

Middleton Review

Middleton's free community newspaper

Editorial: Three's a crowd (I)
City committees: Uneven representation

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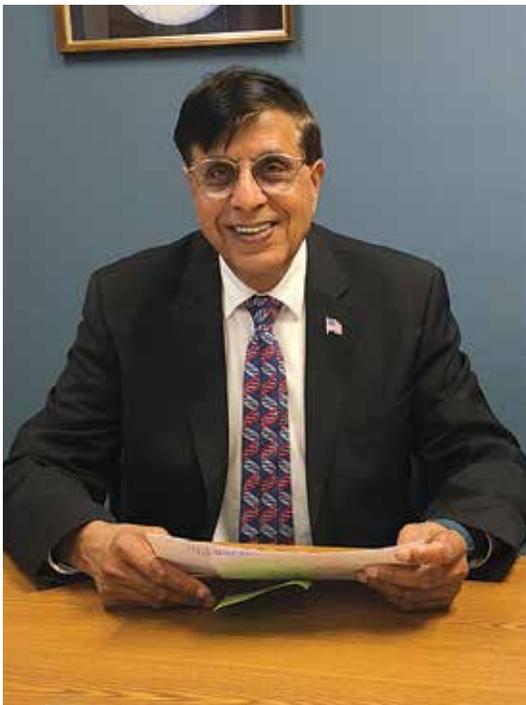
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Issue 97

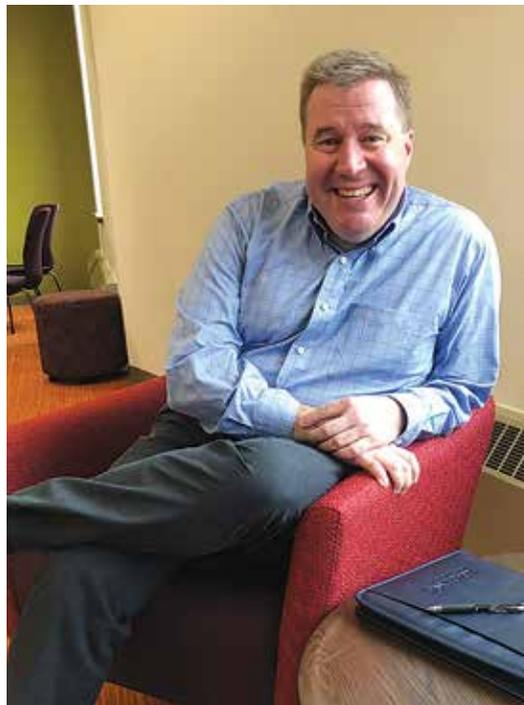
January 13, 2020 - January 26, 2020

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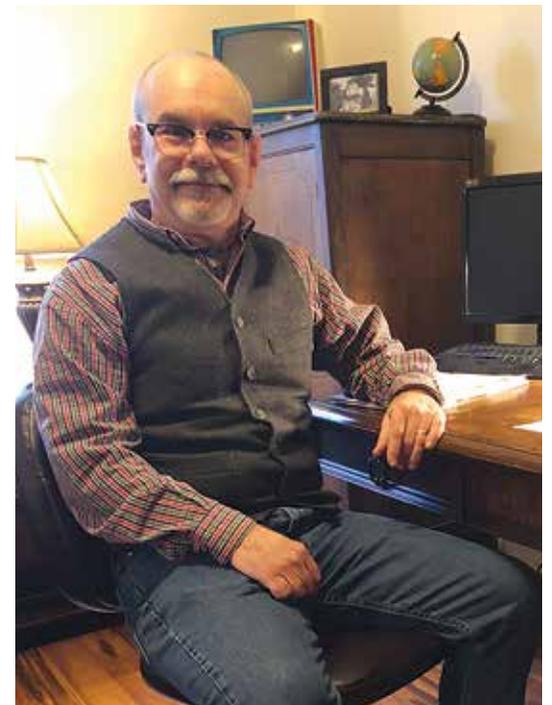
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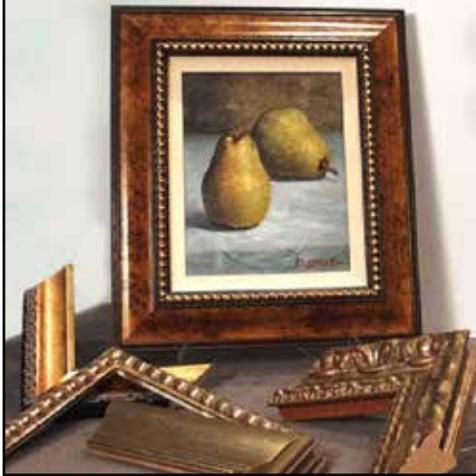
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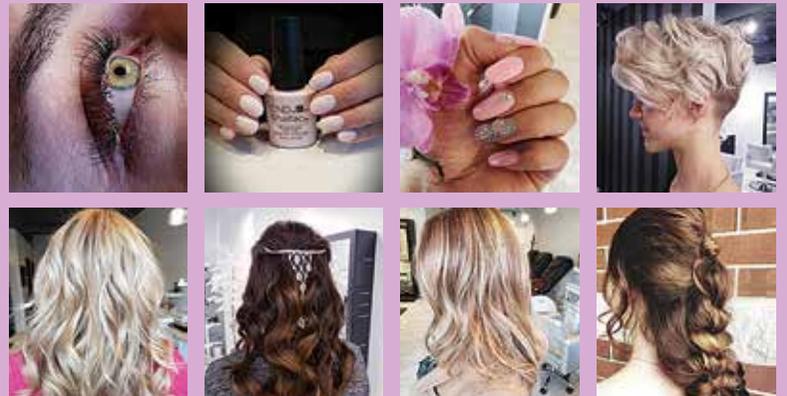
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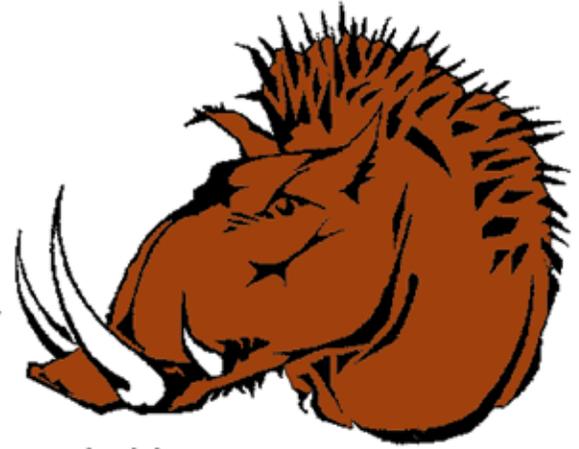
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Middleton Review

Magister factotum:

George Zens

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by GEORGE ZENS

ZENSIBLE OBSERVATIONS

Three's a crowd: The incumbent

set out to create change, although what change and why has never been made clear. His early exuberance has since been dampened a bit, probably by the realities of office.

As he himself admits, he couldn't get as much done as he had hoped. That was partly due to the 2018 flood, which re-arranged every City official's priorities.

But he also ran into institutional obstacles that he apparently did not anticipate, or that he underestimated. His approach is to micro-manage, which must have come as a bit of a shock to the City Hall apparatchiks who had become comfortable with the hands-off style of his predecessor Kurt Sonnentag.

It seems to have taken Gurdip Brar a while to realize that it is difficult to get anything done without the cooperation of the City Hall bureaucracy.

The mayor also cannot get anything done without the cooperation of the City Council. During his tenure on the

Council as District 2 alderman, his relationship with his colleagues was often strained, not least due to his nitpicking and abrasive behavior during meetings. While this endeared him to many of his constituents, it antagonized the other Council members, who endorsed his opponent during the 2017 mayoral race. More important, it didn't make his life as mayor any easier. This has changed a bit meanwhile because five of those eight Council members have since been replaced, but not enough to prevent challenges to his re-election.

The mayor has a powerful prerogative: He appoints committee members. Since committees do most of the groundwork, and take almost all (pre-)decisions before an issue gets to the Common Council, a mayor's appointments can have a profound influence. Gurdip Brar realized that early on, and he set about enthusiastically to stir things up by replacing long-serving committee members with 'new blood'. This not only created bad

blood between him and the Council, and between him and many rejected committee members, it also led to dysfunction on a number of committees because competence wasn't the most important criterion anymore.

By politicizing the committee appointments, Gurdip Brar created controversy and tension without improving the process or the outcome. Quite the contrary.

The successful mayor's most important asset is to be a consensus-builder, and to master the art of the compromise.

One of Gurdip Brar's favorite expressions is "I want everybody to be happy". But that only works if everybody gets what they want, which is not possible, and inevitably leads to most people being unhappy.

Gurdip Brar is a formidable campaigner, not least because he agrees with everybody he talks to.

That might make for good politics, but not necessarily for good government.



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SCHOOL DISTRICT REVIEW

Boundaries

BOARD OF EDUCATION

New elementary and middle school boundaries approved

The Board of Education approved new elementary and middle school boundaries starting with the 2020-21 school year at its regular meeting at Kromrey Middle School on Monday, December 16.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt Option D3.7.2a for the elementary boundaries and voted 7-1 to adopt the Pope Farm Scenario for the middle school boundaries. The Internal Attendance Boundary Committee had forwarded two elementary options (D3.1.3 and D3.7.2) and one middle school option (the Pope Farm Scenario) after meeting 14 times starting in March 2019.

The demographic information for the options and scenarios considered by the Board on December 16 are available on the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee page on the District website.

The Board is expected to discuss and vote on potential grandfathering related to the new boundaries at its meetings in January.

Option D3.7.2a establishes a Pope Farm attendance area made up of Neighborhoods 24, 25, 26S, 26N, 62, 63W, 63E, 64, and 65N (except Brassington plat). Option D3.7.2 also shifts Neighborhoods 68 and 69 from Elm Lawn to Sauk Trail. The Internal Attendance Boundary Committee had recommended that 37E shift from Sunset Ridge to Northside, but the School Board modified the option to keep 37E at Sunset Ridge. Option D3.7.2a also shifts Neighborhood 38 from Park to Sunset Ridge. Option D3.7.2a has no other neighborhood changes from current elementary school assignments.

In the Pope Farm Scenario, Neighborhood 24 would shift from Glacier Creek to Kromrey. Because the Board decided to keep Neighborhood 37E at Sunset Ridge, those students will continue to go to Glacier Creek. Currently, the Blackhawk neighborhood is split, with those in the eastern portion attending Glacier Creek and those in the western portion attending Kromrey. The scenario has no other neighborhood changes from current middle school assignments.

More than 30 District residents addressed the Board regarding the internal attendance boundaries and another 150 attended the December 16 meeting. After residents spoke, Board president Bob Green read a statement from member Minza Karim, who was out of the country and unable to attend the meeting. She said she supported keeping Neighborhood 37E at Sunset Ridge and Neighborhood 38 at Park. She supported Option D3.7.2. She also supported moving Neighborhood 70 to Kromrey and Neighborhood 24 to Glacier Creek.

Before the Board discussed the options, Bob Green thanked the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee for their effort and time. He also thanked facilitator Drew Howick and consultants Mark Roffers and Colette Spranger, along with everyone in attendance and those who submitted feedback over the past few months.

“We’re trying to come to the best decision possible with the least amount of angst,” he said.

Assistant superintendent for Operations Lori Ames reminded the Board that the Internal Attendance Boundary Committee had proposed moving 37E to Northside and 38 to Sunset Ridge. The Board suggested at their meeting on December 2 sending 37E back to Sunset Ridge and sending 38 back to Park. She briefly reviewed the maps and dashboards if either or both were moved.

A number of members thought sending 37E back to Sunset Ridge was

in the best interest of families in the Don’s Mobile Manor area and would help with student engagement. Members also noted they had heard from an overwhelming number of families in that neighborhood who wanted to stay at Sunset Ridge. The Board voted 8-0 to move 37E back to Sunset Ridge.

There were concerns among Board members that moving 38 back to Park would put that school over capacity based on projections in 2025. It was noted that building capacity and utilization was the most important criteria of the eight the Board had asked the committee to use in evaluating options. Another member noted it would seem odd that a referendum was approved to ease overcrowding but to then approve a plan that would have a school over capacity in less than five years. The Board voted 6-2 to agree with the committee’s recommendation to send Neighborhood 38 to Sunset Ridge.

Lori Ames then briefly reviewed which neighborhoods would be impacted, by Options D3.1.3 and D3.7.2, including which ones would go to Pope Farm.

Each Board member then spoke about why they supported a particular option. Many noted each option addressed the first two criteria very similarly but that Option D3.1.3 added more non-contiguous boundaries among neighborhoods than Option D3.7.2. Members also preferred Option D3.7.2 because it moved the fewest number of students. Board members expressed sympathy about sending students in the southeast corner to a school that is farther away than Elm Lawn, but stressed they believed contiguous boundaries were more important. The Board voted 8-0 to go with Option D3.7.2a.

The Board discussed for close to 30 minutes whether to go with the Pope Farm Scenario forwarded by the committee, or to send Neighborhood 70 (Elver Park) to Kromrey and Neighborhood 24 (Blackhawk east) to Glacier Creek. Elver Park students currently attend Glacier Creek as do students in Blackhawk east.

Lori Ames reminded the Board that they had asked to see maps and demographic information at their meeting on December 2 if Neighborhood 70 shifted to Kromrey and Neighborhood 24 stayed at Glacier Creek instead of moving to Kromrey with the Neighborhood 25, the other Blackhawk neighborhood.

The Board wondered if it might be possible to get the committee together for one more meeting, as some had suggested that they felt rushed on the middle school decision. Superintendent Dana Monogue noted it was possible but timing would be challenging and might not happen before the next Board meeting on January 13.

One member noted the committee only made one recommendation and that the vote between the Pope Farm scenario and Sunset Ridge scenario, which finished second, wasn’t close. Another member wondered if only moving one neighborhood would cause less angst now as more students will likely move if the District moves forward with a third middle school in the future.

Another member noted there is no option that will relieve overcrowding at each middle school. Members also worried about the impact on Neighborhood 70 students if they were sent to Kromrey when all of the other West Middleton students would attend Glacier Creek. There were also concerns students in Neighborhood 70 might have to move again should Pope Farm Middle School become a reality.

Members were also very supportive of the efforts Glacier Creek has made to support marginalized families, while others emphasized they would like to

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

see the number of students of color remain similar at each middle school. The Board voted 7-1 to approve the Pope Farm Scenario forwarded by the committee but also includes 37E remaining at Glacier Creek. Dana Monogue said administrators would begin working on logistics over winter break.

(MCPASD)

SPELLING BEE

Venkat Peddinti and Ray Feinberg winners

Seventh-graders Venkat Peddinti and Ray Feinberg won their respective middle school Spelling Bees.

Venkat Peddinti took first place in the Glacier Creek Spelling Bee, while Radhika Gupta finished second. Ray Feinberg took first place in the Kromrey Spelling Bee, while Raju Rawal finished second.

The top 20 students from each school will advance to the District Spelling Bee, which will be held on Wednesday, January 29 at Kromrey.

Glacier Creek Top 20: Venkat Peddinti, Radhika Gupta, Akshay Manna, Asha Chakravartula, Suhas Pulivarthy, Darby Delaney, Akshar Oza, Kevin Wu, Julia Pinka, Lily DePauw, Nikhil Quintin, Oskar Siemsen, Aidan Hampton, Logan Cassie, Pavil Jones, Isaac Nichols, Kavya Kashyap, Celia Nichols, Evan Henry, Gia Shah.

Kromrey Top 20: Ray Feinberg, Raju Rawal, Will Kirk, Nina Chan, Sammy Hammil, Aadil Ahmad, Amogh Akella, Harry Jin, Maddy

DeCabooter, Grace Charles, Arjun Suresh, Isha Chilukuri, Dima Llanos, Chris Kirk, Isa Killian, Lars Wubben, Dresden Drexler, Liev Schiffman, Justin Stimson, Micah Friedman.

Meanwhile, Nikhil Quintin (Glacier Creek) and Harry Jin (Kromrey) won their respective middle school Geo Bees earlier this month. Kevin Wu finished second at Glacier Creek, while Amogh Akella took second at Kromrey.

The winners will take a written test in January to see if they qualify for the State Geo Bee later this winter.

