



2005 Annual Meeting in Review

by Kristy Casto

This year's annual meeting, held on Sunday, March 13, was well attended and offered a little something for everyone. The afternoon began with recognition of the WNA Board members, a review of the financials, an update on the state of the neighborhood and a review of activities the history committee has underway. We learned that the approval of the installation of new bus benches along Toepfer will be brought up for discussion at an upcoming City Council meeting. Attendees also had the chance to meet State Representative Terese Berceau, Dane County Supervisor Al Matano, outgoing Alder Jean MacCubbin and incoming Alder Tim Gruber.

Jean MacCubbin provided an update on the library and the Midvale Plaza redevelopment project. Multiple parties now have an ownership stake in Midvale Plaza. An architect for

the project has been chosen as well as a developer, which is from outside the state. The property will be mixed use (i.e. condos and commercial spaces). It is expected that public hearings on the project will be scheduled for sometime this August.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation given by State of Wisconsin Architectural Historian Jim Draeger on post-WWII suburban development. His hour-long slide show gave us insight as to how FHA loan requirements influenced the size and design of many of the homes in the Westmorland neighborhood. He also spoke about Lustron homes (of which Westmorland has several) and the lasting impact of ranch-style homes. If you were not able to hear Jim speak, information about suburban architectural history is available at the historical society's website, www.wisconsinhistory.org.

Toepfer Ave. Home Named National Historic Landmark

by Elissa Pollack

The Frank Lloyd Wright house at 441 Toepfer Ave. has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service. The house, known as Jacobs House 1, is one of three Madison-area buildings that were named National Historic Landmarks during a ceremony on Saturday, May 7. The other two are a home in Middleton known as Jacobs House 2 and the Unitarian Meeting House on University Bay Drive. The ceremony was held at the Unitarian Meeting House.

The Westmorland home was built for Herbert and Katherine Jacobs in 1936. It is known as the first truly Usonian house. It has a concrete slab floor with integral radi-

ant heating and wood sandwich-wall construction in place of conventional studs. Jacobs House 2, on Shawn Trail in Middleton, was built for the same family eight years later.

Children of Herbert and Katherine Jacobs spoke at the May 7 ceremony, sharing their memories of growing up in these historic homes. Also on the May 7 bill was Jack Holzhueter of State Historical Society and Wisconsin Public Radio fame. Mr. Holzhueter spoke about Frank Lloyd Wright's influence in Wisconsin.

See picture at the top of page 3.

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May 2005

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EVENT CALENDAR

VOTE
MAY 24

JULY 4TH
CELEBRATION
JULY 4

GRILL OPEN 11:00 AM TO 11:45 PM

VILLAGE BAR

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President's Message

by Betsy Hauser

Happy Spring!

As winter drew to a close the WNA board of directors said "Good-bye" to several good folks whose considerable contributions will be sorely missed. Past-President Brian Tennant stepped off the board when his term ended in March to pursue other passions, including the Midvale-Lincoln PTA. When I joined the board in 2002, Brian had already served 2 years as Treasurer and had done much to make the board effective, efficient and, I might add, fun. Brian's a gifted leader, and WNA greatly benefited from his energy and attention to the details. Believe me, he left big shoes to fill.

Last month we said "Good-bye" to Treasurer Scott Seavey. Scott and his growing family (Amy Kucken, kids Owen and Megan) found a larger home that, regrettably, is outside Westmorland. Scott also came on the board in 2002 and immediately took on and ran with the responsibilities of Treasurer. Not only did he keep the books in fine shape, Scott also rewrote and updated WNA's bylaws, and corrected our lapsed incorporation status. And, remember the July 4th vandalism to the rented tent in 2003? Scott did an amazing job of negotiating a favorable settlement and salvaged the relationship with

Bucky's Rentals.

And, of course, Jean MacCubbin retired from the Madison City Council this spring after 12 years of serving as our alder. Jean was a tireless resource to our 'hood; her historical knowledge as well as the conduit she provided to City services were most helpful, time and again. We wish her well and much-deserved rest in her "retirement."

The upside to departures, of course, is that new people fill the voids. Over the last couple of months we have welcomed two new neighbors to the board: Joy Grapentine and Kristy Casto. Their fresh perspectives and new ideas make the good-byes bearable. Some of you may have already met our new alder, Tim Gruber, and found him to be approachable and responsive. If you want to contact Tim, his e-mail address is district11@cityofmadison.com.

