



SPRING 2005

Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association's
official herald

THE Hornblower

www.dmna.org

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and Community

ANNUAL MEETING ADDRESSES Monroe Commons Development...

Dave Keller of Neighborhood Associates, the developers of the Monroe Commons Development and grocery, will speak at our annual meeting to update us on the development, and give you a chance to ask the questions you would like. His presentation will follow a pie and ice cream social and the annual business meeting and election of officers.

This is the biggest development in our neighborhood for years, and Dave has been very generous with his time and answers throughout the process. Come and hear him and help select the officers for your association while enjoying pie and friendship.

Saturday, April 30th
2:00-5:00 p.m.

DMNA Annual Meeting!

Monroe-Commons
Development is the
main topic for the
Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars!



**June 18
2005**



SPRING 2005

The Dudgeon-Monroe *Hornblower* is published four times per year.

The advertising and article deadline for the next issue is April 25, 2005

For information on display ads—sizes and cost—contact

Judi K-Turkel

jkt@cpacomputerreport.com

Neighborhood-centered story ideas welcome. Contact Scott Webb swebb@ameritech.net

Alder Notes...

Sale of Dudgeon Building

As I write this in early February, I've recently had a meeting with representatives of Wingra School concerning their request to purchase the Dudgeon Building. Included in the meeting were representatives of the Dudgeon Center Board, which includes neighborhood representatives and Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association (DMNA) president Daryl Sherman. Before going into any details of the sale, let me briefly recap the history of this building.

The Dudgeon School closed in the early 1970s and in reaction, folks from this area worked with the School District and the City (which owned all schools at the time), to convert this closed school into a place that served the needs of children. According to some, this issue actually spawned the creation of DMNA. A number of organizations originally occupied the building including Wingra School, New Morning Nursery, and 4Cs Child Care. Many of the original tenants are long gone, but the building has remained in child-serving and educational uses since 1972. Wingra School was and still is the largest tenant and the main user of the building.

Over the years, the arrangement has been that the building Board pays the City \$1 in rent annually and covers all the costs of operating and maintaining the building. These costs are considerable. There have been a few occasions where major capital projects such as a roof and a boiler were needed, and the City came in to assist with 50% funding and 50% low-interest loans, which the Board has dutifully paid back or is still paying back. The building is also used as a polling place and for many functions of the neighborhood association.

The current proposal is to maintain the Dudgeon Center as is. The major change would be that instead of renting the building, Wingra School would own it. Wingra has been very open to various conditions of the sale including maintaining the building as a polling place and a center for neighborhood meetings and activities, and maintaining its principal mission of serving children and providing educational opportunities for children and adults. Wingra's main motivation for acquiring the building is that they would like to make some major investments to improve the building immeasurably. It's difficult to justify such investments in something you don't own.

A neighborhood meeting will be held and might already have been held by the time you read this article. On the basis of the response from the neighborhood, we will proceed with planning for the possible transition of the Dudgeon Building to Wingra's ownership.

Stay tuned on this. I think the fact that everyone is looking out for the best interests of the neighborhood and the children served in the building, makes this a potential win-win situation for all concerned.

Personal note: To avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest, please be advised that my wife is a teacher at New Morning Nursery, one of the tenants in the Dudgeon Center. According to the City Attorney, this does not constitute a conflict of interest.



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Pedestrians

STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

In the last two years there has been a sea change on Monroe Street from a situation in which pedestrians cringed at the roadside, waiting for a rare gap in traffic as cars streamed by at high speed. Now nearly all drivers who have time to stop (5 to 9 car lengths, depending on speed and conditions) yield to pedestrians carrying a flag, although it is still helpful to show assertive body language and keep eye contact with drivers. We now routinely see even pedestrians crossing without flags at flagged intersections, and drivers stopping for them.

However, this is a housekeeping-style chore—never done. Late last fall, we heard anecdotally that drivers were speeding up and no longer as likely to stop as the number of pedestrians fell in cold weather. We must keep at it—walking and using the flags—or drivers will fall back into their old ways.

How You Can Help:

Even if you think you don't need the flags, please use them. Drivers must learn to expect them — and in the long term — assertive pedestrians. You will be doing your elderly neighbors and families who really need the flags a great service. Need to be reminded of tips for crossing with flags? Check www.dmna.org

And don't forget to wave a thank you when drivers stop for you. Let's reestablish an atmosphere of courtesy and appreciation in the shared space of the street.

