



the parkword



THE PARKWOOD HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2013

Calendar of Events

- October 30:** Halloween Bonfire
- December:** Visits by a Special Winter Guest week of Dec 9!
- January or February:** Sledding/Skating Party. A frosty Saturday morning at Garner Park
- April:** Spring Fling
- April 19:** Easter Egg Hunt at Everglade Park
- 1st Weekend in May:** Neighborhood Garage Sale and Garden Club Plant Sale
- June:** Neighborhood Pool Party
- Fourth of July:** Annual Bike Parade

The Hidden Gems of Parkwood Hills

By Susan Mockert

Most of you probably know at least one or two of your neighbors. Many of you can count your neighbors amongst the closest of your friends. But there are a few giving neighbors to whom we all owe some of the wonderfulness of Parkwood Hills: our block captains.

These volunteers deliver directories, keep track of new neighbors, and help the Parkwood Hills Community Association board distribute information. Each block captain has between nine and twenty-five houses for which they are responsible. The captains know the names of these residents, the age of their children and maybe even when they moved in to Parkwood Hills. Their job does not have a term limit; we have block captains who have been in that position for over a decade. Many captains choose to volunteer because they enjoy getting out and meeting neighbors on their block. Other captains know it is not a big time commitment but an important one so they step forward to serve our neighborhood. Most block captains live within the block they are assigned to but not all do. New volunteers are always welcome.

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Halloween Bonfire October 30

NEW DATE THIS YEAR!



Join your neighbors in Everglade Park on Wednesday, October 30 for the annual Parkwood Hills Halloween Bonfire. Bring your favorite jokes and ghost stories to tell at the open mic, and get ready for an evening of merriment in celebration of All Hallow's Eve.

The bonfire begins at 6:30, so don't be late! Keep your eye on the weather, as inclement conditions will cancel the event.

Hidden Gems continued from p 1

This year we tried something different by including a self-addressed envelope with the directories to help collect the Parkwood Hills Neighborhood Association dues. Payments have been received by mail fairly regularly since the directories went out in May with one even arriving the day this was written. I would enjoy hearing feedback on the envelope as well as the small volunteer sheet that was attached to the directories. Gems are never easy to find; it usually takes some hard work to dig them out. I know there are more within Parkwood Hills and look forward to finding them!

By the way, if you know your block captain make sure to thank them. It is because of their time that our neighborhood enjoys so many activities and events that make for a strong community and a great place to live. I personally add my thanks to yours to each of the block captains - you make my part easy!

For the 2014 delivery, block captains are needed for the following areas:

- West end of Gettysburg Drive
- Inner Drive between Yellowstone Drive and Gettysburg Drive (across from Muir)
- South end of South Yellowstone Drive
- Condos along Grand Canyon Drive

Susan Mockert, Block Captain Coordinator, mockerts@gmail.com



Sign Up For Santa Visits

Santa Claus wishes to visit all good boys and girls in Parkwood Hills to help ensure delivery of the right gifts this year. If you would like Santa Claus to visit your home, contact Allison Gunn, his local scheduler elf: alandbud@tds.net or 827-7278. The deadline for home visit requests is December 1.

Include the following information:

- Parent name(s), address, email, and phone
- Children's names, ages
- Details about the child that Santa can use to impress the child with Santa's omniscience
- If there will be a special gift for Santa to deliver, include this information as well.

Santa's busy schedule means there is no time to waste. Santa will be making the rounds the week of December 9-12.



July 4th Celebration

Pictures by Sharon Nebuda



Thank you to Amy Zuver! We will miss you.

Our Walkable Neighborhood Schools

By Charlene Drumm

You know school is in session by the tide of people going to and from classes every morning and afternoon. I love seeing so many folks walking and biking in the neighborhood! Watching the ebb and flow of students and staff, I am reminded once again of the valuable role schools play in our community, regardless of whether or not we have children enrolled in them.

Back at our April 2009 Annual Community Association Meeting, Mark Olinger, the Madison Planning Director at the time, spoke of the attributes and assets required for healthy neighborhoods. Broadly, healthy neighborhoods require (1) a sense of community; (2) a sense of place; and (3) stability. Parkwood Hills is a healthy neighborhood, with all of these attributes. Mr. Olinger identified a few specific Parkwood “gems”, one of which is our walkable public schools.

