

Hello Neighbors!

Enjoy the December newsletter, full of information on making your neighborhood a better place! A big thank you to Marge Liss for all her time and devotion to the SW Planning Committee and a thank you to the rest of the PHNA Committee for all their hard work throughout the year! Happy Holidays.

Neighborhood Watch:

Next meeting is Monday, January 28th 7:00. See "Calendar" section for more details.

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Southwest Plan Update - by Marge Liss

It has been over a year since I first attended the Southwest Neighborhood Steering Committee as the representative from the Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association. Many long hours were spent identifying issues, holding open houses, meeting with different community groups, walking potential community garden sites in all kinds of weather, analyzing data from the police department, from the planning department and other city entities, editing documents, listening to one another, and challenging one another's ideas, all done in the spirit of learning and cooperation. I want to thank other Prairie Hills neighbors, Nicky Morris, Karen Deaton and Margie Schwantes, to name a few, for attending some of the meetings, helping define issues, and providing strategies to help in resolution of some of the problems identified. And I'm especially grateful to the other steering committee members and to the city planners for their patience and contributions during the entire process.

The final draft of the document, "Southwest Neighborhoods: A Place to Grow Up and Grow Old," is available for all to review. See the 11/26/07 Southwest Neighborhood Plan Draft and Resolution - both are available on the SW Neighborhood Plan website (in this article I'll be quoting from the 11/26/07 draft.) It's

a big document but full of great ideas, including a revitalization strategy for the duplexes in the Bettys Lane-Theresa Terrace-Hammersley Road area. (pages 37- 42) Also an idea for developing Hammersley Park (next to Falk School) as a learning center for Falk School is introduced on page 39. The plan was introduced to the Madison Common Council on November 20, 2007. The implementation strategy includes taking the plan through the city boards and commissions. The process still continues as 11 Boards and Commission need to review the Plan prior to final adoption. There are several meetings that you can attend after Dec. 10th to register your approval/concern with the plan. The Southwest Neighborhood Plan is tentatively scheduled for final adoption at the January 22, 2008 Common Council meeting.

Highlights of the plan.

There are six priority projects for the Southwest Neighborhood Plan. They are:

1. Assign additional police services/resources such as, but not limited to, neighborhood officers in the Bettys-Theresa-Hammersley, Balsam-Russett and Park Ridge areas.
2. Explore the feasibility of expanding Meadowridge Library at or near its present location and provide additional programs/services

for youth and adult residents, with an added emphasis on programs dealing with education and employment resources. The library should explore offering Bilingual classes in Spanish and Hmong, establishing itself as a clearinghouse for information on programs and services, and plan for adequate meeting/programming space in a new facility.

3. Promote a variety of home ownership and rehabilitation programs, loans and services focusing on Bettys-Theresa-Hammersley, Balsam-Russett, Park Ridge, and Schroeder-Berkshire areas.

4. Increase programming for youth, adults and seniors. Such programs include, but not limited to: ESL classes, GED, tutoring, and after-school and summer educational/recreational activities. Take advantage of citywide programs, explore/setup transportation options, and improve funding of activities/programs through better information on grant programs.

5. Develop communication mechanism between Madison Police, property owners and neighborhood associations to address neighborhood-related issues jointly.

6. Explore purchasing a new ambulance and evaluate the placement of the newly acquired ambulance at Fire Station 7."(p.14) (cont p.2)



Energy Saving Tips

Energy audits

To identify more specific ways to control your energy use:

Purchase a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® evaluation from a professional Home Performance contractor.

Do your own energy audit using the Home Energy Saver.

Focus on Energy

MGE is a partner in Focus on Energy, a statewide initiative to save energy and the environment.

Focus on Energy offers Cash-Back Rewards on various equipment purchases.

Call Focus at 1-800-762-7077.

For more information, call the MGE Home Energy Line at (608) 252-7117.

Ways to reduce heating costs

Furnace

The furnace or boiler is the largest energy user in most homes.

If health permits, keep thermostat at 68°F or below.

Lower thermostat at night and when you're gone (55°F lowest setting).

Check the furnace filter once a month during the heating season. Change or clean when dirty.

