organized some highly successful programs. CNI sponsored tours of the hostel in First Settlement and Period Garden Park in Mansion Hill. We hosted an aldermanic candidate's forum after the primary election. We also hosted the first in the city Mayoral candidate's debate prior to the primary. That program was extremely well attended and gave a good look at the choices heading into the primary election. And last December CNI had a wonderful holiday party at Restaurant Magnus. While Scott and Stacy are fantastic examples of dedicated volunteers, there are many people who give countless time, knowledge and resources to CNI. We are thankful for all contributions toward improving the quality of life for the residents of downtown. To continue to grow CNI and the mission, new members bring unique perspectives that keep the organization looking forward and at new angles. This year, we are fortunate to be heading in to the Annual Meeting with, as of the date of publication, three excellent candidates for one of the District Representative seats in Mifflin West. This sort of interest is fantastic, and nearly unprecedented. We are also always on the lookout for new members for our committees. Carlos Lewison from First Settlement has become an active participant on the Program Committee, as well as host for the April program at the hostel. New voices are welcome!

2011 also saw an increased amount of collaboration between Neighborhood Association's throughout Madison. Sponsored by Alder Marsha Rummel, and with heavy participation by CNI, two Neighborhood Forums were held last summer to talk about a proposed review of the city's development processes. These forums were the impetus for a large document provided

to the Economic Development Committee with comments on what neighborhoods see as working, and not working, in the current process. This was also a topic at the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable last fall where associations had a chance to reconnect following the release of a list of draft recommendations by the Economic Development Committee. These opportunities created many new connections for CNI and other neighborhoods. It was interesting to see that for as diverse a group of neighborhoods as this city has, how many points of commonality there are, particularly on process questions. While not all neighborhoods have the quantity of development proposals as seen downtown, they all value a fair, open, and consistent process that enables access for neighborhood associations and individual neighbors to have input at all points in the process. In conjunction with the all neighborhoods process, CNI, under the leadership of Pete Ostlind, has taken an active role in looking to influence the draft recommendations. We have submitted detailed suggestions on what to keep, what to change, and what to discard from the draft report. In comparing the report that is currently being considered by the Common Council with the initial draft, it is easy to see the significant amount of input from CNI that were incorporated into that document. In particular, suggestions that directly addressed the role of neighborhoods in the process have been dramatically scaled back in terms of the limits on that role.

Another important issue for CNI has been the creation of the Downtown Plan. The Downtown Plan is the portion of the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan that covers just the area mostly represented by CNI. Under the auspices of Melissa Berger (recently succeeded by Jonathan Cooper), CNI has taken an active role in providing comments on the draft plan released last September. By and large, the draft downtown plan is a well-crafted document, one that city staff has invested a lot of time and knowledge to assemble. The next draft of the plan is expected in the next few months. CNI will review the new plan and provide suggestions where appropriate.

Development proposals downtown have continued their usual active pace. Mansion Hill and Mifflin West have some of the most significant projects at this point. Steering committees in both districts are active and working through established protocols when meeting with developers, city officials, and in neighborhood meetings. First Settlement has had two successful de-

President's Annual Report Continued on page 9

velopments recently – 14 S. Franklin and the corner of Main and Blair. In both cases, neighbors worked well with the developers, who in turn were extremely cooperative and eager to work with neighbors to create the best project possible. All parties in both developments report tremendous success and celebrate the wonderful outcome and additions to the neighborhood.

Appropriate development and infill of the downtown is tremendously important. Equally important is the need to preserve the heritage of the oldest residential portions of Madison. From the time the Peck Cabin was built in 1837 (the current sight of GEF 3, a.k.a Department of Public Instruction) the Isthmus has been a center for both residential and commercial life. To preserve that legacy means preserving the historic structures. Preservation has to be more than allowing structures to deteriorate to the point that a proposal is offered to demolish the existing structure to make way for “progress.” While the question is never asked overtly, I often wonder in these situations – what about the failure to preserve an existing structure is supposed to lend credence to the ability to create a new structure and maintain that? Our heritage downtown is based on historical realities which should guide future development, not get bulldozed for it.

