

CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.

DOWNTOWN DIALOGUE

Communication

By Jeff Vercauteren, President, CNI

The way we communicate with each other continually evolves. Take this newsletter, for example. When Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. was founded in 1984, a periodic paper newsletter, delivered by mail to each member, was the predominant form of communication among businesses, non-profit organizations, and other groups. Now, 30 years later, the effectiveness of this form of communication has certainly changed.

The way that we communicate with each other, in both verbal and written forms, has evolved with the availability and predominance of new technologies, the realities of cost comparisons, and seemingly busier daily lives. Information that was once delivered the next day, the next week, or the next month--whenever the next issue of the publication was delivered--is now delivered almost instantly, or certainly within a few minutes or hours. Even the Mayor's Office now has an official Twitter account (@MayorOfMadison).

So how do we adapt to these changes as a neighborhood organization? Increasingly, downtown residents are younger and more tech savvy, and decreasingly reliant on forms of paper communication. That means that this newsletter, the postcards we send out to announce neighborhood programs, and the membership renewal forms we mail out are reaching a smaller audience and are less effective in communicating with newer residents especially.

We are addressing this issue head on. Over the past several months, we have been exploring options for increasing the effectiveness of our communication as an organization. We have gathered information from other non-profit organizations to determine how they have adapted and what types of communication they now use. The conclusion is that organizations are increasingly moving toward forms of electronic communication, or a mix of paper and electronic communication, based on member preferences, cost savings, and administrative efficiency.



We are excited to start modernizing the way we communicate as an organization over the next several months. This could include adopting an online membership system, an email newsletter, and program announcements via social media. However, it will also include maintaining forms of paper communication to the extent they continue to be effective and preferred by our members.



We welcome your feedback as we explore options in the coming months. Please let me know your thoughts via whichever form of communication you prefer! You can email me at president@capitolneighborhoods.org; drop me a note in the mail at P.O. Box 2613, Madison, WI 53701; call me at 608.445.9384; Tweet to me @jlverca; or just stop me on the street for a conversation. I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Adopt a Block

By Mayor Paul Soglin

The City of Madison is happy to partner with Downtown Madison Inc. for a new program called Adopt a Block.

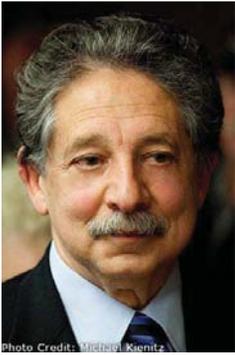


Photo Credit: Michelle Kunitz

The Adopt a Block Program is a partnership opportunity for community groups, businesses, and the City of Madison to make downtown Madison clean, beautiful, and inviting for everyone who lives in or is visiting Madison. The Adopt a Block Program provides a way for groups or businesses to be more engaged within their neighborhoods and to keep the downtown city streets clean.

The City will provide safety training, safety vests, trash bags and rubber gloves as well as collect the trash collected by the sponsor. City staff will work with the sponsor to set parameters for the projects, monitor activity and respond to complaints. The City will also provide recognition for the work on the city website.

Interested groups and businesses will need to fill out an application and volunteer waiver. Once approved, the groups will be assigned designated blocks, review the parameters of the project and establish a schedule. Groups can use the Map of Adopt a Block locations to select a block to adopt.

- Adopt a Block Application - www.cityofmadison.com/parks/partner/volunteer/documents/Adopta-BlockApplication.pdf
- Map of Adopt a Block locations - www.cityofmadison.com/parks/partner/volunteer/documents/AdoptBlockmap.pdf

Adopt a Block Sponsors will “adopt” a minimum of two square blocks, agree to conduct litter pickups in the area at least once a month and maintain the agreement for two years.

Questions can be directed to Downtown Madison at 608-255-1008 or info@downtownmadison.org. It is my hope that this partnership can grow and be replicated in other neighborhoods. Thanks to DMI for their commitment.



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Shared Values, Creative Partnerships Shaped 2015 Budget

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi



When crafting Dane County's 2015 budget in challenging economic times and when facing economic uncertainties, I am pleased that in Dane County we kept costs down for taxpayers through collaboration, while protecting important services, quality of life and our communities' most vulnerable citizens.

