



the parkword



THE PARKWOOD HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

Calendar of Events

January or February:

Sledding/Skating Party. A frosty Saturday morning at Garner Park

March 15: Deadline for ads in Neighborhood Directory

Sat April 4: 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, Everglade Park

Sat April 11: 7:00 p.m. Spring Fling, Vintage Brewing Co

Wed April 15: 6:30 p.m. Parkwood Hills Community Association Annual Meeting. Location TBD.

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Local Schools Part of Referendum

By Charlene Drumm

In April, the Madison School District will ask Madison voters to approve a \$41 million school facilities referendum. If approved, dollars would be spent to improve accessibility in 10 schools; add classroom space in five schools to address chronic overcrowding; and renovate four schools in need of major upgrades. Two million dollars would also be spent on the District's technology infrastructure.

Two schools that our neighborhood children attend would be improved: Spring Harbor and Jefferson Middle Schools. The District would install a new elevator at Spring Harbor to bring the building into ADA compliance. Jefferson Middle School is the largest project in the plan. The only building to receive a facilities "F" on the District's facilities report card, \$8 million in improvements would address the building's heating and duct system, as well as build walls and doors in the outdated open classroom building, improve lighting, repair ceilings and replace the elevator.

The District plans to fund the projects through general obligation school bonds, 2/3 of which would be paid off in 7 years, and the remaining third after 10 years. For taxpayers, those owning an average \$237,000 home would see a \$62.95 increase in property taxes over 10 years.

Schools continued page 4

Join Us at the Annual Spring Fling

Catch up with neighbors and meet new ones on Saturday, April 11, from 7-11pm at the Parkwood Hills Community Association Spring Fling! The event will be held at the Vintage Brewing Company on Whitney Way across from HyVee. Look for us in the banquet room near the rear of the restaurant.

The Spring Fling is a great way to relax, chat with your neighbors, and celebrate the end of another Wisconsin winter. It is a FREE event for all adult Parkwood Hills residents. Enjoy drinks and light food while they last.

Friends who are not residents of Parkwood Hills are welcome to attend for \$15 per person, payable at the door.

The Business of Being a Great Community

Lovely homes in a vibrant city make for a desirable neighborhood, but it is the activities and connections between residents that elevate it to a great community. Parkwood Hills has been able to become that thanks to the many generous people who have volunteered and participated over the years in a variety of ways. Here are some of the upcoming opportunities to get involved and a few of the perks of being a resident of Parkwood Hills.



Attend the Annual Meeting: Mark your calendars for April 15th, 2015, at 6:30pm for the Parkwood Hills Community Association Annual Meeting. Learn about the issues that affect our neighborhood and maybe even find a way to get involved. The location of the meeting is yet to be determined.

Become Vice President: This Board position currently remains unfilled. You'd be joining a welcoming group of pleasant people who are willing to give a little time to make sure this neighborhood retains its vitality and appeal.

Enlist as a Block Captain or Coordinator: Being a Block Captain is a great way to connect and stay connected to your neighbors. Part of the gig is welcoming new residents and helping to distribute directories and collect the Association dues. We're also hoping to find one individual who will serve as Block Captain Coordinator, an outgoing, friendly type who'd be willing to oversee the good works of this vital group.

Pay Your Association Dues: The dues go towards funding the many activities the neighborhood enjoys, maintaining the Parkwood Hills website, beautifying the neighborhood, issuing this newsletter and countless other projects. But 2014 dues are down significantly, with only 59% of households contributing so far. It's easy to get confused about when you last sent in your dues as the Parkwood budget runs from June to May. Many residents pay their dues to their Block Captains when the new directories are distributed. Dues are just \$20 a year but add up to 70% of the annual budget. If you have yet to pay your dues you can send them to Beth Puleo, Treasurer, 306 Everglade Drive, Madison, WI 53717.

