

CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.

DOWNTOWN DIALOGUE

Megan Christiansen - A Life Well Lived

By Jim Skrentny

Our friend and neighbor, Megan Christiansen, passed away on October 15th after a two year struggle with pancreatic cancer. Megan was an asset to our neighborhood who readily contributed her time and talents. For many years Megan was the treasurer of CNI. Bert Stitt, past president of CNI, shared, "It was Megan's astute and dedicated handling of accounts that got CNI on track to fiduciary health and responsibility - no small task! Our bank account looks good today thanks to her." Megan was a fixture at neighborhood activities. We could always count on Megan's lively presence at our bi-monthly neighborhood meetings even during her illness. She was involved with many neighborhood projects including organizing neighborhood spring clean ups, participating in the Friends of Crowley Station, and volunteering for the Blair Street Gardens.

I first met Megan over a decade ago about a year after she'd moved from Stoughton to her downtown condo. Megan and I were both members of CNI's Executive Council, and she had invited me and other members of a committee she chaired to her condo. I've since forgotten the purpose of the meeting but two impressions remain, the loom that occupied a good part of her study area and Bixby, her Airedale Terrier, who had taken an amorous liking to me! (Bixby was one of several rescue dogs that Megan saved.) On my way over to her place for that meeting, I was charmed by

the First Settlement Neighborhood, and that, along with Megan's enthusiasm for commuter-free downtown living, planted a seed that later resulted in her neighborhood becoming my home too.



Megan's interests varied widely from the solitude of reading a good book to the adventures of traveling around the world. Shortly after being diagnosed with cancer, Megan was determined not to let it prevent her from taking a planned culinary trip to Italy exploring the delights of vegetarian cuisine and Italian wines. Megan filled her last two years with many adventures. In addition to Italy, she traveled to France, China, as well as Iceland. I recall her sharing fond memories of island hopping in the Caribbean with her friend, Mark, on a 5-masted tall ship with 44 sails (quite a different experience than taking day trips with Mark on his Harley across the roads of Wisconsin!) Megan was always doing something interesting. Whether it was sorting fabrics in a collection donated to the UW or working at the Gates of Heaven polling station, Megan kept busy.

Megan was a generous and inspirational person. In 2005, when a colleague at work needed a kidney transplant, Megan didn't think twice about being tested for compatibility. When a test returned an unfavorable result that would have excluded Megan, she insisted the test be redone and the new result was very favorable!

Editor's Note: This page is bordered in Megan's favorite color.

Continued on page 7

Downtown Businesses

By Jeff Vercauteren, President, CNI

There has been much discussion recently about changes in the types of businesses downtown, including a perceived increase in restaurants and bars and a perceived decrease in retail stores. The 2015 State of the Downtown Report recently released by Downtown Madison, Inc. includes a wealth of data and information on downtown issues, including the mix of downtown businesses.



The report concluded that since 1998, the percentage of food and beverage establishments has remained consistent around 40%, retail has decreased to 25%, and service businesses have increased to 35%. The report also concluded that the percentage of locally owned businesses downtown has remained consistently around 84% over the past five years.

That last figure is a remarkable number that often gets overlooked in discussions about the current state of downtown businesses—84% of downtown businesses are locally owned. That figure underscores the importance of supporting our downtown businesses, especially as we enter the busy holiday shopping season.

Capitol Neighborhoods has enjoyed a good working relationship with the Central Business Improvement District over the years and has increased our coordination with the BID in recent years. The BID is a regular supporter of and contributor to the Capitol Neighborhoods newsletter, and the BID also includes Capitol Neighborhoods membership materials in bags it distributes to new downtown residents.

You may have heard that BID Executive Director Mary Carbine recently left to become Managing Director of the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Alumni Park. The BID is in the process of hiring a new executive director. The change in leadership comes at a time when the downtown business environment continues to evolve with the increased growth of the downtown over the

past few years and the changing demographics of the downtown population.

At the city's annual neighborhood conference at the Warner Park Community Center in October, one of the roundtable discussions focused on building collaboration between neighborhood associations and businesses. The values of collaboration are perhaps more pronounced downtown where residents and businesses share close quarters on the isthmus.