Have a professional tune-up of your heating system every other year.

Replace your older, 60% efficient furnace with one of at least 90% efficiency.

Plan Update (cont'd) - by Marge Liss

Other Highlights and Plan Recommendations

The plan (pages 16-31) has recommendations broken down into "Safe Homes, Streets and places", "Retaining a Strong Housing Market", "Strengthening Neighborhoods and Families", "Getting to Jobs Shopping and Services", "Walking, Gathering, and Enjoying All Places", and "Accessing Career Opportunities". Each of the plan recommendations has a lead implementation group, a city implementation action step, neighborhood action steps and a time horizon for implementation. Some estimated costs and sources of revenue to fund the recommendation are suggested. But the city cautions: "Plan implementation of neighborhood projects and programs is contingent upon available resources. Policy makers are responsible for the allocation of resources for the entire City and thus funding for the Southwest Neighborhood Plan recommendations will be weighed against other worthy projects citywide. Because of scarce resources, it will be important to understand that city/public funding of proposed improvements is and will be in competition with existing projects, and in many cases, will require special earmarking of funding to undertake projects as well as ongoing maintenance costs. Securing funding from outside sources, leveraging funding with other available funding, or dovetailing proposed new projects with planned projects will help in implementing the desired activities and projects."(p. 50)

Monies: The Southwest Plan has some earmarked Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG) funding over the next two years to implement eligible neighborhood improvement projects. Approximately \$120,000 is targeted to be spent to carry out the neighborhood's top CDBG recommendations which include: \$20,000 for capital enhancement to Prairie Hills Garden (located in Lucy Lincoln Hiestand Park) and establishment of up to three new gardens at Hammersley Park, Meadowood Park and Park Ridge Greenway. Specific use will be left to the neighborhoods that apply to the gardens panel and the decisions of the gardens panel and CAC. \$70,000 for down payments to eligible homebuyers in the Bettys Lane/Theresa Terrace/Hammersley area with the condition that buyers have homeowner education and that repaid loans are used for future down payments in the Bettys Lane/Theresa Terrace area. If funds are not being committed within the first 9 - months of operations then the target area should be expanded to the Russet/Balsam and Park Edge/Park Ridge areas. The Community Development Authority is exploring ways to sell some Community Development Authority property in the area to provide additional ownership opportunities in the area. \$20,000 for park improvements of Hammersley Park to improve safety including the creation of walking paths and additional lighting. \$10,000 low interest loan or grant program for income eligible properties for security improvements for properties that demonstrate a neighborhood benefit. Any funds remaining after project completion of the

gardens or park improvement project are targeted to the down payment program."(p.51) The final step of the implementation process is for the Alderpersons and Neighborhood Associations to monitor plan implementation. "As part of the adoption process, the Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development (Planning Division) will submit status reports to the Common Council on plan recommendation implementation. It will be important for the neighborhood to strategically campaign for plan implementation. It is crucial that neighborhood associations develop a strategy for plan implementation. Governmental officials, City departments, and non-profit organizations must be strategically approached for funding during their annual budget cycles."(p.51)

Planning Process Accomplishments

During the planning process, the Southwest Neighborhood Steering Committee accomplished several activities/projects:

- A joint meeting of the current neighborhood associations, Greentree, Meadowood, Orchard Ridge, Prairie Hills, was organized to begin discussing ways to work together. One project that is currently being discussed is e-Neighbors: an electronic bulletin board to share information across neighborhood boundaries.
- To explore improved communications within the neighborhood, the Southwest Neighborhood Steering Committee initiated a joint meeting with the public and parochial school principals to explore opportunities to

(cont p3)

Plan Update (cont'd) - by Marge Liss

work together on activities and projects. Falk Elementary School is planning to host community wide events as the result of the meetings.

- The Southwest Neighborhood Steering Committee worked with area residents to prepare a grant application for the establishment of the first community garden in the southwest area. A grant was awarded for garden development at Lucy Lincoln Heistand Park. The Prairie Hills Community Garden was opened this spring with over 17 families participating at the site.
- Urban League of Greater Madison was contacted to discuss employment issues in

the neighborhood. The Southwest Neighborhood Steering Committee wanted a better connection with large employers (such as CUNA Mutual) with the potential labor force along the Raymond Road area. Urban League Greater Madison received \$7,500 from the Allied and Emerging Neighborhood Grant for job training in the neighborhood.