Advertise In Our Directory: We invite and encourage local people and businesses to advertise their products and services in our 2015 Parkwood Hills Neighborhood Directory. By advertising in the Directory you are placing your message in the hands of the more than 500 families in our neighborhood in a direct and economical manner. Your advertisement is visible all year long because neighborhood residents use these directories continuously. Each new family that arrives during the year will be given a copy of the Directory, ensuring that they will immediately associate your business with their new community.

You'll find our ad rates are very reasonable. We also offer a discount of 10% if you pay in advance for two years of advertising. All proceeds go towards the cost of publishing our Neighborhood Directory and in support of the many activities enjoyed by all in our neighborhood. The deadline for ads is March 15, 2015.

Contact Grant Priehs for prices and sizes.
grantpriehs@earthlink.net, (608) 203-8126.

Utilize the Parkwood Locker: Did you know that our neighborhood has a shed full of useful goodies like folding tables, coolers, sign holders and even a roaster? And they are all available to residents, free of charge. Just sign them out and return them promptly. The locker is located behind the Parkcrest Pool, and can be accessed by calling Sandy Gregorich at (608) 827-8927 or Dave Gillman at (608) 238-5797.

Parkwood Petiquette

Gentle hills, tree-lined streets and accessible parks make our community an ideal place for both pet-owners and non pet-owners to recreate. But some commonplace courtesies can go a long way to help these groups peacefully co-exist and keep everyone safe.

I.D. Tags/Licenses:

All dogs and cats living in Madison are required to wear tags that list their owner's information, proof of rabies vaccination and be licensed. There have been quite a few reports of lost pets and roaming cats in our neighborhood. Tags or microchips can help reunite a pet with its family.

Licenses should be renewed each calendar year.

Leashes:

Madison ordinances state that all dogs and cats are to be on leashes and attended to by a person when off their property. Dogs are not allowed to run off-leash unless they have a permit to do so and are in an Off-Leash Dog Park. There are no such parks in Parkwood Hills. There are plenty of natural predators in our neighborhood like coyotes, foxes and even hawks that could harm or kill a roaming beloved pet. This safety measure also extends to humans – last year a resident suffered a crushed vertebra when an unattended dog on a long leash tangled her legs and she fell to the ground.

Reading Recommendation

This issue's book suggestion comes from **Chuck Snowden**, who's been reading *The Carnivore Way* by Cristina Eisenberg. Chuck tells us "it explores how large carnivores play an important role in keeping other species in check and leading to a more balanced ecosystem. Although her main focus is on the need to maintain corridors in the Western US and Canada to allow genetically mixed breeding populations to be maintained, her book may be of interest to those in Parkwood who are seeing foxes and coyotes in our neighborhood. A former UW Wildlife Ecology Professor who had worked in the San Diego area found that the presence of larger carnivores in residential neighborhoods actually led to a greater diversity of birds, because people in those areas kept their cats inside. It is wonderful that we have coyotes and foxes in our neighborhood and we need to adapt to their presence. The Carnivore Way helped me better understand the importance of these animals in our lives."

Poop Patrol:

While it should go without saying that pet owners must pick up after their pets, it's quite common to find feces or bags of feces along popular walking paths. Pick it up and keep our common areas tidy.

Aggressive Behavior:

Consider obedience training, spaying or neutering, or perhaps a different pet if the one you have can't get along with others. Some communities have adopted a policy to place a yellow ribbon on the leash of a dog that may not be friendly to deter other pet owners from encouraging socializing. Fortunately, most of our dog community is friendly and owners know each other and the boundaries of their respective pets.

Curb Your Children:

All of the responsibility does not lie with the pet owners. Teach your kids to ask an owner first before approaching or petting an animal. It's a great way to teach them to respect animals while preventing a nip or bite.

Look Out for Each Other:

Dogs chase squirrels and birds. Bikes can startle animals. Leashes can get tangled with each other and with people. But staying aware of your surroundings and showing some courtesy for others affords all of us the opportunity to enjoy our neighborhood.

For a more comprehensive list of Madison's ordinances regarding cats and dogs go to www.publichealthmdc.com.



