



Spring Harbor News

A publication of the Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association (SHNA) serving the area from Shorewood Hills to Middleton and Lake Mendota to Old Middleton Road

Spring Neighborhood Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 pm

Spring Harbor Middle School

Spring Is In The Air! Aaron Crandall, President

It is beginning to look and feel like spring! With that, comes our Spring General Membership Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, at Spring Harbor Middle School, starting at 6:30 pm.

At this year's spring meeting, I am excited to announce that we will have a presentation by Madison's Transportation Director, Tom Lynch, who will come talk to us about all the exciting plans he has for our city. I saw Tom present at the Mayor's Neighborhoods Conference in 2018, and he gave a great presentation titled "Transportation in 2025." In that presentation, he discussed the need to plan for our rapid growth, which can lead to greater congestion, to avoid some of the issues growth has created for Austin, TX.

In addition to the presentation by Tom Lynch at the upcoming general meeting, the membership will be voting on neighborhood officers and area directors, along with approving our 2019 budget. It is also a great opportunity to renew your membership or JOIN! See the other article in this edition titled "Spring Harbor Elections" for more information about the elections. The budget will also be presented at the meeting.

Unlike our general meeting in the fall, our spring meeting does not include a potluck and is typically in the library of the school. Please join us for our upcoming Spring General Membership Meeting, and learn more about your neighborhood!



spring cleanup

After a long winter, trash needs to be picked up in our neighborhood parks, green spaces and along our neighborhood streets. **Come to Spring Harbor Park on Saturday, April 20th, from 9 - 11 am** and sign up to work an hour or two. Trash bags will be provided. If you prefer gardening to picking up trash, the perennial beds by the boat landing and Spring Harbor Park sign will need to be cleaned up for the season. Bring a pair of work gloves and any gardening tools you might want to use and join us to make our neighborhood a better place! If you have questions call or text Kim McBride at (608) 628-8772.

Garlic Mustard Pull

Garlic Mustard is a nasty invasive weed that takes over native spring plants. Meet in **Spring Harbor Park from 9 - 11 am on Saturday, April 27**, to help rid our parks of this invasive weed! If you would prefer to clean up the Spring Harbor gardens bring your garden tools and don't forget your gloves! Volunteering is a great way to enjoy our parks and meet neighbors too! If you have any questions please call or text Kim McBride at 628-8772.

Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association
invites you to be active in your Community
JOIN US, see page 10

Your Neighborhood

Spring Harbor Elections

Board officers and area directors are elected annually to serve on the SHNA board for a one-year term, and we are currently accepting nominations for all positions. Below is the current slate of candidates to be presented at our spring general membership meeting on Tuesday, April 23.

If you are interested in nominating yourself or another neighbor for any of the board positions (officers or area directors), please contact Aaron Crandall, janetloewi@gmail.com.

President	Aaron Crandall
Vice President	Sally Miley
Treasurer	Joan Martin
Secretary	Mary Beth Dunning

Area Directors

1—Liz Freitick	4—Vacant
2—Jussi Snellman	5—Barb Schultz-Becker
3—Giovanna Jeffries	6—Stan Fuka

The Board functions as follows:

1. It handles the housekeeping duties of the Association,
2. It coordinates the activities and projects of all Association committees, it calls the general meetings of the Association,
3. It establishes the agendas of the general meetings,
4. It shall hold regular and special board meetings, and
5. It shall approve all expenditures and establish an accounting procedure.

Boat Launch Wall Repair

A wall at the outlet of the storm sewer at Spring Harbor boat launch was scoured and damaged when water washed over Lake Mendota Drive during the August 20, 2018 flood. City Engineering attempted to repair the wall but upon further investigation it was discovered that the wall had been severely undermined and the foundation was compromised.

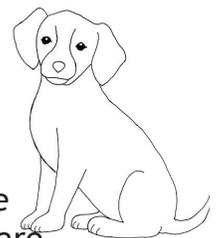


Back in the fall, City Engineering worked with a contractor (R.G. Huston) to remove the damaged wall and install temporary sheeting to protect the shoreline from erosion during the winter. The construction crews worked extra carefully to save the trees and gardens at the site (which were put in by SHNA in 1996).