Development of new bike paths and recreational spaces, including the Lower Yahara Trail and a new matching grant bike trail program

A focus on investments to get families out of homeless shelters and into affordable housing, as well as building on job training and employment services for youth

Pilot environmental projects to protect Dane County's environment, including solar at the medical examiner's new building and CO2 elimination system at the landfill.

Our top goal was to protect the quality of life that our community values and that also keeps our economic development and job creation far outpacing the rest of the state. I am grateful to the many partners who worked with me to meet these goals.

Working together with our County Board, excellent staff, service agencies and private partners, we collaborated to protect core services - from public safety to the safety net - and strengthen the quality of life that attracts people and economic development to our county.

The budget also builds up Dane County's rainy day fund (to a projected \$20 million), that was in negative numbers after the recession when I took office. This is important because state government is facing a \$2 billion-plus deficit, and in the past they have balanced their budget with cuts to local communities and services.

A few budget highlights include:

46 miles of additional roads being plowed 24-hours-a-day and seven new compressed natural gas snowplows that help combat climate change and save taxpayers' money

Unprecedented \$10 million in efforts to clean up Dane County lakes and waters, realized through new partnerships

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Serving the people of the 26th Senate District

By State Senator Fred Risser

The 2015-17 session of the Wisconsin State Legislature began on Monday January 5, 2015. The session looks to be a difficult one and the legislature will be facing a number of significant fiscal and policy issues.



After four years under the Walker Administration, Wisconsin is 37th in the nation in job growth and is confronted with a \$1.5 billion budget deficit. Bringing the budget into balance will require deep cuts to important state programs and/or tax increases, or both. This will have harmful consequences for Wisconsin children and families and for the investments needed to keep Wisconsin economically competitive.

Rather than tackling these important matters, the Republican majority has focused on stripping away local control of our children's education, going after the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and turning the state's election watchdog agency into a lapdog.

The past four years have seen our state government pursue policies to benefit the privileged few at the expense of everyone else. This is not the Wisconsin Way. We need to prioritize funding to local schools, public health, police and fire services, county and local government for infrastructure repair, and programs and services that help seniors and other vulnerable members of our communities.

I believe that our government should work equally for all people and I will continue to represent the interests of my constituents and fight for the long-standing progressive policies and legislation that made Wisconsin the finest state in the nation.

Please feel free to contact me at: Senator Fred Risser, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882, phone: (608) 266-1627, or e-mail: Sen.Risser@legis.wi.gov

Onward

By Representative Chris Taylor

On November 5th, I felt like I did when President George W. Bush won re-election in 2004. My election hang-over lasted several days. But we must continue to advocate for progressive policies that actually help the people of our state. And there are lessons learned that I believe can propel us forward, like advocating for a bold, progressive agenda that creates opportunities for everyone in our state.



Though the next two years are going to be tough, I am fired up to represent you and this community as effectively as possible.

Just like last session, you can count on me to continue standing up for you and our progressive values. When the majority party attempts to raid public school funds and send them to unaccountable private voucher schools, I'll fight back. When they turn their backs on federal funds that allow thousands of people to access desperately needed health care through our popular BadgerCare program, I'll fight back. And when they pass policies attacking the poor while simultaneously passing tax breaks for the most privileged and big corporations, I'll fight back.

But just like last session, I'll reach across the aisle and work with Republicans when I can. I am already at work on several bills, including a Children's Outdoor Heritage bill, that I believe will have strong bi-partisan support. I will continue to advocate for policies that unite us.



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I'm already working on several bipartisan bills that I think have a great chance to become law. These include banning smoking in residential child care facilities at all times, a Children's Outdoor Heritage bill and making sure the state saves data in a format that allows our robust community of entrepreneurs to create apps.

I look forward to standing with you, and on your behalf, this next legislative session. Please know that my office is always here to serve you. If I can be of any service to you, please call me at 266-5342 or email me at rep.taylor@legis.wi.gov.



Can we afford to say “No Thanks?”

By Mary M. Kolar, District 1, Dane County Supervisor

While many of us enjoy a lifestyle often named among the best in the country, our neighbors of color continue to face discrimination in multiple forms including education, employment, and the criminal justice system.



One area of discrimination is the likelihood of being arrested for marijuana use. African Americans in Wisconsin are much more likely to be arrested for marijuana use than whites. Some see the legalization of marijuana as one way to reduce this disparity.

In April 2014, 65% of Dane County voters said “yes” to a ballot referendum that stated, “Should the state government enact legislation legalizing marijuana?”