This coyote strolling through our neighborhood is one reason pet owners should keep a tight rein on their pets.

Photo by Kevin Hanauer

Garden Club Looks To Expand

Looking to use or develop your green thumb? The Parkwood Hills Garden Club would be glad to help you. All you need is an interest in gardening and an appetite for fun and forming lasting relationships. You don't even need to live in Parkwood Hills to join!

The Parkwood Hills Garden Club was first formed in 1969 by a group of women mainly to share their interest in gardening and to form friendships around this common interest. The club has been blooming ever since. The objectives of the club are to educate members in all phases of gardening, horticultural practices and flower arranging, to enhance the natural beauty of the Parkwood Hills area, to promote civic beauty and the conservation of natural resources, and to acquaint members with area places of horticultural interest.

The Garden Club also cares for the beautiful entrance gardens at the corner of Blue Ridge and Old Sauk roads. They have held plant sales over the years with the proceeds supporting local planting projects at Owen Park, Olbrich Gardens, Allen Gardens, Wexford Children's Gardens and

many others. They also support the Lussier Community Center and the gardens at John Muir Elementary with donations and help with digging and planting.

The club meets on the last Tuesday of months of January, March, April, September, October and December, usually at noon in member's homes. In between these meetings they schedule a summer picnic and organize a few field trips to points of interest. The December meeting is a festive holiday luncheon often held at the Nakoma Golf Club.

For information on the club or to get the location of the next meeting, contact Nancy Benzschawel at 608-695-2028, nancybenzschawel@gmail.com or Sue Niesen at 608-833-7473, dsniesen@charter.net. Again, you don't have to be a Parkwood Hills resident to be a part of the Garden Club.



Schools, continued from p. 1

Madison has lagged behind other Districts in Dane County on infrastructure spending. That, combined with our aging buildings, means we have some catching up to do. A focus on the facilities has been difficult over the last several years as the District has had to scramble to adjust to dramatic budget cuts due to changes in the State's education allocation formula – Madison's state allocation per student has been cut almost by half.

As a parent and Madison citizen, I am excited about the referendum in April and the improvements it could bring to our schools. The Madison School District is a vibrant, dynamic system that provides quality education and is always working to improve, even in the face of budget cuts. With much needed improvements to our buildings, Madison can continue to provide a great foundation for learning. My own children will not benefit directly from these improvements, but they and all Madison citizens benefit from up-to-date facilities that we can all be proud of.

Growing Your Business From Your Own Back Yard

Advertise your business or service in the 2015 Parkwood Hills Neighborhood Directory. You'll be directly in the hands of over 500 households who love to support local businesses. And since all new residents receive a copy of the directory, they will turn to you as they settle into their new neighborhood.

The rates are reasonable, multi-year discounts are available, and you'll be supporting the publication of the directory as well as the many events that are hosted in your own community.

Deadline for Ad Submission:
March 15

Contact Grant Priehs
grantpriehs@earthlink.net
(608) 203-8126

Halloween Bonfire

Once again the residents of Parkwood Hills were treated to night of camaraderie and fun at the 2014 Halloween Bonfire.

The Open Mic was hosted by the Cat In The Hat (aka David Hoffert, the Parkwood Hills Board President) who presided over a cadre of werewolves, ninjas and princesses who shared stories, jokes and riddles. The cool night was warmed by the bonfire, the donut holes, and the neighborly rapport. Special thanks to organizer Dave Gillman.



Update Your 2015 Directory Listings

Beat the rush! Did you know that you can update your neighborhood directory information at any time? Email your changes and corrections to Elizabeth Morrison, elizabethmorrison@gmail.com. Do it now, while you're thinking about it!

Did You Know?