Glacier Creek finalists: Nikhil Quintin, Kevin Wu, Domenica Conrad, Braden Dzwonkowski, Peter Francois, Jay Gavin, Nathan Kwon, Patrick Loughrin, Max Malyk, Akshay Manna, Isaac Nichols, Shilarsi Pooruli Balaji, Suhas Pulivarthy, Gia Shah, Shreyas Vangala, Izzy Woods.

Kromrey finalists: Harry Jin, Amogh Akella, Niko Anderson-Radej, Nina Chan, Jack Drye, Ksenia Edwards, Isa Killian, Cameron Little, Noah Lucchesi, Diego Moreno-Palumbi, Abhinav Mundas, Geoffrey Nelson, Tom Reuter, Brooke Von Bergen, Henry Wagener, Ryan Zhu.

(MCPASD)

NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MHS Green Team leads environmental stations

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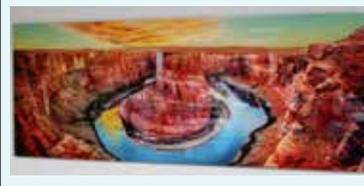
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HANDMADE IN ITALY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Green Team is an MHS student organization that works to make the District more sustainable through education and systematic changes.

The event was split into two halves. From 8:00 am to 9:00 am, two second- and two third-grade classes rotated among four stations. Between 9:00 am and 10:00 am, the four fourth-grade classes came and rotated among the four stations.

There are three committees in the Green Team club: Sustain MHS Committee, Waste Management and Reduction Committee, and Garden Committee. Each committee held at least one station.

Sustain MHS led a station centering around climate change. Elementary students were provided with a definition for climate change and what it entails for the planet, animals, and the human species. The younger students read from a script about deforestation, and afterwards Green Team members asked them open-ended questions, such as 'How does climate change affect us?'. Green Team members added to the answers, encouraging students to



think more deeply about how it has and could affect their lives.

Waste Management and Reduction Committee led two stations. One was a relay race in which a class was divided in half to sort a pile of items, such as a fake banana, that could be composted, recycled (examples included a cereal box, plastic bottle) and thrown away, such as a fake hamburger. Whichever half of the class had the most items in their correct boxes won small prizes. The other station was a garbage band, in which students could repurpose discarded items (bottles, tin cans, juice cartons and more) to create instruments, and could perform in front of their class at the end.

The Garden Committee station had students take their clean and empty milk cartons to plant wildflower seeds. With the help of Green Team members, students planted seeds in a bed of dirt, carefully watering their milk carton gardens with the same instructions for the coming months.

"The members of Green Team were blown away by the amount of knowledge on climate change such young students held," MHS sophomore Daphne Wu said. "Many of the students currently in high school can't remember ever talking about climate change in elementary school, so this shows how far our District has come in instilling environmental lessons at a young age. Green Team hopes that teachers will continue to put an increasing amount of sustainability education into their curriculum, no matter what grade."

Daphne Wu, leader of Green Team, and a student-member of the City of Middleton's Sustainability Committee, coordinated the event along with Northside teachers. She was appreciative of all the Northside teachers who played a role. Leah Williams, an environmental sciences teacher at MHS and one of three Green Team advisers, also attended.

Daphne Wu said the Green Team plans to visit at least four more MCPASD elementary schools in the spring.

Please visit the MHS Green Team page on the MHS website to learn more.

(MCPASD)



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL Creative Writing Show

This first exhibit of 2020 at MHS Gallery 2000 is the third annual Creative Writing Show and features works from more than 80 students.

Three sections of students in Jen Mathison-Ohly's creative writing classes developed the materials. Creating Writing is a semester-long English elective for juniors and seniors where students write narratives, short stories, and poetry. The exhibit is titled, 'Ten Things We've Been Meaning to Say to You'.

"The students did a great job with their pieces, and Peter Ludt did a fantastic job, as always, making the show look awesome," Jen Mathison-Ohly said.

New this year, the show is open to the public on two dates (Thursday, January 9, and Tuesday, January 14 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm). The exhibit will be on display until the end of January.

The idea for writing about '10 things' came from a blog post by Jason Reynolds that students read in class, Mathison-Ohly said. Jason Reynolds is the award-winning author of *All American Boys*, *Long Way Down*, and *Miles Morales-Spiderman*. Students used it as a journal prompt before realizing they wanted to keep exploring the idea, she said.

"The result of that writing is the show you see today: insightful, eclectic, provocative, and honest, these interpretations of 'ten things' have taken on many different meanings, and yet all the writing is reflective, expressing a range of feelings from fear to hope, frustration to gratitude, sadness to happiness, and regret to forgiveness," Jen Mathison-Ohly said.

(MCPASD)



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- * **Wednesdays**
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- * **Thursdays** - Piano Night ft. Various musicians (6-8pm)
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- * **Sunday** - Brunch & Live Music (brunch served 8am-2pm - open til 4pm Sundays)
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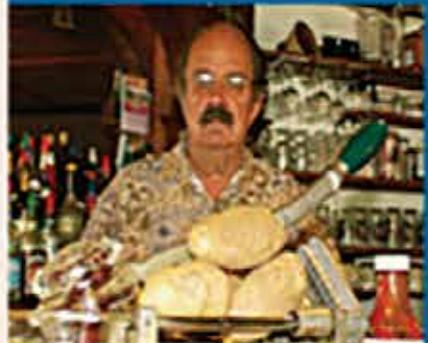
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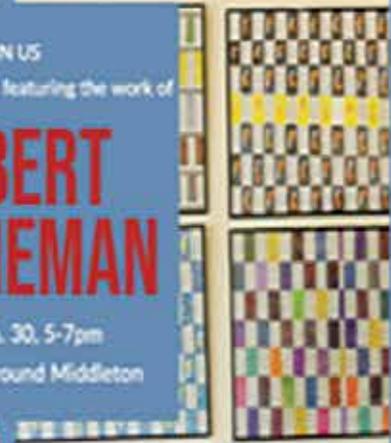
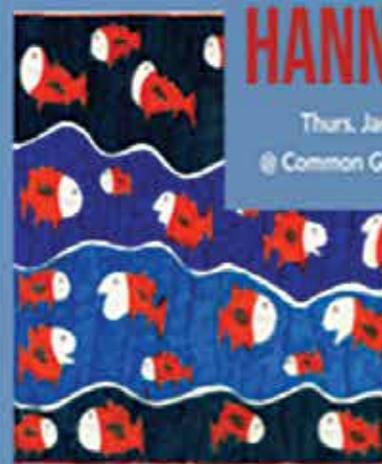
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CITY GOVERNMENT

The uneven distribution of committee appointments

Committee members live in all parts of the city, but they seem to live more in some parts than others, notably the mayor's own district.

Middleton has 25 City committees, commissions and other boards with 115 citizen members who are residents of the city of Middleton. Almost half of them live in just two aldermanic districts.

The citizen members on the City of Middleton's 25 standing committees provide an invaluable service to the local government by donating their wisdom and knowledge in their particular areas of expertise. If the City had to pay for the same services through consultants, it wouldn't be able to afford them.

The City, by the way, has more than 25 committees, but some of them, like Finance, License and Ordinance, or Personnel for example, only include Council members.

Most committees have a majority of citizen members, with one or two Council members, although some consist of only citizen members (the Board of Review for instance).

Some people are members on more than one committee. Since the committees vastly outnumber the alderpersons, it is unavoidable that each of them serves on more than one committee.

Some committee members also represent other committees: The chairperson of the Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission for example is also a member of the Plan Commission (the membership comes with the title), while the Conservancy Lands Committee has members designated by the Public Works Committee and the Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission. There are others.

The mayor, whose prerogative it is to appoint committee members (other than the exceptions specifically appointed by other committees or determined by law, and with approval by the Common Council), can appoint citizens to more than one committee, but the current mayor, Gurdip Brar, has made it a personal rule not to do that. (He also made it a rule not to appoint people who are not residents

of the city of Middleton, but that rule has been honored more in the breach than the observance when it has suited him.)

Assuming, however, without prejudice, that citizen members are appointed for their expertise and competence, one might expect them to be more or less evenly distributed throughout the city, residence-wise. But an analysis by this newspaper has shown that this far from the case.

By plotting the addresses of the 115 individual city of Middleton residents who are citizen members of City committees on the map of aldermanic districts, as well as those of the 50 people who applied but were rejected (see facing page), it has emerged that some districts are much better represented than others.

If all districts were represented equally (as they are about equal in population), each district should have 14 or 15 committee members (12.5%). But in reality, they range from 3 citizen members (2.6%) to 28 citizen members (24.4%):

District 8: 3 citizens (2.6%)
 District 3: 9 citizens (7.8%)
 District 4: 10 citizens (8.7%)
 District 5: 11 citizens (9.6%)
 District 7: 14 citizens (12.2%)
 District 6: 19 citizens (16.5%)
 District 1: 21 citizens (18.3%)
 District 2: 28 citizens (24.4%)

This shows that District 7 is the only district that is thus equitably represented, and while the top three districts (2, 1 and 6) have almost 60% of all citizen members, the bottom three districts (8, 3 and 4) combined have six fewer members than District 2 alone, and only one more than District 1 alone.

Is it a coincidence that the mayor represented District 2 during his time as an alderman?

Since the mayor can only appoint those people who apply, to try to answer that question, one also has to look at the people who applied for committee membership, but did not get the nod.

The 50 rejected applicants live in all districts, although the distribution is again uneven:

District 3: 2 candidates rejected
 District 5: 3 candidates rejected
 District 4: 4 candidates rejected
 District 8: 4 candidates rejected
 District 6: 7 candidates rejected
 District 7: 7 candidates rejected
 District 1: 8 candidates rejected
 District 2: 8 candidates rejected

A different picture emerges, however, when one looks at the ratio of rejected applicants to the number of total candidates (accepted and rejected):

District 3: 18.2% of all candidates were rejected
 District 5: 21.4% of all candidates were rejected
 District 2: 22.2% of all candidates were rejected
 District 6: 26.9% of all candidates were rejected
 District 1: 27.6% of all candidates were rejected
 District 4: 28.6% of all candidates were rejected
 District 7: 33.3% of all candidates were rejected
 District 8: 57.1% of all candidates were rejected

Of the 115 citizens who were appointed to committees, 8 are apartment dwellers (7%); of the 50 citizens who were rejected, 16 are apartment dwellers (32%).

It should be pointed out that many citizen members were originally not appointed by the current mayor, but by his predecessor(s), and subsequently reappointed.

On the other hand, the current mayor made it a point early in his tenure to not reappoint long-serving citizen members, an approach that ruffled quite a few feathers.

While it is conceivable that any mayor might look more favorably on applications from people he or she knows, like former constituents or political supporters, it is also possible that long-time residents, and people who live in the historic heart and greater downtown area of the city are

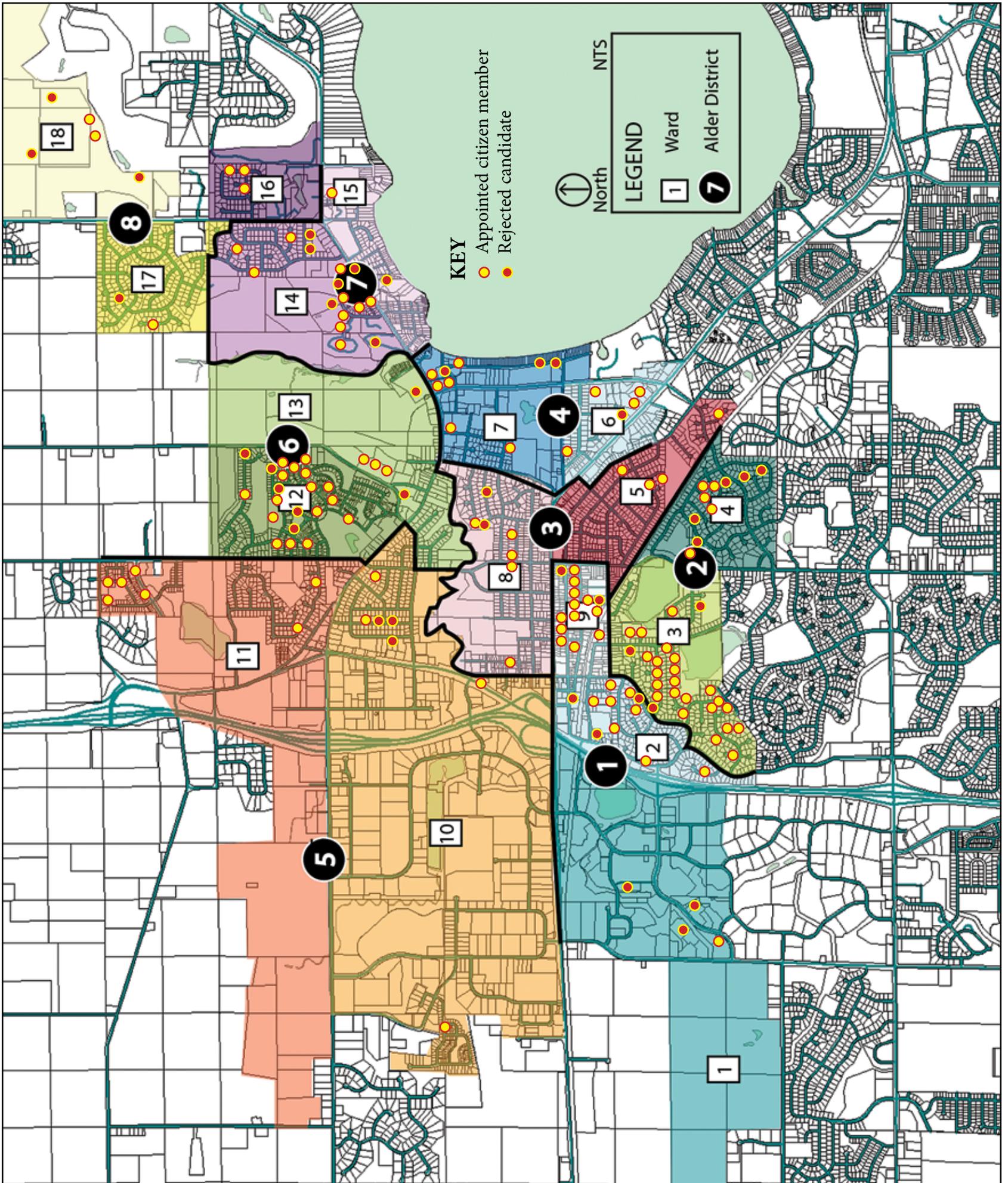
more inclined to want to help shape the future of Middleton.

One way or another, we leave it to our readers to draw the wrong conclusions.

(Sources: City of Middleton website and records requests.)

Committees, commissions and boards

- Airport Commission
- Arts Committee
- Board of Review
- Building Committee
- Commission on Aging
- Commission on Youth
- Community Development Authority
- Conservancy Lands Committee
- Emergency Medical Services Commission
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Ethics Board
- Finance Committee
- Fire Commission
- Landmarks Commission
- Library Board
- License and Ordinance Committee
- Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission
- Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Committee
- Personnel/Negotiating Committee
- Plan Commission
- Pleasant View Golf Course Advisory Committee
- Police Commission
- Public Lands Endowment Fund Committee
- Public Safety Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Storm water Utility Board
- Sustainability Committee
- Tourism Commission
- Water Resources Management Commission
- Workforce Housing Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals



COMMUNITY REVIEW

Optimist Club; Community Calendar; MAHS

MIDDLETON OPTIMIST CLUB

Colin Bischoff - Rising Star Student of the Month



Text and photo submitted by MIDDLETON OPTIMIST CLUB

December, the Middleton Optimists recognized Colin Bischoff as their Rising Star student of the month of December. Collin is planning on attending either UW Eau Claire or UW Stevens Point and plans on majoring in music education. He credits the great people in the music department and band at Middleton High School for helping him develop as a student and also helping him find this path to follow as he heads to college. Pictured from left to right are Middleton High School student liaison Brad Hartjes, club president Steve Britt, Colin's dad Earl Bischoff, Colin, Colin's mom Christine Jameson, his girlfriend Natasha Kinne, and Colin's Stepfather Joe Martino.

