

Published by the Sunset Village Community Assn. May 2005

May 12 Quarterly Meeting
Sequoia Branch Library
7 - 8:30pm

UPDATE ON NEIGHBORHOOD SIGN
PLUS
RECYCLING CZAR GEORGE DRECKMANN
WITH A DEMO AND TALK ON THE NEW
RECYCLING CARTS

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN. OFFICERS

New SVCA officers were 'sworn in' at the Feb. 22 meeting. They are:

Liz Ringle Julie Horst - co-presidents
Linda Fahy - Secretary

Pete Kohlstruk continues as treasurer. However, Pete has served for a long period of time and would like to step down. A volunteer to assume these minimal duties would be most appreciated. See Liz or Julie at the May meeting.

\$3,014 Collected for Neighborhood Sign!!
By Julie Horst

Residents of Sunset Village responded generously to the request for contributions towards a neighborhood sign! As of April 7th, we had received \$3,014 from 119 households. Donations ranged from \$5 to \$150. Also, a number of people offered to volunteer time to help with landscaping, sign maintenance and installation, as well as offering donations of plants or funds to purchase plants or other landscaping items. We are delighted at the outpouring of support and interest! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Because we have raised over \$3,000, we should be able to afford two signs for the neighborhood. (This is assuming we receive the matching funds grant from the city's Community Enhancement Program grant. We've been notified of our eligibility to apply for these funds.) We're planning to place signs at the west and south ends of the neighborhood. One location we're exploring is on the grounds of the fire station at Midvale and Regent. On the south end of the neighborhood, we will be exploring options on property facing Mineral Point Road.

The next steps in the process include applying for the grant from the city as well as securing sites for the sign.

The City is scheduled to make funding decisions by early May and, again assuming our grant application is approved, we should receive the matching funds in early June. We have contacted a sign company that estimates that it will take 3-5 weeks to create the sign. Given those time estimates, we should have our signs installed by the end of the summer!

Thank you to all who have supported the neighborhood sign effort thus far. Those who offered donations of time, plants, or other assistance will be contacted as we move towards installation of the sign. Also, look for further updates in our next SVCA newsletter.

If you missed your opportunity to contribute towards the sign, donations of money or pledges for other types of assistance can be sent to Pete Kohlstruk, current SVCA Treasurer at 210 N. Blackhawk Avenue, Madison, WI 53705.

NEW WEB SITES

SVCA now has two Web sites! They are:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sunsetvillagecommunityassociation/> This is basically a message board. To join scroll down to the bottom of the page. Any subject or question relating to neighborhood issues is allowed. Thanks to Liz Ringle for creating this site.

<http://www.madison.com/communities/sunsetvillage/index.php> General information site on the neighborhood; many thanks to Brad Nordeng for setting it up and maintaining it.

SVCA MAY BE EXPANDING

The residents living directly across from Hilldale Mall on Midvale are not currently a part of any neighborhood association. Given all the changes underway in Hilldale our association is offering an invitation for the residents along North Midvale to join our association.

ALDER'S CORNER - TIM GRUBER

It is a pleasure to serve as your representative on the Madison City Council. Please contact me with concerns or questions for the neighborhood or the city. My phone number is 663-5264; email is: district11@cityofmadison.com I plan to hold regular informal listening sessions-the first will be Saturday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Sentry Hilldale.

Lucia Crest/Blackhawk Parking Update

On April 8 John Villareal of the City's Parking Division reported that the parking petition for two hour parking on Lucia Crest and Blackhawk was not successful because there were not enough non-resident cars in the area when the surveys were done. Concerned residents should visit the Traffic Engineering Site for more information on what options are available. That site is <http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/transp/trindex.html>. If this is an issue that you are concerned about there is now a Traffic and Safety committee chaired by Liz Vowles. Call Liz at 231-0481 or lizlloyd@chorus.net.

It Takes a Village ... a Sunset Village.

