

# Spring Harbor News

October 2006

A publication of the Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association

Serving the area from Shorewood to Middleton and Lake Mendota to Old Middleton Road.

[www.SpringHarborOnline.com](http://www.SpringHarborOnline.com)



## **SHNA Fall Membership Meeting** Tuesday, October 24 At 7:00 P.M. **Spring Harbor Middle School**

*Speaker: Johnny Winston, Jr., President,  
Madison Metropolitan School Board*

Mr. Winston will discuss pertinent school issues affecting our neighborhood: the school board's continuing support for Spring Harbor Middle School, district changes under consideration that will affect some parts of our area, and the school referendum in November. There will be a short question and answer period following his presentation.

Alderman Noel Radomski and County Supervisor Brett Hulsey will give individual reports on issues affecting our neighborhood.

There are a number of motions for consideration by association members regarding the financial status of the Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association. SHNA has grown over the years and the Board recommends that we pursue formal non-profit status. This involves a few changes to the bylaws to fit non-profit rules, a federal and state application, and might require we seek professional assistance on the application process. At the meeting, we will cover what the process involves and vote on actions needed.

Several motions will also be proposed to our bylaws to increase the number of board members to eleven to include the immediate past SHNA president, and to formalize the president act as chair of the Board.

Additionally at our fall membership meeting, Shary Bisgard will summarize the presentation made to the SHNA board on October 5 by city staff. At the board's request, Alderman Noel Radomski invited Mark Olinger, Director of the

city's Planning and Development Department, Brad Murphy, the Planning Unit director and Matt Tucker, the zoning administrator, to discuss the process the city uses to approve redevelopment proposals on the lakefront and harbor so that the board could better understand how the city's current shoreland zoning ordinance is implemented. An invitation to attend the meeting was sent via the SHNA email list and there was a substantial turnout.

City staff also described a proposed neighborhood conservation district ordinance which the Plan Commission and the Common Council will consider this fall. A question and answer period followed the staff presentation. Since the proposed conservation overlay will be voluntary and requires consensus, the board does not currently plan to continue discussion of this ordinance.

If you are interested in learning more about the meeting, the minutes will be posted on the SHNA website in a few weeks.

### **Halloween Party Canceled This Year**

We regret to announce there will be no SHNA-sponsored children's Halloween party because no one volunteered to chair the event. We'd be delighted to again sponsor a Halloween party for our neighborhood's children in 2007. In order to continue this event, however, we need either one or several individuals to take responsibility for hosting the party, and other volunteers willing to help.

If you would be willing to chair/co-chair the children's Halloween party next year, email Shary Bisgard at [sharybisgard@charter.net](mailto:sharybisgard@charter.net) or call her at 233-1238.



## **Madison School Board Update** *by President Johnny Winston, Jr.*

Over the past few months, the Madison School Board has made several major decisions that affected district policy. As school board president, I know these decisions have an effect on our students, staff and community. I would like to give you an update on these decisions.

First, the board unanimously passed the \$333 million dollar budget for the 2006-07 school year. Notable budget amendments included the 5<sup>th</sup> grade student strings program to be offered two times per week; restoration of some of the elementary library pages; a high school program for struggling students called "Connect" and the purchase of a garbage truck to end the threat of privatization of this service. In addition, the board also approved community services funding for Kasjiab House and the Gay Straight Alliances for Safe Schools. This year, because of state imposed revenue limits, the board cut around \$6 million dollars from the operating budget.

These cuts have a negative effect on our school district. The Madison Metropolitan School District, like every other public school district in this state, has a very difficult challenge with the state imposed revenue limits. The revenue limits allow a district to increase spending by only 2.6% every year. The percentage of everything else needed to operate the school district such as salaries, benefits, equipment, textbooks and utilities continue to increase beyond 2.6%. This leaves a "gap" in the budget, which in order to make up, means the district has to cut services or ask local taxpayers to increase their property taxes for operating expenses to exceed the revenue cap via voter referendum. The board also has to ask voters to approve new building projects as well, which will happen this fall.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, a \$23.5 million building referendum will be on the ballot. This referendum is a long-range solution to alleviate overcrowding in the West and Memorial high school attendance areas. If voters approve the referendum, a new elementary school will be built in Linden Park (far west side); money will be available outside of the operating budget to pay for a much needed cafeteria and remodeling of the over-capacity Leopold elementary school and the refinancing of past building loans to provide some relief under the revenue limits to reduce the amount of budget cuts the following year. The fiscal impact for an average Madison home of \$239,400 will mean raising school district taxes an extra \$29.21 a year.

