



THE

Hornblower

Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association

SUMMER 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 19: LAKE WINGRA CLEANUP
9:30-Noon at Wingra Boats (see insert)

JUNE 19: JAZZ IN THE PARK
12:00-8:00 p.m. at Wingra Park (see article and insert)

JUNE 19: GLEN SOLSTICE BONFIRE
6-10 p.m. at Glenwood Children's Park Council Ring

JUNE 20: MIDWEST LOG ROLLING CHAMPIONSHIP
11:00, 2:00, 2:30 at Wingra Park

JULY 3: CHILDREN'S PARADE AND PICNIC
10:00-12:30 Michaels' Frozen Custard and Wingra Park

SW PATH GARDENING WORK PARTIES
June 19, 9:30-11:00
July 17, 9:30-11:00
August 21, 9:30-11:00

GLENWOOD CHILDREN'S PARK WORK DAYS
June 12, 9:00-12:00
July 24, 9:00-12:00

www.dmna.org

19th Jazz in the Park on the 19th!

By Tyler Leeper, Chair

The DMNA, with great support from our neighborhood merchants, invite you to join us for a great day of music, activities and food! That's right--on Saturday, June 19th, JAZZ IN THE PARK returns to Wingra Park.

We are excited with the lineup we have put together for the 19th Annual Jazz in the Park festival.

9:30 a.m. Lake Wingra Clean Up Get a free boat and help clean up Lake Wingra. Sponsored by Wingra Boats and Friends of Lake Wingra.

12:00 p.m. Kids Crafts with the Monroe Street Fine Arts Center and guest appearance by Fire Engine #9.

Log Rolling Open House Wear your bathing suit and see how long you can stay atop a spinning log, and possibly get the chance to dump world champion Shana Martin in the lake. Sponsored by Madison

Log Rolling Club.

Stand Up Paddle Board Open House Get the opportunity to try the fastest growing paddle sport with expert paddler Gary Stone. Sponsored by Paddle Board Specialists and Wingra Boats.



Photo - Kathy Lederhause

2:30 p.m. Edgewood College Jazz Ensemble will take the stage and kick off the afternoon of jazz. So bring your lawn chairs and settle in for a great afternoon.

4:00-5:30 p.m. Dance Lessons Get off your chairs and join the Fred Astaire Dance Studio who will demonstrate and teach everyone how to "get down"!

6:00-8:00 p.m. Tony Castaneda Latin Jazz Sextet whose fantastic music will play into the evening.

We hope you will join us for some or all of the events and bring your friends, family, co-workers, stranger from down the street and boogie down for a day at Wingra Park! Mark your calendars now!

Summer Solstice Observance

By Margaret Nelson, Parks Committee

Join your neighbors on Saturday, June 19, to celebrate the summer solstice at Glenwood Children's Park any time from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will be a bonfire at the council ring along with fixings for s'mores. If you wish, bring hot

dogs and drinks. We will have skewers for roasting. All ages are welcome. We promise a delightful mid-summer night.





SUMMER 2010

The Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association's Hornblower is published four times a year

•
Article deadline for the next issue: July 12
Contact Aileen Nettleton
Hornblower@dmna.org

•
Ad Deadline: July 9
Contact Christina Kantor
Hornblowerads@dmna.org

•
The next issue should be on doorsteps by early September

•
For information about DMNA contact: Lynn Pitman, DMNA President, at president@dmna.org

•
This and previous issues of the Hornblower are available at www.dmna.org

•
Visit www.dmna.org for additional information about the Association.

•
Sign up for news and events: www.dmna.org/maillist.shtml

www.dmna.org

Dear Neighbors

A Letter From Your DMNA President

Our neighborhood is a great place to live. There are the parks and Lake Wingra to connect us to nature, the local businesses along Monroe Street that provide us with the goods and services to keep our lives going, and the unique houses and yards that we make home. We're close to the university and some of the places that make Madison special – and you can walk, bus or bike from our neighborhood to many of them.

But, of course, those neighborhood features are also a reflection of the people – past and present – who live here. Our neighborhood association has been the umbrella organization for the enthusiasms and interests that have led to Jazz in the Park and traffic flags, the 4th of July parade and prairie plantings along the bike path. The association also represents a neighborhood

perspective to the city on development and traffic issues.

