



# Bay Creek Bulletin

## Q&A with Michele Walker, BCNA Police Liaison

By Sara Richards

**Why did you decide to become a police officer?** In 2000 I participated in the Tanqueray AIDSride where I rode my bicycle from St Paul, MN to Chicago. After months of training and the experience of the Ride itself, I no longer felt fulfilled working my desk job at a Milwaukee non-profit and decided to branch out and try policing. I was recently trained in bike patrol so you may see me traveling through the neighborhood via bicycle this summer.

**You've been with the Madison Police since May 2001. What were your previous assignments?** I spent 4 years working in the Central district and have also worked North, East, and West. 2008 was my first year assigned to South. I worked 2nd shift and covered the areas of Olin-Turville Park, Lakepoint Dr, and the Moorland Rd neighborhoods. I worked 3rd detail for 7 months and 1st detail for one year. I enjoy the 2-10pm shift best.

**How long have you been in Community Policing?** This year I am new to the South Community Policing Team (CPT), a team of 6 officers and 1 sergeant. Our job is to work on problem areas that patrol does not have the time to tackle due to their calls for service.

**Are you a Madison native?** I am a second generation Californian. I moved to Wisconsin for college and never left. Genealogy research is a hobby; I recently learned of my Wisconsin connection. My ancestors lived in the Pepin/Stockholm area in the mid 1800s.

**What are the challenges of this position?** There are many – one big one is your day is often dictated by what happens out on the street. You may have plans to work on a certain target area but if there is a shooting or some other major incident, focus will have to shift to that incident. Most people don't truly understand the ins and outs of police work and what some of our limitations are. We face a lot of negativity and anger that is directed toward us because we wear a uniform. At times it can be challenging to stay positive when surrounded by so much negativity.



## Bay Creek Billboard

**Saturday, June 20 (Take a Stake in The Lakes 9 am-noon), Saturday, July 11 & Saturday, Aug 8, 10 am-noon** Shoreline clean ups with Friends of Monona Bay. Meet at Brittingham Park Beach House (corner of Proudfit and W. Brittingham Place). Garbage bags and tools are provided, please bring your own gloves and dress accordingly. Contact Nina for more info; Email: ninaj@wisc.edu, Phone 265-3411 or 258-1788.

**Saturday July 4 Annual BCNA 4th of July Picnic 12 noon** Goodman Field (in oak grove behind pool)  
Come meet your neighbors and share good food and laughter. Please bring your own utensils, plates, cups and a dish to pass. For more info call Judy at 469-1218

**Monday Jul 13 Bi-Monthly BCNA meeting at 6:30 pm**  
Madison Baha'i Center, 324 W. Lakeside St.  
All Bay Creek residents are invited to attend.

**First Wednesday of each month**  
Friends of Monona Bay, 124 S. Brooks St., Rm 1, 6:30 pm.  
Go to [www.mononabay.org](http://www.mononabay.org) for more info.

**South Madison Farmers Market schedule**  
Mondays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 2500 Rimrock Rd.  
Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Labor Temple (1602 S. Park St.)  
Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Villager Mall  
Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Labor Temple

# A Short tale of Suzy

By Al Schwoegler

In April 1956, neighborhood kids in the 400 block of S Orchard St (our home then) received an Easter baby chick from an older bachelor neighbor who worked for UW poultry research. At 7 years old, I was delighted and named the chick Suzy. I'm sure it was illegal to have the chicks in the City at the time but no one seemed to pay any attention to it.

Suzy was the only neighborhood Easter chick to survive that first week, mainly because my mom was the only farm-raised mom on the block. Mom placed hot water bottles in Suzy's cardboard box each night. I helped by making sure food and water were always available.

As Suzy grew, a pen was built from old wooden window screens and placed in the garage. Suzy became a constant companion who followed me and playmates around the yard. We would swing on the backyard swing-set with Suzy perched high in the center of the top. She would sometimes fly down from the swing-set to perch on my shoulder. I remember walking around the yard, perched chicken and all, most of the summer.

As fall approached and school started, Suzy was big enough to lay eggs. I raced home from Longfellow school each day to eat lunch and check on her. I often ate lunches which included a scrambled egg, compliments of Suzy.

A fall crisis developed. It was starting to be too cold in the garage for Suzy. An egg-lady, who sold eggs door-to-door on our block, had a farm in Fitchburg with several hundred hens and offered to adopt Suzy. A family decision was made to let Suzy move to the farm. She would have a big pen and many companions.

We got to visit Suzy's hen house that winter. She was a larger breed than the other hens and quite noticeable among them. She flew up and perched on my shoulder right away when I walked in. I was told that Suzy always perched on the basket of whoever was gathering eggs at the farm.