Also, our committee is small, this project big, so we are asking for help slowing down cars on Monroe Street from all those people of good will. If you can find an hour to help put out yard signs, drive a pace car or monitor the speed board sometime this year, please contact Ann Clark at 238-5612 or annclark@tds.net.



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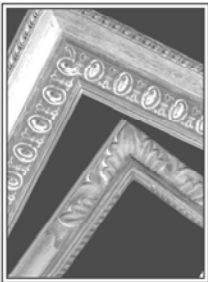


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ALONG THE BIKE-PEDESTRIAN PATH

The DMNA path committee, in conjunction with Friends of Lake Wingra (FoLW) will be weeding and planting along the bike-pedestrian path this spring and summer. Our goals are to promote the health of Lake Wingra, make the path more attractive, and reduce the volume of invasive plants and weeds along the path. This project marks the start of collaboration between DMNA and FoLW to accomplish a high-priority action included in FoLW's watershed management plans. The plans call for improving management of storm water, controlling invasive species, and restoring native habitat in a community public space. The City of Madison Engineering Department and MG&E are supporting this project.

We chose to start at the intersection of Glenway and the path because land management practices there are of strategic importance to the health of Lake Wingra. Lake Wingra's water quality is severely degraded by nutrient-containing soils and sediments that enter the lake via the City of Madison storm drains. The soils and sediments enter the storm drains via a large erosion gulley originating at the Glenway Golf Course and are deposited in the Ho-Nee-Um Pond and near the Wingra Boat house (ever notice that the lake is getting more shallow at the boat launch and wondered why?). Our goals are to start in a small area, have fun, and build on our success. If we have a sufficient number of volunteers, we will continue eastward.

We met Saturday, March 19, at 10:00 A.M. at the intersection of Glenway and the path to walk over the site. Our first work day is Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The dates of future work days will be posted on the calendar on the DMNA website. **We are starting as a small group and welcome the help of additional volunteers.**

Knowledgeable volunteers will provide guidance on weed and plant identification and gardening practices. You do not need to have any particular knowledge or skills to help.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Robin Ryan by e-mail at lessie@chorus.net or by phone at 236-4145.
Please contact Robin if you would like to be advised by e-mail of future work dates.



Spectacular summer camps

The University of Wisconsin Arboretum is pleased to announce a summer camp program for children in pre-school through grade 5.

THE EARTH FOCUS DAY CAMP programs are designed to encourage a sense of discovery and to stimulate the imagination of young campers as they learn about the natural world around them. Camp themes are based on the natural elements of air, water, earth and fire and introduce campers to basic ecological principles. Activities include hikes, art, music, games, stories and extraordinary observation of the natural world.

Camp consists of two programs: **LEARNING TOGETHER** (for children age 3 through kindergarten with their parents) and **EXPLORERS** (for children entering grades 1 through 5).

To register your child, please pick up a camp brochure at the Arboretum Visitor Center: 1207 Seminole Hwy., Madison, WI 53711 or visit the Arboretum website at www.wisc.edu/arboretum. For more information, phone (608) 263-7888.

PRESIDENT'S *Notes...*

The months since your last HORNBLOWER have been my busiest since I've been involved with DMNA—about a dozen years now. The Monroe Commons development proposal has been, and continues, at a full boil. Many, many meetings later and it has advanced to the city council, where its fate will be decided March 15th. What that fate will be is by no means certain.

Before you read this you will know what was decided. No one, including the developer, is getting exactly what they want out of it. After changes and improvements and hundreds of hours of work by an ad hoc committee spearheaded by our secretary, Audrey Highton, the Council voted in favor of supporting the project.

Another important, time-consuming project has been the Monroe-Regent St. SW Ped-Bike Path intersection redevelopment. Traffic Committee Chair Ann Clark is spearheading this one.

A decision has been made by City Engineering to back a proposal that would eliminate Little Street (the right turn from Monroe onto Regent at the Fieldhouse) and turn the land over to the University for a plaza there. This was not our preferred alternative as it means path users will be required to negotiate all the traffic in the entire intersection, but it seems like one we can (and will have to) live with, for the next 50 years. The city seems in such a hurry to do this we might not be able to get an improvement. Time will tell.

A third project, of major import for the neighborhood, is a proposal by Wingra School to purchase the old Dudgeon School – Dudgeon Commons (see Alder Ken Golden's column).