MIDDLETON OPTIMIST CLUB

Maggie Stone - January MHS Student of the Month



Text and photo submitted by MIDDLETON OPTIMIST CLUB

The Middleton Optimists recently recognized Maggie Stone as January Student of the Month. She was introduced by MHS Social Studies teacher Linda Schuerman. Maggie was in her Advanced Placement Psychology course as a sophomore, which fostered a desire to serve as a psychology tutor during her junior and senior years. Maggie also serves as the student coach for the MHS Debate Team, and volunteers at her church to assist young parishioners with math and English. She plans to attend college with a focus on psychology and a minor in Korean language studies. In the photo is Linda Schuerman (left), Brad Hartjes (Optimist Club), Maggie and Steve Britt (Middleton Optimist Club president).

Community Calendar January/February 2020

Thursday, January 16**Middleton Action Team**

The Middleton Action Team will hold its regular meeting at the Middleton Public Library, lower level meeting room, from 7:00 pm - 8:30pm.

Thursday, January 23**Public Hearing**

The City of Middleton received an application requesting approval of a variance from the maximum height allowed for structures located near Middleton Municipal Airport – Morey Field to allow the construction Pleasant View Park Apartments. A public hearing will be held at the Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting on January 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. At the hearing, all interested persons will have an opportunity to be heard and action will be considered.

Saturday, January 25**Voter registration event****Middleton Public Library**

People can find their polling place; check their voter registration, and update it if needed; or register to vote. League of Women Voters volunteers will be there from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm to help and answer questions about voting. People who don't have a current and valid Wisconsin driver license or ID, can register to vote by completing a paper registration form with acceptable proof of residence, such as a utility bill, bank statement or property tax bill with current name and address. With a library card, proof of residence can be documented using the address in LINKcat. People can find their polling place and check or update their voter registration anytime at www.myvote.wi.gov

Sunday, January 26**Tom Gresser fundraiser****Common Ground**

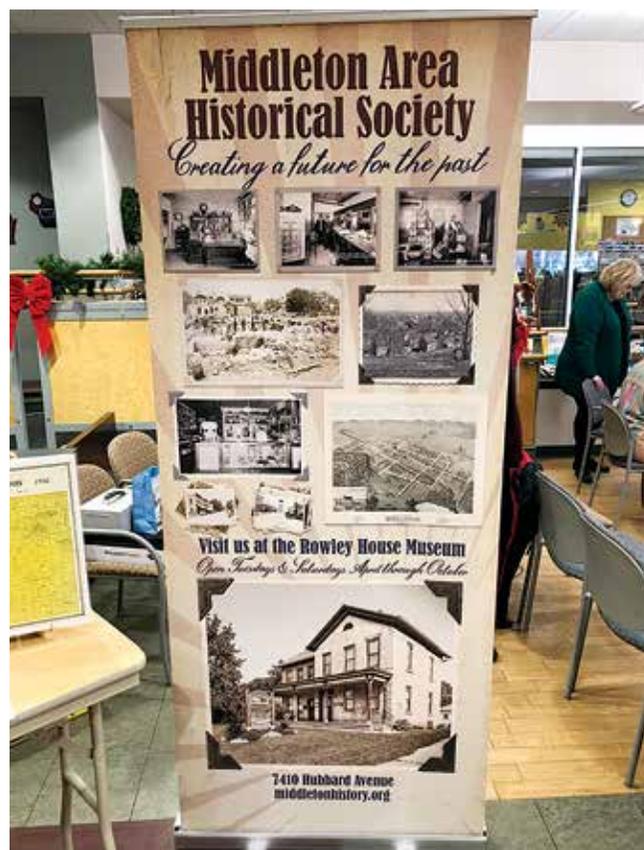
A fundraiser for Tom Gresser will be held at Common Ground (2644 Branch Street) to help with medical and insurance bills, from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Music by the SpareTime Bluegrass Band and by Bill & Bobbie Malone.

Wednesday, February 5**Mayoral debate****Capital Brewery**

The three candidates for Middleton mayor (incumbent Gurdip Brar, and challengers Dan Ramsey II and Kurt Paulsen) will face off at a public debate starting at 6:30 pm. Questions from the public are encouraged.

PHOTO SCENES

Middleton Area Historical Society annual meeting



On Saturday, December 7, the Middleton Area Historical Society (MAHS) held its, as usual well attended, annual meeting at the Middleton Senior Center. As president Jeff Martin (standing at lectern) cheerfully pointed out during his report, the MAHS “bucks the declining-membership trend among local historical societies”. It has over 210 members, and a renewal rate of around 90 percent, “more than double the “industry standard”. After the official part of the meeting, author Ron Faiola (seated in top left photo) gave a presentation on Wisconsin supper clubs, including the three pillars they rest on: the relish tray; the “holy trinity of decor” - wood paneling, sparkly lights and taxidermy; and the Brandy Old Fashioned.

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Seattle, WA.....	June 5-9, 2020
San Diego, CA.....	July 17-21, 2020
Cedarburg, WI (shopping trip).....	August 15, 2020
Toronto, Canada	September 19-22, 2020
Budapest.....	October 2020 (exact dates TBA)
New York, NY	November 2020 (exact dates TBA)
Chicago (shopping trip).....	December 5, 2020
Lisbon.....	January/February 2021

More details to follow!



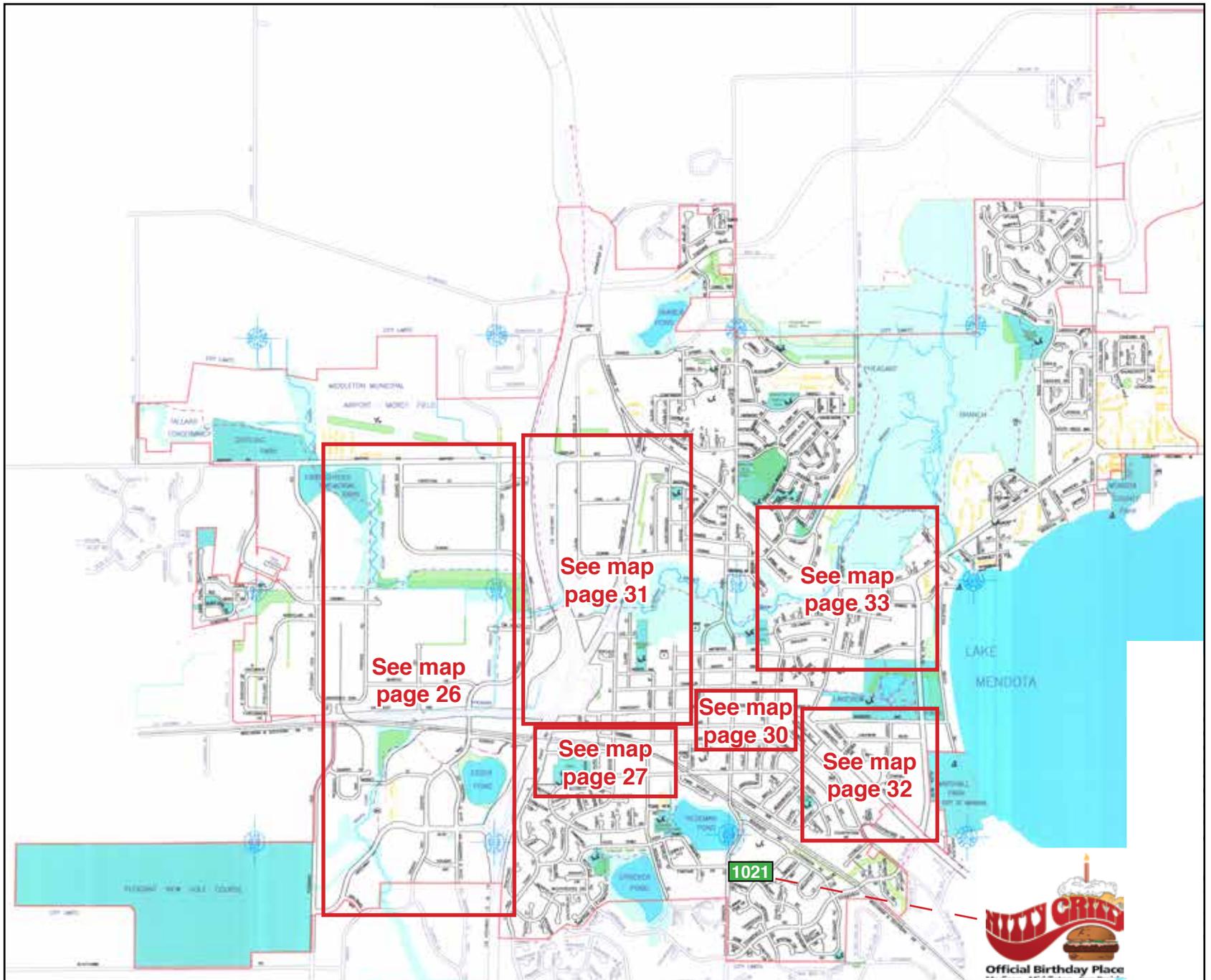
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Business Directory

Community guide to Middleton's best bars, retailers, restaurants & professional services

In this guide you find the very best of Middleton's bars, restaurants, retailers and service professionals! The businesses are listed in alphabetical order by business category with their name, address, phone number, website, and a brief description of what they have to offer, as well as an indication of where they can be found on one of the maps. The general map below shows the detailed maps of the different parts of Middleton. These detailed maps show the locations of the different businesses with their street numbers (and suite numbers if applicable) in green rectangles, and the business logos on the edges of the maps with red dashed lines to their locations. Please support these businesses. They support the *Middleton Review*, and thus help maintain it as Middleton's only free community newspaper.



Apparel & Accessories

Cloth & Metal

1814 Parmenter Street
 (608) 203-8891
 www.clothandmetalboutique.com
 Women's boutique for all fashion-lovers, jewelry, hand-poured candles.
 See 1814 on map page 27.

Journeyman Co.

7525 Hubbard Avenue
 (608) 203-6545
 www.journeymanshop.com
 Authentic men's clothing store specializing in Made-in-USA products and brands.
 See 7525 on map page 27.

Luceo

6733 Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue
 (608) 841-1501
 www.luceoboutique.com
 Fashion-forward, contemporary apparel and accessories for women.
 See 6733 on map page 33.

Art & Framing

Gary's Art & Frame

2029 Parmenter Street
 (608) 831-2231
 Quality custom framing and fine art store.
 See 2029 on map page 31.

Middleton Art & Framing

6771 University Avenue
 (608) 203-6196
 www.middletonframing.com
 Custom framing, corporate framing and restoration services.
 See 6771 on map page 30.

Attorneys

Ersland Law Offices

2564 Branch Street, Suite B9
 (608) 831-7760
 Proudly serving the Middleton community for over 35 years.
 See 2564 on map page 33.

Fuhrman & Dodge

2501 Parmenter Street, #200B
 (608) 327-4200
 www.fuhrmandodge.com
 Experienced attorneys serving businesses and individuals throughout Wisconsin.
 See 2501 on map page 31.

Automotive

Dunn's Import

6516 University Avenue
 (608) 831-6400
 www.dunnsimport.com
 Quality repairs and maintenance on imports; Vespa dealer.
 See 6516 on map page 32.

Magic Car Wash

3206 Parmenter Street
 (608) 836-1080
 www.magicwashcarwash.com
 Car wash with automatic and self-service bays; laundromat; dog wash
 See 3206 on map page 31.

TNT Window Tinting

7927 Airport Road
 (608) 222-8468
 www.tntwindowtint.com
 Your solar and paint protection specialists.
 See 7927 on map page 26.

Weaver Auto Parts

2520 Allen Boulevard
 (608) 831-6660
 www.weaverautoparts.com

Locally owned & operated; parts for cars, trucks, tractors, boats, ATVs, snowmobiles etc.
 See 2520 on map page 33.

Wrench Auto

3113 Laura Lane
 (608) 831-5557
 www.wrenchauto.com
 Impeccable customer service and auto repair
 See 3113 on map page 31.

Batteries & Accessories

Interstate Batteries

2105 Parview Road

(608) 836-8500
 www.interstatebatteries.com
 Your source for every battery for every device and need.
 See 2105 on map page 26.

Cafés, Restaurants & Taverns

Amber Indian Cuisine

6913 University Avenue
 (608) 824-0324
 www.amberindianmadison.com
 Indian restaurant with specialties from north and south India.

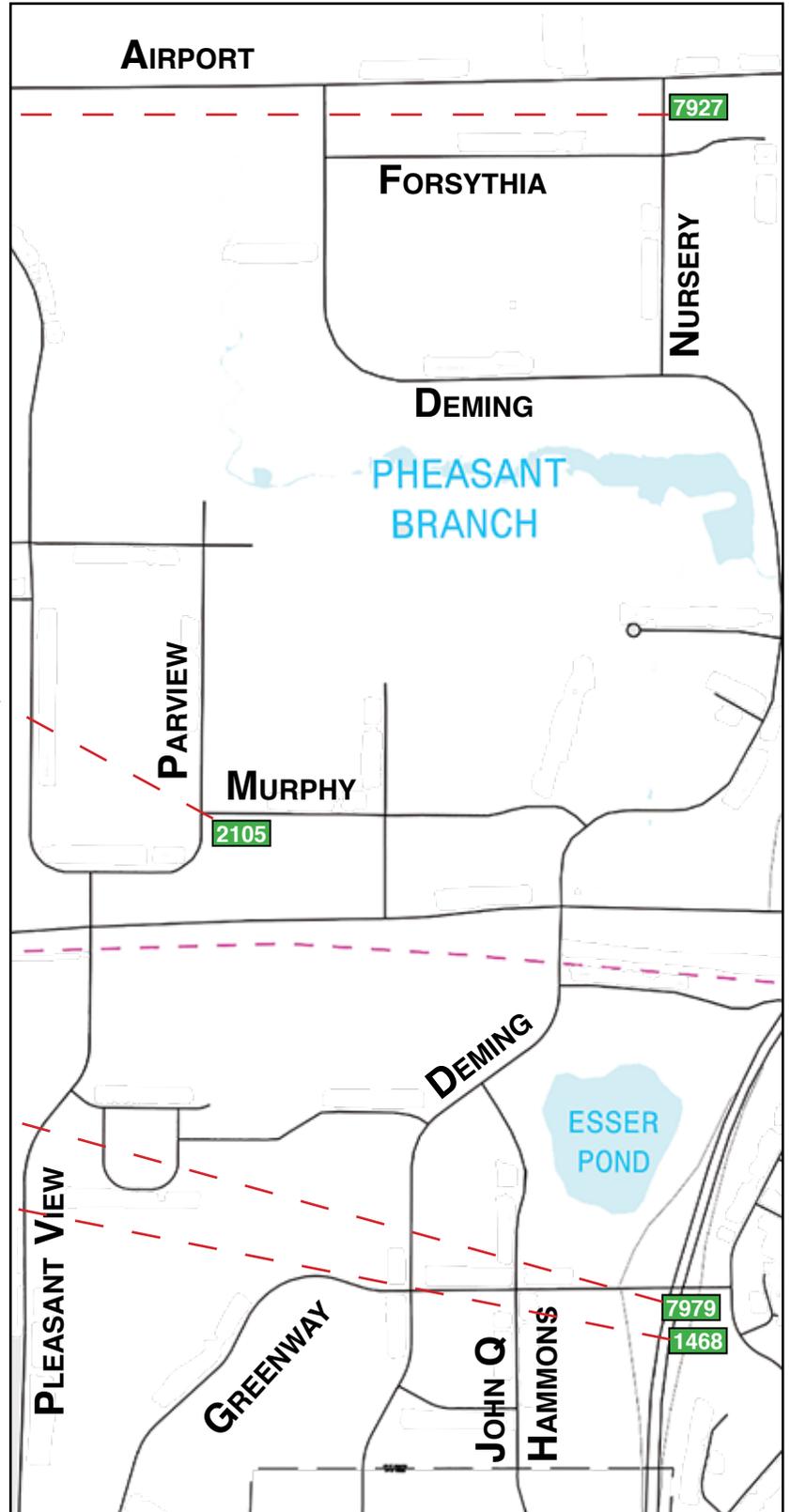
See 6913 on map page 30.

Bristled Boar

2611 Branch Street
 (608) 831-0436
 www.bristledboar.com
 Now serving fish fry every Friday 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 See 2611 on map page 33.

