Finishing Up a Million Years

After working in University Apartments since 1991 (or “a million years”, as I describe it), my last day will be at the end of April. I am a classic introvert, so it isn’t my style to make public statements, but I couldn’t leave without a few words. (Actually, my colleagues would say I always have a few words…)

- I have never, ever had a boring day here. Truly. I still say “wow, I never ran into that before!” Sometimes that’s good, sometimes it isn’t – but it isn’t boring.

- Most people view this as a very special community because of our diversity. It is, and I appreciate the fact that residents and staff keep it real as everyone adjusts to living with one another. It has always been a balancing act: respecting differences, educating ourselves and others, and sometimes shaking our heads in amazement when there is successful communication along with those differences.

- It really helps that there is such widespread understanding that “kind” is almost always an appropriate starting point for conversation. Now, if more people would start those conversations with one another, that would be even better.

- I had been here just a few days when someone referenced the attempted rent strike that had happened the year before. I have a generational bias: when I heard “rent strike”, I imagined community activists pushing for improvements. It turned out that one of the major issues being protested was our announcement of a more inclusive definition of families. To my knowledge, we were the first university family housing community to formally welcome queer families. It was an example of what can happen when a bureaucracy commits to inclusivity.

- I have never stopped counting on the importance of common sense. It was great when the rules for the gym changed: from “NO running” and “NO throwing balls” to “safety, fun, respect”.

- Services for residents have changed greatly. Resident support services and Eagle’s Wing Early Childhood Education Center both exist because of prior residents. They saw the need in the community; they approached campus and Housing with a request for assistance; and committed resources to make the changes possible. Their organization produced a lasting legacy. We still have people stop by, excited to see what has grown out of those initiatives.

- This is still a community that is shaped by residents’ commitment. Don’t be afraid to volunteer! Our tutoring program had to take a break this semester, but will start up at the beginning of the next school year – and we always need lots of tutors. Start a group or class, or help at events. Write a grant to the Assembly for support for something you would like to see happen.

- It may sound funny, but this is an exciting time to leave. We are in the process of some major staffing changes, which means new energy and ideas. The leadership of our youth – here and elsewhere – has been steady and growing. Our teens (and their elders) are involved in the defense of education; Black Lives Matter; economic, judicial, gender and identity issues; the environmental crisis; challenging a public discourse of hate. It’s a smart and dedicated crowd coming up!

Thanks for all you do to make this a community!
Jan Sternbach, Resident Support Services
Winter Ends; Tornado and Severe Weather Season Begins

Every spring, there is a state sponsored tornado drill – a simulation of what it would be like if there was an actual tornado watch and a tornado warning. A watch refers to conditions that could produce a tornado. A warning means one has been sighted (by radar or a person) somewhere in the area.

You may already be familiar with the year-round testing of emergency sirens at noon on Wednesdays. Whether you are or not, you are encouraged to pay attention to two different drills on **Thursday, April 14**.

- **At 1:00 PM**, there will be a drill for a tornado watch. At 1:45 PM, there drill will turn to a tornado warning.
- **There will be another drill** for a tornado warning later that same day, at **6:55 PM**.
- **If there really is severe weather anywhere in the state on that day,** drills are postponed to the next day: **Friday, April 15**. The Weather Service wants to be careful not to confuse anyone!

You are not required to participate in the drill (to practice seeking shelter), but you are encouraged to – or at least review the best place for you to go in case of a real tornado.

In Wisconsin, severe weather is announced via radio, television, and alert texts. The announcements will mention the affected areas; Madison is in Dane County, and is located in south-central Wisconsin.

According to the National Weather Service [http://www.weather.gov/mkx/severe_weather_awareness](http://www.weather.gov/mkx/severe_weather_awareness)

“Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes per year, with most tornadoes occurring in the 3 to 9 P.M. time-frame. The busiest spin-up hour is 6 to 7 P.M.…. A record-setting 62 tornadoes occurred in 2005, followed by 46 in 2010. In 2008, Wisconsin had 38 tornadoes...The ‘average’ Wisconsin tornado has a 7 to 8 minute duration, a path length of about 4 to 5 miles, and a damage width of about 120 yards.”

