

Neighborhood Sign

Jim Winkle

At the annual Bay Creek Neighborhood Association meeting, many people were interested in having a sign (or signs) erected that identify the Bay Creek neighborhood. Perhaps you've seen similar signs at the entryways to neighborhoods such as the Willy Street Neighborhood, Schenk's Corners, or Tenney-Lapham.

If you have an interest in this project, a committee just formed that would love some help! Over the summer months, we'll be gathering information about the cost of signs, potential locations, and what the sign should look like, and we will present our proposals at the quarterly meeting in September.

If you would like to get involved, now is the time! In particular, we need a sign designer, a landscaper, and a fundraiser. Leave a message for Jim or Bonnie at 259-1812 if you're interested in helping or being on the committee. Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 20 at 7:30pm, at 620 Pine Street.

Wingra Creek Pedestrian/Bike Path

Ron Shutvet

The city of Madison is finally giving serious consideration to a proposed pedestrian and bike path along Wingra Creek that would offer Madison residents an attractive off-road connection between the Arboretum/Vilas Park area and Olin-Turville Park.

As part of the reconstruction of John Nolen Drive from Rimrock road to Lakeside Street, the city is considering the construction of a pedestrian/bike underpass at Wingra Creek. This underpass would be designed not as a tunnel, but as a larger bridge opening for the path to cross under John Nolen Drive and the Railroad corridor along Wingra Creek.

Bay Creek residents would have a safe alternative route for crossing the new six lane

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The *Bay Creek Bulletin* is published every other month by the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) and is a news and information service for the neighborhood. The Bay Creek neighborhood lies between Monona Bay and Wingra Creek on the south side of Madison. All queries and contributions should be addressed to the editor.

The BCNA Council meets the third Monday of every month at St. Mark's Church at 7pm. Contact your area rep with issues or ideas.

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Area 3: Northwestern RR Tracks West to Park Street:

Open

Area 4: Central Area:

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Fred and Catherine Festge, 610 Pine Street, 256-1815.
Jim Winkle & Bonnie Schmidt, 620 Pine Street, 259-1812.

Standing Committees:

Environmental and Recreational Development:

Ron Shutvet, Chair, 925 Lake Court, 255-4964.

Neighborhood Image and Elderly Services:

Jerry Anderson, Co-chair, 613 Spruce Street, 256-8463.

Laurel Munger, Co-chair, 934 High Street, 256-1398.

Traffic:

Terri Michel, Chair, 1325 N. Wingra Drive, 256-1576.

City Council Member:

Napoleon Smith, 1713 Fisher Street, 255-6468.

County Board Member:

Sue Herbst, 1105 Harrison Street, 256-6652.

Magic Street (O'Sheridan Street)

Fran Keller

Have you experienced the magic of O'Sheridan Street? Drive, walk, or bike from Lakeside Street towards the lake and watch the Capital become smaller as you become closer... it's a fun illusion! Children love the experience.

Lawrence / O'Sheridan Lakeshore Park

Ron Shutvet

If you like taking walks in our neighborhood, check out the Lawrence / O'Sheridan Lakeshore park this summer. In the past three years, residents of these two streets have helped the city transform this area from a weed and brush infested eyesore to an attractive lakeshore park.

Residents first removed brush and debris from the shoreline. This last March the city improved the lakeshore with a protective glacial bolder shoreline. Also, this is the second year for two flower gardens in this small lakeshore park. Flowers are provided each year by the Marguerite Pohle Trust Fund Flower Project at no expense to taxpayers. Area residents volunteer their time to plant and care for these gardens each summer. Don't forget to go down "Magic Street" while you're there!

Statue Landscaping

Jim Winkle

Have you seen the statue at the intersection of Park, Beld and Cedar Streets lately? The landscaping was in need of some attention, and the South Metropolitan Business Association recently hired the C/R Stephenson Company to clean out the overgrowth, prune, and lay down bark. Our thanks to them!

