

CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.

DOWNTOWN DIALOGUE

Homeless Services

By Jeff Vercauteren, President, CNI

Capitol Neighborhoods recently hosted a forum on downtown homeless services to provide residents with an opportunity to hear about the outstanding work that many organizations are doing on this issue. We as downtown residents are generally very familiar with and educated about homeless issues and recognize that improving homeless services and facilities in our city is a step in the right direction.

It is important to distinguish the issue of unacceptable public behavior and the issue of homelessness. There is no direct correlation between the two. The issue that has played out at the top of State Street over the past few years is about unacceptable public behavior, not about homelessness. Therefore, as we as a downtown neighborhood association and we as a city work to address these separate issues, it is important to keep that distinction in mind.

On the issue of unacceptable public behavior, Capitol Neighborhoods recently signed on to a statement with other organizations outlining downtown behavioral standards, regardless of whether a person is a resident, a business person, a visitor, a student, a homeless individual, or anyone else. Good public behavior creates a welcoming environment for everyone who lives, works, and visits downtown, and we as a city should encourage

good behavior and enforce behavioral standards fairly and equally.



On the issue of homelessness, it is important to approach the issue with compassion for individuals who are homeless. A homeless individual is no different than any one of us and deserves to be treated with human dignity and with respect for the human person. There are many people working very hard to provide homeless services throughout our city, especially downtown. We invited many of those providers to our homeless services forum so that downtown residents are aware of the extraordinary work that is being done and also to call attention to the gaps in service that exist.

Important discussions remain on issues such as the location of a proposed day resource center, and we as downtown residents want to be part of the discussion and want to be part of the solution. Downtown residents in general do not view homeless individuals as a “problem.” Instead, the challenge for our city and our downtown is identifying and filling gaps in homeless services so that individuals can obtain health care, job training, and other resources and also have a safe place to sleep at night.



October - November, 2015, Volume 21, Number 5

Budget Season

By Mayor Paul Soglin

It's budget time and after weeks of meetings with staff and residents, my 2016 Executive Capital Budget and 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan [CIP] reflect the continuing need to replace our aging infrastructure while investing limited financial resources in affordable housing, economic growth, and services to the City's diverse population.

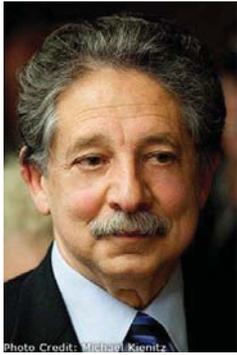


Photo Credit: Michael Kunitz

Agency requests and reauthorizations of prior year general obligation borrowing for 2016 totaled nearly \$200 million. The property taxes necessary to service this level of debt and potential added operating costs is not sustainable.

My 2016 Executive Capital Budget reduces these requests by nearly \$70 million, with a focus on a few key criteria:

- Projects that are in or near the construction phase
- Projects that are using federal matching funds
- Critical infrastructure rehabilitation needs
- Allocation of City resources to improve racial equity and social justice.

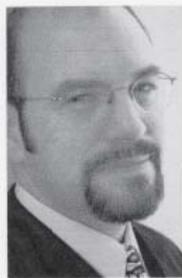
The general obligation borrowing is approximately \$14 million less than in the 2015 capital budget. Many projects have to be delayed, including neighborhood centers, public safety facilities, reconstruction of Monroe Street, and a biodigester. These projects are important, but must be balanced against all City priorities.

As part of our racial equity and social justice priorities, the Neighborhood Resource Teams identified key equity investments. I have proposed funding in the 2016 Executive Capital Budget to

include:

- \$6 million [\$24 million in CIP] for affordable housing,
- \$1.5 million for a new shelter at Penn Park,
- \$2.65 million to reconstruct McKenna Boulevard, and to create safer pedestrian access to Elver Park and its amenities for the surrounding neighborhoods.
- \$350,000 [\$1.85 million in CIP] for Healthy Food development in under-served neighborhoods.