In summer of '57 we moved far away to the west edge of Madison (Midvale Boulevard!). We continued to get news of Suzy over the years. She remained at the farm and lived with the other hens, reaching 7 years old.



## Breakfast at Sally's by Richard leMieux

Reviewed by Sara Richards

This readable memoir of a successful businessman finds him suddenly homeless, living in his van with his little white dog, Willow. Richard quickly learns from other homeless people that Sally's (short for Salvation Army) is the place to go for breakfast. There he gets not only nourishment for his body but also practical advice and true friendship from staff and fellow homeless. The book details the varied lives of his homeless friends and the circumstances that led each of them to homelessness. Richard has adventures with true friends and misadventures with those taking advantage of his situation. It's never made clear what brought him to his homeless state. What is made clear is that many of the homeless retain a sense of personal dignity and form a caring community with one another. The book doesn't whitewash the personal choices that led some to homelessness but does portray them as real human beings.

The Bay Creek Bulletin is always looking for articles, reviews, stories, poems, drawings and photos by and about neighborhood residents. If you there is something you would like to submit for a future issue, please contact Sara Richards or Judy Robinson (contact info is on last page)

# Artists Among Us: Rob Summerbell

By Pamela Gates

The red, 325-pound, 10-foot tall ex-cable reel parked along Hickory Street, the “Wacky Wheeler,” is owned and operated by Rob Summerbell, who lives in the house where it’s parked. He found the reel in a junkyard while walking his dog

Rob started his path to the Wacky Wheeler as well as Giant Stilt Walker at age 13, when he built a huge half-pipe skateboard ramp in his parents’ backyard and of course skateboarded on it. In adulthood he followed a career in organic produce, after which he took up carpentry, which he still does. He stayed in shape during those years by bicycling long distances to work.

In 1989 Rob co-founded Cycropia, an aerial dance company celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. A few years later he created and performed an aerial dance on a low-flying trapeze with the company. “The trapeze is neat,” he says. “It allowed me, as an adult, to keep doing a ‘weightless’ sport — sort of avoiding gravity for a moment.” He also taught trapeze classes, where he met his partner, Laura, to whom he gives all the credit for the success of his artistic enterprises. “I wouldn’t be doing this without Laura’s vision,” he says.

“Somewhat by accident, we started a stilt-walking company,” Rob recalled. “I built a pair and taught myself after I saw a Cirque de Soleil show.” Laura became the main stilt walker in their company of currently eight Jolly Giants, though the arrival of baby Lilah, now 1, put some limits on Laura’s stilt walking. The Jolly Giants take part in events like the Willy Street Fair and have been seen wandering around Bay Creek. “Our entire basement is filled with costumes, from a giant ear of corn to Uncle Sam and the Statue of Liberty,” Rob says.

In 1999 friends convinced Rob to take part in the Art Bike Parade with the Wacky Wheeler. “I rode the wheel around the Square,” he recalls. “It was pretty scary, but it was an attention getter. I pretended it was my ride to work.” Now Rob rides his wheel in about 50 parades a year and at several fairs. “I get to go to all these small towns in Wisconsin on their special day,” Rob says. “We try to stick around, talk to locals, and take part in the festivities.”

Rob also teaches at the Wild Rumpus Circus Camp in Mazomanie. “I have a wild rumpus circus camp in my driveway,” he adds: “I love kids and enjoy having them come over” as evidenced by the skateboard ramp in his driveway.

Coming from a long line of preachers, Rob jokes about preaching on his wheel, telling audiences how happy he is to see them “in person” and weaving ideas of imaginative recycling or ‘repurposing’ (like his wheel) into his performances.

Rob’s son, Sean, 12, has been performing with him since he was 6. Rob and Laura stilt walked together before Lilah was born, and Laura does the publicity and contacts. “It’s very much a family affair,” Rob says.

Is his work dangerous? “What I do is very physical, very demanding,” Rob acknowledges. “I broke two ribs last summer ... right when things were getting busy. I’m not afraid of doing things like that. I’m always humbled, and reminded that most people wouldn’t think of doing this!”

*For more information, visit the websites [jollygiants.com](http://jollygiants.com) and [wackywheeler.com](http://wackywheeler.com).*



All residents, businesses and non-profit organization with property in the City of Madison are eligible to use the FREE service of the solar agent hired by the City of Madison to evaluate the solar options on your property. He also will, if you wish, help you find a contractor. For assistance from the Solar Agent please contact (608) 243-0586 or email [solar@cityofmadison.com](mailto:solar@cityofmadison.com)

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

## **Bay Creek Annual Picnic**

The annual BCNA 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic will take place in Goodman Field in the Oak Woods at noon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates, utensils and cups. Hope to see you there!