My name is **Karla Knobel**- I live on Blackhawk Ave and have been there for about 4 years now. We chose this neighborhood because of its proximity to the university (where my husband and I both work) and also because we just got lucky. There are many reasons why we love Sunset Village- We especially love our house, and the fact that we can survive with one car, two children, two jobs, two cats and a dog- all our needs are met without us having to drive. Well, almost all of our needs. I miss living in a **community**. We love our immediate neighbors and know several folks scattered around the neighborhood, but I would like to develop a better sense of who lives here so that I can begin to expand my horizons beyond the fenced confines of our yard- this is becoming more pertinent now that my children are moving into and beyond the toddler years.

What is community? My idea of a community or village is knowing the neighborhood children that my kids will play with- it is knowing the onions in your neighbors kitchen are available to you in case you don't have time to run to the grocery store- it is splitting and sharing perennials in the spring to expand our gardens without going into debt- it is trusting that your neighbors will watch out for your house when you finally take a summer holiday- it is getting all the kids in the neighborhood together to make our lovely Lucia Crest park RING with childhood joy (not just barks in the morning)- it is getting our children together to play soccer or frisbee or hockey (informally)- it is setting up activities like movie nights in the park or picnics that support stay at home or part-time parent networking- it is organizing a babysitting cooperative within the neighborhood to support the mental health and financial well-being of overworked and exhausted parents- it is taking care of our elderly neighbors when they need it. These components exist in small pockets of Sunset Village but they could easily expand throughout and beyond the perimeter of our neighborhood.

What can I, or better we, do to secure this community? First, I'd like to see more kids at the park when I bring my children down to play- so I'll suggest that we set aside a morning or afternoon a week to meet at the park. Anyone with kids needing a run outside and some socializing could just come down with a parent or two. (See related item in this issue-ed.) Second, I would like

to network a little more with parents in similar situations that I am- simply to develop friendships that need to take the place of distant relatives. Third, I am interested in meeting like-minded parents in order to set up a babysitting coop with neighbors. Fourth- I don't have the money to buy new plants every year for my garden, but would be happy to trade perennials, especially in the spring- is anyone interested in a "plant" sharing agreement? (Also see related item in this issue).

Maybe you have some ideas- Let's work together to IMPLEMENT! Karla Knobel 510 N Blackhawk Ave. 236-0379

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you would like to get involved, complete the form below and return to Elizabeth Ringle, 3557 Lucia Crest, Madison WI 53705. You may also post your interest to the association message board at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sunsetvillagecommunityassociation/>, email elizabethmringle@yahoo.com, or call 819-1176. Thank you!

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

- I would like to volunteer for the following:
 Newsletter Midvale/Lincoln School Parks
 Lucia Crest Dog Park
 Candidate Forum Membership Directory
 Social Activities Neighborhood sign
 History Hilldale Traffic and Safety

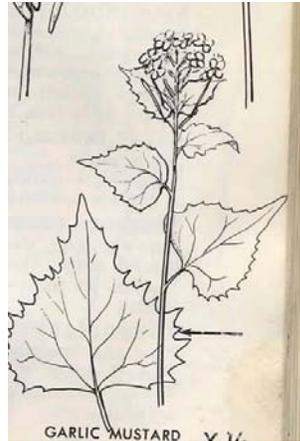
Play Time in the Parks

Anyone with kids needing a run outside and some socializing come down with a parent or two. - Lucia Crest Park Wednesdays 4-6 pm- Sunset Park Saturdays 9:30 - 11:30 am. We're planning to start these play-times in May. Look for some other parents and kids starting **May 4 and 7**.

LUCIA CREST PARK UPDATE

Bill Schott, the West Side Park Maintenance Supervisor, has placed Lucia Crest Park on a priority list for park regulation warning signs. The parks department has reported that more fines are being given for ordinance violations concerning the cleanup and disposal of dog feces. The fine for thes violations is \$86.50. Please remember that glass containers are prohibited in all parks. Also, dogs, leashed or not, are permitted ONLY between 5 and 7:30am. Please contact Liz Ringle at 819-1176 or elizabethmringle@yahoo.com if you are interested in setting up a work group concerning updating the park equipment at Sunset or Lucia Crest Parks.