Read more on Capital Budget priorities at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/documents/2016CapBud/ExecCap2016.pdf>.



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Aging and Disability Services

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

In his Biennial State Budget Governor Walker proposed privatizing our local Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). At Dane County we found this unacceptable. Our local ADRC is a one-stop-shop that



connects seniors and the disabled with critical services available to them through various federal, state and community resources. In 2014 alone, the Dane County ADRC had 23,897 consumer contacts helping thousands of Dane County's disabled and elderly.

Governor Walker's budget directed the Department of Health Services to contract with a private provider threatening the current successful locally focused "one-stop-shop" model. The bill also would have eliminated local input and oversight.

The ADRCs are one example of government working well. They help people get the resources they need and navigate through bureaucratic red tape.

After months of work, I am proud to tell you we fought this budget proposal and we won. Our local one-stop-shop will continue to make those critical connections to services. As Dane County Executive, I will continue to work and support our ADRC.

Our commitment to our seniors does not end there. We have many other important services for seniors in Dane County. For example, I created a new Elder Benefits Specialist position to ensure our seniors have timely access to services and information through the ADRC.

Since last year, our Elder Benefits Program has seen a marked increase in the number of seniors needing services and this position will help meet that growing need. The county partners with the federal government and private donations to provide \$1,466,086 to ensure our seniors continue to receive warm meals, served with smiling faces.

Across Dane County we have 26 county supported senior centers. Dane County has many things to offer citizens of all ages. We enjoy an incredible quality of life including world-class bike paths, beautiful lakes and scenic county parks. In fact, our quality of life is so wonderful we are continually nationally recognized as a great place to retire, to raise a family and one of the safest places in the country.

I am very happy to be able to deliver such good news but we could not have done it without you. Thank you to all of you came out to the hearings, registered your concerns and/or called your legislators. We must continue our vigilance and ensure that our seniors' golden years are enjoyed and their services remain protected.



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Animal Welfare

By State Senator Fred Risser

While most legislation deals with human behavior and welfare, efforts to provide for the care and welfare of pets and other animals is also important. This session I am working on two initiatives that will help strengthen our laws to protect animals from injury and abuse.

Two sessions ago I cast the lone vote in the Senate against legislation to permit hunting and trapping in state parks. I am introducing legislation which will prohibit persons from setting, operating, or otherwise using a steel-jawed trap, a body-gripping trap, or a snare to trap an animal in a state park.



Like many others, I enjoy our state parks' many trails and beautiful scenery. With this legislation comes the opportunity to revisit the matter of trapping in state parks. I remain hopeful that eventually Wisconsin will return to a period where the public, tourists, and their pets can enjoy our state parks and other outdoor activities without fear of being caught and injured in a trap.

Another matter is animal abuse. Current state law only requires that veterinarians report abuse when an animal is suspected to have been used in animal fighting. I've introduced legislation that will require veterinarians to report any suspected case of animal abuse to law enforcement or to a humane officer.

Animal abuse is a serious crime and can often be a red flag for domestic or other abuse that may be occurring in a home or family. Mistreatment of animals is one issue which we can better address with the help of veterinarians. As experts in assessing injuries and ailments, veterinarians are invaluable in identifying the mistreatment of animals and protecting animals who have been subject to cruel treatment.

If you would like to contact me or my office on any

matters of interest to you, please feel free to contact me by mail at: Senator Fred Risser, PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882, by phone at: (608) 266-1627, or by e-mail at: Sen.Risser@legis.wisconsin.gov



Wisconsin Women Lose Once Again

By Representative Chris Taylor

As the Legislature gets underway for the fall session, it is clear that Republican policy makers have set their sights on both shutting off vital biomedical research under the guise of limiting abortions, but also making it more difficult for Wisconsin women to access birth control, and cervical and breast cancer screenings.



Assembly Bill 310 seeks to take federal funding away from the current women's health providers that currently serves 50,000 Wisconsinites. These federal funds cannot be used for abortions, but to provide life-saving health care to women, and access to needed birth control most women rely on. The remaining health centers that could receive these funds often do not have the infrastructure or staff to actually provide these services.