We all know that schools provide the critical function of educating our children. We generally acknowledge the economic relationship between healthy public schools and home property values. However, we don't always think about the other benefits our schools provide including community and sense of place. Marcia Standiford of the Madison Metropolitan School District Office of Community Engagement and Public Information quickly expanded on this point with specific examples when asked about schools' roles in the community:

- Schools are community-builders. They bring together people from all walks of life around something in common: our children. Staff, students, parents, and volunteers forge lasting relationships through contacts made in the schools.
- The buildings themselves are beneficial. Most Madison schools are used for voting, all-age recreation, and/or serve as disaster relief sites.
- Statistics show that a higher percentage of students who attend Madison public schools tend to settle in the area instead of move away.
- Schools often engage in community service projects, with elementary schools in particular focusing on the areas around them.
- All school concerts and performances are open to the public.

Parkwood Hills is one of the few neighborhoods with walkable schools grades K-12. These days, especially with the growing obesity epidemic, this is a rare and important thing.

Parkwood Hills' K-12 walkable schools are Muir Elementary, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, and Madison Memorial High School. Each school is unique and special in its own way. Who better to ask about these schools than their staff and students?

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This newsletter is published four times per year and serves as an important and integral communication tool for our neighborhood and community. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send ideas for articles or submit your own articles for publication. We also appreciate any corrections which we will run in the next issue.

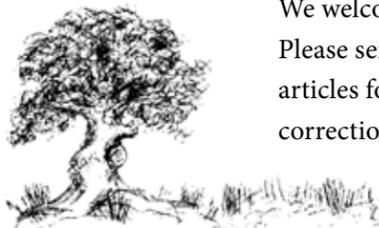
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I asked three Parkwood Hills neighbors who work at our walkable schools (one from each school) two questions:

1. What do you think makes your school special/unique?
2. Please share something you like about working at your school.



Sylla Zarov (Acadia Dr.)
Instructional Resource Teacher
Muir Elementary

1. We have an incredible staff and amazing families and students. I think that being so close to Jefferson and Memorial, we get so many former students that come back for visits. We also have many parents of current Muir students who work here or are Muir alum themselves. Really, Muir is the best place to work and go to school.
2. I love working at Muir because there is such an amazing support network amongst staff and families BUT the best thing about Muir are the students. They are the reason we wake up and come to work (school) every morning.



Bridget Disch (Shiloh Dr.)
Administrative Secretary
Thomas Jefferson Middle School

1. The talented, smart and caring staff and administration makes Jefferson special. Jefferson is unique in that it is well rooted in our community with generations of students and families who continue to enjoy an excellent education and sense of community.
2. I have the honor of watching the kids from Parkwood Hills journey through middle school. The growth and developing maturity over those three short years is truly amazing.



Dineen Seymour-Nahn (Sumter Ct.)
Spanish Teacher
Madison Memorial High School

1. Memorial's size makes it special. Because of its size and diversity, there is a place for every student. Memorial offers a broad array of courses, and an incredible number of clubs, including sports, music and drama. There is something for everyone at our school.
2. Two things: I adore the faculty. The teachers make Memorial the place it is. Secondly, I enjoy living within the community that sends its students to Memorial. It gives me the opportunity to get to know students first as a neighbor, then as a student.

I asked three students, one from each school, to name one thing you really like about your school.



Emma (Gettysburg Dr.)
Muir Elementary

I like how they do parties when we achieve something good. I like Muir. I like the science classes because you get to do experiments and not just read about things.



Peter (Antietam Ln)
Thomas Jefferson Middle School

I like how all the teachers are really supportive. They help when you need assistance. I like gym and band.



Patrick (Yosemite Tr)
Madison Memorial High School

The best thing about Memorial is the chance to take all sorts of different classes, and getting to make new friends each year in those classes.

Parkwood Hills Community Association Board

Board members serve two-year terms. Meetings are open to everyone.

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David Hoffert

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Lisa Kermgard

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Beth Puleo

Block Captain Coordinator:

Susan Mockert

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