



Under the Oaks

Nakoma Neighborhood News

www.mynakoma.org
March 2009

Mind Your Mail

By Ed Rataj, Neighborhood Watch Chair

While Nakoma is a safe neighborhood, there are occasionally safety concerns that we need to be aware of. Recently, mail has been taken from neighbors' mailboxes. Most of this mail was found torn open, leaving the police to suspect that the persons responsible were looking for gift cards or cash.

Likewise, outgoing mail is an easy target for anyone looking to get a hold of your financial information and assume your identity. To keep your mail safe and to avoid identity theft, place bill payments in an official federal mailbox, rather than leaving them unattended in your own mailbox. Consider doing the same with all outgoing mail.

Beyond managing your mail, there are things we can all do to keep our neighborhood safe.

Pay attention to what is happening in our neighborhood. Alert your neighbors and police to any unusual or suspicious people or activity.

Get to know your neighbors. Where do they live? What kind of cars do they drive? This is still the best way to differentiate usual from unusual.

Leave outside lights on at night. Criminals like the dark.

ALWAYS lock doors and windows in your house and your car. Don't leave wallets, purses, money or gifts in plain sight.

Do not let strangers in your house or car.

When in doubt, report. If something makes you uncomfortable or seems wrong, it probably is. Alert the police, your neighbors, and the block captain listed for your street in the Nakoma directory. You can also contact me at 232-0099 or the email address below.

If you would like to receive neighborhood watch email alerts, please provide your contact information to me at edrataj62@yahoo.com, if you haven't already.

Host Home Needed for Tulip Appetizer Course

Can You Help?

The 32nd annual Nakoma League Tulip Time Progressive Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, May 2. We all know that the Tulip dinner is a great opportunity to meet or reacquaint yourself with friends and neighbors, and enjoy the atmosphere of some of Nakoma's most beautiful homes. This year, however, we are without a host home for the appetizer course for this beloved neighborhood event.

Hosting such a large crowd (roughly 100) may seem overwhelming, but the Nakoma League and its many volunteer supporters do the bulk of the work (set up, food prep and most of the clean up). All you have to do is coordinate with the planners in advance and have your house ready that evening. The League is more than happy to rent a tent if needed to extend your entertaining space. Please consider hosting, and contact League co-president Carla McDonald at 274-9009 or cmmcd@charter.net ASAP.

If a host house is found, the Tulip dinner will go on and those who have RSVPed will be notified of the appetizer home via email or phone (for those that don't have access to email). If a host house is not found, RSVPs will be returned and the event will be cancelled. Either way, the status will be posted on the League website at www.mynakoma.org.

Don't Wait to RSVP

The invitation enclosed with this newsletter is the only one you will receive. We ask that you submit your reservation soon, so you can be notified of the host house status. We need to know that you're interested in attending so that we can keep you posted.

The League is optimistic that the show will go on, so having a count is just as important this year as ever from the planning and preparation standpoint.

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Neighbors Gather for Pre-Show Parties and Dinner

Before the opening overture for this year's Twelfth Night began, Nakoma neighbors gathered at three area houses for cocktails, nibbles, and lots of catching up and laughter. Special thanks to Sally and Ed Gleason, Nancy and Jim Zellmer, and Annemarie and Paul Banas for kicking off the evening's fun by hosting the pre-dinner cocktail parties at their homes.

Then it was off, through an unseasonably warm night, to Westminster Presbyterian Church, where everyone enjoyed a delightful meal provided by Picasso's prior to the show. Thanks again this year to both Westminster and Picasso's for helping us make the pre-show dinner a big success.

Special thanks to Julie Bauhs and Stephanie Key for their tireless efforts in making sure the 85th annual Twelfth Night event was as big a hit as it always has been. As we heard at the show, this is probably the oldest ongoing community event in the city of Madison. And with the great volunteer efforts of so many Nakoma neighbors, it will continue for quite some time.

Lotsa Laughs in "Lotsahostastan"

Those tired of the depressed economy found comic relief at this year's Twelfth Night production of "The Monarch of Miami Pass or The Rise & Fall of the Lotsahostastan Empire." The play marked 85 years of Nakomans entertaining their neighbors, and is believed to be the longest neighborhood tradition in Madison.

As the "Monarch of Miami Pass," Ray (Mark Consigny) is a typical Nakoma resident who has grown weary of the depressing local and global news and decides to become master of his own destiny. Aided by his wife, Regina (KT Arnesen), and his entrepreneur-minded children, Brittany (Danielle Kamps) and the son known as "Prince" (Robert Gake), Ray declares that his property is now an independent "micro-nation" and he is the king.