Assembly Bill 311 will slash Medicaid reimbursement rates for birth control provided by the 51 women's health centers across the state, including county health departments, treating these public health providers differently than any other medical provider. These small, non-profit family planning providers, mainly in rural communities, do not provide abortion services, but birth control, cervical and breast cancer screenings and testing and treatment for STDs. The fiscal impact of this bill on city and county health departments is a devastating cut of \$788,000 annually.

Five women's health care centers have already had to shut down because of the Republicans taking away fam-

ily planning funds from Planned Parenthood. Contrary to their promise of other health care providers stepping in to fill this void, no other provider has.

You would think that politicians opposing abortion would do everything in their power to make sure women in need had access to birth control. But this effort is really about a quieter campaign to limit women's access to birth control, and ultimately control the most personal, private health decisions that women and families have to make. The result is that Wisconsin women lose once again.



Improving Dane County Criminal Justice System

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

In late September, I attended the Wisconsin Counties Association Conference. One of the most interesting sessions I attended was about the Lacrosse County justice system. Through collaboration between leaders

of the county, city, judicial, law enforcement, and incarceration governmental organizations, as well as education and training of their respective staffs, fewer people are being jailed and fewer are becoming repeat offenders. More people are receiving training to improve their lives. There has also been a significant reduction in tax payer dollars being spent on the jail.



Dane County has also had past success in implementing programs that reduced the costs resulting from operating the Dane County Jail. There is always more to be done.

In September, the Dane County Board of Supervisors released a report of recommendations to improve the criminal justice system. Recommendations were developed over the summer by three workgroups comprised of community members, criminal justice stakeholders, and county staff. In keeping with the Board's commitment to racial equity, transparency, and community

Continued on page 15

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Mansion Hill Progress

By Eugene Devitt, Mansion Hill District Chair

For those who have been reading the Mansion Hill Neighborhood Report year after year, it seems like it is just one fight after another even though one has to admit that the Mansion Hill Historic District and Neighborhood has come through all of this in better shape that it has been for many years. A current example of neighborhood progress is on the 400 and 500 blocks of North Carroll Street. As we all know, North Carroll Street is a very important entrance to Mansion Hill and the impression formed there sets the tone.

- Last year the Alanon Society celebrated 75 years of service with the exterior renovation of its clubhouse at 511 North Carroll Street, but that was just the start of great things happening on this important gateway to Mansion Hill.
- The Mullin's family is painting and restoring the exterior of the Breese Steven house at 401 North Carroll and also is freshening up their historic Jackson house next door at 421.



401 North Carroll



421 North Carroll

- Just up the street, Steve Brown Apartments has undertaken a significant restoration of the exterior of 423 North Carroll at the corner of West Gilman Street. People interested in historic preservation should check out the excellent work on repairing the built in gutters and features along the eaves.
- Across the street, at 424 North Carroll Street, Brown is also doing a great job on restoring the details of the side porch that faces West Gilman Street.



511 North Carroll



424 North Carroll

Of course in the same neighborhood, Bethel Lutheran Church has almost finished restoring the Halle Steensland House that was moved next to their sanctuary on West Gorham. There is still work to do in the North Carroll Street gateway to Mansion Hill, but the work that has been accomplished and is now underway should give us all confidence that success will be ours.



Saving JMP Ash Trees

We at TLNA were successful in adopting and treating all eligible ash trees in Tenney Park this summer, due to generous donations to the Tenney Park Ash Tree Fund. Now we turn our attention to James Madison Park, where we are set to lose quite a number of mature ash trees to the advancing Emerald Ash Borer. There is a treatment that lasts 2 years but costs \$250/tree. There are some funds left over to treat a few trees in James Madison Park. But, we need your help to save 11 trees that have been identified as in good health and that provide shade in critical areas, such as near the play structure where families picnic while kids play. Can you help save these trees? Please go to our website <http://www.tenneytrees.org/> to make your tax deductible donation.

