



Walnut Grove Homes Association

News in a Nutshell! June 2012

WGHA President's Message...

Having taken over the helm of the Walnut Grove Homes Association Board of Directors earlier this spring, first of all I want to thank outgoing President Jim Howard for his many years of service, as well as long-term board member and Greenway Chair Greg Peterson, and newsletter editor Carrie Olson for their stellar service. Public-spirited individuals like Jim, Greg and Carrie, help make our neighborhood the place we all are glad to call home. Next time you see them please let them know how much you appreciate all their efforts.

Moving on always creates new opportunities and challenges for volunteer organizations, including our own neighborhood association. I would like to acknowledge Kathy Raab, WGHA homeowner since 2006, as our new vice president. In her short time on the Board she has demonstrated the energy, knowledge and creative thinking that will strengthen an already fine group. Indeed, I am pleased to point to a number of Board initiatives already well underway or accomplished, notably, the production of our new Neighborhood Directory, the first in six years, the refinement of our growing and vital listserv, and the review and updating of Block Captains roles, spearheaded largely by Eileen (and Tim) Goode. Their initiative and dedication will go far in enhancing information and public awareness of many activities and attributes of Walnut Grove, along with the return of our newsletter editor Mary Kay Battaglia. Additional recognition goes to Kathy McComb whose multifaceted roles as Social Committee Chair and neighborhood improvement monitor provide invaluable benefits in community-building and quality of life enhancement, as do contributions from Secretary Mary Nellis, Treasurer Tom Wall, and our seemingly tireless Architectural Control Committee Chair, Denise Clearwood. With deep gratitude, I'd also like to acknowledge our many block captains who interact at a local level for the board.

An important position currently open is that of the ninth member of the Board of Director and the chair of the Greenways Committee- a unique feature among Madison neighborhoods - this position will be well supported by technical talent, and joined by a committee of prior board members and beyond, including interested residents and our newly revitalized Walnut Grove Garden Club. I would encourage any resident interested in the enhancement

Meet Your Board

President

Eric Lewandowski 833-9022

Vice President

Kathy Raab 576-5914

Secretary

Mary Nellis 829-1033

Treasurer

Tom Wall 827-7229

Social

Kathy McComb 829-3446

Architectural Control

Denise Clearwood 833-7446

Block Captain Chair

Eileen Goode 833-8804

Newsletter

Mary Kay Battaglia 827-7993

send news to

marybattaglia@tds.net

Webmaster

Anne Moser 828-9898

Greenways OPEN



Summer Socials

June 28th
Capital Brewery Adult
Social
July 4th Parade
July 18th
Concert on the Square
See details on page 2



*****4th of July Parade and BBQ*****

Join us for the 4th of July Parade, Wed. 11:30 a.m.

@ Walnut Grove Park Pavilion.

**Decorate your bike, tricycle, scooter and join the youth
of Walnut Grove for a Parade around the Park.**

NEW THIS YEAR.....A BBQ feast to follow. RSVP to Kathy at

kamccomb@tds.net by July 2.

President message continued.....

and maintaining the physical beauty of Walnut Grove, and someone who would enjoy the pleasant and truly manageable Board opportunity to contact me directly to explore this position further. Special knowledge and training, though a plus, is not a requirement. We look forward to our newest colleague coming aboard in time for our July regular board meeting.

As indicated on the Walnut Grove website, I will serve as Greenway Committee Chair until the position is filled, backed by the ongoing experience and support of others committed to the the Greenways. And because the Greenways are a routine focus of the Boards attention, observations and comments related to their appearance, are openly sought and welcome. As the interim Greenways Chair, I am happy to report that due to the careful stewardship of our invaluable green areas they are currently in fundamentally sound condition, and all of us in the neighborhood should be proud to regard them as treasured jewels, that enhance our neighborhood.

In closing, let me underscore my gratitude to everyone, homeowners, residents, public officials, first responders, contractors, volunteers, and others who lend their interest, time and talents to the betterment of Walnut Grove. I believe that the area has been well-served by the vision, efforts and commitment of such persons, individually and collectively. I am excited by the prospect of implementing new ideas and initiatives over the months and years ahead. And, I look forward to the ongoing realization of our collective hopes for this pleasant place to live. It is, after all, where we call home. Eric Lewandowski, eclewando@aol.com, 833-9022.

Walnut Grove Summer Social News...



