



Neighborhood Notes
Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association
July / August 2006

Greetings,

I hope it has been a great summer whether you had a chance to get away or vacationed in your own neighborhood. As I sit and write this, I think how nice it would be if things we work on as a neighborhood would happen as fast as the passing of the summer season.

One such item is the effort to improve access to the Oak Leaf Trail from the neighborhood at Hampshire and Cambridge. My latest contact with the County is that they will commit a crew this fall with donated materials that have been offered by a donor. I have requested to see some design work on paper in the meantime, not only to make it more visual reality, but also look for an opportunity for some neighborhood contribution. I have also put in a few follow-up requests into the City for a response that was made at our March meeting about improving the streetlight at Locust and Newhall for easier pedestrian crossing. Other loose ends that have been re-requested is the bus shelter at Locust across from Riverside High School and tree and bush planting at the new traffic circle at Bartlett and Linnwood.

One expected long-term effort is the developing the relationship between all the neighborhood associations and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I am pleased to report that the university has hired the long vacant neighborhood liaison position. Oscar Perez, a former police officer, is the new neighborhood relations contact and has made a favorable early impression with his ideas and communication skills. Oscar along with Student Association representatives, CWNA President and Vice President conducted a bike tour of our neighborhood to see our highlights and our not so shining parts. This has been carried over to the Murray Hill neighborhood and I hope other neighborhood associations. We even had a nice backyard picnic with Oscar, his family, and student representatives. The university has also taken real ownership of the Bike Loan Program that was started by our Vice Presidents, Else Ankel. A new fleet of bikes have been added to the existing donated bikes with plans for future growth. While hurdles remain in this town/gown relationship, I sense a real positive turning point.

The July meeting brought out a number of residents to hear about the proposed housing and Walgreens project at the now vacant Sentry grocery store. Neighborhood groups have recently found out the housing element to the proposal has fallen through, but the larger Walgreens store remains. The meeting was combined with a very yummy potluck and casual gathering. We hope to make future July meetings social events. Looking towards our September meeting, we will focus on neighborhood safety. The Safety Committee has invited Bruce Scott, Community Liaison Officer who will be joined by the two bike patrol officers in our area. Please bring any crime and safety concerns.

Another long term effort (about eight years) that may have a deciding result in September is the enhanced Residential Parking Permit Program that I mentioned in my last neighborhood message. A public hearing is scheduled for September 14 that would allow some streets to reserve one side of the street for residents only. It was originally scheduled for a summer hearing but was put off until students are back in school and designated streets are set. I have been waiting (yet again) to get this information out to our email distribution and I hope to have something soon to share. There is naturally expected to be a large student group opposing this initiative, so if this is something you feel strongly about, consider attending to voice your opinion.

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