A replacement for the wall will be constructed in 2019 after structural engineering and design have been completed. This area has heavy fishing traffic and removal of the wall and some of the vegetation has opened views out to the lake from Spring Harbor Park. If you have questions regarding this work or comments on what you'd like to see the City consider for replacement please contact Janet Schmidt at jschmidt@cityofmadison.com.

Did You Know.....?

The grassy area on the east side of Spring Harbor Park, extending from Lake Mendota Drive to University Avenue, is a City designated ON-LEASH dog area. Please be sure to pick up your dog's feces to help keep the area clean. Dogs are prohibited in all Madison Parks except for a few special places like this. Dogs are prohibited from the west side of Spring Harbor Park by the playground equipment, in Indian Hills Park, in Merrill Spring Park, and at Spring Harbor Beach. Blackhawk Country Club Property is requiring Village of Shorewood Hills residents and club members to keep their dogs on a leash while on the Blackhawk Country Club property.



Friends of Merrill Spring

From the Friends (FMS)....

2019 Project

Many of you who enjoy the park and then walk up to Lake Mendota Drive may have noticed the deterioration of the wooden steps. We have reached out to Operation Fresh Start (OFS) and hope to have a partnership with them, supervised by city engineering. We will have more information on the project if winter ever gives up the ghost. We are looking forward to meeting with OFS as soon as the steps become visible. Depending on how much the city can help us, we may need to do some fund raising also.



Spring Clean-up

We plan to do our annual spring cleanup around Earth Day. Watch for information at the kiosk.

Kiosk

If you haven't been by the kiosk lately, information is changing. There is a new article discussing the issue of salt in the Spring Harbor neighborhood water.

Summer Solstice Celebration

This year will be our 4th Annual Summer Solstice Celebration. Once again we hope to have a drum circle, snacks and comradery. The SHNA newsletter comes out after the solstice so watch the kiosk for more information.

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Merrill-Spring-366885473435529>.

To join or renew your membership for 2019 [Friend(\$10), Supporter(\$25) or Patron(\$50)], send a check made out to/mail to:

Friends of Merrill Spring
c/o Alice Erickson
5109 Spring Ct
Madison, WI 53705

Road Salt Contamination Reaches Crisis Levels for our Water Resources

Road salt = sodium + chloride, just like table salt. Well 14, Merrill Spring, Spring Harbor, Lake Mendota, the ground we walk on...all are contaminated with high levels of sodium and chloride. Levels of chloride in Well 14 have doubled since 2000. In 2015, a light year for salt usage, Spring Harbor Storm Drain alone added the equivalent of about 24 dump trucks or almost 50,000 pounds of deicer salt to Spring Harbor!

It's not just the roads. Parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks can make up half of the total salt load. In our neighborhood especially, salt-laden runoff dissolves and sinks into the ground and quickly contaminates the shallow aquifer that supplies our drinking water. The salt in the ground can make it to Well 14 in less than 10 years. If you hire out snow removal, please make sure they are Madison salt certified. Search cityofmadison.com for winter salt certification. If you are walking and can hear the salt crunching, the application was too heavy. There's a free pile of sand at the Spring Harbor Beach parking lot on Norman Way provided by the City. We have no choice but to find alternatives for lowering salt usage. Our water is too precious not to.



I hope this edition of the SHNA newsletter finds you well, enjoying 2019. The Dane County Board will address many varied issues in 2019, but I want to focus on three key initiatives: water quality improvement, Alliant Energy Center campus redevelopment, and inclusive community engagement.

On water issues, the Board will implement recommendations of the Healthy Farms, Healthy Lakes Task Force to reduce farm runoff that impairs the Yahara Lakes watershed. The importance and urgency of addressing runoff was underscored by the record rainfall and flooding this past summer. This effort marks the first time farmers, environmentalists, scientists and policy makers have come together to work toward reducing phosphorus pollution while encouraging better agricultural conservation practices. In March, the Board passed an ordinance to provide for proper and safe storage, handling and land application of manure to reduce the delivery of manure, other waste materials, fertilizers and sediment to surface waters and

groundwater. Information on Healthy Farms/Healthy Lakes is available at <https://board.countyofdane.com/Healthy-Farms-Healthy-Lakes-Task-Force>.