As a neighborhood association, we are seeking additional ways to reach out to and partner with our downtown businesses. One of those ways is the creation of new membership levels for businesses—Community Partners and Neighborhoods Partners—which allow businesses to provide additional support to the neighborhood association and to be highlighted more prominently on our website and in our newsletter. Thank you to Madison Gas & Electric for becoming our first Community Partner. We will continue to work to achieve mutual benefits to be shared among downtown neighbors and businesses.

A black rectangular advertisement for Genre Hair Studio. On the left, there is a graphic of a triangle filled with white wavy lines that create a 3D effect. To the right of the graphic, the text "Genre Hair Studio" is written in a large, white, stylized font. Below this, in a smaller white font, are the phrases "Downtown.", "Near parking.", and "Distinctive individual service." Further down, the phone number "608-280-8980", the address "438 N. Frances St.", and the website "www.genrehairstudio.com" are listed. At the bottom, a white rectangular box contains the text "\$20 off first-visit coupon" in black font.

Green Madison

By Mayor Paul Soglin

Green Madison, a citywide effort to reduce energy consumption and win the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize, launched a new city-wide game-based approach to reducing energy use this fall.



Photo Credit: Melissa Kunitz

Hundreds of City of Madison employees played earlier this summer really became engaged in the effort and the competition and had fun!

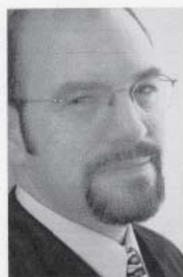
Madison residents--including employees from more than 40 diverse Madison businesses and organizations, such as UW Health, American Family Insurance, MG&E, TDS Telecom, and the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce took part this fall in Cool Choices, an on-line sustainability game that encourages sustainable behaviors like turning off the lights when leaving a room or biking instead of driving. The game platform also calculates carbon and energy savings as players log their sustainable actions on a daily basis.

It is exciting that Green Madison has mobilized so many residents and area businesses to come together to reduce energy usage in Madison. The City is taking innovative approaches to being more green and cutting costs for government, local businesses, and residents all over Madison. Everyone's efforts in the citywide Cool Choices game count toward Madison's entry in the Georgetown University Energy competition.

The "social stream" within the game platform will also promote awareness of additional Green Madison initiatives designed to help Madison residents save money. For example, via Green Madison, residents can host energy house parties to receive a free energy assessment, recommendations for practical improvements, and follow-up assistance applying for rebates on energy efficiency improvements.

Green Madison is also serving as a streamlined point-of-contact to help multifamily building owners with rebate programs, free energy assessments, contractor selection, and quality assurance in partnership with Project Home and Focus on Energy. All of these initiatives help the City of Madison save money, reduce energy use, and compete to claim the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize. To learn more, check out www.greenmadison.org.

After showing over 1,000 people from across Madison how to save money and help the environment this year, Cool Choices will be back again February 2016! Stay tuned for more details.



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Preserve Services, Expand Partnerships

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Recently, I introduced my 2016 Budget for Dane County. My budget focuses on providing our critical core services while expanding partnerships to better our community.



My budget includes the strongest efforts yet by Dane County to address mental illness. I am expanding our mental health teams to more schools across Dane County in partnership with local schools. Early intervention is key to both preventing and knocking down the barriers that come with mental illness. I am also creating Community Crisis Teams to help law enforcement respond to mental health crisis situations available 24/7.

My budget continues our commitment to cleaning up our lakes through partnerships and conservation.

Homelessness is a complex problem that no one entity can solve. We are continuing our work with the Homelessness Consortium and investing millions in direct services to our homeless population. I am also doubling our Eviction Prevention Fund which successfully kept 266 kids in their homes last year.

This budget furthers our work of criminal justice reform by creating a "Re-entry Team" in our Dane County Jail. We will assess inmates and make an individualized plan for each inmate. A successful re-entry reduces their risk of returning.

70 percent of Wisconsin's population growth happens in Dane County, as does 56% of Wisconsin's private sector job growth. We consistently have the lowest rate of unemployment in the state.

We are a thriving, growing community, with unlimited potential. While we are certainly not without our

growing pains, I am proud of the manner in which our community faces its challenges head on. We will get there, and we will get there together - with respect; with spirited debate, and through partnering, together- the Dane County Way.