The board also made other policy decisions. A wellness policy was developed that will prohibit the sale of soft drinks at local high schools in favor of milk, bottled water and 100% juices. It will also stop the sale of junk food during the school day that puts school cafeterias in competition with school stores or vending machines. The board also approved advertising and sponsorship policies that could generate much needed revenue for programs which are often most vulnerable to budget cuts. Lastly, the board approved a policy that allows animals to be used in the classroom by teachers in their educational curriculum but also protects students that have allergies or other safety concerns.

In closing, good policymaking is important. A strong school district is essential to the vitality of our community. Madison is a wonderful place and studies have shown that Madison schools consistently rank as one of the top reasons why people want to live here. Thank you for your interest and support of the Madison Metropolitan School District.

## Thank You For Your Donations!

Below is a list of those who have generously contributed to our work since our last newsletter. Thank you for supporting your neighborhood and our many projects and activities.



Ron & Vaira Akselis

John & Betty Batson

Fran Beach

Walter & Sandra Borowski

Clair & Doris Burgdorff

Geke DeVries & Herman Felstehausen

Sue Dottl

Deb Durcan & Eli Schmukler

Rae Erdahl

Greg Glynn

Ken & Eleanor Goss

Mike & Marge Hallenbeck

Terry & Diana Hollenback

Joe & Lori House

Rudy Korte

Leah & Bob Levy Kutcher

Jay & Janet Loewi

Don & Alayne Macaulay

Catherine Martin

Jay & Joan Martin

Bob & Pam McDonald

Richard McKenzie

Matt & Rachel Metzger

Carlton & Elma Metzloff

Kyle & Liz Metzloff

Guy Meyer & Tracey Boyce

Al & Carol Miller

David & Morgan Mortensen

Budi & Julie Nara

Baxter & Kay Newton

Richard & Mary Olson

Douglas & Joan Pahl

Paul & Lori Peppard

Don & Audrey Peterson

Wilfred & Ardith Pierick

Paul & Elinor Pinkert

Doug & Mary Kay Reinemann

William Schlotthauer

Garth & Karen Scott

Barbara Sella

Csanad & Jennifer Siklos

Elizabeth Stager

Robert & Judith Taylor

Mark Thompson & Jane Stimac

Nick & Judy Topitzes

Robert & Judy Tuttle

Kae Walker & Richard Dewitt

David & Edyie Walther

Len & Dagny Warmanem

George & Juliaanne Warren

Joseph & Louise Wiesenfarth

Tom Yin & Lillian Tong

Charles & Helen Zidek

## WHO BETTER TO SELL YOUR HOME THAN SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN AND LOVES OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



Trust your neighborhood professionals; Cathy Ostrom 828-5102, Yvonne Gern 828-5137, and Mary Bosold 662-3424 from First Weber, the #1 agency in Madison (Over 23 years of combined experience).  
*And receive a FREE home warranty with every listing.*



[gerny@firstweber.com](mailto:gerny@firstweber.com)

## Historic Preservation Project

Do you know where White's Grocery Store was located? Where is the original Warner homestead?

Before University Avenue was constructed, meadows and a flowing creek

(now the Spring Harbor Park ravine) were part of the rural landscape that became dotted with lakeshore cottages.



The SHNA Historic Preservation Committee will be digging up Spring Harbor's past and organizing facts and stories about our heritage. Please contact co-chairs Ann Sowaske (238-7903, [bsowaske@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsowaske@sbcglobal.net)) or Bob Steffen (233-1879, [rsteffen@wisc.edu](mailto:rsteffen@wisc.edu)) if you want to participate in the fun, entertainment, and process of preserving our Spring Harbor Neighborhood History.