As we look forward to 2011-12, CNI will continue to be involved in many issues including the downtown plan, zoning code re-write, re-development of the central library, a possible Public Market development, and, hopefully, a comprehensive transit study. We look forward to all residents to participate in these, and other, projects. Get involved! Take pride in and have a stake in the downtown that we all call home. ❖

Mifflin West District

by Larry Warman.

It was another busy year for the Mifflin West District. Much of the discussion about the long-awaited downtown plan focused on plans for Mifflin West. On more than one occasion developer plans were debated in the context of what was in the proposed downtown plan.

The district continued its developer steering committee that it had formed in the spring of 2010. Executive committee member Scott Kolar chaired the committee and his report accompanies this report.

Our other executive committee member Rick Broughman worked on another successful project. Rick authored a flyer and created a magnet that welcomed our student neighbors. The project included the cooperation of the CNI finance committee and other executive board members who worked with Rick to secure CNI funding. Next year we hope to improve on our effort to welcome our student neighbors by including them in writing and distributing the welcome package.

Our Mifflin West members continued to be actively involved

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Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. Downtown Dialogue Annual Report, 2011

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Mansion Hill District.

by Gene Devitt

On Mansion Hill, it is the best of times and the worst of times. By the end of this summer, the decade's long project of replacing a truly ancient water and sewer system will be complete. West Gilman Street from Wisconsin Avenue to Henry Street, and North Carroll Street from West Johnson Street to the lake will be totally rebuilt with new curbs, gutters, streets and underground utilities. Pedestrian scale street lighting will be added. Trees that have been deformed in order to provide clearance for overhead wires will be replaced with new trees more appropriately located. A



number of individual properties have been dramatically upgraded, although, there are still many that remain opportunities for improvement.

In spite of this good news, and the fact that the spirits of Mansion Hill's residents remain high, there is still the specter of the approved, but yet un-built Edgewater Hotel and Luxury Condominium Tower that is a dark cloud over Wisconsin's most important historic district. The approval of the Edgewater project has encouraged other property owners to believe that they can opt-out of the requirements of the Historic District. Neighbors committed to the success of the Mansion Hill Historic District and their allies in the historic preservation movement remain committed to the goals of the historic district, and while disappointed in the Edgewater outcome, are grateful for all of the support from inside the historic district and from the Madison community at large.

The second challenge facing the Mansion Hill Historic District comes from one of our most valued neighbors in the district, the Bethel Lutheran Church. The Bethel leaders are proposing to construct a 250 stall ground level and underground parking ramp with a daycare facility and two full size basketball courts. They

contend that the Steensland House, (see accompanying picture), a Madison landmark located at 315 N. Carroll Street, needs to be moved to a different location, or if all else fails be demolished. A number of meetings have been held between the Bethel development group and the Mansion Hill neighbors, including a district wide meeting organized by 4th District Alderman, Michael Verveer. The Steering Committee organized by the Mansion Hill neighbors has reluctantly agreed that the Steensland House could be moved to another location on North Carroll Street in the same block, most preferably at the corner of West Gorham Street and Carroll Street. Bethel has yet to see how that can work. Nevertheless, the parties are talking and exchanging architectural drawings even as Bethel seeks approvals through city commissions and committees.

Every successful historic district has its committed advocates, and Mansion Hill is no exception. ❖

Mifflin West Continued from page 9

in promoting CNI garden projects. Special mention to Ruth Yarborough who heads CNI's garden committee.

During the course of the debate over the future of the Planned Parenthood property, our committee made some new contacts with some students from the neighborhood. We hope that their involvement at city council and commission meetings and their interaction with our members at our meetings will bring some new ideas and energy to Mifflin West in the coming years.

