



Bay Creek Bulletin

Shaking The President's Hand By Sara Richards

Eighth-grader Sam Hart was lucky to be in the small group addressed by President Barack Obama during his visit to Wright Middle School on Wednesday, November 4, 2009. He was even luckier to get to shake the President's hand.

Sam, the son of David and Kris Hart, said that all the students had to pass through a metal detector that had been set up in the sixth grade hall. No cell phones or cameras were permitted. He described the small group setting as rows of chairs with emotionless Secret Service agents who "never smiled at all."

The President briefly addressed the small group urging them to stay in school. Each had prepared a question for the President (cleared by teachers). Mr. Obama called on some of the students to ask their questions. Sam was not chosen but his question would have been, "Why did you choose to come to Wright School and what do you think of charter schools?" Sam thought the President came across as "friendly and a really nice person."

Except for the small group, the student body including Sam's 7th grade brother Harry was seated in the gymnasium for an entire hour before the President spoke. According to Sam the students in the large assembly liked the speech and clapped a lot. The excitement lingered to the next day as students debriefed instead of having their regular school work.

The President was accompanied by Governor James Doyle and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. After the President spoke to the student body, the students remained attentive as Secretary Duncan delivered his own speech. The press left before Secretary Duncan's speech causing one teacher to comment that "the students were better behaved than the reporters."



Sam Hart and Doc

Bay Creek Billboard

Monday, Jan 11 BCNA Annual Potluck 5:30 pm

Madison Baha'i Center, 324 W. Lakeside St.

All Bay Creek residents are invited to attend, children are welcome. It's a great chance to meet to your neighbors!

Please bring your own plates, cups, silverware and a dish to pass.

Potluck will be followed by the Bi-Monthly BCNA Meeting at 6:30 pm

Voluntary annual dues of \$10 can be paid at any neighborhood meeting or sent to Rose Brothers 1112 Gilson St 53715. If you are coming to the potluck, you can drop them off there too!

Saturday, Dec 12, Saturday Jan 9, Saturday Feb 13 from 10 am to noon

Shoreline clean ups with Friends of Monona Bay. Meet at Brittingham Park Beach House (corner of Proudfit & 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.

Second Monday of odd-numbered months

Bay Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) meetings at 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 for more info.

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Promotes Rail Safety

Approximately every two hours, a person or vehicle is struck by a train in the United States, and unfortunately injuries and even deaths are the likely result. The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. would like to offer some important tips that could prevent you or your children from getting seriously injured or killed when traveling across railroad tracks or walking adjacent to railroad corridors.

Cross railroad tracks at a designated public crossing equipped with a crossbuck, stop or yield sign, flashing lights, pavement markings, or a gate. If you cross at any other location, you are placing your life and the life of the person you are with at great risk.

Railroad property is private property and anyone entering railroad property without permission can be cited for trespassing and can be ticketed or fined. Fishing, walking, jogging, taking short-cuts, riding motorized vehicles, bicycling are all unauthorized uses of railroad property. Remember - rails and recreation do NOT mix!

If you approach a railroad crossing and see flashing red lights, don't ignore them –Stop! Do not proceed until it is safe to do so. After a train passes, wait until the lights have stopped flashing. If the crossing is equipped with gates, wait until the gates are completely up. Driving around gates or failing to stop for flashing lights can result in a fine of up to \$500.00.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) at U.S. DOT: Three out of four crashes occur within 25 miles of a motorist's home. Fifty percent of all crashes occur within five miles of home.

Trains overhang the rails on each side by at least three feet. Straps used to secure freight may hang from the side of railcars. When approaching a railroad crossing, advance warning signs alert drivers to be prepared to stop if a train is present. When stopping at a crossing, make sure to stay back of pavement markings to ensure safe clearance, and to protect yourself and your loved ones from flying debris. Always stand or stop at least 15 feet from the track while waiting for the train to pass.

Trains can weigh up to 15,000 tons and can take up to a mile or more to stop. This is the equivalent to 18 football fields. Trains can't stop quickly – You can!

According to U.S. statistics, in 2008 there were 1,199 people injured or killed across the U.S. who were involved in crashes at railroad crossings or while walking or playing on or near railroad tracks. The WSOR is an active participant and supporter of Operation Lifesaver which is an international program whose goal is to promote railway safety in our communities through education, engineering and enforcement. Wisconsin & Southern asks that when approaching a railroad crossing, you always: **Look, Listen, & Live!**

Reform state education formula to help Madison schools

By State Rep. Mark Pocan

As we crafted a tough state budget in a time of record deficits and large spending cuts, Democrats focused on job creation in our tough economy and protecting three vital areas: healthcare, public safety and our schools. Yet we all know that Madison schools, are facing an estimated \$9.2 million cut in general state aids.

