



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

Matt Seib, President

I was on a bike ride with my kindergartener recently and remarked, "There's a lot of leaves on the ground, it must be Fall". "Is it?!" my son replied – said in that tone of voice as if he'd never considered he would face this kind of situation. As it turned out, it was September 23, the first official day of Fall. Happy Fall everyone. Get ready for apple picking, leaf raking, and that dreaded seasonal beverage – the pumpkin spice latte. And on a more serious note, as folks begin to clean up lawns/gardens and rake leaves, I'd like to remind everyone to please keep yard debris on the terrace next to the road for pickup, not in the road itself (per city ordinance). This helps keep debris and excess nutrients out of the lake.

With Fall now here, it's once again time for our neighborhood association's all-neighbor meeting, which will be held on Thursday, October 26, at the Dale Heights Presbyterian Church. We are excited to announce that our guest speaker will be Phil Gaebler, Water Resources Engineer at the City of Madison, who will talk to us about rain gardens, stormwater and green infrastructure. His presentation will start at 7 PM, followed by some time for questions and answers.

Before our guest speaker, there will be a potluck starting at 6:30 PM. The SHNA Board will provide the main dish and something

to drink. Neighbors are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert, and to bring your own service ware to minimize waste. Please note that the venue and event are not set up to provide childcare or accommodate children. Also on the agenda before the presentation, will be a brief business meeting. We'll be saying farewell to our long-serving board Secretary, Mary Beth Dunning (who is moving to Michigan), and hello to the new board Secretary, Erin McGrath. We'll also go over other potential involvement opportunities. I hope you will be able to join us for our upcoming neighborhood association meeting on October 26!

Lastly, I would like to thank Mary Beth Dunning for coordinating our annual July 4th parade and picnic, and Barb Schultz-Becker for organizing our annual Labor Day jazz event. As always, please contact me at springharborpresident@gmail.com if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, or if you would like to get involved with your neighborhood association. Happy Fall!

SHNA July 4th Parade and Picnic Highlights

Despite the Lake Mendota Drive reconstruction project, which meant a new parade route, we had a great turnout for the 2023 SHNA 4th of July celebration. We were so happy to see so many young families in the neighborhood participating, and as always, to see the gathering of families home for the holiday.

(Continued on page 2)

(July 4th continued from page 1)

- Thanks to the volunteers who helped put together another fun celebration! Giovanna Miceli-Jeffries and Tom Jeffries, and their entire family, for doing a fantastic of the decorating Spring Harbor Park and running the games
- The Shorewood Hills EMS and Fire Association for once again bringing over the antique firetruck to lead the parade
- Another fine grilling job by Ann Lambrecht, Ken Halfmann, and Raul Reyes
- Clean up captain Keri Shehan, who worked through a pretty good downpour to tidy up the park
- Joan Martin for buying and distributing the ice cream and popcicles to the parade participants
- Staffing the membership table, our dear membership ambassador, Noel Pearson, with the help of her daughter Kathy
- Susan and Don Lauffer, Chuck Dunning and Stan Fuka who are always willing to help out
- And thanks to Lori and Joe House for offering to use their tree service crane truck to document the parade and the gathering in the park—what a fun idea!



Many thanks to Metcalfe's Market for their generous donation of the delicious brats and hot-dogs! And thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share—it was a great spread!

We were happy that former State Senator Fred Risser and Nancy Risser were able to once again be our parade marshals. And we were also happy that County Supervisor Aaron Collins and District 19 Alder Kristen Slack could join the Risseres on the fire truck.

As you can see it takes a lot of people working together to bring together our neighborhood's major event of the year, and we are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in being a new volunteer, please contact SHNA Board president Matt Seib (matt.seib@gmail.com) or your area director.

See you next year!

Mary Beth Dunning

Your Neighborhood



Summer Solstice — Once again we had a good turnout to drum with Elmore Lawson, even though there was a bitterly cold north wind off the lake.

