

JRNA NEWS

Junction Ridge Neighborhood Association

Vol. 2, No. 4

May, 2021



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Look for us on Facebook

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Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 18

We still can't meet in person, so we're going to have our annual meeting on Zoom on May 18 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

We have invited our new Alder, Nikki Conklin, to take questions from our members.

We will have a short business meeting and election of new board members.

Then we'll update everyone on all our new activities: park beautification, educational and recreational programs for all ages, and crime prevention/safety for the neighborhood.

We usually have the annual meeting at Benvenuto's on Fourier Drive, next to the Holiday Inn. Since we can't do that this year, we encourage everyone to order a take-out dinner from Benvenuto's or another local restaurant to enjoy during the meeting.

You will receive a detailed invitation soon.

Good News: City Planning has approved our proposal for a Park Beautification grant! It still has to be approved by the City Council, but we hope to start work by June 1.



Celebrate Spring!

Saturday, May 15

10:00 – noon

Junction Ridge Park

(Picnic Shelter near Blackwolf)

Play

Kites: Learn professional techniques, make a kite, fly your kites

Rock painting: Decorate rocks to share with friends and neighbors

Stepping stones: Create decorative pavers for the new garden area in the park

Learn

Raising chickens in your backyard

Recycling

Our plans to improve JR Park

Enjoy

Buy treats to enjoy in the park or take home. All the money raised will pay for the gardens and benches we plan to install in JR park.

Bake sale: Brought to you by the great bakers who did the Little Free Library event

Plant sale: Pots of WI native perennials

Mini Yard sale: Some very classy junkie

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May 14-15

Shop Til You Drop

Visit the neighborhood yard sales the weekend of May 14 – 15 (Friday and Saturday). If you have some items that need a new home, this is the ideal time to sell them.

Don't miss the first-ever mini Yard Sale in the park Saturday from 10-12. During the Spring Celebration, you'll have a chance to buy items contributed by many different neighbors.

Earth Day:

Volunteers Clean up JR Neighborhood

We celebrated our first Earth Day event by sending teams of volunteers into the park, the prairie, and along the ponds. They picked up trash and pulled invasive garlic mustard.

Sonja and David Keesey-Berg distributed materials and answered questions about recycling. Sonja is an official "Master Recycler" for the City of Madison, and will be sharing up-to-the-minute information at future neighborhood events.

Several children participated. The most exciting part of the event for them was the discovery of a little (and fortunately, clean) raccoon skull—providing a good start on studying vertebrate anatomy.



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COVID News: New rules coming this week.

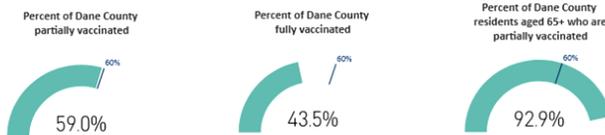
Dane County Steps Up Re-opening

Dane County is continuing a successful campaign of COVID-19 vaccinations, thus limiting new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

In response, Public Health Madison/Dane County has issued a new Emergency Order which takes effect Wednesday, May 5.

COVID-19 Vaccination: Core Measures

Current estimates of herd immunity are between 60% and 90%. The target line on the graphs below show the lower end of this range, as our vaccination goal across all populations falls within this range.



The new rules are:

Face Coverings are still required for those 5 years and older when indoors, except for the person's home. Face coverings may be removed when eating, drinking, or swimming.

Gatherings: Indoor and outdoor gatherings must be set up so individuals can maintain a 6-foot social distance, except when with immediate family.

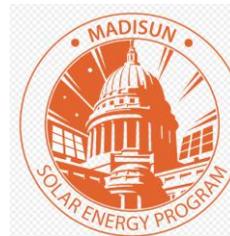
Education: Child care and K-12 programs must have written policies regarding hand-washing, coughing technique, etc. Employees must wear face coverings. Students and employees must maintain a 6-foot social distance.

Sports must develop and implement a hygiene policy, establish hand washing and coughing technique. Except for athletes currently participating in the sport, all individuals (inc. coaches, spectators, etc) must maintain a 6-foot social distance.

Businesses, including restaurants and retail stores, salons and spas, gyms, spas, religious entities, etc are limited to 75% capacity and must maintain social distance to the extent possible.

Fully Vaccinated Individuals do not need to wear a face covering or observe social distance if they are with other fully vaccinated individuals or family members.

Solar Shines in Madison



Federal tax credits are available for up to 26% of your cost!

MadiSUN is a program sponsored by the City of Madison to make going solar easy and affordable.