Currently in Wisconsin and Dane County, the production of cannabis is illegal, as is heroin. Deaths from heroin use increased 350% in 2013. Even if recreational use of marijuana use becomes legal in Wisconsin, we will still have to pay for the expense of enforcing laws against illegal drug activity to protect and save lives.

Recreational use of marijuana is legal in Colorado, but its production is still regulated.

One source of funding used in Colorado and other states is the federal program “Cannabis Enforcement And Suppression Effort” or CEASE. CEASE dollars have been used by Dane County to offset overtime costs incurred as a result of enforcement actions. Instead of using scarce county budgeted funds, federal CEASE grants have been used to cover these overtime expenses.

On July 9, 2014, Dane County Sheriff's deputies executed a search warrant in the Town of Rutland that resulted in the seizure of over 50 guns, over \$4600 in cash, heroin, more than 1200 marijuana plants, prescription drugs and drug paraphernalia. A white male suspect was arrested and charged with two felonies, Possession with Intent to Deliver Heroin and Possession with Intent to Deliver a Non-Narcotic. He posted bail and continued to sell heroin until he was once again arrested.

The arrest and seizure of the illegal property of this heroin user and seller was necessary to avoid deaths in Dane County. It cost money. Because cannabis was involved, the Sheriff's overtime expenses were eligible to be covered by a CEASE grant. But, on December 18, 2014, a resolution to use a CEASE grant to pay for the overtime failed to get approval by the Dane County Board of Supervisors. The reasons most often stated during floor debate to not use CEASE dollars were because of the racial disparities of marijuana possession arrests and that Dane County residents want marijuana legalized.

Should Dane County use CEASE dollars when needing to pay for law enforcement overtime used to stop illegal activity? Or, should we decline these dollars in an expectation of sending a signal that we want marijuana legalized and racial disparities addressed? If we don't use CEASE, the money will have to come from somewhere else in the Dane County budget. Let me know at: kolar.mary@countyofdane.com



Now & Then

Take a Tour and Stay Warm

By Michael Bridgeman

You may think that winter is no time for a tour of historic buildings. But there is a way to enjoy old Madison while staying warm.

A surprising number of indoor spaces that are open to the public display historic photographs of the city. Some focus on individual buildings while others are panoramas. All of these stops are on or near the Capitol Square and, best of all, they are indoors.

The former Hotel Loraine Building has two commercial spaces with photos worth a look. Both levels of Barriques have historic photos include several of the capitol under construction. The Union Federal Savings & Loan Association entryway has three rarely seen photos.

Upon entering the BMO Harris Bank on Main Street you quickly encounter pictures of the building from 1895 to 1949. There are two more historic images inside the main banking room.

The Madison Municipal Building is a bonanza of historic photos. The lower level features two distinct sets of photographs by Capitol Neighborhoods resident Zane Williams. The hallway includes 10 sets of images from "Double Take," the 2002 book in which Zane re-photo-

graphed Madison scenes shot by Angus McVicar from the 1920s through the 1950s. Near the entrance to the Planning Department's offices are 13 large-format color photos of the Garver Feed Mill near Olbrich Park.

Take the elevator to the third floor of the Municipal Building to see some spectacular aerial photos. The views were first shot in 1908 by George Lawrence, well known at the time for panoramic photos taken with cameras lifted by kites. In 2008, Madison-based photographer Craig Wilson used cameras and kites to capture images from nearly identical angles.

We'll take another tour when the winds are blowing next winter.



A walk to the lower level of the Madison Municipal Building offers more than photographs. This is a remnant of a mosaic wainscot from Cop's Café, now occupied by Candinas Chocolatier.



Color photos of the Garver Feed Mill enliven the hallway in the lower level of the Madison Municipal Building.

Where Young College Graduates Are Choosing to Live

By Claire Cain Miller

“There is a very strong track record of places that attract talent becoming places of long-term success,” said Edward Glaeser, an economist at Harvard and author of “Triumph of the City.” “The most successful economic development policy is to attract and retain smart people and then get out of their way.”

The economic effects reach beyond the work the young people do, according to Enrico Moretti, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley, and author of “The New Geography of Jobs.” For every college graduate who takes a job in an innovation industry, he found, five additional jobs are eventually created in that city, such as for waiters, carpenters, doctors, architects and teachers.