(A SHNA Plan Project)

### SHNA Board Of Directors Meetings

You are welcome to attend the monthly SHNA Board of Directors meetings, currently held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending a meeting, please check the SHNA website at [www.SpringHarborOnline.com](http://www.SpringHarborOnline.com) to confirm the date, time and place.

If you would like to have an issue considered by the board, please contact your area director or the SHNA president, Shary Bisgard, at [sharybisgard@charter.com](mailto:sharybisgard@charter.com) so that it is added to the agenda for that meeting.

## Spring Harbor Park Playground Equipment Update

Have you noticed the brightly colored new additions to the Spring Harbor Park playground? In August, two new structures were installed in the area once occupied by the horse swings. They are a cascade climber and two spring-up bars. The digger was replaced and the new one is in good working order. New pea gravel was added to areas that needed it.



The new equipment was purchased through a joint effort of the neighborhood association and city parks. Many thanks to those who worked on the committee that selected the equipment: Debbie Lyons, Rachel Metzger, Liz Metzloff, Sarah Orlikowski, Michael Rosenblum, and Faith Fitzpatrick from the Spring Harbor neighborhood, and Laura Whitmore and Bill Bauer from the City of Madison Parks Department.



### Opportunities for Spring Harbor Residents

We need more committed area residents to help achieve our neighborhood association's many goals and to help carry out its activities. If you are interested in helping in any way or in joining the board of directors, please email Shary Bisgard at [sharybisgard@charter.net](mailto:sharybisgard@charter.net) or call her at 233-1238. The proposed slate of officers and area directors will be announced in the April 2007 newsletter and voted on at the April membership meeting. The position of vice president will be an open seat next year, and there may be other board positions that will be open as well. So please give Shary a call if you'd like to get involved!



# **AD**vertise in Spring Harbor News

At the spring membership meeting, members voted to allow a two-year trial adding commercial advertising to our newsletter. Advertising revenue will help us pay for the 1400 copies of the newsletter, so more money can be allocated for neighborhood improvement projects.

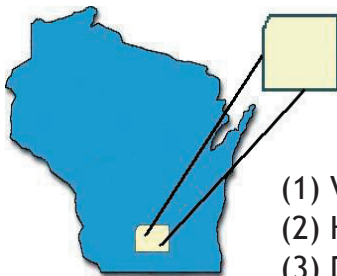
We are pleased to announce that Cathy and Craig Ostrom have volunteered to be the advertising directors for next year. They will be soliciting local businesses for advertisements to appear in our 2007 newsletters.

## SHNA Natural Resources Committee

*The Natural Resources committee has had two meetings this fall. Several exciting projects are being planned, including providing information about rain gardens and rain barrels to help control storm water runoff, educating neighbors about invasive species and how to deal with them, and sponsoring Sustain Dane discussion groups here in Spring Harbor (see [www.sustaindane.org/](http://www.sustaindane.org/) for a list of courses and more information).*

*We invite anyone who would like to be involved in this important work to join us. The committee meets at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Dale Heights Presbyterian Church; check with Sue Dottl (467-7967 or [suedottl@hotmail.com](mailto:suedottl@hotmail.com)) to confirm the date and time.* (A SHNA Plan Project)

## Sustainability Discussion Courses



**Sustain Dane** is a non-profit organization located in Madison "dedicated to creating a community that deeply enjoys, cares for and is sustained by its unique environment." One of Sustain Dane's activities is to help people organize the following discussion courses:

- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) Voluntary Simplicity,             | (4) Choices for Sustainable Living, |
| (2) Healthy Children, Healthy Planet, | (5) Exploring Deep Ecology, and     |
| (3) Discovering a Sense of Place,     | (6) Globalization and Its Critics.  |

To date, over 1,000 people in the Madison/Dane County area have participated in one or more of the courses. The groups have met in area libraries, workplaces, community centers, faith communities and other places where people gather. An effort is currently underway to start one or more groups in the Spring Harbor/Indian Hills neighborhood, so that it will be convenient for people who live here to participate.