## **Summer Activities for Children**

African American Ethnic Academy Summer Science Program: There are still a few openings in “A Celebration of Life”, the summer science program open to children of all races. Grades 3-5 meet June 15-26, 8:30-noon, M-F; Grades 6-8 meet July 6-17, 8:30-noon, M-F. Contact Virginia Henderson at 274-5808 or [vmhender@hotmail.com](mailto:vmhender@hotmail.com) for more information.

Seeking Young Writers: Kids, what is your favorite summer activity in the Bay Creek neighborhood?

Write an article, draw a picture, compose a poem, or design a cartoon showing us what you like to do during summer vacation. Send your information to Sara Richards (contact information is on the back page).

Mary’s School of Dance: Classes in Preballet (3-5 yr olds), Ballet, Pointe, Tap, Jazz and Polynesian for ages 3 to adult starting in June. Call 274-9611 for more information or email [www.maryschoolofdance](http://www.maryschoolofdance.com). Located at 1825 S. Park Street.

## **BCNA Meeting of May 11, 2009**

**By Dan Kennelly**

Officer Michele Walker from the Madison Police Department attended the meeting to discuss strategies to address inappropriate behavior at Turville Woods Nature Conservancy and Olin Park. She wants to get neighborhood help in returning the area to family and hikers' use. Some ideas were legalizing dog walking in the park, creating a “Friends of Olin Park” organization, setting up cameras, and having more organized walks and activities. Officer Walker is looking for suggestions from the neighborhood on how to address the problem. (ph. 266-5938, [mwalker@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mwalker@cityofmadison.com))

The Treasurer reported that several outstanding invoices for Bulletin ads have been paid recently, but one old invoice has yet to be paid. (*Editor’s note: This has since been paid*) It also noted that the cost of producing the Bulletin exceeds the ad revenue by \$56 per issue. Selling two additional ads would cover this deficit.

Bob Stoffs reported that Clark Street Development Group presented preliminary redevelopment ideas for the Bancroft Dairy site at a recent South Madison Business Association Meeting. Bancroft Dairy is the triangular property at the intersection of Fish Hatchery and Park Street. The developer wants to be consistent with the Wingra Build Plan; initial ideas are for a mixed-use project that may include ground-floor retail with a hotel and/or senior housing.

Those present unanimously voted to accept Bob Stoff’s offer to continue serving as representative to the South Metropolitan Planning Council and those present also unanimously voted to maintain the current Committee Chairs.

The annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic will start at noon at the tables behind Goodman Pool.

## **Recent Listings on NeighborNation.net**

- ◆ **Bikes to borrow?**
- ◆ **Eyeglasses found**
- ◆ **Wanted-play tunnels for kids**
- ◆ **Teen wanted to mow lawn**
- ◆ **Summer volunteers for older adults in the neighborhood**
- ◆ **Looking for Hostas and other perennials**
- ◆ **Looking for gardening boxes**

***Not registered yet? Just go to [www.NeighborNation.net](http://www.NeighborNation.net)***

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

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## **South Madison Coalition of the Elderly**

### **Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers**

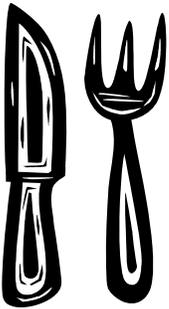
The Area Agency on Aging will distribute vouchers to seniors for use in purchasing up to \$25 worth of vegetables, fruit, or herbs at any local farmers' markets in 2009. Vouchers are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis to those 60 or older who have gross incomes under \$20,036 for one person, or \$25,900 for two-person households. There is a limit of one set of vouchers per household. To get vouchers, bring an ID showing your birth date, plus one of the following to show your income: Quest or Forward card, 2008 income tax or Homestead Credit form, social security allotment statement, or subsidized-housing review letter to Romnes Apartments, 540 W. Olin Ave on Thursday, June 4 11:30 a.m. (in the community room)

### **Metro-Transit Speaker**

A representative from Metro-Transit will be at Romnes Apartments, 540 W. Olin Ave on Thursday, June 25 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss bus accessibility, Metro-Plus, hybrid buses, and the new low-income bus passes. There will be time to answer questions one-on-one.

### **Introduction to Computer Class**

Held at Villager Mall, 2300 S. Park St., the cost of the class is \$49.63 but only \$4.00 for those 62 and older. The Introduction to Computer class provides an overview for true beginners. Become familiar with keyboard functions, terminology, and learn to use desktop icons, menus, and Windows. To register, call MATC with the class #10890 246-6240 by June 12, or visit [www.matcmadison.edu](http://www.matcmadison.edu).