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Civil Service Overhaul Goes Backwards

By State Senator Fred Risser

Wisconsin was one of the first states to adopt a merit and experience-based civil service hiring system with the passage of the Civil Service Act of 1905. It was sponsored by my grandfather, Ernest N. Warner, who was in the State Assembly and was the sole author of 1905 Assembly Bill 5 which passed the Legislature on a strong bipartisan vote. It has been the backbone of Wisconsin's state employment relations for over 100 years.



The purpose of the Civil Service System is to hire the most qualified person for the job, based on test results and experience, rather than political affiliation and local party bosses which was the norm at that time. Legislative Republicans and the Governor have proposed legislation to overhaul our state's civil service system. The proposed changes include replacing civil service merit exams with a resume-based system, and the elimination of many seniority protections. More concerning is the proposed centralized vetting of applicants and hiring of all state jobs within the Department of Administration. Currently each agency makes their own hiring and firing decisions.

In my view, the current effort to replace our civil service system is nothing more than an attempt to return state hiring to the pre-civil service days of hiring people based on patronage and political handouts rather than merit. With every hiring decision being filtered through one office of the Governor's Department of Administration, there will be far less transparency and greater mistrust in the hiring decisions being made for state jobs.

Repealing Wisconsin's civil service program and protections, and returning Wisconsin to a system of political patronage, corruption and cronyism will further erode Wisconsin's reputation for clean government. It will also reinforce the feeling among many Wisconsin resi-

dents that their current government isn't working for them or on the real issues facing the state.

Civil Service in state employment has served Wisconsin well for over 100 years. We shouldn't go back to the days of hiring people because of who they know rather than what they know.

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



The Republican Corruption Agenda

By Representative Chris Taylor

This week culminated in yet another Republican bill being passed that consolidates political power, opens the door to corruption, and ensures cronyism will run rampant. In the past 7 days, we've seen Republicans exempt themselves from corruption investigations, take us back to the Elections and Ethics Commissions that ignore political corruption, open the flood gates to more secret corporate money in elections, and allow individuals to conceal carry knives. And now, Assembly Republicans voted to gut Wisconsin's civil service system in order to game the formerly objective public employee hiring system.



Wisconsin was a leader when it created its civil service laws in 1905. AB 373 overhauls the state's civil service system for Wisconsin's 30,000 public employees. It eliminates objective civil service exams and replaces them with a subjective system for hiring. It increases the probationary period, allowing employees to be fired

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The Republican Corruption Agenda continued from page 5

for any reason for up to 2 years. Included in the definition of “just cause” is “personal conduct” that is “unsuitable,” which leaves too much discretion in the hands of state agencies to discipline employees for manufactured reasons.

If the Walker Administration wants, as Governor Bob La Follette’s slogan says, for “the best to serve the state,” there are proactive steps that must be taken, and gutting civil service protections isn’t one of them. If the Republicans really want to attract the best and the brightest, they shouldn’t have cut take-home pay and eliminated collective bargaining rights. Governor Walker and legislative Republicans should be working to repair the damage they inflicted on Wisconsin’s workers, not destroying civil service protections.

Additionally, we’ve already seen the corruption that can occur in state employment when civil service standards are removed. This is what happened when the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) was created. Without the civil service process, WEDC has seen unprecedented levels of corruption and unethical behavior. One analysis of the \$975 million WEDC doled out from 2011-2014 found that 60% of the funds went to those that contributed directly to Governor Walker or the Republican Governor’s Association. Taxpayer money has been irresponsibly loaned to Walker donors who need to make their Maserati payments.

Even before the civil service system was ransacked, we’d already begun to see cronyism seeping into our government:

If you signed the recall petition, you’re weren’t appointed to a board you were otherwise extremely qualified to be on. If you conducted research based on science, not politics, you were fired, just like the 18 scientists at the Department of Natural Resources. If you were a long time civil servant and you disagreed with one of the agencies, your job was turned into an unclassified position, causing you to lose all job protections.

