

Under the Oaks

JUNE 2014

NAKOMA NEWSLETTER



Photo: 2014 Arboretum

37th Annual Tulip Dinner

On the beautiful spring evening of May 3, 2014, nearly seventy Nakoma neighbors gathered to celebrate the honored progressive dinner tradition known as Tulip Dinner. Guests first assembled at the home of Brenda and John Furlow for the appetizer course. With the sun still shining, many were able to sip local wine and beer while nibbling on the vast array of delicious hors d'oeuvre so graciously provided by volunteer neighbors. At the Furlows is where guests discovered where the night would lead them, literally, as they embarked on the journey of pursuing food and fellowship.

Again this year the neighborhood benefited from the culinary expertise of Lombardino's Italian Restaurant. However for this event, the restaurant provided all three courses including salad, entrée, and

dessert. Nine Nakoma neighbors opened their doors to host the salad course. The "Roasted Corn & Cherry Tomato Salad" included hearty mixed greens, crumbled blue cheese, roasted corn, cherry tomatoes, red onion, and toasted pistachios with a ginger vinaigrette. Many a participant has echoed that this salad was fantastic!

Continuing onto dinner, nine additional Nakoma neighbors welcomed guests into their homes to host the entrée course. Individuals continued to cheerfully open bottles of wine to pair with Lombardino's "Chicken Marabella," an olive and dried fruit marinated chicken breast set on a bed of roasted fingerling potatoes. This, paired with their "Mixed Marinated Vegetables" of artichokes, asparagus, chickpeas, green beans, cauliflower, and roasted peppers with herbed vinaigrette made for a succulent and satisfying main course.

Many a guest, even those who couldn't

find room in their bellies, headed on to the home of Jamie Brandeberg for dessert, drinks, laughter, and good conversation. Here the offering was a delectable serving of tiramisu along with a spread of Wisconsin cheeses and of course more wine.

For 37 years, Tulip Dinner has served as an opportunity to joyfully welcome spring, meet new neighbors, and rekindle friendships after the hibernation of winter. This event could not exist without the help of many volunteers including those families who offer their homes to host, and those that do the shopping, delivering, and organizing. You know who you are and we say thank you! Also a special thank you to this year's coordinators: Amy Bina, Erica Meier, Lindsay Suttin, and Sara Tokheim. The neighborhood looks forward to many more years of celebrating Tulip Dinner through the sharing of good food and fellowship.

by Sara Tokheim

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FOURTH OF JULY

Friday, July 4
Happy Birthday America!
Join neighbors and friends
at Nakoma Park and
celebrate in style.
10:30 AM

COUNCIL CREST BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, August 23
Grab a chair and a dish to
share. The third annual
block party is open to all
neighbors. Join us for this
newest Nakoma event.
1:30 PM

**Details inside for all events*

YOU LIKE US!

Like the “Nakoma Neighbors” group on Facebook for the most up-to-date information on many of the events featured in Under the Oaks.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/49446376140/>



A Special Thank You!

To all of the neighbors who gave generously to the Gift of Reading program this year, we extend our sincere thanks:

Amy Bina, Bill and Sue Bridson, Corlie and Sol Blumenfeld, Gray Family, Heidi Luebke and Peter Leeds, Jan Fullenwider, Jane Eggel and Ron Binter, Jim and Sarah Rose, Keith and Margaret Zutter, Laurie Anderson, Mandel Family, Michael and Laura Holt, Pamela and George Keehn, Paul and Suzanne Buckner, Sandholm Family, Wallace and Peggy Douma.



FUN IS IN SESSION AT NAKOMA PARK

Summer's finally here! Bring your kids to Nakoma Park each week for fun activities like water sports, yard games, athletics, arts and crafts, scavenger hunts, and team-challenge adventures. Kids Clubhouse is a summer program created by neighborhood parents in 2012, in partnership with Nakoma League and KEVA Sports Center. It's a safe and affordable way for kids to play, explore, and grow as they make new friends and build lasting memories close to home.

Kids Clubhouse is open to children ages 4 to 12 on Wednesday afternoons from 1 PM to 4 PM. The clubhouse begins on June 18 and runs until Aug 13 with no class on July 2.

