

Corona Virus Comes to the Neighborhood

By Ann Clark, Hornblower Co-editor

The morning of the first day of the “Safer at Home” order I walked to the curb for my newspaper and saw, instead of the usual bustle of cars, bikes, dogwalkers and children, an absolutely empty street with a solitary biker pulling his dog on a leash right down the middle of the street. That set the tone, the old familiar neighborhood, but eerily different. Perhaps a moment to think deeply about our basic values

It’s almost a return to a time when neighbors were a big piece of most people’s social milieu. Until the early 70s mothers were home with their children, usually without a car but in a lively social setting. In recent years neighbors’ rela-

tionships have in many cases declined to an occasional nod.

Now I see much more social reaching out—answering hellos and cheerful comments from nearly everyone I encounter. Rainbows and hearts decorate many doors and windows. Chalked

warm sentiments appear on sidewalks. Social contacts continue at 6-foot distances and on Facetime and Zoom, but there is still a great social deficit, especially for those living alone, and a low hum of anxiety hovers over this often

continued on page 3

The Pandemic: Loss and Gain

By Linell Davis, Hornblower Committee

We all know what we have lost in the pandemic lockdown. It can get you down, so take some time to realize what we have gained.

The world is quieter. There is less traffic

on Monroe Street. With fewer cars and trucks, we can hear the birds singing not just in early morning but throughout the day. We hear other sounds of nature, the hum of insects, the flowing of water, and the breeze rustling fallen leaves and tinkling wind chimes. We notice the difference between the pitter-patter of a light rain and the grumble of a thunderstorm. We hear the footfalls of joggers and the play of children on nearly empty streets.

The world has slowed down. With no meetings to attend and no activities for the children, we have more time. Instead of urging family members to keep to the schedule, we have time to listen to their spoken and unspoken words. As we alter the pace of life, we may spend more time preparing and eating meals, taking walks, sitting quietly and meditating. Perhaps unexpectedly, we have time to really see the sun rise and set, to watch the plants emerging in our gardens, to notice the trees leafing out.

Neighbors have taken center stage in our social lives. We are looking out for each

continued on page 5

Fox Avenue at 7 p.m.
Drawing by Emily Balsley



It is 6:55 p.m. and an iPhone alarm goes off to remind me to put on my homemade mask and head out the front door for our block’s nightly sing-a-long. Ever since before the Stay at Home order was issued, we have gathered every night at 7 p.m., rain or shine, to sing a single song together in solidarity against isolation while at least 10 feet apart. After, we briefly share shopping tips and family updates, and occasionally I pass out a homemade mask to someone who needs one. I always return home a little more optimistic after basking in the warm glow of our community, for which I am very grateful. *Lisa Grueneberg, Fox Avenue*



Summer 2020

The Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association's Hornblower is published four times a year to inform neighbors about the activities of the association.

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Hornblower@dmna.org

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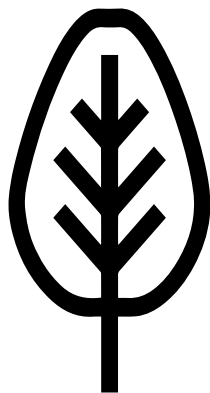
By Rachel Fields

It's hard to know, from my vantage point in late April, where we will be as a community by the time you read this column this summer. Of course I hope that by then, cases will have steadily decreased, testing will have become more widespread, and we will be cautiously relaxing the rules of social distancing. But I suspect that whatever happens, we will be experiencing – at least for the time being – a new normal, not a return to the life we enjoyed last summer.

Facing a summer without our friends and loved ones is hard in the Midwest. We only get a few months of truly warm weather, and it's difficult to imagine summer in Madison without Concerts on the Square, Brat Fest, the 4th of July Parade, and endless other summer festivals and gatherings. I know that even as I write this, the weather is warming up past 60 degrees, and I can feel the itch to get outside, see people, and have a glass of wine on a patio.

As we move toward a summer that will look different from other summers, I'm trying to practice a quiet, daily gratitude for what we do have. I've been amazed by the chalk drawings around the neighborhood and the creativity of parents who are shouldering childcare, work, and the stress of the pandemic. I've seen so many neighbors reaching out to offer masks, uplifting messages, or a trip to the grocery store. And I've come to appreciate small things about being at home: the sturdiness of our dining room table, my new home office, my dog's snores as she sleeps beside me, the beautiful gardens on our street.

As Queen Elizabeth said in her speech to the United Kingdom, we will meet again. By the time you read this, maybe we already have. Either way, I am doing my best to appreciate this time, and learn from it. I hope you and your families are well, and I will see you soon.



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Dudgeon Monroe History Map App

By the History Committee: Ann Clark, Kristen Frost, Peter Gascoyne, Lisa Grueneberg, Dan Prevenas, Char Thompson

Did you ever wonder who or what your street was named after? Curious about the old house around the corner? The History Committee is pleased to announce a new map-based app to help you explore our neighborhood's history: on the go or at home on your computer. Its release this spring seems opportune as it hopefully will add to your enjoyment walking the streets of our historic neighborhood during this time of social distancing. When you download the



app – at dmnahistory.glideapp.io – you will see a map of the neighborhood with almost 100 different red markers indicating places with historic descriptions, from famous homes and landmarks, to street name sources and local businesses. When you click on a marker, and then click on the description immediately below the map, you should see a write-up of a few sentences or paragraphs as well as a current or historic photo.

