



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.

President's Corner

Aaron Crandall, President

Happy spring everyone! We are gearing up for our annual spring meeting, scheduled for Thursday, April 27, at 7 pm, at the Spring Harbor Middle School library. Our guest speaker will be our very own neighbor, Mark Redsten, who is the President and CEO of Clean Wisconsin. He will be coming to talk to us about all the great work happening at Clean Wisconsin.

**SHNA Spring All-Neighbor Meeting
Spring Harbor Middle School Library
Thursday, April 27, 7 PM**

In addition to our guest speaker, we will also hold a brief business meeting that will include updates and reports and our annual election of officers and area directors. After having served as your SHNA president for the past eight years, **I have decided to not run for reelection.** I will take over as past president, and in this new role continue to serve in an advisory role to our new president and the board. If you are interested in running for a position on our neighborhood board, either as an officer or as an area director, please feel free to contact me with any questions you have about any of the roles and responsibilities. The officer positions are as follow: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Then, we also have six area directors that represent their specific areas, see map on back of newsletter for the areas. All positions serve for one year and are elected annually at our spring meeting. A slate of candidates will be made available at our spring meeting and voting must occur in person, with no proxy or absentee voting allowed at this time.

I look forward to seeing some of you at our upcoming spring meeting and many of you outside now that the weather will soon be warming up. As always, please contact me or any other members of your SHNA board with any questions or concerns, contact information on our webpage. It has been my honor and privilege serving you as your neighborhood president all these past years and look forward to continuing working with our Spring Harbor neighborhood into the future.

Spring Clean Up Sat, April 22, 9-11am

After a very long winter it is finally time to spruce up our neighborhood! Please meet your neighbors at Spring Harbor Park to clean up or work in the gardens. SHNA will provide bags. Bring work gloves or any garden tools you might need. If you can't join us but would like to help please carry a trash bag with you when walking and pick up as you go! Any questions please call or text Kim McBride at 608-628-8772.

Garlic Mustard Pull Sat, April 29, 9-11am

(Rain date Sunday, April 30, 9-11am)

Garlic mustard is a nasty invasive weed that spreads quickly and takes over our native spring plants. Don't let its heart-shaped leaves and delicate white flowers fool you in to complacency! We meet in Spring Harbor Park. Bags will be provided. Bring garden gloves or any other tools you might want to use to pull garlic mustard or work in the park gardens. Volunteering is a great way to meet neighbors and take pride in our parks! If you have any questions please call or text Kim McBride at 608-628-8772.

West Side Plan

On August 2, 2022, Madison's Common Council adopted the West Area Plan which was created under the city's new Planning Framework. Using this framework, the Planning Division will create 12 Area Plans over the next 8 to 10 years that will cover the entire city. The West Area plan is the first to be developed. The West Area will include the Spring Harbor, Midvale Heights, University Hill Farms, Glen Oak Hills, Parkwood Hills/Faircrest, Wexford Village and Walnut Grove/Sauk Creek neighborhoods. The plans will address a consistent set of community issues that impact the area including land use, transportation, housing, parks and open spaces, stormwater management, utilities, economic development and historic and cultural resources. The city held three public meetings in February and March to collect feedback from residents, neighborhood associations and businesses. Additional meetings are planned throughout the process. More information and an opportunity to give your input via a West Area Plan survey is available at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/>

News From the Friends (FMS)....

Water:

- Check out the latest article in the park kiosk regarding Well 14 and Maaka' Maa'i
- This summer, with the LMD east end project, the storm sewer up at the top of Merrill Springs Path will be disconnected and no longer drain into the streambed.
- Enjoy the bubbling springs in the cistern now that Well 14 is turned off



Stone Work: We have been in contact with Madison Parks and their Planning Department will have the benches at Merrill Springs assessed for repair.

Board Member Sought: We are still looking for another neighbor to fill the slot. The board meets once a month and organizes park projects. Anyone with a love of Merrill Springs Park is welcome to contact us.