- As part of revitalization strategy for the area, the Community Development Authority (CDA) has recently approved staff to explore the development of a new program to allow the conversion/sale of CDA rental housing to affordable homeownership in the Bettys-Theresa-Hammersley

Sub Area (p. 52)

So neighbors, it is an exciting time for you to get on-board. Contact our president Nicky Morris and tell her where you would like to help. Part of the plan recommendations is to “establish [a] neighborhood coalition (i.e. Planning Council) of neighborhood associations and stakeholders to address neighborhood safety issues.” Our Southwest neighborhoods have this great opportunity to work together to accomplish our goal of making our neighborhood a place to grow up and grow old.



Home Heating Safety Tips from the Madison Fire Dept

In the US, heating sources are one of the leading causes of residential fires, and with colder weather on the way, many Madison residents will be turning on heating systems that have not been used since Spring.

Most fires involving furnaces take place at night when people are asleep. As such the most important step in home heating safety is to make sure your smoke detectors are in working condition. Wisconsin state law requires a smoke detector on each floor level, and one should also be installed in the area adjacent to your furnace.

The next most important step in home heating safety is to make sure that your furnace is operating properly and safely, and furnace flues, pipes, and chimneys should be inspected as well. Madison Gas and Electric, Alliant Energy, or a heating contractor should be contacted if you have questions or problems regarding the heating unit in your home. In homes with gas furnaces, carbon monoxide detectors are strongly recommended.

Finally, filters should be changed at the beginning of the heating season and then checked monthly to make sure there is adequate air flow.

Update from Mayor Dave - by Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

The new city budget makes unprecedented investments in public safety. While most of the focus has been on the 30 new police officers that are being added, the budget also brings new resources to programs that address the root causes of crime.

Investing in public safety is not something new for my administration. In last year's budget, we added 10 new police officers; the year before, we added 8. For the first time since the early 1990's, we are making these investments without the benefit of the federal COPS program, which helped local communities hire new police officers.

Adding 30 new police officers to the force will go a long way towards improving the safety of our neighborhoods. But we didn't stop there. This budget takes a comprehensive approach to public safety that also includes:

- Three new building inspectors to ensure that properties throughout the city are being properly maintained. In conjunction with our new chronic nuisance abatement ordinance, we now have powerful new tools to the problematic properties and landlords that detract from entire neighborhoods.
- New park rangers to enhance public safety in our city parks, assist park patrons as needed and work with the Madison Police Department and other city agencies to address any park-related issues.
- An additional graffiti reduction crew, allowing the city to respond more quickly to graffiti cleanup needs, and suppress this gang-related activity.
- Doubling the size of my Emerging Neighborhoods Fund, giving the city more resources to respond quickly to problems before they become more serious and more expensive to deal with.
- A “neighborhood indicators” pilot program, in which we will create an “early warning system” for neighborhood health, by tracking data such as crime, poverty and education rates in specific neighborhoods.

At listening sessions this fall throughout the city, Madisonians made it clear that addressing public safety issues should be a priority. We heard that message, and responded with historic new investments to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Contact Information for Your Area Alder

District 1 – Jed Sanborn

Home Address:
12 Cherbourg Ct
Madison, WI 53711
Phone: 608-278-9426
district1@cityofmadison.com

Common Council Office:
210 Martin Luther King,
Jr. Blvd, Room 417
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 266-4071
Fax: (608) 267-8669
TTY: (608) 267-8670

District 7- Zach Brandon

Home Address:
3526 Mammoth Trl
Madison, WI 53719
Phone: 877-258-2641
district7@cityofmadison.com

Common Council Office:
210 Martin Luther King,
Jr. Blvd, Room 417
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 266-4071
Fax: (608) 267-8669
TTY: (608) 267-8670

District 20 – Thuy Pham-Remmele

Home Address:
5406 Denton Pl
Madison, WI 53711
Phone: 608-274-0752
district20@cityofmadison.com

Common Council Office:
210 Martin Luther King,
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Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 266-4071
Fax: (608) 267-8669
TTY: (608) 267-8670

Updates from Area Alders

PHNA asked all three of our area Alders to provide a statement for the newsletter updating us on what they have been doing for our neighborhood. The following are the responses we received.