In the face of reduced public employee protections, I am introducing an anti-retaliation bill to ensure that public employees will not be targeted for simply do-

ing their jobs or exercising their basic, protected 1st Amendment rights. This is a small step towards treating state employees with the respect they deserve



Preparations for 2016

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

My fellow County Board Supervisors and I just finished the extensive process of completing the 2016 Dane County Budget. The process starts with the County Executive proposing his budget, Supervisors proposing amendments, numerous committees voting



on whether or not to support the proposed amendments, and then the Personnel and Finance Committees reviews all of the proposed amendments. The budget amendments that the P&F committee approves then go before the entire Board of Supervisors for the final budget vote.

The 2016 Budget proposed by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi is over \$572 million.

The Personnel and Finance Committee, of which I am currently a member, had to consider budget amendments that totaled more than \$1.6 million. Due to the state imposed levy cap, only \$500,000 was available for funding items proposed by County Supervisors. Many tough choices had to be made. The Operation and Capital Budgets that P&F committee approved reflect the priorities of elected officials representing the progressive values of Dane County.

The budget and amendments that the entire Dane County Board of Supervisors approved on November 16 provides or increases funding in the areas of criminal justice, housing, equity, human services and the environment.

As described by County Board Chair Sharon Corri- gan, “Budgets are about priorities. Changes made to the Dane County Budget by County Board members

reflect our core principles of partnering with the community to ensure that all Dane County citizens have the opportunity to be successful.”

The 2016 Budget as amended by the Dane County Board of Supervisors includes:

- Criminal justice
 - » Funding to collect and analyze more and better data on people in the system
 - » Funding to train criminal justice personnel on equity issues
 - » Funding to study adult and juvenile diversion programs
- Housing
 - » Additional \$30,000 to operate the Homeless Day Resource Center
 - » \$2 million for affordable housing as called for by last year’s budget
- Equity
 - » Moving the new Office of Equity to the department level, increasing capacity and providing physical space
 - » Establishing a new Partners in Equity Fund of \$25,000 to share with community organizations doing work on equity
- Human services
 - » Funding for more case management and nutrition site management for the elderly
 - » Establishing the ability to use benefit cards at farmers markets
 - » Funding for a position to increase capacity at Salvation Army family shelter and temporary women’s shelter
- Environment
 - » Additional \$45,000 for Better Urban Infill Land Development (BUILD) program to plan for more planning for infill development
 - » Additional \$1 million in the SMART fund for county government sustainable practices in operations
 - » \$1.5 million to start a Transit Fund to partner with communities to improve transit opportunities for communities throughout the county

The property tax increase per household resulting from the approved budget is a total increase of \$34.37 on the average home.

Megan Christiansen, continued from page 1

Arlene, her kidney recipient, is forever grateful for her life giving donation. I remember how matter-of-factly Megan had told us during the summer of 2005 that she had recently undergone the transplant surgery. I was impressed and wondered if I could do the same. Megan also generously supported local organizations including the Madison Community Foundation (www.madison-communityfoundation.org), the Dane County Humane Society (www.giveshelter.org), and the Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (abuseintervention.org).

Megan lived a full life to her last days enjoying all that downtown Madison has to offer, fresh produce from the Dane County Farmers’ Market, artisan cheeses from Fromagination, clever gadgets from the Kitchen Gallery, as well as Concerts on the Square, Jazz at 5, The Madison Symphony and other events at Overture Center. Every year she looked forward to volunteering at Art Fair on the Square. She enjoyed Aquaexercise class at Capitol Lakes, the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, the Madison Area Vegetarian Meetup Group and attending Basket Camp near Superior, WI, twice yearly that combined the pleasures of basket weaving and wine tasting.

Others would add that Megan was strong, expressive, organized, intelligent, liberal, modest, kind, and courageous. Megan had a ready smile and a welcoming greeting for all. Megan made our neighborhood and downtown Madison a better place.

Thank you, Megan. We will miss you.



Friends of Crowley Station: Bert Stitt, Megan Christiansen, Steve Rubin, Jim Skrentny, Zane Williams, and Michelle Jolly.

Now & Then

By Michael K. Bridgeman

Long Live the Queen

“The queen of Madison’s hostelries, the Park Hotel, is dead.”

So wrote Frank Custer in *The Capital Times* on Aug. 5, 1961, when he detailed the demolition of the old Park Hotel to make way for the building that stands today at 22 S. Carroll St.