Park Care – With the approval of Parks, the Friends purchased 3 small attractive shrubs (*Thuja occidentalis* var. *holmstrub*) for the SE area of the park. These were planted in July and the Board is following a weekly watering schedule to get these newbies off to a good start especially with our hot summer days. The streambed was cleared of algae which builds up more now that Well #14 is back on and reducing the spring flow. Unfortunately, another large oak came down landing in the wooded area of the park. We've proposed a conversation with Parks regarding putting in a replacement oak in the wooded area since three trees have been lost there in the last few years.

Kiosk Registry – The logbook from 2016 has been put in the archives and a new one now sits in a better waterproof box at the kiosk. Please stop by and add your thoughts and observations the next time you visit the park.

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

Indian Hills Garden Club

The Indian Hills Garden Club enjoyed an eventful 2023 season beginning with our annual spring potluck in May with Spring Harbor Middle School teacher Dave Ropa providing an update of the school's garden and greenhouse activities. We also participated in SHNA's garlic mustard pull. In June, we hosted a noon picnic in Spring Harbor Park and in July went on a guided tour of the Holy Wisdom Monastery prairie, followed by lunch in their dining room. In August, we hosted three events: a late afternoon tour of a gorgeous Madison garden, followed by socializing afterwards on our hosts' deck; a tour of rain gardens in Westmoreland Park led by an enthusiastic city engineer, and our traditional brunch at a member's home. In September, we toured the plantings around the Arboretum visitor's center with a well-known landscape architect, and later in the month toured Olbrich Gardens, followed by a visit to the biergarten nearby.



(Continued on page 4)

(Garden Club continued from page 3)

Our annual business meeting is held in late October during which we will determine our 2023 contributions to our neighborhood's park needs, the middle school and other non-profits. Our donation guidelines require that the non-profit be local, community-based, and education-related. The last event of the year, our annual holiday auction, is held to raise money, in a fun way, for the environmental-related organizations we support.

If you are interested in gardening and socializing with your neighbors, you are welcome to join the garden club and enjoy our 2024 events. Dues are \$20 a year. For further information, please email Joan Martin at jmartin2701@gmail.com or call Shary Bisgard at 608-334-1238.

2023 Labor Day Jazz Concert Thank You

Thanks to Barb Schultz-Becker and John Becker for putting together another fine Labor Day Jazz Concert. Despite the heat, the musicians, Laurie Lang, Jon Vriesacker, and John Becker, entertained us over the course of two hours with a nice selection of original numbers and covers.

If you weren't able to attend the concert, here are the musicians' bios again so you can check out their music:

John Becker on piano and percussion, is an elementary music teacher for the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District. His recordings are *Time Stands Still* and *Are You in a Band?*

Laurie Lang on bass, is an advocate for jazz music through the Madison Jazz Society and the Improvisational Music Workshop. Her recordings are *Beautiful Friendship* and *Winter: A Joyful Peace*.

Jon Vriesacker on violin, is a member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and also plays jazz, bluegrass and other improvised styles. Jon played on Academy Award winning Best Song "Al Otro Lado del Rio" from the movie *The Motorcycle Diaries*. He can be heard on recordings with Willy Porter, Freedy Johnston and Garbage.



Madison Common Council — District 19

Alder Kristin (Kristi) Slack

*Dear Residents of the
Spring Harbor
Neighborhood:*

I hope you are all enjoying the transition to Fall weather. I love Fall in Madison given the mature tree canopies we have that provide brilliant Autumn colors, the cool temperatures, and lots of Fall activities. It goes by too quickly so get outside and enjoy!

Several issues have commanded my attention as I have learned more about how things are working (or not working) at the City. The first is that the Metro Redesign of the bus network is not shaping up to be good news for the west side and District 19 residents, specifically. Please check out this recent blog post from me focused on west side public transportation issues to get my full explanation.