Since 2016, the MadiSUN Group Buy Program has helped homeowners across the area install solar-electric systems on their rooftops. Nearly 170 households have gone solar thanks to the program's simplicity, reduced price, financing options and customer service.

MadiSUN also offers incentives for business, nonprofits, and affordable housing providers. Check out madisunsolar.com to learn more about how to go solar!



During No Mow May, you can:

- help save endangered bees
- help flower and vegetable gardens thrive
- maintain the diversity of your foods

How? It's easy!

Take a "lawn vacation" in May:

- no mowing,
- no pesticides,
- no herbicides.

This allows native plants like violets, clover, and dandelions to flower. These flowers provide early spring food for bees emerging from hibernation.

Why is this important?

- One out of every three bites of food you eat comes from pollinated plants.
- Over 80% of all plants need help with pollination. If there aren't enough bees, many of these plants will disappear.
- Bee populations are in decline

Recent research in WI shows the benefits of holding off on mowing and treating your lawn early in the spring to give bees and other pollinators a fighting chance. One study in Appleton found that No Mow May lawns had a 5xs as many bees as regularly mowed areas. Now that's something to buzz about!
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344340220_No_Mow_May_lawns_have_higher_pollinat_or_richness_and_abundances_An_engaged_community_provides_floral_resources_for_pollinators

So give yourself a break! This May, don't mow or treat your lawn with pesticide and herbicide. Give those bees a fighting chance.

City requests public input on Metro Transit

Tell us what you think about Metro Transit service. What would you like to see? What should be improved? What destinations should Metro be serving better?

Your opinion matters. Please fill out Metro's [Transit Choices Survey](#) and give your goals and priorities for the future redesigned transit network.

After completing the survey, you can continue to give input and follow this project by attending future public engagement meetings and hearings. To receive notices and updates on times and locations, sign up for email and text alerts at mymetrobus.com/alerts.

Take Routes to Roots

Fair Share, the Community Supported Agriculture Coalition, announces [Routes to Roots](#), a self-guided event that leads you on an exploration of Wisconsin's farming and food landscape!

Bike, walk, or drive your way through 10 custom tours with audio commentary from farmers, engaging community partner spotlights, and more fun foodie information. This event is FairShare's largest fundraiser, and all proceeds go to fund our Partner Shares food assistance program and support our network of farmers.

Registration opens on June 1st. [Learn more and sign up](#) to be notified when registration opens for this summer of adventure around Wisconsin's local foodscape!

An Important Message to Our Valued Customers

From: Madison Gas and Electric

As your community energy company, we appreciate the trust and confidence you have in us to provide safe, reliable energy. Sadly, scammers seek to exploit this relationship by portraying themselves as representatives of Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) to take advantage of our customers. Recently some local businesses have been called by someone pretending to be from MGE and demanding immediate payment of their bill.

The impostors continue to get more sophisticated – it may appear as though the call is coming from MGE. In some cases, scammers may claim to know recent bill amounts.

**Do not call a number left by a scammer.
Always call MGE at 608-252-7222.**

Please visit our website—mge.com/scam—to know when to spot a scam.

The scammers typically claim accounts are past due and give instructions to pay with a debit card or wire transfer. Scammers often threaten disconnection of services in an hour.

- MGE would not contact a customer to request payment either by prepaid debit card, wire transfer, or green dot cards.
- MGE will never threaten that we are coming within the hour to disconnect service. When a customer faces disconnection for nonpayment, there are several past due notifications that come through the mail.

Never allow anyone into your business or home to check your meter, electrical wiring, natural gas pipes, or appliances unless you have a scheduled appointment or are aware of a confirmed problem.

Always ask for identification.

Never give out personal information. Always call MGE at 608-252-7222 if you have questions about your account.

Behind on your bill? MGE is here to help.



We're here to work with you.

MGE representatives are here to help households and businesses that may need help. If you need assistance or have questions about your account, please visit the Customer Service section of mge.com or call us at (608) 252-7144.

Scams are on the rise. Make sure it's us.

If you receive a call, email or visit that you suspect is fraudulent, please call MGE at (608) 252-7222.

Get free energy-saving advice.

MGE can provide expert advice for how to assess and manage your energy use. Email our Energy Experts at AskExperts@mge.com.

MGE is committed to safe and reliable service.

Lights out, power line down or other emergency?

Call us at (608) 252-7111.

Smell gas? Leave immediately and call us at (608) 252-1111.



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The Hmong Institute: an Empowering, Supportive Community”

Attic Angel’s Continuing Education program will offer this program by Zoom on Monday, May 3 from 10:30 – 11 am. Mai Zong Vue, President of the Hmong Institute will be the speaker.