Throughout its 144-year history, the hotel has been renovated and revived several times. As reporter and historian Custer wrote, “The hotel was like a stately old dowager who had undergone a number of face liftings in her time.”

The Park Hotel opened on the Capitol Square in August of 1871. Its creation was a direct response to threats from Milwaukee legislators to move the seat of government from Madison due, in part, to a lack of first-class hotel facilities. A group of Madison investors engaged Stephen Vaughn Shipman, who also designed the capitol dome (see the November newsletter), to create a four-story building with a stylish Mansard roof, 118 sleeping rooms, parlors, a ballroom and (notably) indoor plumbing.

The hotel quickly became the most fashionable in the city and a favorite haunt of legislators and lobbyists. The Park Hotel made it through two national economic depressions before expanding in 1912 with an updated façade that was more classical than Victorian.

By 1961, “She had the ailments of age,” Custer wrote, and the old Park Hotel was demolished to make way for the Park Motor Hotel, a name directed at automobile travelers attracted by convenient parking.

The new owners engaged architect Russell Barr Williamson. When he was just out of college Williamson spent about four years in the office of Frank Lloyd Wright before setting up his own office in Milwaukee in 1920. Williamson became known for his contemporary house

designs and had several hotel projects late in his career.

Even the new Park Motor Hotel was not to be left alone. It was expanded at least twice, not always in felicitous ways. The “cap” on the top floor is one of the additions that will disappear by next summer. With the renovations now underway to the Inn on the Park—and the revival of the Park Hotel name—it might be time to amend Custer’s statement to, “The queen is dead. Long live the queen!”



This is how the Park Hotel appeared about 100 years ago after expansion and renovations to the original 1871 building.



Construction began in 1961 on the Park Motor Hotel, which was expanded in the 1970s and 1980s.



The Park Motor Hotel featured an outdoor pool which was later enclosed.

The Spirit Of Giving

By Joe Bonardi

What a wonderful year this has been for every kind of horticulture here in Wisconsin. Everything from small gardens to large farming operations enjoyed nearly ideal weather conditions, and the results were amazing. Period Garden Park in the Mansion Hill district had one of the best years since we started its restoration nine years ago. June was particularly awesome for the rose bed, as it flowered more than any previous year. I hope many of you reading this had many chances to visit there and enjoy the peace and beauty of this small city garden park.

I'm finding it is necessary to ask for an outpouring of local support to help us in the coming year by donating what you can to keep the park beautiful and safe. While we have gratefully had some corporate support in the past, many companies have chosen to give to other worthy causes in the past few years.

I'm hoping with the coming holiday season, members of CNI and local residents will find a way to donate to our park fund to keep Period Garden Park the beautiful public space it is.

So many people have discovered the park, using it for wedding photos, or a quiet place to have lunch. Art classes come to draw the flowers, people do yoga there, and it's a place that our few neighborhood young family's bring their children to enjoy the outdoors. It is one of the only city parks downtown of its kind, and we are so proud to have it in our district.

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www.capcentremarket.com

The History of Lake Mendota in the Palm of Your Hands

By Don Sanford

Have you ever wondered why someone built a road across Lake Mendota's North Bay? Or perhaps you want to know when a sea serpent was last spotted, or if your friend really did swim across the lake many years ago.

The answers to these questions, and many more, can be found in my recently published book, *On Fourth Lake: A Social History of Lake Mendota*. It is the story of the people, places and events that have shaped the shoreline of Lake Mendota, Madison's greatest lake, as we know it today—the story of Native people, settlers, iceboaters, sailors, fishers, hunters, explorers, politicians, entertainers, lifeguards, boat captains, inventors, scientists and Olympians, much of it in their own words.



Author Don Sanford

I spent over a decade preparing this social history of Lake Mendota. My work combines the personal experiences of people who lived, worked and played on the lake with the events that shaped Madison, the Badger State and the nation.

The first book of its kind, *On Fourth Lake* takes you on a guided tour around Lake Mendota, looking at the lakeshore from the water. It is richly illustrated with more than 500 maps, newspaper articles and photographs. Many of the images were sourced from private collections and have never before been available to the public. This book is a must-have for anyone who spends time on Lake Mendota or has an interest in the history of Madison and Dane County.