Wisconsin isn't called the Badger State because of the fierce, nocturnal animals that live on the prairie. "Badgers" was the somewhat derogatory nickname given to lead miners in the 1820's who dug shelters into hillsides to stay warm, much like the dens badgers dig. While it's debatable how common this practice was, the legend stuck and Wisconsinites now wear the title proudly. Although most probably associate it with Bucky, the UW mascot.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Everglade Park

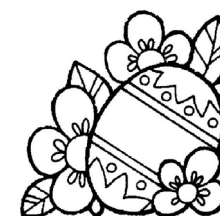
Date: Saturday April 4, 2015

By Sandy Gregorich

Once again, the Easter Bunny will hide 1,000 goody-filled eggs at Everglade Park for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The fun takes place at 10 am sharp, so don't be late. Our kids have been known to find each and every egg within 10 minutes! In case of extremely rainy or snowy weather, the event will be delayed until noon that day. If the weather is still bad at noon, the hunt will still go on! (The Bunny can't store all those candy filled eggs at her house).

So bundle up, bring your umbrellas, snow boots, and your cameras of course!

(And if you have any eggs to recycle, please drop them off on my front porch at 401 Yosemite Trail).



Local Business: Cecil's Shoe Repair

The moment you step through the door of Cecil's Shoe Repair the heady aroma of leather emollients lets you know that you are visiting a craftsman. On the right is a wall of shelves groaning with rejuvenated footwear awaiting pick up and on the counter in front of you is a display of local honey. To the left is a row of suitcases that formerly had tattered handles or broken zippers. Chances are, behind the counter you will find Ron Cecil Burk, the self-taught son of the original Cecil.

The business was started in 1962 at University and Park and became famous for their line of handcrafted leather sandals during what Ron refers to as Madison's "hippy dippy" days. The sandals are no longer available, but Cecil's Shoe Repair is the place to head if you're looking to add some more life to a favorite pair of boots, fix a torn purse handle or un-stick a stuck zipper. They also create custom orthopedic elevations to correct uneven gaits.

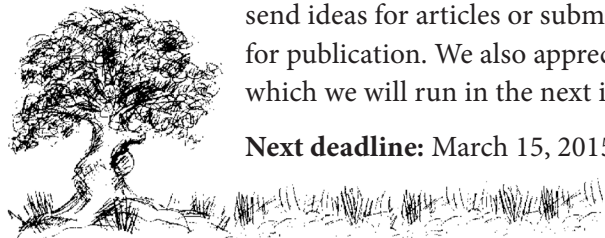
After one moment with Ron you get the sense that he will cut to the chase about whether or not your item can be salvaged. His look and demeanor reassures you that you will be charged a fair price. And the store's overall vibe says that this business still exists because of loyal customers who have recognized the value of a skilled artisan.

The business has been on Madison's West Side for decades now and at its current location at 6717 Odana Road since 2002. Ask your neighbors—it's quite likely that several of them have been customers for years. A few may even have bought a pair of Cecil's sandals in the sixties.



A Madison Original and Parkwood Stalwart: Ron Cecil Burk still runs the family business that first opened its doors in 1962.

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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.

Next deadline: March 15, 2015

Approximate delivery: April 6, 2015

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Did you know that you can get the parkword as a digital file?
Sign up at <http://parkwoodhills.org/>