PR: Don't forget to follow us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Merrill-Spring-366885473435529>

Thank you to all who renewed or joined FMS this Spring. TO JOIN OR RENEW your membership for 2023 [Friend(\$10), Supporter(\$25) or Patron(\$50)], send a check made out to "Friends of Merrill Spring" to:

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

Your Neighborhood

SHNA Parks and Natural Resources March 2023 Update

A few updates on activities in the parks and natural resource areas:

Lake Mendota Drive Reconstruction and New Park Rain Gardens – There are five new rain gardens along terraces and public spaces planned by City Engineering as part of phase 2 reconstruction of Lake Mendota Drive. The rain gardens will be at the corner of Lake Mendota Drive and Spring Harbor Drive, Boat Ramp, Spring Harbor Park, Lake Mendota Drive and Spring Court and Merrill Springs Rd. Please contact Faith Fitzpatrick (fafitzpa@gmail.com) if you are interested in the designs and helping with maintenance. For an example of maintenance, a group of 3-4 neighborhood volunteers spend 2-4 hours about 4 times a year weeding, trimming, and spreading mulch.

Kettle Pond invasive removal – City Parks is removing invasives at the park and is spraying herbicide on the garlic mustard and other invasive vegetation. There are several neighbors worried about the use of herbicides here. Paul Quinlan (Parks Conservationist (608) 267-4918, pquinlan@cityofmadison.com) has assured us that this is in the best interest of restoring the vegetation and for the crane pair that nests there — contractors will be careful not to disturb them. If you see any distress of the cranes or other wildlife that use this special place, please contact Paul Quinlan or our Alder Keith Furman directly.

The work is described in Alder Furman's February 6, 2023 weekly blog - <https://www.cityofmadi->

[son.com/council/district19/blog/?id=30525](https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district19/blog/?id=30525)

Spring Harbor Park springs are back!

Please be sure to check them out while Well 14 is offline for a chloride study. They have been impressive with bright green watercolor during these cold winter days. The springflow from the park goes under Lake Mendota Drive and comes out by the new stone steps by the boat ramp. Their presence shows the close connection between our drinking water from Well 14, the springs, the shallow aquifer that feeds both of them, and what we put on the land. All are contaminated equally with road salt but also show how fast the problem could be improved.

Indian Hills Garden Club

Spring is finally on its way and so are the Indian Hill Garden Club events planned for the rest of this year. If you wish to increase your knowledge about gardening, participate in our group's efforts to beautify the neighborhood's green space, and meet some of your neighbors, you are welcome to join us. Dues are \$20 a year with the monies contributed to many non-profit conservation and garden-related groups, such as Olbrich Gardens and the Spring Harbor Middle School garden and greenhouse. Our first event this spring will be our annual potluck which will be held at Dale Heights Church in May. Our speaker will be SHMS teacher Dave Ropa who has been heavily involved with the Spring Harbor Middle School gardens and greenhouse from the very beginning. For information about joining the garden club and participating in our activities contact Joan Martin 608-239-8408 or jmartin2701@gmail.com.

Hello Spring Harbor Neighbors,

With Spring and warmer weather right around the corner, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you out and about in the neighborhood soon. My family always takes advantage of the beautiful natural spaces we have here along the lake and throughout Spring Harbor. We feel lucky that Kettle Pond is right at the end of our street, and we get excited seeing the sandhill cranes arrive every year around this time.

I wanted to share some updates from the County Board and about legislation that I've been working on.

PFAS Mitigation

PFAS, or "forever chemicals", have become an increasing problem in our lakes and for our public health. These chemicals come from everyday items used at home like non-stick cookware, dental floss, carpet, and rain jackets. A significant source of this contamination locally comes from PFAS-containing foam used in firefighting operations and training at the Dane County Airport and the 115th Fighter Wing on the east side of Madison. These toxic chemicals are a big concern for our entire chain of

lakes and the health of our community. Despite this, there is some good news on the horizon.

Last Fall, we received exciting results from a study the airport commissioned with a Verona-based company, Orin Technologies, to try and break down PFAS in contaminated soil at the airfield. The technology uses an innovative approach deploying microbes to break down the chemical bonds. Since the pilot project began there has been a 97% reduction in the amount of the toxic compounds in the test region. Those are some encouraging results!

