



# Country Grove Courier

May 2006

The Country Grove Neighborhood Association Newsletter

[www.countrygrove.org](http://www.countrygrove.org)

## Country Grove Neighborhood Association Board Members 2006-07

### President

Pam James

[president@countrygrove.org](mailto:president@countrygrove.org)

### Vice President

OPEN

### Treasurer

Cami Douglas

[treasurer@countrygrove.org](mailto:treasurer@countrygrove.org)

### Secretary

Jan Viney

[secretary@countrygrove.org](mailto:secretary@countrygrove.org)

### Covenants & Architectural

Issues/Webmaster

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[covenants@countrygrove.org](mailto:covenants@countrygrove.org)

### Membership Coordinator

Joanne Gabriel

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### Social Committee

Glori Trummer

[Social@countrygrove.org](mailto:Social@countrygrove.org)

### Head Block Captain

Armande Fruhling

### Newsletter Editor

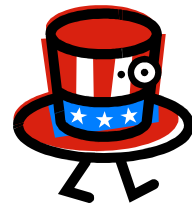
Alicia Lundal

[newsletter@countrygrove.org](mailto:newsletter@countrygrove.org)

## RED, BIKE & BLUE RETURNS IN JULY

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Red, Bike & Blue parade is coming back to Country Grove Estates - bigger and better! Get ready to decorate your bikes, scooters, wagons or roller blades in honor of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. If an adult has a motorcycle or 4-wheeler they would like to ride, we would love to have you join us. However, we are again asking children to leave their motorized cars, jeeps and scooters at home.

The bike parade will be held **Tuesday, July 4**, with participants lining up at **9:00 a.m.** at the Country Grove Park, and the parade commencing at 9:15. The parade begins at the park and travels down Country Grove Drive, turns on Countrywood Lane, then to Woodstone and back to the park. This year parade participants may toss candy to observers - so be sure to come out and wave at



our neighborhood parade. As always, Officer Mike Hanson has agreed to lead our parade in his squad car.

We will have refreshments for the kids once the parade is over. Please email how many children you will have participating to [social@countrygrove.org](mailto:social@countrygrove.org) by July 1 so we can get our popsicle count. Let's see who can wear the most red, white, and blue on our nation's birthday this year.

We want to know what you would like to see in your neighborhood newsletter. Interested in submitting an article? Issues you'd like to see addressed? Email us at [newsletter@countrygrove.org](mailto:newsletter@countrygrove.org)

**From the new CGNA President...**

Dear Neighbors,  
It's not often that any of us get the chance to share ideas with all our neighbors. I am both humbled and excited to do so as the upcoming President of the Country Grove Neighborhood Association. Serving on the board this past year as Vice President has been both a learning and rewarding experience. Going into the role I had no idea of the number of events, perks, and issues addressed by leadership roles in our neighborhood. I was rewarded by serving with a fantastic group of individuals - all working to make Country Grove Estates the fun, safe and beautiful neighborhood we all enjoy. I want to thank those individuals for their service, and invite you to participate- either as a board or committee member, or as a participant at the many events sponsored by the CGNA.

First, thank you to Katy Culver for her leadership in the role of President this past year. Katy provided a fantastic example in leadership. Thank you to Larry Trueman, Josh Soper, Carrie Smith and Joy Wilson who served for the past two years. Mitch Kite, Jan Viney, Cami Douglas, and Alicia Lundal have agreed to continue serving on the board. You can read more about all of these people's wonderful contributions in Katy's column on the next page.

Joanne Gabriel will be taking over as the Director of

Membership. Glori Trummer is willing to help with our social activities, but we are looking for a few more sets of hands to assist with all our many wonderful events. A very heartfelt thank you to Katy, Josh, Joy, Carrie, and Larry and a warm welcome to Joanne and Glori!

Other key roles keeping communications flowing in the neighborhood are our block captains. We are looking to enhance these roles in the upcoming year, adding the Head block captain as a board member to strengthen the communication channels. Armande Fruhling will continue as head block captain in 2006 - 2007. Also a sincere thank you to Alderman Zach Brandon and Mike Hanson from the Madison Police Department with helping us stay connected to items of local interest such as safety awareness, development, construction, and assisting with getting traffic calming to name just a few. They have been a welcome extension of our board.

As we do have vacancies for the Vice President and Social Committee Co-Chair I would encourage you to consider these opportunities to get involved with a fun and energetic board. I've enjoyed it and I'm sure you would too. We are also always open to your ideas to make improvements in the neighborhood. If you have thoughts you would like to share please feel free to contact me at 848-3137 - I'd love to hear from you. It's all of you that make Country Grove a great place to live.