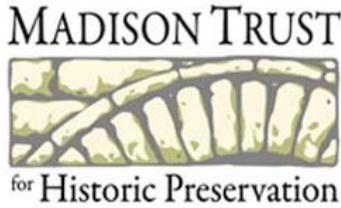


This map shows ash trees in CNI's area that are high priority.



www.capcentremarket.com

Madison Trust for Historic Preservation Walking Tour Machinery Row and Williamson Street Are the Focus



Today historic landmark Machinery Row on Williamson Street is home to a bicycle shop, restaurant, yoga studio and more than 15

businesses offices. Those traveling further east on Williamson will find an assortment of historic, vintage and modern commercial and residential buildings housing the practical and the trendy.

On Sunday afternoon Oct. 11, the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation will offer a docent-led historic architecture walking tour of Machinery Row and Williamson Street. Tour participants will learn how the near east-side of Madison has evolved from a leading 19th-century manufacturing and distribution hub for tractors and plows, wagons and buggies, seeds and other agricultural supplies to a vibrant 21st-century retail district offering products and services never dreamed of by Madison's early entrepreneurs.

Ninety-minute walking tours will depart every half hour from 1 through 4 p.m. from Machinery Row, 601 Williamson St. Advance timed tickets are available at www.madisonpreservation.org. The cost is \$30 (\$25 for Madison Trust members). Parking will be available at the parking lot next to Machinery Row and at Monona

Terrace Community and Convention Center. A limited number of tickets may be available on site on the day of the event.

In addition to landmark Machinery Row, the tour includes the exteriors of two railroad depots that now are home to Madison Gas & Electric headquarters; Chez Nanou restaurant, once a blacksmithery; the landmark Cardinal Hotel, built as a railroad hotel; and more. Tour goers will also see the interiors of Hotel Ruby Marie, originally known as East Madison House, and the building that formerly housed the Madison Candy Co.

Madison Trust for Historic Preservation's Vicki Siekert, who developed the tour, said, "Over the years the fortunes of Machinery Row and Williamson Street have waxed and waned. Tour participants will gain an understanding of how Madison's early industrial district developed into one of Madison's most desirable places to work, recreate and live."

This tour is made possible by a generous contribution from the Madison Gas & Electric Foundation. Additional support is provided by KEE Architecture, Inc., and Machinery Row.

For more information about Madison Trust for Historic Preservation:

Web: <http://www.madisonpreservation.org>

Phone: 608-441-8864

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Machinery Row on Williamson Street is the focus of MTHP walking tour.

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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

So Much Change

By Joe Bonardi

It has been a good year at Period Garden Park, and it was near perfect “gardening weather” for most of the season. I hope many of you got a chance to see the highlights of our efforts, such as the tulips and daffodils in early Spring, followed by the peonies and roses of Summer. Alliums and Iris had their time, and many clematis vines have grown to full size, putting on a great show of blooms. Most of the garden is perennial, but there are a few spots of annual planting that are always in flower. I have a place where I grow four o’ clock seeds every year in remembrance of my Mother, as they were a great favorite of hers. The secret of four o’clocks isn’t their looks, which are sprawling and small bloomed, but it is the scent that comes after the sun declines and the flowers open to release the jasmine-like perfume. I take great delight to have these in the garden every year, a sort of constant experience that defies change.

I love my neighborhood in the Mansion Hill district, living next to houses that have stood since Abraham Lincoln was president. For someone like me, who has always lived in older homes, I find the downtown area offers many enjoyable ways of living. If you prefer a smaller scale of living, this can be found not only in the Mansion Hill district, but First Settlement, Basset, James Madison Park, Williamson, and Atwood, to name few.

Most of these neighborhoods share one thing in common, and that is volunteer effort with the public spaces and parks. Each district has unique green spaces or gardens, with most maintenance done by caring neighbors. If you live in any of these areas, you can help by contributing your time, labor or donations keep our neighborhoods unique and attractive. A way to find out what you can do is by becoming a member of Capitol Neighborhoods Inc. For more Period Garden Park information visit our website at www.period-gardenpark.org.