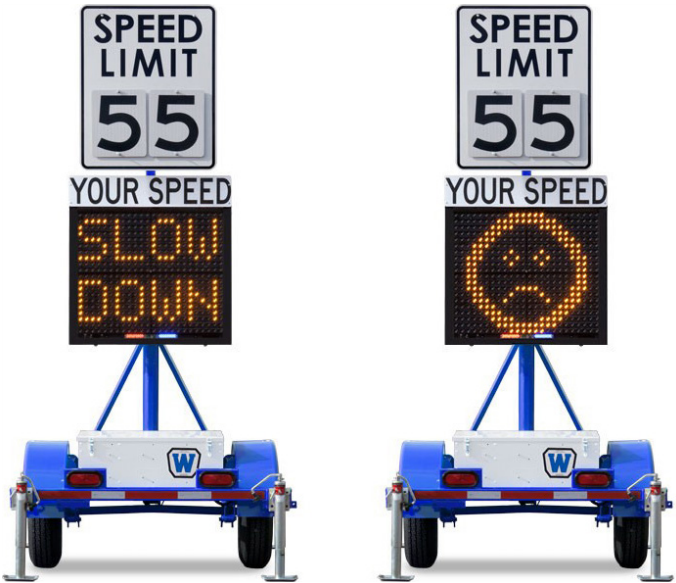
Slowing It Down

Speedwatch Program Needs Volunteers

by Beth Puleo

At the annual meeting last year neighbors expressed concern over the speed of traffic in some areas around Parkwood. We all benefit from a safe neighborhood for ourselves and our children. Looking into this issue, the Board learned about a Speedwatch Program supported by the City of Madison that would set up a speed monitoring board for a limited period of time. The board displays the street speed limit as well as the actual travel speed of passing cars. The City has found that motorists usually slow down if they see that they are going faster than the speed limit. After being exposed to the display boards, motorists are more likely to voluntarily comply with the speed limit. The program also offers the opportunity for residents of Parkwood to get directly involved. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, we will need volunteers.

Here's how it works: With guidance from the Traffic Engineering Division and support from the Madison Police Department, city residents set up and monitor speed display boards on selected neighborhood streets. Traffic Engineering Division staff determines the best times and locations to operate the speed display board based on traffic volume and perceived speed of travel. Volunteers establish their own schedule for monitoring traffic but they must notify the Traffic Engineering office when they plan to use the display board so that the Police Department can be apprised of monitoring times and places. Volunteers must have a car at the project site so that the speed display board can be hooked up to the vehicle's cigarette lighter. While monitoring the speed display board, volunteers should keep a tally of the motorists' speeds (special forms are provided for this purpose). This information is used to determine average speed and to help gauge the program's effectiveness.

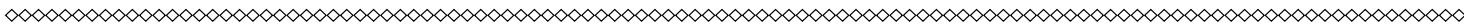


Your task as a volunteer is to: (1) park your vehicle near the monitoring board and hook it up to your vehicle's cigarette lighter during your time slot (30-60 minutes based on your schedule); and (2) keep a tally of motorists' speeds during that period.

We will coordinate a schedule of times over a one week period based on the availability of volunteers. In order to participate in the city's Speedwatch Program we will need at least three to six volunteers to staff the equipment so that the board can be utilized several times over a week-long period.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Beth Puleo at beth.puleo@gmail.com or Kari Bloedel at karibloedel@yahoo.com

For more detailed information about the Speedwatch Program go to the city of Madison website: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/programsSpeed.cfm>.



CLASSIFIED ADS

Personal classified ads are accepted for this newsletter, which is mailed to 500 households in Parkwood Hills. Ads may be edited for length. Ads from Parkwood Hills residents are free (up to 6 per year per address). Commercial ads (up to 4 lines) or ads from outside the neighborhood are \$10 each. Email your ad to editor@parkwoodhills.org or mail your payment, name, address and phone number with your ad to Elizabeth Morrison, 6913 Colony Dr. Madison WI 53717. Please make your check payable to Parkwood Hills Community Association.

FOR SALE: Parkcrest pool stock at a great price. Call 233-3573 if interested.

Parkwood Hills Community Association Board

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

President:

David Hoffert

Vice President:

Open

Secretary:

Kari Bloedel

Treasurer:

Beth Puleo

Block Captain Coordinator:

Open

At-Large Board Members:

Charlene Drumm

Allison Gunn

Joe Hanauer

Jane Kaldor

Lisa Kermgard

Kathie King

Lauren Ritters/ Stephen Gammie

Dave Mann

Jessica Yehle

Newsletter Editor:

Grant Priebs

Nextdoor Moderator

Open

Webmaster:

Bill Shepard

Directory Editor:

Elizabeth Morrison

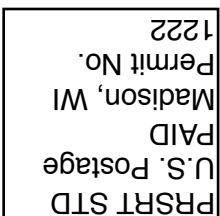
Pool Liaison:

Peter Olson

Parkword Email List Host:

Mark Clear

www.parkwoodhills.org



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