While there is still a lot to learn about this new technology and its viability on a broader scale, I am hopeful it will play an important role in our continuing efforts to eliminate PFAS in our waterways.

Dark Store Loophole Resolution

For years, big box retailers like Wal-Mart have used the so-called "Dark Store Loophole." This is a legal strategy in which stores challenge their property tax assessment arguing that they should be assessed as a vacant store. These mega-corporations have taken local governments to court over the past decade, costing municipi-

palities huge sums of money. The impact of this loophole is the property tax burden being shifted from these big stores to small businesses and property taxpayers.

In a surprising but positive turn of events - the Wisconsin Supreme Court recently sided with the City of Delavan, deciding that its property tax assessments of a Lowe's Home Improvement store were correct after the store had sued in an attempt to get a lower assessment, and therefore pay less property tax. In other words, the highest court in Wisconsin ruled that corporations trying to game the system using the dark store loophole will no longer be tolerated.

This is a win for local governments and for taxpayers. As such, I will be introducing a resolution at the next County Board meeting calling on the state legislature to pass a law codifying this Court ruling so no big box retailer can try this tax scheme again.

That's all for now, folks. As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Email:

Collins.Aaron@countyofdane.com

Meet District 19 Alder Candidates — Questions & Answers

Kristen Slack Responses

1. Why are you the best candidate to represent District 19?

For over two decades, I've been a social work professor at the UW-Madison, where I teach and conduct research on a range of social welfare issues. I have held several leadership positions at the UW-Madison, including directing one of the largest units in the College of Letters & Sciences, most recently during the (extremely challenging) 2020-2021 academic year. I am trained in data and policy analysis and program evaluation, as well as analyzing social problems with an equity lens. I am also trained in community engagement principles and practices. I am the founder and CEO of an educational technology company that serves the higher education space. I have benefited from some of the local resources for entrepreneurs, but also see the gaps and inequities that exist with respect to access to capital, mentorship, and affordable physical spaces for small businesses. I have a strong passion for protecting our natural resources and habitats, ensuring safe drinking water, and fighting climate change, and would like to see more emphasis on carbon drawdown strategies that rely on healthy lakes and waterways, an abundant tree canopy and use of native plants, and more environmentally sound stormwater management practices.

2. Why do you want to be an alder?

District 19 needs an alder who views residents as partners and resources and who enjoys listening to people and having conversations about important city issues. Residents of the district also deserve a representative who holds City leadership (including the Mayor and Common Council) accountable. I decided to run because many people in District 19 encouraged me to do so, and because my kids are getting older and I have more (but not unlimited) time to spend on other things. I believe that my background in policy analysis and program evaluation will be an asset to the Common Council. I will ask hard questions and insist on rigorous evaluation and transparent benchmarks for monitoring the performance of City policies and initiatives, and I will communicate the full story to my constituents, rather than a cherry-picked version. The issues we face as a City are complex. There is rarely one single solution to a problem, unintended consequences can undermine hoped-for outcomes, and there's not a large enough city budget to solve everything, nor is everything the purview of city government. That is why it is imperative to invite a range of expertise to the table, engage in authentic community engagement, and commit to honest debate among members of city boards, commissions, and committees (BCCs), including the Common Council. These debates should consider existing research, the unique context and needs of Madison, opportunity costs in other areas, and regularly updated input from City residents, community leaders, and business owners.

3. What are your priorities once in office?

I have several overarching priorities, but I want to first say that how these priorities are balanced and pursued requires input from constituents and Madison residents, and residents may have additional ideas about what to prioritize. I address how to acquire this input in Question 4. As described further on my website, kristenslack.com, my priorities are to:

- Improve City transparency and community engagement practices
- Protect and enhance our natural environment and unique ecosystems as Madison grows
- Strengthen our local economy by working in partnership with local businesses and nonprofits and by incentivizing new business development
- Address Madison's housing crisis with collaborative approaches that emphasize affordability and home ownership
- Ensure that City services are equitable and accessible

(Questionnaire from page 5)

We are also in the midst of a mental health crisis as reflected in a number of concerning trends, especially among our children and youth. This is an all-hands-on-deck problem on which we need urgent action that involves schools, health and mental health providers, local nonprofits on the frontline of this crisis, many levels of government, and of course, families and youth themselves.

