



Neighborhood Notes
Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association
September / October 2006

Greetings,

It seems like fall is a shortest season as we run around doing all we can before the snow flies. But just as we fall back with daylight savings, it is a good time to step back and do some reflection.

Our CWNA September General Meeting was among one of our most well attended meetings we have held in some time. The subject matter was *Neighborhood Safety* and with both burglaries and noise nuisance complaints up in the area, we saw a lot of new faces. While it is good to see renewed interest in neighborhood matters, it is unfortunate it wasn't for a more pleasant situation. The September speakers from the 5th District Police Station demonstrated a shared concern for the neighborhood and reported some early positive results. Noise nuisance complaints reached an all time high this semester and it is my hope that we have reached the worse point and now is the time for it to get better. Burglaries were reported to be up as well, not just here, but nation wide. I was pleased to hear the recent news that Milwaukee didn't make the top 25 'most dangerous cities.' We also didn't make the top 25 safest cities, so more certainly can be done. We all must continue to be vigilant when it comes to crime and watch out for ourselves and neighbors. I was very pleased to hear our speakers acknowledge the good efforts of our Safety Committee on their effort to increase the alley street addressing initiative as a good example of assisting community policing.

As the president of CWNA, I get the opportunity to meet and work with residents that I would not otherwise interact with. One such example is working with a family from Cambridge Avenue who helped me guide some UWM volunteer athletes clean up our neighborhood. I can't stress strong enough the value for young people to see families caring and looking after their neighborhood. As I told the students that I worked with, perhaps athletes are the wrong people to help clean up the neighborhood, but we certainly appreciate it. It was good to hear people thank us as we picked up litter along the way. I will continue to stress to the University to have clean-ups, more often- so be get ready for the spring calling to help!

Speaking of callings, November is election time for not only government positions, but our association as well. I hope that people, who have not participated in a board position or non-elected committee position, will do so now. In even years, we vote in a Vice-President and Secretary Officer position along with our annual At-large members. At-large positions are great way to hear and be heard on variety issues that impact our neighborhood. If you are more of on-hands type of person then participation in any of our five committees may be better suited. Anyway, there are a variety of ways to be and get involved, so not to sound like a Nike Ad - Just Do It!

In addition to our November elections, we have invited Supervisor Gerry Broderick to our meeting to address us on County related matters. This will be a good opportunity to hear about the current County Budget and other areas of interest. Finally, today I had the great opportunity to go as part of a neighborhood group to tour City Hall. Although we did not get to ring the bells, we did get to see and hear some interesting things about the building. The idea for this event came from a resident who thought it would be a good outing-and it was! Three of us even biked together to the tour on a beautiful fall day; it slowed us down and gave us time to reflect on just how good we have it.

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