June 28th – come join your neighbors and friends at “**Capital Brewery**” in Middleton 5:30 p.m. – ?, for an **Adult Social**. Appetizers and soft drinks provided, for more details and to please RSVP contact Kathy at kamaccomb@tds.net .

July 4th – **Fun in the Park on the 4th of July, Parade and BBQ**, for all ages. Decorate your bikes and tricycles for a parade at 11:30 a.m. and then all are invited to for a noon BBQ. Games to follow. RSVP to Kathy MComComb at kamaccomb@tds.net by July 2nd.

July 18th – **Concert on the Square**, come join us for the Wednesday evening Concert on the

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Square with a group of neighbors. Blankets provided, with an excellent view of the symphony along with a buffet of food and drinks. Can arrive as early as 5:30 but should be there by 6:30 for best seats. It is **VERY** important to RSVP for this event to kamaccomb@tds.net . She will forward location and details to you after she receives your RSVP. Rain will cancel this planned event. If you require a chair please make sure to bring your own and it must be a low (short) or will not be allowed.

Hope to see ya this summer!!



Walnut Grove Book Club

If you enjoy reading a variety of books and discussing the text in a fun and social atmosphere, please consider joining the **WNG Book Club**.

Meetings occur the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Call Colette Krueser at 827-8563 for more information.

Architectural Review

Don't forget to contact your WGHA Architectural Control Committee with any questions concerning changes you make to your property that must comply with the covenants and deed restrictions of WGHA. **The architectural review guidelines have been updated and are available for your review on our website** www.walnutgrovemadison.org.

Please contact Denise Clearwood, 833-7446 for approval of any plans to alter your property.

ACC Covenants Review

The WGHA board and the ACC committee will be reviewing the Walnut Grove Covenants during this year in order to update the covenants that are still relevant for our neighborhood as well as include guidelines for issues that have come up over the years, in our neighborhood as well as the city, that were not addressed in the original covenants. We'd also like to give neighbors an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns for the future direction of Walnut Grove in order to maintain the beauty of our neighborhood. Please look out for an announcement of such a meeting within the next six months because your input is invaluable to help determine the needs of our neighborhood. I encourage you to review the current covenants on our website.



Directions for WGHA Listserve

Block Captains and New Communication

Our neighborhood has had a wonderful group of Block Captains that have braved the cold and heat to deliver your newsletters, directories, information and greet new neighbors. While we appreciate their hard work we are converting our distribution of information to emails, but still using our Block Captains. **This will be the last printed newsletter by the Association.** We will be emailing the newsletter to all neighbors thru the listserv as well as block captain email zones. We are asking each block captain to obtain a functional home email from each person in their block, which would allow them to send future newsletters, social events, and neighborhood business that used to arrive at your door. **THE ONLY** information that will come via email from your block captain will be what they previously delivered to your door. Please assist your block captain by providing them with a current working email address. If you prefer not to receive your newsletters via email, or thru the listserv you may view them online at our website, www.walnutgrove.org , or arrange with your block captain for a copy they print off their own computer. We hope the block captains do not have to print copies but we can imagine we have some neighbors that do not use computers. This decision has been made to reduce the printing expense we incur annually and to expedite the delivery of information. If you have any questions please contact board members, Eileen Goode or Mary Kay Battaglia for further information.

Speaking of Block Captains.....

We are seeking block captains for Foxboro Circle and Gammon Road. Block captains act as a communication liaison for your street. Once emails are gathered for your street or block the distribution of information should be quite easy. Block captains have also been the person that greets new neighbors and provides them with the "Welcome Packet". If you are interested, please contact Eileen Goode at eileen@goodesolutions.com for more information.

Stay connected on social events, neighborhood opportunities, and local crime by joining the WGHA listserv.

1. Go to WGHA website at:
<http://walnutgrovemadison.org/listserv.html>
Type in your EMAIL ADDRESS TWICE.
*****You Must respond to the email that is subsequently sent to you that asks you to click on a link. Only then is the process complete.**

2. Or you can complete a Directory Form and include your email address. We now have a checkbox that authorizes us to add you to the listserv. RETURN THE FORM TO EILEEN GOODE.

Anyone can post to the WG Listserv by composing an email with the address neighbors@walnutgrovemadison.org . When you post to the Listserv be sure to include YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS so a reply can be sent to you. If you're not comfortable posting to the Listserv, please email Eileen Goode Eileen@goodesolutions.com the content and she can post for you.