The controlling body has been unable to attract donors or obtain grants for a building they do not own. With ownership this would change; the building needs about \$2 million worth of repairs.

Vice President Judy Sikora is a member of the present governing body and is heading the committee to represent our interests in the building and its uses. She, the Council, and I are working hard to ensure that all the present community functions and access continue whether it is purchased or not. Zoning clauses will mandate that it continue as a school. Since zoning can be changed we will all have to be vigilant to protect this community resource. Nevertheless, this looks like good solution all around.

The Community Development Plan is coming to a conclusion after several years of very hard work under the direction of Past President Jane Riley. It looks at (mainly) Monroe Street and what can be done to keep and improve the lively, eclectic business community we have.

The nominating committee has been working hard the past two months to find candidates for the various offices and to bring fresh leadership to the Council from new At Large members. If you have any suggestions, or would like to fill one of these roles yourself, make contact with any of the committee members (Judy Sikora, Ann Clark, Jane Riley or me – do you see a pattern here?)

For new members we would offer mentoring with an experienced Council member or officer to let you get your feet wet gradually. When you find the sort of thing that interests you most, you can work on that. We would also pay your tuition to the Grass Roots Leadership College, a local group that arranges a mentor, works with you on a development project and generally offers great training. It meets Saturdays, I believe, over several months.

From the workload I have described above you see we need the help, but we promise not to load you down too heavily. The work is quite interesting and rewarding. Do you think I would have stuck around a dozen years (unpaid, yet!) if it were not? The others I have mentioned have been around longer.

Give us a call! We're all in the DMNA Directory, and my number is 238-5106. Leave a message and I'll be delighted to get back to you.

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The Missing Link is Forged

NEW HORIZONS FOR BIKERS & WALKERS

This year the "Missing Link" segment of the Southwest Pedestrian/Bike Path will be constructed across the Isthmus from its current terminus at Randall (just east of the stadium) to North Shore Drive and the existing Brittingham/John Nolen Path. This will allow UW and Downtown commuters from the southwest side to walk or bike primarily off-street to work. It will also connect recreational bikers with the great ped/bike path network to the north and east parts of the city. 100,000 to 200,000 users are expected annually, and it should be a great boon to our neighborhood and the entire southwest side.

Yes, the path will have a much more functional urban flavor than our current stretch, following the Wisconsin & Southern rail corridor for much of its length and crossing a number of streets. The path will be at the outer edge of the corridor, separated from the tracks by a fence. Trains will be rare and very slow, supplying the UW heating plant or storing cars on the tracks.

Access points along the path will include Randall, Orchard, Spring, Charter, Mills, N. Brooks, Murray, W. Washington, Main and Doty, most of them at-grade crossings. The only major arterial, W. Washington, will be narrowed and median islands added to make crossing easier. Access at S. Park St. may be added in the future, possibly when the existing bridge is replaced.

According to city path planner (and neighbor) Tony Fernandez, the path is scheduled to be completed by November. For more information contact him at 266-4751.



Garlic Mustard Pull



Glenwood Children's Park and Ped/Bike Path

Saturday, April 30
9:00 am to Noon

Meet: at the kiosk at the intersection of Glenway St and the Ped/Bike Path

Bring: water to drink, gloves and a trowel if you wish

Provided: bags and a light snack

Questions: call 258 9437

*Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an invasive exotic plant that is displacing natural vegetation in this area.

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Please Join Us...

DMNA Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social

Following a pie and ice cream social
a short business meeting will be
highlighted by election of officers.

David Keller of Monroe Neighbors,
LLC will then talk
about the Monroe
Commons
development
and answer
questions you
might have.
Perhaps we
will learn the
name of the
grocery selected for
the development at
this time.

As you probably
know Wingra School
is negotiating to purchase the
Dudgeon School building from the
city. They will make a short
presentation of their plans.

Attend the meeting and learn more
about two of the most significant
developments in many years to
affect our neighborhood.

**To volunteer for this event, or
other Social Committee events
contact Mary Jo Croake at
231-1406 maryjo@terracom.net
or Ann McDermott at 233-6273**



Saturday
April 30, 2005

Dudgeon Commons (Dudgeon School), 3200 Monroe Street

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

2:00 PM

PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

2:45

BUSINESS MEETING

Election of officers

Other business

3:15

UPDATE ON MONROE COMMONS

David Keller, Monroe Neighbors, LLC

4:00

PRESENTATION BY WINGRA SCHOOL
of proposed purchase of Dudgeon School

4:30

Adjourn formal meeting.