The neighborhood association is a wonderful way to meet fellow Dudgeon-Monroe residents, follow an interest, and participate in the issues and activities that affect our neighborhood. You don't need past

experience or even a lot of time. As neighbors, we all have perspectives that can contribute to keeping our neighborhood a great place to live.

Council meetings are open to all. If you're interested in learning more about association activities, you can contact a committee chair or email me at president@dmna.org. I look forward

to hearing from you. See you at Jazz in the Park!

Lynn Pitman, President
Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association



New Vice President (past president) Janet Niewold and New President (past VP) Lynn Pitman - photo by Shirley Lake

Welcome Neighbor!

DMNA delivers "Welcome Kits" to new residents. They include the DMNA Exploring Your Neighborhood booklet and other items. If you are new in the neighborhood and haven't received yours, or if you are

a block captain with unreported new residents, please contact Kathleen Engebretson at 238-1630 or kae610@att.net



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DMNA Annual Meeting

By Mary Erdman

This year's annual DMNA meeting held on a sunny April Sunday included pie, officer elections, a Glenwood Children's Park presentation from Peter Nause and a neighborhood challenge from MG&E.

Outgoing council president and incoming vice president, Janet Niewold, reflected that living in our neighborhood is like living in our old houses. Just as we need to pay attention to the old houses, we need to pay attention to our neighborhood, "tweaking the drips."

Next, Tom Huber nominated the DMNA Council officers who were unanimously voted in for the upcoming year:

President: Lynn Pitman
Vice President: Janet Niewold
Treasurer: Al Nettleton
Secretary: Marcia Diamond

Jane Albert, in action serving pie at the meeting, will become the new Social Committee Chair. A representative from MG&E shared information about the Green Power Neighborhood Challenge. Cash prizes of \$1000 and \$500 will be awarded to the two neighborhoods with the highest percentage increases in Green Power Tomorrow participation between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 2010. Check out <http://www.mge.com/environment/green/greenpower/neighborhoods.htm> for more information.

To end the annual meeting, Peter Nause shared his historical power point presentation of Glenwood Children's Park entitled "What Has Jens Jensen Done for You Lately?" Peter's passion for the Parks Committee and Jens Jensen shone through. Thanks, Peter!

July 4th Kids' Parade & Picnic

By Sarah Affeldt and Kristi Stanton

Get those bikes, wagons and strollers shined up and ready to go! Last year's return of the children's parade was so much fun we just have to do it again. Come join us Saturday, July 3, to watch the decorated wheels flaunt their stuff as the kids roll into Wingra Park. Bring a picnic lunch, blanket and perhaps something to share and the celebration can continue with your neighbors and friends.

When: Saturday, July 3, 2010

Where: Michael's Frozen Custard to decorate bikes, wagons and strollers. Decorating supplies will be available for those who need them. The parade will end in Wingra Park for games and a neighborhood picnic.

Times:

10:00 – 10:45am Decorating in the Michael's lot

10:45 – 11:00am Parade to Wingra Park

11:00 – 12:30pm Lawn games for kids of all ages and a picnic lunch on the lawn at Wingra Park. We are also hoping to have a return visit from the Madison Fire Department's Engine No. 4.

Looking to join in the fun? We'd love to

have you. Here are a few ways to help us with this year's event:

- Volunteer to hang up event posters around the neighborhood
- Help arrange music for this year's parade
- Sign up to bring a yard game – and maybe even get an organized game started at the picnic
- Bring a snack, dessert or side salad to share with your neighbors at the picnic
- Help with set-up the morning of the event
- Volunteer to clean-up the Michael's lot when decorating has concluded

Please e-mail Sarah Affeldt with any questions or if you would like to volunteer at sarahaffeldt@gmail.com. We hope to see you on July 3rd for food, fun and a chance to relax with friends!

Thank you to the following neighborhood businesses who have already signed on to help support our event – **Michael's Frozen Custard, Trader Joe's and Mango Girl Design.**

Please check the DMNA website in June for more details regarding this event!

