

Country Grove Newsletter

July 2005

The Country Grove Neighborhood Association Newsletter

<http://CountryGrove.Org>

A letter from the CGNA President-

Just the other day, I asked my 9-year-old son to pick up toys in the backyard and watch his little brother and sister on the swingset while I made dinner.

His response: "What are ya gonna give me?"

"Hmmm," I said. "How about two more chores if you don't go out and do what I asked right this very second?"

In general, I make it a policy not to negotiate with terrorists.

But he did get me to thinking about the Country Grove Neighborhood Association. Many people in the neighborhood may not be familiar with what CGNA gives them and why it's so worth joining and helping out.

Some of the benefits of CGNA are immediately apparent. All the neighborhood social activities are coordinated by a tireless CGNA committee that handles everything from popsicle purchases to tent toting.

Among the activities we sponsor are:

- * Summer picnic Sep. 11
- * Halloween bash
- * Winter social
- * Spring fling/Egg hunt
- * Red, Bike & Blue July 4th parade

In addition, the social committee organizes the neighborhood garage sale every May, helping us draw more people looking for hidden treasures.

But CGNA also handles many invisible yet important issues that make the neighborhood much more inviting for all of us.

The issue that has struck me the most since I became president of the CGNA board two months ago is traffic. Not a single one of us in the neighborhood hasn't grimaced as we walked to the park and felt a rush of air from a car or SUV whizzing past us far faster than it should.

Last year's CGNA board, together with neighbors Jack and Kathy Horton, worked with the city to dramatically

"speed up" installation of traffic calming measures on East Pass. Alderman Zach Brandon has more on this and future plans for Country Grove Drive in his column inside.

The CGNA board also works hard to keep the neighborhood safe in other ways. We are fortunate to live in a predominantly safe area, but the association is our primary source of information and communication when problems strike, such as the garage break-ins last year. We're lucky to work with Mike Hanson, who coincidentally is our Dane County Board member and spokesman for the Madison Police Department. If you have any safety concerns at all, feel free to e-mail me at <kbculver@wisc.edu>.

Board member Mitch Kite has been instrumental in coordinating covenant issues with everyone in the neighborhood. Covenants are something we're all bound by but few of us ever think about. Mitch has an update inside this newsletter, covering key concerns, such as putting up fences and parking boats and trailers. One neighbor who had a problem reminded me that while it's nice to have the CGNA board for oversight and enforcement, it's always best to start by talking to your neighbors first.

And finally, we're all into how our neighborhood looks and feels, so the CGNA board always works to maintain those intangibles. One of the issues that has been difficult for us is upkeep on the two entrances. We are looking at different proposals to improve the appearance, mow the grass and keep the weeds at bay.

You should always feel free to contact me if you have things you'd like to see the board doing or not doing. But most of all, we hope you'll contact us about joining the Neighborhood Association. Your contribution can be as simple as writing a small check to cover membership or as involved as volunteering to serve on a committee or organize an event. Our membership drive will kick off in fall, so watch for information.

And once you join, I think that like my son, you'll soon see "What's in it for me?"

Have a great rest-of-the-summer and we'll see you at the neighborhood picnic on Sep. 11! - Katy Culver

**A message from County Board Supervisor
Mike Hanson –**

Greetings,

I hope this is finding you enjoying the summer. I thought I would share a few comments about summertime fun before we gear up for school days again.

For the second year in a row, my street (Blue Maple) held a block party in the street. This was an excellent way for neighbors to gather and have fun in the street. With everyone's busy schedules it was fun to have the kids play street games, while the adults mingled. It is quite simple to have a street party. You need to raise \$50 for the permit fee as charged by the city. Once the permit is approved with the dates included, someone from the street goes to the city garage off John Nolen to pick up the blockades. Unless you are throwing a "Mifflin St." type party, which I wouldn't suspect, the street permits are usually granted. I encourage you to give this a shot as we always have fun at ours.