Regarding the Alliant Energy Center, we have completed work on a draft Master Plan, which was presented to the Board at the end of 2018, and will continue to move the project forward. Guided by the “three E’s”—economy, environment and equity - the plan for redevelopment of the 164-acre county-owned Alliant Energy Center campus includes expansion of the Exhibition Hall, additional hotel facilities, enhancements at Willow Island and interior streets featuring restaurants or other amenities, as well as a focus on storm water management for the entire site. The project is part of a broad effort to transform the property into a catalyst for economic development by attracting more visitors and creating new opportunities for the adjacent neighborhoods in south Madison. Information on the project is at <https://aecstudy.countyofdane.com>. Finally, the Board is redoubling its commitment to inclusive community engagement as a cornerstone of our work. In

2018, we launched the “Engage Dane” initiative to formalize the Board’s engagement efforts, particularly to reach communities who may not currently participate in the county government debate, thereby improving representation and transparency. More information is available at <https://board.countyofdane.com/Engage-Dane>. A report of these efforts was released in March.

These are just three examples of the County Board’s work. There are many more including efforts in the areas of criminal justice system improvement and affordable housing, which the County has provided over \$8.6 million in assistance to private sector real estate developers to support 1,020 proposed units of affordable housing spread throughout Dane County since 2015, keeping monthly rents low for working families, the disabled, veterans, single parents and others struggling to make ends meet.

Should you or your family have an interest in specific Dane County projects or initiatives, please contact me at levin.jeremy@co.dane.wi.us or call me at 608.577.9335.



Spring Harbor Beach Report

Nancy Ellison, Lake Steward for SHNA

Decisions about maintaining clean waters in the Yahara Lakes are dependent upon data collected at sites within the watershed. Each year Clean Lakes Alliance trains volunteers in near-shore and off-shore water quality monitoring. SHNA Water Steward monitors Spring Harbor Beach on a weekly basis, Memorial Day–Labor Day.

Here’s a review of data collected Summer, 2018 as reported by the Clean Lakes Alliance. More indepth assessment of this data can be found on the Clean Lakes Alliance website: www.cleanlakesalliance.org/monitoring.

Water Quality Measurements and Observations 5/1/18–9/30/18		
Parameter	Spring Harbor Beach	Lake Mendota
# of condition reports	41	968
average water temperature	70.4	73.1
reports of plant debris	13	453
reports of waterfowl presence	7	397
average clarity, 2017	60 cm	89 cm
average clarity, 2018	87 cm	95 cm
% reports of max. clarity, 2017	0 %	31 %
% reports of max. clarity, 2018	17 %	39 %

FAQs Water Monitoring, CLA Data, Summer, 2018

- 79 unique on-shore sampling locations, 7 off-shore sampling sites, 2,600 nearshore samples.
- Turbidity readings averaged across each lake suggest general improvement in near-shore water quality when compared to 2017.
- Reports of cyanobacteria increased in each lake of the Yahara Lakes system.

FAQs Spring Harbor Beach

- Sand beach with a very slight slope. Ideally suited to toddler swimming.
- Swimming area is roped with floating buoys Memorial Day–Labor Day.
- Maintained by the City of Madison.
- By ordinance dogs are NOT allowed in the entire beach area.
- Restrooms open from Memorial Day - Labor Day. Kindly report any problems immediately to the City of Madison.
- Two picnic tables are onsite.
- Lifeguards are usually only present afternoons on Saturday and Sunday.
- Volunteer lake monitoring is scheduled weekly on Wednesday, Memorial Day–Labor Day.
- Dane County Health Department monitors the health of the water for swimmers and may authorise beach closures. Notices are posted at the beach.

For more information about the beach conditions go to Clean Lakes Alliance Beach website: www.lakeforecast.org



Please join us at the 2019

Indian Hills Garden Club Potluck and Program

Monday, April 29, 6 p.m.
Dale Heights Presbyterian Church, 5501 University Ave.