Another issue that I am working on is pushing the City to treat trees, native plantings, and nature-based stormwater solutions as not

just important or “nice to have”, but absolutely essential elements of City infrastructure that must be prioritized on par with other infrastructure priorities. As a public health researcher with a passionate interest in climate change and its effects on health, I can tell you that Madison is not taking climate change seriously enough when it comes to our natural resources and their ability to combat its effects. If you have some time and haven’t seen the Netflix documentary Kiss the Ground (free to educators and students if you don’t have Netflix), I encourage (actually beg) you to watch it. I have solicited feedback from experts at UW about this documentary to make sure it isn’t just Hollywood hype. They unanimously agreed that the science is accurate, although some did say that the rosy prospects of reversing course on some of our worst practices is Hollywood-ized a bit. The issues are complex

and multi-faceted, but one part of that complexity is politics. Madison should be a leader in leveraging the critical benefits of nature. However, I’ve been astonished by how dismissive and unaware many City leaders in Madison are about embracing nature in the climate change battle. I have high hopes for our new City Forester, but also know that he can only do so much.

A third issue that the City has been all but ignoring is the need for more homeownership opportunities, especially more affordable ones. I was pleased to see some increased funding for affordable housing programs in the executive capital budget, but there’s not much related to homeownership. As much as many City leaders would like to ignore this fact, homeownership is one of the clearest paths to building equity and intergenerational wealth in the United States. Disparities in homeownership are also one of the most per-

(Continued on page 6)

page 5

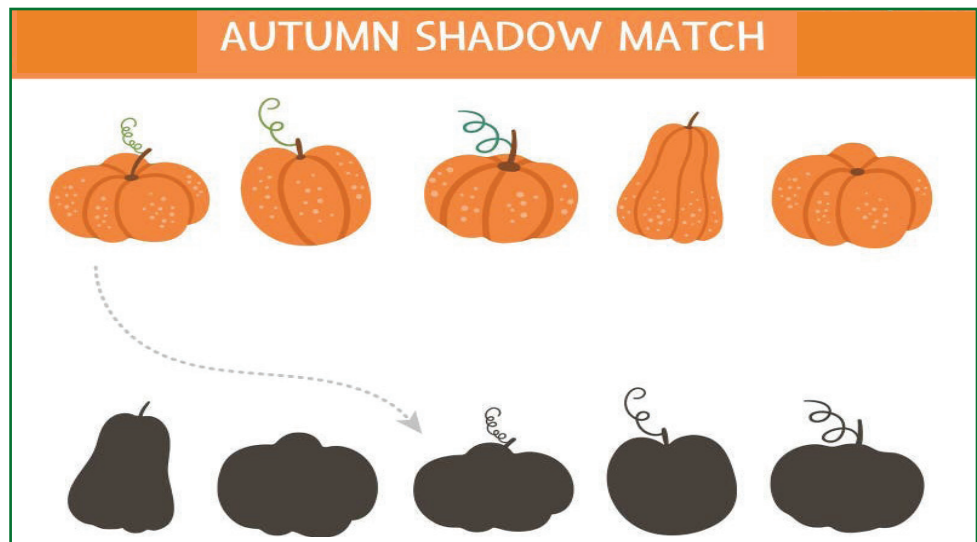
(Kristin Slack continued from page 5)

sistent causes of extreme inequality, and Madison is on a sure-fired path to becoming an even more inequitable City in terms of income and wealth with our almost exclusive focus (in the housing arena) on building more rental units. We will end up with even more urban sprawl and resident dislocation in neighborhoods that have relatively less expensive homes if we don't figure out a way to ease a path to homeownership within City limits, because we cannot stop people from wanting the benefits of homeownership once they are in a position to pursue it. They will either leave Madison to pursue this path or they will buy smaller more affordable homes and re-

place them with larger more expensive ones, as they are already doing. This is in no way an anti-renter comment as I am sure some will make it out to be. In fact, the City's latest Housing Snapshot Report shows that rents and home prices continue to climb and that lower income families are leaving the City at disproportionate rates—highly concerning trends in my opinion. There are many current renters who are desperately looking to move into homeownership. If that pathway can be better accommodated, it will ease the pressure on the rental market AND help reduce wealth inequality. Solutions are to be found in both economic development

and in how we incentivize residential building. Other cities, including Milwaukee, are exploring ways to solve these problems much more aggressively than us. I am sorry I haven't held more community gatherings. Right around the time of the Spring election, we had a serious family health crisis that is still ongoing, and which has greatly impinged on my ability to pull these off. I am hopeful that things are calming down and I can meet with you more often in person or via Zoom. Look for information on such gatherings on my weekly blog on the District 19 home page: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district19/>).