There's a misperception that this hit to Madison schools is due to cuts in this year's budget. But consider this: even if the Legislature had been able to add an additional \$100 million or more into school aids, it would not have helped Madison.

The real culprit is something tougher to change -- the state funding formula for K-12 schools. Madison took a hit because while property values plummeted in other communities, Madison's values held relatively steady. And we are a property-rich district with high per-pupil spending.

The formula ultimately rewards districts where property values are falling. Legislative Democrats fought additional cuts proposed by the governor and others to school aids when it became clear in May that tax revenues were \$1.6 billion lower than expected. The governor and some in the Legislature proposed cutting an additional 5% from general school funding. With some tough negotiating we were able to hold that cut to half, saving \$250 million in general state aids to schools.

A paper put out by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to explain state aid to school districts requires 50 pages to explain the funding formula. Don't worry, I won't attempt to do that here. (It's on the bureau's website if you want to drink some coffee and give it a read: www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/) The formula is almost as dense as the tax code ... and often as unpredictable.

Here's a view from an expert, UW-Madison economist Andrew Reschovsky: "I would be extremely surprised if there are not a lot of districts that are considering property tax rate increases, although (Madison is) hit in some ways harder than others," he said. "The existing school funding system in Wisconsin really penalizes Madison," because it doesn't reflect the district's challenges of educating a school population with high poverty rates and multiple languages."

(Wisconsin State Journal, 9/2/09) To help Madison schools, and other districts that are disproportionately impacted, we have to change the state funding formula. It's a critical part of educational reform and necessary to meet the real goal – high student achievement for all students across the state.

The Assembly Committee on Education, chaired by Rep. Sody Pope-Roberts, will be tackling this and other issues impacting public education. I remain committed to finding an equitable, sustainable solution, knowing there is not a quick, easy fix.

I urge you to work with us on education efforts as well as my other priorities for the current legislative session, including job creation. I invite you to visit my webpage www.markpocan.net, or contact me at 266-8570 or rep.pocan@legis.wi.gov.

Bay Creek Bulletin Advertisers

We omit the ads in our electronic newsletter in order to decrease the file size. But our advertisers are crucial to our success, we would not be able to publish without their help. We wanted to list the businesses that advertise in our newsletter as a way of expressing our appreciation for their support:

Alvarado Group
Bohemian Bauble
Candlin Pet Hospital
Chakra House
E-Towne Edit
Hansen's Auto Service Center Inc.
Headstock Music
Lakeside Fibers
Lakeside Press
Martin Saunders Photography
Mary's School of Dance
Madison Gas & Electric
Not Just Kitchens
RE Golden Produce Co
St Mark's Lutheran Church
St. Mary's Hospital
Washington Hotel Coffee Room
Whole Pet Veterinary Clinic
WYOU Community Television

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Bay Creek Bulletin

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

January Potluck

The annual BCNA potluck will precede the January 11, 2010, business meeting, please see Billboard section on front page for details.

No More Dogs at Olin

Michele Walker, neighborhood liaison police officer, reports that the Parks Department has decided against dogs at Olin. The department experimented for a month having dogs there but has decided against continuing this for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile there seems to be an increase in families using Olin-Turville as a recreation site.

“Hands Across South Madison” Grant Program

Do you have an idea for a program for children and youth? Wondering how to fund this project? Now you can turn your inspiration into a reality. The Town of Madison and South Metropolitan Planning Council (SMPC) encourage you to apply for a grant as part of Community Services Initiatives – “Hands Across South Madison.” We encourage everyone – volunteer organizations, non-profits, neighborhood associations, and community members – to apply. The project should focus on the inclusion of children and youth who live within the SMPC area.

Deadline for application is Friday, February 12, 2010. For questions and application materials, contact Jodi Wortsman at 260-8098 or smpcvc@terracom.net.

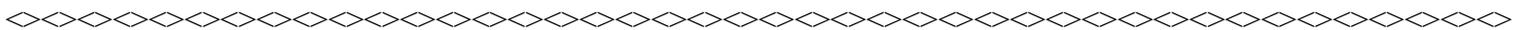
Celebrate Park Street

Socialize with fellow neighbors, businesses, organizations, and fans of our street. See video clips of some businesses that make Park Street unique. Enjoy great Park Street eats and drinks!