Junction Ridge residents are invited to join:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93603629484?pwd=b2tGS3pCVzIVUzkzNmNrcTRTNzgrdz09>

Meeting ID: 936 0362 9484

Passcode: 747036

Welcome to the Wild Side of Learning

With the Smithsonian National Zoo webcams, you have a chance to get up close and personal with some of the most fascinating animals at the Zoo. The animal cams stream live, 24/7.

Download [Animal Cam Bingo Cards](#) for activities to engage learners of all ages in looking closely and thinking deeply about animal behavior and habitats.



[Giant Panda Cam](#)



[Naked Mole-rat Cam](#)



[Lion Cam](#)



[Elephant Cam](#)



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(608) 826-0555

Your Board at Work

JRNA board meeting April 13, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm by President, Jennifer Ondrejka, via Zoom. Board members in attendance: Lori Scarlett, Lynn Wiskowski, Mary Belle Heindel, and Steve Biedermann.
 - a. Previous minutes from March, 2021 were approved.
 - b. Financial report: dues received \$660. Expenditures for PO box and blank checks of \$156.
 - i. Budget discussion - based on the expenses of the last few years, with the addition of new neighbor outreach, we have an expected loss of \$1715.
 - ii. Proposal made by Lori to increase yearly dues to \$15/yr/household or \$25 for a 2 yr household membership. Motion seconded and four votes to approve, with one abstention.
 - iii. Proposal made by Lori to have annual dues collected during the month of January only, with annual meeting held in February (only paid members can vote). Motion seconded and approved by all.
2. Old Business
 - a. Junction Ridge Boundaries - updated with the City of Madison
 - b. Nextdoor Junction Ridge - boundaries have been updated, but only include Prairie Point and not the full boundaries as were voted on by neighborhood leads. Lori will follow up with Nextdoor . We want Nextdoor boundaries to match the JRNA boundaries so that we can better interact with our neighbors, spread news of neighborhood events, and encourage people on Nextdoor to join the JRNA.
 - c. Membership - see under Financial report. We need to reach out to area businesses and encourage them to join JRNA. Benefits include advertising in the newsletter and a link on the website. Contacting all the businesses in our neighborhood (around 100?) is a big job and Steve's mobility, along with Covid, makes it difficult for him to do it. Need to find 2-3 people who would be willing to present the JRNA to area businesses and encourage them to join.
 - d. Grants - Jennifer has been working long and hard applying for grants both through the city, Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, and Plant Dane. The proposal was for a patio in the park, with 4+ benches, surrounded by brick flower beds, and signage for trees, plants, and poetry throughout the park. The Parks Division indicated that the flower beds and signage would be fine, but that a patio or benches couldn't be installed by volunteers. Using official Parks benches and contractors is very expensive, so the amount we had requested would only cover a small part of the plan. Jennifer is also pursuing a Nextdoor/H&R Block grant that looks promising. She was already interviewed for the grant. If we received this grant (\$7000-12,000 is possible), we might be able to cover all the costs of working through the Parks Division.

New Business

- e. Earth Day - Saturday, April 24 from 10-12p. We will meet in the park shelter to give out assignments/areas for clean up or people can go out on their own. We will have coffee, treats, and bags for trash.
- f. Annual Meeting - will plan to hold a neighborhood Zoom meeting May 18 at 7p. Will ask Nikki Conklin to join us, tell us a bit about herself, and have a Q&A session for 10 minutes. Will also have updates from the neighborhood "work groups": Friends of the Prairie, Friends of the Park, and 2 other program groups.
- g. Block Captains - need to get more block captains, and more involvement (distributing newsletters and goodie bags), maybe break down the area that they serve to make it more manageable.
- h. Kite Flying Day - Saturday May 15. Lynn is organizing this, likely in the late morning.
- i. Garage Sales - one neighbor asked about this. She already has a date set for her garage sale. Jennifer will reach out to her to see if she wants to coordinate the rest of the neighborhood.
- j. Set the next meeting - May 4 at 7:30p via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30p.

Support our Business Members. They Support our Neighborhood!

| Food & Beverage | Health & Well Being |
|---|---|
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| Benvenuto's Middleton <i>Adjacent to the Holiday Inn Madison West</i> 1109 Fourier Dr Gregorio De La Torre, General Manager 608-826-0555 | Dentistry West 515 Junction Road Suite 2000 608-829-0101 www.dentistrywest.com Marmar Miar, DDS |
| Gloria's Mexican Restaurant 610 Junction Rd 608-206-9222 | Diamond Nails & Spa 915 Junction Rd Suite E 608-833-4787 www.diamondnailsmadison.com |
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