We at Period Garden Park can always use a helping hand. With so much changing all around us, help us preserve the beauty and character of our city. Please consider making a tax deductible donation online through the CNI website at <http://www.capitol-neighborhoods.org/membership/donate/> or send a check made out to Capitol Neighborhoods Inc./Period Park and mail it to: Capitol Neighborhoods Inc.
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Downtown Dialogue

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Editor, Scott Kolar

Assistant Editor, Jane Richard

Distribution, Ilse Hecht, Adam Plotkin,

Contact us at info@capitolneighborhoods.org

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kolar.mary@countyofdane.com

MMoCA Helps Vets Create a New Chapter Recognized by VA for Hiring Veterans

The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA) was recognized by the Veterans Administration Hospital, Middleton, with an award for ensuring veterans success in employment and rehabilitation. More than 25% of MMoCA's public operations staff are veterans of the U.S. Military.

"We look for opportunities to support and reflect our community," stated Stephen Fleischman museum director. "By valuing the skills of these individuals and incorporating them into our organization, we are all made stronger."

The MMoCA director of Public Operations, Mary Kolar, served 28 years in the Navy and retired as a Captain. Through Veterans Health Administration programs including "Compensated Work Therapy" (CWT), Kolar has hired veterans to be gallery attendants and overnight security guards at MMoCA.

"How do you help those willing to give their life for their country? Train and hire them. We have built a great team, working together to present visual art to the community," stated Kolar. "The veterans have brought maturity and attention to detail that we value."

Each one of the veterans at MMoCA has brought their unique military experience and lessons from their transition to civilian life to their work at the contemporary art museum. There they have found a place where they can once again be on a team and one that values their contributions.

As of 2014, the VA estimates there were 22 million military veterans in the U.S. population. Approximately 7.3 percent of all living Americans have served in the military at some point in their lives. Unemployment rates for U.S. military veterans are higher than for the civilian population, reinforcing the value of meaningful employment to help veterans create a new chapter following their service.

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Now & Then Dome Sweet Dome

By Michael K. Bridgeman

The capitol dome defines the skyline of central Madison. But it was not the first dome nor the first capitol building—and there had been another dome at the top of Bascom Hill. Both communicated the dignity of important institutions.

The current capitol is the third to stand in Madison. The second statehouse was built from 1857 to 1869, mostly to the design of August Kutzbock, then Madison's premier architect. When completed, the new capitol did not have the lantern-like dome Kutzbock had intended, but rather a grander dome designed by architect Stephen Vaughan Shipman modeled on the recently completed dome of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The disagreement over the dome caused Kutzbock to resign as capitol architect and depart for California, though he later returned to Madison where he took his own life in 1868.

In 1903, recognizing the shortcomings of the second capitol, the legislature approved a Capitol Improvement Commission. Their work became essential when, in February of 1904, a gas jet that had been left burning started a fire in the west wing that spread vigorously. Parts of the statehouse survived, including the dome, but its fate was sealed. Just over three years later, construction began on the statehouse that still stands in the center of Madison's isthmus.



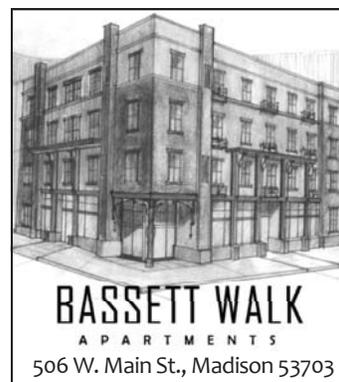
By the time this postcard was published circa 1900, Wisconsin's second capitol represented the work of at least three architects. The 1868 dome was by Stephen Vaughan Shipman, a hero of the Civil War.