Camino Real

2518 Allen Boulevard
 (608) 831-0528
 Find us on Facebook
 Mexican restaurant, Mariscos & Bar



See 2518 on map page 33.

Capital Brewery

7734 Terrace Avenue
(608) 836-7100
www.capitalbrewery.com
Brewery with outdoor Bier Garten and indoor Bier Stube.
See 7734 on map page 27.

Club Tavern

1915 Branch Street
(608) 836-3773
www.clubtavern.com
Neighborhood tavern with live music and restaurant.
See 1915 on map page 32.

Common Ground

2644 Branch Street
(608) 820-1010
www.commongroundmiddleton.blog
Cafe/diner with community gathering space.
See 2644 on map page 33.

Compadres Mexican Restaurant

1900 Cayuga Street
(608) 203-8332
www.compadresmexicanrestaurantwi.business.
Traditional Mexican restaurant offering a journey through the best of Mexican cuisine.
See 1900 on map page 27.

Craftsman Table & Tap

6712 Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue
(608) 836-3988
www.craftsmantableandtap.com
A modern European-style gastropub; Carr Valley fried cheese curds and eclectic beer selection.
See 6712 on map page 33.

Free House

1904 Parmenter Street
(608) 831-5000
www.freehousepub.com
Pub with upscale bar food, and large beer and whisky selection.
See 1904 on map page 27.

Grape Water Wine Bar

7466 Hubbard Avenue
(608) 692-6778
www.grapewater.wine
Casual wine bar featuring 16 wines on tap. Enjoy good wine in a relaxed atmosphere.
See 7466 on map page 27.

Hody Bar & Grill

1914 Aurora Street
(608) 831-1901
www.thehody.com
Neighborhood bar with live music every weekend.
See 1914 on map page 27.

Hubbard Avenue Diner

7445 Hubbard Avenue
(608) 831-PIES
www.hubbardavediner.com
Diner and bakery serving breakfast, lunch and dinner; famous for its pies.
See 7445 on map page 27.

Longtable Beer Cafe

7545 Hubbard Avenue
(608) 841-2337
www.longtablebeercafe.com
Casual beer cafe and bottle shop with communal tables and small-plates menu.
See 7545 on map page 27.

Louisianne's

7464 Hubbard Avenue
(608) 831-1929
www.louisianne.com
Fine dining restaurant featuring the best in Creole and Cajun cuisine.
See 7464 on map page 27.

Middleton Sport Bowl

6815 University Avenue
(608) 831-5238
www.middletonsportbowl.com
Bowling center, sports bar and restaurant with daily specials.
See 6815 on map page 30.

My Sister's Kitchen

2227 Parmenter Street
(608) 831-3773
Home-style diner serving great breakfast and lunch.
See 2227 on map page 31.

Nitty Gritty

1021 N Gammon Road
(608) 833-6489
www.thegritty.com
Family-friendly restaurant and bar; home of the Famous Gritty Burger and Official Birthday Place.
See 1021 on map page 25.

Paul's Neighborhood Bar

2401 Parmenter Street
(608) 827-7285
www.paulsneighborhoodbar.com
Neighborhood tavern with restaurant-style menu; great for sports.
See 2401 on map page 31.

Prairie Café

3109 Pheasant Branch Road
(608) 827-2437
www.prairiecafeandbakery.com
Neighborhood coffeehouse serving baked goods.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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**Longtable
Beer
Cafe**

**Helbachs
Coffee Roasters
+ Kitchen**

**Fontaine
Home**

**Cloth &
Metal
Boutique**

**The
Refinery
Salon**

**Journeyman
Men's
Clothing**

**DG
Hair
& Beauty**

**Peter
Kraus
Fitness**

**Board &
Brush
Creative Studio**

**Mes
Amies
Boutique**

**Services at Middleton Center:
US Title and Closing Services • AMPED Association Management**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

breakfast and lunch.
See 3109 on map page 33.

Red's Falbo Bros Pizzeria

2411 Allen Boulevard
(608) 827-7747
www.redsmiddleton.com
Locally owned and operated pizza shop; dough made and cheese grated fresh daily.
See 2411 on map page 33.

Sofra Family Bistro

7457 Elmwood Avenue
(608) 836-6614
www.sofrabistro.com
Mediterranean-influenced dishes and American favorites for breakfast and lunch
See 7457 on map page 27.

Villa Dolce

1828 Parmenter Street
(608) 833-0033
www.villadolcecafe.com
Pizzeria, restaurant, martini bar and wine lounge.
See 1828 on map page 27.

Village Green

7508 Hubbard Avenue
(608) 831-9962
www.thevillagegreenmiddleton.com
Family-friendly neighborhood bar known for its burgers and fish fry.
See 7508 on map page 27.

Vin Santo

7462 Hubbard Avenue
(608) 836-1880
www.vinsanto.us
Serving home-style dishes from the Italian countryside since 1998.
See 7462 on map page 27.

Consignment & Resale

Another Home Furniture

6621 Century Avenue
(608) 836-8123
www.anotherhomefurniture.com
Quality consignment furniture, home furnishings and accessories.
See 6621 on map page 33.

Simply Savvy

6333 University Avenue, #102
(608) 819-8933
www.simplysavvyconsign.com
Quality consignment boutique; furniture, home decor, designer clothing & accessories.
See 6333 #102 on map page 32.

University Coin & Jewelry

Please see under 'Jewelry & Watches'

Co-working Spaces

Community CoWorks

3030 Laura Lane
(608) 203-9696
www.communitycoworks.org
Workspace provider for entrepreneurs, non-profits, freelancers, independents and many others.
See 3030 on map page 31.

Financial Services

Broyles & Co. CPAs

6255 University Avenue, # 101
(608) 960-4700
www.broylesco.com
Award-winning tax and accounting specialists.
See 6255 on map page 32.

Edward Jones/Shannon Riley

7448 Hubbard Avenue

(608) 831-0988
www.edwardjones.com
Financial advisor offering a personal approach to investing.
See 7448 on map page 27.

Point B Wealth Advisors

3510 Parmenter Street, Suite 300
(608) 831-LIFE
jay.hinkens@pointbwealth.com
Wealth advisor; getting you there, your way
See 3510 on map page 31.

Food Retail

National Mustard Museum

7477 Hubbard Avenue
(608) 831-2222
www.mustardmuseum.com
World's largest mustard museum and mustard retail store.
See 7477 on map page 27.

Willy Street Co-op

6825 University Avenue
(608) 284-7800
www.willystreet.coop.com
Cooperatively owned grocer focusing on local, organic and natural products.
See 6825 on map page 30.

Games

I'm Board

6917 University Avenue
(608) 831-6631
www.imboardgames.com

The premier source for non-electronic social entertainment.
See 6917 on map page 30.

Gardening & Outdoors

The Bruce Company

2830 Parmenter Street
(608) 410-2255
www.brucecompany.com
Specialists for lawn care, grills and accessories, outdoor furniture, and seeds, bulbs and plants.
See 2830 on map page 31.

Gifts

The Regal Find

1834 Parmenter Street
(608) 833-1633
www.theregalfind.com
Eclectic mix of local, handmade and vintage wares and unique gifts.
See 1834 on map page 27.

Tis The Season

6333 University Avenue, Suite 108
Year-round Christmas store with gifts and a yarn corner.
See 6333 #108 on map page 32.

Hardware & Equipment

Middleton Power Center

3230 Parmenter Street
(608) 836-2002
www.middletonpower.com
We sell and service quality power equipment for

all lawn maintenance and snow removal needs.
See 3230 on map page 31.

Wolff Kubly Ace Hardware & Time Center

6305 University Avenue
(608) 238-0251
www.wolffkubly.com
Your local hardware, housewares, garden and time center.
See 6305 on map page 32.

Health, Beauty & Fitness

DG Hair & Beauty Salon

1810 Parmenter Street
(608) 820-1000
www.dgbeautysalon.com
The place for balayage, haircut/color, pedicure/manicure, waxing, and more.
See 1810 on map page 27.

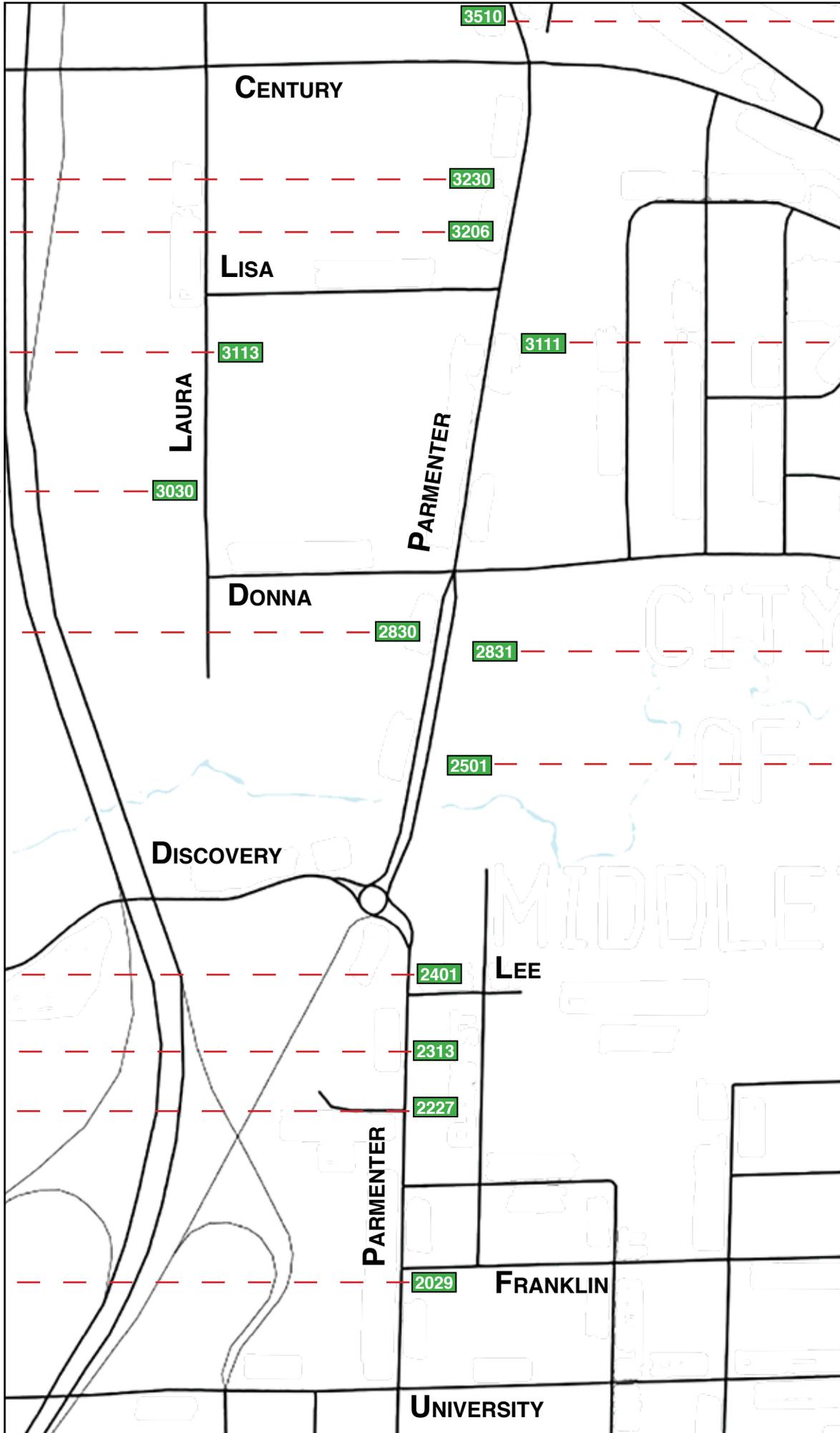
Inner Sparks

1468 N. High Point Road, #101
(608) 836-0305
www.innersparks.com
Chronic-pain relief, coaching, personal growth, stress relief.
See 1468 on map page 26.

J&L Hair Design

1915 Branch Street, #2
(608) 836-1144
Full-service hair salon for men, women and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



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children.
See 1915 #2 on map page 32.

The Refinery
7607 Elmwood Avenue
A full-service salon collective operated by independent stylists.
www.therefinerysalons.com
See 7607 on map page 27.

Today's Trends Salon
6670 University Avenue
(608) 827-7766
www.todaystrendsmadison.com
Quality hair and nail care for men and women; boutique clothing & jewelry.
See 6670 on map page 30.

Insurance
Badger Insurance Associates
6629 University Avenue
(608) 831-3797
www.badgerinsurance.com
An independent insurance agency offering a wide range of options.
See 6629 on map page 32.

Greene-Niesen Insurance Agency
6810 University Avenue
(608) 831-3168
www.greeneniesen.com
Locally owned independent insurance agency for all your insurance needs.
See 6810 on map page 30.

State Farm Achenbach
7447 University Avenue
(608) 831-2886
www.statefarm.com

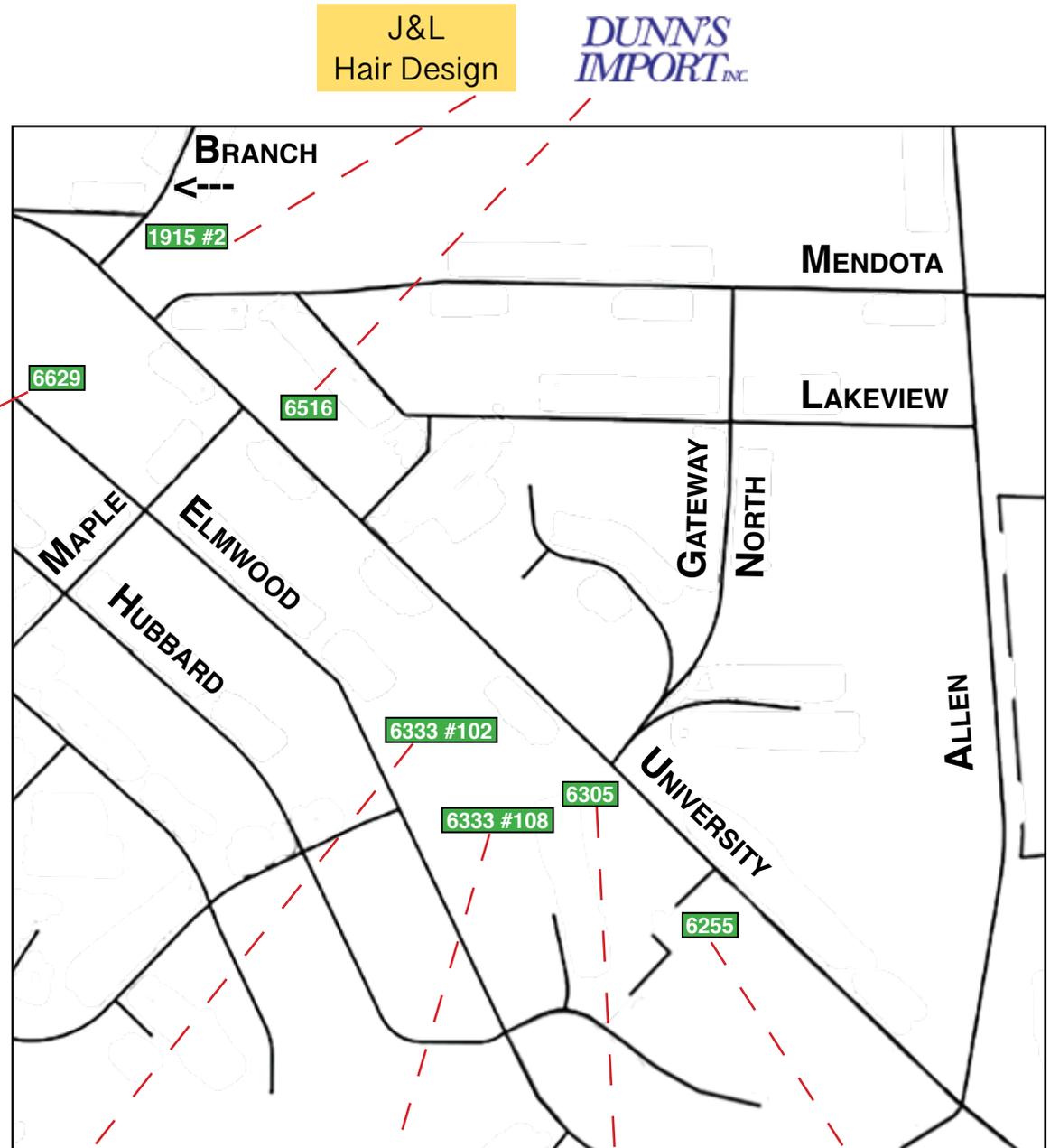
Contact Aaron Achenbach for life, home, car insurance and more.
See 7447 on map page 27.