“It’s a type of growth that feeds on itself — the more young workers you have, the more companies are interested in locating their operations in that area and the

more young people are going to move there,” he said.

About 25 percent more young college graduates live in major metropolitan areas today than in 2000, which is double the percentage increase in cities’ total population. All the 51 biggest metros except Detroit have gained young talent, either from net migration to the cities or from residents graduating from college, according to the report. It is based on data from the federal American Community Survey and written by Joe Cortright, an economist who runs City Observatory and Impresa, a consulting firm on regional economies.

Denver has become one of the most powerful magnets. Its population of the young and educated is up 47 percent since 2000, nearly double the percentage increase in the New York metro area. And 7.5 percent of Denver’s population is in this group, more than the national average of 5.2 percent and more than anywhere but Washington, the Bay Area and Boston.

Denver has many of the tangible things young people want, economists say, including mountains, sunshine and jobs in booming industries like tech. Perhaps more

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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.

Join or renew your membership online! Go to www.capitolneighborhoods.org/membership

At the Madison Senior Center

Mary Todd Lincoln – “A Widow Forgotten”

In honor of President Lincoln’s wife, the Senior Center and SAIL present Jessica Michna, historical impersonator from First Impressions, as Mary Todd Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln’s life has come full circle as she returns to Springfield, Illinois to take up residence with her sister Elizabeth. She recalls the days of her girlhood in the genteel society of Lexington, Kentucky, her marriage to the gangly young lawyer, and eventually her rise to become the First Lady. Join her on Tuesday, February 24 at 1:30 pm. Co-sponsored by SAIL, Supporting Active Independent Lives, a vibrant non-profit membership organization of people 55+ who reside in the Dane County area. Refreshments will be served. Register at 266-6581 or visit MadisonSeniorCenter.org

Meet the Author: Marshall Cook

Walking Wounded is an unlikely wartime love story set in Madison, WI during World War II. Rich in the history and culture of the time, the novel chronicles the lives of Jimmy McGinnity, a young man who lives in a walk-up apartment with his alcoholic father, and Beth Henke, who lives with her parents and brother and is engaged to a young seaman off at war and is in fact carrying his baby. Jimmy is a photographer/reporter/copyboy for the “truth-telling” Capital Times newspaper, and Beth works for radio station WIBA on her own morning show. Join us on Tuesday, February 10 at 1:00 p.m.

E-Book Presentation

Learn something new--how to use Overdrive, Madison Public Library’s EBook service. Discover how to check out library eBooks on your Kindle, iPad, or Android device. Class presented by Gregg Drexler, reference librarian at the Sequoya Branch of Madison Public Library on Thursday, February 19 at 10 am.

Meet the Author: Norman Gilliland

Meet Norman Gilliland, author of *Midnight Catch* on Tuesday, March 10 at 1 pm. In the autumn of 1929, while hunting in a lonely stretch of north Florida woods, young Rex Holliman stumbles across the aftermath of a strange double murder. In a collision of the callow and the callous, the players in *Midnight Catch*, connected in ways they discover only in the eleventh hour, move toward a startling day of reckoning.

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Contact us at info@capitolneighborhoods.org

For more information visit our website at

www.capitolneighborhoods.org

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These “wind trees” could generate green energy in cities

Wind turbines are great. They make energy out of wind, and they don't release any nasty greenhouse gases in the process. But, as NIMBYs are keen to tell you, if you so much as hint that a wind turbine could darken their skyline, they have their downsides, too. They're big, they're noisy, and their giant choppers can kill birds (so can climate change, but that's a debate for another day). That makes them a difficult sell anywhere except farmland or coastal areas.

So some designers have come up with a new version of the technology that'd bring turbines into towns and cities. The French entrepreneur Jérôme Michaud-Larivière and his company, New Wind, have created something called the “Arbre à Vent” (wind tree). It's a 36 feet high tree-shaped structure, covered in leaf-shaped miniturbines.

While the turbines themselves are much smaller than those on a large windmill, they actually pick up small



Leaf-shaped miniturbines pick up small breezes that wouldn't shift the blades of larger turbines.

Image by Getty

breezes that wouldn't shift larger blades, so have the potential to produce a steadier flow of energy. Each tree produces 3.1 kilowatts of power, which isn't a huge amount, but they could be used to power street lighting or several could be used to power a nearby building.