Thank you,  
**Pam James**



## CGNA ANNUAL \$\$\$ GARAGE SALES

Open up your garage doors, bring out your junk - er, past treasures - and make some \$\$!

The annual CGNA garage sale will be held on Saturday, May 20, at 7:00 a.m.

The CGNA will be placing an ad in the Madison newspapers the week prior to the garage sales. And, St. Vincent de Paul will be doing curbside pickups of your unwanted items sometime after 2 p.m. that same day. Check out [www.countrygrove.org](http://www.countrygrove.org) for items that are permitted for pick up.



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## A Fond Farewell...

I was so proud at the end of April to gather with Country Grove neighbors for the "Spring Fling," the rescheduled party after our "Hibernation Celebration" date didn't work out.

The room was alive with energy and reminded me yet again of what a great asset we have in Country Grove. When I joined the Board a year ago, I didn't feel all that connected to the small world around me. But in these 12 short months, I've made great new friends, learned that kids will do anything to participate in a cake walk and attended a number of fabulous events.

My time on the Board leaves me with one lasting impression: my fellow board members' remarkable commitment and capacity for work. So much of what they do is invisible in the day-to-day hum of the neighborhood, but you should know about it.

\* Cami Douglas, who serves as treasurer, manages all things financial for CGNA, from funding events to tracking costs of goodie bags. Her initiative and ideas have benefited every one of us.

\* Jan Viney, our secretary, keeps the best minutes I've encountered in a lifetime of attending meetings. She's spot on with details and has given support to every other member of the board.

\* Mitch Kite does the CGNA Web site and also serves as the contact for covenants and architectural issues. We've asked that all neighbors first try to resolve issues themselves, but Mitch has been so important in working with people and coming to successful conclusions.



**Spring Cleaning hits Country Grove Estates**

**Thank you to all the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts that cleaned up the Country Grove Park on Earth Day, Saturday, April 20. Many bags of trash were collected and the park looks wonderful.**

**This is also a wonderful time to clean up our own yards, green spaces and common areas throughout the neighborhood. We all take pride in making Country Grove look its very best. Just as a reminder -- trash cans and recycling bins are to be kept in your garage as a courtesy to all our Country Grove neighbors.**

**If you have extra "stuff" laying around your house -- look for more information in the newsletter about our annual garage sale on Saturday, May 20, as well as a curbside pick up by St. Vincent de Paul.**

\* Our social committee of Alicia Lundal, Joy Wilson and Carrie Smith has been tireless for two years in planning and executing all the events that bring us together. They've done everything from garage sales to Monster Bashes with creativity and energy, as well as introduced events like our annual

Red, Bike & Blue and Hibernation Celebration.

\* Josh Soper has just moved out of state but served for two years as a terrific newsletter editor. Alicia has offered to pick up the baton, so you see her handiwork in this issue.

\* Larry Trueman worked two years as membership coordinator, and I was always impressed by his willingness to work to build membership. Larry could be seen out driving the neighborhood, dropping off applications by hand. He'll definitely be missed as he hands over responsibility to the new coordinator, Joanne Gabriel, but we're happy to welcome Joanne to the Board.

\* We also owe a huge debt to the block captains who deliver all the CGNA materials and keep in touch with neighbors. Without them, CGNA could never afford to communicate about issues and events. Armande Fruhling, who serves as head block captain, keeps everything organized and flowing.

\* And finally, my congratulations to Pam James, who is the new CGNA president. Pam will have a wonderful tenure because she's bright, fun and dedicated. She's the perfect person to keep CGNA going.

So my many thanks to the Board and all my neighbors for a great year -- I'm absolutely proud to call this neighborhood home.

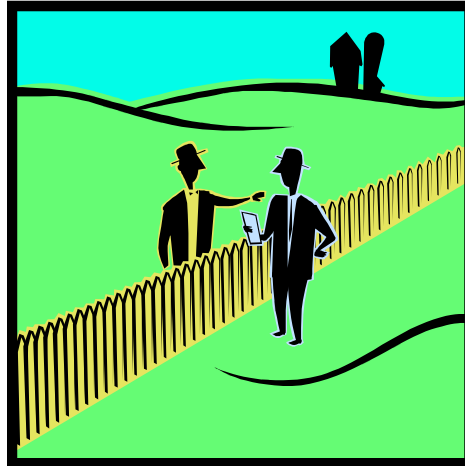
■ Katy Culver

## NEIGHBOR NEWS

Welcome to the neighborhood **Molly Katherine Esch**! Molly was born on March 9 of this year to **Bryan and Kristen Esch**. Look for Molly over the next few years trying to keep up with big brother Alex and big sister Maggie.