The eight-week program costs \$105 per child with a discount for siblings. Week-by-week registration is available for a rate of \$20 in advance and \$25 for drop-in. Rates are per child.

Registering is easy. Call KEVA at 662-7529 and mention “Nakoma Kids Clubhouse.” Or register online at kevasports.com. Questions? Visit mynakoma.org/kids-clubhouse, contact Deborah Still at 232-2128 or email dstill@jacksonconsultingpr.com.

SUSTAINAKOMA:

GREEN LIVING IS EASY IN THE SUMMERTIME

Summer in Wisconsin is an ideal time to try living a more natural, eco friendly lifestyle. Many of the things that we can do to help conserve our natural resources are easy and low cost. Here are a few examples that you can try during the next few months. Small efforts in our homes will have big results in our neighborhood

Hang your clothes out to dry. The dryer is a wonderful invention but uses a great deal of energy to complete the task. Think of your clothesline as an energy-free appliance.

Walk and Bike. Instead of using the car for short trips, consider walking or riding a bike. Not only will it limit emissions (and save money), it has obvious health benefits as well.

Buy local. Local farmers markets provide fruits, vegetables, and meats that have traveled very few miles to get to you. Bonus – many are grown on small farms without pesticides.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle. Bring your own bags to the grocery store, farmers market, and department store. Use a refillable your water bottle and coffee mug everyday. Donate clothing and items to local aid organizations.

Turn off the lights and turn down the A/C. Use natural light from longer days to illuminate your home. Open windows in the evenings to reduce electricity use and save on energy bills.

For more tips on how to save energy this summer visit focusonenergy.com.

by Jeanne Grist

Call for Nakoma League Board Members

Few neighborhoods in Madison can say they've been fortunate to enough sustain an industrious, all-volunteer group like the Nakoma League. Our organization has been operating strong since 1920, when a group of women took it upon themselves to organize and gather on a regular basis in order to do good for the neighborhood they called home. And since then, the tradition has not only flourished, but grown in members, activities, and events.

It is time once again to fill the ranks of the Nakoma League Board with eager neighbors. Will it be you? We hope so.

We're looking for a data-driven **Treasurer** to oversee our finances and budgeting. Got a strong sense of organization? We need

a **Secretary** to keep League archives and meetings in order. If you're more digitally adept, why not sign on as **Webmaster** for mynakoma.org? And as always, we're looking for **Area Representatives** for general membership. Each role provides the League with a valuable service while simultaneously building your skill set, your relationships with neighbors, and maybe even your resume!

The Nakoma League meets in the evening once a month from September through June. We represent a range of neighbors, including men and women, and welcome all inquiries into new membership. Please contact Lindsay Suttin at lindsay.suttin@yahoo.com for more information.

NAKOMA EGG HUNT: PAYING IT FORWARD

by Melissa Cheeks

"Events like the Egg Hunt are what make our neighborhood shine."

It was a beautiful spring morning, as 80 children and their parents bustled around the oak trees, eagerly waiting for the Egg Hunt to begin. Neighbors caught up with one another over hot coffee, while little ones snuck donut holes when they thought no one was looking. These families came together to enjoy a beloved spring tradition. What they didn't see was the neighborhood that came together behind the scenes, to make it all happen.

If you could peek behind the curtain, you would see the organizers making late night trips to find candy and toys, only to realize that snack bags of Goldfish really don't fit in standard eggs. You would watch the board members stuff hundreds of eggs over laughter and wine. You would find neighbors willing to come together and blow up 100 helium balloons in the early morning, just to see the faces of the neighborhood children light up. Your heart would melt when the "big kids" playing in the park volunteered to hide eggs and make chalk drawings on the sidewalk, as they reminisced about the years they hunted for treasures in the park. You would see a few more "big kids" not only willing, but completely excited to transform kids into bunnies, using sparkly face paint. And yet others were busy setting up games, transporting picnic tables, making coffee runs, and hanging banners.

The Egg Hunt began and ended mere minutes after the shout of "Go!" rang through the air. But the preparation and the acts of service will linger in the air a bit longer, if you take the time to notice them. Your neighbors and your friends are pretty special, and it makes Nakoma that much sweeter.