A Lake Mendota mariner, I am a member of the Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club, past Commodore of the Mendota Yacht Club, and Commodore of the International Nite Ice Yacht Class Association. I hold a 100-ton Masters

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New and Renewed Members of Capitol Neighborhoods

September - October, 2015

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Eliot Butler, Great Dane Pub
Trish Davis
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Vicki Hayati
Esther Herold
Tom Herold
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Learn how your business can support CNI. Contact us at info@capitolneighborhoods.org or visit our website.

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

At the Madison Senior Center

Classic English Tea

Reserve your place at our signature event, the popular Classic English Tea on Friday, December 4, at 2:00pm. This traditional gathering, sponsored by Oak Park Place and BrightStar, features tea service and delicacies in three courses: savory, scones and sweet. The courses are brought out at a leisurely pace, allowing our guests time to converse and enjoy this festive event. Providing an ambiance of good cheer and friendship, the Yahara String Quartet will serenade guests with light classical and seasonal music while tea and other delicacies are served. Tickets are \$25 per person and are non-refundable..

Return to Pearl – An Old Glory Honor Flight

On Monday, December 7, 10:00am join us to watch “Return to Pearl”, a documentary that takes viewers on an emotional journey as 19 Wisconsin Pearl Harbor Survivors share their stories on a five-day world wind tour 6000 miles away from home. The Old Glory Honor Flight of Northeast Wisconsin is the only Honor Flight to take veterans to Hawaii to visit the memorials and places around Pearl Harbor.

Meet the Author: Judith Claire Mitchell.

Meet the Author of “A Reunion of Ghosts” on Tuesday, December 8 at 1 pm. Judith Claire Mitchell is an English professor at UW-Madison, where she directs the MFA program in creative writing. In her free time, she gets to write amazing books like “A Reunion of Ghosts.” This book focuses on the Alter Sisters, three mordantly witty, complex women, who love each other fiercely. No matter what curves life throws at these siblings—and it’s hurled plenty—they always have a wisecrack, and one another. Unspooling threads of history, personal memory, and family lore, they weave a mesmerizing account of their lives that stretches back decades to their great-grandfather, a brilliant scientist whose professional triumph became the sinister legacy that defines them. Come meet this wonderful author on Tuesday, December 8 at 1pm.

Virtual Tour of The San Diego Museum of Art

Join us on Thursday, December 10 at 1:00 as we tour the The San Diego Museum of Art. This will be a live, interactive virtual tour done through a new smart device called “Beam”. It allows users to interact with remote locations thorough high end video and audio. Limited attendance. Please call 266-6581 to register.

Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.

Downtown Dialogue

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district4@cityofmadison.com

Marsha Rummel, Alder 6th District

district6@cityofmadison.com

Mary Kolar, Dane County Supervisor, District 1

kolar.mary@countyofdane.com

Downtown Business District News

By Tim Jenquin, Madison's Central Business Improvement District (BID)

Enjoy a free ride on the Holiday Trolley while shopping downtown Saturdays Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 10:00am – 4:00 pm, up & down State Street and around the Capitol Square. Trolley rides are free; hop on at Metro stops. The trolley will be decorated and staffed by volunteer Downtown Information Ambassadors who will greet riders and hand out treats for kids. Riders on the trolley will also receive free Downtown Madison Welcome bags filled by Ambassadors with promotions, coupons, special offers and information from downtown businesses and organizations. The Trolley and gift bags are courtesy of DreamBank – American Family Insurance.

Also on Saturdays Dec. 5, 12 and 19, volunteer community and UW-Madison choral groups and dancers will stroll State Street and the Capitol Square to carol and perform for shoppers. For a schedule of caroling groups and full Holiday Trolley information, see www.visitdowntownmadison.com, "Events."

We would like to extend a special "Thank You" to Madison Gas and Electric, as well as the Greater State Street Business Association (GSSBA) for their generous donations in support of upgrades to the downtown snowflake light fixtures. Bulbs have been replaced with LEDs that

emit a warmer light to make your evening stroll down State St. and around the Capitol Square more festive and bright.

Our Executive Director, Mary Carbine, has accepted a position managing the new UW Alumni Park. As we continue the transition we look forward to finding new ways to engage the surrounding community and continue to make downtown a better place to live and work. As our neighbors we greatly value your input, so any comments can always be sent to info@visitdowntownmadison.com. Also don't forget to like us on Facebook; [Facebook.com/DowntownMadison](https://www.facebook.com/DowntownMadison).



