



Walnut Grove Homes Association

News in a Nutshell! March 2010

WGHA President's Message...

Our annual meeting was conducted on January 25th at the Lussier Community Education Center (LCEC). The meeting was attended by 14 residents and 7 board members. We would like to thank board member Susie Briski for her time and service, however her family has moved out of the neighborhood and she will no longer be a member of our board. We are happy to announce Eric Lewandowski will be joining the board. Eric, welcome and thank you for your donating your time.

The minutes from the 2009 annual meeting were reviewed and approved.

January 2010 Annual Minutes

Treasurer's Report

The report was reviewed with an explanation of each section by Jim Howard as our treasure Tom Wall was out of town. The dues will continue to be \$70 for a full lot and \$35 for half lot. A significant amount of the budget (\$10,000) will be used for seal coating and replacing some of the walkways. There will also be donation to the LCEC.

Greenways

Walkways - All walkways were surveyed by board members and the area needing the most work were targeted for either seal coating or replacement. A number of bids have been obtained and the work will begin in the spring. The work will be minimally invasive. A caution about the contractor interfering with the electrical system for the lights on the walkways will be followed up by Greg Peterson when the contractor is selected.

Circle Maintenance and Improvements

An explanation of the new Greenway Guidelines for Circle Maintenance and Improvements was given. Discussion included concerns about the involvement of neighbors and the ability of neighbors vs contractors to do some of the work. The Board will address the issues that were brought up and will work on the guidelines before disseminating them. {See guideline on page 4} (minutes continue page 2)

*******NEW SOCIAL EVENT*******

Walnut Grove Adult Social March 20th 6:00 p.m.

Please join your neighbors for an adult social at the new Fiesta Grill.

Located at the corner of Tree Lane and Gammon Road.

Walnut Grove will provide appetizers, and you will provide the friends and social gathering! Come thaw out and meet your neighbors!

Meet Your Board

President

Jim Howard 827-6013

Vice President

Kathy McComb 829-3446

Secretary

Mary Nellis 829-1033

Treasurer

Tom Wall 827-7229

Social

Debra Wynne 833-1230

Architectural Control

Denise Clearwood 833-7446

Newsletter

Mary Kay Battaglia 827-7993

send news to

marybattaglia@tds.net

Webmaster

Anne Moser 828-9898

Greenways

Greg Peterson 833-4061

New Board Member

Eric Lewandowski 833-9022

Join Us for an
adult social at
Fiesta Grill
March 20th!



Weed control on greenways will be addressed as areas are identified with significant problems. The current weed control program on the greenway off of Farmington Way (baseball field!) was very successful.

Social

Discussion about more social activities resulted in conversation about past adult functions that were successful. Many of our social events revolve around the younger generation and many felt an adult social should be tried again. Kathy McComb will look into possibilities.

PLEASE NOTE THE ADULT SOCIAL LISTED ON PAGE ONE FOR MARCH 20th. Hope to see ya there.

Architectural Control

Denise Clearwood described her role and offered to consult with residents about any proposed projects. She is an Architect and has offered this service for free.....as advice on how to fit into the neighborhood theme.

New Business

The 2010 Budget was approved unanimously.

Paul Skidmore, Alderperson, Guest Speaker

There are 180 seats on city committees, if anyone is interested in becoming active they should contact Paul. Paul will not be running for alderperson, and will be retiring.

He discussed the Edgewater project and also the Target store to be built at Hilldale. The city has been discussing the location of structures at city parks and the need to possibly move them to areas that are more visible from the street to reduce problems. This includes the Walnut Grove Park Structure. This is still in early planning stages. A question was raised about snow plowing that blocks fire hydrants and sidewalks. Paul said that residents can get a truck number and call him about problems and he will report them.

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.

New Area Officer

My name is Molly Thomson and I am a police officer with the City of Madison, West Patrol district. I will be your neighborhood liaison officer for the next year. If you have any questions or concerns in your neighborhood please don't hesitate to contact me. The best method is mthomspn@cityofmadison.com but you can call the station 243-0500.

I have been with the city of Madison since 2005 working mostly downtown, and my current schedule is 6 days on 3 days off.



THE PLANT SALE

**May 7th, 2 – 6 and
May 8th, 9 – 2 p.m.**

I know there is snow outside, but spring is coming soon! With it will come a new annual Children's Benefit Plant Sale. This sale has been hosted by Don and JoAnne Becker, our friends from Parkwood Hills. However, this year, the Lussier Community Education Center is hosting the sale with the Becker's guidance. The proceeds will benefit the following agencies: Rainbow Project, Safe Harbor Child Advocacy, Foster Center and the Family Fund, and Lussier Community Education Center.

We are hoping to start lining up plant donation and we are hoping you can help. Planting from seeds can be started in the coming months, herbs, plants, flowers, vegetables would be greatly appreciated. If you can help that would be great, also help us spread the word to your gardening friends and colleagues.

We also need volunteers to help and work the day of the event. Contact Daniel Steinbring 833-4979 X 209 for info.



Walnut Grove Garden Club

Spring is on the way and if you like to dig in the dirt then you should join us. For more information contact Laurie Howard 827-6013.

School News!

Memorial High Rummage and Bake Sale!

Memorail Field House

Saturday, April 17, 2010

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sponsored by the Memorial High PTO preceeds will support the "JMM Clothing Closet" and Student educational opportunities.