We are pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Elizabeth Koehler, Deputy State Director at The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin—and Spring Harbor area resident!

Interested in finding out more about the garden club or would just like to attend the potluck? Check with a neighbor who is a member, or e-mail Mary Beth Dunning at mbdunning53@gmail.com.



SPRING HARBOR ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 20

10:30 AM

Indian Hills Park

Bring Your Own Basket
Ages 1-8 Welcome
Join us for fun in the park!

For more information, e-mail
aaron.crandall@yahoo.com

RSVP on Facebook,
www.facebook.com/springharborneighborhood

Prohibited Invasive Vine Infests Spring Harbor Neighborhoods and Crestwood

An invasive, woody vine called **porcelain berry** is invading the Crestwood and Spring Harbor neighborhoods in Madison. It is the largest known population of this aggressive plant in Wisconsin, and state invasive species officials are asking area homeowners to help eradicate the species.

The vine has been found on hundreds of properties within the two neighborhoods so far; DNR has contacted homeowners in these neighborhoods asking them to look for, report the vine, and try to control it if possible or allow DNR-paid contractors on site between now and March 1 to control it.

“This vine is a significant threat to trees and other plants in yards, parks, and Wisconsin forests, and we need help from homeowners in these neighborhoods to prevent the infestation from getting larger or escaping into other communities.”

Porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) is an ornamental plant from east Asia that is listed as a prohibited species under state law, NR 40. The prohibited status means it is found in only a few places in the state but spreads aggressively and can potentially cause

significant environmental or economic harm. It is illegal to buy, possess, transport, transfer or introduce species listed as prohibited in Wisconsin.

Homeowners in the Crestwood neighborhood and parts of the Spring Harbor neighborhood were mailed materials to help them identify the plant on their property and permission forms to allow the contractors on site. The control project is funded by limited federal funding DNR. DNR contractors will survey only those properties where landowners have given their permission. Contractors will control por-



celain berry vines by cutting the stem and applying the herbicide triclopyr on the cut stump, or by applying the herbicide to the bark. The herbicide is specifically formulated to kill broadleaf trees, shrubs, and vines and does not pose a health risk to people, pets, mammals or bees and other pollinators. By applying it only on the cut stem or as a basal bark treatment, the treatment is

very targeted and prevents the plant from re-sprouting in the following year. Find a factsheet showing porcelain berry by going to www.dnr.wi.gov and searching “porcelain berry.”

If you live in the affected neighborhoods or surrounding area and you have porcelain berry vines on your property, the DNR is asking you to:

1. Report the location (address and place in yard), as well as your name, phone, and email address to Invasive.Species@Wisconsin.Gov
2. Begin control efforts if you are able. Please see the fact sheet for information on control methods including pulling the plant out, cutting it, and/or treating it with herbicides.
3. Property owners unable to control on their own but willing to allow a DNR contractor to do so are asked to fill out the permission form they received in the mail and return to DNR.

Since this plant is invading green spaces and backyards, homeowners will play a critical role in eradicating this invasive plant, Granberg says. Getting rid of it in the early stages of invasion will help protect the environment and wildlife habitat, reduce costs, and increase the chance of long-term success.

Spring Harbor Experiencing Building Boom

There are 97 lakefront houses in the Spring Harbor neighborhood, 72 of them on Lake Mendota Drive. Another 25 are on Spring Ct and Harbor Ct. In the past two years, 15 of these properties were at some stage of planning or new construction. All lakefront projects require the owner to complete a Conditional Use review. The neighborhood has a role in Conditional Use evaluating plans and providing recommendations. The number of current projects is taxing the neighborhood's ability to provide adequate review and comment by working totally with volunteers. Projects involve everything from size, design, setback, vista, neighborhood impacts and houses too large for narrow lots. The city has also relaxed its standards. The largest lakefront residence last year fell just short of 10,000 sq ft.