Not long before the new capitol was completed in 1917, fire struck the dome atop Bascom Hill. In October of 1916 a fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the dome on Main Hall, as it was then known. The building had a dome when it first opened in 1859, though the multi-purpose structure had been enlarged and improved. It was a dome completed in 1898 that burned 18 years later.

Though covered by the state insurance fund, the dome at Main Hall (now Bascom Hall) was never replaced. Though that same fund was nearly depleted when fire struck the capitol 12 years earlier, there was already momentum to raise a new building with a grand new dome.



Main Hall, now known as Bascom Hall, had a dome that was destroyed by fire in 1916. Photos of the conflagration are online at <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WIReader/Images/WER0088.html>



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Housing Initiatives To Bring 30 Downtown And Veteran Homeless Neighbors Home

Homelessness in downtown Madison has been getting much-deserved attention recently. Each year, 3,000 people are homeless, 1,400 of them children. At any given time, there are over 100 veterans on the street. The question everyone is asking... what can or should be done to end this homeless crisis?

In considering a solution to this vast problem, there is not just one answer. As demonstrated during August's CNI-hosted Isthmus Neighborhoods Meeting, we are fortunate to have a wide variety of people and organizations are working hard to offer different pieces of the solution.

One of those organizations is Housing Initiatives. For 20 years, Housing Initiatives has ended homelessness for nearly 600 Madison men, women, children and veterans who struggle with mental illness by providing them with a permanent home and support services.

Housing Initiatives' model is very successful – 95% of residents never return to homelessness. Their program is centered on 4 guiding principles:

- 1. Every person matters.** Treating people with dignity and respect is the foundation of hope.
- 2. Stability of a permanent home.** Knowing their home is not temporary provides the stability clients need to physically and mentally heal.
- 3. Supportive Services.** Housing Initiatives connects clients with over 15 partner agencies.
- 4. Neighborhood-based housing.** Apartment homes are in small, 4-8 unit buildings located throughout Madison neighborhoods.

Just this past summer, Housing Initiatives brought in three downtown homeless neighbors who were living in front of the City-County Building and had been homeless for years. All three have severe mental illness and are getting settled into their new home and on a path to recovery.

One of the greatest obstacles to bringing more people

in off downtown streets is a severe lack of affordable housing. For example, approximately 50-60 homeless veterans, many living downtown, have federal funding right now to pay for their apartment rent. Yet, they remain homeless. Given the high 98% apartment occupancy rate in Madison, coupled with a lack of rental references, veterans simply cannot find an apartment to rent *even though they have federal dollars to pay for it*. There are other homeless neighbors who manage to hold minimum wage jobs, but don't earn enough to pay the high rent in Madison, in addition to basic needs.

To help more downtown and veteran homeless neighbors, Housing Initiatives recently launched a new project, *A Place To Call Home*, that will bring 30 downtown and veteran homeless individuals into permanent housing. The goal is to raise \$2,000,000 to purchase and renovate 30 more apartment homes. By creating more affordable housing units, Housing Initiatives will end homelessness for 50% or more of the veterans with rent subsidy on waiting lists for a home. In addition, they will take in a large number of downtown homeless who are struggling with mental illness.

Housing Initiatives invites CNI neighbors to learn more about downtown homeless at a social event on Wednesday October 7 from 5 – 7pm at Cooper's Tavern 20 W. Mifflin St. Enjoy light refreshments, a beautiful view of the capital, and a short presentation including personal experiences from Housing Initiatives clients. There is no fee to attend. RSVP is appreciated, but not required: awhite@housinginitiatives.org. Thanks to downtown residents Scott and Mary Kolar and Kathy Nichols for hosting this event. Learn more about Housing Initiatives at www.housinginitiatives.org or by liking their Facebook page.



Erik, shown in his new permanent housing, was homeless or in mental institutions/hospitals for 15 years. "My home is a quiet place where I've been able to heal my mind. Housing Initiatives allows people to be as good as they can possibly be."

