

Middleton Review

Middleton's free community newspaper

Editorial: Change is in the air - or not

City fund balances: Divvying up the spoils

High school stadium: Millions for a facelift

Spring elections: Rules and locations changes

Cover story: Local April 5 candidates

Issue 121/March 2022

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The Middleton Review is published once a month, and available for free at many fine businesses in the Middleton area.	
Middleton Review online:	
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by GEORGE ZENS

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Change is in the air - or not

This newspaper has never endorsed a candidate for office, and it won't do so this year either.

Part of the reason is that endorsements tie a newspaper (or any other media outlet for that matter) to certain candidates and their agendas, and as such limit the newspaper's independence. By endorsing certain candidates, one implicitly also disavows their opponents, which puts a further strain upon one's independence when dealing with issues. If 'my' candidate wins, but once in office proposes absolute bollocks, do I still have to support him, editorially? Or, the other way around, if 'my' candidate loses, but the winner does a fine job in office, do I switch sides?

All of this can be avoided by focusing on issues rather than people. And yes, I realize that in practice the two are often inseparable (somebody might get elected because he is in favor of expanding an airport, or because he is against it), but in the end, it is how issues are decided that affects our community and our lives in it.

That is not to say that all people are equally well suited to the office they hold. Some elected officials excel at what they do, and others are duds. And the fact that somebody gets elected, or reelected, does not mean that they are qualified for the position. It simply means that they are good at getting elected. In fact, the Peter Principle is as valid in politics as in any other hierarchy: People get elected to higher office until they have reached their level of incompetence. Our current mayor is a prime example of that.

The question then arises: How important are elected officials? Or maybe: How interchangeable are they?

Of course, as we know from higher levels of government, the wrong person in the wrong position can do a lot of damage. But also on the local level, an unhinged elected official can quickly destroy decades of goodwill in inter-governmental relations, as the Middleton Town Board has shown in the recent past.

Which leads me to the tentative answer that elected officials are more important to good government than voters might think, and less important than they themselves might think.

That latter part of the answer is a constant source of frustration for the current mayor of Middleton (the city of Middleton's system of 'strong council, weak mayor' puts him on a rather tight leash), but it has also made Middleton local politics (and its government) fairly steady and predictable. Some might call it boring, but political stability is a community asset that is often underappreciated.

The Middleton Common Council, just like the MCPASD Board of Education, operates largely by consensus, which leaves ample room for dissenting voices to be heard, and sometimes even taken into account. Political outliers are rare and easily isolated (turns out that the position of mayor in Middleton is such an isolation chamber).

Many issues school districts and municipalities have to deal with are out of their control, often because they are imposed and regulated by state and federal governments, or, like a sudden influx of families with school-age children or a surge in developer applications for apartment buildings, not to mention crime, because they are community-generated. Most other initiatives originate in the school districts' or municipalities' administrations or committees (for example, the push for 'complete streets' or more solar power in the city).

In the body politic, in the great digestive system that is local government, between original input and final output of rules and regulations and other legislative acts and policy decisions of all sorts, elected officials are the large intestine, the final stage of transformation and refinement before the result of their efforts is released into the public.

In other words, their work, just like that of all the political and institutional organs that predigest issues before they reach the council or the school board, is essential, even if it isn't always smooth or pleasant to witness. Laws and sausage, as they say.

All that said, elected officials are only window dressing or rubber stamps to the extent that they allow themselves to be. They can obviously set or, at the very least, influence a political agenda. In fact, that is their job. They are also no islands - they represent constituents who have the right to expect a maximum of competence, communication and engagement.

How effective they are is up to them. The best ones learn how local government works, research the issues, do their homework, listen to all concerned, work well with their colleagues and staff, and do their best for the community. The worst ones treat their mandates like a subsidized ego-trip, or have their own political agendas, or learn nothing, do nothing, but get to vote anyway.

Fortunately we have largely been spared the latter types of elected officials in the past, and, based on the candidate profiles in this issue, it looks like we might be spared again in the near future - no matter who gets elected. Which does not mean that I will spare them in these pages once they are in office.



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THE MONTH IN REVIEW

Airport complaints, sports facilities, millionaires for a new stadium, ...

By GEORGE ZENS

Airport complaints: The joy of moving

The number of complaints about aircraft near Middleton Municipal Airport/Morey Field has dropped significantly in December 2021 and January and February 2022 compared to the same months a year earlier, even though the number of flights in and out of the airport has remained stable or even increased slightly. According to Airport manager Rich Morey, the City received five complaints between November 24, 2021, and December 31, 2021, compared to 36 complaints over the same period a year earlier, a drop of almost 86%. In January 2022 the City received four complaints, compared to 24 in January 2021, a drop of almost 84%, and in February it received two complaints, compared to 24 in February 2021. No official reason for the decline was given, but anecdotal evidence suggests that it is due to the most prolific of the serial complainers having moved out of the area.

Capital budget: Divvying up the spoils

In February, the Middleton Common Council approved a resolution 'authorizing the re-appropriation of 2021 capital carryovers into 2022 and related budget adjustments'. This means that funds left over from projects approved in last year's budget have now been reassigned to various 2022 projects. The total available net balance was just over \$455,500, of which \$200,000 has now been reallocated to the North Mendota Trail's east segment, and just over \$135,000 to the 'vehicle & equipment fund balance'.

The original staff recommendation was to reallocate \$113,655 left over from solar projects (due to lower-than-anticipated construction costs, and higher-than-anticipated rebates from Focus on Energy) to setting up electric-vehicle charging stations at City facilities. District 8 alderman Mark Sullivan especially argued in favor of using those funds to continue putting more solar on more City buildings, notably at Pleasant View Golf Course (which is expected to pay for solar using its own funds).

Eventually, the reallocation was left unchanged, except that the amount was reduced to \$100,000 by moving \$13,655 to pay for a replacement pedestrian flashing beacon on High Road/Caneel Trail (at the request of district 6 alderwoman Susan West). The old beacon was removed last year after a unanimous vote by the Public Works Committee, including Susan West's who serves on Public Works, and installed in front of Kromrey Middle School on Donna Drive to improve pedestrian safety. At Kromrey, as at most other schools, parents, grandparents and other guardians endanger the safety of pupils and other pedestrians by showing up 'en masse' in their motor vehicles before and after school to drop their charges off and pick them up again. Thanks to them, the streets near schools are among the most dangerous in the city.

Pleasant View Golf: Shining star

Pleasant View Golf Course continues to be a bright spot in the City's operations. According to Mark Sullivan, who is also a longtime member of the Pleasant View Golf Course Advisory Committee, it continues to perform very well, not least thanks to general manager Jeremy Cabalka and his staff, and continuing reinvestment into improving the course and its facilities.

It finished repaying all of its external debt a few years ago, and has been repaying its internal debt to the City (advances from the general fund and TIF district #3 fund) at a rate of \$400,000 per year. Thanks to strong net operating revenues in 2021, however, the Golf Course is now able to repay the remaining balance of just under \$1.55 million from the general fund in full. Both the Finance Committee and the Council approved the advance repayment.

According to a memo by the City's Finance director Bill Burns, 'the advance from the general fund to PVGC is considered non-spendable fund balance. With the repayment of the remaining advance balance of \$1,549,411, this amount of fund balance will become available and may be either assigned for a specific purpose or increase the City's unassigned fund balance (rainy day fund).

Since these are one-time funds, it would not be appropriate to use them to fund ongoing costs such as staffing. However, this advance repayment could be used to cover the planned uses of unassigned fund balance in the 2021 and 2022 budgets. In addition, they could be used to increase the City's assigned fund balances for future obligations including compensated absences and capital reserves. The Finance Committee and City Council will review the final 2021 general fund balances this spring when audited numbers are available.' The remaining balance from the TIF district #3 advance is just over \$2.144 million.

Sports facilities: A cozy relationship

Besides having millions of dollars worth of its own indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD) is also a heavy user of the City of Middleton's public lands and sports infrastructure.

Athletic prowess is a point of pride in the community, and skeptics question the vast amounts of taxpayer money spent by the School District on extra-curricular sports activities at their own risk.

That said, it seems that the District is not just spending 'its own' money, such as it is, but is also getting an easy ride from the City, i.e. is benefiting from the City's share of property taxes for its athletic needs as well, especially when it comes to paying for improvements.

That at least is the impression one could get at the February 7 meeting of the City's Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission (PRFC), during which its members approved a \$3,900 contribution (30% of the

anticipated cost) towards developing a 'long-range athletic and activities facilities planning process', culminating in an 'athletic facilities master plan, through an agreement between the School District and Rettler Corporation, a Stevens Point-based firm of consultants.

According to a memo to PRFC by Matt Amundson, the City's director of Parks and Recreation, 'the City of Middleton and MCPASD have a shared-use agreement that includes Firefighters Memorial Park, Penni Klein Park, Middleton Station Park [MCPASD property], the High School tennis courts [on Park Lawn], the outdoor pool, and portions of the Creek Corridor. The study will have impact and future benefit to the park system and community. The District is asking the City to be a financial partner in the process, and funds were budgeted for this partnership in the 2020 Park Development Fund budget.'

The question of whether or not, or to what extent, MCPASD sponges off the City arose when the discussion turned to fixing and expanding the tennis courts at Lakeview Park. These courts have been in rough shape for some time, and each passing year makes it worse, not to mention more expensive to rehabilitate them. The original estimate for asphalt construction was \$288,000 when the need for repaving was first brought up in 2017; it has since risen to \$432,000. That would only cover the existing four courts. Expanding the facility from four courts to six would cost anywhere between \$532,000 and \$705,000, depending on which of three options would be chosen.

All things considered, however, it really doesn't matter which option is chosen since the City doesn't seem to have the money anyway. Only \$300,000 have been allocated in the 2022 budget for the project, split evenly between the capital budget and the Park Development Fund. As Matt Amundson pointed out, money from the Park Development Fund can only be used to expand the courts, not to pay for maintenance or repairs of the existing facility.

