



Published by the Sunset Village Neighborhood Assn.
Liz Ringle and Julie Horst, co-presidents

Quarterly Meeting Friday Nov 11
Sequoia Branch Library
6:30-8:30 pm

DENNIS HARDER from Joseph Freed &
Associates will discuss Hilldale
development at 6:30

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE A SUCCESS

Response to our 2005/2006 membership drive has been great! We'd like to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who has joined so far. Your memberships will help support the variety of community activities and projects we have planned for the coming year. If you'd like to join but can't find your membership form, a copy is available on the SVCA website. Print it out and join today!

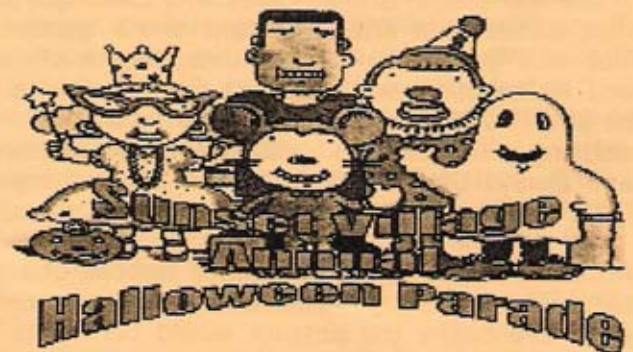
The online membership directory will be available shortly. We'll be emailing you the required login ID and print copies of the directory will be delivered to members without e-mail access. Thank you again for your support. If you have any question regarding membership feel free to give me a call. Kathryn Maloney 233-0456 or email me at kmaloney@library.wisc.edu

Yes, Virginia, there will be SVCA neighborhood sign(s). Eventually..

We continue to work on securing sites for Sunset Village neighborhood signs. Finalizing locations for the signs has taken longer than expected. It has been a learning process regarding the various levels of approval required. One of our planned locations is on the grounds of Fire Station #9 at the corner of

Midvale and Regent. Officials in the City Planning and Zoning department as well as the fire chiefs need to grant approval for our sign location. Also, because we will receive city grant funds for the sign, city staff must approve the design of the sign. However, we are working through the various steps in the process. Efforts continue to find a location for the sign on the south end of the neighborhood. For those who contributed earlier in 2005 as well as promised to help with installation and other work, we will make good use of your funds. Take heart, we will get the signs created and installed - if not this fall, then certainly next spring. Thank you for the funds! We'll put volunteers to work as soon as possible!

If you have questions or would like to help with the sign installation or landscaping effort (and did not indicate your interest on the fundraising letter sent earlier this year), please contact Bernadette at bgalvez@charter.net or Julie at juldar123@sbcglobal.net.



When: Sunday, October 30 at 3:00 PM

Where: Sunset Park

Join us for Treats (no Tricks).

Prizes for best costumes for ghosts and goblins of all ages.
(Grow up class too!)

HISTORIC SUNSET VILLAGE: A CONTINUING SERIES

LIFE ON THE EDGE by Liz Ringle

One day, not so long ago, the kids and I decided to go for a walk to see the cranes at the Weston Place condos. On our way we met a neighbor who looked off at the cranes as if waking from a dream and said to us, "When I left New York I never thought New York would find me here." Today my four-year old son discovered that another of our self-proclaimed "Veteran-Sunset Village residents", aside from having very cool Legos for her grandson, also had very cool stories that helped us put that dream into perspective.

It started with "What was our neighborhood like when you moved here?"

In February of 1947 a young couple moved into a beautiful Parade of Homes house at the very edge of town. The road was gravel and when it snowed the plow driver, not knowing where road should be, plowed a bit close to the new house and the cars drove right in front of the young couple's front window. There weren't many cars that far out so it wasn't so bad. No streetlights meant that nights were very dark and stars were very bright. You could sit in the front yard and see both Madison and Shorewood Hill's fireworks. The neighbors on the edge became fast friends, almost like a family. Everyone was automatically a member of the Blackhawk Country Club and the Valentine's Day Dance and Christmas Parties were always something to look forward to. There were also Bridge Clubs and block parties that lasted until after midnight and a garden club and garden sales, carnivals, Fourth of July and Halloween parades, visits from Santa, a neighborhood Christmas tree, some very exciting baseball and basketball tournaments and always the grills would show up at the park for a cookout afterwards.