A video from New Wind shows the tree in action. It also confirms that it's not very loud:

The first model is due to be tested in a Paris public square from May this year. Apparently New Wind are also looking into “wind foliage” and “wind bushes”. It remains to be seen whether the invention's natural appearance will be enough to trick wind the turbine haters, though.

Reprinted from CityMetric, <http://www.citymetric.com/horizons/these-wind-trees-could-generate-green-energy-cities-647>



College Grads Choosing to Live, continued from page 7

important, it also has the ones that give cities the perception of cultural cool, like microbreweries and bike-sharing and an acceptance of marijuana and same-sex marriage.

“With lots of cultural things to do and getting away to the mountains, you can have the work-play balance more than any place I've ever lived,” said Colleen Douglass, 27, a video producer at Craftsby, a start-up with online classes for crafts. “There's this really thriving start-up scene here, and the sense we can be in a place we love and work at a cool new company but not live in Silicon Valley.”

Reprinted from the New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/20/upshot/where-young-college-graduates-are-choosing-to-live.html?abt=0002&abg=0&_r=2



Downtown Business District News

By Mary Carbine, Madison's Central Business Improvement District (BID)

With days getting longer, February and March are great months to get out and explore downtown events and new businesses. The American Heart Association and Go Red for Women kick off a series of events to raise awareness about women and heart disease on Thursday, Feb. 5, at a **National Wear Red Day Lighting Launch Party** at Overture Center, 5:30-7:30pm. Free event, RSVP requested at madisongoesred.eventbrite.com. Watch for downtown businesses displaying strings of red lights in support of Go Red for Women.

The annual **Madison Winter Festival** brings winter sports and family activities to the Capitol Square on



Feb. 14-15. Enjoy an ice sculpting exhibition on Sat. Feb. 14 from noon-4:00pm, next to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, sponsored by the BID and the Greater State Street Business Association. BID Ambassadors will staff a Downtown Information table at the Wisconsin Historical Museum (30 W. Mifflin St.) Sat.-Sun. Feb. 14-15 from 11:00am-3:00pm in the lobby, where the public can drop in to warm up with hot chocolate. Stop back downtown Saturday Feb. 21 for the **International Festival** at Overture Center, for performances, cuisine, vibrant costumes, and crafts from cultures and people from around the world. Both events are also great opportunities to “make it a day” and stop at downtown shops and restaurants.

In business news, **Arch Madison** is now open on the

Capitol Square, 23 S. Pinckney St., (608) 467-2488, offering “beauty, blowouts and brows.” Arch is a luxury beauty boutique that carries exclusive cosmetic and skincare lines. Arch also offers services from licensed aestheticians and certified cosmetologists, from eyebrow and lash upkeep to a special makeup application and blowout before a big night out.

Also coming soon to the 100 block of State Street is **Vom Fass**, which carries quality oils, vinegars, wines and spirits, and also has a Shorewood location. Vom Fass offers products directly from the cask, harking back to when customers bought fresh ingredients directly from the producer. Customers can look forward to tips, recipes and events featuring Vom Fass products.

For more downtown shopping, dining and event suggestions, stop by the **Downtown Visitor Center**, or see visitdowntownmadison.com or call (608) 512-1342. Through early May, the Visitor Center at 452 State St. is open Mon.-Wed. 11:00am-2:00pm and Thurs.-Sun. 11:00am-5:00pm. Have an upcoming event or guests coming into town? Order the free **Downtown Madison Map & Guide** at visitdowntownmadison.com.



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Metro Transit Update

Audible Turn Signals

As part of its continuous efforts to improve safety, Metro has installed audible turn signals on buses.

When signaling a turn in traffic or pulling into a stop, buses make an audible chirp. These audible chirps are part of a number of safety improvements Metro has made throughout the past few years in response to serious accidents and near accidents that have occurred. It is also part of Metro's new Safe Streets safety initiative which encourages everyone in the community to do their part and share the streets safely.

These chirps also alert people standing at stops that the bus is pulling in. This is to prevent those that might not be paying attention from stepping towards the bus or from being hit by mirrors while standing near the curb.

Audible turn signals are also in response to "close calls" Metro drivers frequently experience with pedestrians, bicyclists, and skate boarders.

Metro has seen these incidents increase



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through recent years as electronic distractions have become more of an issue.