While the Lakeview Park tennis courts are not covered by a shared-use agreement, they are apparently being used by the High School's JV tennis team, which prompted PRFC member Mark Sullivan (who is also alderman for district 8 and chair of the Finance Committee) to suggest that the City should see if it couldn't get any money from the School District to pay for at least part of the improvements.

Shared-use agreements, by the way, seem to favor the District over the City, if not on paper, then certainly in practice. According to Matt Amundson, the agreement for the tennis courts near the High School, for instance, stipulates fifty-fifty use between District and City, but in practice city residents only have access to the courts for six weeks during the year because the High School has quietly expanded its spring and fall tennis seasons.

The District also does not pay rent to the City for the use of City facilities, although, as Matt Amundson



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explains in an email statement, that works both ways: ‘We do not charge rent to the School District for use of facilities that are City-owned. In turn, the School District does not charge the City for the use of School District land that the outdoor pool was constructed on [the City pays for all pool maintenance and repairs], gym space for recreation programs (youth basketball, adult volleyball, sports instruction programs, etc) or use of the Fine Arts Center for theater programming we offer. I haven’t run the numbers on hourly use, but not including the pool we are likely in a similar hours of use.’

Meanwhile, Parks and Recreation would like to increase the number of City-owned sports facilities, which don’t seem to have kept track with population growth. Whether that’s relevant or important or not is another discussion, but according to Matt Amundson, the City needs more of them, especially tennis courts, whose number has been at eighteen since Orchid Heights Park was built more than twenty years ago. In that context, the City also owns ten basketball courts, eight volleyball courts, three football/lacrosse fields, sixteen soccer fields, and ten baseball/softball fields (as well as 25 playgrounds and ten bubblers).

In view of the sports facilities master plan now in the works, not to mention the lack of available funds, PRFC decided to postpone any decision on the Lakeview Park tennis courts.

Outdoor pool: New flat fee

One of the few recreational facilities that do generate some income for the City is the outdoor pool, and PRFC decided to fix the single-admission fee for all users at a uniform \$5 (the Council approved the change, too). Before a uniform rate of \$4 was introduced two years ago because of the pandemic, different rates applied to pool users of different ages (the adult rate had already been at \$5 since 2017). The uniform rate speeds up the entry process, not least because pool staff don’t have to ask patrons for age verification. The fee increase is necessary because of higher operating costs (and \$5 will to a large extent eliminate the need for change to be given, saving even more time).

According to Matt Amundson, mayor Gurdip Brar wanted city of Middleton residents to get a discount on the single-admission fee, but that was rejected because it would have been too cumbersome to implement: It would have slowed down the entry process considerably, and would have put pool staff (high school students often) in the uncomfortable position of having to verify addresses. This would be especially awkward if people don’t have an ID on them, not to mention the confusion arising from the fact that zip codes and mailing addresses don’t necessarily reflect the actual municipality of residence. City of Middleton residents do, however, get a discount on season passes for the pool.

Development: A ‘complete neighborhood’ for a change?

A new housing development is in the works for the northwestern part of the city of Middleton. Well, it’s not actually in the city yet, but it will be once it’s annexed from the town of Springfield. The 107 acres

in question are currently part of a farm, and located north of Whittlesey Road between High Road and Pheasant Branch Road. Lot sizes range between 6,500 and 7,000 square feet, and the new development should eventually contain about 650 housing units.

According to City Planning staff, ‘the new subdivision of land, although currently in the town of Springfield, lies within the city’s primary growth area, and will require annexation into the city of Middleton, the Central Urban Service Area, and the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District service area boundary. The subdivision will require approval of a plat and dedication of land for a public park. Planning & Community Development staff supports the initial proposed land uses, especially the inclusion of a range of housing types: senior living, multi-family rental, owner-occupied town homes, cluster homes (pocket neighborhoods), and single-family homes. Staff has encouraged a ‘complete neighborhood’ concept which is supported by the City’s 2021 Comprehensive Plan.

‘Complete neighborhoods are those where residents can find all their daily needs within a safe walking distance. Having amenities like grocery stores, schools, parks and clinics within a twenty-minute walk not only allows people to walk or bike instead of using cars, but also encourages neighborhood community. Visiting the same corner convenience store down the street as neighbors allows more familiarity within the community, more active streets and safer environments for family and children.’

This vision of ‘complete neighborhoods’ looks good on paper, but it is probably not very realistic in short- or even medium-term practice: Most Middleton residents already complain if they have to walk half a block from a parking lot to a restaurant, and it involves a great amount of delusion to assume that many of them will walk twenty (or ten, or even five) minutes to a grocery store, or anywhere else for that matter, let alone walk back home carrying one or two shopping bags. Still, the good news is that with Planning and Community Development at least one City department seems to be moving away from the not-so-old suburban-planning practice of segregating land uses and prioritizing motor vehicles as a means of transportation, thus essentially forcing residents to use their cars for even the most trivial of trips. Middleton still has a long way to go, and habits of a lifetime don’t change over night, including among many City officials, but the acknowledgment of ‘complete neighborhoods’ is a step in the right direction at least.

Art Walk Middleton: Artists wanted (and beer in the street)

After a two-year hiatus, Art Walk Middleton will again offer visitors a chance to stroll downtown Middleton in search of local art. The event will take place on Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and offer a wide range of media, including photography, paintings, pottery and fiber, created by artists from around Dane county. Demonstrations will also be given by artists throughout the day. In addition to visual art, the Middleton Arts Committee is planning to offer live music and kids’ activities.

Art exhibits will be vetted by the committee. Applications to display work for Art Walk can

be found at: <https://www.cityofmiddleton.us/DocumentCenter/View/9596/fillable-ARTIST-application-1>. The committee is currently seeking volunteers for the event. Those wishing to volunteer can contact Arts Committee chair Michelle Phillips at timestribuneeditor@newspubinc.com or 319-521-4486. Volunteers will receive a Middleton Arts Committee t-shirt. The event is free and open to the public. For more information about the Middleton Arts Committee, visit: <https://www.cityofmiddleton.us/231/Arts-Committee>.

The organizers plan to hold the event on Terrace Avenue, which would therefore be closed to all vehicle traffic for most of Saturday. The City’s License & Ordinance Committee (L&O) discussed the plans at its February 8 meeting, and suggested scaling back both the physical length of the street closure, as well as the time span in order to limit the inconvenience for Terrace Avenue and Aurora Street residents who would not be able to leave or reach their residents by car. One of the committee’s recommendations was to scale back the street closure to the part between Aurora Street and High Point Road, instead of the Art Committee’s original proposal, which was to close Terrace Avenue completely between Parmenter Street and High Point Road. L&O members were also not happy about the proposed time of the closure, from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

The food trucks will be set up under the Terrace Avenue Pavilion because they don’t have to pay a City fee if they are at the Pavilion, as opposed to anywhere else.

The organizers are also struggling with another bit of City red tape, namely the requirement (unique to the city of Middleton - “entirely a creature of our own making”, as assistant City attorney Matt Fleming put it) that beer- (or any other alcohol for that matter) consumption areas be fenced in. City officials regularly get tangled up in this puritan anachronism, but they haven’t found the resolve yet to abolish it. It looks therefore like the walks between artists’ tents will be dry, or the whole of Terrace Avenue will have to be fenced in. Unless of course our elected officials get up the courage to cut the Carrie Nation apron strings and bring our fair city into the post-Prohibition area. Some Dutch courage maybe?

Middleton High School: How to pay for a stadium facelift

If all goes according to plan, Middleton High School’s Otto Breitenbach Stadium will soon see major upgrades. A first phase of the proposed renovation and improvement works would cost about \$8.2 million, with plans for a second phase adding \$3.5 million or so to the bill, and various upgrades, including a state-of-the-art scoreboard, another \$1.2 million. The renovations and upgrades would happen at the periphery of the existing facility, and mainly impact the restrooms (including making them ADA-compatible), concessions, locker rooms and entrance area. The second phase would add a second floor with viewing area, conference rooms and similar amenities.

The project is a public-private partnership between the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD), the MCPASD Education Foundation



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and a group of MHS alumni. The latter are the driving force behind it, came up with the idea and primed the pump, so to speak, with a \$5 million donation by Mike Borden.

A Middleton High School graduate, he now lives in Las Vegas, where he has (co-)founded and operated a number of successful businesses, including pioneer data center company Switch Communications (with his older brother Rob Roy, a 1987 MHS graduate), Sandbags (developer of mobile sandbagging equipment for disaster-response and military use), and TruFusion Franchising (fitness studios).

As it currently stands, the \$8.2 million for the single-story 'base project' would come from Mike Borden's donation, a one-time \$2 million contribution by the School District (this money would come from the sale of surplus land), and other donations from private individuals and businesses (including through the sale of naming rights). The Education Foundation will be instrumental in helping with the fundraising. Phase two is contingent upon the success of private fundraising.

It is at this point not clear how much the expanded facility would cost in ongoing operational expenses, like cleaning, regular maintenance and repairs, and utilities. Those costs would have to be covered by property taxes, unless the Foundation's fundraising were to be successful enough to allow for the creation of an endowment for the funding of those costs.

The project's proponents give the following reasons why the stadium area needs upgrading: 1. Athletic/activities facilities were not prioritized in recent referendum projects due to the urgent need to increase classroom availability. 2. Our current stadium complex facilities are not compliant with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and are inaccessible to many in our community. 3. Our athletic facilities should align to the newly established standards in our athletic conference and throughout the state. 4. The stadium complex is used by organizations in our community and could be used by many more if the facilities were updated. 5. The competitive market for student/family retention and attraction places an emphasis on both school buildings and associated facilities. 6. An updated stadium complex would allow us to host regional, sectional, and statewide events bringing recognition to our District and revenues to the local business community. 7. Because the District does not have the funds available to fully address the needs associated with the current stadium complex, exploring creative funding solutions is prudent and fiscally responsible.'