We would love your feedback! If there's a location and story you'd like to add,

send it along for our review. For the current marked locations, please don't hesitate to let us know of any corrections needed, or additional information you think people would be interested in. Thank you in advance, and enjoy!

App:
dmnahistory.glideapp.io (or use the QR code here)

Send questions, edits and additions to: history@dmna.org

For more information on local history: <https://dmna.org/history>



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Virus *continued from front page*

lethal, poorly understood disease.

Once again, neighbors have a vital role to play. A neighbor, unlike relatives and friends, is right there to notice the mail hasn't been picked up or the lights are out. We are also right there to drop off a casserole, pick up medicine, and help a

neighbor feel he isn't alone, healthy or sick, without risking your own health. The most crucial neighbor action may be in the second week of the virus, when many experience a decline within hours into life-threatening pneumonia.

Daryl Sherman, who has been watching over his neighbors, says "I think people are taking care of each other and I hope it will carry on beyond the era of COVID-19." I heartily agree and

hope we will all exchange contact information with our neighbors and make a point to contact them often. My block organized a buddy system and email network of possible volunteers. The road will likely be long; let's use it to reinvent our lives and build community!



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Neighborhood News Briefs

Monroe Street Strong is the logo designed by Emily Balsley that can be seen in the windows of Monroe Street businesses. It reflects the resilience and support that the members of this community have for each other, and for our local businesses.

Congratulations to Orange Tree Imports on their 45th anniversary serving Dudgeon Monroe and beyond.

"Unprecedented is the most common de-

scription of these times, uncertain seems most descriptive ... we're uncertain how we will operate this summer – and what that means for future years."

These words from Tyler Leeper of Wingra Boats in early April reflect the overall sentiment many of us share.

That being said, businesses are coming up with creative and ever changing ways to keep going. On the occasion of Orange Tree Imports' anniversary they started online ordering and "curbside" pickup, along with limited delivery services.

If you're wondering what a favorite restaurant, shop, or business has available check the COVID-19 page on

www.monroestreetmadison.com, or check individual business websites. As decisions about the postponed Monroe Street Chocolate Walk and the July Sidewalk Sales are made, the merchants association website will provide updates. "When we open, there isn't a single business that won't be fragile, or at least hurting ..." said Carol "Orange" Schroeder, of Orange Tree Imports. Let us continue to support our local businesses now, and when they open again, in any way that we can.

Compiled by Sonia Newmark

What We Don't Know

By Carole Kantor, Hornblower editor

Uncertainty dominates so much of our thinking these days. This summer issue of the Hornblower represents a moment in early May, but has not arrived in your mailbox until early June. As we have seen these past few months, so much can change in our lives in only a month.

Some neighbors are trying to balance careers at home with ensuring their children continue to learn, and often caring for other family members. That caring often morphs into anxiety, especially about relatives who may be staying safer in other

homes, or, in many cases, are receiving care in hospitals or nursing homes. While most people are likely experiencing some emotional effects from social distancing, it is our neighbors who live alone who may be most vulnerable to suffering the effects of social isolation.

While most of us are relatively safe at this time, this stands in stark contrast to so many across our city and many parts of the country. The recognition of our good fortune can lead to unhelpful comparisons and a dismissal of more hidden suffering and sense of loss within ourselves and our neighbors, according to Tracy Lewis, a DM neighbor and psychotherapist.

What is most helpful is striking a balance between honoring personal pain

and loss with an acknowledgement of gratitude for what we do have. Even more helpful is keeping an open heart to others. Tracy emphasizes that remembering we are all in this together, that research shows that simple acts of kindness have a measurable effect on not only the receiver but also the giver. Reaching out to neighbors, especially those who live alone or who have physical limitations with a call or a simple note left at a door goes a long way.

Tracy recommends people read this very helpful New York Times article on cultivating optimism in the face of this scary, difficult moment in time we are all going through:

<https://nyti.ms/3f4VNqp>

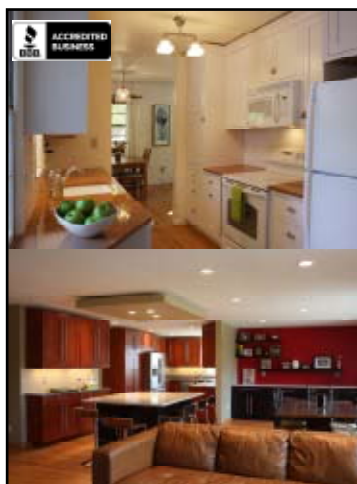
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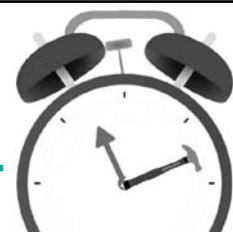


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May You Live In Interesting Times

By Alder Tag Evers

That old saying is just a bit too on the nose. We are now in the second month of Gov. Evers' Safer At Home order. The uncertainty of our situation brings up fear and anxiety, which tests our mettle and strains our composure.