**The Nakoma League and neighbors wish to thank Melissa Cheeks and Nikki Schram for their dedication to making this year's event simply egg-cellent.*

NOTES FROM OUR ALDERMAN

Hello Neighbors. Summertime is amazing. At home, we're embracing the season by working in our vegetable garden. Hopefully you are taking advantage of the beautiful weather in your own way. Here are a couple of things I've been working on lately:

Historic Districts. In April, the Common Council had a difficult decision to make. As you likely read about in the paper, there was a development project proposed in the Mansion Hill historic district. The Landmarks Commission is responsible for reviewing proposals that impact historic districts. In this case, the Landmarks Commission denied approval of the proposed development project on Gilman Street, and the developer appealed that decision to the Council for reconsideration. I voted against the appeal, which kept the redevelopment from going forward. In any other location throughout the city this apartment proposal could have been a beautiful development. The trouble with approving this project was that it simply did not meet the standard for a development in the historic district that it was being proposed for. While Nakoma is a National Historic District, rather than a local one, I believe it is critical that we be careful to cherish our historic districts.

Ban the Box. Madison has a long tradition of being a city that wears its progressive values on its sleeve. I am working to continue this tradition, for the benefit of our entire community, by leading the development of model legislation that fosters equitable hiring practices within the city. This policy will help to ensure that employment decisions are based solely on relevant work qualifications. This will be accomplished by postponing questions about criminal background, and all background checks, until the tail end of the interview process. These policies are generally referred to as "Banning the Box," and are intended to address the hiring disparities between qualified applicants with a criminal history and those without. There are over 50 municipalities and 10 states throughout the country that have already adopted similar legislation, and there is evidence that this practice promotes economic self-sufficiency, reduces recidivism, and increases public safety for the broader community. A progressive policy like this is the sort of thing that Madison wants to be known for, and I am proud to say that my colleagues unanimously joined me in passing a resolution calling on the City Attorney and HR Director to bringing this practice to our own hiring process.

-Alderman Maurice Cheeks, district10@cityofmadison.com or 608.620.1994.

CELEBRATE SUMMER WITH NEIGHBORS ON JULY 4TH

Nakoma's annual July Fourth Neighborhood Party & Picnic will once again take place behind Thoreau School. This patriotic event gets better every year, and is a favorite memory-maker of both young and old. Festivities kick-off with a bike & stroller parade. Decorate your bikes, trikes, wagons, and strollers and join the line-up at 10:15 AM in the Thoreau School parking lot at Cherokee. The parade will begin at 10:30 AM, proceed up Cherokee Drive to Waban Hill, and return to the school. Prizes will be awarded to the best-decorated cycles!

After the parade, the party continues with kid carnival games and prizes, a bouncy castle, DJ music, and a full-blown cookout at Nakoma Park. Don't forget your wallet as cash will be needed to buy tickets for games, food, and drinks. New this year will be a tug-of-war contest so start thinking about your teams! Bring your lawn blanket and chairs to get comfy while you watch the fun unfold and enjoy your picnic. The party ends around 1 PM.

A big call-out to the older Nakoma kids: Are you ready to step up this year to create and run a carnival game with friends or family? Please consider keeping this tradition alive, where the older kids provide games for the younger kids, so the cycle can continue! It's fun and REALLY easy (think "Minute to Win It" simple games). Every year is different and dependent on what games/crafts our families create for themselves. We also have some tried and true games ideas if you'd prefer. Put your thinking hats on now, turn-in the volunteer slip, and arrive behind the school by 10:00 AM to choose the best shady lawn spot for your game set-up.

Please consider how you will be a Party Volunteer! It is an easy way to get in the middle of the fun, chat with neighbors, and be a part of simple childhood thrills and memories. The volunteering times are ~30 minute blocks (or more if you like), allowing plenty of time for everyone to enjoy the day. Without having everyone pitch in and volunteer, we can't continue this event. Please sign up for a slot and return this form today or contact lindsay.suttin@yahoo.com.

Ask Pat!



Dear Pat,

I have neighbors who don't clean up after their dog drops a "steamer" on my lawn, and I'm tired of finding – or stepping on – these stink bombs! What can I do?