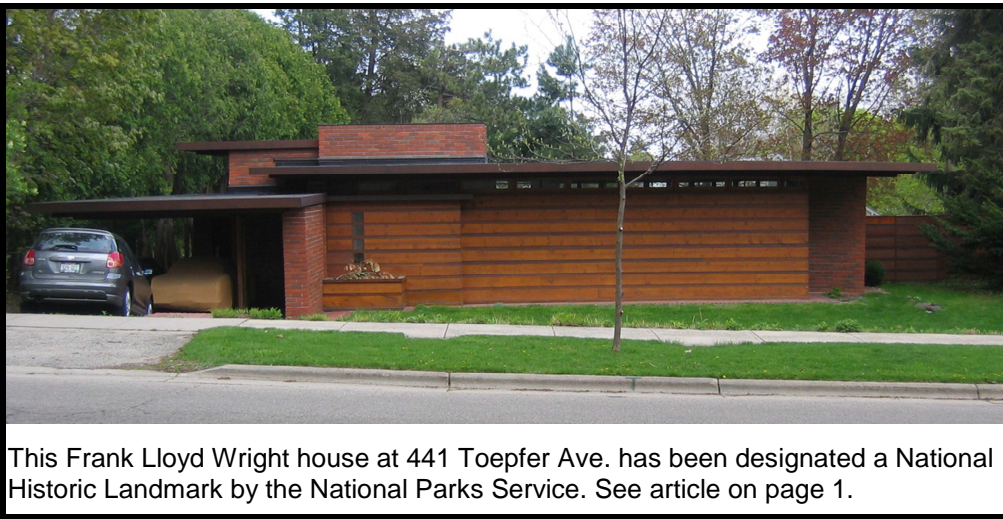
Nothing makes this President's heart beat more happily than to see neighbors get involved in the leadership or committee work of our very active neighborhood association. If you have any desires to get involved in any way, please give me a call at 236-4211 (before 9:00 pm). There may be a task waiting to be done by someone just like you.

Volunteers Needed to Beautify Neighborhood

by Keith Pierce

We are going to set up a regular evening of volunteers for every Monday or Tuesday nights. If you can join us on a Monday or Tuesday contact Kris Schoenbrunn (233-4832) or Keith Pierce (238-6459 or pierce@chorus.net) for details. Please join us to help

prune trees and shrubs, plant and weed and remove invasives like Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard and Honey-suckle. Our goal is to have fun and enjoy the outdoors while we help beautify and protect the rock garden, boulevard and the new traffic calming islands.



This Frank Lloyd Wright house at 441 Toepfer Ave. has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service. See article on page 1.

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Ninth Annual Park Clean Up Thank You

by Keith Pierce

We had yet another day of fun in the sun at the ninth annual Earth Day park clean up. Volunteers included neighbors, friends, students and a hard working group of boys who earn a special thanks from all of us. Thank you neighbors, friends, students, teachers and city parks staff!

We worked (but not too hard) spreading mulch (especially to protect the trees) and cleaning the plant beds. With so many volunteers, the work went quickly.

We were done by 11:30 am and joined the children's celebration for food and socializing. There was plenty of food, treats and beverages to restore the volunteers. See the article below on the children's event for details and thank you organizers of the children's event for inviting the volunteers to join you.

I don't have a list of volunteers like years past -- we missed getting names for so many of you.



Children's Earth Day Celebration

by Mary Campbell

We had gorgeous weather on April 16 as friends and neighbors gathered for our 2005 Earth Day Celebration at Westmorland Park. Adults worked to beautify the park, while children and families met at the shelter to visit, play games, work on art and craft projects and share a sunny day.

Katie Spelsberg was there, helping children transform their artwork into wearable buttons while Amie Dragoo instructed children how to build peanut butter pinecone feeders for birds. Through the recycling relay with Claire Gervais, neighbors were able to improve and show off their recycling skills. For those

who wanted to explore the park more thoroughly, Thomas Spelsberg rallied them for a nature scavenger hunt. A troop of girl scouts even stepped up to help with face painting and coloring activities.

The sun was shining, the breeze was gentle, attendance was high and folks were hungry. Thank you to everyone who helped to organize the refreshments: Kara Anderson, Erika Helmer, Dave Hermann, Kathy Oker, Pat Peterman, Dinar Shrestha and especially all the neighbors who brought snacks and side dishes for sustenance.