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New Monroe St. Library Complex Proposed

By Michael Florek, Planning and Zoning Committee

There are two current issues related to zoning and development worthy of our attention. The first project is a proposal for a development to include a new Monroe Street Branch Library. The plan is proposed by Jerry Connery of Connery-Fedler Building and Design, located in Sun Prairie. Jerry, his architect and lawyer attended a DMNA meeting to take the first step in unveiling his proposal. He plans to build at the corner of Monroe Street that is currently occupied by the library, a parking lot and the old Futon store. While planning is in the very early stages, he proposes to build a 3-4 story mixed use building to house a larger library and retail space on the first floor, underground parking, and 1-3 bedroom apartments on upper floors.

Jerry Connery's presentation to the DMNA Council was received positively by most members. Mr. Connery understands his plan must pass the scrutiny of the DMNA Council before it can be approved by the city. Gary Brink is the project architect and has offered his e-mail, www.garybrink.com, as a way to ask questions or make suggestions. The Planning and Zoning Committee will attend any meetings set when Mr. Connery begins to unveil his plan. There were some preliminary concerns about the traffic flow

and parking configuration. The P&Z committee will represent the DMNA and report on the process at DMNA Council meetings.

The other project is at 1501 Monroe St. across from Camp Randall. The DMNA Planning and Zoning Committee attended many meetings with the developer and city planners to make sure the project stayed within the guidelines of the Monroe Street Plan. As we can all see, work on the new "Boutique Hotel" has completely stopped. The owner is trying to attract another buyer to take over and complete the development, but there have been no takers yet. The development is dead in the water until a new owner comes forward or the current developer can get new financing. So far the development is a far cry from what we hoped and worked for over the better part of a year.

Over the past four years the city of Madison has been in the process of developing new zoning regulations. The bottom line is that they intend to take into account the cultural and architectural idiosyncrasies of the Dudgeon-Monroe area, as well as utilizing the Monroe Street Plan developed several years ago. View the new code and specifics of the plan at: www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/zoning/rewrite

Wingra Park Orchard: Vote, Start Small, Keep Growing

By Percy Mather, Parks Committee

Wingra Park is still in competition for free fruit trees through voting at www.madisonfruitsandnuts.org. On the first of each month until September, the five sites with the most votes will win free trees. Be sure to vote once each day! Many thanks for all who have been voting since the contest began. On May 1, we had the most votes of the four Madison sites even though we have no community garden.

Stop by Wingra Park and meet the dozen new residents consisting of fruit trees, currant bushes and hazelnut shrubs that are settling in to their new home. You will see that half the trees are surrounded by mulch

and companion plants which are part of a system of gardening called permaculture. These "guild" plants will create a balance of nutrients to reduce the need for watering and fertilizer. We will compare the trees receiving the permaculture treatment to the conventional mulch.

We had hoped to include a public garden as part of the orchard, but that is postponed until 2011. The Parks Department is working with citizen committees to develop procedures for the use of park space for edible landscaping. The Parks Department has a list of approved plants. Now we need an

continued on page 5

Action on the Path

By Sandy Stark, SW Path Chair

Your DMNA SW Path Committee has reviewed what we've done and what we'd like to do. We have a number of shared interests this season and some groups already in place to take advantage of this. We're ready to have more fun as well. For example, join us for tours of the prairies along the path during butterfly season!

2010 Activities:

1. Our first official work project was in April at Odana Prairie. We cut back the winter's taller grasses and stalks to make room for spring growth and to remove invasive tree saplings.
2. We will remain focused on tidying up and improving the Glenway Prairie site and restoring the wildflower garden di-

rectly across the path from the prairie.

3. There's also an attack team for Project Knotweed, led by Robin Ryan, and one for buckthorn and honeysuckle, headed by Steve Glass, our naturalist/restoration go-to guy. The goal is to put a dent in these invasives so we can establish more pockets of native plants, both flowers and shrubs, along the path.
4. Folks who live close to the Prospect ramp have joined forces, and Steve Arnold of the Regent Neighborhood Association Green Space Committee has a small grant to improve a section of that ramp area this year, with the DMNA Path Committee as a working partner.
5. Percy Mather has a dual interest in

edible landscaping (nuts, fruits or raspberries, anyone?) and the Virginia Terrace/Fox/Sheldon ramp area's future, if neighbors would like to tackle that.