District 1 – Jed Sanborn



The 2008 budget process is complete and all in all I believe the news is good. While I would have liked the Council to make more hard choices to restrain spending, the critical issues all went well. The effort to reduce the number of new police from the Chief and Mayor's request was unsuccessful which means we will be adding 30 new police officers in the 2008 budget. We are also adding more building inspectors to a department that, like the police, is stretched thin. My hope is that will lead to more systematic inspections of the deteriorating properties in Prairie Hills and around the city.

Prior to the budget process the Council overwhelmingly passed the chronic nuisance ordinance. While limited in scope, this ordinance will provide the police and city attorney a strong tool to hold responsible those landlords who do not make even a minimal effort to screen their tenants or respond to police concerns. The ordinance had some initial vigorous opposition and would not have passed so decisively if not for the message sent to the city by residents, particularly on the southwest side.

The critical question is; will we see a noticeable improvement in the area, and if so, how quickly? This is where continued feedback and communication will be so important. We have taken only the most preliminary steps and the follow through will be just as important. Thanks to the involvement of the residents of the southwest side, public safety has taken on a new urgency in city government but we all know how quickly that can change. My priorities will not change. In the coming year I will be focused on the follow up to increased public safety efforts, the upcoming police staffing study to be completed, the building of a new far west fire station, and the addition of another ambulance in the 2009 budget.

Please stay in touch – I hope to hear in the next year that improvements are noticeable and ongoing.

Jed Sanborn

District 20 – Thuy Pham-Remmele:



This is my first experience working on our City Budget and I am determined to keep Madison fiscally sound while basic City Services are improved and our taxes are acceptable. I am devoting a large amount of my time to this important task. The recently approved WI Budget is more favorable to Madison than expected, and the closing of several Tax Incremental Financial Districts (TIF) provides Madison a windfall this year.

The challenge for our city is to spend wisely and not set us up for a budget crisis next year.

My last few months have been packed with productive interactions with Mayor Dave and Police Chief Wray. I am pleased to report that our District 20 has become the most visible and has set an example of civic engagement for other districts. Both our Aug. 8th Listening & Sept. 13th Response Sessions had tremendous turnouts. Our great success resulted in Madison Police Department receiving unprecedented resources to protect our safety and quality of life. The Mayor, after hearing us "loud and clear," has declared Public Safety his top priority and I have pledged my full support to him in this initiative. The Chronic Nuisance Abatement Ordinance was recently passed 18-2 at City Council, ending a 2 years' stalemate on the issue. This is a great start and we must continue working with MPD in good faith and make sure our resources are used wisely. I strongly encourage everybody to join our Neighborhood Watch and be the eyes and ears for our community. The continued efforts of area volunteers in organizing and maintaining our watches in collaboration with MPD are greatly appreciated. I am working on obtaining some city funding to recognize and support these important efforts.

My sincere gratitude to ALL area Volunteers and City Staff who have put in numerous hours serving on the Southwest Steering Committee and have brought our District a beautiful, well-thought out plan that is the envy of other neighborhoods.
(cont'd on next page)

Eggnog Anyone?

The holidays often bring us many days for celebration that often include alcohol. Too many people die every year from being hit by a drunk driver, and sadly many of those drivers thought they were fine to drive. Here are some tips to keep you safe and some dispelled myths:

- It takes at least an hour to process one alcoholic drink, depending on your body type and food consumption
- Coffee does NOT make you sober
- Just ONE drink can impair your ability to drive
- Before you go to the party, have a plan for how to get home, whether it's a designated driver, taxi/bus or sleeping-over.

The holidays should be full of fun and cheer, please help keep it that way.