State Farm Pechauer
6926 University Avenue
(608) 831-3393
dan@danpechauer.com
Contact Dan Pechauer for life, home, car insurance and more.
See 6926 on map page 30.

Interior Design
Camelot Interiors
6771 University Avenue
(608) 826-9060
www.camelot-interiors.com
Interior design services and consulting, and home accessories.
See 6771 on map page 30.

Fontaine Home
7535 Hubbard Avenue
(608) 310-8002
www.fontainehome.com
A one-of-a-kind home accessories boutique, which offers interior design services and consultations..
See 7535 on map page 27.

Jewelry & Watches
University Coin & Jewelry
6801 University Avenue
(608) 831-1277
www.universitycoinandjewelry.com
We buy and sell coins, jewelry, stamps and other valuables.
See 6801 on map page 30.
Wolff Kubly Ace Hardware & Time Center



J&L
Hair Design

DUNN'S
IMPORT INC.

Badger Insurance
Associates



Tis The Season



Please see under 'Hardware & Equipment'

Laundromats & Dry Cleaning

Allen Blvd Laundry

2514 Allen Boulevard
Super clean and well maintained state-of-art coin laundry.
See 2514 on map page 33.

Magic Wash

Please see under 'Automotive'

Liquor Stores

Neil's Liquor

2415 Allen Boulevard
(608) 831-1644
find us on Facebook
Neighborhood liquor store with a wide selection of beer, wine and spirits.
See 2415 on map page 33.

O'Connell's Liquor

3111 Parmenter Street
(608) 831-8400
find us on Facebook
Neighborhood liquor store with a wide selection of beer, wine and spirits.
See 3111 on map page 31.

Locksmith services

Badger Key & Security

6670 University Avenue, Suite 102
(608) 251-1274

www.badgerkey.com
Professional locksmith service
See 6670 #102 on map page 30.

Mailing & Printing Services

(The) UPS Store

6907 University Avenue
(608) 831-4050
www.theupsstorelocal.com/1963
One-stop shop for printing, shipping, packing, mailboxes, notary and freight services.
See 6907 on map page 30.

Pet Care & Pet Supplies

Lori's Pet-Agree Salon

2313 Parmenter Street
(608) 827-9681
One-stop provider of all dog-grooming needs and doggie-daycare
See 2313 on map page 31.

Magic Wash

Please see under 'Automotive'

Tabby & Jack's

Holistic pet services & supplies
6925 University Avenue
(608) 841-1133
www.tabbyandjacks.com
Specializing in pet nutrition, holistic grooming, holistic daycare and pet supplies.
See 6925 on map page 30.

Real Estate

Simon Home Team

7979 Greenway Boulevard
(608) 695-2325
simons@firstweber.com
Home listings, buyer agency, investment properties, analyses.
See 7979 on map page 26.

Spencer Real Estate

6712 Frank Lloyd Wright Ave, #203
(608) 358-7622
www.spencerreg.com
Merging new technologies with experience and expertise.
See 6712 #203 on map page 33.

Travel

Middleton Travel

2831 Parmenter Street
(608) 831-4664
www.middletontravel.com
Your travel service professionals for business and vacation.
See 2831 on map page 31.

Tree services

Dennis Harrington Tree Service

1630 N. High Point Road
(608) 831-2489
Your tree service, brush cutting and snow removal professionals

See 1630 on map page 27.

Upholstery

Papendieck's Upholstery

6621 Century Avenue
(608) 827-0950
www.papendiecksupholstery.com
Family business combining old-world skills and modern technology.
See 6621 on map page 33.





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Mon - Thurs	7:00 am - 9:00 pm
Friday	7:00 am - 10:00 pm
Saturday	7:30 am - 10:00 pm



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 hubbardavediner.com 
 7445 Hubbard Ave, Middleton, WI



7927 Airport Road, Middleton
 (608) 222-TINT (8468)



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608-831-3168

6810 University Ave * Middleton



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- Frozen shoulder
- Multiple traumas
- Neuropathy
- Post-surgical chronic pain
- And many more

CONTACT US

for more information

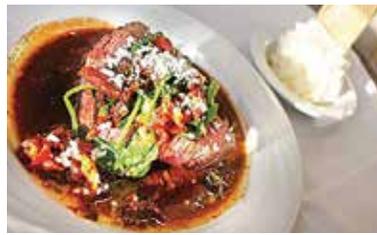
1468 N. High Point Rd. Suite 101
 Middleton, WI 53562
 (608) 836-0305

VISIT US

www.innersparks.com

Louisianne's etc.

Step into the French Quarter of New Orleans in Middleton!
Enjoy our Creole cuisine, cozy bar,
and live jazz & blues piano music Tuesday to Saturday.



7464 Hubbard Avenue Avenue, Middleton
www.louisiannes.com

For reservations, please call (608) 831-1929

Hours: Monday - Saturday 5 p.m. to close

The UPS Store

Shredding Sale

First 5 lbs. Free!
10 lb. Minimum Required



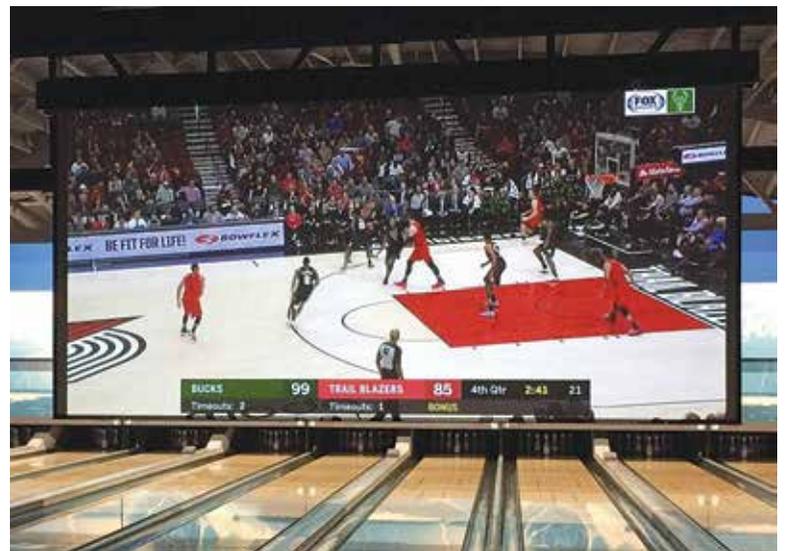
6907 University Ave., Middleton, WI 53562
store1963@theupsstore.com
608-831-4090

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 6:30 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM • Sunday Closed

middleton sport bowl

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Saturday and Sunday mornings
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- * Friday **Fish Fry**
- * **Happy Hour** 3-6 p.m. Mon-Fri.
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Birthday, Anniversary, Company,
Class Reunion, Holiday, ...
Large Group? Rent entire upstairs.
- * Wednesday Night **FREE BINGO** 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- * Nightly **Drink Specials**
- * Thursday Nights are **Trivia Nights** 6:30 p.m.

6815 University Avenue, Middleton
(608) 831-5238
www.middletonsportbowl.com

T H E
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P U B
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in the heart of downtown Middleton
 - Featuring 22 rotating draft lines
of the best beer Wisconsin has to offer
 - Great pub food
using locally sourced ingredients
 - Over 100 bourbons, Scotch whiskies
and Irish whiskeys to choose from
 - Two outdoor patios for your dining
and cocktailing pleasure
 - Happy hour 3 - 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
- www.freehousepub.com



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Jan 17 - Best Practice

Jan 18 - BCT

Jan 24 - The Solution

Jan 25 - The Trailer Kings

**Jan 31 - Frank Martin
Busch**

1914 Aurora Street * Middleton
www.thehody.com * (608) 831-1901

Guide to Middleton's best bars and restaurants



Bristled Boar

Highly recommended if you like a good neighborhood atmosphere

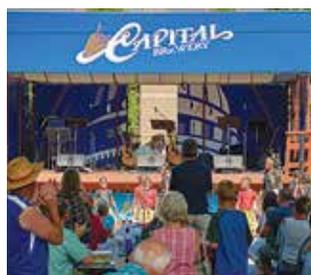


Neighborhood tavern and grill with a Northwoods touch, located in Pheasant Branch. Pool tables, dart boards, sand volleyball court, covered patio and daily drink specials. Wednesday night trivia. Traditional bar food menu, and then some, with appetizers (cheese curds, breaded mushrooms, wings, ...), pizzas, nachos, ribs, sandwiches (bratwurst, blt, grilled catfish, ...) and burgers.

Hours: Monday - Friday: 11:00 am to 2:00 am; Saturday - Sunday 12:00 pm to 2:00 am.
Address: 2611 Branch Street, Middleton
Telephone: 831-0436
Web: www.bristledboar.net

Capital Brewery

Highly recommended if you like the local beer and brewery experience



Capital Brewery was founded in 1984, and is one of the pioneers of the American brewery revival. It offers brewery tours and its beer line-up includes a wide range of ales and lagers.

The outdoor Bier Garten, with regular live music, closes in October and reopens in May. During the winter months, the indoor Bier Stube is open.

The brewery is a popular location for private parties and fundraisers.

Hours (winter): Wed - Thu 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm; Fri 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm; Sat noon to 9:00 pm; Sun noon to 6:00 pm
Address: 7734 Terrace Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 836-7100

Web: www.capitalbrewery.com

Compadres Mexican Restaurant

Highly recommended if you like traditional, high-quality Mexican cuisine



Compadres Mexican Restaurant is family-owned and -operated. It is located a bit tucked away on Cayuga Street in downtown Middleton, and offers a pleasant journey through the best of Mexican cuisine and culture. The extensive menu includes traditional Mexican dishes, American-Mexican favorites, as well as a number of culinary creations that are unique to Compadres. The restaurant is family-friendly with a kids menu, and also offers lunch specials. And, of course, the appropriate drinks are available, too.

Hours: Sunday - Thursday 11:00 am to 9:00 pm; Friday - Saturday 11:00 am to 10:00 pm
Address: 1900 Cayuga Street, Middleton

Telephone: 203-8332

Website: www.compadresmexicanrestaurantwi.business

Amber Indian Cuisine

Highly recommended if you like great Indian food



Open for lunch and dinner, its more than 200 menu items offer a gastronomic tour de force through the Indian Subcontinent. Dinner is à la carte, while a copious buffet is available for lunch from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm. Full bar.

Hours: Monday - Sunday 11:30 am to 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Address: 6913 University Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 824-0324

Web: www.amberindianmadison.com

Camino Real

Highly recommended if you like authentic Mexican cuisine



Cocina Real, under new ownership and management, is a family-owned and operated restaurant specializing in authentic Mexican dishes, from enchiladas and burritos to nachos and quesadillas.

Service is fast and friendly. Located conveniently on Allen Boulevard near Century Avenue, it is easy to reach and there is ample parking. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner, with daily happy hour specials and discounts.

Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:00 am to 10:00 pm; Friday 11:00 am to 10:30 pm; Saturday 11:00 am to 10:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 9:00 pm

Address: 2518 Allen Boulevard, Middleton

Telephone: 831-0528

Common Ground

Highly recommended if you like a community gathering place



Common Ground Middleton offers a new, community-centered approach to the cafe/diner. It features a good selection of beer and wine, as well as non-alcoholic drinks. Food is served from breakfast until dinner, and everything in-between for small appetites and large ones. Friday night is fish fry night, and Sunday is for brunch. It is also a community-gathering place with lots of room for simultaneous events, from small private meetings to live music.

Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 7:00 am to 9:00 pm;

Monday & Saturday 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Sunday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

Address: 2644 Branch Street, Middleton

Telephone: 820-1010

Web: www.commongroundmiddleton.blog

Craftsman Table & Tap

Highly recommended if you like cheesecurds



Craftsman Table & Tap, located at the corner of Century Avenue and Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue in Middleton Hills, is a member of the Food Fight Restaurant Group. Both a neighborhood bar and a destination for visitors from other parts of Middleton and surrounding communities, it has a large restaurant area, as well as an inviting bar. They are open for lunch and dinner during the week and also for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. The cheese curds are in a class of their own!

Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:00 am to 11:00 pm; Friday 11:00 am to 12:00 am; Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 am; Sunday 8:00 am to 11:00 pm

Address: 6712 Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue, Middleton

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www.paulsneighborhoodbar.com

Tuesday - Friday: 6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. * Saturday - Sunday: 6:30 - Noon
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Free House*Highly recommended if you like good whiskey and beer*

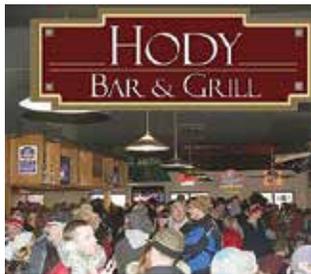
Neighborhood pub in a historic building in downtown Middleton. Large outdoor dining area. Tasteful selection of beers from Wisconsin and quality imports from Europe, mostly Germany and Belgium. Largest selection of whiskeys in the Middleton area; fine offering of wines and cocktails. American gastro-pub fare includes appetizers, soups and salads, sandwiches and burgers. Daily food specials.

Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:00 am to 12:00 am; Friday - Saturday 11:00 am to 2:00 am; Sunday 11:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Happy hour: Monday - Friday 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Address: 1902 Parmenter Street, Middleton

Telephone: 831-5000

Web: www.freehousepub.com

The Hody*Highly recommended if you like live music*

Old-fashioned neighborhood bar with a contemporary twist, located in downtown Middleton. Large bar space with pool table, game room with pinball, shuffle board and more. Live music Fridays and Saturdays; no cover charge. Large downstairs banquet room available for private functions. Full bar. Open every day of the year.

Traditional bar food menu with "deep fried things" (including broccoli poppers, mini corn dogs and shrimp, among others), chips and nachos, pizza, soup, salads and chili, burgers and sandwiches (the Hody Club is famous). Daily drink specials.

Hours: Monday - Sunday 8:00 am to 2:00 am.

Address: 1914 Aurora Street, Middleton

Telephone: 831-1901

Web: www.thehody.com

Longtable Beer Café*Highly recommended if you like a good beer in a communal atmosphere*

At Longtable Beer Café, conviviality is spelled with a capital 'C'. As the name implies, customers sit along long tables, have a drink, eat a bite, and socialize. The layout and the menu are designed to create a feeling of community, very much like an indoor beer garden. About 300 beers are available in bottles, and a rotating dozen on tap. Wine and non-alcoholic drinks are also served. The menu consists of small plates, created from locally sourced artisanal meats, cheeses, produce and breads. Bottled beers can also be bought for take-out.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 11:00 am to 11:00 pm; Sunday 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Address: 7545 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 841-2337

Web: www.longtablebeercafe.com

Middleton Sport Bowl*Highly recommended if you like bowling - or not*

A restaurant and bar with a bowling alley. Two bars, in fact, on two levels, with separate sound and TV systems, so that several games can be watched simultaneously, without getting in each others ears. Upstairs banquet room can be booked for private functions. Serves breakfast (Saturdays and Sundays), lunch and dinner. The large menu consists of appetizers, pizza, soups and salads, a kids menu, burgers (with the flagship Sport Bowl Pub Burger - double everything), classic and not so classic sandwiches and dinners. Daily lunch specials.

Hours: Sunday - Thursday 8:00 am to 2:00 am; Friday - Saturday 8:00 am to 2:30 am.

Address: 6815 University Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 831-5238

Web: www.middletonsportbowl.com

Grape Water Wine Bar*Highly recommended if you like good wine in a comfortable atmosphere*

Grape Water, located in downtown Middleton, is a wine bar without the attitude. Its slogan says "unsnobbing the wine bar one glass at a time", and that is exactly what it does. It is a tap wine bar with 16 high-quality, yet affordable wines on tap. Customers pour their own wine, and friendly and knowledgeable staff is on hand to help, provide information and give advice. Snacks are available, too. A great place to relax in a comfortable and quiet atmosphere.