The regular schedule of the path work crews is the 3rd Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.- noon, earlier as the weather warms up. Signs will be posted at the work sites with information and on the web calendar at www.dmna.org or contact Sandy Stark, sestark@wisc.edu or 255-4195.

What Has Jens Jensen Done for You Lately?

By Percy Mather

Jens Jensen (1860-1951) was a renowned landscape architect who created much of the Chicago Park System and was one of the first to use native species in garden design. You may associate his name with two neighborhood features: Glenwood Children's Park and the Kenneth Jensen Wheeler Memorial Council Ring. As we learned from Peter Nause at the DMNA Annual Meeting, we have much more we can learn from Jensen about our relationship to nature. His long career includes writings with references to what we understand today as regional ecology, environmental education, and horticultural therapy.

Jensen was born to a wealthy Danish family and educated in the folk school tradition of crafts, music and dance. He and his wife left for America, settling in Chicago by 1885. In Chicago he was the superintendent of 200-acre Humboldt Park. He helped establish the Cook County Forest Reserve. He designed Garfield Park and Conservatory, Douglas, Grant, and Columbus Parks. Jensen's park designs showcased native species and used sunlight and shadow to create visual interest. He recognized the regenerative powers of

nature and believed that everyone benefited from exposure to natural landscapes and gardening. One of his parks even included a children's garden where fresh vegetables were grown by local children.

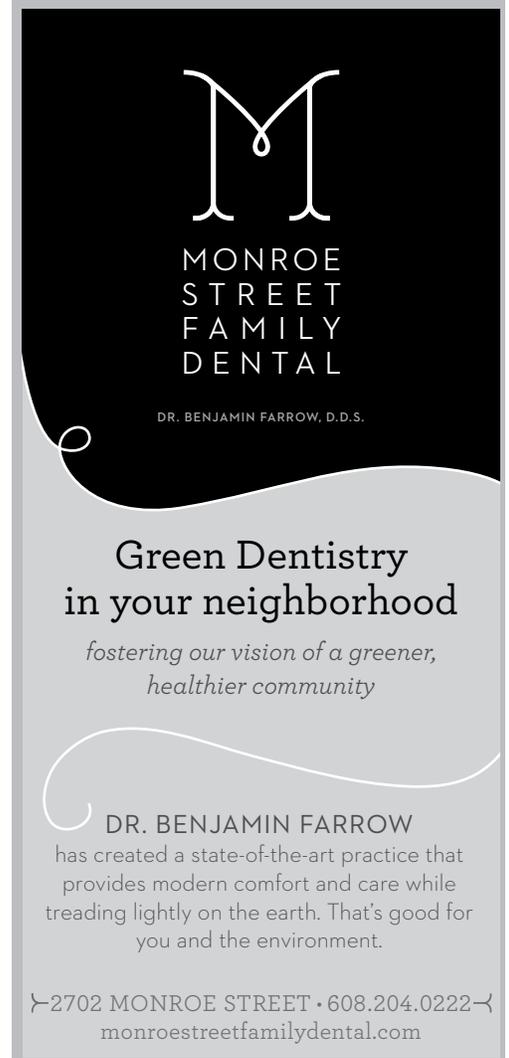
Jensen's impact went far beyond establishing the outstanding Chicago Park System. Jensen was also an articulate social visionary whose friends included Carl Sandburg, Jane Addams, Frank Lloyd Wright and Stephen Mather, father of the national park system. Jensen organized live performances in natural settings. Outdoor performances of music and dance attracted tens of thousands of people to the Indiana Dunes.

Eventually, Jensen retired to Door County and established The Clearing in 1935 as an American folk school. Jensen did his Madison projects late in life. He installed the Wheeler Council Ring to commemorate his grandson who died as a young man. Glenwood Children's Park was his last designed work. If you find yourself walking by either site, think of Jens Jensen, one of the great park designers who brought these features into being.