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**Westmorland
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**Bethany United
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Sunday worship: 8, 9, 10:45
Sunday school: 9:15
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Before There Was Westmorland: 1860-1899

by Ken Weisner and Tom Martinelli
Westmorland History Committee

This part 1 of a 2 part article.

A recent search of property records for Westmorland has produced some interesting data. We now know which homes, and how many, were built in our area in each year from 1860 through 2001. When combined with a review of the historic plat maps for the Town of Madison dating back to 1861, development patterns begin to emerge.

The Westmorland development centered on Westmorland Blvd. and was first advertised in the Wisconsin State Journal in 1926. Prior to that time, none of the interior streets of our neighborhood existed. All of the building occurred on the two main roads through the area; Mineral Point Road and what is now Odana Road. The Regent Street – Speedway – Mineral Point road corridor is clearly shown on the 1861 plat map. This map also shows the oldest existing building in our area, now 4010 Paunack Ave., a thick-walled cut sandstone structure that appears to have been built in at least two stages. This is located on the 64-acre property in the Northwest corner of Section 28 owned by W. R. Warren in 1861. Later owners include Chas. Baker on the 1890 and 1899 maps (the property was then known as "Sunnyside Farm") and Otto Toepfer on the 1922 and 1926 maps. A "mystery" building is also present on this property. Now a shed in the backyard of 3822 Paunack, it is built of rough sandstone and is likely a pre-1900 farm outbuilding.

The second and third oldest existing homes are located on what is now Odana Road, which at the time was a side road known as Piper road, that

ran for about a mile up the hill to the Piper farm properties in Section 29 from the well-developed road (now Monroe St. – Nakoma Rd.) and stage coach stops at the Springs Hotel and Plough Inn (now the Arbor House Bed and Breakfast). The home at 3902 Odana is just west of the Illinois Central railroad crossing (now the Southwest Bike and Pedestrian Path), in Section 29 and is listed as being constructed in 1890. Some older parts of the two story wood building have well-preserved carved features. A building is shown at this location on the 1861 plat map (the railroad tracks did not exist then, they were completed in 1887) as part of the 36 acre J. Bentz property. Later owners include F. Tiltson and his heirs on the 1890 through 1947 maps. The home at 4214 Odana is farther to the west and is also listed as being constructed in 1890. Some of the older portions of the building remain visible although substantial alterations have occurred over time. A building at this location is also shown on the 1861 plat map on an 8-10 acre plot owned by (J?) Kesselburg. Later owners include G. Weber on an 1870s and the 1899 map, Earnest Weber on the 1899 map, and L.W. Parman on the 1922 through 1940 maps.

The remaining extant pre-1900 buildings are located at 4337 Mineral Point in Section 29. Building records indicate construction in 1896. This secluded compound of buildings at the bottom of the hill near what is now Midvale Blvd. (which did not exist until the 1950s) is located on what was the 160 acre 1861 Elias Long property which became the 120 acre Chas. Piper property on the 1890 map, and

(Continued on page 5)

Before Westmorland

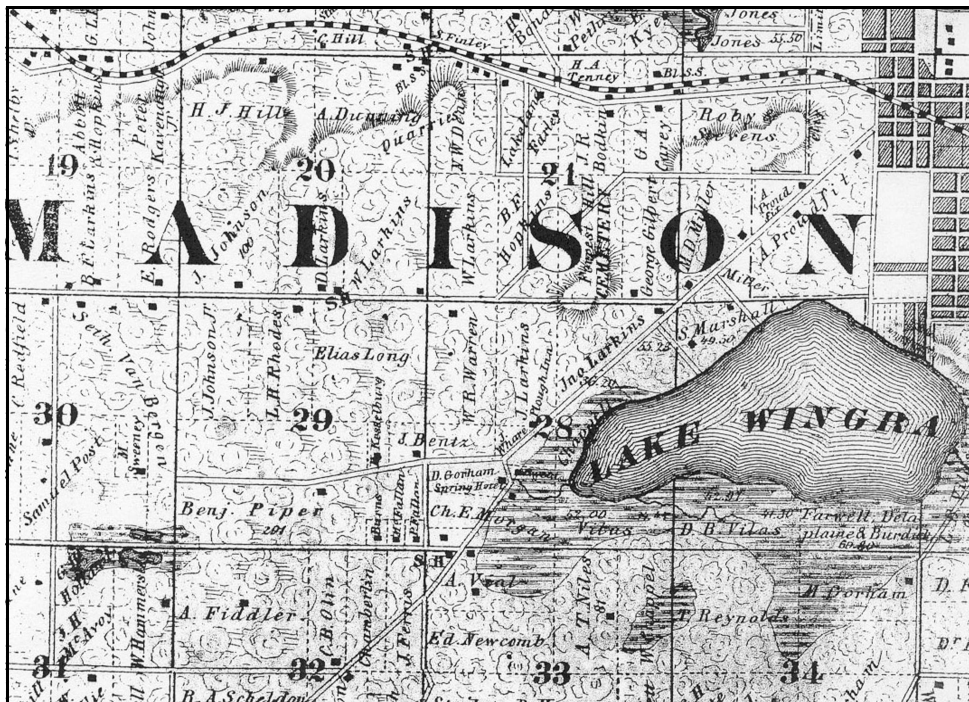
(Continued from page 4)