Downtown Business District News

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

The annual **Downtown Madison Family Halloween**, Wed., Oct. 28, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, State Street and the Capitol Square, brings Halloween fun for families and kids 12 and under. Free and low-cost activities include magic shows, hayrides, crafts, spooky stories, ghostly tours, festive Halloween photos, trick or treat at participating businesses, and more. Information is at visitdowntownmadison.com/FamilyHalloween or (608) 512-1342.

On Thanksgiving weekend, come downtown with friends and family, and get a start on your holiday shopping list at the **Downtown Holiday Open House**, Friday-Saturday, November 27-28, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, on State Street and the Capitol Square. Enjoy free, family-friendly performances at Overture Center, an ice sculpting exhibition in Peace Park, free holiday trolley rides and gift bags, family activities at DreamBank, and special offers and complimentary refreshments at downtown shops and restaurants. Information is at visitdowntownmadison.com/HolidayOpenHouse or (608) 512-1342.



Downtown Madison Family Halloween
(credit: Mary Carbine)

To keep up with downtown events and new businesses, stop by the Downtown Visitor Center at 452 State St., the Downtown Info Booth (open through Oct. 11) where State St. meets the Capitol Square, or see www.visitdowntownmadison.com. Staffed by BID Information Ambassadors, the Visitor Center is open daily and the Info Booth (weather permitting) is open daily through Oct. 11.

Save on Your Energy Bill Help Madison Win a \$5 million Energy Prize

Madison is in a competition to win a five million dollar energy prize from Georgetown University. Green Madison is our city-wide initiative to reduce energy consumption. If Madison reduces its energy consumption more than the 49 other communities and wins the prize, the \$5 million will be put toward future sustainability initiatives in the city.

An integral part of Green Madison is for homeowners to reduce energy costs (and save money as a result) in their home. Energy efficiency improvements can cut utility bills by an average of \$400 per year. During this competition if you sign up to host a house party, an energy analyst will conduct a free full service energy assessment and recommend practical improvements. If you decide to make home improvements, we will help you apply for rebates to lower the cost.

This Green Madison competition lasts through 2016. If you have considered a home energy audit, but couldn't fit it into your schedule, this is the year to do it. If you want to lower your utility bills and have a more comfortable home, and want help with the upfront cost, Green Madison can assist.

To host an energy house party or learn more about Green Madison contact Jen Rubin at 608-698-5885 or jen.rubin@greenmadison.org. Visit greenmadison.org or view this video to learn more about the city-wide effort: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_sJ2vZ-WRrU

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Morgridge Institute Hosts Community Celebration Of Healthy Aging

The Morgridge Institute for Research and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation are teaming up with UW-Madison researchers and a number of organizations throughout Madison, Dane County and beyond to host a special event on Saturday, October 10, 2015, that takes an exploration of health, happiness and well-being across the lifespan.

The free event, held throughout the day in the Discovery Building, 330 North Orchard Street, features entertaining talks and hands-on activities on topics that can enrich people at any age, with an afternoon focus on seniors and their caregivers.

Among the highlights is a conversation with renowned author Parker Palmer, whose books on leadership, spirituality and social change have reached millions.

The celebration commemorates the 60th wedding anniversary of John and Tashia Morgridge, who will celebrate the mile-

stone in the building made possible through their vision and support. This event brings a community-wide focus on healthy aging.

“This looks to be an engaging event and a wonderful tribute to John and Tashia Morgridge, who are themselves models of successful aging,” says Carol Ryff, director of the UW-Madison Institute on Aging.

For more information about the event, call (608) 316-4382, email TownCenter@warf.org or visit www.discovery.wisc.edu/celebrate-healthy-aging



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- Register for a small group discussion session hosted by Justice & Sustainability Associates.
- Check out MGE's discussion guide *Building a Community Energy Company for the Future* and tell us what you think.

Send your comments to:
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Go Big Read Selection for 2015: Just Mercy

This year's pick for Go Big Read, UW-Madison's campus and community read, is *Just Mercy: a Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need. One of his first clients was Walter McMillian, a man on death row for a murder he didn't commit. Stevenson details the legal journey to McMillian's release as well as those of others he's helped in his now thirty year career. The book is a call to action, true crime page-turner and critique of the American system of justice.