Updates from Area Alders (cont'd)

The Community Development Bloc Grants Commission and I were especially impressed with Durrell Rammer, Lisa Subeck, and Tim Johnson who did a splendid job presenting the plan and got unanimous approval of \$120,000 CDBG funding for several area projects. Based on recommended priorities from this SW Neighborhood Plan, I am . I am pushing for both expanded facilities and enhanced services at Meadowridge Branch Library. I am also fighting for a Neighborhood Center in the Meadowood Mall to serve the needs of area youths, seniors, and families. I am soliciting City funding of \$25,000 to initiate satellite services and another \$20,000 to conduct a feasibility study for a permanent Center in our District. The Mayor and several other alders have agreed to sponsor my

initiative.

Please observe City regulations on Leaf Collection and Alternative Parking that are already in effect. If you feel that you would rather have the smaller trash bin (65 gallon instead of 95) please visit cityofmadison.com./streets. or contact Street Division at 266-4681 to request a replacement.

Whenever my hectic schedule permits I attend meetings of all four Neighborhood Associations in District 20. It has been a pleasure to meet and work more with you at these gatherings. Please let me hear from you on issues of importance to our community. I can be contacted via email: district20@cityofmadison.com or by telephone (608) 957-4433, at 5406 Denton Place.

My best wishes to Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association Board for a successful membership drive. I wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season as we wrap up 2007. We have much to be thankful for and I am honored given the chance to represent our District.

Thuy Pham-Remmele

District 7 – Zach Brandon



- No Response Received

responsiblenergy



idea.



better idea.

Think about this. When you change from incandescent to energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, you'll save on energy costs and plug into Cash Rewards from Focus on Energy (go to focusonenergy.com).

For more bright ideas, visit mge.com/lighting,

or call our Home Energy Line at 252-7117.

mge

your community energy company

GS1325 09/28/2007

Falk Talk - by Karen Deaton

Something Great in 2008!

Open Schoolhouse evenings will begin at Falk Elementary School January 8. Every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the school will be open and staffed for Falk families and others to explore the library and computer lab free of charge. There will also be a math corner in the library with toys and games that make math fun. In partnership with Joining Forces for Families (JFF), Mike Bruce, MSSW, will be available to assist families with connecting to community resources, housing issues, job searches, etc. Meeting space will be available free of charge during Open Schoolhouse hours for organizations such as neighborhood associations or scout troops to hold meetings or classes. For more information, call Sara Kneueve (204-2203).

Courage Assemblies

Every month, Falk has a whole-school assembly for fun and entertainment, as well as recognition for achievements. Visitors are welcome. Just sign in at the Falk office at about 1:45, then proceed to the gym to join in the fun until about 2:30. Recent programs have included a Vietnamese opera singer and a UW Spirit day,

complete with marching band, UW athletes, and Bucky. Mark your calendars with these dates for future assemblies:
December 7
January 11
February 8
March 7
April 4
May 2
June 6

Schools of Hope Needs Volunteers!

Why Schools of Hope?

1 – NEED – In our school district, nearly half of children entering kindergarten come from low-income families. Over 1/3 of the students qualify for English as a Second Language instruction. There is a serious gap in early literacy and early math skills that is evident along the lines of family income, ethnicity/race, and English proficiency. Providing additional support to these children early on is critical to their success throughout school and later in life. Until third grade children learn to read, after third grade they read to learn. If students have not become proficient readers by third grade, they risk falling even farther behind each year.

2 – TRAINING – Schools of Hope provides periodic training that is invaluable to

tutors. Sessions cover a range of topics from basic literacy and math tutoring techniques to methods for engaging reluctant readers to cultural information. Improved techniques and understanding will make you a more effective volunteer.

3 – EVIDENCE and IMPACT – In the decade since the project's inception, the racial achievement gap on the third grade reading test has been nearly eliminated. School Superintendent Art Rainwater has in part attributed this improvement to tutors working with Schools of Hope.

4 – SUPPORT and RESOURCES – Matt Matysik, the AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator, works exclusively with Falk and Orchard Ridge to place, train, and support volunteers. Placement through Schools of Hope ensures communication between students, volunteers, and teachers and provides appropriate and worthwhile tutoring activities.