Garlic Mustard in Quarry Park



THIS

NOT THIS

Once again garlic mustard time is upon us. Garlic mustard is a biennial herb that invades and spreads rapidly in wooded areas and roadsides, such as Quarry Park; it is termed "ecologically invasive" by the DNR. Garlic mustard blooms in May, and is most easily recognized and eradicated by pulling at that time, before it goes to seed. It can be identified by its cluster of small white flowers at the top and its round toothed leaves (not to be confused with the phlox-like Dame's Rocket). If your yard backs onto Quarry Park it would be a great help if you would jump the fence and pull the garlic mustard in your purview. If you walk the Stevens Street side of the park feel free to yank it along the road. And by all means treat yourself to the joys of pulling it in the woods, most particularly near the Palomino entrance and the northwest ridges of the park. For good illustrations and more information check these Web sites:
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm>
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/factsheets/garlic.htm>
 or contact Liz Vowles, 231-0481, lizlloyd@chorus.net

TRAFFIC CONCERNS - CITY'S POSITION

Many residents have expressed concerns about the volume and speed of neighborhood traffic, especially in the Blackhawk/Bluff area. City traffic engineer Bill Putnam responded recently to an inquiry:
 The Blackhawk Ave./Bluff St. intersection has been reviewed recently and ALL WAY STOP control is not recommended. STOP signs are installed after an engineering study has been done based on federally approved guidelines (known as warrants). This intersection has a good safety record, from 2002 to date there has been only 1 reported crash. That crash occurred when a motorist failed to stop at the STOP sign. A serious concern with STOP signs is that a motorist may not obey the sign while at the same time someone else at the intersection may assume that the motorist will stop. Additionally, at intersections with ALL WAY STOP control, some motorists may intentionally violate the STOP sign assuming that cross traffic will stop at their STOP sign. In some cases, the installation of unwarranted STOP signs has resulted in an intersection

with more frequent crashes after the installation of the STOP signs than before. Some discussion of STOP signs is found on the Traffic Engineering web site
<http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/transp/stopsign.html>

STOP signs are not effective devices for slowing traffic. Studies nationwide and in the City of Madison have shown that mid-block traffic speeds can increase after the installation of STOP signs, as motorists attempt to make up for lost time spent stopping at the STOP sign. This is one reason that the city has a traffic calming program, which provide physical changes to the roadway that are effective in slowing traffic. Although the projects for this years traffic calming program (NTMP) have been chosen, we will put the 200 block of N. Blackhawk Ave. on the list for consideration in next year's program.

Please consider participating in the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program
<http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/transp/nswp.html> . The speed board is issued on a first come first served basis, but there should be ample opportunity for you and your neighbors to participate in the program. Also, consider reporting motorists that are speeding or otherwise failing to drive in a responsible manner to the police via the Speeding Hotline or on line Traffic Violation Complaint Form. See
<http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/transp/hotline.html> for details. The City of Madison has been working with the Safe Community Coalition to heighten awareness of traffic issues. Call Cheryl Wittke at 256-6713 or see
<http://www.madison.com/communities/safecommunitycoalition/> for more information.

**KIDS PLAY TIME AND PLANT SWAP
 LUCIA CREST PARK SATURDAY MAY 7**

9:30 - 11:30 KIDS PLAY TIME
NOON - PLANT SWAP - bring your perennials and other plants to trade

INTERESTED IN STARTING A SUNSET VILLAGE GARDENING CLUB? Beginning/experienced, to meet every other month. Also-how about agreeing to let neighbors view your yard? Call Peggy at 238-1940 for more.

STITCHER'S BEE - KNITTERS, QUILTERS, CROCHETERS Learn or get together to work on your projects. Call Peggy at 238-1940 for more info.

COMING ATTRACTIONS
 early August - Ice Cream Social - Lucia Crest Park
 late August - Garage Sale weekend
 Details in the next SVCA newsletter.

HELP WITH YARD WORK - Call Evelyn at 233-8805
 Consider recycling your double jogger/stroller! We need one in good condition. Call Karla at 236-0379.