The kingdom of "Lotsahostastan" is staffed by a French maid, cook and butler (Carol Gepner, Sandy Curran and Dave Dwyer). But, it isn't long before the royal family is alienating their neighbors with their royal behavior and their grandiose plan of flooding their property for their own private "navy". Television exposure from ace reporter Roxanne Riviera and cameraman Cam Sureshot (Amy Kruger, Mike McKenna) inflates the egos, but fame turns to disappointment when Ray is shut out of the softball team and Regina misses the newsletter and Nakoma's social events. The "Box Turtles," Nakoma's softball team (Mike McKenna, Rob Lux, Dale Bjorling, Jon Furlow, Dennis McGilligan, Bob Phillips) celebrate their "hot streak" with a bring-down-the-house song and dance number, while Ray sings the blues.



Walgenbach and Amy Kruger; lighting maven Jessup LeBarron; set designers and prop procurers Rob Lux and Ron Binter; videographer Ron Curran, video; and graphic designer KT Arnesen.

As we look to continue this fine tradition for the 86th year, Twelfth Night needs dedicated cast and crew members. A casting call will be published in the fall newsletter, and Twelfth Night players always appreciate playing to a full house. So, plan now to join Twelfth Night 2010, either on the stage or in the audience.



To make matters worse, the city's zoning czar, Linus Tooclose (Stuart Levitan), denies Ray's request to create a pond that will flood his neighbor's garden. Neighbors (Rebecca Dahl Dwyer, Mary Louis Griffin, Nanci Bjorling, Bud Smith) and the Box Turtles celebrate the good news with song and juggling vegetables. Lonely and disillusioned, the royal family decides to disband their kingdom and re-join the neighborhood with all its activities and friendly residents.

Besides the actors who put in numerous rehearsal hours, credit goes to: producer Betty Buchanan; writers and directors Nanci Bjorling and Bruce Geiger; musicians Bruce Geiger and Emily Wixson; choreographers Sarah



Nakomans Show Generosity through Adopt a Family

The holidays can be especially tough for families in economic times like these. Yet, once again, the generous residents of Nakoma provided gifts and some much-needed items to 12 mothers and their children at the YWCA Third Street.

YWCA contact Nancy Wrenn Bauch summed it up by saying, "Thank you, thank you for all of your good work bringing the gifts to the 3rd Street families."

All of the gifts were made possible through the financial and gift contributions of neighbors. While some Nakomans shopped for entire families, others shopped for individuals and still others contributed cash donations with which League volunteers did the shopping. Each contribution, no matter the size, made a difference. With \$2250 in cash contributions from a total of 53 households, the League provided all residents with received gifts from their wish lists, as well as gift bags including some essentials. We were even able to give gift bags to three families in another YWCA program and still have money left over for a lump-sum donation to the 3rd Street program. These funds will be used by the YWCA to purchase something special to benefit all of its residents.

Leading the charge on Adopt a Family again this year was Beth Kugler. Nakoma League treasurer Kay Kamps supported Beth by handling all financial contributions. Beth Rogers kindly stored all gifts in her home until the time of delivery. Annemarie Banas shopped for and provided food items for each family. Their efforts were supplemented with the shopping assistance of Patti Glasz, Julie Bauhs, Jill McNaughton, Tasha Bremel, Carole Bain and Kim Walters.

This year, hard-working Girl Scout Troop 100 donated their time and energy to wrap gifts, fill gift bags and help deliver items to the YWCA. They also adopted a family. Troop 100's much appreciated efforts were orchestrated by troop leaders Katie Arnesen and Heidi Vierstra.

The following households purchased gifts: Petri, Timme, Zellmer, Bastian, Hyzer, Weber & Campbell, Durham, Arnesen, Still, McDonald & Everts, Bauhs, Walters, Pfau, McGuire & Nelson.

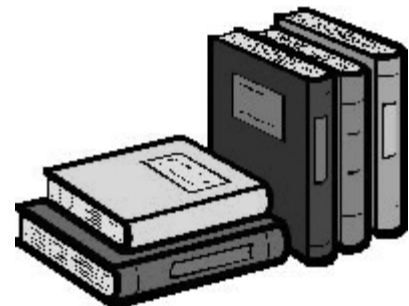
These households made financial contributions: Laurie Anderson, Andes, Becker, Blumenfeld, Brisdon, Buchanan, Carne, Champagne & Blesner, Cook, Damm, J. & J. Davis, DeAngeles & Kruger, Dieter, Douma, Eichhorn, Frei, Gepner, Gleason, Greer, Helgeson, Holm, Hostetler, Jain, Kahan, Kazamias, Keehn, Kugler, Levy, Leyer, Luebke & Leeds, Magnuson, McIntosh & James, Moore, Morgenbesser, Moser, O'Connor, Odders-White, Reynolds, Rice, Ritter, Robinson, Rose, Rubin, Schaak, Schindler, Simenstad, T. & J. Smith, Younger, Walters, Welch, Widder, Wood, and Zimmerman.

A Legacy of Books

For more than 15 years, the Nakoma League has sponsored the Gift of Reading program, designed to promote literacy and to provide books for children, especially books they can keep. This year we asked our fellow Nakomans to nominate recipients. The League Board reviewed the nominees and decided to divide the monies collected equally between all five terrific nominees.