The courses are self-facilitated and are taken informally by small groups of 8 to 12. The groups meet for 8 or 9 sessions to discuss readings from a workbook. A Sustain Dane volunteer meets with the group at the first meeting to help the group get started. Courses provide an enjoyable, supportive setting in which to examine personal values and habits and to engage in stimulating discussion. A presentation about the Sustainability Discussion Courses will be provided at the upcoming SHNA meeting. You will be able to take a look at the discussion guides.

If interested in participating in a group, call Helen Hartman (712-4151). For information about courses and Sustain Dane, go to [www.sustaindane.org](http://www.sustaindane.org) The courses are developed at the Northwest Earth Institute, [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org).

## Report from Brett Hulsey

(Dane County Supervisor)

Dear Friends,  
Hope your summer went well. It sure went fast. Fall's here, the kids are back in school and we are into county budget season.

As chair of the Personnel and Finance Committee, I am working to promote the good programs we like—vital family and conservation programs—while holding the line on property tax growth. This is tough with state and federal budget cuts for mandated programs. Let me know what programs are important to you. County Executive Falk and I worked together to come up with a \$1.5 million Land and Water Legacy Fund to continue our progress to protect our lakes and lands. I will try to get that money approved in the budget. I recently received a report from long time residents that our lake clean up efforts are starting to work. Good news! You can do your part by planning that rain garden this fall and keeping the leaves out of the street.

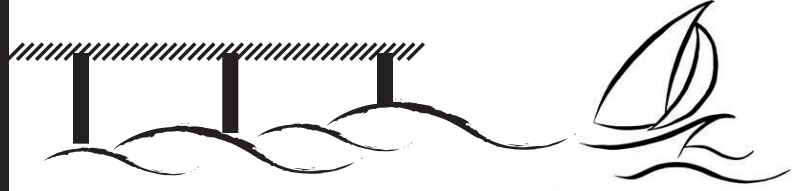
Power lines have been in the news and I am working to make sure we consider alternatives like a 3M technology that can transmit 3 times more power on the same line. We also need a county energy efficiency plan because electric usage is growing 2-3 times faster than population.

I am also working with Alder Radomski to get money to make University Avenue safer, especially for the children going to school in the neighborhood.

On the county board, I work to represent your interests. Call at 238-6070 or email [Brett@Brett4us.org](mailto:Brett@Brett4us.org) if I can serve you.

Have a good fall.

**Brett**



## Transitions for Spring Harbor News

*Jackson Tiffany has retired as SHNA's newsletter editor after more than 10 years of valued service to the association. We very much appreciate all the effort he has expended on behalf of the association. We have become a better organization through his efforts. Please join us at the SHNA fall meeting when we will recognize Jack for his dedication to the association.*

The new co-editors of the newsletter are Liz Freitick and Sue Dottl. They will share the duties in publishing next year's three newsletters. Sue will serve as copy editor

of articles that are submitted. Liz will do the layout and design of each issue and supervise the production and printing.



## July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Picnic Thank you!

Spring Harbor would like to give a warm thank you to all who participated in our July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic and parade this summer. Special thanks to the people and businesses who donated their time and energy to making the event happen:

Don Bally	Jeff Larsen
Jerry Bisgard	Janet Loewi
Shary Bisgard	Kris Marlow
Brennan's	Brenda Mayrack
Jacobson Brothers	Kim McBride
Sue Coppersmith	McDonald's
Chuck Dunning	Glass Nickel Pizza
Bill Fitzpatrick	Noel Person
Scott Greene	Jeanette Tierney
Inna Larsen	Jackson Tiffany

Matt Sykes & the Shorewood Hills Fire Dept. and everyone who brought a dish or helped at the event.

## Know Your Neighbor by Kim McBride



Kasia and Drew Leja are the new owners of the mysterious and wild property behind The Original Pancake House. Drew, the network manager for PIC Wisconsin, and Kasia, a teacher-turned-full-time-artist, were immediately enchanted by the unusual property. Both were raised on farms in northern Wisconsin and the property spoke to their rural roots.