4. How will you communicate with the people in your district once elected?

Community engagement principles emphasize earning the trust of those you serve or represent. This requires humility, a learning mindset, an openness to feedback, a bottom-up vs. a top-down approach, visible fairness, and transparency at every stage of City planning and decision-making. To reach as many people as possible in an ongoing way, I plan to engage with residents, business owners, and nonprofit agencies through regular in-person and zoom meetings in rotating locations and time slots, multiple social media platforms, the District 19 alder website, and multiple touchpoint surveys with my constituents (which can hopefully be integrated into a larger City platform). However, these mechanisms are only effective if they reach a broad and representative group of people, and some groups require more targeted and specialized outreach. I will seek advice on the best strategies for inviting and encouraging feedback from marginalized groups or groups with specialized needs by consulting with those who have already built a foundation of trust with them, such as individuals who work with and advocate for these groups on a daily basis. A one-size-fits-all approach is insufficient and will lead to greater disenfranchisement. I will also show up at community functions and events and invite conversation and input at these venues. Relationship-building is key to ensuring residents, who will not always agree with each other or you, feel heard, respected, and valued.

[John Guequierre Responses](#)

1. Why are you the best candidate to represent District 19?

My work and leadership experience in community service and business is a perfect match for Madison's policy agenda. The mayoral debates have demonstrated that the candidates, while having different solutions, agree on the issues: (1) Affordable housing and homelessness, (2) climate resilience and reducing the City's carbon footprint, (3) responding to tightening budgets – the so-called structural deficit, (4) public safety, (5) transportation, (6) creating good-paying jobs, and (7) redressing too many years of inflicting injustices on vulnerable populations. The companies I have led built thousands of affordable homes across the US and Canada and hundreds of buildings with extraordinary energy efficiency. I-OSC is my consulting platform for continuing the work of assisting non-profits, architects, and developers in designing and building affordable and energy-efficient homes. My leadership in both businesses and community service organizations have provided a depth of experience in budget cycles and challenging finances. I have a unique family perspective on public safety that allows me to comfortably support our police in being successful while making those systemic changes needed to avoid tragedy. My years of service on the Wexford Village board, my volunteer work with MERLIN Mentors which helps startups to grow, prosper and create good-paying jobs, my involvement with Madison's Engineering Department and Planning Department on a variety of projects is preparation for addressing a wide range of City business.

2. Why do you want to be an alder?

It is precisely that alignment of experience and Madison priorities that has animated my decision to run. I relish the opportunity to reach from value-based objectives and academically sound principles to the practical details of implementation with which I am so familiar. Madison's Mayor and Common Council are already addressing those seven critical issues. That is why I adopted the slogan "Forward Momentum." I

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am in broad agreement with the City's initiatives, I want to build on them, correct the things that are not working, remain vigilant for unintended consequences, and mindful of the budgetary constraints that the Wisconsin legislature has imposed on Madison.

3. What are your priorities once in office?

Appropriately, my first priority are the matters most impactful on District 19. Large swaths of District 19 suffered damage in the 2018 storm event and remain at risk for similar events. Climate resilience translates into implementing the most important watershed and stormwater management projects we have identified. Some residents have shared their concerns about public safety, and I have already met with our MPD West and Mid-Town captains to discuss priorities and solutions, conversations which I intend to continue regularly. District 19 will soon be witnessing the hoped for impacts of BRT and the 2023 implementation of the Metro routing revisions. I will be closely monitoring the data, watchful for needed corrections. From parks to future developments and re-developments, to streets and green-spaces, to even possible re-zoning in some areas, District 19 will be affected for at least a decade by the West Area Plan that is now being developed. I am already deeply involved. Re-focusing on the whole city, building affordable housing to match our growing population will be a personal priority, if I am elected. Yes, the pandemic unleashed a cascade of effects such as the remote work, altered commuting patterns, and even greater inequities, but the trajectory of population growth means we cannot slow our commitment to building truly affordable housing, providing pathways to home ownership, and preserving our existing affordable housing. Finally, we can't ignore our budget constraints created by the Wisconsin Legislature. Madison and Dane County are our state's greatest generators of wealth, but revenue sharing formulas purposely return a disproportionately small piece to Madison. Other legislation restricts the City's ability to raise revenue by other means. Meanwhile inflation gnaws at our ability to provide basic services. Even in 2023, a close inspection of Madison's finances suggests that the budget we develop in 2024 for fiscal 2025 will be the most challenging yet. Based on my experience in financing and budgets we need to start the process now, engaging staff and the public, educating on the reality of the situation, and building the trust we will need to make difficult choices. For more details on my positions, please visit www.john4madison.vote.