Activity
for
Kids



Hello Spring Harbor Neighbors,

I hope you all got through the Summer heat and are ready for a beautiful Wisconsin Fall my favorite season. I wanted to share a few updates from the County Board.

Sugar River Land Purchase

As a County Board Supervisor, one of my top priorities is to preserve, protect, and promote our natural spaces in Dane County. Environmental protection is embedded in the DNA of Wisconsin with strong local connections to conservation heroes like Aldo Leopold and Gaylord Nelson.

The Dane County Conservation Fund was established in 1990 with the goal of allocating dedicated funding to preserve natural, recreational, and cultural resource lands. This fund has been utilized effectively to purchase land for public use across Dane County over the past three decades.

I was proud to co-author a resolution that authorized the largest land acquisition

in Dane County history with a \$12.1 million dollar purchase that will acquire 625 acres of land south of Verona along the Sugar River. I'm excited about this purchase for many reasons including protecting the Sugar River watershed, reducing runoff, addressing climate change locally by reducing our carbon footprint, protecting groundwater, and helping fish and wildlife habitats.

The plans for the land include the possibility to allow public access and trails, and linking with nearby kayak/canoe access, foot traffic, bicycling, horseback riding, and snowmobiling.

Budget Season

Dane County operates on an annual budget cycle. Each year, decisions are made to fund the priorities of our County residents. People at the County love to say they work on everything from A to Z – the airport to the Zoo. And it's true! County government is responsible for the County park system, local veterans services, Dane County jail, Alliant Energy Center, human services and

much more. Last year's budget was \$853 million dollars.

Going into my second budget cycle on the County Board, I am focused on ensuring that we continue to improve on water quality in our lakes, maintain our transportation infrastructure, and help our most vulnerable residents access housing and other needed services. Governments at every level should be focused on long-term investments that improve quality of life and help those in need. I believe we can achieve our priorities while being good stewards of your tax dollars.

If you would like to weigh in on this year's budget, there will be numerous public hearings and other opportunities for input. If you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at collins.aaron@countyofdane.com or call/text at 608-512-8389.

Neighborhood Planning and Development

Housing turnover has dropped to its lowest rate in at least a decade as the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates 11 times since March of 2022 as they try to combat inflation. Sellers, with low interest rate loans, do not want to sell and then buy a new home at a higher mortgage rates have roughly doubled. So available housing supply is lower. On the demand side, buyers find housing affordability a challenge as higher interest rates constrain their purchasing power. In addition, housing input costs like labor and materials are also a challenge. Labor is hard to find and building materials increased in cost by 5% to 10% in 2022.

Real estate activity in Spring Harbor has also slowed and is mostly smaller projects like new garages or remodeling. There is some turnover on the lakeshore as it is a very desirable place to live, is rarely available, and so some properties are turning over regardless of economic conditions.

With respect to multi-family homes, The Brennan Apartments at the corner of University Avenue and Capital Avenue has been recently completed and has about 30 of 66 rental units leased. Expectations are that it will take time to completely rent out as the rental market is seasonal. Harbor View Apartments, located on University Avenue, has all their residential apartments rented out and are working on opportunities to lease out their commercial space.

It will be interesting to see how the real estate market absorbs all these cross winds over time. If you have any questions, please contact me, Tom Kneubuehl, at tkneubuehl@gmail.com

SHNA Parks and Natural Resources

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 are 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 and are not yet on the volunteer list.

City Engineering has postponed the designs and planting of the public rain gardens this fall due to the delays in getting the street reconstruction done. We can look forward to planting in the spring. There is one exception though. The Spring Court turtle rain garden had about half of the plants removed from the roadwork, plus there is room for more plantings in the additional green space where the connector road was located. Engineering has approximately 600 plants that they would like us to plant and water this fall after that area is finished. A tentative date for the planting is ~ October 27-30. This would be a great opportunity to have younger kids help plant a few plants guided by their parents. Please email Faith if you aren't on the rain garden volunteer list but maybe would like to help with this one event.

