



Under the Oaks

Nakoma Neighborhood News

December 2007

Once Upon a Halloween

It was another chilly Halloween in Nakoma, but that didn't stop ghosts, goblins and witches of all sizes from enjoying the thrills and chills at the annual Halloween celebration. A good time was had by all - from a pint-sized dragon to a life-sized Mrs. Potato Head and a walking mummy.



A total transformation took place at Flint and Tomi Fleming's Waban Hill home. On the lawn, nearly 250 neighbors gathered for pizza, hot cider and good company, amid Halloween décor galore. Meanwhile, the garage was decked from top to bottom in scary frights and

sights. Eager teenagers couldn't wait to get inside, while their younger counterparts entered with much more trepidation. In the end, they all came out amused and a little spooked.

There is so much that goes into this annual gathering, primarily the time and dedication of spirited neighbors. League Board members Julie Eichorn and Gretchen Brown spearheaded the entire event, while Ruth Ellen Saul led a crew that spent countless hours constructing and de-constructing the eerie garage. The garage literally came alive thanks to the participation of many neighborhood kids, teens and adults. No great event would be complete without goodies, many of which were the products of kitchens throughout Nakoma. So, thanks to all helped and to all who came and enjoyed.



Fall Gathering

Although the weather was cool and rainy, nearly ninety neighbors escaped to the lively warmth of the annual Fall Gathering on November 17th. The evening was filled with fellowship as Nakomans - old and new - met and mingled in Tom and Jane Kuhn's beautiful Waban Hill home. As always, the Fall Gathering offered cold beer, fine wine, and inventive drinks mixed by volunteer



bartenders. Party-goers filled the home with spirited conversation as they sampled from the delicious spread of homemade appetizers prepared by attendees. Everyone left the three-hour event a little better connected to the neighborhood.

Thank you to Nakoma League members Kathy Trace and Mary Timme for organizing the event, to Tom and Jane for opening their home, and to everyone else who contributed to making this year's Fall Gathering such a success.

IN THIS ISSUE	Halloween	1
	Fall Gathering	1
	Mark Your Calendar	2
	Gift of Reading	2
	Sitters and Services	3
	Bulletin Board	4
	Dues / Twelfth Night	ins
	Adopt a Family / Gift of Reading	ins
	Board List	5
	Neighborhood Watch	5
	Need for Seminole Rep	5
	Twelfth Night	6
Nakoma Dues	6	

The Gift of Reading

Each year we ask our neighbors to participate in the Nakoma League Gift of Reading. The money we raise will promote literacy and reading, and provide books to children and others who might not otherwise have access to books or be able to own a book. Donations this year will be divided equally among the Allied Wellness Center, Cherokee Heights Middle School library, the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center, First Book -- Dane County and the Literacy Network (formerly the Madison Literacy Council). All have very worthy reading projects.

The Allied Wellness Center is a neighborhood health center serving the Allied, Belmar, and Dunn's Marsh neighborhoods. The League will purchase children's books for the waiting area, where children are encouraged to take the books home. At Cherokee Heights, the librarian will use the funds to purchase audio books in MP3 format to help struggling readers and English language learners. The Dane County Juvenile Detention Center serves over 500 teens a year and works with the youth there to increase their reading and language skills. The League will provide books for teens to read at the facility or take with them when they leave. First Book -- Dane County is a chapter of the national non-profit organization First Book, which buys books at a substantial discount and distributes them to young readers. The funds we raise will fund the distribution of books in Dane County. The Literacy Network will use the funds to prepare lesson plans and buy materials for the Community Literacy program, an on-site tutoring program with childcare.

We thank you in advance for what we know will be your generous consideration of this fundraising effort. Special thanks to Annie Isenbarger, League rep for Seminole, who reviewed the Gift of Reading program for us, contacting previous and potential recipients and letting us know how the funds will be used. As a teacher, Annie brought her professional expertise to bear on this project and reminded us all of how important reading is.

If you wish to contribute, or have any questions, please contact Annie Isenbarger at 238-1338 or andreaisenbarger@gmail.com. The deadline for contributions is January 11th, 2008. Please see the inserted flyer for details.

Mark Your Calendar

Twelfth Night

Saturday, February 9, 2008

5-6 PM Pre-parties at neighborhood homes

6:30 PM Dinner and an original play for neighborhood adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Contacts: Patti Albertsen, 233-7243, and Angela James, 232-5129

Spring Egg Roll

Saturday, March 22, 2008

10 AM at Nakoma Park

An egg hunt for kids, including breakfast snacks and beverages.

Contacts: Leah Sandholm, 231-3492, and Ann Somers, 238-1290

Tulip Progressive Dinner

Saturday, May 3, 2008

5:30-10 PM

An adult dinner hosted by many neighbors.

Contacts: Carla McDonald, 274-9009, and Kim Walters, 232-0149

Nakoma Garage Sale

Saturday, May 17, 2008

8 AM-1 PM

A good day to sell old treasures and acquire new ones.