Another issue that comes to mind in the summer hours is noise complaints. From time to time I receive phone calls from residents in our area that say their neighbor is quite loud at night. A few reminders may help people understand our city ordinances. The following are some applicable ordinances: a) No person shall operate construction type work that unreasonably interferes with the peace and quiet of neighboring persons. Fine: \$164. b) Person(s) making unreasonable noise. Fine: \$164 c) Radio, stereo, etc noise from a building becomes disturbing. Fine \$164. In all, it becomes a police officer's discretion in determining how loud the noise is and the officer will also take into account the time of day/night. These are some guidelines to remember if you throw a party or tend to have loud neighbors.

In the next few months, the budget debate will heat up. I welcome your comments and opinions on how the County should spend your dollars.

Take care and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Mike Hanson

County Board Supervisor

A message from Alderman Zach Brandon–

Dear Neighbor,

EAST PASS IS GETTING TRAFFIC CALMING!

The City of Madison has approved multiple traffic calming islands for East Pass from Tanglewood to Country Grove. The placement of these islands is still being reviewed, but the installation should occur this year. With the increasing number of children using East Pass as their school walk/bike/skateboard route, these islands will slow down traffic and provide a "safe-haven" for street crossings.

Many thanks are owed to the CGNA Traffic Committee and especially the Hortons and the Sieloffs. This is generally a three-year process, but we accomplished it in one year.

EAST PASS IS GETTING A POOL!

After two failed attempts, the Glacier Pool is moving forward. The plans have already cleared two major approval hurdles and it looks like construction will begin soon. If you are interested in keeping up to date with the process (including membership sign-ups), please go to <http://groups-beta.google.com/group/GlacierPool> and add your email to the list-serv.

Here are the basics:

Construction Starts= Late Summer 2005

Pool Opens= Memorial Day 2006

Annual Fee= Approx. \$395

One-Time, Non-Transferable Initiation Fee= Approx. \$250

Pool Size= Approx. 1999 square feet

Deep End= 5 feet

Swimming Lessons= Available

Max Membership= Approx. 250

Governing Body= Board of Directors

Ownership= Veridian Homes

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these or any other city issue.

Regards,

Zach Brandon

Alderman, District 7

City of Madison

zbrandon@cityofmadison.com

1-800-749-2875

CGNA Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 11

Country Grove Park

We will fire up the grills around 12:15.

Beverages will be provided by the CGNA.
Pizza will **not** be provided this year.

Neighbors whose last names begin with A-L,
please bring a dessert to share.

Neighbors whose last names begin with M-S,
please bring a salad.

Neighbors whose last names begin with T-Z,
please bring a snacks/chips.

Also, bring along table service for your family, as
well as any thing you want to throw on the grill.

There will be fun for the kids of all ages including,
face painting, a ballon twister, 3-legged race and
much more!

Bring your \$\$ as we will be holding a raffle for
themed basket's to raise funds for additions and
improvements to the park.

Come enjoy the company of the friends in your
neighborhood!

If you would be willing to help with tear down or
set up for the picnic, please contact Joy Wilson-
Geenen at 848-3676.

Would you be willing to help with the face painting
or other activities for the kids (and the kids at
heart)? Contact Alicia Lundal at 848-2006 or
asL2kids@hotmail.com.

Let's all pitch in to make this picnic a wonderful
event for our neighbors!

Neighbors being Neighborly

We would like to make a greater effort to be good neighbors here in Country Grove. Please let us know if you have a member in your own family or a neighbor who deserves some recognition! Whether it's having a baby, a graduation, placing in an academic or athletic event/competition – we want to know what are neighbors are doing! We would also like to

know if someone could use a little assistance – maybe a yard mowed or a meal brought in during a time of illness or grief.