At its regular meeting on Monday, February 14, the MCPASD Board of Education unanimously approved 'the District's contribution of up to \$2 million to the stadium complex improvement project. These monies will be made available for the project when full funding for the base project plan is secured by the Education Foundation. The School Board directs the administration to sign construction contracts with Findorff Construction Company and Eppstein Uhen Architects when the funds needed to complete the base project are secured by the Education Foundation.'

During the meeting, Amber Kiggins-Leifheit of the Education Foundation expressed confidence that

all fundraising goals would be reached. One way or another, however, superintendent Dane Monogue made it clear that full funding for each phase has to be secured before the project will move forward from one phase to the next.

Apart from the general popularity of Middleton High School athletics, a clinching argument for the District to contribute \$2 million was that just renovating the restrooms, which by general consensus are in a disgraceful state and would have to be upgraded anyway, not to mention made compatible with the Americans with Disabilities Act, would cost about \$1.5 million by itself.

A twelve-member team is leading the project: It consists of MHS alumni Mike Borden, Tim Cleary, Luke Francois and Brian Horning (also Findorff Construction), District staff members Dana Monogue (superintendent), Jason Pertzborn (teacher and head football coach), Peg Shoemaker (MHS principal) and Jamie Sims (MHS athletics and activities director), construction representatives Matt Premo (Findorff), Chris Michaud and Robin Savola (both Eppstein Uhen Architects), and community member Jason Kadow.

The timeline on which they want to proceed is quite aggressive, for both fundraising and construction: Construction on phase one could start as early as April, and be completed by October, while phase two could be done by the end of January next year - assuming that fundraising proceeds as hoped for and that no unforeseen obstacles arise.

Meanwhile, some people are wondering why there's always money for athletics, but never for books.

Spring elections: New rules, new polling places

Aldermanic redistricting in the city of Middleton was completed last fall. With that, voting districts have changed slightly, which also includes changes in some polling locations. (The city of Middleton's aldermanic boundaries can be viewed on the ward map, which is posted on the City's website).

Postcards have been mailed to all voters whose polling place has changed. People can also find their assigned polling location on the MyVote site.

Wards 14 - 18: Lakeview Park Shelter, 6300 Mendota Avenue, is the new polling location for Wards 14-18 (districts 7 and 8; northeast Middleton).

For the April 5 spring elections only: Due to construction at St. Bernard's church, wards 5 - 8 (districts 3 and 4), whose assigned polling location is normally St. Bernard's Parish, will vote at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 7436 Hubbard Avenue. Construction is set to be completed at St. Bernard's in June, and voting will resume at St. Bernard's in August. Please visit MyVote prior to Election Day to confirm polling locations.

Drop boxes and absentee ballots: Due to current court proceedings, the drop box in the library parking lot cannot be used to return absentee ballots. Absentee ballots put in that drop box will have to be returned to the voter, and could result in them not being counted because they may have been turned in too late. Absentee ballots can be mailed back, returned in person to the City clerk's office prior to Election Day, or returned to one's assigned polling location on

Election Day. For more information, please refer to the instructions included with your absentee ballot.

Please note: If dropping off your absentee ballot in person, you are only allowed to drop off your own. You will not be able to drop off for anyone else, including relatives or friends.

Spring elections: Candidates forum scheduled for local Middleton races

Middleton Area Progressives (MAP) organization to host March 23rd virtual forum for School Board and City Council races

The Middleton Area Progressives (MAP) organization will host a virtual 'Meet the Candidates Forum' featuring the candidates vying for positions on the MCPASD Board of Education and the Middleton City Council. The forum is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM via Zoom.

The forum will be divided into two parts with the City Council portion being held from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM followed by the candidates for School Board from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Moderator for the event will be Michelle Phillips, editor of the Middleton Cross Plains Times-Tribune. The format will include short introductory remarks by each candidate, followed by a moderated question-and-answer session. All candidates for the vacant positions have been invited to participate. As of March 1, School Board candidates who have committed to participate are Sheila Dahmen Hibner, Minza Karim and Robert Hesselbein. City Council candidates who have accepted are Emily Kuhn, Tom Yost, Susan West and Lisa Janairo.

Access to the Zoom event is via the MAP website: <https://www.middletonareaprogressives.com>

By completing the contact form on the website people will receive an email prior to the event containing the Zoom link to the forum.

The Middleton Area Progressives is a volunteer organization of citizens from the city of Middleton and the town of Middleton who believe that 'democracy thrives when citizens are engaged'. The group supports candidates in local, statewide and national elections and addresses such issues as healthcare, education, fair elections, diversity, climate change and a strong economy. MAP is affiliated with the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and is one of more than 300 neighborhood teams in Wisconsin and one of 21 such groups in Dane county.

For questions on the forum or information on membership check the MAP website or send an email to middletonareaprogressives@gmail.com.

Middleton Optimist Club: February 'Student of the Month': Margaret Aiyenero



The Middleton Optimist Club bestowed its 'Student of the Month' award for February to MHS senior Margaret Aiyenero. Margaret was introduced by math teacher Erin Hommowun who serves as her advisor. Erin Hommowun, who describes Margaret as thoughtful, kind, smart and funny, first met her four years ago. Margaret wanted to learn about the various activities available to incoming freshmen, and she quickly began participating in many. Erin Hommowun and her mother noted that Margaret has "the highest of expectations" for herself and has always been a leader. Margaret's brother, Marius, characterized her as very kind and is grateful for her help with his homework. In addition to working as an intern with UW Credit Union, Margaret is part of the Black Student Union leadership team, participates in a number of sports and tutors students in algebra 1. At this time, Margaret is leaning toward attending the University of Texas at Austin, pursuing an economics degree with law school potentially to follow.

Left to right in the photo are Kristi Warriner (Middleton Optimist Club), Marius Aiyenero, Steve Britt (president, Middleton Optimist Club), Margaret Aiyenero, Erin Hommowun and Gretchen Aiyenero (mother).

Photo & text submitted by MIDDLETON OPTIMIST CLUB

New business: The Dispensary



The Dispensary, which recently opened its doors on Parmenter Street near Donna Drive, offers the largest variety of pure Delta-8 and Delta-10 THC products in the area. The products are derived from locally grown hemp provided by Green Bay-based Hemp4Heroes, its parent company. The Middleton store is the newest of a dozen locations in Wisconsin and Virginia. Their knowledgeable staff is happy to assist and answer any questions one may have about the natural benefits of their products, which include flowers, edibles, concentrates, cartridges and topicals. Hours are Monday to Sunday 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

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Pictured are manager Jennifer Garcia-Flores (right) and assistant manager Kai Walls.

Photo by GEORGE ZENS

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SPRING ELECTIONS

Who's who, and why they are running

On April 5, Middleton voters will elect new Common Council representatives and Board of Education members.

By GEORGE ZENS

On April 5, city of Middleton residents in districts 2, 4, 6 and 8 will be asked to elect new Common Council representatives, as well as new members of the Board of Education for Areas I, III and IV. Also up for reelection is the city's County supervisor Holly Hatcher, who is running unopposed.

The incumbents in aldermanic districts 2 (Robert Burck) and 8 (Mark Sullivan) are not running for reelection, while the current officeholders in districts 4 (Emily Kuhn) and 6 (Susan West) have challengers: Tom Yost in district 4 and Lisa Janairo in district 6. In district 2, Kendra Wochos is running unopposed to replace retiring Robert Burck, while nobody has officially stepped up to the plate in district 8, leaving this seat wide open to a write-in candidate or, if everything else fails, a Council appointee.

In the elections for School Board, all three races are contested, which is both unusual and refreshing. As opposed to the Council members, who are elected only by the people living in their districts, School Board mem-

bers are elected at large, i.e., by all district residents, even though they each officially represent a certain part of the district.

In Area I, incumbent Sheila Dahmen Hibner is being challenged by Gene Ananiev; in area III, incumbent Minza Karim is being challenged by Tabitha Hansen; and in area IV, incumbent (and School Board president) Bob Hesselbein is being opposed by Eric Simon.

Common Council members are elected for two years, Board of Education members for three.

In email interviews, all candidates were asked the same eight questions without any instructions on how long or short their answers should be (some people are clearly more verbose than others). Their replies are published below, unedited (except for minor quibbles to comply with the *Middleton Review* style guide); they supplied the photos, too. The questions for County Board are slightly different, and are included with the answers.

The questions for City Council and School Board

1. *Personal background: As much information as you want to reveal about where you grew up, age, family, personal interests, likes, dislikes, education, ...*
2. *Professional background*
3. *Community service: Service clubs, non-profits, volunteering, City committees, school district service, elected office, ...*
4. *Why are you running for office?*
5. *What are the particular challenges you see, and how do you intend to deal with them?*
6. *Why should people vote for you, rather than your opponent?*
7. *What are the City's/School District's (as in local government) strong points, and what are its weaknesses?*
8. *Do you support a November referendum (City and/or School District) to raise property taxes? Why, or why not?*

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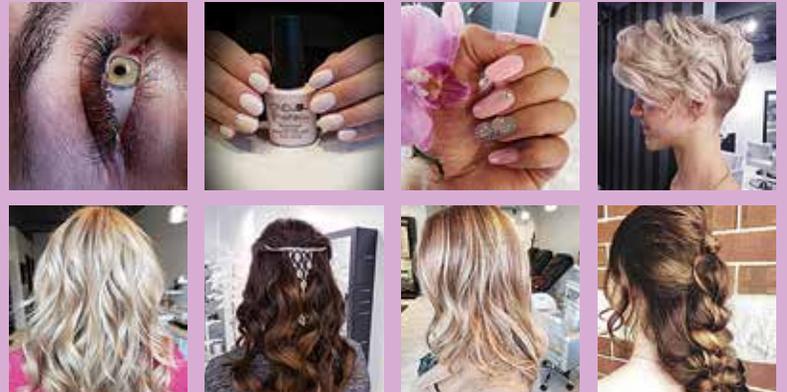
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CITY COUNCIL

District 2: Kendra Wochos



1. I grew up in central Iowa, attended college in Southern California (University of San Diego), and earned my master's in New York City (New York University), where I met my husband. After several years in Madison, we moved with our two kids to Middleton in 2014. We love Middleton for so many reasons, but mostly for the great people we have met here! Outside of work and shuttling kids to activities, I like to walk and hike, read, meet and talk with friends - new and old - and travel.