We will also be planting some flowers around the area in the near future, and if you would like to help, contact Jim or Bonnie at 259-1812. Thanks!

South Madison Branch Library

Pam Gates

The South Madison Branch Library's situation is a bit shaky right now. The library is on a month-to-month lease at the Villager Shopping Center on Park Street. We don't want to lose our library! If you have any leads on where we could relocate, please call Michele Heyman, president of the Friends of South Madison Branch Library at 255-4928.

Greater South Madison Coalition

Pam Gates

The Greater South Madison Coalition formed as the result of a forum held March 20 by the Friends of South Madison Branch Library. The people attending the forum recognized that South Madison has problems, but that it also has many strengths, among them its wonderful human potential. How to build on those strengths to create a strong community of South Madison

while addressing local problems is the focus of the Greater South Madison Coalition, which meets once a month at the branch library.

So far the group has been working on transportation issues, youth employment and training, and the status of our branch library.

Michele Heyman, of Friends of South Madison Branch Library, is facilitating the Coalition. If you want more information or have a concern to bring before the group, please contact Michele at 255-4928.

Wingra Drive / Mills Street Corridor Traffic Problem

Terri Michel

On May 25, 1993, a neighborhood meeting chaired by Napoleon Smith was held at St. Mary's Hospital. A proposal was made to create a series of one way streets around the hospital to reduce traffic volume on Mills Street and N. Wingra Drive. The increasing volume of traffic on these streets has been a complaint for many years and the meeting was held to obtain opinions from the neighbors affected and discuss possible solutions. The basic plan for discussion was to stop northbound traffic on Wingra at Erin Street and prevent southbound traffic on Mills no further than Delaplaine, forcing traffic back to Park Street. This would allow access to the hospital and emergency room and the zoo from either direction, but stop the flow of through traffic. A recent Traffic Engineering study indicated the majority of traffic moving north on Wingra continued up Mills, past the hospital and on to Drake or Regent. In other words, the majority of traffic is using the Wingra/Mills corridor as a shortcut to avoid Park and Fish Hatchery.

Approximately 75 interested neighbors attended and many more voiced their opinion by phone. There was a general consensus that the traffic was a problem to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists alike. A total of 21 suggestions were made and summarized to 3 options which were voted on:

- 1) Stop signs along Mills and Wingra
- 2) Blocking "through" traffic using one way corridors
- 3) Combination of 1 and 2

The majority vote was for number 3 -- a combination of one way corridors and stop signs with the intent to divert traffic from Mills and Wingra to Park street (built to handle more traffic). It is felt that once drivers find the "shortcut" no longer a time saver, they would not continue to use it nor divert through other neighborhood streets. Evidence of successful diversion of traffic to a major street was seen on the East side when Spaight Street was blocked off to through traffic at Williamson. Drivers stopped using Spaight as a shortcut and traffic decreased on all neighborhood side streets as well. The ability of the neighbors to reach a consensus was credited for the success.

The next step for our neighborhood is to do the same. From this meeting a working committee of invested neighbors from Bay Creek and Brittingham-Vilas Neighborhood Associations will meet to iron out the details of the plan. This committee should be formed by mid-July and have a proposal for the Associations by October. If accepted by the joint Neighborhood Associations, the proposal will be presented to the Madison Transportation Department for a public hearing. If approved, the Transportation Department will present it to the City Council for final approval.

We have waited a long time for an

opportunity to affect change in the Wingra/Mills corridor traffic (volume, speed, parking and safety). It's finally happening -- let's not let it die due to lack of consensus! Forward your ideas to the Neighborhood Association. Contact Terri Michel for further information at 256-1576.

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highway scheduled for construction in 1994. The remainder of the new pedestrian/bike route along Wingra Creek would be constructed over a number of years in stages timed with future reconstruction of other bridges at Olin Ave, Beld Street, and Part Street to eventually create a safe and appealing off-road connection between two of Madison's most beautiful natural areas.