



Neighborhood Notes from the CWNA President July/August 2005

Greetings Neighbors,

Where did the summer go?! At the time of this writing, the last of the rain barrels we received as part of grant have been delivered, with most of them installed. As I ride my bike home from work, I see the construction of a new garage progressing. The garage will have a green roof with an adjoining rain garden which the grant contributed a small part. Our neighborhood can take stock in catching the few precious rain drops we had this summer, and we will be ready for next year's spring rains.

I have to say that this summer was one of many beginnings, with a lot of loose ends. The summer began with the destruction of trees in Cambridge Woods and at one of the neighborhood traffic circles. Some warning signs have been posted near the woods warning that it is against the law to destroy vegetation and alter terrain, and the replanting of the circle looks great (better than the one I look after), despite a missing tree. Since giving the County our report on improving access and enhancing the woods in May, we have not heard any response. As you may have read in the paper, or seen on TV, the woods were used for a mountain bike segment of a triathlon, and there have been some safety incidents that occurred near the Oak Leaf Trail. This does cause me some personal reflection of what would have taken place, if our vision we stated in the report was in place.

The summer was also spent with several meetings with two UWM Regents from the Milwaukee area, four state legislators that represent the UWM are, local officials, and the four neighborhood associations' representatives. These meetings were focused on UW-Milwaukee's desire to buy the Columbia Hospital site with the intention of including additional dorms. There exists a concern among the neighborhood association groups that additional dorms translate to additional students in our neighborhoods. This concern is based on the knowledge that students seek social activities (a.k.a. parties) and eventual housing after one to two years of living in the dorms. We have been told that we will be able to meet with UWM's Chancellor and elected officials to express our concerns directly, and hear details of their planned expansion.

I mention these two items as a prelude to an effort that we will be undertaking to get your opinions on these matters. We will be developing some short surveys very soon and sending them out for your input. It is very important for our Board, other Neighborhood Groups, and elected officials know that we speak for the majority of group. When you see these surveys, please give them the thought and voice they deserve. And if you have any additional thoughts or questions, feel free to contact me.

In closing, I would like to invite people to either join one of our active sub-teams, or consider an upcoming open Board position this fall. More on that in the near future.

Your Neighbor,
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