2. I have worked in many different capacities in the legal field. My longest tenures have been with a non-profit environmental law center and currently with the state court system.

3. While I have not previously held elected office, I currently sit on the Middleton Arts Committee and have volunteered in a number of different ways in the community - soccer/softball coach, teacher's aid, preschool board, among other things.

4. I am running for office because I believe that local government plays a crucial role in not only the function of our everyday lives, but also as the basis of our identities as citizens in the larger world. A healthy local community with an active government that supports its residents and businesses is the best thing we can give our families and neighbors.

5. I don't see challenges, but rather a terrific opportunity as we emerge from the past few years of pandemic seclusion and tough political and social discourse to make plans that will shape the road our local government takes into the future. With a strong strategic plan and an exciting downtown community and government campus, we can build a Middleton that has a strong sense of community and continue its reputation as a desirable place to live in Dane county.

6. While I am running unopposed, I would ask people to vote for me due to my energy and enthusiasm to serve and my willingness to listen. I will represent my district to the best of my ability, work hard to communicate efficiently and effectively with citizens, and be open to new ideas and different perspectives.

7. *Not answered.*

8. I support a November referendum the city. I realize that raising property taxes is difficult on many, and it's not a decision that is easily arrived at by anyone. But our community assets - parks, city services, the library, public safety services - are vital to keeping our city a happy,

healthy place to live. The next referendum will help us maintain facilities and find and keep the people we want working for our community.

CITY COUNCIL

District 4: Emily Kuhn



1. I grew up in St. Louis and moved to Wisconsin for college, where I met my husband, Sam. We moved around the Midwest for further schooling and careers. We decided to move back to Wisconsin to raise our two children, Tom and Annika.

Likes: I grew up painting and drawing and used these skills to draw and paint the Cardinal sign on the updated 'Welcome to Middleton' at University Avenue and Branch Street. I love attending book club, going to local restaurants, hiking the Conservancy, and taking my children to Lakeview Park to play.

Dislike: potholes.

Education: I studied international political economy and Spanish at Carthage College and received my master's in public policy at Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

2. I have worked in federal service for twenty years, serving the American public in three states and the District of Columbia. I have worked as a budget analyst, a supervisor, assistant manager, manager, and project manager. My husband and I owned small businesses pre-pandemic. Prior to government, I worked in banking in Milwaukee.

3. I have served on the Middleton City Council since 2018 and have served on Workforce Housing, the Arts Committee, and currently serve on Public Safety, Aging Commission, Personnel Committee, and Ethics Committee. I volunteer at my children's Sunday School at Middleton Community Church and am a member of the Middleton Chamber of Commerce. Previously, I served as the Women's Caucus Chair for DPW and was the Secretary of the Italian Village Board. I also served as a board member of the Wisconsin State Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Monroe Street Arts Board.

4. I am running for office because I love to serve our community from fixing potholes to advocating for more pedestrian crossing signs and voting for more bike paths. We moved to Middleton to raise our children and I work hard to keep our streets safe for all the children in the district. My children walk and bike to Lakeview Park, the gem of the city, and take the bus to school. I want all the children to be able to cross Allen, Century, and University safely. So I run to fix potholes, slow speeders, maintain

our beautiful parks and Conservancy, and support public safety, including our local police, paramedics, and fire personnel.

5. Challenges include: potholes, speeding cars, and pandemic legacy issues.

For potholes, I plan to keep communicating early and often with constituents and with Public Works to get them patched; continue to support staff, road reconstruction budgets, and technology to fix potholes before they develop.

For speeding cars, I will work with Public Safety and Public Works to reduce speeding, like my request for a flashing speed sign on Mendota across from Lakeview Park - recently installed. As Allen and Century are County roads, I worked with the County supervisor to slow speeding; a traffic study occurred and the county installed many new speed limit signs based on my request.

Lastly, pandemic legacy issues are challenging as we begin to return to pre-pandemic activities like re-starting in-person meetings that I have missed so much and following rules on masks or no masks. Working together, we will navigate these new-normal processes. I look forward to returning to in-person City Council meetings and seeing constituents, city staff, and fellow-Council members in person.

6. I am an action-oriented, advocate, entrepreneur. I work hard to fill potholes and collaborate with others to move projects forward, like the 2018 flood clean-up.

The day of the flood, I notified the former County supervisor to keep her posted on the damage and rising lake levels. I asked her for assistance; she provided additional days to host sandbagging machines and organized a barge with a crane and crew to pick up trees weighing hundreds of pounds banging into the docks and lifts. I worked with neighbors to help fill sandbags. I listened to the concerns of constituents across the district and toured homes that had extensive damage from flooded basements, shared some best practices, and hosted a townhall at a local restaurant with the mayor present. Weeks and months later, I reviewed and voted on City staff recommendations on FEMA funding request for the bulkhead install (over \$750,000 in federal funding). Furthermore, I take a district-wide and as needed, city-wide perspective when hearing constituent concerns and making decisions in Council.

7. Middleton's strong points include the good-neighbor welcoming spirit, the parks and Conservancy trails, our commitment to greenspace, and planned communities.

Middleton's weaknesses include potholes, speeding cars, and communications, both internal and external customers. I feel these weaknesses are truly opportunities for improvement in the coming years.

8. I do not support the School District referendum as we are still feeling the impact of the last referendum in our taxes. I do support the City referendum to add four police officers on the ground patrolling, and two additional staff needed in the city, including one person for Public Works to keep fixing our roads and filling potholes.

CITY COUNCIL

District 4: Tom Yost

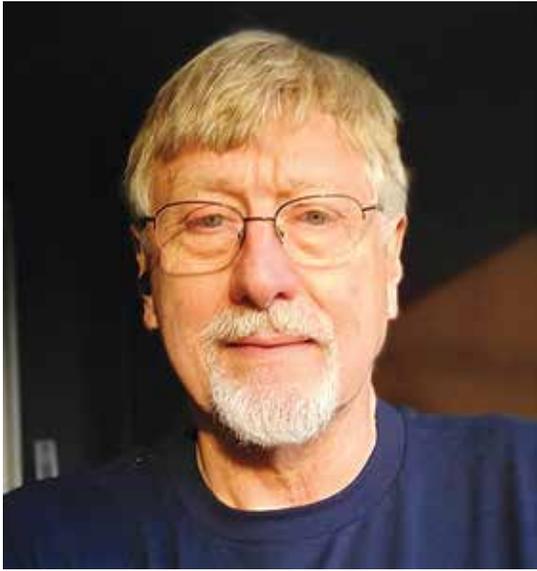
1. I grew up on the east side of Madison, near where multiple generations of my family lived.

Education: Bachelor of science, UW-Stout

Major: Vocational education

Minor: Business administration

2. In my early years, I briefly taught business and marketing at both the high school and community college level. This work also involved being a yearbook advisor and an assistant track coach.



CITY COUNCIL
District 6: Lisa Janairo



Thirty years ago, I moved to Middleton while working at the American Red Cross implementing and networking desktop computers. For the last fifteen years, I have been employed as a security officer.

3. During my thirty years of residing in district 4, I have closely followed many community concerns that have been addressed by our City Council. My top concerns are public safety and public services (police, fire, schools, transportation, parks, streets, zoning and planning review). I have been actively involved in addressing some of these concerns as a member of the Telecommunications Committee, Public Safety Committee, and the Library Board.

I am currently a volunteer with the American Red Cross providing transportation of blood products to hospitals and blood banks.

4. I am running for office to provide the people of my district (and those in other districts) an advocate; someone who will listen to their concerns.

Although growth is important, we should be prioritizing the concerns of our current residents and our existing neighborhoods. When new development changes the character of our neighborhoods, we need to question whether such development needs to be scaled back to accommodate wider sidewalks, better traffic control, lower heights, and more room for trees with larger setbacks from our roads.

5. Holding developers more accountable to accommodating the concerns raised by the current neighborhoods that are being affected by their development.

6. Because I have lived in and been active in the community significantly longer, I have witnessed the effects of development on existing neighborhoods and business. However, my opponent has prioritized the need for growth and the interests of developers without addressing the traffic congestion these developments create.

7. Our strong points include our willingness to provide attention to our beautiful parks, shelters, pedestrian bike trails, sidewalks and public services. Our weaknesses are with developments that are causing congestion and that are unfriendly to pedestrian traffic.

8. I am not yet ready to take a position on the November referendum. We need to learn more from both sides of this issue. We should wait until our new City administrator is hired and then listen to what he has to say.

1. My youth: I was born and raised in Hinsdale, Illinois, in the western suburbs of Chicago. I'm the youngest of five children born to first-generation Americans who grew up during the Depression. My parents were solidly blue-collar workers who instilled a strong work ethic in me. They both encouraged me to do something neither of them could do before their lives became too complicated: get a good education. I followed their advice, working throughout my high school and college years in various jobs to raise money to help pay for school.

Education: I earned my bachelor's degree from Lawrence University in Appleton, majoring in geology. I attended graduate school at the University of Chicago, earning a master's degree from the Harris School of Public Policy with an emphasis in environmental policy.

Family: I'm married to Ed Janairo, the chief business officer for the Wisconsin Union and a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame. I have three children. Michael is a sophomore at Middleton High School. My daughter Catherine lives in Verona and is a rising young professional at Epic. My son Nat is pursuing a doctorate in viola performance at University of Nevada-Reno. Both Catherine and Nat graduated from my alma mater, Lawrence University. My family moved to Middleton in 2017 when a great career opportunity opened up for Ed. Like so many other newer residents, we chose Middleton because of the great schools. Before moving to Middleton, we lived near Lake Michigan in Sheboygan, my home for nearly twenty years.