Based on passenger feedback, driver comments, and feedback from the general public, Metro experimented with the placement and volume of the chirps. Once a good combination was found, equipment was added to the rest of the Metro fleet.

To provide feedback on audible turn signals, visit my-metrobus.com/feedback. For more information on the Safe Streets initiative, visit mymetrobus.com/safestreeets.

Capitol Neighborhoods Inc. welcomes Madison Gas and Electric

“Energy Efficiency/Conservation 101”

Bring your questions about saving energy and improving comfort. What do you need to know to save energy in your home or apartment? Find out:

- Which commonly held beliefs about saving energy are not true?
- The most common mistake people make when insulating.
- What rewards are available from Focus on Energy.

Thursday, Feb. 26

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Madison Central Library

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(Third-floor Community Room)



GS2034 01/05/2015



Madison B-cycle Sees Record Ridership in 2014 28% increase highlights B-cycle's Annual Report

Madison B-cycle, the city's bike sharing system, saw record ridership in 2014. According to Madison B-cycle's 2014 Annual Report, ridership increased by 28% over 2013. B-cycle closed their fourth season with 104,274 total trips and 39 stations in operation. More than 315 signature red bikes covered over 219,000 miles throughout the city from March 20 through December 11, 2014.

"Reaching 100,000 trips was a big milestone," said Manager, Claire Hurley. "Closing the season with over 104,000 trips is a big accomplishment for the program and for the City. Most programs our size don't see that much traffic in one year."

"It is really encouraging to see the growth in B-cycle year after year in Madison," said Madison Mayor Paul Soglin. "Bike sharing is being used by visitors able to see more of the city and by residents using the system for daily commutes. The program is helping folks get exercise and reducing traffic, a win-win!"

63% of trips in 2014 were made by annual members, most of whom are Madison residents. As in prior years, peak ridership continues to match commuter hours - 12:00-12:15pm and 4:45-5:15pm peak ride times - suggesting a regular reliance on B-cycle by users.

Madison B-cycle launched a new subscription type in 2014 where customers can pay a small fee monthly (think Netflix for bike share). Monthly auto-renew membership grants users all the benefits of annual membership with a smaller up-front cost. Sales, system data, and user surveys demonstrate a clear and growing dependence on Madison B-cycle for both transportation and recreation throughout the community.

"The community support for the program has grown considerably over the last four years," said Hurley. "The addition of stations along University Avenue and the

increased commuter traffic we saw in 2014 reinforce that bike sharing is an essential transportation option in Madison."

In partnership with UW Health, UW Credit Union and Krupp General Contractors, Madison B-cycle added four new stations to the bike sharing system in 2014. The new stations connect the existing network to the near-west side of Madison, including locations at UW Health facilities and the UW Credit Union. Madison B-cycle will reopen in March 2015 following their winter closure.



Madison Senior Center, continued from page 9

Helping You Simplify Money

What if you knew how to use money to make all your dreams happen? Learn how to balance your saving and spending. Understand how to use your credit to affect your future. And, you'll leave with tips and tools on how to simplify your life and achieve your financial goals. Join Amy Crowe, Financial Education Specialist, CUDE, from Summit Credit Union on Tuesday, March 17 at 10 am. This is a new Financial Series on the Third Tuesday of March, April and May. Call 266-6581 to register.

Broadway: The Golden Age

The American Musical grew up when songwriters produced many memorable songs in the 30s and 40s. Enjoy trombonist, Al Anderson, as he plays music from writers like the Gershwin brothers, Rodgers & Hammerstein, and Cole Porter. Songs include My Funny Valentine and Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin'. Meet Al, Professional Trombonist and Music Historian, on Tuesday, March 31 at 1 pm. Call 266-6581 to register.



Changing Weather & Climate in the Great Lakes Region - MOOC

Join the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in partnership with WiLS, for a free, four-week Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that explores

the weather, seasons and changing climate of the Great Lakes Region. The MOOC will share important data while focusing on people and communities adjusting to changing weather and climate. The course begins on February 23, 2015, and all learners are welcome to participate. To learn more or sign up, visit moocs.wisc.edu. Steve Ackerman, Professor of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and Director of the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies (CIMSS) at the UW-Madison, will be at Central Library for facilitated discussions on climate issues in Wisconsin on Feb 25, March 3, March 11 and March 18 at 7:00 pm.