If there is tornado warning, there are some things you should keep in mind as you find shelter:

- go to the lowest level you can in the building where you are (basements or 1st floors)
- take shelter in interior rooms or hallways (bathrooms and laundry rooms are sometimes the best places)
- avoid areas with windows
- do not open any windows

Watches and warnings are also issued for severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

Have you signed up for campus emergency notifications?

Did you know you can sign up to make certain you hear about campus emergencies? The UW Police Department has information about the WiscAlerts system, which has been used for weather, police, and health emergencies (such as a fire, or a chemical spill). [https://uwpd.wisc.edu/services/wiscalerts](https://uwpd.wisc.edu/services/wiscalerts).

In addition to the messages that are sent via text, phones, and email, the UW Madison homepage will also have up to date information in case of any emergency. If you have a Twitter account, you can also sign up for emergency tweets: Tweets by @WiscAlerts.

Tax Credits on Wisconsin State Income Tax Returns

Please note that the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, in its 1997 Wisconsin Tax Bulletin, states that because the University of Wisconsin is exempt from paying property taxes, residents of University Apartments do not qualify for either the Homestead or school property tax credit. Please contact your tax advisor if you have further questions.

Federal Taxes

If your child was enrolled in Eagle’s Wing during 2015, you may need the Federal ID Number for taxes. It is 39-1805963.
Spring Storage Time

When you moved in, you received a packet of labels to place on items that are allowed to be left outdoors or in public spaces. Now that the weather is changing, it is time to put away the winter items (snow shovels, sleds, etc.) and make certain your summer items (lawn chairs, grills, bicycles etc.) are labeled. The labels serve two purposes: it lets staff know that the property hasn’t been abandoned, and it helps locate the owners of property if the item shows up in another part of the complex. (Once the nice weather begins, bikes are especially prone to being “borrowed” if they are not locked up at all times.)

On request, and at the change of seasons, Apartments Facilities staff put tags on items that are not stored and labeled properly. Once an item is tagged, residents must put the item into storage, or must label it properly if it is allowed in public areas. If the item is still outside or unlabeled after three days, staff members may take the items to the Apartment Facilities Warehouse. Retrieving items from Apartment Facilities Warehouse costs $5 per item.

Storage rules were developed by residents, staff members, and Madison Fire Department officials. The Fire Department makes both scheduled and unscheduled visits to the community, and can issue (expensive) citations to residents who have blocked fire escape platforms, exits, or stairways. As people say, the Fire Department doesn’t play: if they say something has to move, it has to move!

What You Need to Know about Bed Bugs

“Bed bugs” are dark brown, very small insects that typically hide in small cracks and crevices during the day (including a mattress, box spring, or headboard) and emerge at night to look for a blood meal.

Most people do not feel the bites at the time but may notice them after waking up; the bites may develop into itchy, red bumps (often several in a straight line or cluster) 1 to 3 days after being bitten (a delayed reaction up to 14 days is possible).

Adults are about the size and color of an apple seed, and immature bugs are smaller and lighter in color. Bed bugs cannot hop or fly.

If I think I’ve been bitten, do I need to see a doctor?

In most cases, no medical treatment is needed. But if you have extremely itchy or painful red bites or you are concerned that you may have been bitten by bed bugs, you can call UHS for an appointment: 608-265-5600. Bed bugs bites are not known to transmit any diseases to humans, but they can cause sleeplessness and anxiety, so the room should be professionally treated to eliminate them.

Some people never have any discomfort from being bitten, while others may have a strong allergic reaction, causing the bumps to be extremely itchy and painful. Because of the difference in how people’s bodies react, one person may experience the bites as very problematic while another may not be aware of them at all.

How can I keep bed bugs from coming into my apartment?