From the total neighborhood contributions of \$1375, we will send checks for \$275 to four of the recipients: First Book -- Dane County which distributes new books to area children; the Kennedy Heights Community Center's family and children's book clubs; MADELINE (Madison and Dane County Encourages Literacy In Pediatric Environments) which provides books to "graduates" of the Meriter Newborn Intensive Care Unit; and the Sequoya Branch of the Madison Public Library. The League will purchase \$275 worth of children's books for the waiting room at the health clinic of the Allied Wellness Center, serving the Allied, Belmar and Dunn's Marsh neighborhoods. This year, the Gift of Reading was single-handedly coordinated by Carla McDonald, Nakoma League co-president.

Many thanks are due to our generous neighbors who support this program year in and year out. Thanks also to the neighbors who nominated these great recipients, many of whom also volunteer with the program they nominated. This year's Gift of Reading was supported by the following residents: Brandon, Buchanan, Buckner, Campbell & Weber, Carne, Douma, Eggl & Binter, Gallagher, Gepner, Glasz, Greer, Holm, James & McIntosh, Jones, Kazamias, Leubke & Leeds, Levy, Leyer, Magnuson, Moore, Morganbesser, Moser, Read, Reynolds, Rose, Schindler, Simenstad, Somers, Stetson, Waggoner, Walters, Widder, Wood, Zimmerman, and Zutter.



We Need You

Each year, the Nakoma League Board works hard to offer neighbors a full slate of popular social events. None of these events can exist or succeed without the support of all the neighbors who attend, volunteer and host.

The greatest contribution you can make as an attendee is to submit your RSVP in a timely manner. Nakoma's social events involve food and refreshments, coordinated by volunteer planners. The children's events also offer prizes and other goodies. Because arrangements for food and goodies need to be made well in advance, please make your reservations in on time.

When RSVPing, we also ask your assistance. All of the event RSVP forms offer volunteer opportunities. Whether it's offering to help with food or giving your time to set up or clean up, your contributions are both needed and appreciated.

Finally, Nakoma has a fine tradition of hosting neighborhood events at each other's homes. This tradition is probably the most distinctive aspect of many League social events. Recently, it has been challenging to find host homes for our larger events (Fall Gathering and see the request for a Tulip appetizer home). An earlier request for host homes to place in a database resulted in very few offers.

While it may seem like an overwhelming commitment, hosting a League event is usually as simple as cleaning the house, allowing for set up and opening the door to guests. League volunteers do all the shopping, prep and clean up. Please consider your ability and willingness to host in the future and contact co-president Kim Walters at kcwalters@sbcglobal.net to add your name to the database.

By working together to make life in the 'hood fun, Nakomans can continue to take advantage of a series of social events like no other neighborhood in Madison.

Dues Update

Thanks very much to all Nakomans who promptly replied to the request for dues in the December 2008 newsletter. So far approximately 35% of Nakoma households have contributed dues.

We won't be distributing 2009 envelopes again, but if you can't find your envelope from December you can just send \$20 payable to Nakoma League to: Kay Kamps, Nakoma League Treasurer, 4021 Mandan Crescent. Please note "Annual Dues" in the memo line.

Ottawa Rep Needed

The Ottawa area needs a new representative to the Nakoma League Board. You don't need to be a long-time Nakoman or a woman to serve as an area rep. You just need to be enthusiastic and interested in getting to know your neighbors. If you're interested in learning more, please contact one of the League co-presidents, noted on the Board list.

NAKOMAL LEAGUE BOARD		
Co-Presidents		
Kim Walters	702 Seneca Place	232-0149
Carla McDonald	4109 Iroquois Drive	274-9009
Secretary		
Nancy Zellmer	4224 Waban Hill	467-4079
Treasurer		
Kay Kamps	4021 Mandan Crescent	233-2880
Cherokee Reps		
Julie Bauhs	4170 Nakoma Road	204-9938
Jill McNaughton	4182 Nakoma Road	238-9287
Chippewa Reps		
Annemarie Banas	938 Waban Hill	231-3014
Beth Rogers	4121 Chippewa Drive	661-9243
Iroquois Reps		
Megan Senatori	1110 Tumalo Trail	239-3413
Mary Timme	4137 Iroquois Drive	469-8899
Oneida Reps		
Angela James	737 Seneca Place	232-5129
Audra McGuire	3622 Spring Trail	921-5286
Ottawa Reps		
Monica Johnson	914 Waban Hill	630-8500
Vacancy		
Seminole Reps		
Tasha Bremel	4146 Country Club	231-1693
Stephanie Key	4206 Wanetah Trail	467-2029
Newsletter Editor & MyNakoma Webmaster		
Gretchen Girard	3721 Odana Road	442-9668
Adopt a Family Coordinator		
Beth Kugler	801 Miami Pass	233-1993
Garage Sale Coordinator		
Liane Kosaki	1101 Seminole Hwy	238-5608
Neighborhood Safety Watch		
Ed Rataj	4129 Yuma Drive	232-0099
Directory Editors		
Jayne & Mike Polelle	4145 Iroquois Drive	271-7684