Lake Front Row presents

March 26 – Wisconsin’s Mining Standoff by 371 Productions. This tells the story of how Gogebic Taconite and its allies wielded money and power to influence Wisconsin mining legislation and goes behind the scenes with the burgeoning movement to resist the mine. It explores the potential harms the mine might bring, from asbestos exposure to acid runoff into the waterways in the area.

Wisconsin Film Festival Sneak Peak

Monday, March 23 6:30 pm – Come for a FREE sneak peek at what is showing this year at the 17th annual Wisconsin Film Festival. Watch trailers from this year’s films, learn about the ins and outs of WFF from Film Festival staff, and bring along all of your questions about the Fest.

Tax Assistance At Central Library

Last year over 500 people received tax assistance and had their tax returns filed at the Central Library. Free tax filing of Wisconsin and Federal taxes will be done

on site. Assistance is available for Wisconsin residents who have lived in Wisconsin all of 2014, are low- to moderate-income, individuals with disabilities, and those who qualify for homestead credit or the earned income credit. This is a service run by VITA volunteers in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and Edgewood College. Tax assistance will take place Saturdays from 9 am – 1 pm on February 7th, 14th and 28th, March 14th and 28th and April 4th. **Call Central Library at 266-6350 to make an appointment.** For more information, visit the library online at www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/tax-assistance

Celebrating African American History Month - Book Talk with Ethelene Whitmire

Join us as local author and UW Professor Ethelene Whitmire shares her book Regina Anderson Andrews: Harlem Renaissance Librarian. Regina Andrews was the first African American to head a branch of the New York Public Library and Ethelene Whitmire’s new biography offers the first full-length study of Andrews’ activism and pioneering work with the NYPL. Tuesday, February 10 7:00 pm



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Frozen Assets Festival

By Theresa Vander Woude, Clean Lakes Alliance



Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 7th and join Clean Lakes Alliance on the frozen shores of Lake Mendota at The Edgewater for our new FREE, family-friendly festival. Stop by between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate our winter lakes; there will be something for everyone!

On the plaza, we'll have ice skating, a "Frozen in Time" Figure Skating exhibition, a snowman decoration contest, photos with Princess Elsa, crafts, and games. On the lake, we'll have a hockey slap-shot contest, curling demonstrations, ice fishing demonstrations, nine-person sleigh rides, snowshoeing, shuffleboard, sledding, and broomball.

In addition to the free activities, we are hosting the first-ever Igloo Walk on Lake Mendota to raise money for our clean lakes efforts. The casual walk will leave from The Edgewater at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m., and re-

nowned freshwater scientist and lake-ice expert John Magnuson will be on hand for fun lake science demonstrations at the "ice lab." Tickets for the fundraising walk are \$10 a person or \$25 for a family-pass; complimentary hot chocolate and s'mores around a fire pit are included! Please register ahead online.

The Frozen Assets Festival will provide opportunities for anyone to try out winter lake recreation— whether you're a frozen lake newbie or an experienced adventurer. Visit www.cleanlakesalliance.com/frozenassets for more information about the festival. We hope you will join us!

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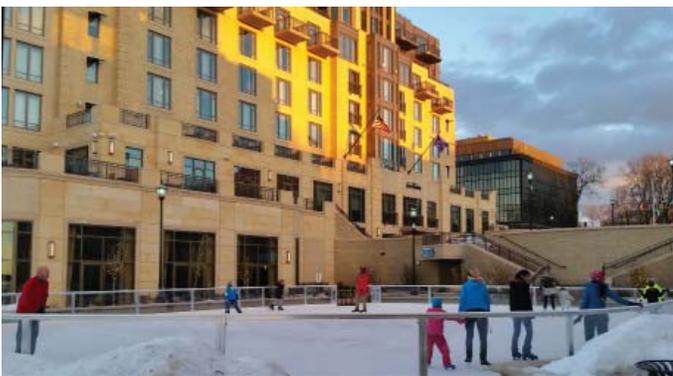
“Energy Conservation 101”

presented by Jonathan Beers, MGE

Madison Central Library, Third Floor Community Room

Thursday, February 26, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. welcomes MGE’s Jonathan Beers who will discuss how to save energy and improve your home’s comfort.



Ice skating at the Edgewater



Leaf-shaped miniturbines on “wind trees” pick up small breezes to generate electricity in cities. See the story on page 10.
