

ANNUAL GREENTREE NEIGHBORHOOD HELD FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Over forty involved neighbors attended the annual Greentree Neighbor Forum held at the west side fire station on February 6th. The first speaker of the evening was Joel Weitz, owner of Geroge Vitense Golf and, who gave an overview of the exciting changes taking place at Vitense. Gone are the old yellow clubhouse and orange caboose, to be replaced by an indoor 18-hole mini-golf course with each hole being modeled after a prominent Madison landmark. Also in the new building will be a heated driving range bay, eating area and an expanded clubhouse complete with meeting rooms. Joel's intention is to offer year-round family entertainment. Project completion date is July, 2006.

Next on the agenda was a report from our community police officer Eric Vosburg. Eric stated that two of the newly approved eight patrol positions will be stationed on the west side; this is good news due to the increase in gang activity (tagging). Eric reported that Greentree is generally a safe neighborhood and encouraged residents to self-report any suspicious activity. "We can use the extra eyes and ears." Eric can be reached at evosburg@cityofmadison.com or by phone at 288-6176.

Jed Sanborn, our 1st district alderperson, spoke on concerns regarding the increased traffic and speeding on Hammersley Road. Hammersley has become a "straight shot" between Whitney Way and Gammon Road. Efforts will be made to control traffic by installing islands and increased enforcement of posted speed limits. Jed also entertained some lively discussion about the Madison smoking ban in restaurants/bars.

Ronn Ferrell, former 1st District interim alder for the Greentree neighborhood, spoke as a candidate for Dane County Board supervisor. The post is held by incumbent Richard V. Brown, Sr. who is running for re-election. Ronn outlined his position on several areas. Richard was unavailable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Mike Bruce, social worker with Joining Forces for Families, and located at the Dane County Human Services Southwest Resource Center, 6401 Hammersley Rd., introduced himself and provided an overview of what the Center does, and what after-school activities are being provided for low-income kids in the area in collaboration with and through generous donations of funds and space from the Wisconsin Youth Company on McKenna Blvd. Mike also indicated the Resource Center needed to move in May - and staff were looking for a ground-level apartment in the neighborhood to re-locate the Center.

All in attendance agreed that the annual meeting is a great time to catch-up on local news and freely air your opinion!

Minutes taken by Steve Henningfield and Linda Johnson