## **JA's Soul Food Brings Southern Cooking to Bay Creek**

By Judy Robinson

The Beld Street location of David's Jamaican Cuisine has been transformed to JA's Soul Food. The owner of JA's is long-time South Madison resident Larry Jackson who with his goddaughter, Brittney Sanders, is taking the orders and serving the food with a warm smile. Brittney is from Indiana and moved to the area 8 years ago after graduating high school. She lived in McFarland and Stoughton before coming to Madison; working at JA's is her first restaurant job. Brittney's outgoing personality makes her well-suited for the job, she greets all of the customers cheerfully and makes everyone feel welcome.

The restaurant opened in early May and Brittney said that response has been good and they've had quite a lot of customers. The day I stopped in, a placard on the sidewalk advertised their specials to help draw people inside.

The restaurant has an extensive menu with full dinners including catfish, perch, chicken, turkey and pork chops. All dinners come with your choice of two sides (fries, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, okra, green beans, etc.) and a soda. They also have sandwiches (Italian sausage, hot dogs, barbecue) which are served with one side and a soda. Plus, you can get ice cream for desert; having all of these choices makes this an ideal place for families with children.

With only a few tables, the new restaurant is geared to carry out at the moment. If you do choose to eat in, you can play a game of pool while you wait for your food to be prepared.

Stop in at JA's next time you're looking for a new place for lunch or want to bring home something different for dinner. They are open from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. You can call 658-4149 to find out what their special is or to place your order ahead of time.

**Bay Creek Bulletin information** 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 Bulletin welcomes comments and submission of articles, photographs, drawings, poetry, announcements and other information.

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**Next issue: Aug/Sept 2009 Deadlines: Ads and Copy, July 10 Delivery: First week of August**

<p><b>BCNA officers</b> <b>Bay Creek contact person</b> Bob Stoffs, 914 Lawrence; 255-1074</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Dan Kennelly <b>808 O'Sheridan Street</b> <b>(734) 255-8427</b> <a href="mailto:kennelly.dan@gmail.com">kennelly.dan@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Judy Robinson 469-1218 <a href="mailto:jbella@merr.com">jbella@merr.com</a></p>	<p><b>Standing committees</b> <b>Welcoming committee</b> Julie Campbell, 818 Emerson St.; 258-1495; <a href="mailto:juliejamescampbell@hotmail.com">juliejamescampbell@hotmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Web committee</b> Jim Winkle, 813 Emerson St.; 259-1812; <a href="mailto:jim@EventsGalore.net">jim@EventsGalore.net</a></p>	<p><b>Advertise in the Bulletin!</b></p> <p>Business sized card ads start at only \$30.</p> <p>E-mail Rose Brothers for more info: <a href="mailto:RoseBros13@aol.com">RoseBros13@aol.com</a></p>
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<p><b>BCNA area representatives</b> Area 1—Wingra Drive west of Park Street Area 2—Northwestern railroad tracks east to Olin-Turville Park Area 3—Lakeside St to Monona Bay and west to Park Street Area 4—Central area between Lakeside St and Olin Ave Area 5—Tree streets Area 6—Romnes Apartments BCNA Rep to South Metropolitan Planning Council</p>	<p>Judy Robinson; 469-1218 <a href="mailto:jbella@merr.com">jbella@merr.com</a> Kirk Elliott 255-5646 Cindy Snyder Jim Winkle 259-1812 Bob Lockhart; 633 Cedar St.; 256-0444 Open Bob Stoffs, 914 Lawrence; 255-1074</p>
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<p><b>Government representatives</b> City council Julia Kerr, 260-2661; <a href="mailto:district13@cityofmadison.com">district13@cityofmadison.com</a> County board Kyle Richmond; 929 O'Sheridan St.; 251-3171; <a href="mailto:richmond.kyle@co.dane.wi.us">richmond.kyle@co.dane.wi.us</a> State representative Mark Pocan; 266-8570; <a href="mailto:rep.pocan@legis.state.wi.us">rep.pocan@legis.state.wi.us</a> State senator Fred Risser; 266-1627; <a href="mailto:sen.risser@legis.state.wi.us">sen.risser@legis.state.wi.us</a> Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin; 257-9200; <a href="mailto:tammy.baldwin@mail.house.gov">tammy.baldwin@mail.house.gov</a> U.S. Senators Herb Kohl; 264-5338; <a href="mailto:senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov">senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov</a> Russ Feingold; 828-1200; <a href="mailto:russell_feingold@feingold.senate.gov">russell_feingold@feingold.senate.gov</a></p> <p>BCNA police department liaison: Officer Michele Walker; South Side Station, 825 Hughes Place; Phone: 266-4830; e-mail: <a href="mailto:mwalker@cityofmadison.com">mwalker@cityofmadison.com</a></p>
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