Hours: Monday - Thursday 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm; Friday 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm; Saturday 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm; Sunday closed

Address: 7466 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 692-6778

Website: www.grapewater.wine

Hubbard Avenue Diner*Highly recommended if you like pie*

Hubbard Avenue Diner is famous for its pies, but that is not its only claim to fame. As a popular place for breakfast, lunch and dinner, it serves classic diner fare with a modern twist. From egg dishes in all varieties to salads, soups, burgers, sandwiches and wraps, as well as comfort food plates, it is hard not to find something that hits the spot of the moment.

Sundaes, malts, ice cream, and pies too numerous to mention, are in a dessert class all of their own.

Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; Friday 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Saturday 7:30 am to 10:00 pm; Sunday 7:30 am to 9:00 pm.

Address: 7445 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 831-PIES

Web: www.hubbardavenuediner.com

Louisianne's etc.*Highly recommended if you like the cuisine and culture of New Orleans*

Since 1992, Louisianne's has been Middleton's escape to the French Quarter of New Orleans. It is located in a historic basement that survived the great fire of 1900. As the name implies, Louisianne's serves mostly Creole and New Orleans-inspired dishes. It has an extensive wine list and the cozy bar is a popular night spot, with daily jazz and blues piano music.

Starters include crawfish cheesecakes, escargots, steamed mussels and oysters. The main menu includes seafood and other house specialties, like maple cured duck and jambalaya. Daily dinner specials are also on offer.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 5:00 pm to close.

Address: 7464 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 831-1929

Web: www.louisiannes.com

My Sister's Kitchen*Highly recommended if you like classic diner fare*

A not-so-greasy, old-fashioned, greasy spoon-style diner open for breakfast and lunch. Two small dining rooms and a counter where regulars gather, have breakfast and read the paper. Breakfast is available all day. Eggs play a major role, not just in the omelettes and scrambles, but also in the Breakfast Sandwich, and many other menu items. Pancakes and French toast cover the sweet corner. Salads, soup, chili, sandwiches, burgers and quesadillas are more the lunch menu.

Daily specials (vary, but three are fixed): Tuesday - Chicken dumplings; Wednesday - Pot roast; Friday - Cod dinner

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:30 am to 2:00 pm; Saturday - Sunday 6:30 am to 12 pm

Address: 2227 Parmenter Street, Middleton

Telephone: 831-3773



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Traditional American breakfast menu with eggs, pancakes, bacon and company. Burgers, sandwiches and specialties from the fryer complete the menu.

Hours: Monday - Sunday 7:00 am to 2:00 am

Address: 2401 Parmenter Street, Middleton

Telephone: 827-7285

Web: www.paulsneighborhoodbar.com

Villa Dolce

Highly recommended if you like gourmet pizza



Italian-inspired restaurant located in a historic building in downtown Middleton. Comfortable, relaxing atmosphere suitable to enjoy a cocktail, glass of wine, a good meal and quiet conversation.

The lunch and dinner menus revolve around their gourmet pizzas. Salads are available for lunch and dinner. The lunch menu includes pizzette, sandwiches and panini and pasta dishes. Dessert items are on display at the front counter and many people come in just for gelato to go.

Hours: Mon - Fri 11:00 am to 2:30 pm & 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm; Sat 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Address: 1828 Parmenter Street, Middleton

Telephone: 833-0033

Web: www.villadolcecafe.com

Sofra Family Bistro

Highly recommended if you like breakfast and lunch with a Mediterranean twist



An American restaurant with Mediterranean flavors, open for breakfast and lunch. Famous for its Albanian (lamb and beef) sausages. Large, comfortable main dining room, and second, separate, dining area also available for private events. The weekday breakfast menu includes traditional American breakfast fare, as well as more Mediterranean-influenced dishes, crêpes and Belgian waffles. Salads, 'bistro sandwiches', burgers, wraps, panini and several entrées make up the weekday lunch menu.

Daily specials and soups also available.

Hours: Monday - Saturday 6:00 am to 3:00 pm; Sunday 7:00 am to 2:00 pm

Address: 7457 Elmwood Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 836-6614

Web: www.sofrabistro.com

Village Green

Highly recommended if you like great burgers



Family-friendly neighborhood bar and grill with large dining area. Famous for its burgers. Other specialties include the corned beef Reuben, the Rachel, chimichanga supreme, prime rib sandwich and roast pork sandwich. Fried green beans, sweet potato fries and onion rings are popular fryer items. Kids menu. A variety of soups, salads, sandwiches and sides completes the menu. Small (seven taps), but carefully selected and occasionally rotating tap list is heavy on Wisconsin microbrews with a couple of nationals.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am to close.

Address: 7508 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton

Telephone: 831-9962

Web: www.thevillagegreenmiddleton.com

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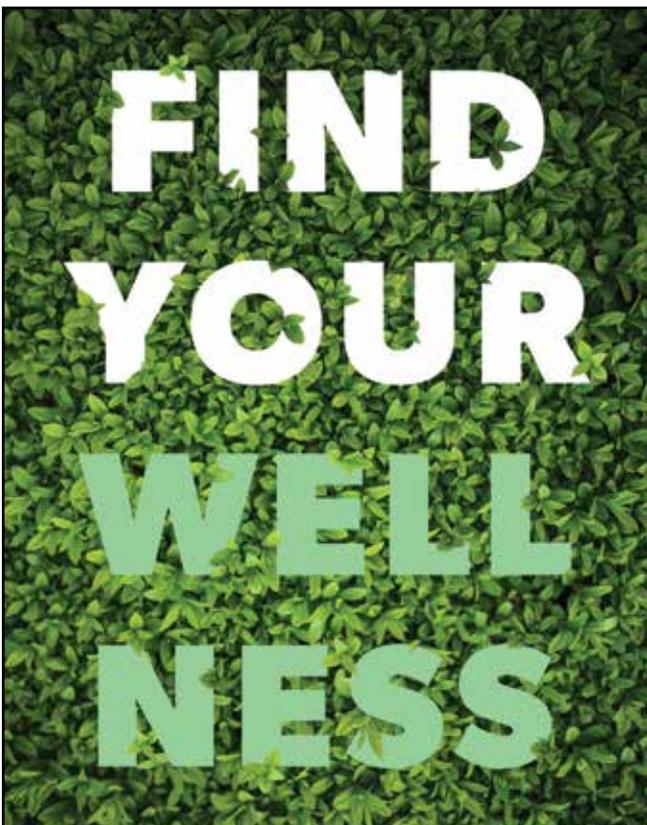
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**Middleton
Review**

Middleton's free community newspaper

Community Forum

Public debate

between the candidates for mayor

Gurdip Brar - Kurt Paulsen - Dan Ramsey

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

6:30 pm

Capital Brewery

7734 Terrace Avenue, Middleton





CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

Why they're running; where they hope the city to go

For the first time in its history, the city of Middleton has three candidates for mayor.

Middleton voters have an interesting choice in the mayoral race this year.

Not only are there three candidates, which means there will be a primary election held on Tuesday, February 18, but the three contenders offer clearly different visions for the city, and approaches on how to get there.

No matter what their differences are, though, they have in common that they are personally likeable, and care greatly about our community.

Incumbent mayor Gurdip Brar had originally said that he would only stay on for one term, but then changed his mind because he would like to see some projects finished,

notably the restoration of the conservancy. He acknowledges that being mayor is not as easy as he had thought it would be, especially working with City staff and the Common Council to get things done, but he thinks he's figured it out now. His micro-managing style as mayor does not sit well with everybody, though.

Kurt Paulsen is unusual in that he has never held elected office before, although he has dealt with many municipalities and government agencies through his work in urbanism. He is also a member of the Plan Commission, and was also chairman of the then Workforce Housing Taskforce, until he was forced off it by the mayor last year.

While much of his focus is on affordable housing, he is also well aware of the financial challenges facing Middleton. An unapologetic liberal, he sees only one way forward: more revenues through higher fees and higher taxes. He also wants to let City staff get on with their jobs.

District 7 alderman Dan Ramsey II might have some name recognition, especially among longer-term residents, as his father Dan Ramsey was mayor of Middleton from 1977 to 2003, and alderman before that.

It is not the family background that motivates him to run for mayor, however, but rather concerns about the direction the city as a whole, and the City as local government,

has taken. He wants officials to start thinking outside the box.

He sees himself as a consensus-builder, and has the same approach to the office of mayor. Local government cannot function effectively without it.

The Middleton Review has interviewed all three candidates about their views of the city as a community, the inner workings of city government, and their ideas for dealing with the challenges facing Middleton.

The interviews are presented in alphabetical order of the candidates' last names on the following pages.

Gurdip Brar

Gurdip Brar has been mayor of Middleton since 2017. Between 2008 and 2017 he served as alderman for District 2. He and his wife have two grown children and live on Sweeney Drive.

How do you assess your first term as mayor?

I had made four promises.

The number one was the roads, and I think you can actually see the difference in the major roads. So, look at Gammon Road. Before I became the mayor, Gammon and Park Street, when you were entering Middleton, you could tell; you didn't need to look at a sign, and the same was true for High Point Road. As far as the roads are concerned, I will give myself an A+. I said what I would do, and I kept my promise.

So the second promise was the affordable taxes. And, I have to say that I have tried myself very hard, wherever I could, to work with the staff to keep the City from spending money, but it is not easy. So, the best way I have found if you want to stop something or if you want to modify something, it's at the staff level.

So that's where all things begin. And the second level where you can make a difference is at the committee level. So, once the committee approves it, then of course it goes to the Council. The Council can change it, but momentum is already set, and at the Council level again, you have to work with the individual City Council members, and there is give and take. At that level, I can only break a tie, or I can veto. In one case I did veto [the budget], but then it did not hold because one of the aldermen changed his vote.

So I think I have done the best I could under the situation, but I am going to work harder so I can do even better.

And the third promise was to protect our resources, the nature conservancy, the parks and the ponds, and I have to say that I was doing very well until August 18, 2018. Things were moving as I had hoped and they were progressing very nicely, but the flood threw a monkey wrench, and it changed the whole situation.

Except, I must say that despite a lot of resistance from various sides, I got the trail opened in the Pheasant Branch Conservancy Creek Corridor, and got all the bridges back in place.

And then it was the trails around the ponds, and we got the Tiedeman Pond open. There is only one boardwalk which is still in the water, and that is at Graber Pond. So I will say that I put a phenomenal amount of time into this one, and so for effort again I give myself A+.

So I think I have worked hard, and I made progress, but a lot of work still needs to be done.

That's one of the big reasons that I have decided to finish it, and run for mayor again.

The last one, well, there are others, was to attract new businesses to Middleton, and that was easier said than done.

I did work very hard on this one, getting new startups and some of the other companies to come here, but what happens is that we can give TIF money for the buildings, but if someone wants to start a company, there isn't really anything we can do that we can give them.

One of my hopes was that we should have the next generation of scientists, the next generation of entrepreneurs, the next generation of innovators, get started in high school.

So I have started a program with Middleton High School and Wisconsin Crop Innovation Center, which is where I worked for 22 years, for them to offer jobs to the Middleton high school students, and also interships. So I'm hoping to do the same thing with other companies, like PPD, and ETC.

And the last one was to be an advocate for the people. I would say I have been, I am and I always will be an advocate for the people.

I will give myself an A+ on that one, because I go up to people and ask them, and I meet with them here [in his office at City Hall], and wherever they want to meet, and I respond to whatever their needs are very quickly.

I mean I don't go out and fill the potholes, right, you don't expect me to, but the Public Works Department does, so whenever I get anything, I forward it to the appropriate department, and they are very good. They respond very very quickly.

I like to help people, even going beyond, going as far as I can. That's me. Just to help people.

In your first three years as mayor, what particular challenges have you encountered?

It was very different from what I expected. Just because they call you mayor doesn't mean you can tell people what you want, and hope it will just happen.

I had to learn that you have to work with the staff, and some staff are much easier to work with than others, so you have to learn about their ambitions and backgrounds, and how they operate. So you have to learn about them.

So that is the first lesson: You've got to learn to work with the staff if you want to get things done. We have a great staff, by the way.

And the second step was, again, the committees. I was hoping that appointing different people, making change through the committees, would be like (laughs) an easy thing, and as you and everybody else knows, too, it wasn't quite that easy.

So there was a lot of controversy, but you know, bringing about change is hard, and my reason was at that time and even now, that the committees do a lot of that groundwork, and if I want to get something done, I have to have the committees which represent the whole city; committees which represent the whole population, not just Middleton Hills, Stonefield and Foxridge, as was the case before. And gender equality as well.

Most of the people who volunteer, do you know who they are? They are the well-off. So you also have to go out and find people to represent the whole population. So which districts do you think are going to apply the most? District 2 and District 6. I don't know if there was a single person on any of the committees from District 4. I worked on that, and I have to do a lot of work to get the committees to be balanced for the whole city. There are still more people from District 2 and District 6; there is always going to be because, well, they get the information and they apply right away.

So bringing about change was a lot more difficult that I thought it would be. It was a lot more difficult.

Then, working with the City Coun-

cil alders in the first year was very challenging, and the second year it got better, and now it is a lot better.

Then the flood really changed the whole thing.

Why do people want to come to Middleton? Number one is the schools, and number two is the conservancy.

The floods changed everything, so my focus changed at that time, and I found out how difficult and how slow it was, I mean even getting some of the small things done. Opening the trails became such a difficult job. So there are so many vested interests, and you have to look at them, and understand their interests, and then it is give and take if you want to get something done.

I also learned that Middleton is not an island.

All of the water in Stricker Pond comes from Madison, and a big part of the water in the North Fork of Pheasant Branch Creek comes from the town of Springfield, and the water from West Towne Mall, Blackhawk and that whole area from Madison comes to the South Fork. About one third of the total water in the conservancy comes from Madison.

So you try to understand your neighbors, and try to work with them. I had a pretty good relationship with Paul Soglin, and I have a pretty good relationship with the new [Madison] mayor as well, because it is an intertwined problem.

So I have relationships with the area mayors, and that is helpful in many ways.

Having a transit system better than what we have now would be a good thing.

And for the flooding as well it is important to work together.

For the first time ever we had a combined meeting of the Middleton City Council and the Springfield Town Board in December.

We have to learn to mitigate flood. A lot of the stuff that the City has done is to repair the damage, but you have another flood of the same kind, and it is going to be washed out again. So what's important is to mitigate the floods.

So there were a lot of challenges, and I learned a lot by working with the area mayors, and also with my science background. I want to understand what the issues are and how to solve them.

I learned that whatever you want to

do, it has to be done through people. So you are more the facilitator, you have to work with them, that's the only way you are going to get things done.

How do you react to your challengers for mayor?

I think it's wonderful! Remember that in Middleton, nobody ran for mayor. It is good to have broadened visibility, to have created an environment where more people want to run.

This is great! It may not be great for me that I have to go out and do the canvassing, but it is great for the city. It is awesome, there are three people who want to run, and before you couldn't find anybody who wanted to.

How do you see the role as mayor?

The role of the mayor is very different from that of an alderperson. I did not know this, but I do know now that if you want to get something done, you have to get staff on your side.

Whatever your viewpoint is, you have to discuss it with them, and convince them, and try to reach a compromise at this level.

Once the staff has bought into something, and it moves forward to the committee level, then you try to see that maybe you get some changes made at the committee level, and that is where I can see where I can make a difference; as an alderperson that wasn't really the case.

Then again, if you really feel about something very passionately, you have to work with the alders. You have to work with the alders before the meeting, not wait until the meeting is there; by the time the meeting is there, they present their viewpoint, and you present your viewpoint, and sometimes they agree, and sometimes they don't.

I just wish that the mayor had a line-item veto, and then you could do lots of things, but that isn't happening anytime soon.

What are the main challenges facing Middleton?

Well, the main challenge when I talk to the people is still the roads. They are happy with the main roads, but they are not happy with the neighborhood roads. So, neighborhood roads is my next goal. They have to be done.



And then once you reach a certain level, you need to put the process in place that we are not in that mess again.

It didn't go as smoothly as I had hoped. I spent three months studying roads, and I wanted to know how we could make roads cheaply and last longer. I have a much better background now than I did the other time, so once we have this, you want to put steps in place so we don't have this mess again. My ultimate goal is zero potholes, and it is possible.