"We've often played with the idea of moving to the country, but could never bear the idea of leaving Madison," Drew confides. "This land gives us an opportunity to live and work in a natural setting without even leaving town. A natural space is a creative and healing space, so it's the perfect spot for an artist. We're looking forward to designing a new home using green building techniques and materials. The drainage issues in the area make construction of a rain garden and a permeable driveway a happy necessity. We're honored to have this opportunity to be the caretakers of land that still speaks of its farm history."

Drew and Kasia moved to Madison in 1979 to attend the UW and had their first home together in one of the houses on Craig Avenue. "We're excited to be back in the neighborhood that we started in," reflected Kasia. The Lejas have three daughters. Two are West High graduates and their youngest is currently attending Hamilton Middle School.

For information on studio and classes, go to [www.playinthemudstudio.com](http://www.playinthemudstudio.com) or call Kasia at 273-2692.



### Glenn Stephen's SILENT AUCTION

*Glenn Stephens Elementary is holding a Silent Auction on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 4 to 7 p.m. Bidding will take place at the school.*

*All proceeds from the Silent Auction will be used for updating playground equipment. The current equipment has been in use since the early 1980's, and is greatly in need of repair and replacement.*

*Glenn Stephens Elementary serves approximately 500 children from various neighborhoods. The PTO needs your help to raise \$60,000-\$100,000 for new equipment. Questions? Contact Mary Pierick at 833-0974 or [sudabba@aol.com](mailto:sudabba@aol.com), or Kassi Radomski at 231-9686 or [kassir@chorus.net](mailto:kassir@chorus.net).*

### Expanding Sequoia Branch Library

The Sequoia Branch Library's current library space of 11,000 square feet is too small to serve its patrons. Fundraising has begun to enlarge it to 20,000 square feet. Last year, the branch had 400,000 visitors and over 915,000 books and other library materials were checked out. More than 7,800 people attended library programs.

The proposed new branch will provide much needed additional space for materials and patrons. Plans to publicly launch the fundraising campaign are scheduled for January 2007. If you wish to help with the capital campaign or to make a contribution, please contact either of the campaign co-chairs: Jean MacCubbin (238-4863) or Gary Poulson (233-0914).

## SHNA Plan: Status of the Plan

The SHNA Plan has been reviewed by seven of eight city commissions, and is scheduled for final review by the Madison Plan Commission on October 16, 2006. Following the final review and anticipated approval, the Plan will be sent to the Madison Common Council for adoption into the city's Comprehensive Plan.

The SHNA Plan is the first neighborhood plan to be incorporated in the city's new Comprehensive Plan process. Please consult the SHNA web site ([www.springharboronline.com](http://www.springharboronline.com)) for details of the Plan, and contact any SHNA Board Member or former Plan Co-Leaders listed at that site for your questions and comments. Projects from the SHNA Plan, already underway in our neighborhood, involve historic preservation and natural resources.

## SHNA Plan: Piloting the "Friends" Program

A systematic method of investigating potential problems in the Spring Harbor Neighborhood has been developed and is being piloted. It aims to determine if a potential problem exists and what can be done to resolve the problem. A vital part of this system includes involving "Friends" who have a direct interest in the issue. Friends may include residents and local businesses. Their input and efforts will be coordinated with city expertise by our alderperson and other city resources. A workable resolution to the problem will be created.

### *The process is as follows:*

1. A SHNA resident identifies a potential problem.
2. The SHNA Board creates an ad hoc (one-time, one-purpose) committee to investigate and "fact-find" the issue.
3. Two to three representatives—Friends—meet with the Alderperson and relevant city staff to present the problem and the information the ad hoc committee has collected. The goal of this meeting is to determine and develop solutions the city may be able to provide.
4. Representatives of the Friends group conduct a survey of identified residents and businesses who would be impacted, to determine if there is mutual concern about the issue, and if there is acceptance of potential resolutions. Benchmark responses (e.g. 65% approval) are set for the survey to guide decisions about implementation.
5. The results of the survey are reviewed by the Alderperson, and then the appropriate actions are formalized by the SHNA for implementation.