Signed,

Looking for a Blue Bag in Nakoma

Dear Blue,

How rude! While I do remember the days where dog owners didn't have to pick up their dogs' steamy messes, those days are long gone. It is now expected, and rightly so, that dog owners pick up after their animals. Obviously, the first recourse is to politely confront the owner, preferably while the deed is being done, to add to the awkwardness. Simply state that you're tired of cleaning smelly dog poo off your shoes every time you mow the lawn. This may or may not be true, but the imagery it creates can't be contested. If that doesn't work, try sprinkling crushed red pepper in the dog's favored area of your yard. This won't harm him, but Fido simply won't dump where he can't smell. If the situation still needs escalating, here are a few more ideas: 1. Strategically place a sprinkler in your yard and have it running during normal dog-walking hours. 2. Blow a dog whistle out your window to confuse the dog. 3. Place some of the "loafs" at the base of the offender's driveway, ensuring... well you know the rest. 4. Start placing the "dog eggs" on the offender's front porch, bagged at first but then unbagged if needed. 5. Rent a cow. State that it is your pet cow and walk your pet over to the offender's lawn. Good luck!

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: **4TH OF JULY PARTY VOLUNTEER RETURN SLIP** :
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Please mail/email how you can help at the party. Your advance notice really does help the event organizers minimize the usual "I have no volunteers" panic!

Please send to Lindsay Suttin, 4109 Hiawatha Dr. or email to lindsay.suttin@yahoo.com by June 28th

Parade monitors @ intersections *City permit requirement. Police verified last year.

Running a game or craft *Game Name* _____

Ticket seller Prize table Serve food and drinks Bouncy castle monitors

Set-up 9:30–10:30 AM Clean-up 1–2 PM

Cake Walk Baked item for the Cake Walk

Name(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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***There will be no rain date for this event. If the weather is questionable, please check the Nakoma Facebook the morning of July 4th for a status update.*

SUSTAINAKOMA: SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

The Southwest Community Garden project, located just west of the bike path accessible off of Council Crest and Odana Rd, has been put on hold for this summer. In the past few years, the Community Action Coalition (CAC) has sponsored all Madison community gardens on public lands. Unfortunately, late this spring, CAC announced it would no longer be involved in the leases, insurance, or technical assistance of community gardens. Therefore, it is only honoring current leases for this coming year and not taking on any new projects such as ours. However, we are continuing efforts with the city of Madison to identify a new sponsor who would be willing to inherit the lease and liability for the SW community garden site and other sites throughout the area. Although this development presents a setback for 2014 growing season, we are committed to finding ways to deal with this challenge. It remains a work in progress and we will keep you posted as things change.

by Jeanne Grist



SAVE THE DATE: 3RD ANNUAL COUNCIL CREST BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, August 23 1:30 PM to Sundown

Last year's block party was so much fun that we're doing it again this year! Join us on the corner of Hiawatha and Council Crest for the third annual Council Crest Block Party, **open to all neighbors**. We're hoping for inflatable fun and live music again. Main dish and drinks will be supplied so bring something to sit on and a dish to pass. We suggest a donation of \$25 per family, with the extra funds to be donated to American Family Children's Hospital. Please RSVP to erica_meier@zandersinteriors.com so we can plan accordingly.

A Special Thanks

As my first season as Editor of Under the Oaks comes to a close, I want to thank everyone who has participated in and enjoyed our neighborhood newsletter. Until I had a role in its creation, I did not realize how true a labor of love it really is. From those who contribute content and write articles, to those who deliver in the snow and rain, to those who proofread and just plain read, thank you so much. It's been great. I'm eager to tackle next year with some experience to fall back on. What we publish wouldn't matter without you, our readers, so I encourage you to reach out to me. Tell me what kind of articles you'd like to see (or not see). Or submit your own stories. It's your Nakoma too. ~Keri keri.schlecht@yahoo.com

The Garden Next Door: University of Wisconsin Arboretum

At the Arboretum, especially after a long, harsh winter, we eagerly welcome warm spring weather. Spring always brings a flurry of activity. The wildflowers, migrating warblers, crabapples, and lilacs have all been spectacular this year. We're looking forward to a new season of visitors, programming, and stewardship. During the next few months, you may notice land care activities near around Nakoma.