Orchard

cont. from page 4

application which neighborhood volunteers can use to apply for permission to plant and maintain gardens in public spaces. If you have ideas of potential locations for fruit tree or garden spaces, please contact Percy Mather at seidmath@merr.com or 233-1955.



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Neighborhood News Briefs

Orange Tree Celebrates 35 Years!

Orange Tree Imports celebrated its 35th anniversary in May. The shop, which was originally a branch of the Scandinavian furniture store Bord & Stol, is co-owned by Dean and Carol "Orange" Schroeder and run as a participative democracy by a staff of about 30 part-time and full-time employees. Orange is the founder and chair of the Monroe Street Merchants Association. Congratulations, Orange, Dean, and staff!

YSP Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Young Shakespeare Players, a non-profit theater company primarily for 7-18 year-olds, turns 30 this summer. Staging 10-12 major productions annually, YSP performs year-round. Still to be performed this summer are Shaw's Don Juan in Hell, Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Fall will bring a new production of Othello, as well as a dramatic reading of Dickens' Bleak House, and the Adult Shakespeare Circle's King Richard II. All performances are free and open to the public and take place in the YSP Playhouse, 1806 West Lawn Ave.

We extend our congratulations to the commitment of Young Shakespeare Players to the young people of our community and to keeping "The Bard" alive for coming generations. Contact the Young Shakespeare Players, www.ysp.org or 258-0015, for details.

Wingra School Replacing 1920's Era Boiler

The summer of 2010 will be another busy one for Wingra School as they replace their current 1927 steam boiler system (think old locomotive engines!) with a new energy efficient hot water system. The new HVAC system will not only improve the air quality and increase the value of the building, it will be dependable!

In 2007, Wingra School bought the former Dudgeon School building through the generosity of an anonymous donor group. The benefactors offered Wingra School additional funding to refurbish and upgrade the building as a matching opportunity, according to Wingra School Director Paul Brahce. The funding for this \$800,000 boiler project will come from the current capital campaign which is nearing its first million in fund raising.

With the upgrading of windows and doors in 2008 and the new

HVAC system in 2010, Wingra School continues to bring its beautiful 20th century building into the 21st century.

Dardenelles Restaurant Closes

We extend a fond farewell to the Dardenelles Restaurant and owner Barbara Wright, which closed at the end of April after 13 years on Monroe Street. Barbara was presented with proclamations by Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and County Executive Kathleen Falk in recognition of her service to the community. She was an active leader in the "Buy Local" and local restaurants movements. We will miss your tasty Middle Eastern menus and wish you well.

Ancora Coffee Roasters

Neighbors near Ancora will miss the friendly atmosphere with the moving of Ancora Coffee Roasters from Monroe Street to another location in July. According to a Cap Times article, the business wants to expand beyond the limits possible in the current building.

Coming: Lakeshore Improvements at Wingra Boats

The City Parks Division has announced plans to rebuild the shoreline access to Lake Wingra at the boat dock. Construction is slated for October and November. Watch for further developments.

Burkhalter Travel Branch Closing

Monroe Street is losing one of its oldest businesses, the Monroe Street branch of Burkhalter Travel, which will be closing sometime in the next few months. In addition to the friendly services they have provided as travel agents, they have been active in the Monroe Street Festival, providing balloons and popcorn to passersby.

Midwest Log Rolling Championships

The 6th Annual Midwest Log Rolling Championships will be held at Wingra Park on Sunday, June 20. The best log rollers and boom runners in the world meet up in Madison for this daylong event. The amateur events begins at 11:00 a.m., followed by the celebrity division around 2:00 p.m. and the professional log rolling event around 2:30. The event is free for spectators and there will be a log open for new rollers to try out the sport.



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Glenwood Children's Park Forestry Plan

By Margaret Nelson

Under the capable direction of Dina Corigliano the DMNA Parks Committee applied for, received and successfully completed a DNR Urban Forestry Grant this past year. This enabled us to have a forest management plan developed for the Glenwood Children's Park by Stephenson Tree Care, Inc.