Just Mercy is available for free download via Overdrive in ebook format with a public library card, and in print and on CD at your favorite Madison Public Library location. Over 120 additional copies of *Just Mercy* for the Book Discussion Kits that are available for checkout to private book groups, along with suggested discussion questions. For more information call 266-6300.

Stevenson will give the keynote presentation at this year's Go Big Read event on Monday, October 26, from 7-8:30 p.m. at UW-Madison's Union South. This free event is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Book Festival.

Special Halloween Programs Eerie Tales: A Glance Back And Look Ahead At Horror Fiction

Funded in part by Beyond the Page, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Madison Community Foundation, Eerie Tales is a series of programs in celebration of horror fiction. Presentations include expert speakers discussing the origins and key authors of horror fiction, bringing horror fiction to stage and screen, scary movies, author visits, makerspace, musical and storytelling events. For more events visit: <http://www.waunakeepubliclibrary.org/eerie-tales>

Improving Criminal Justice, Continued from page 5

partnerships, the diverse work groups were established in May to build solutions to address racial disparity, mental health, and safety issues in Dane County's criminal justice system. The workgroups all agreed on one immediate need: more data, including data on race, ethnicity, and gender.

Much of the success in LaCrosse County was attributed to data driven decision making. As Dane County Board Chair Sharon Corrigan said, "In a world that embraces data-driven decision making, it is simply not acceptable to lack this capacity in criminal justice."

In addition to the need for added data collection and analysis, the three workgroups offered ten recommendations to address specific areas of need: Alternatives to Arrest and Incarceration; Length of Stay; and Mental Health, Solitary Confinement and Incarceration.

The workgroups made 31 recommendations to address concerns with aspects of the criminal justice system. In addition to the overarching recommendation regarding the need for data, two other themes that cut across the recommendations of the criminal justice workgroups include:

- There must be a common understanding of implicit bias, racial equity, and cultural competence. Training is necessary in county government, courts, as well as with local law enforcement and service providers.
- Criminal justice system staff should reflect the demographic composition of residents of Dane County and there should be an effort on the part of service providers to hire staff who reflect the racial and ethnic identity of their clients.

To further engage the public on this critical topic and gather feedback on the recommendations, the County Board will hold a community conversation on Monday, October 12 at 6 PM to 8:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Alliant Energy Center. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Download the full report at: <https://dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=4026795&GUID=18FFAEB5-CBF8-445F-91FD-55CB03C21C2A>



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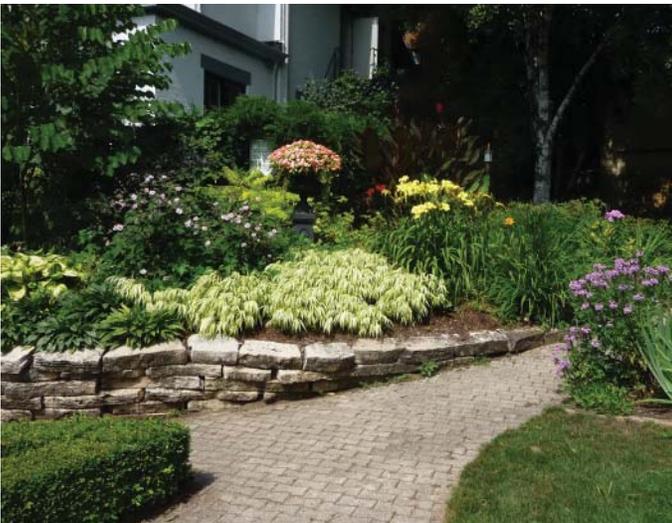
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One of the ash trees in CNI's area of James Madison Park that has been identified as high priority for treatment for the Emerald Ash Borer. See the story and find out what you can do to help on page 6.



Two views of the Period Garden Park from this summer. See the story on page 9.