In addition to home construction, three major commercial/apartment complexes are planned or underway within the University Ave corridor. A 4-story commercial/residential building is under construction on Whitney Way. Two developments are planned on University Ave. The former Brennan's site is scheduled for demolition and new construction beginning this spring. Plans calls for a 200-foot long 4-story building near the sidewalk on University Ave. Half of the ground floor is scheduled for commercial use, the rest of the building will be apartments. Parking is underground and on a surface lot behind the building. Visitor parking is limited. Green space has been reduced to a bare minimum. The Perkins property is still in the planning and design phase. Preliminary sketches have been discussed but no firm design has been agreed upon with Madison Planning and Zoning.

Turning Area Trash and Cow Manure into Fuel Dane County Executive, Joe Parisi

A major construction project is currently taking place at Dane County's landfill that will significantly change how it operates. When completed, Dane County will be able to turn trash and cow manure into renewable fuel, while preserving our environment and natural resources. Garbage at the landfill creates biogas as it breaks down, which contains about 50 percent methane. While methane is a harmful greenhouse gas pollutant, it also makes up about 98 percent of natural gas, which we can use as a renewable energy source. Due to changing energy markets, Dane County has chosen to harness this gas through a new method and enhance our environmental stewardship.



Beginning this summer, Dane County's new landfill biogas facility will convert our landfill's biogas into nearly pure methane gas, which will then be injected into the interstate transmission pipeline that runs underneath the landfill so it can be bought and used as renewable vehicle fuel. This conversion will eliminate thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions, a leading cause to the extreme weather events triggered by climate change. When complete, Dane County's landfill biogas project will be the first of its kind in the nation. We'll create renewable fuel to power thousands of vehicles across the region and country, while keeping our area lakes and air clean for future generations. **page 8**

Your Neighborhood

History Corner

5126 Tomahawk Trail, Indian Hills

This house was built in 1952-53 by James Dresser for his family. Dresser, who studied for a time at Taliesin in Spring Green, designed many other homes in Wisconsin. The house was sold to the Smart (Madison area automobile dealer) family. Long-time residents of the Indian Hills neighborhood still re-

and dining area, opened to the kitchen. The other half was originally one small-ish master bedroom, a bathroom and two tiny children's bedrooms. The original walls were cork, and all the rooms, except for the bathroom, were originally open to the dome—no secrets.

Although not practical (and in some case not desirable) to restore the home to its exact



fer to the home as the “Smart House.” Dresser called it the Sunflower House due to its round shape and the awnings over the triangular windows. The unique structure was featured in early 1950’s editions of Popular Mechanics magazine and Look magazine, as well as the Wisconsin State Journal.

The house is technically a *mondome*, a concrete shell built on a radial framework of curved steel beams. These beams were designed for the Quonset hut structures that were used extensively by the U.S. military during and after World War II. Examples of these beams are visible in the carport structure. The lower portion of the home is earth-sheltered. The center of the home is the kitchen. Half of the home is a living

original state, the current owners are updating the home where necessary, while remaining true to the unique nature of this one-of-a-kind structure.

Spring Harbor Board and Meetings

You are welcome to attend the monthly SHNA Board of Directors’ meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Dale Heights Presbyterian Church. If attending, be sure to check our Web site at www.SpringHarborOnline.com to confirm the date, time and place. If you have an issue to be considered by the board, contact your area director or the SHNA president to place it on the agenda for that meeting.

SHNA Bulletin Board.....looking for helpers

Need a helper in my garden, please contact Roy Schenk at 608-698-1301.

Join or renew your membership in **Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association**. Please fill out the form below to join SHNA or renew your membership and mail it to SHNA Treasurer, Joan Martin, 1701 Camelot Dr., Madison, 53705. Dues are \$10 per household per calendar year; donations are welcome.

Please make checks out to SHNA

Membership Dues \$ **10** _____
 Donation, unrestricted \$ _____
 Donation, neighborhood parks \$ _____
 Donation, Greenspaces \$ _____
 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

- July 4th Picnic and Parade _____
- Halloween Party _____
- Serve on Board of Directors _____
- Deliver SHNA newsletter 3x a year _____
- Clean Up Day and garlic mustard pull _____
- Serve on a SHNA committee _____
 - Historic Preservation _____
 - Natural Resources _____
 - Planning and Development _____
 - Neighborhood Watch Committee _____
 - Planning and Development _____
 - School Gardens _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