TIME FOR MORE SOCIALIZATION





SPRING 2005



HELP US TAME OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CARS WITH YARD SIGNS

The DMNA Transportation Committee is as usual scheduling a variety of "Small Actions" on neighborhood streets this year to remind drivers to slow down and yield to pedestrians. These will probably include putting out yard signs asking drivers to slow down, watch for pedestrians, and yield to them in the crosswalk.

Because a city ordinance prevents us from placing signs on the terrace between the sidewalk and the street, we need to briefly put yard signs saying "Slow Down, Watch for Kids!" on residents' lawns close to the sidewalk. Because they stand on slender wires, they will do no damage to your lawn. We ask any neighborhood resident who does NOT want signs in his/her yard to call 238-5612 so we can put you on our "don't put them here" list. Thanks for helping, everyone else! Also, please call the above number if you want to help in other ways, or if you have questions about the program.

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DRIVE 25 TAKES A VILLAGE

The DMNA Transportation Committee needs your help, neighbor, in a way that takes only minutes a day, requires no training, and is easy to do!

A large resident survey identified crossing Monroe Street and traffic speed as #1 and #2 problems in the neighborhood some years ago. We keep plugging along toward solving those problems. We have done a lot, but more must be done to keep drivers passing through the 'hood down to a legal, safe speed.

We need all neighborhood residents' help to make dramatic progress. We ask every DMNA resident that drives down Monroe to watch your speedometer like a hawk and keep it under 30. Research shows that if as few as 15% of drivers continue to model a certain behavior, they will gradually win over the other 85%. And we know that nearly half of the drivers on Monroe Street are us. We can do this!

Speed really does kill — as well as discourage walkers, transit riders and bikers, all vital for the healthy, livable neighborhood that is our goal. A walker hit by a car at 20 mph nearly always walks away with only minor injuries; hit at 40 mph, a pedestrian nearly always dies (85%). And drivers generally underestimate the time it takes to react and stop — it increases geometrically, from 40 feet to 120 feet between 20 and 40 mph.

A caution: you will have to ignore the inevitable passing drivers. Just let them go by! You are influencing them; don't let them influence you. It gets easier after the first five minutes.

Oh yes, we've asked the police to make an extra effort to watch for speeders this spring and summer, so you may have the satisfaction of watching them get a ticket! Don't let it be yours; come over to the white-hat side of the ledger and "Drive 25".



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Get out the Garlic Mustard!!!

It's spring and that means it's garlic mustard time.

Garlic mustard is an exotic invader that crowds out our native species. It is a particular problem along the Ped/Bike path and in the Glenwood Children's Park. It also is a problem in the Arboretum.

Every spring this biennial blooms and releases thousands of seeds. We need to pull it before it goes to seed.



**Saturday, April 30
9:00 am...**

We hope to have an army of volunteers meet at the sign on Glenway St. and the Ped/Bike path to pull this noxious plant. If you are lucky enough not to know what it looks like, there will be people who know it all too well who will instruct you. Bags to "bag" the plant will be provided. We will not work beyond 12:00 noon. Beverages and light refreshments will be provided.

If you have questions or would like to help organize this effort call Margaret Nelson at 258-9437

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PUBLICATIONS

Kathy Madison . .238-3533

HORNBLOWER

Editor

Scott Webb257-3693

Ad Coordinator

Judi K-Turkel . .231-1003

Distribution

Gretchen Tweitmeyer
.257-8931

D-MNA DIRECTORY

Julie Meyer231-1558

HOME PAGE

Webmaster@DMNA.org

Jane Riley238-6824

TRANSPORTATION

Ann Clark238-5612

Steve Murray . . .238-6824

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LAKE WINGRA and HEALTHY LAWN TEAM