Faith Fitzpatrick

Update From the SHNA Lake Mendota Drive (LMD) Ad Hoc Committee (AHC)

Neighbors living in the Eastern segment of LMD are in month five of construction, and most of it is still a mess. The far east end is close to completion and should be paved in the coming weeks. I looked back at the slides from the city's public meeting on Phase 2, where the city estimated that construction would only take three to four months. Not so much. But there's light at the end of the tunnel - Capital Underground is estimating that construction on the Eastern Segment will be completed by the end of October. It can't come soon enough.

Last, but not least, is LMD Phase 3, the Middle Segment (Epworth Court to Spring Harbor Drive). The current information by city engineering is that there will be a public meeting for Phase 3 during late fall (likely late November to early December). Prior to that meeting, notices will be sent to homeowners, as well as a survey relating to certain aspects of Phase 3 construction (recall that the Phase 3 street geometrics were already approved by the Common Council in 2022). The city has already agreed to meet with the AHC to discuss Phase 3 plans, so we no longer need to fight that fight.

The city does not have the exact start date yet, but Phase 3 construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2024. Because the reconstruction of LMD was budgeted as a three-year project, each segment is bid as a separate construction project and contract, which is why S&L Underground was the contractor for Phase 1, and CU was the contractor for Phase 2. We'll provide updates as additional information becomes available.

The AHC has been providing periodic construction updates since last winter. Over 70 neighbors have signed up for the AHC's email list. If you'd like to receive AHC updates (usually several each month), please email me at khumbu04@hotmail.com to opt-in.

Leslie Herje, LMD AHC Chair



**Spring Harbor
Neighborhood
Association**

Be active in your Community

JOIN US, see page 12



Protect Our Lakes

Keep Streets Leaf-Free

Leaves and yard waste contain phosphorus. When it rains, stormwater flows through leaf piles in streets creating a phosphorus rich "leaf tea" that travels through storm drains to our lakes. The excess phosphorus leads to toxic algae blooms, low oxygen levels and green murky water in our lakes, none of which are good for animals living in the water or those of us who use it for recreation.

Ways You Can Help Keep Streets Leaf-Free



COMPOST LEAVES & YARD WASTE

Composting is a simple way to manage leaves and yard waste in your own yard reducing the quantity of leaves that blow into the street. For directions on how to compost visit, www.cityofmadison.com/streets.



MULCH LEAVES IN PLACE

Use a mulching lawnmower to grind up leaves that fall on your lawn. Mulching them in place returns nutrients to the soil providing a source of organic fertilizer to your lawn.



FOLLOW YARD WASTE PICKUP RULES

Leaves and yard waste should only be placed on the grass terrace area near the road for pick up. Per the City of Madison Ordinance, never place leaves and yard waste in the street. Use compostable paper leaf bags or cover the piles with a tarp to keep leaves from blowing into the street and place yard waste out for pickup when the city is collecting it in your neighborhood. For information and city collection schedules, visit www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste.



RAKE (OR REMOVE) LEAVES FROM THE CURB BEFORE RAINSTORMS

Removing leaves from the street before it rains is the most effective way to keep streets leaf-free. Sign up for Leaf-free Streets Rain Alerts (text or email) this fall (Oct 1-Nov 30) reminding you when its time to remove street leaves. Visit www.ripple-effects.com to sign up.

Streets East: 608-246-4532
www.cityofmadison.com/streets
Streets West: 608-266-4681



Need some help? Helpers aged 12 to 18 are available for a variety of tasks in the categories below. Feel free to contact directly. Interested in helping out the neighborhood? You could be asked to mow lawns, shovel snow, water plants/gardens, lay mulch, walk dogs, cat sit and babysit. (Parents, always know for whom your child is working and where.) Please contact Kiki Foget at kikifoget@mac.com or 608-772-6448 to be listed in the online edition of the SHNA newsletter and on the SHNA listserv.