In June, the Marion Dunn/Glenway Pond project begins on Monroe Street. It is part of a city-wide effort to effectively reduce storm water pollutant discharge into our rivers and lakes, and to meet new EPA/WDNR requirements. The project on this site will test the effectiveness of alum in reducing discharge of suspended solids and phosphorus. Alum binds and retains these pollutants, resulting in better water quality downstream. UW-Madison researchers will monitor the ecological effects of this experiment, tracking how alum addition affects natural bacteria community composition and activity levels. Arboretum staff and volunteers will survey the pond invertebrate community, noting the number and types of species present before and after the alum addition. More information on the project can be found here: <http://www.news.wisc.edu/22045>.

You may also notice changes in your favorite places this spring. Look for lush growth in restoration areas where prescribed fire was followed by seeding and planting. Active restoration after brush clearing continues at Teal Pond Wetlands and the Grady Tract. We are removing select trees to respond to the Emerald Ash borer. Finally, we are clearing invasive and exotic plants from more areas, especially Curtis Prairie. We will post information about our land care activities at the Visitor Center.

Visit us often and check our website for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. It's always a great time to get involved in the excitement at the Arboretum.

Sincerely, Donna Paulnock, Interim Director

The Community Board

MSCR Art Cart in Nakoma Park

Thursday June 19, 1 PM – 4 PM

Tuesday July 15, 9 AM – 12 PM

The Art Cart is a FREE, drop-in traveling art program that provides creative, outdoor art-making experiences to children ages 3+ and their families. Activities include both group and individual projects with a variety of materials lasting 15–45 minutes. Children ages 6 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Groups larger than 8 participants are limited to one visit per summer and MUST pre-register at 608.204.3021. Sponsored by the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art and Madison School & Community Recreation. We hope to see you at a park in your neighborhood this summer.

Let's Eat Out Madison

Tuesday Nights, Summer

Midvale Blvd just past Tokay Blvd

Every Tuesday in the summer, weather permitting, Let's Eat Out Madison brings a world of cuisine to you! A variable group of food carts lines up on Midvale Boulevard in front of Midvale-Lincoln Elementary School, offering unique dishes and outdoor dining at summer's best. Bring friends, family, and Fido and enjoy dinner al fresco without breaking the bank. Past

carts include SoHo Gourmet Cuisines, Slide, In N Out Empanadas, BJ Kolaches, Fried and Fabulous, Fortune Cafe, and Raffy's. Visit [facebook.com/LetsEatOutMadison](https://www.facebook.com/LetsEatOutMadison) for more information.

Yoga in Nakoma Park

Saturdays 9 AM, Nakoma Park

Yoga in Nakoma Park is back in session this summer thanks to Amy Kruger, certified Vinyasa-style yoga teacher. On Saturday mornings, weather- and schedule-permitting, Amy offers a one-hour, drop-in class with a suggested donation of \$5. All profits are donated to the Wisconsin Ovarian Cancer Alliance (WCOA). Last year, Amy contributed proceeds to the Nakoma Park playground improvements and the Olive Tree Yoga Foundation.

Vinyasa yoga is athletic-style yoga, often likened to a dance, where participants flow from one pose to another with their breath. Although the class can be a workout, Amy offers modifications to ease or intensify the practice, so that participants of all skill levels may enjoy yoga. Check the Nakoma Neighborhood Facebook page, usually by the Wednesday before, for class confirmation.

New Belgium Clips Beer & Film Tour

Thursday June 19, 7:30 PM, Olin Park

This summer marks the fourth year Madison plays host to the traveling Clips Beer & Film Tour, presented by New Belgium Brewery. This beer-toting, film-traveling, nonprofit-benefiting show travels coast-to-coast, promoting bicycles and good old-fashioned fun. You'll get to try their

most unusual beer offerings – up to 16 varieties on tap – and pair them with inspiring short films created by fans. Grab your neighbors and friends and ride over to Olin Park at 7:30 on Thursday, June 19. Libations provided by New Belgium Brewery with Eats by Banzo, Salvatores Tomato Pies, and Good Food Madison. See <http://goo.gl/e8KFzF> for more details. All profits benefit the Wisconsin Bike Fed. Films begin at dark.