Additional report from Scott Kolar: It was a busy year for building developments within the Mifflin West District with four active developments being reviewed by the Steering Committee. The four story apartment house project at 431 West Dayton, which was approved last year, started construction during the winter and is scheduled to be completed before August move in. The proposal that was the main focus of the Steering Committee this year was the proposal for 416-424 West Mifflin Street, including the old Planned Parenthood meeting. The developer attended many times Steering Committee meetings, district meetings, and a general neighborhood meeting. There was spirited debate within the committee and the district about what was an appropriate development for that location. Adding to discussion was the debate over the proposed Downtown Plan with its vision for future of the Mifflin area and the active involvement of the student population. We saw firsthand that many people, both inside and out of the district, have very strong views about

Mifflin West Continued on page 12

Bassett District

by Pete Ostlind

The evolution of the Bassett District has slowed from its frantic pace of the early part of the decade to one of investment in existing resources, small scale enhancements and a renewed look to the future.

The last of the recent large scale redevelopments was completed as the Depot Apartments and the CVS Pharmacy were occupied on the corner of W. Washington and S. Bedford.

Delta Properties continued their conversion of historic grocery warehouse buildings in the 600 block of W. Main St. The recently completed renovations at 634 W. Main are occupied with a number of new businesses which have moved into the neighborhood. Following a plan of prudent and steady work of John Koffel and Bruce Wunicke, the principals of Delta Properties, have completed the restoration and conversions of their properties on this block.

Just across the street the Echo Tap will be reinvesting in their facility in part with the assistance of a City façade renovation grant. The Echo has a long history on the corner with the Ryans family who are looking to grow and evolve with the neighborhood.

While new and renovated buildings are often the most visible changes in a neighborhood, the small changes are often as important in enhancing the quality of the neighborhood. A pair of related changes this spring have brought the Clean Streets Clean Lakes program to all of the downtown. Weekly street sweeping to the curb is a tremendous improvement over the prior program of once a year. With this came the need for additional signs to regulate parking. Working in conjunction with city staff, a program was established to limit the number of signs mounted on the new light poles installed in recent years. This was an effort to balance the expenditures of city resources while preserving the elegance of the pedestrian scale lighting that has already enhanced the character of the neighborhood.

The design for the re-creation of the Central Library has included a successful series of public input sessions leading to a broadly supported plan. These long overdue renovations will hopefully survive the current tight budgetary times and begin construction yet this year. A very forward looking idea, The Nolen Centennial Project, was enthusiastically received. This is an effort to enhance the approach into the City along John Nolen Dr. and to more effectively use the public lands along this corridor. The result could provide great amenities for the Bassett District.

The Bassett Neighborhood Plan of 1997 provided a vision for the evolution of the neighborhood which

has occurred during the ensuing years. Currently the City is engaged in creating a vision for the next two decades not just for the Bassett District but for all of the downtown. Residents have continued their engagement in developing the Downtown Plan representing a range of perspectives. The ongoing efforts to complete the Downtown Plan and the new Downtown Zoning Code will provide the framework for the continued evolution of the neighborhood. ❖

James Madison Park District

by Brenda Konkel

Our small little neighborhood has been somewhat quiet as far as big events go. No new development projects or major excitement.

However, that doesn't mean we haven't been vigilant and that we don't have a long list of projects we would like to work on and that various members haven't been gardening their hearts out in James Madison Park. We are very interested in getting a larger core of people involved in our group and we are thinking about various projects we might like to work on.

Items on our list include continuing to monitor what happens with the houses in James Madison Park and getting necessary improvements to the park and making sure the TIF district isn't used as a way to tear down our houses to make way for larger development.

Additionally, there is more recent interest in doing a small annual block party to get to know our neighbors when they move in this fall, perhaps a summer picnic, evaluating how the street sweeping ordinance and parking restrictions are impacting people, working with the Parks Department to get activity in the James Madison Park Shelter again, educational sessions about the historic nature of our neighborhood and possible community gardening sites. After talking with some of our neighbors, we may also be interested in expanding our neighborhood boundary to include more of James Madison Park and neighbors that have more in common with our issues. All of the things listed here are things we are interested in working on, but our small group can't do it all and we're anxious to get more people involved. As people get involved, we will likely work on the items that those involved are most interested in working on. If you're interested in any of these issues, or something else, let us know! We'd love to have you join us! ❖