Join the Schools of Hope Project to make a difference with K-5 students in Madison schools! To learn more, contact Matt at 204-2346 or via e-mail at <mmatysik@madison.k12.wi.us>.



Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and help them become what they are capable of being.
Goethe

Prairie Hills Community Gardens

Registration Day for the 2008 growing season at Prairie Hills Community Garden is tentatively scheduled for 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, at Falk School. Watch the website for details. If you wish to receive information by mail, contact the garden registrar Karen Deaton at 278-8480 or karendeaton@tds.net.

Halloween Coffee and PHNA Sign Party - by Marge Liss

The PHNA coffee and sign handout was held on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at Lucy Lincoln Heistand Park. The weather cooperated wonderfully with a touch of cool and some sun. The park was beautiful with the leaves golden and falling. In this gorgeous setting, our neighbors met for hot coffee, hot chocolate,

warm mulled cider, treats and good conversation. We caught up with old friends and made some new friends. We also passed out some of the new PHNA signs for folks to display. Some of the pictures show the good spirits present. Sorry about the Halloween pun. I just couldn't help it. Seriously, if you still need a sign for your

lawn, just contact Nicky Morris at info@prairiehillsna.org. Thanks to everyone who made treats and to those who set up and organized the event and to those who organized the distribution of neighborhood association signs. You make this neighborhood a wonderful place to live!



Mark Your Calendars



January 2008

- GRAND OPENING OF NEW WEST SIDE YOGA STUDIO!** – Looking for a convenient place to take yoga, pilates or bodywork classes? Visit A Way of Life Yoga & Body Works, LLC at 6510 Grand Teton Plaza, Ste 102 and experience a full schedule of multi-level classes, great rates, and qualified instructors. Join us for our Grand Opening **Jan 5-12**. Discounted classes await you and the whole family, as well as a Celebration Day of food, beverages, complimentary chair massages, body work and entertaining demos. All event proceeds will be donated to Community Shares of Wisconsin. For more info, call Debbie Knuth at 347-9390 or log on to www.awayoflifeyoga.com.
- Would your family know what to do if you were unable to communicate your healthcare wishes? If you're not sure, HospiceCare Inc. encourages you to attend its next question-and-answer seminar, "A Gift to Your Family: Advance Care Planning," on **Tuesday, January 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** at the Don & Marilyn Anderson HospiceCare Center, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway in Madison. The free seminar will help participants get started in preparing their own advance directive, a document that makes an individual's healthcare wishes clear to family, friends and healthcare professionals. For more information, please call Carrie Glantz, HospiceCare public affairs, at (608) 327-7202.
- Montessori Children's House will hold an informational session about Montessori elementary education on **Thursday, January 24, 2008, at 7:00 PM**. Parents are invited to learn about MCH's unique approach to the Montessori method. The school is located at 5520 Medical Circle, across the street from the west-side YMCA. Visitors will need to drive to the back of the building to get to the elementary classroom. For more information about the school and its upcoming events, call Phyllis Kosterman at 204-0816 or email pjkosterman@yahoo.com. The school also has a website at www.madisonmontessori.org
- Monday, January 28th, 7:00 – Neighborhood Watch meeting** -West Police District station. Officer Caleb Bedford will be leaving as our neighborhood officer. Come to the meeting to meet our new officer and get an update on the neighborhood.

Adapted from *Snow, Road Salt and the Chesapeake Bay* by Tom Schueler, Center for Watershed Protection

For safety reasons, we need to keep driveways and sidewalks clear of ice and snow. However, choosing the right product and using it correctly is important to help protect our water resources.

1. Shovel early, shovel often. There is no substitute for muscle and elbow grease for snow and ice removal. Deicers work best when there is only a thin layer of snow or ice that must be melted. Remove as much snow as you can during the storm if possible. Use a hoe or other tools to chip or scrape ice off the surface before any deicers are applied. If you have a problem with ice forming, determine the source and divert the melting snow away from your sidewalks and driveway to an area where ice won't be a problem.

2. Buy early. Make sure to buy your deicing product well before the big storm hits, otherwise you will be looking at empty shelves, and have few, if any, environmental choices to make at the store.