General Guidelines about Posting

The purpose of the mailing list is to foster useful communication between WGHA members. The focus should be broad audience and the interest of all residents.

- *Garage sales should only be posted for WGHA neighbors.
- *Advertising for business purposes should not be posted
- *Self promotion, consulting offers, etc should not be posted
- *Political campaign messages should not be posted.
- *Religious messages should not be posted.
- *Posting that could be construed as defamatory, libelous, obscene or offensive by individuals or organizations should not be posted.
- *Complaints about neighbors should not be posted.

AND VERY IMPORTANT!!!!

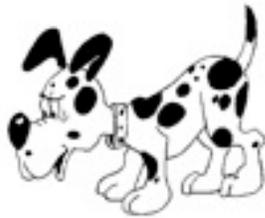
When you reply to a message that is posted to the WGHA listserve, Everyone on the listserve (approximately 150 households) will read that message. Please don't.



Sometimes reply all is appropriate but often you only need to REPLY back to the sender (the person who sent the original email) in a separate email. Please be

courteous to the number of emails we all receive. This is the #1 complaint about the listserve and the reason people elect not to participate. Please just reply to the person that you would like to communicate with not the entire neighborhood. Thank you for your cooperation with this issue.

Doggie Do's



*Please **DO** pick up after your dog as you walk through our lovely neighborhood. City required.

*Please **DO** keep your Dog on a leash for the safety of your neighbors and the pooch himself. City required.

*Please **DO** beware all have the rights to the sidewalk and trails and maintain control of fido while others pass by.

*Please **DO** be aware that Walnut Grove Park is **NOT** a city designated park that allows dogs to be walked. You can be ticketed for walking Fido in undesignated Parks. Just FYI.

*Please **DO** enjoy this weather with a walk!

Also Doggie Related. For those interested in having a dog Park on the West Side of town, please attend a meeting at Sequoia Library, Tuesday June 12th from 7:15 - 8:45, to discuss and identify potential future dog park sites on the west side of town. For more info contact Bill Bauer at bbauer@cityofmadison.com or phone 267-4921.



Walnut Youth for Hire

Hire these ready and willing youth for babysitting and pet sitting:

Please contact these neighborhood youth directly to inquire about availability.

Many may be willing to rake, mow, and shovel snow as well. If you would like to have your name added to this list please email editor at marybattaglia@tds.net.

Walnut Grove Garden Club

Anyone interested in plants and gardening should consider joining the fun at the Walnut Grove Garden Club. All are welcome. For more information contact Garden Club President, Carolyn Coffey@ 833-2056.





Help Control Garlic Mustard

Our greenways are unique to the Madison area in that we, the members of Walnut Grove Homeowners association own them, therefore we need to be mindful of non invasive species. Most wooded areas around Madison have been overtaken by garlic mustard. Many of our native woodland flowers such as jack-in-the-pulpit, trilliums, wild ginger and bloodroot are overcome by the aggressive nature of garlic mustard and cease to appear.

Every season, isolated plants are found along the walkways after stray seeds are deposited from the bottom of hiker's shoes or from the fur coat of a pet. Please keep an eye out for garlic mustard and remove isolated plants when you see them. In the spring, garlic mustard looks similar to wood violet but has leaves that are a lighter shade of green than wood violet. The stalk of garlic mustard is also purplish near the soil and if you rub a leaf, you'll smell its namesake garlic scent.

To remove the weed, gently pull at the bottom of the stalk and the root should come out easily along with the stalk. Please deposit the plant in the garbage instead of a compost pile because most composts don't reach the temperature needed to destroy the seeds. You may find that new plants sprout in the area over time as seeds germinate and take hold. If you monitor and control the area throughout

several growing season, you'll be rewarded by seeing fewer seedlings each year.

For more information about garlic mustard, please go to the following website and view a very good flyer, with great pictures of the progression of the plant.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/publications/pdfs/GarlicMustardHandout.pdf>

WGHA Annual Members Meeting – January 29, 2012

Respectfully submitted: Mary Nellis, Secretary

Lussier Community Education Center

Meeting was called to order at 4:43 pm by President, Jim Howard.

Minutes from the 2011 annual meeting were reviewed and accepted with no changes. Motion to approve (Bob Nellis) with a second (Rick Conne). Vote was unanimous.

There were a total of 32 participants including the proxies. Each person introduced themselves.

Jim Howard (President) gave an overview of what the agenda would include. Copies of the by-laws were on the tables for people to reference.