First Settlement District

by Jim Skrentny

The year didn't unfold in the manner that many of us expected with the killing of the high-speed rail line and its domino effect on related projects such as the *Public Market*. Though these major projects didn't occur, we still saw progress in the First Settlement District, which I've highlighted below:

- A group of volunteers have been working to improve the Crowley Station at the foot of S. Franklin St. on E. Wilson St. The deck of the Crowley Station is an underutilized public space above a reservoir and pumping station. Neighbors expressed the desire to make this space more inviting by improving the seating options, providing some shade, and enhancing the look with plants. The Water Utility has already helped by power washing the deck and painting the railings. With the help of our Alder, Marsha Rummel, we've obtained funding for additional improvements that we'll start seeing this summer. Let me know if you're interested in helping with this project.

- Lance McGrath's new apartment building, named *Settlement Place*, at the corner of E. Main and S. Blair Sts. is nearing completion and tenants



have begun to move in. The neighborhood worked cooperatively with the developer to achieve a building that improves this key gateway to our neighborhood with an 8' landscaped setback along both streets and a modern interpretation of the commercial/industrial building of historic character that are found nearby. The landscaping should be in place by mid-June, so I invite you to come take a look and share your impressions with me. Also, join me in welcoming our new neighbors in *Settlement Place*.

- Approval was granted for construction of a new two-flat residence to replace the building at 14 S. Franklin St. that burned last year. Work has begun on demolition of what remains of the building, and soon we'll be seeing it replaced with a charming building designed to look like the modest working-class homes in our local historic district. Chris Muchka of *Progress Builders* has a strong commitment to green building and using sustainable resources, which we look forward to learning more about as the construction proceeds this summer.

- Merchant Grocery opened at 121 S. Pinckney St. along with a restaurant and bar emphasizing the craft of food and drink. Many had expressed an interest in having an urban grocery in our neighborhood and have shared with me their appreciation of having the grocery with many interesting offerings and an establishment that adds to the variety and character of our neighborhood. Welcome Merchant!

- The new Downtown Plan should be released soon and will, together with the new zoning code, shape our neighborhood well into the future. It is likely in the weeks ahead we'll need to continue to work to ensure that the adopted recommendations reflect the goals that we've expressed over the past two years.

Send me an email if you're interested in joining the neighborhood listserv, participating in the neighborhood meetings, or volunteering for neighborhood projects. ❖

Jim Skrentny
jdspublic@sbcglobal.net
FSN Chair

Mifflin West Continued from page 10

future of the area. After many reviews by city staff and commissions the Common Council approved a four story apartment building for the site. Construction is scheduled to begin soon with completion scheduled for August of next year. A proposal for a nine story Hampton Inn recently received Common Council approval for 434-454 West Johnson Street. Finally, a proposal to build high-rise student housing on the Bassett-Dayton-Johnson block on the properties next to the Doubletree Inn has been working through the development review process. The issue here is that the Downtown Plan has identified those properties as the location for a park. This is headed to the Plan Commission for a land use decision. ❖

Annual Financial Report

by Treasurer Megan Christiansen

I'm happy to report that CNI's financial position is sound. The Executive Committee approved a budget for 2010 with a net income/surplus of \$800, which included projected revenues of \$3,000 from the expected fall 2010 Downtown Living Tour in conjunction with DMI. Although the tour did not take place, we were able to manage expenditures and absorb much of that revenue loss, ending the year with a net loss of \$543.76. Because we take a conservative approach to our annual budget we have been able to accumulate a cash balance of \$15,000, approximately 65% of our annual budget.

Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. Revenues and Expenditures for 2010

INCOME

Memberships	5,169.00
Media Income	7,590.40
Contributions	535.00
Parks/Gardens Income	2,374.40
Flower Sale	5,366.00
Misc. Income	310.82
TOTAL INCOME	21,345.62

EXPENSES

Parks/Gardens	4,143.73
Development/Legal	1,265.00
Flower Sale	2,399.42
Media Committee	6,595.58
Membership Committee	333.00
Program Comm/printing/postage	2,102.37
Promotion	927.60
Administration	3,294.46
Social	532.72
Misc.	295.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	21,889.38

NET INCOME (LOSS)

(543.76)



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- Associate Membership: \$20.00
- Business Membership: \$100.00
- Sliding Scale Membership: _____
- Additional Donations to CNI: _____

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:

Please mail your completed membership form and payment to:
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 P.O. Box 2613, Madison, WI 53701-2613

Capitol Neighborhoods is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership fees and all donations are tax deductible

Spring, 2011 Warm [finally!] Greetings to all.

by Joe Bonardi

In what must have been the coldest spring in recent memory, much has already been done to prepare our wonderful neighborhood park, Period Gardens, for the coming year. The flower beds have been amended with compost and mulched in preparation for the return of many perennial flower plants. It is my hope to add many more this year with a commitment to use as many heirloom varieties as possible, keeping with the authentic look of a Victorian era garden. We are also committed to using organic methods and using as little chemical products as we can. No insecticides are ever used, and I was very happy to see large amounts of honey bee activity last year and hope for their return.

Many flowers are used to especially attract bees that are among our most precious natural resources. When visiting the garden in the coming months, please respect their presence, and they will respect yours as well. I've found no danger at all working side by side with them, and limit my work with flowering plants in mid to late afternoons when they are at their busiest. I'm also happy to report a thriving small bird population that finds a home in the garden. Gold finches, cardinals, chickadees and wrens are nesting using materials put out for their use. Seed was supplied all winter, and many are calling the park their home. Donations of safflower and niger thistle seed would be greatly appreciated, as our limited funds can be stretched providing for our feathered neighbors. I can be contacted directly to receive seed donations in the info provided at the end of this article.

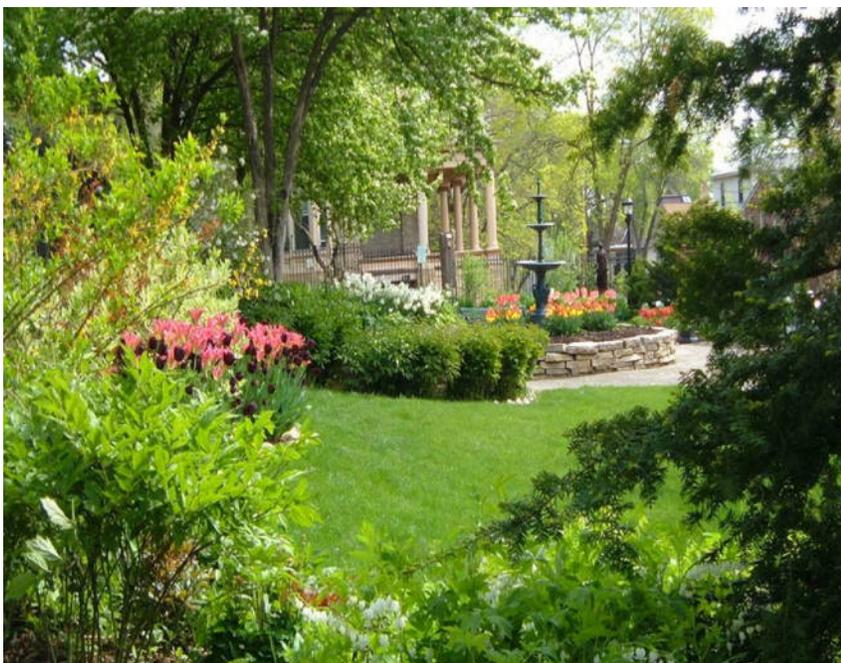
I must thank Fred Mohs once again for his continuing support of the park, and for all he does to keep this town more like "Bedford Falls" than the vision oth-

ers have of turning Madison into "Pottersville." My reference of course is to the movie "It's a Wonderful Life", and like that movie, I would shudder to think of what Madison would be like without Fred. A new patron of the park must be acknowledged here as well. William Wartmann has taken an interest and given generously to our park this year. Bill is a man of great taste, and like Fred, respects our history and quality of life here and all around the country. Mr. Wartmann supports so many great endeavors of artistic nature, and we are grateful he has taken an interest in our little park.