Finally, we want to welcome our new neighbors! If you see a moving van arrive or notice new neighbors moving into their home, please greet them! In addition, please let one of our Social Committee members know. We are hoping to establish a Welcome Committee for the neighborhood. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Alicia Lundal (848-2006). And, if you have a service, product or business that you would like included in a welcome kit for new neighbors – please let Alicia know that as well.

Back to the School at CG Park

Can you believe it's almost time for school to start? Well, if you would like to celebrate the approaching first day of school or commiserate with other students that summer is ending – join us!

Saturday, August 27

9 – 10:30 a.m.

Country Grove Park

This will give us a chance to visit with families that will be attending area public and private schools.

Here is an opportunity to possibly set up car pools, have questions answered about school(s) from parents & students who have done it before you, and have one last hoorah in the park!

Even if you're a veteran student of a school, please consider coming to answer questions for neighbors who may be new to the area or just beginning kindergarten.

Coffee will be provided for the parents and we will have a treat for the students, too!

This event will be cancelled due to inclement weather.

If you have questions or would like to help with this fun morning, please contact Alicia Lundal at 848-2006.

Make sure to check out the
new and improved
www.countrygrove.org.

The neighborhood website contains useful information, including a listing of who's who on the board, a calendar of events, past newsletters, and a new discussion forum.

THE SEAFOOD CENTER

Too hot to cook?
Stop in and pick up a delicious meal for your family!
We offer fish & chips take-out
Monday - Saturday, 11am - 7pm
At our Heritage Square location (712 S. Whitney Way).
Feel free to call ahead (274-5255) or simply stop by.

This coupon entitles you to: **\$1 off** a cod, catfish or shrimp family meal (serves 3-4).
All include fries, coleslaw & sauce.

Red, Bike & Blue

The CGNA second annual Red, Bike & Blue was held Saturday, July 2, 2005!

Over 50 children rode bikes, scooters, and skateboards, or rode in wagons and strollers (along with their parents – and some pets!).

Officer Mike Hanson of the Madison Police Department led the parade with sirens announcing our arrival. After the one-mile ride through the neighborhood participants were rewarded with popsicles and cold water. Every parade participant also received festive red, blue or silver beads, small American flags and/or patriotic buttons to wear.

Thank you to those neighbors who came out to wave and cheer us on our way! It was wonderful to have your smiles greet us along the parade route.

We are already planning how next year's Red, Bike & Blue will be bigger and better!

Thank you to all those who participated in this fun event!

The Truth about Trailers

Lately, one of the largest issues in our neighborhood involves the parking of trailers. The covenant states that, "Storage of boats, travel trailers, mobile homes, campers and other recreational vehicles shall be prohibited unless kept

in the garage". Remember, the covenant is incorporated into your property as a deed restriction and must be adhered to.

If you have a trailer, please park it in your garage or get off-site storage.

If your neighbor has a trailer parked on their property, please talk directly to them first. If the issue cannot be resolved, contact CGNA and we will help.

Technically, although street parking is not governed by the covenant, the spirit of the covenant is to eliminate trailers (boats, campers, etc) from cluttering our neighborhood.

Street parking is a City of Madison issue and allows parking not to exceed 48 hours. Parking that exceeds 48 hours is considered abandonment. Contact Parking Enforcement (266-4275) for all parking enforcement issues.

We often receive anonymous phone calls about covenant violations. If you have something you wish to report, please provide your name and contact information so we can get more details and also follow up with you.

If you have any covenant related questions or concerns, please contact CGNA.



LISA MOHAR, GRI, CRS
RENEE CHRISTMAN, ABR
276-5218 OR 278-4166
lisamohar@firstweber.com
christmanr@firstweber.com

***Over 22 years combined experience.**
***Top Producers in Dane County.**
***Full-Time Realtors with TWICE the SERVICE!**
And we both live in the neighborhood...
Lisa - 3725 Country Grove Dr
Renee - 3225 Tanglewood Dr

Give us a call or stop by!