History of Lake Mendota, Continued from page 9

License, Great Lakes and Inland Waters. Since 2006, I have been a captain for Betty Lou Cruises in Madison. I also host Madison School & Community Recreation's (MSCR) Lake Mendota celebrity cruises.



You may order On Fourth Lake online at: LakeMendotaHistory.com. The following Madison book and museum stores also carry the book: University Book Store, A Room of One's Own,

Mystery to Me, and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art museum store. Visit the website for a list of upcoming book events. I can be reached at Don@LakeMendotaHistory.com, (608) 225-7520.



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Saving Madison From Salt

From the Madison Water Utility

New WiSaltWise campaign looks to educate the community about road salt use

It doesn't look like much – a sparse basement conference room filled with folding tables and guys in sweatshirts and baseball caps quietly taking notes. But organizers say that this – one of the first road salt application training classes ever held in Madison – is about as important as it gets.

“All the salt we put down is ending up in our waterways ... people are really starting to pay attention,” says Kathy Lake, environmental specialist with the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD).

“Road salt is very inexpensive. It's a cheap insurance policy against liability, but it has impacts and they are widespread,” explains Madison Water Utility water quality manager Joe Grande. “I think we have the opportunity to lead on this issue, but there are other municipalities that are ahead of us.”

According to a report from Public Health Madison Dane County, more than 240,000 tons of salt have been dumped on Madison and Dane Co. roads since 2010, and that doesn't include what was spread on county highways, parking lots, sidewalks and driveways. Experts say it's far too much, adding up to an enormous environmental problem in our area. That's why Madison Water Utility, MMSD, and the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership are coming to-

gether to host trainings like this one aimed at teaching private contractors and municipalities how to keep salt use in check.

“We're all trying to maintain public safety and safe roads in the wintertime. But there are different approaches we can take to minimize the impact on our lakes and drinking water,” says Grande. “People want to work towards that.”

“We're dispelling the myth that more is better. More salt is not better,” insists Connie Fortin, one of the road salt application trainers and owner of the environmental consulting firm Fortin Consulting. “All we have to do is put out the building blocks of science (and teach) the strategies of still getting our job done, but doing it in a smarter way.”

Madisonians don't have to look far to see the damage road salt has already caused. On University Ave. near Whitney Way, a small municipal facility sits at the center of some very big concerns. Madison Water Utility Well 14 pumps about 800 million gallons of drinking water to nearby homes and businesses every year, but the groundwater that feeds it contains high levels of chloride from road salt. Chloride levels in water pumped from the well have doubled in the last 15 years and show no signs of decreasing. Grande says the presence of chloride doesn't make the water unsafe, but it can affect the taste. And there's no real feasible way to remove it.

“Well 14 is just really the tip of the iceberg when you're talking about the impacts of salt on Madison's drinking water ... We do see impacts at four or five of our other wells. Looking ahead and projecting from the impacts

Continued on page 15



Salt applicator training

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The Spirit Of Giving continued from page 9

Please help us maintain by donating what you can to help our volunteer efforts. Donations can be made in someone's name as a way to give a gift over the holidays. If most members of CNI gave \$20, that could fund us for a few years to come. Remember that most all the maintenance of the park is handled by just 2 or 3 volunteers for the whole year and a donation shows support to those who help.

This is a time to thank all who have given their efforts and donations in the past, and we are very grateful.

A special thank you to Fred Mohs, that without his support, we could not have come so far or done so much.

Please make a tax deductible donation:

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Or make your check payable to Capitol Neighborhoods Inc./ Period Garden Park and mail to:

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For more information about the Period Garden Park, please visit our website at www.periodgardenpark.org.

Wishing all a wonderful holiday season and a bright new year!