He has also donated a beautiful vintage statue that will be installed soon. So many others have helped this year, and must be thanked. Johanna Oosterwyk of the UW horticulture department had her students grow us several flats of plants as a class project. Sandra Jones, a friend and neighbor, gives much of her time. Micheal Port, John Steines, Paul Wilhite and Jake Gueller have given time and much needed help.

A big thanks to the Blackhawk Church for their community outreach helping with spring clean up. And many thanks to MG&E and Findorff Builders for their donations. I must thank Megan Christiansen, treasurer of CNI for all she does volunteering for the neighborhood association. A special thank you to Jason Tish and the Historical Trust for their help having the cement stairs repaired last year, and Bill Bauer of the Parks Department.

I'm looking forward to another great year at Period Park, and please stop by to visit often! Contact; Joe Bonardi joebonardi@yahoo.com 608 283 0517
Visit our website; www.periodgardenpark.org ❖



New and Renewed Members of Capitol Neighborhoods April - May, 2011

David Baskerville
Inez Baskerville
Ken Chraca
Dory Christensen
Mary Lynn Dombrowski
J. Steven Fabick
Tom Geier
Jen James
Robert James

Bob Judy
Rosemary Lee
Patrick Marsden
Paul Moriarty
Alice Mowbray
Thomas L. Sieger
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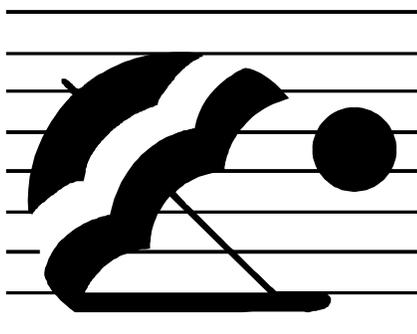
Money Available for Landlords

by Diane Eddings

Common Wealth Development has money available to help landlords wishing to reduce the lead hazards in their rental properties. Your tenants need to be low (80% of Dane County Median Income) or very low income (50% of Dane County Median Income). Your properties also need to be occupied or suitable for occupancy for families with young children for your property to qualify for the available money. For three years after the work is completed, you will need to continue to rent to low or very low income tenants and market the apartments to households with children under the age of 6 years old.

If your property qualifies and you agree to participate, Common Wealth Development will schedule a Partial Lead Inspection-Risk Assessment. The Department of Health will review the Inspection-Risk Assessment to ensure the scope of work addresses all the lead hazards appropriately. Common Wealth Development staff will discuss with you any available options for how the work is done. When the lead work order is approved and agreed upon, Common Wealth Development will request bids from certified lead abatement contractors and go with the lowest of the qualified bidders. You will be required to pay, in advance, 25% of the cost of the lead work. Once the work is done a clearance test will be done to confirm that all lead hazard work was done properly and the property is lead safe for re-occupancy. The program will re-locate tenants while the work is done

Landlords have used these funds to get new windows, cabinetry and siding. This is a great opportunity to treat lead hazards at a greatly reduced cost to you. Interested landlords should contact Diane Eddings at 256-3527 ext. 27. ❖



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- Get access to low-interest financing from Summit Credit Union (summitcreditunion.com) to finance your project and Cash-Back Rewards from Focus on Energy to help offset the cost of eligible improvements.