All trees with a diameter of six inches or more (244 trees) have been given a blue identification tag. This tag number identifies the location, species, size and condition of the tree. Unfortunately, the predominant tree in the park, 30% of all evaluated trees, is the invasive black locust. This tree is not native to our area. It spreads by seeds and suckers from the roots, shading out more desirable trees. Ultimately, we may want to eliminate this tree from the park completely, but the seven year management plan addresses safety and disease issues only. Other predominant trees in the park are hackberry (24%), elm (18%), and black walnut (7%). More diversity is desirable.

The first five years of the plan address trees which are poten-

tial hazards to the public. These trees are then prioritized by high traffic areas. The shallow soil depth in this old sandstone quarry has made some fallen trees inevitable each year. We hope to prevent this by being pro-active.

We expect 19 tree removals this year, probably in the winter. We hope these will be done by the City Forestry Division. Over the next five years 49 hazardous trees are suggested for removal. This represents 20% of the park's trees. This will open up the canopy considerably and will be more in keeping with Jens Jensen's original vision, but will change the park's feeling and ecology.

Years six and seven will involve trees that need pruning, have potential safety issues, interfere with other more desirable trees, or are near power lines. All trees removals for the next seven years have been identified. However, we hope to have a yearly walk-through with a forester to identify new areas of concern such as diseases or instability.

Exploring with Kids

By Aileen Nettleton

Summer is a great time for families to explore the gems of nature hidden right in our neighborhood. We now enjoy showing some of our unique natural sites to our grandchildren that we used to visit with our own kids. At the amazing Ho-Ne-Um Spring they get to see sparkling water come straight out of the rocks. This is one of the remaining springs that feeds Lake Wingra. You can locate the trail to the spring along the edge of the pond by Arbor Drive. Continue on the path south to just below the Council Ring across from Dudgeon Center. When you come to the small bridge, look to the right for the spring.

Another special treat is to paddle quietly in a canoe along the southwest shore of Lake Wingra. If we're lucky we spot a turtle or great blue heron among the reeds. Kids can also get a close-up view of water life on the Edgewood College Boardwalk. The boardwalk extends along the edge of the lake just



below the Mazzuchelli Laboratory building. You can lie on your belly to observe water bugs and fish among the reeds at the edge of the lake. Just bike or walk down Woodrow and the Park and Pleasure Drive to the lab and take the trail down to the boardwalk. On the path, watch for a bear mound and "secret spring."

The revitalized Glenwood Children's Park, down the hill on the southeast side of Glenway at the SW Path offers rock outcroppings for kids to climb and woods to explore. Just across the street, the recently planted prairie at Glenway and the SW Path displays colorful native prairie flowers throughout the summer and fall. Insects and butterflies make their homes here, as well.

Thanks to the efforts of our DMNA committees and volunteers, the UW Arboretum, Friends of Lake Wingra, and Edgewood College for restoring and maintaining these treasures!

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Summertime

We all enjoy extended daylight and spending more time outdoors during the summer months. To keep summer healthy, safe, and enjoyable everyone, we offer some tips to remind each of us of ways to think about our neighbors as we enjoy summer life:

- Watch for kids at driveways and in streets.
- Slow down for pedestrians and bicyclers. It is especially important to completely stop at all stop signs and allow pedestrians the right of way at crossings.
- Keep dogs on leashes on sidewalks, the bike path, and trails along the bike path. Dogs are required to be leashed when off the owner's property.
- Cats must also be kept on a leash when off the owner's property. Backyard "cat tunnels" may be useful with supervision.
- "Scoop the Poop." Be sure to pick up your dog's waste.
- Keep your dog from barking. If it barks in the backyard, bring the dog indoors, and if necessary, close your windows.
- Keep the volume down. Your music may be your neighbors' distraction.
- Before using a fire pit, check with neighbors to see if it is OK. Do they have asthma or allergies which may be triggered by smoke? Open fires must meet city codes, including not creating a nuisance to other's property or health.

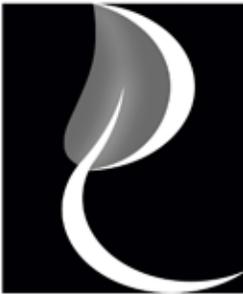
Summer also offers many opportunities to get to know your neighbors better. You may wish to:

- Share extra plantings or produce from your yard or garden with a neighbor.
- Get to know the kids on your block as they ride or run back and forth.
- Invite a neighbor or neighbors to a backyard barbecue.

