



### *July 4<sup>th</sup> in Orchard Ridge Keeps on Growing*

By most accounts, last year's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration was the biggest and best ever, with help from great weather. At least 400 people turned out for the parade and picnic, where the popular inflatable obstacle course (aka "bouncy castle") received many thousands of gleeful jumps from both children and adults.

This year the formula will be repeated, but with more food, because last year's hungry attendees (from all that jumping?) quickly depleted some items on the menu (brats, hot dogs, burgers, chips, potato salad, watermelon, baked beans, ice cream; all provided FREE).

The parade will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the corner of Loruth Terrace and Whitcomb Drive, where creative decorating endeavors will be on display. Adorn your baby carriage, bicycle, skateboard, farm vehicle or younger siblings in patriotic motif. Pay homage to parade marshal Bob Keller and firefighters in their truck. And make sure to high five Uncle Sam!



#### 2017

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• ORNA July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade & Picnic. July 4. Meet 11:30 Loruth Terrace and Whitcomb Drive

• Elver Park Farmers' Market. Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon June-September. [www.madwest.org/farmers-market](http://www.madwest.org/farmers-market)

• Labor Day. September 5

## President Bill Bremer's Message

It's time for our biggest event of the year: celebrating the Fourth of July. I hope many of you can make it to the parade and stay for the picnic. Last year we had the largest attendance, perhaps, ever. I know Peg Breuer-Beckman, our picnic coordinator, and her volunteers will do an outstanding job again this year. Let Peg know if you can volunteer to help (274-0484). I'm pleased to announce that the Board selected Bob Keller as our parade grand marshal and picnic special guest this year. Bob raised his family in Orchard Ridge and was a longtime member of the Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association. Bob continues his involvement with the neighborhood as a landlord of several apartments on Whitcomb Drive and is a regular ad contributor to our Grapevine and directory.

I want to thank several of our members who have been sprucing up the neighborhood this spring. Clare Gilmore cleaned out the weeds and cut back the greenery in the "Isles on Reetz Road." Clare said she saw the need for weeding and she wanted to do it in memory of the late Winifred Brown, who spent countless hours tending the Isles. Thanks, Clare, for a job well done. Also, Theresa Duello continues to do an outstanding job of clearing weeds from Flad Park's fence line and keeping the park in A-1 condition. Thanks Theresa, as your work is appreciated by your neighbors.

As I reported in the last Grapevine, the Board is making a major initiative in updating our website. With leadership from Becky Jenn, the Board purchased a license to use Wild Apricot web server and software. After many hours of hard work studying the new software, Larry Winkler rolled out the new website to all of us who have email addresses. Go to [orna.wildapricot.org](http://orna.wildapricot.org) (or, our old address [www.OrchardRidge.org](http://www.OrchardRidge.org) takes you to our new site). The new software will handle membership administration with automated



with automated features for handling dues payment and membership profiles. Members can create their own profiles and include whatever information they want on the password-protected side of the website which other members can see.

As the Board started discussing next year's budget and planning for our next membership drive, we looked at our membership fee structure. We decided to take advantage of new opportunities for automated dues notification emails. Dues have changed to \$20 per household regardless of member age. For the same fee members can choose to receive the Grapevine either by email or print copy, or whether they pay by check or PayPal. And, welcome to our new advertiser, St. Maria Goretti School.

As of now all current members are paid through December 31, 2017. Larry is working on a website feature that will clarify the payment structure.

The Board will welcome Mike Thomsen as our newest director member in June. Thanks for stepping up, Mike, since rotating board members is necessary for keeping our organization vibrant. We meet on the third Monday of each month, so please consider serving.

*Continued on Page Three*

## St. Maria Goretti School

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### *President's message, continued*

At our May meeting, Chris Martell announced that she will be stepping down after serving four years as Grapevine editor. The winter issue will be her last. Therefore we are searching for a new editor. If you have interest in helping the neighborhood with this important job, we would like to hear from you. Also, if you have interest in writing for the Grapevine, please let Chris know.

During my conversations arranging for Bob Keller's participation in our July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, Bob filled me in on recent developments with the rental house he owns on Hammersley Road. Despite Bob's kindness and good intentions in offering a reduced rent to a low-income family who desperately needed help last year, things went wrong. Police were called several times and the house is now vacant. Bob plans to tear down the house and either build a new single-family home to sell himself, or sell the lot so someone else can build a single family residence.

### *New Safety Lights Installed*

Last fall, City of Madison traffic engineers installed a new type of pedestrian warning lights system in Orchard Ridge at the intersection of Whitney Way and Barton Road. The solar-powered automated warning system is called Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). The system will help pedestrians make their presence better known to drivers, and their intent to enter the crosswalk into Whitney Way. It warns drivers to stop for pedestrians so they can safely cross this busy street. Twelve such systems were installed in Madison last year at a cost of \$18,000 each; 12 more systems will be installed throughout the city this year.

Pedestrians push buttons on pole pedestals on each side of the street and in the median at the southern Whitney Way crosswalk near Barton Road. When a pedestrian pushes the button the

*Continued on Page Four*

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GS3108 2/6/2017

## ***Safety Lights, continued***

System immediately is activated and alternating bright yellow strobe LED lights mounted below pedestrian warning signs in the median and over the driving lanes are activated. The lights face each direction on Whitney Way.

The RRFB is a new technology that uses LED flashing beacons in combination with pedestrian warning signs to provide a high-visibility strobe-like warning to drivers when pedestrians want to use a crosswalk. The lights stay on long enough for most people to cross the entire width of Whitney Way, but the push buttons are also located in the median if a pedestrian needs more time for crossing.

Safety reminder: The RRFB is just a warning system for drivers, so pedestrians still must make sure drivers have stopped or are starting to stop.