The event will be held on Wednesday, December 9 from 5:30-7:30 pm (program at 6 pm). Location is Space Place in Villager Mall, 2300 South Park Street (Space Place is located in the lower level of the atrium in the Villager). RSVP and questions, contact Jodi (South Metropolitan Planning Council) at 260-8098 or smpcvc@terracom.net

Co-sponsored by Park Street Partners and South Metropolitan Planning Council. Supported by Meriter, St. Mary's Hospital, and UW Madison.

Park Street Partners is a coalition of stakeholders (representing residents, businesses, institutions & organizations) working to promote community and economic development along the Park Street corridor. South Metropolitan Planning Council is a coalition of neighborhood and business groups that work together to increase the civic capacity on Madison's Southside.



South Madison Coalition of the Elderly Senior Notes

128 E. Olin Ave, 251-8405

Neighborhood Senior Center - Romnes Apartments, 540 W. Olin Ave. If you are interested in joining us for lunch before/after the programs, call 251-8405 to reserve a meal. The cost for lunch for those 60 and older, is on a donation basis.

Prevent Holiday Stress: Dealing with stress and depression during the holidays can be very challenging. Rita Stantonn, RN from M.O.S.T, will join us on Tuesday, December 8 at 1:00 p.m., to give tips on how to prevent stress so that we can enjoy the holiday season.

Holiday Piano Music & Luncheon: Get into the holiday spirit by listening to the pleasant sounds of pianist Beth Wilson on Thursday, December 17, at 11:15 a.m. Hear a medley of lively holiday songs such as “Winter Wonderland”, “Let it Snow”, and “Silent Night”. If you would like to sign up for lunch call 251-8405.

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking to get involved in the community? We have many one time opportunities this upcoming holiday season. We always need volunteers to assist us with our Home Chore, Senior Lunch, and CareGiver Partner Programs. Call the South Madison Coalition Volunteer Coordinator for more information, 251-8405 x18.

BCNA meeting of Nov 9, 2009

By Dan Kennelly

The Treasurer reported that the newsletter currently has a funding cushion to cover the cost of one issue and that current revenues from ads are enough to cover the cost of printing.

Bob Stoffs reported on a recent neighborhood meeting hosted by Julia Kerr to present preliminary plans for a senior housing project on a portion of the Bancroft Dairy site. The proposed project would redevelop the parking lot on the west side of Fish Hatchery Road, leaving the bulk of the Bancroft site to be developed in the future. The proposed building would include 62 senior housing units in a four story structure with underground parking.

Jim Winkle reported that Yahoo discontinued the geocities web hosting service so there is no longer a neighborhood Web site. Those present passed a motion to allow Jim to research options for restarting a new site and authorized him to spend up to \$120 per year to cover the cost. [Note: Although the website is down, the calendar is still available at eventsgalore.net]

The Greenbush Neighborhood Association contacted Bob Stoffs about revising the Bay Creek Neighborhood boundaries so that the area between Delaplaine Court and Haywood Street would be part of Greenbush instead of Bay Creek. Doing so would require an amendment to the Neighborhood Association bylaws. Those present passed a motion to post notice of this proposed boundary change in the newsletter and to vote on it at the January meeting. Please see notice below for more information.

A neighborhood resident raised the issue of speeding on Lakeside Street and the need for traffic calming. It was pointed out that Lakeside is designated by the City Engineering Department as a collector street, which limits some traffic calming options. Some of the ideas discussed included more traffic islands, speed bumps, and roadway narrowing. Getting involved with the federal "Safe Routes to School" program and the "Complete Streets" program was also discussed.