Some reacted in fear, hoarding toilet paper and cleaning out gun shops of rifles, pistols and ammo. That's not our best side, and I dare say few of you in Dudgeon Monroe are so constituted.

There's another old saying I keep coming back to: "Courage is fear that has said its prayers." We have a choice to make. We can react in fear or we can respond in love. Responding in love is what so many of you are doing, reaching out to each other and looking for ways to help, lending a

(washed) hand to those in need.

The virus is no respecter of persons. It spreads opportunistically, which is why we continue to practice this radical measure of social distancing. As we distance ourselves from each other physically, we recommit ourselves to the notion that we are all one, connected by our common humanity.

Meanwhile, we muddle through, confident there will be life after coronavirus. I'm doing my best in these fraught times to assume good intentions and be kind and open-hearted to others. I'm confident you are doing the same. Loneliness can kill, just like the virus. Check up on one another, particularly those you know are vulnerable to anxiety and depression. Same with those facing financial hardship. This

is not the time for anyone to suck it up and go through it alone. We need each other. Human beings are social creatures and it's our tendency toward altruism, not rugged individualism, that gives us an edge in times like these. We are all in this together, and together we will prevail.

For up to date information on coronavirus here in Madison, please go to: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/health-safety/coronavirus>. Sign up for my Alder Blog at cityofmadison.com/council/district13. Be safe. Be well. Be kind.

Pandemic *continued from front page*

other, extending those fortuitous encounters beyond the perfunctory hello. We hear the sincerity in a neighbor's inquiry, how are you? We share our realities with each other. We greatly appreciate offers of facial masks, trips to the grocery store, the delivery of take-out meals and other acts of kindness. We share what we have with others, whether it be time, service, or money.

Life has been distilled to its essence. What we took for granted a few months ago, may be lost or at least radically altered, forcing us to invent our lives anew. That involves suffering, but perhaps also some unexpected gifts.

Monroe Street Merchants Get Creative

- Monroe Street Merchants Association had hundreds of face masks professionally made in Cottage Grove to offer for sale in late April and early May at Neuhauser Pharmacy and through Monroe Street businesses doing curbside pickup. A portion of each sale was earmarked to use for promotions to help Monroe Street's dozens of locally-owned shops, restaurants and service businesses recover from the challenges of shelter-in-place.
- Monroe Street Family Dental sent an email to its clients with a very useful list of what constitutes a "dental emergency."
- Bloom Bake Shop has opened for

onsite/curbside pickup, 2-3 days on given weekends, as they have been able.

- Hive of Madison, in addition to online shopping, partners with its supplier Toad&Co, who supports them by giving a percentage of sales back to Hive when you order with Hive's code.
- Similarly, you can order directly from Mystery to Me bookshop, for curbside pick-up by appointment (for books that they have in stock), or go to Bookshop, through the Mystery to Me portal, and a percentage of the total order goes to Mystery to Me.

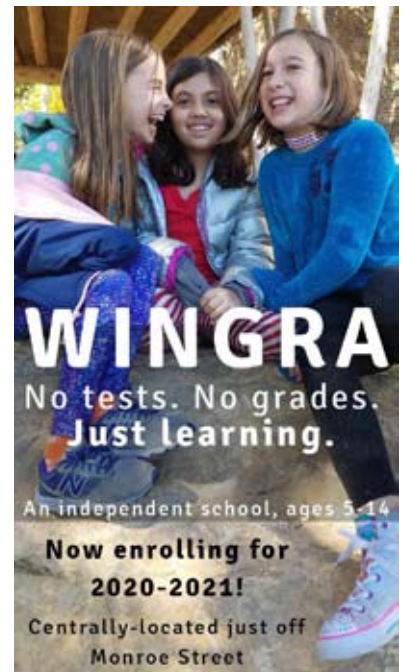
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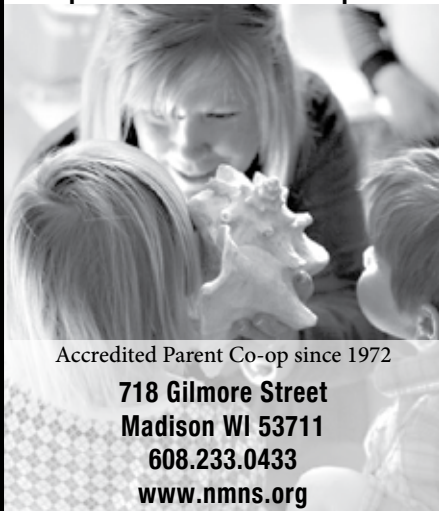


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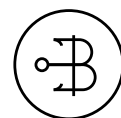
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Or if you KNOW your garlic mustard, tackle and bag on your own. Focus on plants close to or actually blooming and producing seeds, not all the rest!



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See p. 3 for details.