

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



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.

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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.













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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?

the parkword



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Sign up at http://parkwoodhills.org/

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.





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. 6

Meet your Neighbor

Parkwood Hills' Very Own Wonder Woman

By Mirabel Levine

Christine Lucas (Saratoga Circle) is not only the proud owner of a thriving business, but also a triathlon participant, a charitable fundraiser, an amateur photographer, and a loving family and community member. Is there anything this woman can't do?

Christine began her journey at UW-Lacrosse, where she attended school for a year, but something just didn't feel right. "I wanted to do something creative and hands on, so I came to Madison and went to beauty school here."

After graduating from beauty school, she worked at a number of salons, and then opened her first studio, Repunzel, with her business partner. Six years later, she joined forces with Julie, her current partner and friend of 25 years, and *Bella* was born.

Bella began with one chair, and expanded to a community of eight girls and two receptionists. More than a hair salon, Bella is also the stage of a sizable annual fundraiser for breast cancer.

Six years ago, Christine's business partner was diagnosed with breast cancer. Although she's now healthy and cancer free, the entire staff continues to donate all of the proceeds from one day a year to the search for the cure. Each year, the event has grown: last year they raised \$3,600. It's scheduled for October 27th this year, and they hope it will be the most successful one yet!



In addition to the breast cancer fundraiser, Bella also hosts an Earth month fundraiser in April.

How do you run a successful business with enough wiggle room to raise over three and a half thousand dollars for charity?

Here are a few of Christine's golden tips: don't be afraid, trust your knowledge and skill, don't bite off more then you can chew and over all, be confident!

To contribute to the cause, stop by Bella to schedule an appointment for October 27th and a chance to give back.

Bella salon is located at:
6106 Mineral Point Road #101
Madison, WI 53705
Homestead Shoppes (608) 236-0340
bellaisbeautiful.com

Mirabel Levine is a student at Memorial High School.

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.

SNOW PLOWING: Support your local neighborhood landscaper, Landscape Architecture, LLC. We not only landscape and build patios but plow snow too. We will even come back after the city snow plow!

Call Joe Hanauer at 608-798-1840 for your free estimate.

Neighborhood Assets: Lussier Center

Join Us at the Food Pantry By Izzy Schryver

The Lussier Center is a great place where we can help our community. I love helping out at the food pantry. It feels nice to give back. Here is what you will do if you volunteer at the food pantry. We start off by making sure the pantry is well-stocked. The paper bags used to hand out the food items have to be doubled or else everything falls out because cans and frozen food can get heavy! By 7:00 pm, the pantry must be ready to open as people start lining up to come in. The people who come are the nicest people in the world from the volunteers to the customers!! I usually volunteer with my family or with Girl Scout Troop 1066. It's a lot of fun seeing the new faces from around the town. The pantry is busy until closing at 8 p.m. If you would like to help out, we would love some more helping hands here at the Lussier Center!

Izzy Schryver (left) with Cristina Johnson, Volunteer and Employment Programs Coordinator, Lussier Community Education Center

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

To volunteer, send an email to cristina@LCECmadison.org.

The Center also appreciates your donations of checks, non-perishable items and paper bags with handles.

Garden Walk with the Parkwood Hills Garden Club

By Sharon Nebuda

In late June, I was lucky enough to be invited to join the Parkwood Hills Garden club for an evening stroll through neighbor's gardens. All of Parkwood Hills is beautiful this time of year but it was a treat to see front, back, and side gardens up close with their gardeners. On this tour, the begonia varieties Dragon Wing and Angel Wing were recommended for container gardening for their less demanding watering requirements however they do need fertilizer every few days. I also learned overwintering the exotic Mandevilla in your house is troublesome (dropped leaves and insects) so it is easier to treat the plant as an annual and buy new plants in the spring. We even enjoyed a tool demonstration when we were shown a new motorized retracting hose, which can be a marriage saver!

The Garden Club welcomes beginners to experienced master gardeners to share their horticultural successes and failures with each other. You've perhaps noticed their handiwork near the Parkwood Hills signs at the corner of Old Sauk and Blue Ridge - the members design, plant, water and maintain these two gardens each summer. The club also hosts a spring plant sale (usually every other year). Meetings are typically the fourth Tuesday of each month, hosted by various club members.

Contact Cathy Andersson at cvanders@chorus.net for more information.



Dick Moll (Ozark Dr) standing next to his container-friendly begonias.

Parkwood Hills Community Association Board

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

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