In addition to shopping at our sale, we encourage donations of items for sale. The PTSO will accept gently used clothing, household itmes, books, toys, and games. We will **NOT** accept electronics, computers, appliances, large furniture or baby beds or car seats.

Drop off times are Thurs. April 15, 12 - 6:30 p.m.

Friday April 16: 7 - 8:15 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Items to be dropped at Memorial Field House
201 S Gammon Road.

Questions call Susan Sunde 233-7012.

Walnut Youth for Hire

Babysitting and pet sitting:

Katie Wall - 8th grader, 827-7229

Ryan Wall - 9th grader, 827-7229

Collen Moser - 10th grader, 828-9898

Marla Moser - 6th grader, 828-9898

Nina Littman - 9th grader, 829-1909

Addie Clearwood - 9th grader, 833-7446

Songolo Ngijol - 9th grader, 833-1378

Madeline Goode - 8th grader, 833-8804

Rachel Morgan - 10th grader, 833-0229

Zelle Edinger-Turoff - 8th, 829-2726

Autumn Battaglia - 9th grader, 827-7993

David Whayland - 10th grader, 831-5227

Alex Battaglia - 6th grader, 827-7993

Trevor Battaglia - 6th grader, 827-7229

Architectural Review

Are you considering making additions or modification to the Exterior of you home, such as a new three season porch or new siding? Don't forget to contact your WGHA Architectural Control Committee with any questions concerning changes 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.

Big Thank You!

The Walnut Grove community would like to send out a big Thank You to retiring block captain Madhu Joshi from Walnut Grove Drive for the long service provided to your street. Also we will be seeking someone on the Walnut Grove Drive to replace Madhu. Call Mary Nellis at 829-1033.
Thanks Madhu!

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 Groves own little igloo built by Jim Brannstrom and his brother in-law. Emily and Claire Keyes wonder if it fits WNG codes and design and if they should enter!

visit us on the web <http://www.walnutgrovemadison.org>

One more Thanks!

Walnut Grove Board would like to thank Point Cinema for their donation of popcorn for our movie addition of the Annual Bonfire.

Also thanks to our pyrotechnicians for another successful bonfire. This crew is lead each year by or brave Ron Wynne and his hard working wife Deb. Thanks for another successful bonfire.

New Board Member

Thanks also to Eric Lewandowski of Farmington Way for joining the Walnut Grove Neighborhood Board.

Eric and his family have been Walnut Grove homeowner's since 2001 and he has some background in Urban History. Please join us in welcoming Eric and thanking him for his service to our neighborhood board.

We are always seeking neighborhood members that are interested in joining our FUN group. If you have an interest in what is happening in your neighborhood and would like to be more involved please contact Jim Howard at 827-6013.

Shovel....just a bit longer!

One thing that makes are neighborhood a great place to live in rain, snow or shine is the people out walking their dog, jogging or enjoying our walkways and sidewalks. Please help keep our sidewalks free of ice and snow these last few weeks of winter...really it is coming to an end soon.

Discussion of Circles

At our annual and board meetings the circles within our neighborhood have been a hot topic. Board members have walked the area and several of the circles could use a boost of energy and funds to revitalize their appearance. The circles, greenways and walkways are a vital part of our neighborhood appeal, and it is important that they are nurtured to help maintain the value of all of our homes. The circles were part of the greenway long term revitalization plan implemented by the board and approved by the association.

The majority of the circles are in very good shape and we want to thank all our neighbors for their effort to maintain the beauty the circles add to the neighborhood. We have however, developed a policy we hope allows circles that need that boost to move forward with improvements utilizing neighbors effort and funds from the association. The Policy is as follows:

NEW POLICY APPROVED BY THE BOARD

WGHA Greenway Committee Guidelines for Circle Maintenance and Improvements

Any pruning or removal of dead trees/shrubs will be done as needed and paid for from the regular greenways budget. Please notify the Greenways Chairperson of any circle maintenance needs.

Circles grass cutting is a shared responsibility of the circle residents. It is recommended that circle residents be sensitive to special circumstances that might prohibit some of the homeowners from participating in this work.

The standard \$40 per year minor maintenance allocation is available to all circles for flower plantings, mulch, fertilizer, or other beautification efforts. Please submit itemized receipts to the WGHA Treasurer for reimbursement.

For major improvements; Residents of the circle will develop a written plan for improvements and present this plan to the WGHA board for approval. The plan must include a thorough description of the work being proposed, a formal bid, and a "growth" plan to ensure that any new planting will receive appropriate watering and other maintenance to ensure that they thrive.

Residents are encouraged to utilize a licensed and bonded contractor for circle improvements. If you choose to do any improvements that require digging below the frost line without the use of a contractor, you must call Digger's Hotline to ensure that all gas, power, cable and telephone lines are marked. Trees and large shrubs installed without a contractor must be purchased from a reputable nursery with a minimum one year growth guarantee.

The plan must include the names of circle residents that will participate in the growth phase care. There must be multiple households willing to take responsibility for watering and tending of new plants.

Plans for improvements should be submitted to the WGHA board by May of the year in which the work is to be completed.

The WGHA budget will accommodate 2-3 plans per year. Up to \$500 will be available for each project. All residents of the circle must formally acknowledge any plan before it is approved. The WGHA Board will make the final approval of any plan submitted.

visit us on the web <http://www.walnutgrovemadison.org>