If you know of other new babies in the neighborhood or accomplishments by any of our wonderful neighbors (graduation, weddings, milestone anniversaries, etc.), please email them to [newsletter@countrygrove.org](mailto:newsletter@countrygrove.org)

And, if you have new neighbors move into the area, please contact your block captain or [membership@countrygrove.org](mailto:membership@countrygrove.org) so we can welcome them with a small gift from the CGNA.



## CGNA Membership Review by Katy Culver

The CGNA Board spent a great deal of time this year looking at the best way to structure membership in the association.

Many neighbors have raised the question of why we have a volunteer organization when so many neighborhoods require membership, just by virtue of living in the neighborhood. Those neighborhoods use mandatory dues to insure and maintain common areas and address legal issues related to covenant enforcement. Dues in these associations vary widely but all of them well surpass the \$15 we have set for CGNA membership.

Because some neighbors raised concerns and the Board also felt

we could do more with upkeep of the entrance areas; we looked into moving from a voluntary organization into a mandatory. This would mean all neighbors would be required to pay annual dues and the money would be used for the good of the neighborhood as a whole.

However, we learned that our covenant does not provide an adequate avenue for that kind of change. We could not change the type of organization unless we have 100% of houses voting in favor. Any house not voting in favor would not be bound by the change. Given that, the Board realized that we'd essentially have what we have now.

After discussing the matter at length, the Board decided to try to fund improvements within the

## Party Planners R Us at CGNA

If you are interested in renting the large white tent that you have seen used at CGNA picnics, please contact Joy at 848-3676. It's perfect for graduation open houses and holiday festivities in your very own backyard

If you're interested the tent also comes with a volleyball net for further enjoyment at your gathering. The rental cost is \$20 for CGNA members and \$30 for non-members who are residents of Country Grove Estates.

Interested in placing a business ad in the Country Grove Courier?

The newsletter is delivered to over 300 homes.

[advertise@countrygrove.org](mailto:advertise@countrygrove.org)

current dues. Incoming President Pam James has worked hard to get bids for weeding and mowing the entrances that won't break the CGNA bank. Thank you to those neighbors who have assisted in these endeavors in the past. We're hopeful that we can continue to provide the services and events neighbors seek without transforming the organization.

If you have any questions, feel free to check out the CGNA Web site for updates and minutes.

Thank you to Peter Kaufman, Dave Lundal & Jan Viney for their assistance with this edition of the Country Grove Courier. ☺

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### Wondering how your CGNA Membership Dues will be spent in 2006?

Current projections:

Entrance Upkeep	\$750
Newsletters	\$460
Neighborhood Directory	\$840
Signs	\$290
Welcome Kits	\$375
Website	\$50
Social Events	\$700

**Alderman Zach Brandon** has a blog to keep  
constituents updated on developments in our  
district. Check it out at

[www.zachbrandon.blogspot.com](http://www.zachbrandon.blogspot.com)



2935 S. fish Hatchery  
608.278.2488 (phone)

Madison, WI 53711  
608.278.2489 (fax)

**Are you willing to assist in the planning of the annual CGNA picnic at Country Grove Park?**

Email [social@countrygrove.org](mailto:social@countrygrove.org).

**Our events are only a success with your participation.**



**And, who doesn't like hot dogs, brownies and 3-legged races with your neighbors??**

**LISA MOHAR, CRS, GRI  
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Greetings:

I trust this is reaching you in good spirits; perhaps taking a break from yard work as that seems to be the common theme in the neighborhood.

With the recent County Board elections complete, the Board is forming committees and is somewhat stagnant until assignments are made. I will continue to serve on the Public Protection and Judiciary committee and others in the public safety/human services field. There are some committees in which citizens can serve or participate and those are also being formed. If you are interested, please contact me and I will work with the County Executive's Office to illustrate your interest.

As of this writing, I am researching the prospect for running to be the next Dane County Sheriff and I expect to make an announcement real soon. This has been a career goal of mine for eight years and I have done everything possible to position myself for this opportunity. While in graduate school I worked for the Sheriff's Office and then went to the private sector to gain management experience; all before joining the Madison Police Department. As you know my work on the County Board has also provided great insight to local government and how to navigate through county issues and budgets. More should be coming out very soon about this exciting race.

Enjoy the nice weather upon us and keep yourself and your family safe.

Mike Hanson  
County Board Supervisor



Congratulations to the class of 2006! Best wishes to all our Country Grove graduates!