then the 20 acre Gottlieb Marks part of the property on the 1899 map. A school house is shown on the 1861 plat map opposite these buildings on the North side of Mineral Point Road.

Two additional buildings which no longer exist are shown on the Piper property on both the 1890 and 1899 plat maps in the vicinity of what is now Queen of Peace church. The later owner of this property is Wm. Doerfer

on the 1922 through 1947 maps. One of the outbuildings at this site was said to have been used for the golf course that was constructed in 1925. See the *Courier Extra-Online* for photos of some of the houses mentioned in this article.

Coming up next in part 2 of this series: Before There Was Westmorland: 1900-1925. Learn about the Toepfer "mansion," Meyer house, Glenway and the West Wingra development.



1861 Plat Map: Each section is a 1 mile square (640 acres). Mineral Point runs E-W on the North boundary of Sections 28 and 29. Future location of streets:

- Westmorland Blvd. on the N-S boundary between Sections 28 and 29,
- Glenway St. on the East boundary of the Warren Property,
- Tokay Blvd. on the mid-line of Sections 28 and 29.



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Madison Metropolitan School District Referendum Slated for May 24

Madison residents will vote for three school referenda on Tuesday, May 24. The voting results will have a significant impact on Madison schools, now and in the future. The voting results will affect the educational offerings and the facilities in which they are delivered. To increase your awareness of the issues on this special referenda ballot, we have briefly summarized the three referenda questions below.

Question 1: Authorize up to \$14.5 million to build and equip a new elementary school on site of current Aldo Leopold elementary school on city's southwest side.

- The rationale: Address current overcrowding and provide capacity to handle projected growth on the city's southwest side.
- The impact on property taxpayers: Average homeowner would pay additional \$25 per year for 15 years.
- The alternative: If the school isn't built, the district will make boundary changes that will result in the re-assignment of 50-100 current Leopold students to other schools outside their neighborhood.

Question 2: Starting in the 2005-06, allow the District to exceed state imposed revenue limits by up to \$7.4 million to fund recurring operating costs.

- The rationale: Madison is annually confronted with having to cut its "cost-to-continue" budget in order to comply with state-imposed revenue limits. This year the "revenue cap gap" is \$8.6 million for Madison. With the Board of Education already committed to cutting \$1.2 million from the operating budget, the remaining "revenue cap gap" is \$7.4 million.
- The impact on property taxpayers: Average homeowner would pay additional \$83 per year starting in 2005-06.
- The alternative: Without passage of the referendum, the district will have to cut \$7.4 million from its "cost-to-continue" budget. While the following list is not all-inclusive, this would mean the elimination of the 4th/5th grade strings program, eight school building custodians, four social worker positions, and the list goes on.

Question 3: Support the maintenance of MMSD buildings and purchase of technology / instructional equipment in the amount of \$26.2 million over a five-year period,

- The rationale: In 1999, voters overwhelmingly (73%) approved authorization to apply \$4 million a year for five years to major building needs. This authorization is expiring, so this question asks to extend it for five more years to spend on major building systems, technology and instructional equipment. A five-year plan to repair and replace items in critical condition shows \$26.2 million in projects.
- The impact on property taxpayers: Approval of this referenda item would have no impact on property taxes. This represents the continuation of the spending authorization approved in 1999.
- The alternative: Without passage of the referendum, the district will have to use money from their operating budget to fund the most critical maintenance issues. This will have a further detrimental impact on students and curriculum.