Hobbies and interests: In my spare time, I like to hang out with my West Highland white terrier Daisy. I also like to read, run, cook, hike, meditate, and do puzzles (daily Sudoku, New York Times crosswords with Ed, and jigsaw puzzles while listening to podcasts or audiobooks).

2. I made my career at the Midwestern Office of the Council of State Governments (CSG), starting in 1991 as a graduate intern. Upon receiving my master's degree, I became director of CSG's Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project - a position I held until I retired in 2021. I was responsible for engaging Midwestern state officials in the U.S. Department of Energy's program for developing a national high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. I also worked on defining a new approach to siting facilities based on obtaining the consent of host communities. I collaborated with federal, state, and tribal officials on policies, plans,

and procedures for safe, secure shipments of spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive waste through the Midwestern states.

In 2011, I became the Director of CSG's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus, which is a binational, nonpartisan group of state and provincial legislators collaborating on policies to restore and protect the Great Lakes. I worked with task forces of legislators to develop model policies for reducing the population's exposure to lead in drinking water and to reduce nutrient pollution entering lakes, rivers, and streams. I also coordinated with other organizations annually to decide on and advocate for environmental and economic priorities for the Great Lakes region.

3. In June 2020, I was elected to chair the Middleton Sustainability Committee. I led the planning for the 'Sustainable Middleton' booth and parade entry at the 2021 Good Neighbor Festival. I also organized a subgroup of members to plan an ongoing series of 'Sustainable U' educational events with the Middleton Public Library. I'm currently writing the update of Middleton's Sustainable City Plan, drawing heavily from the Comprehensive Plan that Council approved in 2021.

As a member of Middleton's Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, I emphasize the need to build sustainability and equity into all we do as a city. I also advocate for the strategic planning process to rely on the Comprehensive Plan as the source of the actions that will go into the strategic plan, instead of overburdening city staff with a whole new set of actions.

I joined the League of Women Voters of Dane County in 2020 and chair the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. I volunteer in the food pantry at Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM). Previously as a MOM volunteer, I worked on Construction and also in the front office greeting clients and scheduling appointments. I volunteer as a facilitator for the online course 'Black History for a New Day' offered by the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development. I'm also a member of the Middleton Equity Connection.

4. I'm running for a seat on City Council because I want to help Middleton become a more sustainable, equitable, and accountable city. These principles are the running themes of my campaign. To really promote these values, they need to be ingrained in our way of thinking. It means changing our mindset as individuals and changing how our city government does business. When we continue to do 'business as usual', we're missing opportunities to bring about the vision in the Comprehensive Plan of Middleton as a sustainable and equitable city.

Another reason I'm running is because I want to do all I can to combat climate change. The planet is warming even faster than scientists predicted, and it's creating a crisis for life on Earth (the planet will be fine - we won't).

In a 2018 resolution, Middleton's Common Council adopted the goal of meeting 100% of our community's energy needs with clean renewable sources by 2050. The resolution came about because, in a 2016 referendum, an overwhelming majority of Middleton residents (81%) voted in favor of having the city take action to combat climate change.

Mandates from the people and commitments in resolutions only mean something if our leaders follow through. Based on my experience as the chair of the Sustainability Committee, I don't think our Council has done nearly enough to follow through on the people's mandate or on Council's own resolution. We aren't going to get the climate action our residents voted for unless we change who represents us on the Common Council.

Finally, I'm running because I care deeply about democracy. Elected officials are supposed to represent the

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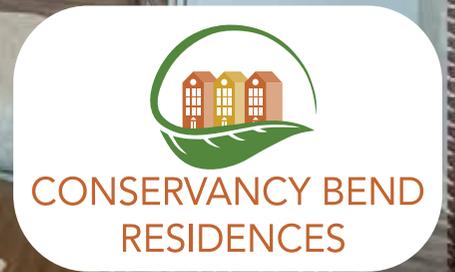
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people. They should respond promptly and respectfully when their constituents contact them, and they should always be willing to meet with people to hear about and discuss their concerns. Uncontested elections make it possible for elected officials not to feel accountable to the people they represent. District 6 residents deserve an alderperson who understands that their job is to represent their constituents. I do understand that. If elected, I'm committed to being accountable to residents and to providing them with the excellent customer service they deserve from their alder.

5. I see three levels of challenges. First, for district 6, more housing being built means we'll have increased traffic. That will affect quality of life for current residents and also create new concerns about bike and pedestrian safety. In addition, new roads mean there will be more to maintain - and it's already hard to maintain what we have.

Traffic safety is another concern. I'm hearing reports of racing and other dangerous driving practices on our roads. I'll work with the Police Department and Public Works to make sure these problems are addressed through monitoring, enforcement, and infrastructure. Pedestrian safety is also a concern on Pheasant Branch Road at Gaylord Nelson Road and at the path crossing from Middleton Hills near Conservancy Lane. I plan to lobby for new signaled crosswalks at these crossings to be included in the 2023 Public Works budget.

Second, there are challenges for Middleton as a whole. One ongoing challenge will be finding the resources to do what we need and want to do as a city. I'll hold myself and my colleagues accountable for justifying every expenditure to make sure we're being good stewards of taxpayer dollars while at the same time following through on our promises and our obligations to residents and Middleton's business community.

Climate change is a major threat to our way of life. It's clear we can't rely on the federal government to fix the problem. I'll be a strong voice for climate action on Council. I'll ask staff to look at their proposed actions and expenditures as opportunities to follow through on the people's 2016 mandate and to help us reach our 100% renewable energy goal. I'll also introduce a resolution to move the target date from 2050 to 2040 because the consequences of inaction or even slow action are unacceptable.

We can do more to help Middleton achieve the vision in the Comprehensive Plan of being a city where we 'celebrate diversity and strive for fair and just opportunities and outcomes for all people'. Just like sustainability, to bring about this vision, we need to think differently about how we do business and how we make decisions. We have many opportunities in city government to build equity and sustainability into our actions, policies, and investments. If elected, I'll look for those opportunities and encourage other Council members and the staff to do so, as well.

Finally, we have the challenge of mending fences with our neighbors in the towns of Middleton and Springfield. The airport situation has put a major strain on our relationships with these towns. As someone with experience in collaboration and civil discourse, and without any baggage related to the airport debate, I would like to help our city rebuild and strengthen our working relationships with our neighbors.

6. People should vote for me if they want an alderperson who will be responsive and accountable to them - both individually as an alderperson and as part of the larger city government that we all pay taxes to support. The best elected officials understand that serving the people isn't just the most important part of the job - it is the job. If the voters of district 6 will give me that honor, my highest priority will be to learn about the issues that mat-

ter to them so I can represent those views to Council.

Meeting with residents, taking their calls, and responding to their emails are the bare minimum that residents should expect of their alderperson. I'll do all these things promptly and respectfully. I'll go even further and reach out to district 6 residents for input so that I can be confident I'm speaking for the district, not for myself. From my own experience with the incumbent and based on what I'm hearing from voters during canvassing, this type of accessibility, openness, and transparency will be a change for district 6.

I have seen the point made that, with turnover on Council and a new City administrator coming on board, it might be good to retain the incumbent because of the institutional memory she has built over her fourteen years in office. The problem with this reasoning is that the Spring Election is our chance to elect an alder person - someone to represent the people - not a city historian. I recognize the value of institutional memory. When I retired, I took with me much of the institutional memory for the projects I worked on in my career, so I agree that it's an important asset. But no person is irreplaceable.

Plus, the internet and the extensive archive of recorded meetings make it possible to research past actions and decisions to understand why and how things were previously done. Consulting the primary written or video sources is a much better approach than relying on any one person's memory. With the right people on Council, having the benefit of new ideas, enthusiasm for the job, and a strong commitment to the people will more than make up for the absence of long-time members and their institutional memory.

7. Strong points: We have many dedicated and talented staff that have demonstrated their ability to do more with less. They show their dedication by working all day on the people's business and then spending their evenings attending Council meetings and also meetings of the city's many commissions, boards, and committees.

I asked each of the department heads to meet with me to talk about their departments, their goals, and the challenges they face. I did this so that, if elected, I'll be able to hit the ground running as soon as I'm sworn into office. Every person responded promptly to my request. During these meetings, I was impressed by their level of professionalism and their strong commitment to public service. I also learned a lot about the many, many things that keep our city running and that, for the most part, are invisible because things are working well.

Weaknesses: Our staff appear to be stretched very thin and it may not be possible to stretch them any further. Our population is increasing, so the high level of service we enjoy will either need to drop as the population continues growing or we'll need to add staff. We may be able to make our operations somewhat more efficient by looking at what's working well in other cities.

Middleton residents would benefit greatly if we added a communications specialist to the City staff. Having one person on the staff dedicated to gathering information from City departments and making sure it gets out to the people would significantly improve residents' access to information and would make our government more transparent and accountable. The ideal communications specialist would be someone who is fluent in both English and Spanish to make information even more accessible to residents.

I also think it's important to follow through on commitments made and to implement plans and policies that Council approves. It shouldn't just be left up to the staff - Council has to do its part with proper oversight to make sure our government is accountable to the people.

Finally, we have too many committees, commissions,

and boards, and not enough diversity reflected in the membership. Each of these bodies has a staff person assigned, so paring down the number will reduce the burden on staff and free up their time for other City business. I hope the new administrator will work with Council and the mayor to consolidate our committees, where possible, and possibly streamline the process for appointments.

8. I support the City going to a referendum to increase taxes so we can hire new staff. Our population is growing, so to keep the same high level of service, we need more staff. Whether we should put the referendum on the November ballot or wait until spring of 2023 depends on whether the new City administrator has time to get settled and weigh in on what the city needs. Whatever Council decides to do, it should reflect the feedback we receive from residents so that the referendum will pass.