Contact: Gretchen Brown, 278-2787

Fourth of July Celebration

Friday, July 4, 2008

11 AM meet at Thoreau School parking lot.

An event for the whole family, featuring a parade, a picnic and games with prizes.

Contacts: Annemarie Banas, 231-3014, and Rebecca Dahl Dwyer, 663-7690

Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATE

Bids for Kids

March 29, 2008

Nakoma Country Club

We are excited to announce that the 3rd "Bids for Kids" fundraiser will be held next spring. "Bids for Kids" is a neighborhood event that has raised over \$50,000 for Thoreau and Cherokee Schools.

The proceeds are deposited in endowment accounts and disbursements from those accounts have allowed the public schools in our neighborhood to add innovative classroom technology and projects that could not be funded by the schools. Continued school budget cuts affect the quality of our local schools. The goal of this fundraiser is to directly support classroom instruction by strengthening the learning environment.

This is a fun, well attended neighborhood event with a live and silent auction, food, drinks, music, dancing, and more.

The success of the event hinges on the generosity of our neighborhood. If you have an idea of an item that you or someone you know could donate (anything from a gift certificate to use of a vacation home), please contact Tom or Birgit Bach (tombach@charter.net or kbach@charter.net/273-9742).

Bat Removal and Advice

Bats in your belfry? Before calling an exterminator, please call a neighbor who understands these critters and speaks their language. Bruce Moore, 238-2587.

Editor/English Tutor

Career English teacher will edit general copy and/or help to improve English skills and writing performance. Call Barb Leuthner at 238-7483 or leuthner@charter.net.

Nakoma residents are encouraged to use this section as a way to communicate with their neighbors. To post information, we ask that you are current on your dues. You are welcome to advertise goods and services, offer homes for sale or rent, and post information about volunteer opportunities. It is not meant as a sounding board for neighbor disputes. Publication dates are centered around neighborhood events; consequently, the exact dates of publication cannot be predicted. To place a notice or submit a story, please e-mail it to editor@MyNakoma.org or send your materials to Gretchen Girard. Please include your full name as well as your address. Additionally, please advise Gretchen if your information is no longer current.

North Atlantic Beach-Front Summer Home

Prince Edward Island, Canada, next to Nova Scotia and Maine is a fisherman, golfer, and beachcomber's delight. Rent a beach-front summer home by the week at a bargain price. Call Margo and Dan Redmond at 233-0215.

Hilton Head Golf/Tennis Condo

2-bd/2-bth luxury cond (Westin property) on HH Island, SC. Pool outside your door, pristine sand beach 5-min walk. Includes greens fees - 4 people/day, 3 on-site courses, 16 tennis courts, all surfaces; pro shop and lessons available. \$1100/wk. Contact Linda Briggs at 271-7356 or email linda_briggs@mononagrove.org.

Volunteer Opportunity

RSVP seeks to improve the quality of life for all Dane County citizens through volunteer service. We have many different volunteer opportunities including driving older adults to medical appointments. Flexible schedule. Mileage reimbursement and excess insurance provided. You can also help by donating leftover craft supplies to RSVP volunteers who make handmade items for those in need. To volunteer or donate, please call Margie Zutter at 663-7536 (w) or 233-0856 (h).

Photography

Specializing in on-location, natural light portraiture. Please contact Kate Huntington if you have any questions or would like to schedule a photo session for your children, family, or special event. 238-7706 or khunting@ameritech.net.

Dog Sitting Coop

Neighbors taking care of each other's pets on a reciprocal basis can provide a better solution than hiring a pet sitter or paying a kennel. Margo Redmond on Miami Pass is trying to organize the network. Call her at 233-0215.

The Hurling Club

The Hurling Club of Madison is seeking people interested in participating in this unique and skillful sport. All levels, ages, men, and women are welcome. Contact Tom Isenbarger at 442-1254 or tom@isenbarger.us.

Quit Smoking

Licensed acupuncturist offers drug free way to quit smoking. Also offering treatments to lower blood pressure w/out medication. Contact Debra Friedman at 236-4500 or info@bioenergyclinic.com.

Bridge Players Arise

Nakoma Neighborhood bridge group needs more couples. We began playing in October, so act now. This group has been functional for 30 years; we play for fun and to get to know our Nakoma neighbors. Subs are also needed. Call Jo Sparks at 273-9904 if you are interested.