3. Check the label. The table adjacent shows how the main ingredients of common de-icing products compare. Check the package closely to see what you're buying—often a product may contain several of the ingredients listed below, but the first one listed is usually the main ingredient.

4. Apply salt early, but sparingly. Whether you choose calcium chloride, magnesium chloride or sodium chloride, a little goes a long way. Applying additional salt won't speed up the melting process, so follow directions for application carefully and

remember to first remove as much snow and ice as you can. The recommended application rate for sodium chloride is about a handful per square yard. Calcium chloride works at much colder temperatures and you need a lot less (about a handful per three square yards—about the area of a single bed). Choose calcium chloride over sodium chloride when you can.

5. Avoid kitty litter and ashes. Although these products may seem environmentally friendlier, they don't work to melt snow and ice—they merely provide some traction. Also, they often result in a mess on your floors. If you're looking for traction, stick with sand, which is cheaper and easier to sweep up.

On the label:	Works Down to:	Cost	Environmental Concerns
Calcium Chloride	-25 degrees F	3 times more than rock salt	Uses lower doses No Cyanide Chloride impact
Magnesium Chloride	5 degrees F	n/a	less toxic and safer for environment than calcium chloride
NaCl: Sodium Chloride or "rock salt"	15 degrees F	about 5 bucks for a 50 pound bag	Contains cyanide Chloride impacts
Urea	20 to 25 degrees F	5 times more than rock salt	Needless nutrients Less Corrosion
Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)	22 to 25 degrees F	20 times more than rock salt	Less toxic
Sand	No melting effect	about 3 buck for a 50 lb bag	Accumulates in streets and streams; needs to be swept up

Officers

President – Nicky Morris

Vice President – Mary Sullivan

Treasurer – Margie Schwantes

Secretary – Vacant

Neighborhood Watch – Vacant

PHNA Committee: Marge Liss, Margie Schwantes, Linda Stache, Nicky Morris and Chris Morris

PHNA email:
info@prairiehillsna.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.prairiehillsna.org

Message from the President - by Nicky Morris

As the 2007 year comes to an end, we look back on our accomplishments and also plan for even more accomplishments in 2008. The past six months have been action packed with listening sessions, lots of letter writing, attending city council meetings and even more letter writing all in the name of a safer neighborhood.

The roots are planted and now it's up to everyone, including you and me, to carry things through. I encourage all of you to spend some time looking at the Southwest Plan (see Marge Liss' article on page one) developed by the SW Plan Steering Committee. There are some terrific ideas in there. But at this point, *they are just ideas*. Now we must begin, as a

neighborhood, to bring these ideas to fruition. The best way to do this is for all of us to contribute in some way, big or small.

How can you help? Well, I'm glad you asked! The PHNA is in need of a Secretary and a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. Both these positions are vital to maintaining a strong neighborhood association. We also need people to plan events (even if it's just one a year), work on the playground renovation project, or deliver newsletters in June. We're also looking to add a teen committee for teen events, so any interested young people should feel free to get involved too. More opportunities will become available as we move

forward.

I'd love to hear your ideas too. If there's a topic that is calling to you from the Southwest Plan or an idea of your own, please share it with me.

We made big headway with the city getting them to pay attention to our safety concerns, but we must stay engaged and active. Together we can really make a difference.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday, and all the best as we move into a new year. Let it be more glorious than the last.

PAY ONLINE
Credit card payments
are accepted at:
www.prairiehillsna.org

Welcome to Prairie Hills Neighborhood

To join the Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association, please fill out the form below and mail it with your membership dues to: Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 44674, Madison, WI 53744-4674.

Check One: New Member **OR** Current Member Renewal

Name: _____ Phone – Home: _____

Address: _____ Work: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Check the appropriate boxes below:

Membership for year 2007: \$5.00 per household

*Note: If your family is unable to afford membership, you can receive a free membership by attending a neighborhood watch meeting and speaking with the treasurer.

I would like to give more: \$ _____

I prefer to receive the newsletter by email or mail

I would like my newsletter to be in Spanish (we are working to try and get a Spanish version of this newsletter)