That means we need to have a good plan for communicating with the public about the proposed tax increase, why we think it's necessary, and what improvements residents can expect to see in city services in exchange for the higher taxes they'll be asked to pay. I'm committed to meeting with district 6 residents to learn their views on this important topic long before Council reaches the point of voting on the referendum question.

CITY COUNCIL District 6: Susan West



1. I have been a resident of Middleton for 23 years. I grew up in Virginia, graduated with a BS in Biology from the University of South Carolina, a MS in Microbiology from Virginia Tech, and a PhD in Microbiology from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I have two grandchildren: one enrolled at Kromrey Middle School and the other at Pope Farm Elementary. I am an avid gardener and environmentalist.

2. I retired from the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine where I taught Veterinary Microbiology, mentored many graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, and conducted research on the bacterium which infects children with cystic fibrosis.

3. I currently serve on the following city committees: Conservancy Lands, Public Works Committee, Emergency Medical Services (chair), Storm Water Utility Board (chair), Pedestrian, Bicycle, & Transit Committee. In the past I served on the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, License and Ordinance Committee, Golf Course Committee, Airport Committee, Sustainability Committee, and Aging Commission. I was the Council



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SEPTEMBER	FRI. 2nd	RED HOT HORN DAWGS
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	FRI. 16th	RETRO SPECZ
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*Oktoberfest	SAT. 24th	MADISON COUNTY
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representative on the Search Committee for the current Library Director. I have also served as Council President and President pro-tem.

At the County level, I serve on the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission and its executive committee. I write the Commission's budget document. I belong to the Friends of Pheasant Branch and the Clean Lakes Alliance. In the past I have served on the Middleton Hills Neighborhood Board and Architectural Review Committee. I organized neighborhood residents, and we cleared the Middleton Hills oak savanna of buckthorn and other invasive plants. With other Middleton Hills residents, we worked with the developer to get the Middleton Hills Community Gardens established. This past year, I worked with a neighborhood teenager to restore the Northside Elementary School Prairie.

4. I enjoy giving back to my community.

5. Our biggest challenge is the levy limit restrictions placed on all municipalities by state government back in 2011. Middleton has been covering inflation costs with the revenue generated by new growth. This is not sustainable as new growth also requires an increase in services. Because of these restrictions, Middleton has added very few new staff positions. We need additional Public Works, Public Lands, and public safety staff. I am particularly concerned about the need to add a third ambulance in a few years. The cost of the ambulance itself is huge but so is the cost of 24/7 staffing.

6. Because of my many years of service on City committees and City Council, I have a broad understanding of how the city operates and its finances (including tax increment financing). I have established good relationships with city staff. I have a proven record in accomplishing initiatives, in addition to responsible votes on items brought before the City Council.

I have been endorsed by the seven other City Council members. With the help of Deb Saeger, I wrote the City of Middleton Trash and Recycling Guide. I requested that Council establish the ad-hoc Storm Water Facility Maintenance Committee which I chaired. Working with City staff and its storm water consultant, we designed a Storm Water Utility. To fund the Utility, the City was required to have a referendum. I worked with the Friends of Pheasant Branch to provide our citizens with information about the utility. I am grateful to our citizens for passing the referendum by 65%. After the 2018 flood, I again asked City Council to approve a referendum for the much-needed funds for repair of storm damage not covered by FEMA (this passed by 75%).

7. Middleton is known as 'The Good Neighbor City'. The City provides a wide variety of services, such as our outstanding library, Senior Center, recreation programs, parks, trails, athletic fields, and first-responders. The Pheasant Branch Conservancy is outstanding. Maintenance of city roads is always a constant complaint. We are doing better with a five-year replacement plan based on actual ratings of the road condition. We can still do better but this costs money.

The City's finances are strong with a Aa1 bond rating, two strong TIF districts that have stimulated economic development, and will yield additional revenue to the City when they end, and a low tax rate when compared to other cities and villages in Dane county. As mentioned above, our biggest problem is the levy limit restrictions placed on all municipalities by State government in 2011. Middleton has been covering inflation costs with the revenue generated by new growth. This is not sustainable as new growth also requires an increase in services.

8. I do support a November referendum for the city. The referendum is to provide funds for additional City staff. A referendum is the most democratic way for Mid-

dleton residents to participate in City decision-making. It will be the City's (and elected officials') job to provide adequate information for Middleton's citizens to make an informed choice. City staff will be choosing the new staff positions. I hope they will focus on public safety and public works positions.

BOARD OF EDUCATION Area I: Sheila Dahmen Hibner



1. My family is part of the fabric of this community. My mother graduated from Middleton High School in 1945. In 1949, my parents built a home on North Avenue and my father, who turns 96 in April, still lives there. I graduated from Middleton High School in 1978 and have continued to live in Middleton my entire life. I have been a parent to children in the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District for 25 years. Our grandson will be a member of the Class of 2039.

2. I spent my entire career as a public school teacher, 35 years in total. I began as a high school business and marketing teacher at Monona Grove High School for the first eighteen years of my career. My students were preparing for careers in marketing, management, and entrepreneurship. For the next fourteen years, I was the director of Career and Technical Education at Monona Grove High School. This role was instrumental in connecting students to postsecondary career exploration and options. I was also the coordinator for the Youth Apprenticeship Program that allowed students to apprentice in areas like biotechnology, the skilled trades, nursing, culinary, auto technology, construction, architecture and many other career fields. From 2001-2016, I was also the Monona Grove High School department coordinator for Student Services that included coordination of services for students with guidance counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers.

I retired from Monona Grove in 2016 and then worked part-time at Middleton High School for three years. I served as a coordinator for Career and Technical Education. I also co-led the Youth Apprenticeship Program. I helped coordinate the Job Fair that takes place at MHS each spring and also served on the committee that worked to bring the UW Credit Union branch into MHS.

3. I am the current area I representative to the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District. Through this role, I serve on the teacher compensation committee and the athletic code renewal committee. I have been the director of Competitive Events for Wisconsin DECA for 25 years.

I was on the Middleton Chamber of Commerce Education committee for three years, and on the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Committee for five years. I also serve as the co-director of the Middleton Bluebirds Basketball Program.

4. I am running for office because as a career teacher I have a unique perspective regarding the decisions and challenges that face a school district. My time spent in the classroom allows me to use those experiences to tether to the decisions before us. I pride myself on being a champion for students, staff, families, and our community. I work hard to listen, to ask appropriate questions, to do my own research, and then bring forth solutions and recommendations that best suit our stakeholders. Because I have lived in this school community my entire life, I am passionate about how we deliver quality education to our student body.

5. The impact of the pandemic on our schools has been destructive for both students and staff. Students have experienced academic instability and challenges with social and emotional connections. We will have to continue to identify student needs, and design and wrap services around them to support them as learners and people. This might require additional instruction time outside of the regular school day and year. Our staff has stood in the front line of a virus and offered instruction in an ever-changing environment while keeping themselves and their students' academic and mental health stable. Our staff will also need great support to continue at this pace.

Another challenge is our school district budget. We are projecting budget shortfalls for the next several years due to lack of school funding at the state level and declining enrollment due to the pandemic. Our students and educators deserve all the tools necessary to carry out their learning and their teaching in the most effective ways possible. We will need to very carefully examine every single piece of the MCPASD budget and be ready to protect and defend the money spent to advance our students' learning and provide our teachers and staff with the tools necessary to support their students and feel valued as professionals. The community input being collected right now in regard to a potential operational referendum will let us know if our stakeholders have an appetite for asking for additional money or if we need to seek out other solutions.

6. I have lived in this community my entire life, for 62 years. I worked as a public school teacher for 35 years. I am connected to the Middleton-Cross Plains area. Being connected allows me to find resources that will help drive solutions. I have been and will continue to spend significant time meeting with stakeholders, participating in committee work, and working to be a champion for this district. My passion for the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District.

7. Our strength is in our staff and their ability to deliver quality education to our students. As I walk the halls of our schools I observe incredible teaching and learning going on. The excitement and passion I see from teachers directly reflects on the students and their interest in learning and succeeding. Our staff shows up every day to advocate for student learning. They are closest to the action and have the ability to make the most profound impact. Schools are one of the most effective places to level the playing field for our most marginalized students.

We also have amazing students who come from families who support education and are thoroughly engaged.

8. Right now, we are collecting insight from our district stakeholders. It is only then, after review of their thoughts, questions, and concerns, that an opinion can be formed about an operational referendum.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Area I: Gene Ananiev

No reply

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Area III: Tabitha Hansen



1. Tabitha Hansen, 32. Husband and five children eight years and under. We both grew up in California and moved to Wisconsin nine years ago for his career. I attended Cal State University Dominguez Hills, Long Beach City College, and Orange Coast College simultaneously. I have a degree in theater arts with honors. I am an avid reader, who likes puzzles, crafts, and long walks through the Conservancy with my family.

2. Since 2012, I have been a stay-at-home mom. Prior to that I was in human resources and a sales manager for a district office.

3. Since I have made Wisconsin my home, I have tried to become very involved in the community. I helped found and currently sit on the board of the Elderberry Neighborhood Association. I am on the leadership team of the Our Lady's Good Helpers Preschool Co-op. I founded and am the sitting president of the Pope Farm Elementary PTO. I served on the PTO at West Middleton Elementary for the short time we were there. I am a National Merit Scholar. I received the Buckwell award for the highest achievement in the department at University. I served on the Youth Council for the City of Newport Beach's City Council.

4. The MCPASD School Board serves a crucial function in meeting the educational needs of district students, and ensuring that community members get value for their taxpayer dollars. I want to use my skills and experience to help move our community forward and meet the challenges of a changing world. I will work to improve the educational outcomes of all of the children in the MCPASD. I want to make sure all of our staff and students feel safe every day. I want to address our major staffing shortage in all areas of public education including teachers, bus drivers and substitute teachers.

I will consider all points of view when evaluating district wide issues, decisions and goals. I have the ability to bring people together to create a vision for ensuring each student reaches their learning potential by consciously working to improve academic performance throughout our district.