Our homes are located very close to each other, which gives each of us the responsibility to think about how we impact each other. We can all work together to keep our neighborhood the safe, friendly, and vibrant community in which to live.

City of Madison codes: www.cityofmadison.com/fire/prevention/pdf/Outdoor_OpenBurn.pdf

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Plan Your Own Block Party

By Jane Albert, Social Committee Chair

Block parties are a tradition on several blocks in our neighborhood to bring together families with food and activities. Our West Lawn block starts planning in May with a survey to set the date. We set the date for a Saturday around the end or beginning of the school year when more people are home, with a rain date on the Sunday, and distribute notices to publicize the date.

One person applies for the permit to block off the street. The form is available from the City Clerk's office or online. The "permit person" collects signatures for the permit and \$5 per family for the fee and submits the form and fee at least 2 weeks in advance of the block party. (Check the permit requirements if you are on a bus route.) Someone with a van picks up and returns the barricades to block off the street. We hang a BLOCK PARTY sign on the barricades.

We have a meeting to organize the event. Families are asked to

plan an activity or game. For little ones, we include sidewalk chalk and Legos on a blanket. Relay races such as balancing an egg on a spoon and running from one place to another, or hanging donuts from a string and eating them without using hands are popular with kids. We have a volleyball net strung across the street for on-going games and kids enjoy riding their bikes in the street.

The party begins with a parade of kids banging pot lids together to gather everyone. We eat in a central location at 6 p.m. We bring grills and neighbors bring their own meat to grill and a dish to pass.

After the picnic, our "techno whiz" Marcia Standiford has organized movies outside and a power point presentation with pictures from previous years' parties. Kids often get together and plan a short skit, as well. We end the day with sparklers, then everyone helps clean up. All agree it is a tradition worth continuing!

The "Reel" Push Mower

By Dorrie Sundquist

Not long after we moved into our house in Georgia, I had a conversation with a neighbor about mowing the lawn. I proudly blabbed on about our reel mower, emphasizing how easy it was to handle and how safe it was, and that its biggest flaw was finding someone to sharpen it.

With the last statement our neighbor looked confused. I have a real mower, he said, and I never have to sharpen it. With that, he proudly rolled out his 20-year-old Toro and cranked it up. "Now this is a REAL mower," he said, shouting over the deafening engine.

By the time we moved to Madison, our neighbor, realizing its benefits, had switched to a reel mower. Some of the benefits include:

- Much less noise.
- Better for the environment because it relies on people power, not gas, oil or electric.
- Self-mulching, because it leaves the clippings where they are cut.
- Great exercise because you, not a gas engine, make it go. (Though it's not really that hard to push.)
- And, according to Glenn Kramer, Manager of the Hilldale

Ace, the reel mower "gives a better cut than power mowers. It cuts like scissors, instead of a round slice."

The potential downside to reel mowers, Kramer also said, is the sharpening of the blades. Although sharpening kits are available for around \$20.00, they are only good for "interim sharpening." "You will have to eventually have them done professionally if you plan to keep the mower for a long time." With the relatively small yards of Dudgeon-Monroe, that might be every five years or so. The Hilldale Ace offers a service where the mower is dropped off and picked up at the store for sharpening. A professional sharpener comes to pick up the mowers.

The Hilldale Ace carries models that range from \$109.99 to \$139.99. Home Depot and Dorn True Value also have a variety of mowers. "We sell far more reel mowers than power mowers," Kramer said. "It's all the attention these days on the environment."

As for my family, our Silent Reel 16 made by Agri Fab has served us fine. I couldn't find it in local hardware stores, but did find it online.

So maybe it's time to trade your real mower for a reel one--your neighbors might thank you.

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Meet Our Earliest Residents

By Ann Clark

This is the time of year when any excuse to walk around the neighborhood is welcome, and Indian mounds make a unique outing. Here is an introduction to the mounds in and around our neighborhood with a little background from Robert Birmingham's popular summary of research, *Indian Mounds of Wisconsin*, to put them in context.