In one Pilot Project, Yevgenya Grinblat was concerned about the increased speed of vehicles on Lake Mendota Dr. A group of people impacted by this issue, called "Friends of Lake Mendota Drive," was created to look at speed on the drive. The Pilot Project is currently at stage 3 of the process.

Another group called "Friends of Capital Avenue" also concerned with speeding traffic and pedestrian crossing on Capital Avenue are currently awaiting implementation of pedestrian safety islands. Alderperson Noel Radomski met with this "friends" group and a survey was completed with 70% approval of island construction.

### **!! SHNA BUSINESSES !!**

Celest Regenber, Business Liaison for the SHABOOs (Spring Harbor Area Business Owners & Operators) asks those who have not sent "Information Sheets" to do so.

Simply email her the following:

Your Business Name, Address, Phone No.,  
Email address, Name of Primary Contact.

**You can call Celest at 233-0751,  
or email her at [regsr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:regsr@sbcglobal.net)**



## Non-profit Status for SHNA & Bylaws Changes

by Bill Fitzpatrick, Treasurer



In the past few years SHNA has been very successful with new projects and funding our continuing activities. Some of our recent projects are:

- Developing a comprehensive neighborhood plan,
- Restoration work at Merrill Springs,
- Installing new playground equipment, and
- Plantings for natural areas at Kettle Pond.

In addition, our dues and donations have supported our many continuing activities and projects, including:

- 4th of July parade and picnic,
- Children's Halloween Party,
- Neighborhood flower gardens,
- Neighborhood signs,
- Printing the SHNA Newsletter,
- Maintaining the springharboronline.com web site, and
- Support for the Spring Harbor Middle School.

With our success have come new responsibilities. Our projects and fundraising have put us at a level that will require additional state and federal reporting. The Board, with professional advice, has determined that SHNA needs to formally apply to the IRS and state for non-profit charity status to comply with federal and state rules. SHNA expresses appreciation to Glenn Miller, CPA, with Wegner LLP, CPAs & Consultants, for helping us wade through the complexities of the federal and state rules on non-profits and for his excellent advice. At the Fall SHNA meeting we will consider resolutions to apply for non-profit status; to seek accounting and/or legal advice to complete the process, as necessary; and on proposed language to add to the bylaws. Bylaw additions will include language requirements addressing a policy of no endorsement of political candidates, policies on conflict of interest, and the process that must be followed in the event the association is dissolved. If you have questions, contact Bill Fitzpatrick at 233-3584 or [fitzengr@aol.com](mailto:fitzengr@aol.com)

### JOIN SPRING HARBOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

*Please join or renew your membership in the Spring Harbor neighborhood Association for 2006. We need you. The purpose of our association is to improve living conditions in the neighborhood and to promote and maintain its family, residential character. Money is used to publish this newsletter and to support various activities throughout the year. Annually we sponsor a Halloween party and a Fourth or July picnic and parade.*

*We have two member meetings a year: April and October. Everyone is invited. Newsletters are delivered to over 1,300 households in our area in April, June and September. Memberships are renewed annually (beginning each January) dues are \$5.00 per household. If you have not already renewed, please renew your membership now for 2006. See reverse side for handy form.*



Join or renew your membership in **Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association**. Please fill out the form below to join SHNA or renew your membership and bring it to the October meeting or mail it to SHNA Treasurer, Bill Fitzpatrick, 5156 Spring Court, Madison, 53705. Dues are \$5.00 per household.

**Please make checks out to SHNA**

Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation, unrestricted \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation, playground equip. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation, natural areas \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation, Tot Lot \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

The work of the SHNA is done through committees. Please check your interests. Help SHNA serve our neighborhood.

Fourth of July Picnic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Halloween Party \_\_\_\_\_  
 Board of Directors \_\_\_\_\_  
 Newsletter Delivery \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clean Up Day \_\_\_\_\_  
 Welcome Newcomers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Neighborhood Parks \_\_\_\_\_  
 Garden Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Neighborhood Plan Implementation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_