Finally, I am committed to improving the quality of the education we provide our students.

5. The learning loss that our students have experienced over the course of the pandemic is unprecedented. We need to shift focus away from surviving the pandemic to developing strategies to bring students back to grade level. I am also concerned about the long-term emotional toll this has had on students. The District needs strategies to improve the emotional well being of students.

6. As a mother of five very young children, I know how to manage chaos. From starting and assuming the role of president of the Pope Farm PTO, I know how to manage budgets and work creatively as a team to find different ways to solve problems. As a member of this community, I have the drive to work with the intelligent resources we already have to rebuild the faith in our system and make our district better for it. I believe in academic excellence and will work to enhance our K-3 reading programs to ensure student success.

7. Here in MCPASD we pride ourselves on hiring very intelligent individuals at every level. We need to use the excellent resources we have in our teachers and staff along with our board to come up with creative ways to rebuild the trust in our institution and make our community even better.

8. I think this is a great question. We recently had a referendum to increase our budget due to the construction on the high school and adding a new elementary school. Of course I want our teachers and students fully supported financially. And I want taxpayer dollars spent wisely. I will work hard to balance both of these needs in the upcoming discussions about the referendum. I know that we can achieve the proper balance and no options should be off of the table. This is not a question to be taken lightly. I believe that more research needs to be done and, most importantly, we need to listen to what the people of our community say. I will be attending the listening session scheduled on March 8th at Pope Farms Elementary to hear what others have to say. Once I have all of the facts from the community and district, I will be able to form a solid opinion.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Area III: Minza Karim

1. I'm originally from Pakistan, immigrated to the US at the age of nineteen with my parents in 1997. My family has a very strong background in education, starting from my dad who is a Ph.D in political science and a professor. He has retired last year at age of 82, but spent all his life teaching in and outside of Pakistan, being at a Fulbright in the US in 1990. My uncle (deceased) started a college of business administration, now a very renowned university in Karachi, Pakistan in 1994 by name of IOBM.

I have completed my associates in public policy from State University of New York in 2000. I've been living in the Madison/Middleton area since 2013. I'm happily married completing our 16th year with three beautiful boys. My husband works for UW Health, Internal Medicine Department. All my three boys started their very first schooling in Middleton from 2015. My oldest two are currently attending GCMS and the youngest is at Pope Farm.

2. I have a background in mortgage banking for eleven years, working for residential and commercial mortgage



in the tri-state area of Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia. I stopped working in 2008 when I expected my first-born and since then I have been a stay-at-home mom. In 2018, as I had been an involved parent at West Middleton, I was asked about what do I think of running for BOE. I took my chances, and stepped right in. I started my first term in May 2019. I also work at a parochial/private school in Madison as an administrative assistant. This school serves low-income families only. I love working there with kids. It gives me an inner satisfaction that I did something for others, everyday!

3. I have volunteered at the Middleton Good Neighbor Festival, at UW Carbone 5K race, and at Thanksgiving dinners at local churches with my family. Currently serving as Board treasurer at MCPASD

4. I had a very challenging term, but it made me a better communicator with the community and a problem solver. I feel strongly that I can manage another term and be an active responder to community needs.

5. Main challenges the District is facing are budget shortfalls, hiring and retaining our current staff, and meeting the needs of the entire community. Sadly, many community members have lost faith in their District leaders, due to the pandemic. I have risen above all that making tough decisions. I don't get afraid of asking tough questions if need be, and making sure that we receive the responses to those questions to bring to the community.

6. I have become a seasoned Board member especially with the pandemic hitting us hard, just like the entire nation. I feel that if I can handle this much of a challenge, which wasn't only for our District, but to the entire nation and the world, I can definitely handle the next term with whatever challenges we have to face.

7. MCPASD is known for its excellence being second best in the State and number one in Dane county. For the past two years, the communications have become transparent and responsive among District and the community stakeholders, and that is the work of collaborative efforts between BOE and district administration. I also admire the diversity our district holds, and embrace each individual with respect and inclusiveness.

Our weakness right now is an effective curriculum for mathematics. We focus a lot on reading-readiness and literacy, but our numbers have gone down for math. There has been a very recent Assembly bill for reading readiness for grades K-4. But our numbers for math are dropping down in elementary and middle levels. We should have an effective plan for math learners in all grades.

8. I do support the November referendum for School

District. Yes it will raise property taxes for our Middleton community. But more taxes equals to better schools. Most of our Middleton community have their children in the District and to maintain its excellence that we hold today, we need this operational referendum to pass.

BOARD OF EDUCATION Area IV: Bob Hesselbein



1. A Middleton resident for over thirty years, I am married to Dianne Hesselbein, and am a proud father of five MHS graduates. I enjoy a variety of interests that include travel with the family, photography, gardening, reading, and the study of American History.

2. A graduate of Kent State University (BA - organizational behavior); career military officer (USAF, Lt. colonel, retired); airline captain (Delta Air Lines); former Air Line Pilots Association National Security Committee chairman, Washington, DC; former president, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association; chief pilot, AIR-ONE, a public safety helicopter coalition; historian, guiding tours in Europe and Asia.

3. MCPASD Board of Education 2011-2014, 2018-present; MCPASD Facilities Planning Committee co-chairman 2017; volunteer public safety helicopter pilot (AIR-ONE); Wisconsin Veterans Museum volunteer/guide; Friends of Pheasant Branch; MCPASD Education Foundation; Audubon Society; VFW Post 8216.

4. I'm running for the MCPASD Board of Education because I have a proven track record and want to continue my public service. As a Board of Education member, it is my responsibility and honor to listen to the people I represent and address those issues that arise. I will continue to advocate so everyone has a voice and a seat at the table - students, parents/guardians, residents and staff.

5. We face a number of challenges: the lingering emotional and learning impact from the pandemic, the recruiting and retaining of educators and staff specialists, and the need to find operational funding no longer being provided by the State of Wisconsin. All are interrelated.

It comes down to the future funding of our school system. Providing the needed mental health specialists and educators requires more money than that currently provided by the State of Wisconsin. The recent announcement of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding (ESSER III) will provide one-time financial relief which we are all grateful to have, but it won't fix the long-term problem of shrinking public school funding.

I am laser-focused on our community's number one priority: excellence in education. I am committed to working with our District administrative leadership to sustain our reputation as 'best in Dane county' and meet the challenges. Current fund shortages are being addressed through economic triage and cost-cutting measures, but it is clear not meeting operational costs will adversely impact the quality of learning. That is unacceptable.

6. As a father of five MHS graduates, I understand the perspective of parents needing help with IEP assessments or with finding academic challenges for brilliant achievers. As a trained and experienced administrator, I recognize the complexities of government, policies and budgeting - and I know how to get things done. As a proven leader, selected by fellow members to serve as Board president, I understand people and how to build consensus. Most importantly, I understand and fully share the values and the priorities of the residents of our School District. It will be an honor to continue serving our community.

7. Being the best public school district in Dane county would not be possible without the District's strongest point: the overwhelming support of our entire community. Seventy percent of our community does not have children attending public schools, yet they have shown time and again their one hundred percent support for excellence in education. Further strengths are found in the commitment of parents to ensure quality education for not only their children, but for the whole classroom and school by supporting PTOs, PTAs, and the MCPASD Education Foundation. Importantly, we are blessed with educators and staff who are fully committed to providing the very best education for every student without exception. Taken together, this synergism made us the best public school district in Dane county.

Our District has few weaknesses, but faces the challenges found in many Wisconsin communities: increasing poverty and shrinking State funding. In the past decade our district has confronted the need to provide additional services to a growing number of students living in difficult circumstances, and this has led to greater demands for hard-to-find mental health specialists and social workers than ever before.

Our funding operates within a State model that is both extraordinarily complicated and, at the moment, inadequate for most school district requirements. In the past, the State provided funding for public schools that satisfied operational expenses. That is no longer the case. Although governor Tony Evers attempted to provide appropriate funding for our community schools, the opposing political party cut the proposal and shortchanged Wisconsin school districts. Like all Wisconsin public schools, MCPASD has been weakened by this shortsighted outcome.

8. I support the community goal of excellence in education. If the State of Wisconsin does not fulfill its commitment to public education, we, like all other communities that support their schools, will have to make up the difference. I don't have a crystal ball, but if things don't change in state politics, communities such as ours will routinely have to vote for local operational referendums to sustain academic quality.

BOARD OF EDUCATION Area IV: Eric Simon

1. I am forty years old and I was born and raised in Middleton, graduated from Middleton HS, went on to graduate from UW-La Crosse and returned to Middleton where I eventually found my life-long career with the City of Middleton. My wife was also born and raised in Middleton, and we currently reside in the Foxridge neighborhood. We have three girls in grades K, 3rd and 5th at Elm



Lawn Elementary School and Kromrey Middle School.

We are supporters of education at all levels from our MCPASD to higher education and beyond. My wife works at UW-Madison and serves as current vice-chair for our MCPASD Education Foundation Board, supporting the priorities and needs of our district. My father-in-law spent his career as a school counselor for middle school children in the District, and my sister-in-law spent several years in the district as a social worker advocating for the needs of our underrepresented families. Additionally, my sister is a devoted educator in the surrounding area. In my role with the Middleton Water Utility, I continue to take advantage of opportunities to further develop my education in the trades to best serve our community.

2. I have worked at the City of Middleton for the last fifteen years in the Streets Department and, currently, the Water Utility Department. Previously, I have held roles in sales and marketing but, ultimately, determined my career path was serving Middleton residents.

3. I'm an active member in the community serving and worshipping at St. Luke's church and an auxiliary member of the Middleton Baseball and Softball Commission. I have coached baseball at Middleton High School at the freshman, JV and varsity levels, as well as with Middleton Home Talent baseball. More recently, my volunteer commitment has shifted to coaching my daughter's activities helping to develop kid's confidence and skills.