The best prevention against bed bugs is not to bring infested furniture into your apartment, and to be careful when traveling to check your accommodations for evidence of bed bugs. If you are concerned that you may have encountered bed bugs while traveling, it’s wise when you return from a trip to launder your clothes and luggage (e.g., backpacks) in hot water before unpacking them in your home and dry it on high heat. Be cautious about bringing in used items into your home, as many “soft” items could be infested, such as bedding, mattresses or clothing found on the curb, in a dumpster or from a second-hand store or donation center.

I might have bed bugs. What do I do?

If you believe you have bed bugs in your apartment, report the problem to the staff immediately by calling the Apartment Facilities Office at (608) 262-2037. They will alert the UHS Environmental Health Program and set up a prompt inspection. If there is evidence of bed bugs, a professional pest control operator will be brought in to treat the problem.

General Advice about Bed Bugs:

Don’t just wait and see if the problem goes away. Bed bugs have short legs, but if left undisturbed, they can travel a far distance through electrical outlets and other “bed bug highways” and spread to additional rooms in the apartment.

Don’t attempt to treat the problem yourself, as professional methods are needed; you can’t just run the vacuum cleaner or use a can of bug spray from the drugstore. Do not leave your windows open in winter to attempt to freeze out the problem, as you are more likely to freeze the water pipes and cause an expensive flood.

Not all bugs that are found in a bed or bedroom are bed bugs: when you report the problem, additional information will be gathered. If you see a bug that you think is a bed bug, try to capture it (put bug in a clear plastic bag) or take a photo so it can be included in the inspection.

I’m embarrassed to say I might have bed bugs in my home.

Don’t be. Bed bugs have nothing to do with whether or not a person is clean, neat, or hygienic. There should be nothing more embarrassing about bed bugs than about being bitten by mosquitoes. However, it could cause embarrassment if you don’t report it and bugs spread to other apartments as a result.

This information is borrowed directly from the UHS Website. More details can be found here: [http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/environmental-health/bedbugs/](http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/environmental-health/bedbugs/)
EVENTS THIS MONTH

*Events Requiring Sign-up must have the required paperwork filled out, signed and returned prior to the deadline. Forms can be obtained at the Community Center or by emailing us at: recreation.assistant@housing.wisc.edu. These programs are free unless otherwise stated below.

Recreation Assistants only work in the evening. You will usually receive a response the next business day.

Adult Sculpt Workout Class Continues - Mondays, April 4-25 - Community Center Small Gym
Love the sculpt class? Here’s your chance to enjoy 4 more sessions! Class instructor, Patrice, has extended the Adult Sculpt class running each Monday, through April 25th. This is a 45 minute, low impact, full body workout class in which students are guided through both fast and slow exercises that build strength in gluteal, abdominal, thigh and arm muscles without stressing your joints. This is a free, drop-in class open to all adults. Newcomers are welcome! Registration is not required.

Adult Table Tennis - Mondays, April 4-25
We are currently transitioning our University Apartments staff during the office evening hours at the Community Center. Unfortunately, during this time period, the Adult Table Tennis program will temporarily be cancelled. We understand this is highly popular program residents thoroughly enjoy and we will work to the best of our ability to return it to the weekly programming schedule as soon as possible. We thank you kindly for your support and understanding during this time.

Family Fun Night, Friday, April 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Community Center Large Gym
You’re Invited! Join us for an all age evening of Friday night fun enjoying Zumba, yoga, basketball and soccer games, board games, and children’s animal crafts. As a special treat, build your own popcorn bowls with tasties of popcorn, pretzels, chocolate, candy and drizzle sauce-yum. This is a free, drop-in event sponsored by the UW Student WEA organization. Everyone is welcome! Registration is not required.

Teen Night: Craft Night - Friday, April 15, 6:30-9:30 p.m. - Community Center
Spring is in the air, and so are the birdies. Middle and High School students are invited to join us for a fun, creative crafting night building, designing and painting bird houses. They will also enjoy an open gym for games and sporting activities, music, sub sandwiches, snacks and more. This is a free event led by University Apartments staff members. All materials are provided and teens are free to take home their projects at the end of the evening. Friends, including non-residents, are also welcome. This event is for middle and high school students only-sorry, no parents allowed.