All City Swim Meet

Thursday July 31– Saturday August 2, Nakoma Golf Club

This summer, the Nakoma Golf Club will host the 53rd annual All City Swim Meet from Thursday, July 31 through Saturday, August 2. The Nakoma Orangeheads are thrilled to bring this long-time Madison tradition back to the neighborhood where it was last hosted on site in 1985. We wish all of Nakoma's swimmers the best of luck as they compete in one of the nation's largest swim meets. Additional information will available at my.nakoma.org and residents affected by road closures will receive additional details in the mail. For more information, contact Deborah Still at 232-2128.

Nakoma residents are encouraged to use the board as a way to communicate with one another. To post information, you must be current on your dues. You are welcome to advertise goods and services, offer homes for sale or rent, and post information about events and volunteer opportunities. The newsletter is published around neighborhood events and exact delivery dates cannot be predicted. To place a notice, please contact kери.schlecht@yahoo.com. Additionally, please advise us if your information is no longer current.





Sitters & Services

Children

Abbey Cohn, 24, Nakoma resident. Currently pursuing a Masters of Social Work. Experience working with children of all ages. Available nights and weekends this spring. Call 335-2242 or email arcohn16@gmail.com.

Hannah Chandler, 16, St. Mary's certified babysitter. Energetic, experienced, and fun. Call 236-0074 or 333-6675.

Connie Ellis, Adult Nakoma resident. Available evenings and weekend days. CPR certified and has transportation. Call 277-0170.

Tierney Grist, 16, Red Cross certified babysitter. Experienced with children ages 3 months to 12 years. Available evenings and weekends during the school year. Responsible and energetic. Call for references, 228-2513.

Ellie Hodgson, 15, Red Cross certified babysitter. Responsible, energetic, and loves all ages. Call 218-9240 or email ellie.hodgson8@gmail.com.

Kate Martin, West High School Senior, St. Mary's certified babysitter. Experienced and loves to sit for all ages. Call 298-0049.

Grace Peterson, 17, Red Cross certified babysitter. Good with any age. Call 279-7434 or email peterston3099@sbcglobal.net.

Meghan Pfau, 16, Red Cross certified babysitter. Experienced with kids of any age. Call 276-9294 or email sarahpfau@me.com.

Emma Stoehr, 17, Red Cross certified babysitter. Loves all ages. Call 212-3012 or email e.stoehr22@yahoo.com.

Carrie, 18, and **Kate Zellmer**, 17, St. Mary's certified babysitters. Carrie is certified as a lifeguard, as well as in first aid and CPR. Call 467-4079 or email zellmer@mac.com.

Natalia Peterson, 12, Red Cross certified babysitter. Experienced with children ages 3 and up. Will help with homework, play board games, and read books. Call 231-6925 or email nataliapeterson-2001@hotmail.com.

Miranda Garcia-Dove, 9, Mother's helper. Great with children age 1 and over. Will play with your child while you make dinner or entertain guests. Email suzanne@pajarel.com.

Elizabeth Andrzejewski, 11, Red Cross certified babysitter. Very fun and will read books to your child. Call 278-1739 or email elizabethwaves@gmail.com.

Ruby Guinther, 15, Red Cross certified. Responsible, fun, and experienced with children ages 3 and up. Will help with homework and play with your child. Call 334-9914 or email rubbyvquinther@gmail.com.

Pets, Homes, and Lawn Care

Trevor Potter, Nakoma resident offering to shovel snowy driveways and walks. Call 444-5136 or trevorpotter10@gmail.com.

Judy Schrader, Adult pet sitter. 8 years of experience. Will walk or board dogs, cats and other pets. Call 274-4835.

Aileen Zebrowski, 17, Pet sitter and yard work. Can feed and walk pets on a regular basis while you are away. Also available for yard work. Call 231-1375.

Liliana Re will take good care of any pet. Also available for yard work in any season. Call 630-8336.

Barbara Brigham, Nakoma resident with a passion for clearing clutter. Cleans and organizes kitchens, basements, attics, and more. Will also organize and run garage and estate sales. Free consultation. Call 233-3909 or email jwbrigham03@sbcglobal.net.

Emma Stoehr, 17, Pet sitter. Will walk and feed your dogs at your convenience. Call 212-3012 or email e.stoehr22@yahoo.com.