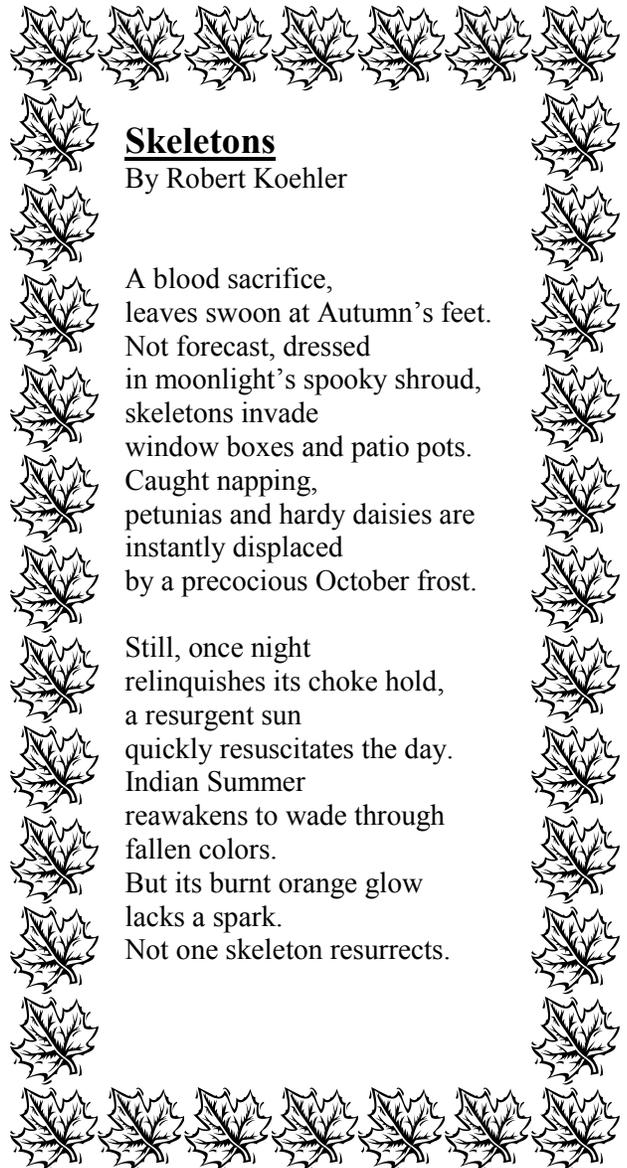
Several members reported on the Madison Police Department's recent public meeting regarding the shooting that occurred near the intersection of Lakeside and Whittier Streets. On October 7, a police officer shot and killed a man who had reportedly robbed a Park Street business. The man involved in incident was not from the neighborhood.

Judy Robinson suggested hosting a neighborhood board game night in late spring. Having another event would establish four neighborhood sponsored event per year.

The next meeting will be on January 11th at 6:30pm. The neighborhood potluck will take place immediately before the meeting at 5:30pm.

Amendment to BCNA Bylaws

November's meeting addressed a request from the Greenbush Neighborhood Association to change the northern boundary of the Bay Creek Neighborhood. Originally it was set at Hayward Street; when petitioned by some residents it was changed to Delaplaine Court because at that time there was no Greenbush Neighborhood Association. Those present at the meeting concurred that this is a reasonable change. To do so, there must be a change to BCNA's bylaws. This vote will take place at the January 11 meeting.



Skeletons

By Robert Koehler

A blood sacrifice,
leaves swoon at Autumn's feet.
Not forecast, dressed
in moonlight's spooky shroud,
skeletons invade
window boxes and patio pots.
Caught napping,
petunias and hardy daisies are
instantly displaced
by a precocious October frost.

Still, once night
relinquishes its choke hold,
a resurgent sun
quickly resuscitates the day.
Indian Summer
reawakens to wade through
fallen colors.
But its burnt orange glow
lacks a spark.
Not one skeleton resurrects.

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: Feb/Mar 2010 Deadlines: Ads and Copy , Jan 15, Delivery: First week of Feb.

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<p>BCNA area representatives 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 jbella@merr.com Kirk Elliott 255-5646 Open Jim Winkle 259-1812 Bob Lockhart; 633 Cedar St.; 256-0444 Open Bob Stoffs, 914 Lawrence; 255-1074</p>
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<p>Government representatives</p>	
<p>City council County board State representative State senator Congresswoman U.S. Senators</p>	<p>Julia Kerr, 260-2661; district13@cityofmadison.com Kyle Richmond; 929 O'Sheridan St.; 251-3171; richmond.kyle@co.dane.wi.us Mark Pocan; 266-8570; rep.pocan@legis.state.wi.us Fred Risser; 266-1627; sen.risser@legis.state.wi.us Tammy Baldwin; 257-9200; tammy.baldwin@mail.house.gov Herb Kohl; 264-5338; senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov Russ Feingold; 828-1200; russell_feingold@feingold.senate.gov</p>
<p>BCNA police department liaison: Officer Michele Walker; South Side Station, 825 Hughes Place; Phone: 266-5938; Fax: 266-4452; office hours 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p>	