Go Green Bike Festival! - Saturday, April 23, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Community Center
Bike season has begun! Celebrate with us during this year’s “Go Green Bike Festival”. Spend a super Saturday learning and receiving information about bike repairs, biking paths, and bike safety. As a bonus addition we are combing Earth Day activities with this event. Residents will receive free bike helmets, minor bike repairs, free bike bells, grocery tote bags, cinch bags, and tickets to win dozens of bike and earth day prizes. Enjoy biking seminars, crafts activities including clay pot painting (with take home seeds and soil), homemade bird feeders, face painting, bike demonstrations and a healthy go breakfast of fresh fruit, yogurt, granola, bagels/cream cheese, coffee, and juice. After the festival take a bike ride with UWPD officers to the Dane County’s farmer’s market (adults) and Dejope Hall (families). Due to supply quantities, free gifts will be given 1 to 2 per family. This is a free event, open for all ages. Registration is not required!

Disney’s Broadway “The Lion King” - Sunday, May 29, 6:30-10:00 p.m. - Overture Hall
Final Sale! Just a few tickets remain for the phenomenon of the year in Disney’s Broadway sensation-The Lion King! Experience the stage production that has won the world over with 15 years of sell-out performances. Winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, this thrilling stage production brings to life a story filled with hope and adventure, set against an amazing backdrop of stunning visuals. The Lion King also features some of Broadway’s most recognizable music with 10 bestselling songs from the animated feature. Tickets will sell fast for this event, sign up now! Tickets are $35 per person and are for patrons 6 years and older. Request a form today at: recreation.assistant@housing.wisc.edu.
Rent a Community Center Room

https://housing.ems.wisc.edu

Do you have an upcoming event? The Community Center has space for you! The cost is more affordable than many other locations, and it is easy to find out what space is available, and how much it would cost. If you have a UW NetID, you will sign in with that. If you do not have one, there is no problem! Sign in as a guest!

Contact the Leasing Office

Leasing@housing.wisc.edu

Do you have a question for Peggy? Do you need to talk to Leasing for any reason? Email first! She will be able to answer your questions, or make an appointment for you. That way, you won’t be disappointed if she is already busy with other residents when you stop by.

Your lease, roommate policies, transfer and termination information, and more can be found on the University Apartments section of the Housing website.

http://www.housing.wisc.edu/apartments.htm

Eagle’s Wing Child Care

EaglesWing@housing.wisc.edu

Do you have questions about child care in the Community Center? We welcome any and all questions, comments and suggestions. Based on the topic, your email will be forwarded to the right person to answer your question. To put your child’s name on a waiting list for Eagle’s Wing and/or other campus child care, you can do so at: www.housing.wisc.edu/EaglesWing

Request Repairs Online

If something in your apartment doesn’t work, let us know right away. Repairs will be made even if you are not at home.

Night, weekend, and holiday repairs are only made in urgent situations. If you put in a repair request as soon as you notice a problem, it may keep the problem from getting worse at a time no mechanic is available.

When you need a non-emergency repair, use the Repair website. Only request one repair on each form. The Repairs webpage also has some instructions on small repairs you can make yourself.

To Contact Resident Managers

A Resident Manager is on-call from 5:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. on weekdays, and 24 hours a day on holidays and weekends. No Resident Manager is on Duty at other times, when the University Apartments Office (in the Community Center) is open.

Due to problems with cell reception (sometimes the Resident Manager on Duty is in a basement) the most efficient and effective way to contact the Resident Manager on Duty is sending a text. Texts or calls should be placed to 608-444-9308.

Contact Us:

611 Eagle Heights
Madison, WI 53705-1501
608-262-3407
TTY/TDD: 608-262-6840
universityapartments@housing.wisc.edu

COMMUNITY CENTER OFFICE HOURS:

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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