Jim thanked Greg Peterson for all his work on improvement of greenways and walkways. Carrie Olson was also thanked for her work on publishing the newsletter. Anne Moser was recognized for her work on the website which has been a big help to the board.

Greenway report from Greg Peterson: He broke down the total budget and explained the maintenance report from Bassett. The assessment strongly advised the association to deal with the encroachment issues in Greenways D and C as they are jeopardizing plants and healthy growth in those areas. Plants in Greenway D are flourishing and establishing themselves because of weed removal. Some poison ivy and garlic mustard will need to be addressed this year as well as buckthorn. Recommendations for maintenance cannot all be done due to costs (\$6,000-8,000) and amount of work. Triangle area needs an assessment of the weeds to pull or spray – cost unknown. Need to get volunteers to pull garlic mustard instead of contracting for that. Greg described the greenway asphalt project and thanked Dale Fenley for his expertise and the time he spent advising the board. There

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is a problem with the greenway lights behind Springwood Circle. MGE cannot locate where the breakdown is occurring between our posts and the box. Because our stations are no longer up to code we will need to upgrade which will be at a cost of (\$1300-2,000) per post. The Circle Improvement Program had two requests for funding with residents doing some of the work. This helped their budget to go further. Winterset and Greenhaven Circles have made the circle improvements. Winterset residents also contributed some of their own money to complete the project the way they wanted it done.

A resident asked about what new residents get in terms of information about the issues related to encroachment, sheds etc. The ACC documents are included in new neighbor packets but not the by-laws. The Board will look at a way to inform residents maybe through a flyer in the ACC booklet until the ACC guidelines can be changed. Some articles about encroachment have been in the newsletter but maybe that needs to be a yearly piece in the newsletter and certainly in the summer (June) issue.

A Southwick resident was concerned about the trees that may be on the border of her property. Greg talked about coming out to look at the possible markings and see where the property lines are and who bears responsibility for the trees in question.

Social committee issues discussed by Kathy McComb. Kathy described the different social activities that happened this year. These events included long-time residents as well as new residents. Kathy wants to establish a small committee to help out with children's activities in addition to the bonfire. There were favorable comments about the Bella Vita social. It was recommended to have the annual meeting at an adult social event.

Financial report given by Tom Wall: Tom referenced the copy of the budget that everyone had in their packet. Income last year reflected the reduction in dues. We also spent down from our reserve balance.

There have been outstanding balances on 10 houses that have not paid dues. Some had prior balances dating back to 2006. The board made the decision to amend the by-laws and to place liens on houses when dues are not paid on a timely basis. Notices were sent and some residents responded immediately with payment or intent to pay. Rick Conne noted that the issue has always been a problem. Jim explained the process and reiterated that we have the capability to do this. There was a discussion about whether the names of delinquent households should be printed in the newsletter. Dues will remain the

same at \$60/30 for 2012 and Tom explained each of the line items. There was a question about the expense for block captains. Jim explained the work of the block captains and that for the past two years we have not allocated any money for them. Due to some changes and updates they need to know we need to have a meeting and some recognition of their work. Rick Conne moved that we accept the 2012 budget as proposed with Jack Lohrenz seconding the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Eileen Goode discussed block captains' responsibilities and the need for her to meet with them. She also spoke about the directory work that is being done and showed the group the new format and what information could be gathered from the on-line directory. There will be a form in the new neighbor packet to gather that information. This is absolutely crucial for getting people on the list-serve. All data entry done with directory is almost completed. Final format will be in a PDF and not posted on the website. We will have printed copies in the welcome packet and for people who don't have computer use. The goal will be to push out revisions every 6 months and publish on-line. The final copy is expected in 6-8 weeks. Eileen commented on the list-serve and that some of the on-line etiquette is new for people and that people do not understand initially about not replying to everyone. Eileen explains to people that they need to take their comments off-line when responding. Eileen commented about the need to be patient as there is a learning curve with technology. The list serve has been helpful for neighbor information and safety of the neighborhood. Jim commented that Tim Goode is very effective in helping with the list-serve management. Block captains are needed for Foxboro Circle and parts of Walnut Grove Drive.

Aldersperson Paul Skidmore spoke to the group about city committees that he is on as well as other city issues. Paul encouraged neighbors to call him if they need help with anything related to the city and he also said that if you see something that does not appear to be right do not hesitate to call police.

Meeting adjourned: 6:15pm.