An old dump became a pasture for the sheep to graze. University farms was just across the way. Eventually the pasture would become Lucia Crest Park. The park became a real showcase for all of the children. There was a big slide and a merry-go-round and teeter-totters, swing gates and rocking horses. The winters weren't so mild like they are now and by November the park had two ice skating rinks, one for hockey and one for open skating. When the city stopped flooding the neighbors came together with water hoses and

buckets and buckets and buckets of water. The snow forts that went up by Thanksgiving were usually still around by Easter and the hills saw plenty of sleds. When the snow did finally melt the park became a bowl of water for kids to float in inner tubes in until the city put a drain in to dry things up a bit.

Two weeks after school let out playground began. The great big shed would show up and the crafts would begin. The kids would decorate their bikes for the Fourth of July and ride through all the beautiful hibiscus trees. Then once a month in the summer the Stage Coach would come and the kids would put on a show. Everyone would come down to watch the show and afterward you'd likely hear the familiar bell of the ice cream truck.

Trailers were put in to house the growing University population. Drainage was not very good and when it rained the students would take shelter in the parade homes of Sunset Village. The trailers left and a fire station and new ranch style homes and modern condos would become the new edge of town. Then the farm was gone and Hilldale, a new boulevard of shops, had a grand opening. "Marshall the Marshall", a TV star came to dedicate the new mall and all the neighborhood kids put their hands in cement to mark the occasion. Hill Farms was now the new subdivision at the edge of town. A pool opened and before long Sunset Village was near west, not the far west.

The kids grew up. The shops at Hilldale became a covered mall and the last of the children's handprints were built over. The park and the neighborhood began to fade. The neighborhood tree stopped being lit at Christmas because vandals kept stealing the lights and cutting the cords. The parks stopped being flooded by anyone. Some of the neighbors tried revitalizing the park. Only three people showed up. Those three worked still to fix up the park, but soon all that work was taken away, deemed unsafe under new standards. Where once the neighborhood was like a family, it grew into a place of isolation where no one seemed to know anyone.

Now, the tide has turned yet again. Neighbors are getting out and visiting again and the park is alive with the music of children's laughter. People are moving in and fixing up their homes and Sunset Village is once again one of the most sought after neighborhoods. Now that camaraderie of living on the edge of town is becoming the community so near the heart of Madison.

Visit from Santa!

Santa is tentatively scheduled to visit Sunset Park on Sat, Dec 3. Check the SVCA site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sunsetvillagecommunityassociation/>, look for flyers or call John at 238-1940 or Liz at 819-1176.

HILDALE UPDATE - by Linda Fahy

Some 30 residents from the Hill Farms and Sunset Village communities attended a meeting at Hilldale Mall on Sat., Oct 8 for an update on the mall remodeling. Dennis Harder, representing Joseph Freed and Associates, discussed the progress of construction around the mall and showed plans for the redevelopment of the land occupied by the Humana building at Segoe and University. Plans include a teardown of Humana and construction of a new building which will house Whole Foods. The area, including new landscaping, improved parking and a simplified road design, should be finished and ready for Whole Foods by the fall of 2006.

Other items discussed by Dennis were: the UW Bookstore will move into its new, enlarged space in early November; lease negotiations are continuing for a new anchor at the south end of the mall; the first group of townhouses and flats should be ready for occupancy by late November; the new road from Midvale Blvd. leading into the center of the mall at Marshall Field's should be open by the holidays; Hilldale Theater and the Post Office have long term leases and are not moving away from the mall; no plans have been finalized but discussions are continuing about building a pedestrian bridge at Midvale and University. Another option is to have the bridge crossing at Segoe and University.

Check the web site at hilldale.com for continuing info on changes, or contact DHarder@freed.com

Looking Ahead - Liz Ringle, co-pres. SVCA

It has been a year since we moved into our home and almost a year since the first Sunset Village meeting that I attended. A lot has changed since that meeting when the association lost both a president, vice-president, learned we were about to lose a treasurer and decided there was not enough involvement to do Santa Visits.

This year has seen a successful fund raising campaign, a membership drive, a great ice-cream social, teams coming together to address neighborhood issues like traffic and development, groups like stitcher's bees, play groups, gardening clubs and a book club to increase our sense of community. Traditions were revived like the up coming Halloween Parade and a visit from Santa. Special events like speakers, the walk with the Mayor, and impromptu celebrations have brought us together too. Articles on our history have given us something to reflect on as we move forward. We've also improved communication with our larger newsletter, and new web site, message board and email lists.