***Bill Bremer***

## ***ORNA's New Website***

***By Webmaster Larry Winkler***

The new Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association website is now available. It is hosted by Wild Apricot membership management that will allow ORNA to better serve the community.

Much of the website will be available to the public, but other portions of the website will be available only to ORNA members and have password protection.

All current members of ORNA are members of this website. You only need to log in with your email address and create a new password to access both the public and members-only portions. We will be adding and adjusting features as we continue to enhance the website. The URL for the new site is [orna.wildapricot.org](http://orna.wildapricot.org) (the URL [orchardridge.info](http://orchardridge.info) redirects to it).

## ***New Food Pantry Honored***

In the two years since the food pantry at the Meadowood Neighborhood Center opened, it has become an important part of its clients' lives: Every month more than 3,000 pounds of food are distributed. Those impressive figures have resulted in its being nominated for a Community Volunteer Award for 2017 by United Way, which also gave the pantry a matching \$1,000 grant. "We are one of the newest pantries in the city so that means we're doing really well," said volunteer Chris McCoy. "When we started out this was nothing but a bunch of cans in the front room of the center," said fellow volunteer Jan Klein.

One of the secrets of running a successful pantry, they agree, is making clients feel comfortable. "We're flexible and never turn anyone away," McCoy said. If someone has an emergency when the pantry isn't open (Tuesdays 6-7:30 p.m.; Saturdays 12:30-2:30 p.m.), staff on premises will help them. Some other pantries require income statements or showing identification, and serve only people from specific zip codes. Here, a signature and family size are the basic requirements. And even the 50-pound weekly weight limit per household is loosely interpreted since things like laundry detergent are heavy and skew the scales. The hardest thing is often getting the food home, since many patrons don't have cars, so innovation is necessary: one trio of households share a push cart and wheeled luggage is often used.

Food comes from the Community Action Coalition, Epic Systems volunteers who create packages of gourmet frozen foods and Second Harvest. The public is especially generous, dropping off food at the library.



*Meadowood Food Pantry volunteers Jan Klein, left, and Chris McCoy, help distribute more than 3,000 pounds of food and household necessities each month to those experiencing shortages.*



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## Neighborhood Water Update

By Bill Bremer

Orchard Ridge is fortunate to have some of the highest quality water in Madison as well (pun intended) as the best tasting water in Wisconsin. In fact, the city won first place in “Best Tasting Municipal Ground Water in Wisconsin” competition in 2013 sponsored by The Wisconsin section of the American Water Works Association. Last year Well 12 water was used again and the city came in second place in water taste. Interestingly, Well 12 has not shown impacts of road salt that have been noticed at other wells in the city.

Despite that honor, Well 12 needs a new building and pumps. In the spring of 2018 the city will take Well 12 out service and the existing building (above right) will be demolished. A new structure (rendered below right) that complies with current



building codes. Besides the building, all new pumping equipment, valves and electronic monitoring equipment for Well 12 will be installed at an estimated cost of \$2.8 million.

The city water system is divided into pressure zones; Well 12 is part of pressure zone 7, which is the largest in the city. Zone 7 stretches to University Avenue on the north and includes much of the central and near west side of Madison. Included in the upgrade next year will be the addition of special valves in Well 12 that will allow its water to flow elsewhere in the system. That change will make it possible to take wells offline for routine maintenance or emergencies like firefighting.

Ahead of the Well 12 project next year, the city is finishing a project to lay new water main pipe under southbound South Whitney Way lanes from Schroeder to Odana Roads (in front of the current Well 12 building).

*Continued on Page Eight*

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## **Activities Committee Rolls Ahead**

ORNA's new Activities Committee has had two highly successful events so far: the Fall Festival and the spring Egg Roll (at right), both of them helped by perfect weather.

This summer another initiative was launched: a series of casual family gatherings at our neighborhood parks with featured activities and Sunday picnics from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Earlier this summer there was hula hoop night and a bike/trike/scooter night.

Next on the calendar, on June 25, at Orchard Ridge Park, the activity is kickball (all ages may participate).

The gatherings will not be held in July because of the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. If the first events are well attended more will be planned for the rest of the summer. Plans include a movie night on August 26 at Orchard Ridge Park. If anyone has a projector they'd be willing to lend for the event, please let committee members Rebecca Jordan Haushalter, Karen Rayshel, Emily Winner or Stephanie Arnott know.

Rebecca can be reached at:  
jordanreba@hotmail.com



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## ***Water Update, continued***

This is a \$1 million project and the pipes will go into service next year when Well 12 is connected to the adjacent water zone (PZ8).

During the shutdown of Well 12 next spring Orchard Ridge will receive water from other city wells. We should not expect any problems with our water quality, so no extra disinfectant (in addition to what is currently used) will be added. Once Well 12 reconstruction work is complete, we should get our great-tasting water back.

If you are interested in getting your own updates on the Well 12 project go to the City of Madison Water Utility website: [www.cityofmadison.com/water/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/) and look under “projects” for the latest Well 12 information. You will be able to sign up for automatic email updates as the project moves forward.

On the water website you can also check out the water quality report for 2016, looking specifically for Well 12 information.

Now, the next time you are ready to open store-bought water, you may want to think twice and just get a drink of the finest tasting drinking water in Wisconsin right from your own tap. Save some money and the environment by not using plastic bottles.



**ADDRESS CORRECTION**

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Madison, WI 53711

The logo for ACP (Advantage Copying & Printing, LLC) features the letters "ACP" in a large, bold, blue font. To the right of the letters is a blue arc that curves upwards and to the right, and a vertical bar composed of horizontal stripes in yellow, pink, blue, and black.

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