Neighborhood News

New residents

4305 Keating Terrace: Tom & Katia **Albright**, daughter Magdalena.
Tom is from Madison; Katia from Hawthorne, CA.

The 400 block of Caromar Drive welcomes Bruno **Vansina** to the neighborhood.
Bruno moved into 438 Caromar Drive in March.

Melissa and Patrick **Klipstine**, of 3906 St. Clair St., are the proud parents of
Abigail Marie born Feb. 19, 2005. Abigail is also welcomed by her brother Will.

Bryan and Rebecca **Smith**, 638 Anthony Lane, welcome
Ava Katherine, born March 24, 2005.

Speedy Weedy Contest

by Astrid Newenhouse

A gaggle of enthusiastic weeders took part in the Speedy Weedy dandelion digging contest April 16 during Earth Day Celebrations at Westmorland Park. Five adults and 10 kids each did a timed weeding using a new tool that belongs to the Neighborhood Association. The Speedy Weedy is a long handled lightweight aluminum dandelion puller which the Westmorland Healthy Lawn Team encourages people to use instead of putting weed killer on your lawn. You can now borrow this tool and use it yourself.

Ten kids formed relay teams of two, with each kid pulling dandelions for one minute before switching. Griffin and Jake were the winners with 17 dandelions in two minutes, and they each won a potted pansy. Isabel and Alex came in second with 11 dandelions, Loren and Katie were in third place with ten, and Tim and Carie, Maude and Emma were tied in fourth with 9 dandelions in two minutes.

In the adult division, Mitch Bradt won a Speedy Weedy by pulling 62 dandelions in 4 minutes. Kevin Price and Brett Larson were close behind with 57 dandelions and 55 dandelions in 4 minutes. Louisa

Downey pulled 43 dandelions in 4 minutes. Dan, Kellie, and Madeline Miller were in an adult/child division of their own with 8 dandelions making it into the bucket.

With the Speedy Weedy you can stand up and pull dandelions without stooping, and then push a plunger to eject the weeds into a bucket. Dandelions are a hardy perennial with the ability to send up new shoots from a tiny piece of root and are hard to fully evict in one pass. You'll regularly have to go back and re-pull, but the Speedy Weedy makes it fast and fun.

This spring, the Westmorland Neighborhood Association bought 4 Speedy Weedys for us all to use on a lending basis. Neighbors borrow a tool from Astrid Newenhouse, (231-2622, astridn@wisc.edu) and use it as long as they like. It would be somewhat impolite to consider launching the dandelion into your neighbor's yard. However, it is quite polite to chat up the Speedy Weedy to curious passers by and offer to lend it to them. If so, please let Astrid know where your weeder has migrated.



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Sounds of Spring Not Always Welcome

by Bonnie McMullin-Lawton

Ahhhh, spring at last. Time to throw open the windows and get some fresh air. But wait! What's this I hear? The sound of the neighbor's dog barking...and barking...and barking. Although this can be a problem year round, it becomes more evident at this time of year. But what can you do about the situation?

Renee Stodola of the Dane County Humane Society says to try the friendly approach first. Ask your neighbor if they are aware of their dog's barking. Some people are just oblivious to the sound of their own dog's barking.

Some neighbors will be anxious to address your concerns; others will not. It can be helpful to keep some documentation about the problem. Log the time the dog starts barking and the length of time it keeps barking. Sometimes this documentation is enough to convince a dog owner that your concerns are real. If others are also bothered by this same dog, try to get them each to call so that the neighbor understands the problem is troubling many people. Try to keep the discussion civil and not personal.

If your neighbor is receptive but seems helpless, recommend a dog training class. Renee points out that dogs bark to get attention and there are a number of ways to solve this behavioral problem including chew toys, more exercise, and water spray training. Some people seem to think their dog should be outside for extended periods even when the owner is not but many dogs find this alone time anxiety provoking. A veterinarian or animal behaviorist can help provide ideas.

If you can't get a neighbor to cooperate in solving the problem, eventually you may have to turn to the police. The Humane Society does not handle these issues. Usually the police will first issue a warning, followed by a citation if the problem continues. Your documentation may be helpful in your discussion with the police.

As pet owners, we all have a responsibility to bear in mind the experience our neighbors are having with our pet and to avoid invading their 'sound space.' A little sensitivity goes a long way towards making our neighborhood a place we can all enjoy.