If you don't get any water entering the pavement, you will not ever get a pothole. I presented this stuff to the Public Works Committee, and it did not go well the first time.

But I didn't give up, and finally they decided that they were going to test some of those things, like micro-surfacing on Rolling Hill Drive and Nursery Drive, and crackfill and crack seal is almost becoming standard now. And this year they have adopted a new procedure, which I am proud to say is

being tested on the newly built Terrace Avenue, and Middleton Street.

The bottomline is that I would like to have steps in place for the most economical way to keep the best quality roads.

Our biggest challenge right now is repairing our nature conservancy. But repairing it in a way that when the floods come here, all our money isn't washed away again.

So it is very very important that we build resiliency into the system, that we mitigate the floods, and that is where I am going to put a lot of focus. That is why I am working with the city of Madison, Springfield and on some other things, like remove bottlenecks.

If we have the same kind of damage to Middleton businesses on Deming Way the second time, they are not going to be here.

We want to make sure that our businesses are safe. Mitigation is very important, but a lot of that stuff has to happen in the city of Madison and the town of Springfield. And we also need

to work with the county.

And of course the third goal is that we have to keep our taxes low. There are a lot of people who have lived here all their lives in the same house, and I wish there were a way to help senior citizens who are on a fixed income.

But what do you suggest? You are mayor here now, and taxes have gone up considerably since you have become mayor. part of it is because of the school district, but City taxes have also gone up more than in the past. What do you propose to do now to keep taxes low, as you say?

Well I have to do every possible thing I can by working with the staff. I know staff isn't very cooperative when it comes to taxes, so, well, I don't want to criticize anyone because I know they are all good people, they work hard, but there's a mindset that Middleton is flush with TIF money, so it's very difficult. It's very challenging, but I will do whatever I can in my power.

Which is what?

Which is working with all my partners to keep taxes as low as we can.

But it hasn't worked in the past. And now the Council is talking about a referendum in November to exceed the levy cap. Do you support that?

Well, I have to look at it. We have to look at the five-year staffing plan, and we have to look at what's realistic. There has to be a justification for each position: What are they doing, and what is not being done now that the new person would be doing.

I like to see the justifications for the new positions, and I haven't seen those. So before I can say one way or the other, unless it is completely justified.

But well, if the citizens want to vote themselves higher taxes, that is up to them, but I am very concerned about people on fixed incomes.

But I am not in favor of a wheel tax, I can tell you that.

I don't have a magic bullet, and I wish I did.

Give me a line-item veto power, and I can assure you that I will have a magic bullet.

Kurt Paulsen

Kurt Paulsen grew up in Wausau. He has been a member on the Plan Commission since 2017, and teaches urban and regional planning at UW-Madison. He and his wife Evelyn have three kids in the Middleton school district, and live on Ramsey Road.

Why are you running for mayor?

I think we face certain challenges where I believe my expertise and experience could really be an asset to the city. I think some of the challenges we face are some of the same challenges American cities face, in terms of a growing need of equity and sustainability and what that looks like, housing and transportation policy, so it's an opportunity to put into practice what I've done consulting with municipalities around the state and teaching and research.

You are not following the normal route to mayor, which is to serve on committees and council for a number of years. Why the shortcut?

It was a number of council members who actually encouraged me to run for mayor, and I think I have the experience and knowledge from working with other cities around the state. I live in Susan West's district, and she is running again, and I think she is doing a great job, so I certainly support her.

So you don't think that the current mayor is doing enough to address the challenges?

(Kurt Paulsen hesitates)

Obviously, you are running against him. You don't want to run against Susan West because you say she is doing a great job, but you are running against Gurdip Brar, so there must be reasons why.

Gurdip is a very nice guy. He is very friendly, and I want to keep the campaign focused on issues. There have been a couple of decisions he's made that I disagree with, but I think it's also an opportunity for a mayor to articulate a positive vision for the future, and so I'd much rather focus on what I think I can offer rather than necessarily differences with Gurdip, although obviously there have been some policies

and decisions that I take issue with.

Which ones?

(Long pause)

I think when he vetoed the budget that would have given us the financial capacity to bring on additional police officers by shifting the fire protection fee to the water bill, that was disengenuous and a wrong choice.

I think it illustrates the fact that we're squeezed by the state levy caps for revenue, and yet, the police have consistently said that they need to hire new officers every year just to stay ahead of the curve and to maintain public safety. So to veto the budget that would have expanded public safety I think was wrong.

He spoke out against the storm water utility and the storm water utility fee increase to fix Pheasant Branch conservancy, I think that was wrong.

Previous generations invested in Pheasant Branch for our benefit, and I think it's time to do what we can to invest today for future generations, and 70 to 80 percent of our citizens supported that stormwater fee to fix the conservancy because the recognize how central it is to our community.

You mentioned budget, and that Middleton is getting squeezed in the general fund. What are your suggestions?

So, if you look at our budget, about 80 percent of it is not much that we can adjust from year to year because it's salaries, health benefits, equipment, supplies for public workers, and so that is going to grow 2 to 3 percent every year just in terms of inflation, fuel costs, wages, health care costs, so about 80 percent of our budget is already baked in. So there is maybe 3 million dollars that is discretionary. Two million of that, the Council has decided, is for roads.

Given the state levy caps, if you look at how much Middleton spends relative to other cities, I don't think we have a spending problem, and in fact, per capita we have fewer employees than other comparable cities. And we're short of staff in Public Works, Public Lands and we need to add more police officers.

As you know the only allowable increase in the levy is the percentage increase in net new construction, which the state imposed years ago. And when net new construction is 3 percent, we can make the budget work, but when

net new construction is 1.6 percent, as it was last year, that tightens the squeeze.

So as you saw in the Council's debate over the budget, they are considering that next year we may need to go to a levy-override referendum, and I would support that. The citizens are expecting us to maintain a high level of services, and you can't keep promising people more services and lower taxes. The revenue has got to come from somewhere, and unfortunately, this is the only vehicle available to us.

I think we need to expand bus service, and in an ideal world, the legislature would raise the gas tax to support local roads and sustainable transportation. But they are not going to do that, so the only option available to us is a local vehicle registration fee. Which the Council also has put on the agenda for possible action next year.

I would have an honest conversation with the voters. We want to maintain our excellent police, fire, EMS, library, parks and public works, and we want to have driveable roads. If you want to maintain that level of service, there is really nothing left to cut.

So if we want to have driveable roads, we have to be willing to pay for them. And there is only a limited pot of money to pay for improved roads.

But the City has never really tried to cut; it has at best slowed spending growth.

The City has never cut anything; in fact, it added administrative staff last year.

But we're still down in terms of total staff relative to our population and services.

To maintain the level of services, and just to maintain the number of employees, your costs are going to go up 2 to 3 percent a year. If those costs keep going up 2 to 3 percent a year and your net new construction is below that, then in essence it's the squeeze on the budget.

I don't think we have a lot of frills in the budget. I don't think there are any places to cut. I mean, what are we going to cut? We are not going to cut police, we are not going to cut EMS, we need to add EMS, we need to add police; we are not going to cut library staff because our library is already one of the best in the state. There are not many employees left to cut. So it's either capital spending or employees.

That's the budget. I think we need a mayor who can explain to the citizens what the trade-offs are, and not pander

and promise better services and roads and lower taxes. We face some real challenges. A lot of challenges are imposed upon us by the State, but I don't see the state changing that in the next three to five years.

Now, people are already complaining because their property taxes have gone up 500 dollars and more this year, although the school district has a lot to do with that. If the referendum fails, do you have a plan B?

Well, I hope to get out in front of it, and help to explain and educate the citizens as to why.

I think if you go to the citizens with a reasonable request, I think you have a good chance of getting it passed. Look at what the school district did and how they explained the need. What we need to explain to the people is that if we are unable to override the levy cap, we have to explain to them which services will be cut.

There are no good options if we don't get more revenue. We could delay capital projects, delay road projects, that's about all the wriggle room you have.

Let me tell you what we won't do: We are not going to ever cut staff salaries or benefits because they are already, like most public sector workers in Wisconsin, really undercompensated relative to their value.

They can't really be that undercompensated considering how many applicants there are for each open position.

I think a lot of people are willing to enter public service despite the actions of our previous governor because they want to serve, and they want to do well by our community. We want to create a meaningful, positive work environment for our staff, and that also means having a mayor who supports and encourages staff.

Middleton has a system of weak mayor, strong council. What makes you think that you can get anything done as mayor? You don't even have a vote on the council, except in case of a tie.

You are correct; it is a weak-mayor system, and the job of the mayor is to cast vision, and to persuade. In many ways it is the type of leadership from behind where you're helping to encourage people to work together and support the work of committees

and staff. I am very aware that it is a weak-mayor system. It is about developing good working-relationships with the City Council, helping to explain, to educate, coalition-building; it's a lot of the work that people in my profession tend to do anyway. We don't have a lot of institutional power. Your main power is persuasion and strategy and coalition-building.

But in a way the mayor is the public face of the city, and so it does mean getting out there and articulating what the vision is, and yet being pragmatic about what our limitations are.

One of the challenges facing Middleton is housing. If you have read the Middleton Review you know what it thinks of Middleton's singular focus on subsidized housing.

I have read your newspaper, and I think you're half right. Certainly my research and the reports that I have done articulate and support some of the same things you have, which is that when we make it hard to build, and when we make it hard to build the type of housing that people want, be it density or fewer parking spaces or town-houses or condos or smaller houses on smaller lots, it is government regulations and zoning that tends to drive up the price of housing.

Where I disagree with you is when you make the argument that setting aside land for tax-credit housing takes land out of the supply for market rate housing. I think that's misleading, because when we are ready to do a tax credit deal, you're bringing in federal and state investments into the city, so it's a net positive for the city.

So my solution, as I have outlined in the statewide housing report, is we need to make sure that we provide a wide range of housing choices, and that means allowing higher density, smaller houses on smaller lots, and a greater housing variety, that could include live-work units, accessory dwelling units, town-houses, that sort of flexibility.

I mean, here's the way I think about it: Cities for the last 70 years have made a big mistake: We have made driving cheap and we have made housing expensive. If we want to be a sustainable city, we have to move in the opposite direction. And that does mean reducing parking requirements. Sustainable urbanism has to mean more density, more variety of housing, smaller housing on smaller lots, more transit, more



bikes, more pedestrians, fewer car trips.

Again, that's the vision. I think you articulate the vision, help people understand where we are trying to go, but then you've got to be pragmatic and work within the constraints of local government's dependence on property taxes.

We need to open up more land within the city for market rate development. But of course you can't build a new market rate unit that is going to be affordable at the middle class level just because of the cost of construction, so all the new construction for multi-family that is market rate is going to be at the higher end.

But the evidence clearly shows that when you construct those units, you open up other units that then filter down and are affordable to working class folks. But there is always going to be a strong need for utilizing federal and state tax credits and other bond programs to provide assisted housing for those whose income is not adequate to live here.

So I think it's really about expand-

ing choices and making sure that we're providing a full range of housing options. And one of the ways you do that is when you build new units, they are either going to be market rate, in which case they are going to be at the higher end of the price point, or you have to subsidize using the tax credits for the workforce.

We are updating our comprehensive plan, and the next step means we have to update our zoning ordinance because our zoning ordinance is 30 years out of date. Our zoning ordinance definitely has the feel of a 1960s suburb, and that's no longer sustainable. The difficulty, as you know, is that almost all of our residential neighborhoods already have restrictive covenants that limit housing to single family. So changing the zoning for established neighborhoods is not something that I'm looking at because it's unlikely to have much impact.

But I think if you look at new neighborhoods that are being platted, or have been in the past ten years, we take this approach called complete neighbor-

hoods, which is to have a wide range of housing styles and types in a new neighborhood, that means multi-family, that means attached houses, smaller housing on smaller lots, and then larger lots, like Middleton Ridge, which has a mixture of housing styles and types, so that a wider range of people can afford to live there.

But it still encourages driving. It is out almost in the middle of nowhere, and it has no retail, no bars, restaurants or professional services.

Eventually there could be bus service that could connect there. But yes, you hit the nail on the head. If we are to keep accommodating jobs and population in Dane county, but we keep saying that established neighborhoods are full, so we can't do any infill or re-development, that encourages people to live further away and drive everywhere. So it's the conundrum that you can't have density without transit, and you can't have transit without density. And if we're going to shift to more transit, bikeable and walkable city, that has to mean more density. Now there is this planning concept called missing middle, or gradual density, or gentle density, where you can add a few units in established neighborhoods with good design that doesn't lead to overcrowding. It's the conundrum. We have to build 40,000 housing units in Dane county in the next 20 years. If we can't build a significant portion of those in the established urban footprint we have, it's going to mean massive sprawl and traffic. That's the opposite of sustainability. Where sustainability and equity meet is density.

But then you have to convince the neighbors.

Exactly. You have to convince the neighbors. That's the problem. If every neighborhood says we are 100 percent full, we can't take any more people, then where are all the new people going to live?

It's problematic in this county when people who call themselves liberals and environmentalists resist urban infill and transit-friendly development. That is guaranteeing more sprawl, driving, and greater segregation.

There are a lot of people who want to live in our community, and if the zoning says you can only live here if you buy a large house on a large lot, that's neither equitable nor sustainable.

Dan Ramsey II

Dan Ramsey II has been alderman for District 7 since 2017. He owns and runs a property management company. He and his wife Michelle live on Highland Way, and have six grown children

Why are you running for mayor?

I've been approached by some people to run for mayor, and one of the big issues is the communication between the mayor and the Council. I think that there could be better communication, and better leadership in that aspect. At this point we're just not getting that. That was a big part of why I decided to run.

I also think that there have been recent issues with some committee appointments, which also played into my decision. We need a different management style in general in City Hall.

How do you see the role as mayor?

The mayor's role is to work to get a consensus, to work with all parties involved, take a look at issues, bring in as many people as possible, and try to work to find a consensus that would work for everyone.

That's kind of my management style; try to find common ground wherever I can, and be able to compromise. I think to a certain extent we are missing that.

When I talk about communication, I mean on all levels. As a mayor it is very important to have good communication with staff, with all the committees, obviously the Council, but also the public.

I think that part of the mayor's job is to facilitate the communication between all those different entities, so that people who have different viewpoints can see different sides of whatever issue there is.

What are the major challenges facing Middleton?

Growth and finances, the budget, are the major challenges at this point.

The question is, how are we growing, and is it the direction in which we want to grow.

We've built a lot of multi-family units as of late, but not much for affordable single-family or owner-occupied housing. Not necessarily single-family, but

townhouses or row-houses or property like that, where there is an opportunity for people to come in and buy in Middleton.

One thing that is bandied about a lot is the fact that people who work here can't afford to work here. And that may be true, but if you have somebody who works here, who works for PDD, or works for the City or the school district, if they are coming here and they have a family, they're not looking to rent a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom apartment; they are looking for something that they can buy, something that can give them some equity, and something that frankly is of a size where you can have a family.

To the extent that multi-family helps bring in people that wouldn't necessarily be able to afford to be able to come, it also kind of limits who comes. How many families are going to live in a one-bedroom apartment?

But you are not against development as such?

I am not against development, but I think we need to take a critical look at how we're doing that and what is the balance.

Are we using the bully pulpit, if you will, to try to push developers and people coming with projects to be able to bring some of those things, like town-houses, and other ownership opportunities, so we are not just building apartments?

We need to be taking a more holistic look at it, instead of only building one- and two-bedroom apartments, which I don't think are helpful to bring families into the city.

What about commercial development?

Wherever it is possible to bring in commercial development, I am not against commercial development at all.

As a matter of fact, commercial development in its right spot helps equalize the tax base, and take some of the burden off the residential property owner.

And that is an important component; Middleton has been very fortunate over the last several years that we have been able to keep our mil rate low because we have a good balance between commercial and residential.

So it is still a very important thing to encourage business development as much as we can, and that, when com-

panies are coming to Middleton, we work with them, and try to work out something beneficial for us both.

The way the levy cap works, net construction growth is important, but net growth also leads to the need for more city services, which leads to more spending, which leads to the need for more growth, which ...

Exactly. And that is the budget conundrum we have fallen into, which is why this next budgetary year, we are going to have to take a strong look at how we provide the services that we need in order to support that level of growth.