Natalia Peterson, 12, Pet sitter with hands-on experience. Will walk and sit your dogs at your convenience. Call 231-6925 or email nataliapeterson-2001@hotmail.com.

Miranda Garcia-Dove, 9, Pet care. Loves dogs and cats. Will feed, walk, and play while you are out of town. Email suzanne@pajarel.com.

Elizabeth Andrzejewski, 11, Pet and house sitter. Will work with any animals, especially dogs and cats, water plants, and rake yards. Call 278-1739 or email elizabethwaves@gmail.com.

Attention: Updates Needed Sitters & Services 2015

Over the summer, the Nakoma League will be contacting those who run ads on this page. If you know you would like to keep your ad posted, please email the editor at keri.schlecht@yahoo.com and we will make a note to keep your listing active for the 2014 – 2015 season. Parents, if your child offers services and they are no longer in the area, please contact us to remove the listing. Thank You!

Editor's Notes



2013-2014 Nakoma League Board

President

Lindsay Suttin 4109 Hiawatha Drive 665-3962

Vice President

Erica Zander Meier 4030 Council Crest 698-1983

Treasurer

Megan Gibson 4211 Wanetah Trail 772-2514

Cherokee Reps

Sara Tokheim 4133 Hiawatha Drive 612-730-2363

Brittney Keesey 4157 Cherokee Drive 772-8256

Chippewa Reps

Yvette Hernandez 4106 Hiawatha Drive 916-765-7679

Volunteer Opportunity Available!.....

Iroquois Reps

Melissa Cheeks 3545 Nakoma Road 609-1252

Amy Bina 4006 Manitou Way 278-8406

Oneida Reps

Rachel Digman 701 Oneida Place 920-904-1631

Mark Consigny 809 Huron Hill 233-9395

Ottawa Reps

Leanne Morris 826 Hiawatha Drive 338-3620

Volunteer Opportunity Available!.....

Seminole Reps

Tara Siders 4154 Nakoma Road 467-7211

Nikki Schram 438-4309

Newsletter Editor

Keri Schlecht 4042 Cherokee Drive 415-238-7687

Ice Skating Rink Coordinator

Annemarie & Paul Banas 938 Waban Hill 231-3014

SustaiNakoma Coordinator

Jeanne Grist 3805 Council Crest 238-1570

Adopt-a-Family Coordinator

Kathy Andes 4150 Manitou Way 233-6286

Gift-of-Reading Coordinator

Robin Gray 4109 Chippewa Drive 246-0267

Twelfth Night Coordinator

Betty Buchanan 3918 Nakoma Road 233-5476

Webmaster

..... Alice Grevet

During a particularly rambunctious thunderstorm in early May, Nakoma nearly lost one of her own. I'm talking about a tree of course. The soaring evergreen on the corner of Yuma and Cherokee that has preexisted nearly every Nakoma resident here was struck by lightning. Even if you didn't witness it, you knew from the crowds of residents gathered at her base that something was amiss. Passersbys gathered for days to assess the damage. Nature lover that I fancy myself, I'm dumbfounded that I never quite observed how giant this particular tree is. She's a majestic specimen, probably 500 feet tall and half as wide. Or at least that's how large she appeared once I'd bothered to look up and view her majesty as the woeful, unloyal subject I'd been. How could I not have noticed this spectacular tree? Faced with the possibility it might have to come down, I could only think of one thing:

Look up. I must look up more often.

We spend many hours each day hunkered down at a desk, belted in behind the wheel, or, and I must say guilty-as-charged, buried in the artificial glow of a smartphone. Well I will not speed by, head down, missing all the majestic trees before I make an all-important change in my life: I vow to spend more time this summer looking up. And I implore you to do the same. Take in the majestic trees of Nakoma before their leaves lose interest and fall at your feet. Walk, don't run – to the nearest ice cream shop. Eat food outside, preferably on a blanket on the ground, with friends. Sweat, like nature intended. And put the darn smartphone down.

The Nakoma League breaks for summer. But that doesn't mean we don't look up to see the trees and our neighbors. Join us for the annual Fourth of July picnic and parade. Or mark your calendar for the newest event, the Council Crest Block Party, open to ALL residents. And look for Under the Oaks back in your mailbox in early fall. And have a happy, healthy summer.

by Keri Schlecht, Editor