4. How will you communicate with the people in your district once elected?

Madison's digital platform is broad, extensive, and inclusive with access to an extraordinary amount of information. Every Alder has tools to disseminate policy details for forthcoming actions, long before they are to be acted upon and with opportunities to comment on their impact. The reality is that busy Madisonian's often lack the time to scour the immense wealth of data for topics that may affect and interest them, much less to dive into the details which can easily stretch to hundreds of pages. The result is that actions that have been percolating for months or years suddenly appear on the news horizon, giving the appearance that nefarious work has been conceived behind closed doors, deliberately without public input. That is stressful for everyone. Regular Alder communication with neighborhood associations can help. I am committed to that avenue. Again, reality sets in. Wexford Village, Parkwood Hills, and Spring Harbor have strong, active associations, but many citizens of District 19 are disconnected from any association. Several retiring alders, current alders and I are convinced that we can do more to improve timely awareness of the key issues in every district. I am committed to contributing to that kind of effort.

SHNA Board of Directors

President Aaron Crandall
aaron.crandall@yahoo.com

Vice President Matt Seib
Matt.seib@gmail.com

Treasurer Joan Martin
jmartin2701@gmail.com

Secretary Mary Beth Dunning
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Area Directors

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efreitick@gmail.com

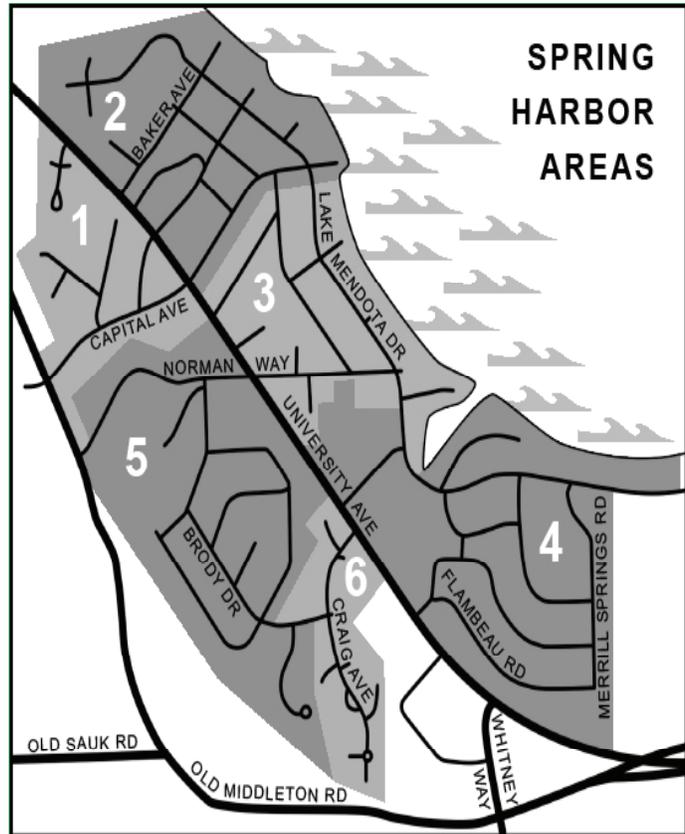
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Area 5 Erin McGrath
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Area 6 Stan Fuka
stanfuka@gmail.com



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 and greenspaces	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

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

- July 4th Picnic and Parade _____
- 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 _____
 - Parks and Natural Resources _____
 - Planning and Development _____

Pay dues online with CHEDDARUP:

<https://spring-harbor-neighborhood.cheddarup.com>