Hannah Harris . . .232-1462
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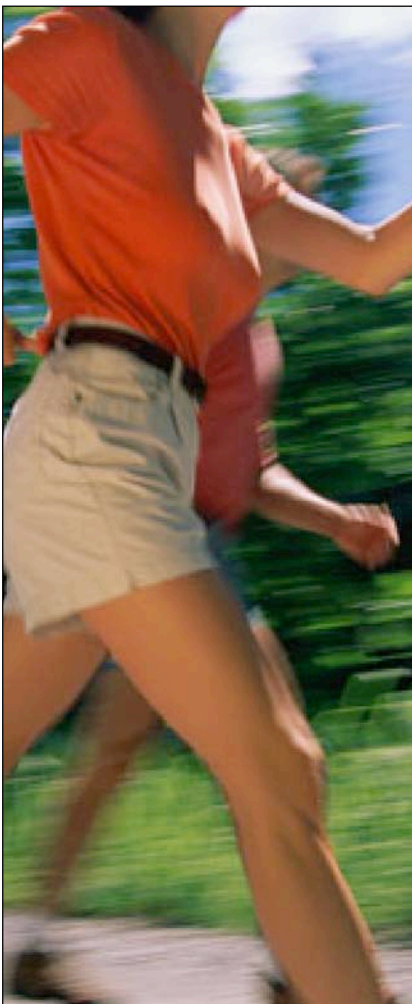
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NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING GROUPS

an Opportunity for Conversation, Company and Health



The DMNA Transportation Committee is inviting those interested to help start a neighborhood walking group or groups. The benefits are many, including a chance to:

- Meet people in the neighborhood
- Get some fresh air while discovering the beauty of our one-of-a-kind neighborhood
- Burn some calories and get ready for that old bathing suit or shorts!

Walking is one of the best ways to ease weight off permanently, and that's only one of its multiple health benefits. Moderate exercise like walking reduces the risk of diabetes, stroke and heart disease. Furthermore, it now appears that walking is also effective in staving off depression in all and dementia in the elderly.

Studies also show that most people tend to stick with an exercise program if it has a social component, so...

Here's Our Invitation. . .

If you'd like to meet friends and walk our scenic neighborhood at your own pace for health, fitness, and fun, we will meet at

Victor Allen's on Monroe St. at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, May 1
for a kickoff walk and to briefly discuss the schedule for additional walks.

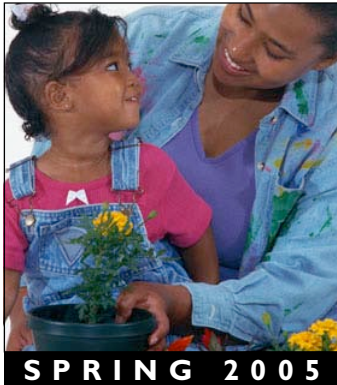
In the event of rain, we will meet Saturday, May 7, same time and place.

We expect to work toward subdividing the group for people who prefer to walk on weekdays, or are especially fast or slow, but the choice is yours. The neighborhood Web site calendar will list future walking dates, and neighborhood resources for walkers include pedometers to loan, possible historic or nature walking tours, but in the end, will respond to walkers' desires.

If you are interested but cannot attend (or want a reminder just before the event), email or call Tom Bozzo and Suzanne Lee at abozzo@midplains.net, 231-1236. Give it a try.

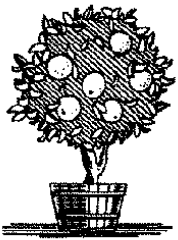
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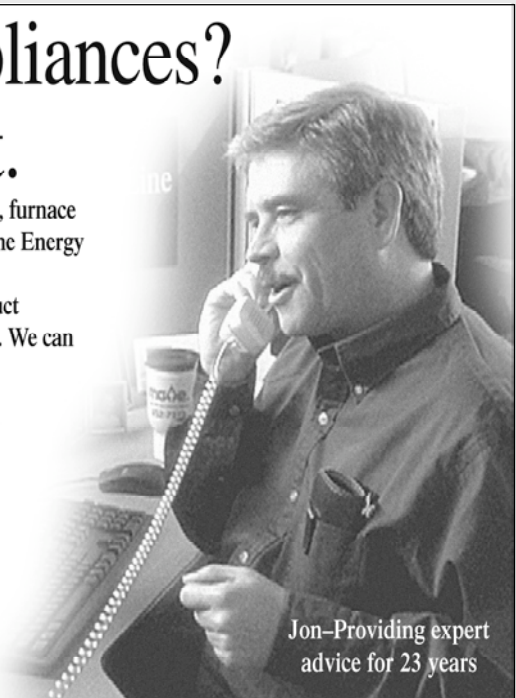
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