It's hard to bring in four or five or six hundred living units a year, and not think about how are we going to fund the public safety side of the equation.

We are going to be hiring a new police chief, and we have to give the department the tools that it needs to be able to support the population that we have.

How would you address the growing gap between income and expenses in the general fund?

What it does come down to is we've moved some things off the general fund and funded them through fee increases, but there is no place we can raise more fees. So we have to take a closer look at our spending. For the public safety end of things, which I feel is the most important, there is potential that we could go to referendum to see the appetite from the community to exceed the levy to support that. Other than that we are going to take a very hard look at what we're spending, and there may not be room in our budget for new positions in the City.

What about eliminating positions?

Nobody would ever advocate to eliminate positions; that would be a very difficult tack to take. But if the resources aren't there we are going to have, as a Council and a city, look at all options. It would certainly be the very last option.

About development: How can the city use the bully pulpit to get developers to do what it wants them to do? As mayor you can't just force a developer who wants to build affordable housing units to build market rate units.

No, but what we can say in our plans, our comprehensive plan and our growth plan, is that we want to see mixed residential developments, whereby if you want to come into Middleton and you want to put in some apartments, then we would like to see you bring forth some kind of option for ownership potential in that development.

Now you are not necessarily going to see that in a tax credit development, because that's not how that business model works.

However, having said that, if we don't ask, and we don't explore, and we just leave it at the status quo, and don't ever bring those issues up, and never push them, never think outside the box, then we are never going to come up with new solutions, and we will just continually have the same thing time and time again, because that is what people are used to.

You will never get any change, unless you actually try to push people a little bit to think outside the box.

It would have to be a collaborative effort between the developer and the City, and we'd have to look at all kinds of different options, but it's time to start trying to come up with new solutions and ways of doing things.

In view of the city's fiscal situation, and especially the situation TIF district 5 is in, is it wise to spend \$1.5 million TID 5 money on a bike trail along Century Avenue, outside the TIF district, especially since it is not directly connected to any development, and will not generate any direct tax increment in TID 5?

Some of the infrastructure projects that we spend TIF money on don't necessarily generate direct increment. Which infrastructure spending does and does not generate increment is somewhat hard to quantify anyway, but I think that the TIF policy needs to work for everybody in the community.

Using TIF for this bike trail is a benefit to the northeast side of town that doesn't necessarily see an infrastructure benefit from TIF because

TIF is concentrated in other districts. This is an opportunity to use those funds to put in an infrastructure project, which, as the connection from Madison is done, and the connection from the County, as the Bishops Bay development hopefully starts to grow out, will be used more and more.

More and more people are biking, and our bike and pedestrian trail network has become part of our infrastructure that we don't at this point include in our capital budget. So this is a way to get it started with some funds available, and it will arguably also help the growth on the north side of town.

What other priorities would you have as mayor?

I want to look at TIF policy. I want to have that policy so we can actually negotiate with the developers, which I think that's extremely important.

We've had situations where there's been disagreement between the amount of increment a developer wants, and the amount of increment the City wants, or believes the project warrants.

I don't think that as a City we negotiate all that well, and so I want to make sure that if we are giving a developer tax incremental financing, that a good amount of that increment goes back to the city, so that we can do the infrastructure projects that we need to do.

I think 100 percent TIF is not good; we've done that on a few occasions, but I think we need to get away from that. So one of the main priorities is looking at how are we doing those deals that benefit all of us.

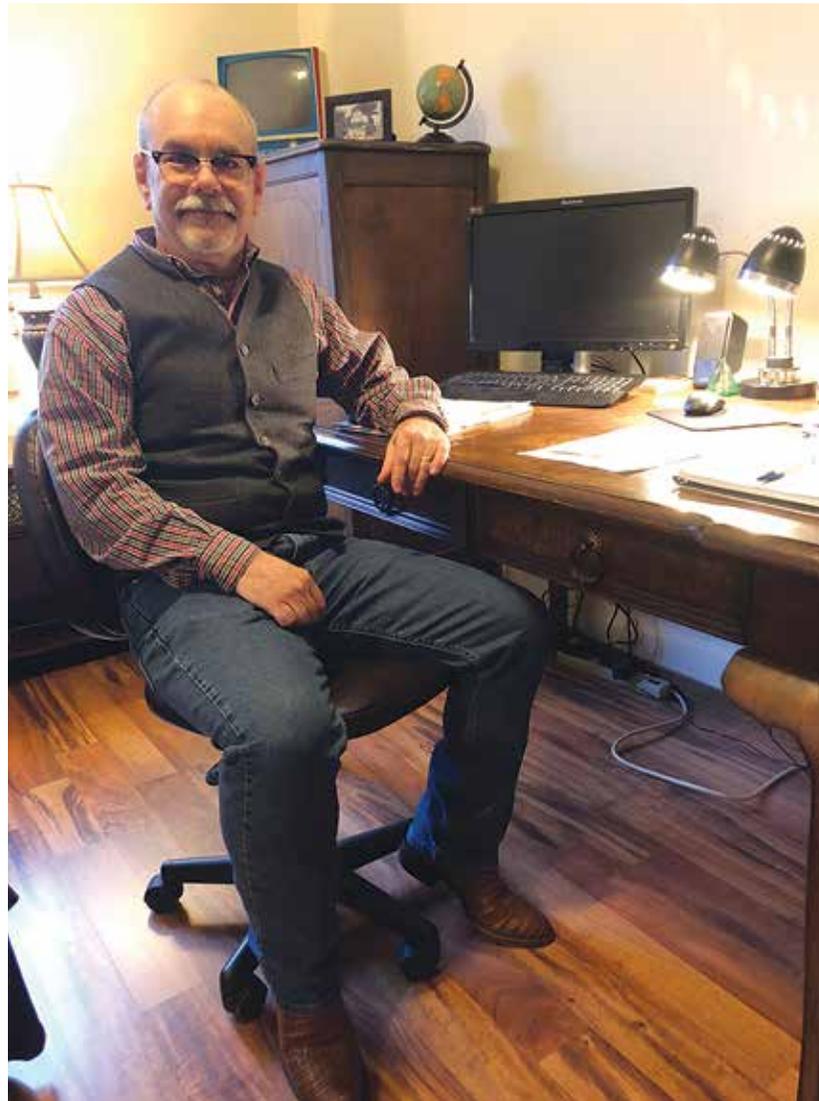
Would you continue the spending to fix Middleton's roads?

Yes. I think we are making progress on our five-year plan that we update periodically, and if we continue on this path, in very short order our streets should be in decent shape. We kind of neglected them for a number of years, so we have to invest a lot of money into this, but after this reinvestment if you will, we should be in good shape. Then we need to make sure that we maintain them, and have a comprehensive plan to keep them maintained, so that 40 years from now we are not in the same situation where we have to redo them all again.

Overall traffic is increasing in Middleton; is there anything the City can do about that?

It's hard because people commute through the city to get to various different places.

I think any solution needs to come



out of a cooperative effort with the County. One of the things in particular is the highway M project.

We're working to try to get that to go around Middleton following the old North Mendota Parkway type model, instead of running all that traffic right through Century Avenue. Century Avenue wasn't made for that amount of traffic, and there is no real room to expand it, so we have to do something to move traffic away from there.

Also, University Avenue is somewhat the same way; to a certain extent you're a victim of your own success, because the more people you bring in, the more traffic you're going to get.

There is now also the rapid transit bus system that Madison is talking about. I don't know if that is going to come to fruition anytime soon, but we have a budgetary issue with that.

Madison just jacked their price up with us by \$70,000 last year, making it difficult for us to be able to add more bus service, particularly on the weekend.

We could look at some small changes, if we could negotiate with Madi-

son, to extend service a little bit in the morning and in the evening, but again, there needs to be communication with the City of Madison about how and if that could work.

What are the consequences of the flood - not only repairs, but also to avoid a repeat?

We are working on that now, which is why we have used this past year to do a lot of the design work.

The creek corridor and the conservancy is our number one storm water conveyance. As we redesign it, we need to redesign it not just with recreation in mind, but practicality in mind as well. We are working towards that; all our consultants have been given that direction, and that is what we continue to do.

We'll design it and put it back together so the water doesn't back up but flows through. Part of the problem that we had with the flood was that to a certain extent it was overgrown and couldn't fulfill its primary function

anymore.

It's going to look different, it's still going to be a place where people can recreate, but it's for the protection of the city of Middleton also.

But if we continue to have more commercial development in the whole airport/Deming Way area, isn't that going to remove even more floodplain and make a next flood even worse?

That's part of the reason why we have been very strict with our storm water agreements, so that if a development's storm water features aren't working to the level they said they would, we can actually go back to them and force them to repair that, whereas in the past they never did that.

We are also looking at any project that comes forward with a TIF request, to have 100 percent on-site infiltration (the state mandate is 90%), and how cooperatively between us and the developer we could get them at that 100 percent.

So we are looking at different ways that we can mitigate the problem, not only through the repair of the conservancy, but also by mitigating the problem from the development itself, and make an environment where they take care of more of their stormwater.

We cannot engineer for an event like the one that happened two years ago; every expert in the field has said that there is no way you can engineer to that level to protect yourself from an event like that. We can only hope that that was an anomaly, and that we won't see it again.

What would you do differently on the committee level?

I think that people who are helping shape and make decisions for the city of Middleton in our committees, which, as you know, do a lot of our work, then those people need to have a vested interest in the city of Middleton as residents.

I think that when you appoint somebody to a committee in the city of Middleton, they should reside in the city, unless there is an expertise that we cannot get in the city of Middleton. Like Ken Potter with Water Resources, and the fact that he brings in an expertise that is very very hard to find in Middleton or elsewhere; he is nationally renowned.



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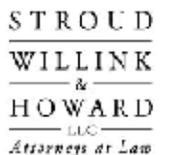
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Entertainment Calendar

January 2020

Saturday, January 11

- * Common Ground - Durango's Roadhouse Radio Show, 7:00 P.M.
- * Hody - Live music by The Dirty Groove
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, January 12

- * Common Ground - Brunch Tunes
- * Craftsman Table & Tap - Beero Bingo, 1:00 P.M.

Monday, January 13

- * Common Ground - Bluegrass Jam, 6:30 P.M.

Tuesday, January 14

- * Common Ground - Blues Jam, 5:30 P.M.
- * Common Ground - Gypsy Jazz Jam, 7:30 P.M.
- * Craftsman Table & Tap - Trivia Night, 8:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.
- * Nitty Gritty - Face painting, 5:30 P.M.
- * Nitty Gritty - America's Pub Quiz, 8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 15

- * Bristled Boar - Team Trivia, 6:30 P.M.
- * Common Ground - Open Mic, 7:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.
- * Middleton Sport Bowl - Bingo, 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, January 16

- * Common Ground - Piano Night, 6:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Jim Erickson, 6:00 P.M.
- * Middleton Sport Bowl - Trivia Thursday, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, January 17

- * Common Ground - Fish fry tunes
- * Hody - Live music by Best Practice
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.

Saturday, January 18

- * Common Ground - Durango's Roadhouse Radio Show, 7:00 P.M.

- * Hody - Live music by BCT
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, January 19

- * Common Ground - Brunch Tunes
- * Craftsman Table & Tap - Beero Bingo, 1:00 P.M.

Monday, January 20

- * Common Ground - Bluegrass Jam, 6:30 P.M.

Tuesday, January 21

- * Common Ground - Blues Jam, 5:30 P.M.
- * Common Ground - Gypsy Jazz Jam, 7:30 P.M.
- * Craftsman Table & Tap - Trivia Night, 8:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.
- * Nitty Gritty - Face painting, 5:30 P.M.
- * Nitty Gritty - America's Pub Quiz, 8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 22

- * Bristled Boar - Team Trivia, 6:30 P.M.
- * Common Ground - Madison Jazz Jam, 6:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.
- * Middleton Sport Bowl - Bingo, 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, January 23

- * Common Ground - Piano Night, 6:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Jim Erickson, 6:00 P.M.
- * Middleton Sport Bowl - Trivia Thursday, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, January 24

- * Common Ground - Fish fry tunes
- * Hody - Live music by The Solution
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.

Saturday, January 25

- * Common Ground - Durango's Roadhouse Radio Show, 7:00 P.M.
- * Hody - Live music by The Trailer Kings
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, January 26

- * Common Ground - Brunch Tunes
- * Common Ground - Fundraiser for Tom Gresser, 3:00 - 5:00 P.M., live music by SpareTime Bluegrass Band and Bill & Bobbie Malone
- * Craftsman Table & Tap - Beero Bingo, 1:00 P.M.

Monday, January 27

- * Common Ground - Bluegrass Jam, 6:30 P.M.
- * Grape Water Wine Bar - Hallmark Movie Night

Tuesday, January 28

- * Common Ground - Blues Jam, 5:30 P.M.
- * Common Ground - Gypsy Jazz Jam, 7:30 P.M.
- * Craftsman Table & Tap - Trivia Night, 8:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.
- * Nitty Gritty - Face painting, 5:30 P.M.
- * Nitty Gritty - America's Pub Quiz, 8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, January 29

- * Bristled Boar - Team Trivia, 6:30 P.M.
- * Common Ground - Open Mic, 7:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.
- * Middleton Sport Bowl - Bingo, 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, January 30

- * Common Ground - Piano Night, 6:00 P.M.
- * Louisianne's - Jim Erickson, 6:00 P.M.
- * Middleton Sport Bowl - Trivia Thursday, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, January 31

- * Common Ground - Fish fry tunes
- * Hody - Live music by Frank Martin Busch
- * Louisianne's - Johnny Chimes, 6:00 P.M.

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Girls Getaway Charleston, SC May 2-5, 2020

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- Girls Getaway Gift

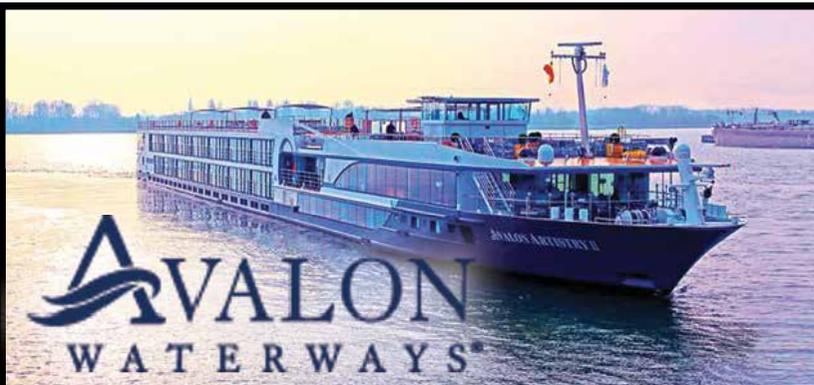


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Long Tall Marcia Ball

Amy Wilson, (608) 831-4664 ext 144



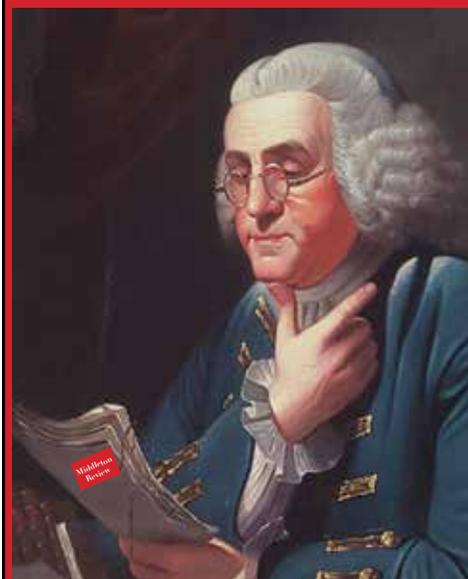
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For advertising
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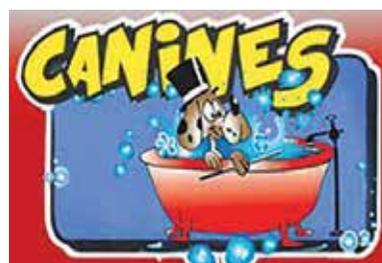
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Day of \$25

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Oktoberfest
Orange Blonde Ale
Winter Skal
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HOURS OF OPERATION

MON-TUES - CLOSED

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THURS - 4-9pm

FRI - 3-9pm

SAT - 12-9pm

SUN - 12-6pm

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