Call Green Madison at 877-399-1204 or visit cityofmadison.com/greenmadison



GS1641 03/30/2011

Summer Reading Club and Teen Reads Begins

June I

by Liz Amundson

Kids and teens can sign up for the Summer Reading Club (kids) or Teen Reads (teens) beginning June I. Sign up in person at any Madison Public Library location, or online at www.madisonpubliclibrary.org

Our summer reading programs are fun, but they're also educational. Reading over the summer is incredibly important for students and their academic achievement. Here's why:

· Children who don't read over the summer experience summer learning loss. That's right — kids don't just feel like they've forgotten some of what they've learned — they actually do forget it. And the effect is cumulative. Kids who lose reading skills over the summer will be two years behind their classmates by the end of 6th grade. By joining the Summer Reading Club,

ability? Call 266-4953 or email madtech@scls.lib.wi.us

Community Cinema

On Saturday, June 18, at 1:00, the Central Library will preview it's last Community Cinema film for the 2010-2011 season. **Two Spirits** by Lydia Nibley, it explores the cultural context behind a tragic and senseless murder. Fred Martinez was a Navajo youth slain at the age of 16. But Fred was part of an honored Navajo tradition - the nadleeh, or 'two-spirit,' who possesses a balance of masculine and feminine traits. In relating Fred's story, Nibley reminds us of the values that America's indigenous peoples have long embraced. Join us for a discussion following the film. The 2011-2012 season will resume in October.

Madison Public Library has joined with The Independent Television Service (ITVS), the leader in in-



kids can prevent this from happening.

· The Summer Reading Club encourages kids to read whatever they want, which helps instill a love of reading for recreation. Studies show that kids who read for fun often out-perform kids who don't in school.

· The Summer Reading Club and all of its associated activities are absolutely free, offering everyone safe, educational opportunities throughout the summer.

Madison Public Library Launches New Web Site

Shortly after midnight on Thursday, May 26, we launched our new web site, just a few days before our popular annual Summer Reading Club began. Our new site integrates information about the many events and classes happening at the library and highlights collections, services, news, and book reviews.

Use the menus on the left or the bottom to find links to popular services and content, search the site for your favorite page, or simply click around and explore your library online.

Visit www.madisonpubliclibrary.org to check out our new look. Questions? Suggestions? Browser or accessibility incompat-

dependent public media, to present its popular Community Cinema program in Madison. The largest public interest outreach program in public or commercial television, Community Cinema features a sneak peek of nine documentaries set to broadcast on the award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. ❖



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New MMoCA Exhibitions Explore Industry and Technology

by Katie Kazan, contact her at katie@mmoca.org

Two new exhibitions at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art present works from the museum's permanent collection that explore impacts of industry and technology. *Picturing Technology: Land and Machine* and *The Industrial Modern*, which open later this month, will be on view in MMoCA's main galleries and State Street Gallery, respectively.

Picturing Technology: Land and Machine

May 21 to August 21, 2011

From the invention of the wheel to industrialization to the digital age, new technologies have been associated with intellectual and cultural advances. And yet throughout the ages, there have been reactions against technology—movements that oppose the advances of science and innovation in favor of more natural lifestyles.

In *Picturing Technology: Land and Machine*, MMoCA's curator of exhibitions, Jane Simon, explores artists' reactions to technology in the rural environment. With drawings, paintings, photographs, and prints by nearly 40 artists, the exhibition demonstrates responses to technology ranging from alarm to disdain to enthusiasm.

The photographs of O. Winston Link, for example, reveal the contemporary viewer's nostalgia for older technologies. Link's images of locomotives in rural America address our collective mythology of westward expansion and prosperity.

Likewise, a series of nine photographs by Archie Lieberman demonstrate how technology has transformed our relationship to landscape, agriculture, and animals. Lieberman's images show the realities of farming, as with a photograph of Margaret Dunbar and her daughter using bottles to feed hungry calves. Rather than separating the farmers from their calves, this technological innovation appears to enhance their tie.

Forced Bloom 4 (2006), by Alyson Shotz, is one of several works in the exhibition that utilize or address capabilities of digital technology. Recent computer programs have allowed information and the storage of information to mushroom, triggering both positive and negative associations. By presenting viewers with "loaded" images that spark both kinds of reactions, the exhibition raises questions about the role and value of technology in our lives.

Picturing Technology also presents works by Thomas Arndt, Warrington Colescott, Jim Dine, Vernon Fisher, and Claes Oldenburg, among others.