I have also heard so many exciting ideas that can continue to help our little village become more of a **community**. I hope that over the coming years involvement will continue to grow and more of these ideas will become standing traditions in our neighborhood. Some ideas I've heard include a formal evening, coffees, an annual potluck, park improvements, a community garden, working together on energy saving, flooding the park in the winter for ice skating, building partnerships for member benefits with neighborhood businesses and even a community bartering system for baby sitters, sewing, mowing, typing, shoveling, gardening, raking, laundry, shopping, dog walking, pet sitting and car pooling.

This is a vibrant and wonderful place to live. Let's keep it that way. Stay involved, get involved, and encourage your neighbors to get involved. This next neighborhood meeting is an important one. We will be voting on the proposed by-laws printed in this newsletter. If they are approved they will set the structure for our association's future. Dennis Harder of Joseph Freed will be hearing our comments on the Hilldale development. Nominations will be taken for our next election in February. We'll also be hearing your ideas on how we should use our membership dues. Put the date on your calendar. Check out our web site and message board. I look forward to seeing you there!

EnAct: Community Building and Environmental Living by Kate Blumenthal

You can take practical actions to improve the environment, save money, and get to know your neighbors by joining an Environmental Action (EnAct) team in Sunset Village. EnAct teams consist of 5-10 households who meet

informally and explore the topics of water quality, water conservation, alternative transportation, solid waste reduction, food quality, and energy conservation. Team members choose one or two actions to take from one meeting to the next, and help each other meet their goals. It's a supportive group to help you along your way to a sustainable lifestyle.

So far, 190 local families have completed EnAct! Together they have conserved:

11 Olympic-size swimming pools of water!

the amount of energy used by 13 average U.S. homes in a year!

the amount of CO2 absorbed by 221 trees in 40 years!

On average, each household:

- Saves \$300 per year on utility bills, driving costs, and other household expenses
- Reduces driving by 1,400 miles per year
- Reduces household garbage by 185 pounds a year

You are invited to an EnAct informational meeting at the Sequoia Branch Library, 513 S Midvale Blvd, on Friday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Annie Hostetter at (608) 204-2888, annie@enactwi.org. Learn more about the program results and download the 90-page Participant Guide at www.enactwi.org.

SVCA BOOK CLUB by Linda Fahy

The first SVCA Book Club meeting is 7:30 Tuesday evening at Mary Ann Mayhew's home, 4313 Hillcrest Dr. We're reading and discussing "Mapping the Edge", by Sarah Dunant. If you're interested in joining us, meetings will be every 6th Tuesday at 7:30. The Dec 13 meeting will feature "A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole. Call Linda at 233-5139 or e-mail lbfahy_27@hotmail.com

SVCA OFFICERS NEEDED

Please consider running for one of the SVCA offices. Fresh ideas are always welcome and service to the community greatly appreciated! Come to the Nov meeting with your intentions or e-mail John at john1149@tds.net

LUCIA CREST PARK NEWS

The annual ice cream social at Lucia Crest Park on Aug 20 was a huge success, with about 60 neighborhood resident families attending and polishing off several gallons of ice cream, generously donated once again by the Chocolate Shoppe. Musical entertainment was provided by Marie Nordeng, Steve Palm and John Ottinger, and once again the fire engine from Station 9 was on display. Thanks to Kathryn Maloney and many others for making the day.

And thanks again to the Lucia Park Dog Users Group for a planting plan and watering during the hot spells. A reminder that dogs are allowed only between 5 and 7:30 7:30am.

And finally, thanks to Kathryn Maloney, Mayor Dave, and all the neighbors who came together to make "Walk with the Mayor" a great event for our neighborhood on Oct 15.

KIDS FOR HIRE

Yard work and pet sitting for dogs & cats: Henry, age 10, Sunset Ct.; 238-2351.

Pet sitting and dog walking: Cynthia, 232-1779 or 335-0941.

Enclosing Your Recycling Bin

If you find that the new Madison Recycling bins add a bloat to your life, not to mention a blight when they are kept outside, here are some ideas for enclosures:

http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/rm_home_ext_other/

http://www.eco-gardening.com/docs/acces_rnc_latticeenclosure_1.shtml

And, the small ones at least, can be wheeled up and down basement stairs fairly easily.

A CHANCE TO BE ON TV!

27 News would like to invite 8 - 10 members of the SVCA to participate in a program we call "27 Listens". It's a chance for the station to listen to you about the concerns facing your neighborhood and community. It's on Tuesday, November 15 from 7-8 pm at Channel 27 on Tokay. If interested contact Liz at 819-1176 or e-mail elizabethmringle@yahoo.com.

STITCHER'S BEE STARTING AGAIN - Call Peggy at 238-1940.