Conical burial mounds, common for millennia in the U.S., eventually were joined from about 800 B.C. to 1200 A.D. in the Upper Midwest by effigy mounds in the shapes of birds, animals, and various water spirits constructed by Native American societies, generically dubbed Woodland Indians. Mounds were usually built in groups and frequently on high ground next to water, perhaps sacred places. Although most include burials or what are probably ritual altars, some do not.

Wisconsin was the center of their production with 15,000-20,000 mounds (now reduced to about 4,000 after plowing, building and looting). Dane County had one of the greatest concentrations of mounds, more than 1,000 of them, many now demolished. Charles Brown, Director of the State Historical Society Museum for many years, is fittingly buried in our Forest Hill Cemetery, one of many locations around the state where he was instrumental in rescuing and inventorying remaining mounds.

Many questions about these effigy mounds remain unanswered, as the story must be deduced from limited physical evidence and the belief systems of contemporary Native Americans. Many believe the

effigy mounds are monumental expressions of an ancient belief system and that they functioned as ceremonial centers used for social, religious, economic and political activities. Perhaps they also represent clan symbols for the ancestors of the Ho-Chunk, long indigenous to the state.

It is thought that with the arrival of cultivated corn, Native Americans began to shift from a nomadic hunting and gathering life to village-based farming as a way of life, and that resulting cultural changes resulted in a steep decline to effigy mound building.

Neighborhood mounds to visit:

Edgewood Mound Group

A linear mound, a headless bear (cut off by the drive), and six conical mounds are visible along Edgewood Drive, with two more near the playground. Remains of two linear mounds and a large bird effigy are near the college library.

Forest Hill Cemetery

Among the graves is an effigy mound group, a goose, two water spirits (also called panthers), and a linear mound. The head of the bird effigy was lost to railroad tracks, now the Southwest Bike Trail.

Vilas Park (Erin and Wingra Streets)

A bird effigy, a linear mound, and six conical mounds remain; others were destroyed.

Vilas Park Circle (1400 to 1500 block of Vilas Ave.)

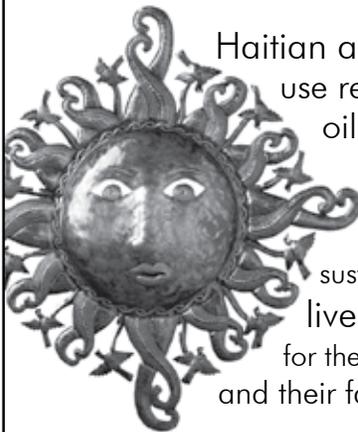
The park was created to save a large bear mound, which was once part of a larger group. A sword was found in its side, evidence that the mound was used for burial in recent times by Native Americans.

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County Supervisor Jeremy Levin Reports

I hope this edition of the Hornblower finds you and your family well. Let me first thank you and say that I'm honored to be entrusted with another 2-year term to serve District 10. I have been appointed to another term on the Health and Human Needs Committee, as well as being appointed to the Board's Executive Committee.

On March 4, the Dane County Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board of Directors held their first meeting, voted for officers and adopted a resolution that says they will not vote to establish a sales tax without the passage of a referendum providing for that sales tax, and also includes a plan for transit. The referendum will be held at a future regularly scheduled election for the RTA area. District 10 resident Steve Hiniker is a member of the RTA Board.

The County Board passed a resolution to support new initiatives for encouraging sustainable agriculture in the county at our April 1 meeting. The Sustainable Agriculture Agenda for Dane County is the result of an 18-month process. A Sustainable Agriculture subcommittee was appointed in the spring of 2009 to set priorities. The subcommittee, co-chaired by District 10 resident Margaret Krome, reviewed recommendations from public work groups on Beginning Farmers, Profitability, Farmland Preservation, and Urban Agriculture and Food Security in formulating its proposal for the Board. Those recommendations include establishment of an incubator farm for new entrepreneurs and an inventory of county lands available for agricultural lease.

As always, please feel free to contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 577-9335 with questions and concerns.

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