The Industrial Modern

May 28–September 4, 2011

In contrast to the broader focus of *Picturing Technology*, the companion exhibition, *The Industrial Modern*, presents artists' conflicted responses to industry, labor, and the urban environment from the middle of the nineteenth century to contemporary times. In doing so, the exhibition explores the tensions inherent in the "culture of progress." *The Industrial Modern* is organized by MMoCA's curatorial associate, Leah Kolb.

Starting in the eighteenth century, the enormous energy of the Industrial Revolution began to transform the physical, economic, and socio-political landscapes of both Europe and the United States. The changes—including urbanization, mechanization, and regimented labor—coincided with a growing interest among western artists in accurately representing the rhythms and realities of everyday life.

Focusing on workers and strikers, factories and machines, skyscrapers and city centers, bridges and railroads, docks and shipyards—the shapes of steel, steam, concrete, and human labor—artworks in *The Industrial Modern* explore scenes previously deemed unworthy of serious artistic representation. William Gropper, for example, a committed left-wing radical, infused his works with a socio-political message, championing the cause of the exploited worker and highlighting the social injustices characteristic of the modern industrial age. In contrast, Donna Dennis eschews reference to human presence, focusing instead on the dingy interior of a vacant subway station. Light from three stark bulbs illuminates the impressive vernacular architecture, while simultaneously calling attention to the emptiness of the cavernous space and hinting at themes of desolation and urban alienation.

The Industrial Modern also presents drawings, paintings, photographs, and prints by William Klein, Louis Lozowick, Samuel L. Margolies, Joseph Pennell, and Ben Shahn, among others. ❖

DAIS Volunteer Opportunities:

by Kira Young

DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services) will be offering a summer volunteer training in June and is looking for dedicated and passionate individuals to join the DAIS team!

Volunteers are essential in providing 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.

DAIS works to empower those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education and outreach. We have been in Dane County for over 33 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.

Crisis Line Advocate

Crisis Response Advocate

Shelter Advocate

Children's Advocate

Marketing and Media Advocate

CAPE (Community Awareness and Prevention Education) Advocate ❖

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

*Kira Young kiray@abuseintervention.org 251-1237
<http://www.abuseintervention.org>*

Elvis, Rodney Dangerfield, John Philip Sousa and JFK.

by Donald Sanford

You'll learn where these and many other notables had their Lake Mendota experience when you take a ride on a MSCR Social History Cruise. This summer, Lake Mendota historian, Captain Don Sanford will show you the social and cultural history of the Mendota lakeshore during a two-hour cruise. We'll also take a look at some fine examples of work by Madison's notable architects: Law, Law and Potter; Claude & Starck; Alvan Small and Frank Riley. Cruises depart from the MSCR pontoon boat dock on the Yahara River near Tenney Park. Pick a date, then register at: <http://mscr.org/> Saturday 6/25: 9 a.m. - noon

HospiceCare Inc. to Offer Question-and-Answer Seminar: "What You Should Know About Planning a Funeral"

People often find themselves planning a funeral in the midst of grief, which can make the process all the more difficult. Learn about the many choices involved in funeral planning at HospiceCare's next question-and-answer seminar, "What You Should Know About Planning a Funeral." This free seminar will be held on Tuesday, June 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Don & Marilyn Anderson HospiceCare Center, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway in Madison. Pre-registration is requested; please call Carrie Glantz, HospiceCare public affairs, at (608) 327-7202. ❖

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Capitol Neighborhoods Upcoming Programs

Capitol Neighborhoods Annual Meeting

Special Guest: Mayor Paul Soglin
Monona Terrace

June 23, 2011

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



This year we are proud to welcome our new Mayor Paul Soglin, who will offer us some insightful words about our great city! Please join us as we hear some of the Mayor's thoughts on our city and especially the downtown. Cash bar and complimentary appetisers after the program.❖

Council Members Pete Ostlind, Ledell Zellers and President Adam Plotkin at a recent Council Meeting at the Madison Public Library. The Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:15 pm until about 7:00 pm. You are cordially invited to attend these meetings.❖
