

Greentree Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2009, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Meadowood Community Center

Association President Nancy Priegel called the meeting to order, introduced invited speakers and the Area Representatives in attendance (Mr. Floyd, Mr. Gritton, Mr. Henningfield, Mr. Ramer, Mr. Sperling, Mr. Youngwood). Approximately 26 other Greentree neighbors attended the meeting.

Captain Jay Lengfeld, Madison Police Department – The Greentree neighborhood remains stable with no appreciable increases in calls for service. Capt. Lengfeld said one factor in that stability is the willingness of Greentree neighbors to remain alert, watch out for each other's property and promptly report disturbances and developments in the neighborhood. A similar number of calls for police services were reported in 2008 as in 2007. The most common calls were for requests to check property and people calling in what they considered to be "suspicious" activities. There are no changing trends in the nature of calls for assistance. About the same number of residential burglaries was reported. One violent crime and one robbery were reported. Four weapons offenses were reported in 2008, compared to three in 2007.

The police department has acquired a Kawasaki Mule – a four-wheel drive vehicle that is being used to patrol the parks and bike paths where patrol car surveillance is impractical.

The only parts of the nearby neighborhood where increasing calls for service were reported during the year were in the Balsam, Russett and Treeflower parts of the neighborhood. Increasing numbers of foreclosures and boarded up properties in these neighborhood areas has meant more properties are vacant but some of the more troubled properties have been vacated as well. Active landlords, for the most part, are keeping up with their property and trying to maintain quality housing, Capt. Lengfeld observed. This helps keep these areas a bit more peaceful.

Last Friday, April 24th, a drive-by shooting occurred on Loreen Drive about 3:30 in the afternoon. The person in the car returned fire and additional shots from the cars were reported. Three vehicles involved in the incident have been identified and weapons have been recovered. Suspects have been identified but not charged or apprehended. Police believe those involved were not local residents, but the incident likely may be related to a shooting in the Park Street area earlier in the day. Five to six people subsequently reported shots fired, but these were not verified. Another incident later Saturday evening into Sunday morning was also not corroborated. Capt. Lengfeld re-emphasized the importance of reporting incidents quickly and regularly. He said the police need and are getting good intelligence information to investigate such incidents promptly.

Traffic complaints continue to dominate in the Greentree area and community speed watch training offers a stepped enforcement project (called "speedwave") where citizens can be trained and can borrow radar equipment to record traffic speeds at different times of the day. This is followed by posting speed boards in the neighborhood before the police decide if it is worthwhile

to deploy officers to monitor speeding. Capt. Lengfeld said similar programs were instituted last year in the Junction Road and Blackhawk Road areas. He noted that often speeders are travelling at somewhat slower speeds than concerned neighbors had imagined, but people were still speeding in the area.

Police have deployed two additional Community Policing Team officers in the West District, one with a K-9 unit and two additional beat officers. The captain reported that drug traffic and drug use remains the heart of many police calls and complaints. He reported that the canine unit found a substantial crack cocaine stash in the basement of a rental property and the drugs confiscated had a street value in excess of \$14,000.

In 2010 the West District Policing force will go from the current three shifts (7 a.m.-3 p.m., 3-11 p.m. and 11 p.m. – 7 a.m.) to add two additional shifts of 12 a.m. - 8 a.m. and 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. to provide more officers at peak call times. This should allow for more foot patrols and more follow-up on reported problems.

Capt. Lengfeld thanked residents for taking the time to complete online surveys about neighborhood policing activities. He also encouraged neighbors to participate in neighborhood watch programs and sign up to receive the communications. He encouraged adjoining neighborhood watch groups to alert the watch coordinators in adjoining neighborhoods when suspicious activities or repeated activities are first noted so all can be alert and on the lookout for similar behavior and incidents.

Barb Erdtmann, new Greentree Neighborhood Watch coordinator – invited more Greentree neighbors to sign up to receive notices at home and to participate in neighborhood watch programs. You can sign up at greentreewatch@yahoogroups.com. You can report findings to the coordinator or send to the entire group listserv. Ms. Erdtmann said that collective safety walks through the Greentree neighborhood each week had been suspended due to lack of sustained interest. Those who want to participate in such walks can join the regular walks through the Hammersley neighborhood accompanied by neighborhood officer Mike Hanson. Ms. Erdtmann also said that neighbors who feel their part of the neighborhood is too dark can petition the City of Madison to install street lights. Contact Dan Dettmann at the City of Madison to receive the proper petition, 266-6536 or e-mail ddettmann@cityofmadison.com.

Another neighbor reported success in getting quick response from the City of Madison's anti-graffiti program when she reported some tagging in her neighborhood.

Larry Luther – Community Garden update – Mr. Luther from the adjoining Meadowood Neighborhood Association is temporary coordinator of the new community garden that will be established this summer at Hammerley Park on Hammersley Road just west near Brookwood Road. At least 18 plots are available for seasonal rental. Twenty by twenty-foot garden plots rent from \$10 to \$65 per season depending on household income. The sites will have good, tilled soil and access to water. As with any new garden, enthusiastic participants are encouraged to help build a communal supply of gardening tools hoses and supplies. City crews cleared the park of brush and will refurbish the lighting and water supply with some community grant money.

Sign up by contacting Mr. Luther at lgluther@wisc.edu or phone 271-8787. Donations to the community garden at Hammersley Park can also be made through M&I Bank. Just ask to donate to the Hammersley Park Community Garden account.

Farmer's Market on the Southwest side –If you are interested in helping establish a Farmer's Market in the southwest side of town, contact Madison Public Health Nurse Kim Neuschel, kneuschel@publichealthmdc.com. The market will run Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. from June 24th through early October in the parking lot of Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ on Gilbert Road just east of Whitney Way. It's the street parallel to Whitney just behind Toki Middle School. The market needs some volunteers to help with publicity and set-up.

Alderman Jed Sanborn – He will be seeking changes on public safety issues during the next two years. First, he wants curfew hours for children 15 years and younger rolled back from 11 p.m. on weekdays to 10 p.m. and from midnight on weekends to 11 p.m. Earlier curfews provide a tool for police who encounter younger children on the streets after these curfew hours. Second, Alder Sanborn will work to provide more patrolling by police officers on neighborhood streets. Third, Alder Sanborn anticipates federal stimulus money will provide more community money for energy conservation projects like weatherization projects on low-income housing. To reach Alder Sanborn, e-mail him at district1@cityofmadison.com.

Dane County Supervisor Ronn Ferrell – also described how stimulus money will likely be used for transportation road projects that are “shovel ready,” (planned and ready to be installed as soon as money is made available). He speculated this would bring improvements to the Junction Road/Mineral Point intersection and the intersection of Pleasant View Road, County M and Valley View Road. Supervisor Ferrell also said Dane County's new 911 director who starts work at the end of May/early June is an advocate of installing call centers where people can get their questions answered without tying up 911 lines during emergencies. Such call centers often start a “311” information line that is staffed 12 hours a day to provide answers and contacts for people trying to access governmental services from county and city government.

Greentree park improvements – Ms. Priegel noted park improvement/beautification projects in Greentree spearheaded by family donations and neighborhood fundraising. Memorial funds will be invested to place new benches in Sherwood Forest Park on Friar Lane at at Norman Clayton Park off Shoreham Road. Memorial tree and shrub plantings will also be installed at Norman Clayton Park. Thanks to families and friends who remembered their loved ones through investing in community beautification projects.

Meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:30 p.m.