4. As a life-long resident of Middleton with deep family ties, I am a champion for not only our students, teachers, staff and parents but the overall MCPASD population. My approach is a collaborative strategy with a desired outcome of meeting shared goals with all key constituents. My passion for education and the MCPASD positions me to best represent the voice of all dedicated community members. My commitment to this role as a non-partisan candidate is to ensure we provide the support needed to our faculty and staff, so they can continue to deliver top notch education for all our students.

5. Even with schools currently in-person, we continue to see the lasting effects the pandemic had on our students, teachers and staff from a mental health standpoint. We need to be honest and proactive about these issues, which exist beyond the pandemic and establish resources to help support those in need.

In addition to that, I feel we need to identify and provide resources that support literacy, especially at the elementary level. We need to allow our teachers and staff to ensure every student has access to the learning needed to fully succeed.



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6. My commitment and passion for the MCPASD is second to none. With my deep family and community ties to the surrounding Middleton area, and my children in the school district for the next thirteen years, I am fully invested in the education and success of our District and intend to support the needs of the MCPASD in a non-partisan capacity.

7. I feel the strengths of our District include our community and parent support and our strong history as one of the top schools in the county and state. Additionally, we thrive in our student pride and engagement, our teacher expertise, and the variety of extracurriculars and sports available to our student body. MCPASD has many proud educators and alumni.

In terms of weaknesses, I feel our students experienced learning loss and increased mental health issues related to prolonged school closures and a virtual learning environment. Funding shortages is another area where we need to focus as evidenced by the recent budget shortfall and declining academic performances. We have staffing shortages, including bus drivers, aides, teachers and other staff. We cannot rest on our reputation and need to focus on balancing our budget to fully support students and teachers to continue to remain a top tier district for academics, athletics and extracurricular engagement.

8. On March 1st, I attended the community engagement session at Park Elementary School in Cross Plains. At this session residents learned about a budget shortfall and what steps were being taken to address it. I highly encourage more community members to attend one of these engagement sessions, or watch a video copy to listen and learn, which helps to fully understand the district's needs. As a School Board member, I would want to ensure our students and teachers are fully supported financially, and, as a taxpayer, I want to ensure dollars are spent wisely. If enough voices were in favor of a referendum, then that may be what best solves the budget shortfall. On the other side, introducing a referendum in the middle of economic uncertainty with outrageous inflation may not be in the district's best interest. My goal would be to balance the needs and interests of all sides appropriately and fairly as discussions around a referendum further develop.

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS District 26: Holly Hatcher

1. Personal information

Moved to Middleton from northern Wisconsin fourteen years ago. Originally from Yellow Springs, Ohio. Have lived in Wisconsin for over forty years.

I have a son and a daughter, proud that they are both public servants. My son's an educator, my daughter's a nurse. I'm blessed with three beautiful grandchildren. All of them reside in Dane county.

2. Professional information

Registered nurse at UW Hospitals and Clinics

3. Community service

Currently serving first term as District 26 Dane County Board Supervisor.

Served as a delegate at the 2019 Wisconsin State Democratic Convention. Formerly served on Dane County Democrats Executive board as 79th Assembly District rep. Volunteered with Dane Dem membership committee.

Annual Wisconsin Nurses Association Nurses Day at the Capitol since 2015, including organizing nurses to lobby state representatives.

Emerge Wisconsin Alumni 2020. Served as a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County for nine years.

Represented nurses at UW Health by serving on the



UWHC Magnet committee for three years

Received Community Service award from UW Health for my work with BBBS and hurricane relief.

Served as a UW Health delegate at the 2014 American Nurses Association Magnet conference in Dallas.

Served on Ambulatory Nursing Council at UW Health from 2016-2018.

Member of American Nurses Association, Wisconsin Nurses Association, Friends of Pheasant Branch, Dane County Democrats

4. Why are you running for reelection?

I am seeking re-election to continue to be a voice to elevate our community. Middleton residents deserve to have their voices heard and be represented by a leader who understands the needs in our community. I will continue to prioritize protecting our natural resources, workers rights, equity, advocating for our most vulnerable citizens, and the health and safety of our community. In both my public and professional lives, I have been an advocate and a positive, decisive, innovative leader who understands the importance of cooperation and teamwork.

5. What are the particular challenges you see, and how do you intend to deal with them?

Key issues our county will confront: pandemic recovery and associated economic impacts. Our community is facing the loss of local businesses, unemployment, ongoing public health concerns, and the potential for evictions and continued economic disruption in tourism, hospitality, and performing arts. I will continue to support initiatives to help our small businesses, support public health, increase access to housing and reliable, affordable broadband. Address food insecurity, and help folks in our community deal with post pandemic recovery. I will continue to support initiatives that reflect our communities' values.

Criminal justice reform, prevention and diversion: I will support building on solutions proposed to reduce incarceration and recidivism.

6. How would you evaluate your time in office so far? What have you achieved? What, if anything, would you do differently?

In the face of the challenges of the past two years, we have done an incredible amount of work in Dane County. I am proud of my contributions and accomplishments. Despite incredible challenges, I effectively represented and supported our community in the midst of a global pandemic. Here are just a few notable achievements :

Strong supporter of Public Health's covid mitigation efforts. Served on the Board of Health throughout my term. Thanks to our amazing Public Health leaders we

have one of the highest county vaccination rates in the country.

We quickly took action to provide additional covid emergency work from home options and additional job protections for County employees. I continue to support workers and employee covid leave policies.

Protecting our lands and lakes. Supporting our investment in strategies that reduce risk and improve preparedness in the event of future flood events.

Expanding and protecting public lands. I supported legislation to expand existing park land by 470 acres for recreation and flood mitigation.

I advocated for securing \$1 million in the 2022 budget to fund the east segment of the North Mendota Trail connecting West Madison and Middleton to Westport and Waunakee.

Served on Environment Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Land Conservation committees; I collaborated with stakeholders to support all of these important initiatives mentioned above. Dane County recently ranked among top local governments for climate action.

Continued to keep equity, social justice, and criminal justice reform at the forefront of initiatives I introduced and supported. Co-sponsored resolutions endorsing criminal justice reform and developing both a triage and restoration center and a community justice center.

Supported programs and initiatives to help struggling families and individuals access housing and food throughout the pandemic.

Supported our small businesses with funding/grants through Dane Buy Local.

Supported further funding for community-based mental health treatment and services.

7. What are the County's (as local government) strong points, and what are its weaknesses?

County government is able to adapt to local needs and react more quickly to local problems.

Greater efficiency and effectiveness in the allocation of public services.

When services are provided locally, policies and solutions can be tailored to suit local circumstances and problems.

The local government solves the problems of the people at the grass-root level.

We have an understanding of the local area and can tailor policies to our area.

It is likely to be more efficient and cost effective to run services locally.

8. What are the county's (as the community) strong points, and what are its weaknesses?

Strong points:

Local government helps to deepen democracy in our country.

Increases women and minority representation and voices in our democracy.

Allows people to directly participate in decision making.

Local people have better ideas and knowledge about the local problems.

Weakness: Digital divide; lack of accessible affordable, reliable broadband. As a Board we are taking steps to address this.



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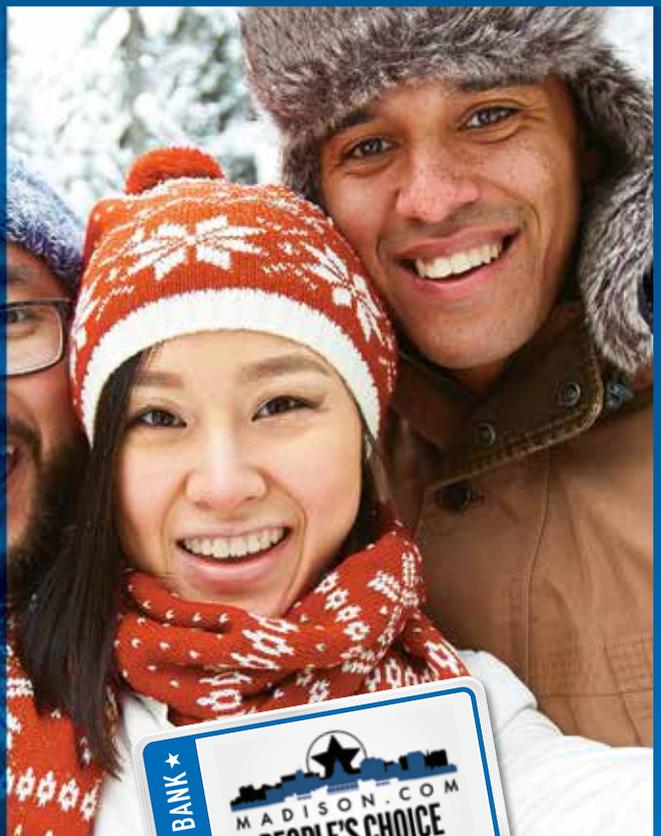
Originally, this site was the western part of the stockyards from Middleton's early days until the beginning of the twentieth century, when businesses began to settle there. Until the 1940s, it was occupied by various machinery and hardware stores. Lou Gruber bought the building in 1943, and remodeled it to suit his furniture store, which he moved from his old location on Parmenter Street. It changed owners a couple of times before the City of Middleton bought it in 1997 in an early wave of TIF-district activity, and razed it in 1998. It is now Hubbard Avenue Diner.

Historical 1948 photo by LEIF ERSLAND
 Original negative in the possession of the MIDDLETON
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 Historical information from 'MIDDLETON'S EARLY YEARS'
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PHOTO SCENES

Bockfest



The 25th edition of Bockfest took place on Saturday, February 26, at Capital Brewery. From the 'Blessing of the Blonde' by brewmaster Tanner Brethorst (pictured in deep contemplation) to the 'Running of the Blondes', with live music by Sixteen Candles, catering by Middleton BBQ Co., and reasonably nice weather, a good time was had by all, as they say.



Photos by GEORGE ZENS



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