Child Care/Babysitting

Laurel Streekstra streekstra2@gmail.com

Mother's Helper

Laurel Streekstra streekstra2@gmail.com

Yardwork or Household Chores

Paul Digman [\(pauldigman14@gmail.com\)](mailto:pauldigman14@gmail.com)

Abraham Foget kikifoget@mac.com

Abusha Foget kikifoget@mac.com

Daniel Sulman drsulman@madison.k12.wi.us

Aaron Streekstra astreekstra@madison.k12.wi.us

Grant Tranowski aarnoldussen@gmail.com



Pet sitting

Abraham Foget kikifoget@mac.com

Daniel Sulman drsulman@madison.k12.wi.us

Pet Walking

Abraham Foget kikifoget@mac.com

Abusha Foget kikifoget@mac.com

Daniel Sulman drsulman@madison.k12.wi.us



Hey Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers,

Looking for a way to advertise your babysitting, pet care or lawn care services? We can let members of the Spring Harbor Neighborhood Association (SHNA) know that you are available to help out by putting your name and email in the SHNA newsletter and sending it out to the SHNA listserv. People who need help will contact you directly. You can list your name under as many categories as you like and listings are free. Send your information to Kiki Foget, kikifoget@mac.com.

SHNA Board of Directors

President Matt Seib
Matt.seib@gmail.com

Vice President
 Vacant

Treasurer Joan Martin
jmartin2701@gmail.com

Secretary Erin McGrath
emmcgrath@uwalumni.com

Area Directors

Area 1 Liz Freitick
efreitick@gmail.com

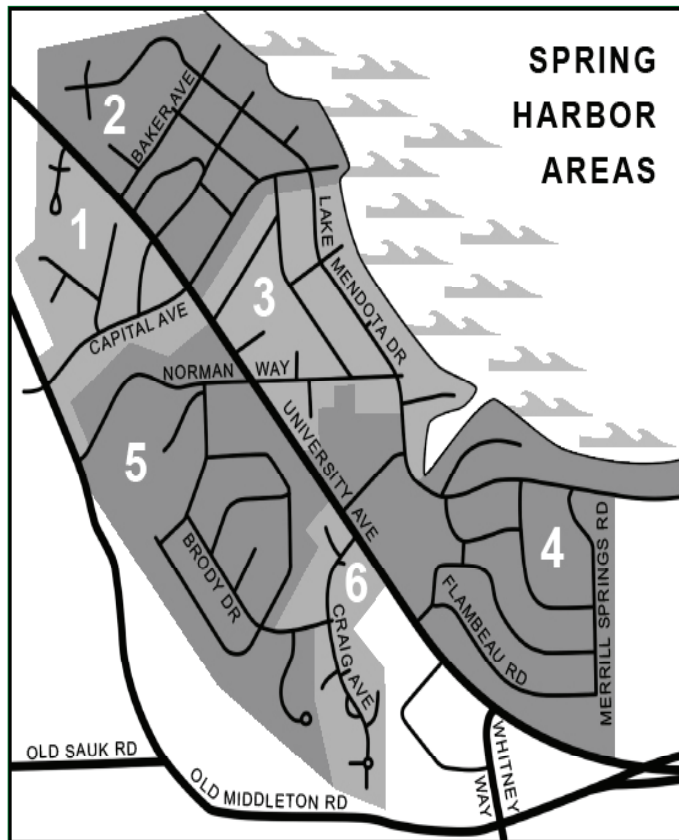
Area 2 Tanya Cunningham
itmakesyousmile@gmail.com

Area 3 Sue Alban
susan.g.alban@gmail.com

Area 4 Jeff Bauer
jeffreycbauer@gmail.com

Area 5 Erin McGrath
emmcgrath@uwalumni.com

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.

To pay send a check made out to SHNA,
 or **pay dues online using CHEDDARUP:**

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

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 _____
 - Halloween Party _____
 - Yard Sale _____