NAKOMA LEAGUE BOARD

Co-Presidents

Kim Walters	702 Seneca Place	232-0149
Carla McDonald	4109 Iroquois Drive	274-9009

Secretary

Cyndie Spencer	4206 Mandan Crescent	288-8226
----------------	----------------------	----------

Treasurer

Kay Kamps	4021 Mandan Crescent	233-2880
-----------	----------------------	----------

Cherokee Reps

Gretchen Brown	1030 Waban Hill	278-2787
Julie Eichhorn	4165 Cherokee Drive	231-6737

Chippewa Reps

Rebecca Dahl Dwyer	4112 Yuma Drive	663-7690
Annemarie Banas	938 Waban Hill	231-3014

Iroquois Reps

Mary Timme	4137 Iroquois Drive	469-8899
Kathy Trace	4138 Iroquois Drive	233-7663

Oneida Reps

Patti Albertsen	3717 Council Crest	233-7243
Angela James	737 Seneca Place	232-5129

Ottawa Reps

Leah Sandholm	4022 Council Crest	231-3492
Ann Somers	814 Miami Pass	238-1290

Seminole Reps

Annie Isenbarger	4211 Wanetah Trail	442-1254
Vacancy*		

**MyNakoma.org
Webmaster**

Joey Stocklein	3706 Spring Trail	232-2222
----------------	-------------------	----------

Newsletter Editor

Gretchen Girard	3721 Odana Road	442-9668
-----------------	-----------------	----------

**Adopt a Family
Coordinator**

Beth Kugler	801 Miami Pass	233-1993
-------------	----------------	----------

**Neighborhood Safety
Watch**

Ed Rataj	4129 Yuma Drive	232-0099
----------	-----------------	----------

Directory Editor

Jayne and Mike Polelle	4145 Iroquois Drive	271-7684
------------------------	---------------------	----------

*If you are interested in joining or providing services for the Nakoma League, please feel free to contact an area representative.

Neighborhood Watch Information

By Ed Rataj

We are fortunate to live in a safe area. Most of the incidents that occur in Nakoma are what police term “crimes of opportunity,” and many are committed by amateur criminals. Even so, we need to be proactive to keep the neighborhood safe. Specifically, we should make access more difficult and make it harder for crime to go undetected. The following tips can help:

Always call the police. If the incident is not reported, the police have no way of knowing it happened. The police use such reports to assign police presence to various areas. If you see an incident in progress, call 911. If it has already occurred, call the non-emergency number, **255-2345** (regardless of which of the two police districts that cover Nakoma you reside in). If you see someone acting suspicious, or committing a crime, **do not confront them.** Make sure you are safe and call the police. If you are unsure of which number to call, use 911.

Report the incident to your neighborhood watch block captain or to me after the police have been called. We are listed in the Nakoma directory.

Always lock your doors, windows, cars and garages.

Turn on porch and other outdoor lights, and leave them on until morning. Criminals love the dark.

Pay attention, know your neighbors and be familiar with people who live or have legitimate business in the neighborhood.

Talk to your neighbors and inform them if you see suspicious activity.

Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you uncomfortable or if you feel threatened, get somewhere safe and call the police.

Sign up for the Neighborhood Watch e-mail list that we are trying to create to alert and inform residents of incidents or threats in Nakoma. If you would like to be included in this list, please e-mail me at edrataj62@yahoo.com and include the words “Neighborhood Watch” in the subject line.

Seminole Rep Needed

The Seminole 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, and it’s a great way to get involved in the neighborhood and meet more great neighbors. If you’re interested, please contact one of the League presidents and we’ll tell you all about it.

Join Your Neighbors for 12th Night; Nakoma's Big Night

The Nakoma League invites you to attend the 84th Annual Twelfth Night Dinner and Theater on Saturday, February 9th, 2008. Even more amazing than this record of longevity for the event are the neighbors who work so hard to organize the dinner, host the cocktail parties, and write, produce and perform in an always hilarious and timely musical show. It's entertaining; it's memorable; it's our neighborhood. And as sappy as it sounds, Nakoma's unique and rich history connects us all, and at the end of the evening you'll understand why.

So fill out the form in this newsletter and send in your reservations now because there won't be another newsletter before the big night.

Check the neighborhood map to find which cocktail party you'll attend and note the address on your calendar. Get a sitter from our babysitter list if you need one. And prepare to pull on your snow boots if winter weather threatens because you can always walk to the cocktail party and the Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the show will go on!

Nakoma Dues

As you turn the page to a new calendar year, the Nakoma League begins a new fiscal year. Each year, Nakomans are asked to support the League through voluntary dues of \$20 per household. This funding allows the League to continue to provide the newsletter several times a year, to maintain a neighborhood website and to publish the biennial Nakoma Directory. The newsletters and directory are hand-delivered to every household in Nakoma by League Board members.

2008 dues are being collected during the month of January. This newsletter has the only dues envelope we will be distributing this year, so please consider supporting the League financially by using the enclosed form and envelope to submit your annual payment. By knowing early in the year how many households opt to pay dues, the League will be better able to serve the needs of the neighborhood.

The dues form will also be used to update the 2008 Nakoma Directory this spring, so please take the time to fill it out and send it to our treasurer, Kay Kamps, who will pass it on to the directory editors, Jayne and Mike Polelle. To protect the privacy of our children, we have decided to only publish their birth years in the next directory.

For the first time we are also asking for your email address(es). We think this will make it easier for neighbors to communicate with each other and for the League to communicate with the neighborhood. Rest assured, the League does not share or sell the directory or any information we have about our neighbors.