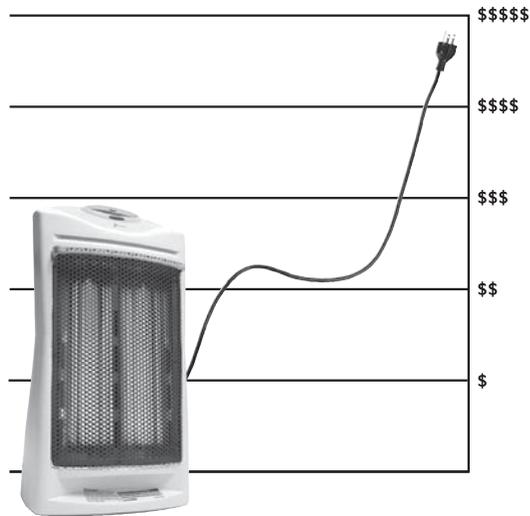


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Save Your Thursdays for Central Cinema!

CINESTHESIA, presented by Jason Fuhrman, First Thursdays.

• **December 3, SPECIAL TIME! 6:00 pm. EYES WIDE SHUT** by Stanley Kubrick. This 1999 American erotic thriller film is loosely based upon Arthur Schnitzler's 1926 novella *Dream Story*.

• **January 7, 6:30 pm. THERE WILL BE BLOOD** by Paul Thomas Anderson. A story of family, religion, hatred, oil and madness, focusing on a prospector in the early days of the oil business.

• **December – No Film**

• **January 14, 6:30 pm. IN FOOTBALL WE TRUST** by Tony Vainuku and Erika Cohn. This film follows four Polynesian high school football players in Utah struggling to overcome gang violence, family pressures, and poverty as they enter the high stakes world of college recruiting and the promise of pro sports.

COMMUNITY CINEMA features advance screenings from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Second Thursdays.

• **December – No Film**

• **January 14, 6:30 pm. IN FOOTBALL WE TRUST** by Tony Vainuku and Erika Cohn. This film follows four Polynesian high school football players in Utah struggling to overcome gang violence, family pressures, and poverty as they enter the high stakes world of college recruiting and the promise of pro sports.

BAD CINEMA, presented by Michael Knutsen, Third Thursdays.

• **December 17, 6:30 pm. JAWS: THE REVENGE** by Sophie Hall. This 1987 American horror thriller film is the third and final sequel to Steven Spielberg's *Jaws*.

• **January 21, 6:30 pm. WICKER MAN** by Neil LaBute. A sheriff investigating the disappearance of a young girl from a small island discovers there's a larger mystery to solve among the island's secretive, neo-pagan community.

LAKE FRONT ROW, presented by David Klein, features the work of one independent Wisconsin filmmaker.

• **Special Date! Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 pm. CATALYST** by Kyle Arpke. The Milwaukee filmmaker tells the story of brothers Keeran and Terence, as the film explores growing pains and social awkwardness with strained familial relations and the budding interests of its youths.

Saving Madison From Salt continued from page 13

that we see now, we'll have to make some very difficult decisions in the future."

But there are some bright spots, at least when it comes to Well 14. Officials with the city and county have partnered in an effort to reduce salt application on University Ave., which is maintained by Dane Co. road crews. The county will use anti-icers to spray brine on University Ave. before a winter storm hits, helping make plows more effective and reducing the amount of salt needed to clear the roadway.

The effort to reduce road salt use in Dane Co. goes far beyond training the people driving the trucks. The *WiSaltWise* campaign is also focused on educating the general public on responsible road salt use.

"Unless people understand, they're going keep putting pressure on public works crews and everybody for more and more salt," says Fortin. "So it's a massive undertaking. It's similar to how we started recycling and getting people to understand that. And now they do it, and they accept it."

"Our whole goal is to try to raise awareness. Wisconsin Salt Wise emphasizes that we're all partners in this," adds Grande.

Lake adds that an educated public can put pressure on store owners to make sure large parking lots and sidewalks are properly cared for. "Wisconsin Salt Wise is working really hard to try and get that information out to everybody. What is an application rate that makes sense? How do I make it happen? When I'm walking into a store, what should the salt pattern in the parking lot look like? If we can provide the same level of service, and save money, and protect our water – it's amazing."

Fortin agrees that buy-in from both the public and the people who take care of roads and parking lots is key.

"It will save (applicators) money, make them look good, their performance will be better. And it will save our lakes and rivers from all that extra salt. If they're educated and they understand, they'll change."



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Please help support the Period Garden Park. See the story on page 9.