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**Environmental Action
Team Forming in
Westmorland**

You can take practical actions to protect our lakes and get to know your neighbors by joining an Environmental Action (EnAct) team in the Westmorland neighborhood. EnAct is partnering with the UW Arboretum and Friends of Lake Wingra to provide **free rain garden plants** to team members in these neighborhoods.

You are invited to learn about EnAct at an informational meeting at the home of Anne and Ian Aley on **Sunday, May 22nd at 1:00 pm**. For location, please call Anne and Ian at 233-1062.

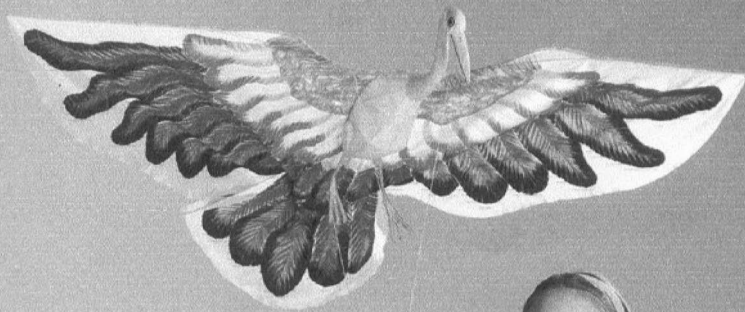
EnAct teams consist of 5-10 households who meet informally and explore the topics of water quality, water conservation, alternative transportation, solid waste reduction, food quality, and energy conservation. Team members choose one or two actions to take from one meeting to the next, and help each other meet their goals. It's a supportive group to help you along your way to a sustainable lifestyle.

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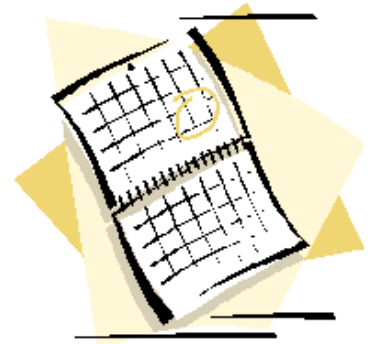
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10-6 M-F
10-5 SAT
11-4 SUN

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Calendar of Events In and Around Westmorland

Date	Event	Time/Place	Contact
Tuesday May 24	Vote on School Referenda	Midvale School	See information on page 6
Saturday June 4	Sequoia Library Book Sale	Sequoia Library 9:30am to 3:00pm	266-6385
Monday July 4	Westmorland July 4th Celebration	Westmorland Park	Betsy Hauser 236-2211
Saturday Aug. 6	Westmorland Garage Sale	Westmorland Neighborhood	Betsy Hauser 236-2211

Please send calendar submissions to Dave Santek at
dasantek@wisc.edu or 231-1223



Courier Extra - Online

<http://www.westmorland-neighborhood.org>

Additional articles of interest to the Westmorland neighborhood available to read on our website.

- Midvale School's Building Bridges Project update
- More pictures from Earth Day at Westmorland Park
- Supplemental pictures for the History article on page 4
- Dane County Executive Column
- Artamos Market and Deli: nearby organic meat market



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Courier is June 6

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2005-2006 Board

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Brian Tennant	past-President	233-2482	bd.tennant@mailbag.com
Elissa Pollack	Vice President	238-2533	elissa@tds.net
Brandon Casto	Treasurer	204-9013	bcasto@tds.net
Kristy Casto	Secretary	204-9013	kecasto@tds.net
Joy Grapentine	at-large member	238-8818	joy.grapentine@esker.com
Peter Lukszys	at-large member	236-0598	lukszys@tds.net

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Adult Social Events Coordinators	Brandon Casto bcasto@tds.net	204-9013
Bike Path Beautification Liaison	Jana Stewart fifi@blackhawkskiarea.org	233-3806
Block Captain Coordinator	Joy Grapentine joy.grapentine@esker.com	238-8818
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Garage Sale Coordinator	Betsy Hauser betsy.hauser@deancare.com	236-4211
Garden Tour Coordinator	Pat Sammataro spaniels@charter.net	770-2019
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History Committee Liaison	Kristy Casto kecasto@tds.net	204-9013
July 4th Event	Betsy Hauser betsy.hauser@deancare.com	236-4211
New Neighbor Packets Coordinator	Becky Bishop Lien jlien1@charter.net	231-5969
Parks & Green Spaces Manager	Keith Pierce pierce@chorus.net	238-6459
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Santa Visits Coordinator	Katie Spelsberg spelsberg@charter.net	661-9874
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