The view from here

This column is a recap of the University Grove Homeowners Association (UGHA) 2006 activities and a look at this year's plans.

Thanks to Vice President Helen Foster, Secretary/Treasurer Rose Cherlin, University Grove Information Officer Karen Kloser, (UGIO) and the block captains for all their hard work which made my job so much easier.

The new directory is done and every household should have one. Thanks to Gary Wright for taking all the pictures and to Karen, Gary, and Rose for their work writing and assembling the directory. Thanks also to Jim Litsheim for researching and completing the architectural database of each house.

Thanks also to Nevin Young for his persistence in getting the crosswalk on the corner of Hoyt and Cleveland avenues painted.

The UGHA voted last year to hire Karen Kloser to be the University Grove Information Officer (UGIO) and to increase the annual dues to $15. Karen did a great job last year. Rose sent statements to all households with outstanding dues for 2006 and 2007.

The steering committee met twice during the year. We decided not to incorporate because most of us have liability protection if we carry an umbrella policy on our homeowner’s insurance which usually covers individuals volunteering on incorporated or unincorporated nonprofit boards. (The UGIO carries a personal policy while working for the UGHA.)

The steering committee recommended moving the Campus Circulator bus stop to the north side of Folwell where there is a sidewalk for waiting passengers. Moving the bus stop was approved in a Grove ballot.

Stephan and Karen Cooley-Ristler generously offered space for a bench at the former bus stop located in her yard before it was moved.

This year, I appointed three committees to explore neighborhood issues. The first committee negotiated a new trash hauling contract before it expires in May. Kevin Silverstein chaired it; other members were Rebecca Montgomery, Lou Hirsch, and myself.

In response to a request by the University, I appointed a second committee to look at our lease Appendix A regarding exterior remodeling and major landscape changes. I chaired it with Mark Brunberg, Barbara Lukermann, and Terri Cermak.

The third committee is looking into whether the UGHA’s bylaws need updating. A copy is in your new directory. Let me know if you have suggestions. I chair it with Rose Cherlin, Markus Keel, Phil Shively, and Carol Weisberg.

— Russell Hobbie, president

Things you should know about your new directory

Every household should have one
If you do not, please contact your block captain (and thank them for volunteering). If you don’t know who your block captain is, please keep reading.

New directory page inserts
Attached to this newsletter is the 2007 Block Captain list and UGHA board, and their contact information page. Please keep your directory up-to-date. So, don’t set this page aside - it’s 3-hole punched - just put it after the ORANGE YELLOW TAB #2 in your directory.

It’s a keeper
The directory cost $956 in binder supplies, copying and paid UGIO hours. This does not include the countless volunteer hours from Gary Wright who took all the photos, created the page format, entered household information, and collated 100+ directories in time for the annual meeting. Thanks to the households who supplied their home history. Corrections and additions are encouraged, please send to the UGIO for future updates.

Donations help offset cost
Thanks to the 66 households who paid their dues. Rose Cherlin, secretary-treasurer, sent notices in November to households in arrears. A special thanks to those who contributed $230 in additional funds to help pay for the new directory. Contributions toward the directory are welcome.

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February 2007

Living Close to Campus workshop
Karen Kloser, UGIO, was part of a lunch hour panel hosted by the Office of Human Resources on Dec. 14 on “Living Close to Campus.” Karen was one of four U employees who spoke about the benefits of living close to campus in their representative neighborhoods of Marcy-Holmes, Prospect Park/East River Road, St. Anthony Park and the Grove.

New neighbor
Congratulations to Markus and Janet Keel on the birth of Bridget, born on July 6, 2006.

Condolences
Longtime former Grove resident, Elsie Turner, died on Dec. 23, 2006. Her husband, John Turner preceded her in death. The Turners were active residents in neighborhood matters.

Bird lovers
The bluebird houses in the tennis court green space need someone to occasionally clean out the nests made by uninvited birds.

Free for the hauling
Two 1950s-era four-drawer grey metal file cabinets, contact Russell Hobbie, 644-1041.

Homes for sale
2203 Hoyt
Contact: Peggy, Gary or Peter Spar 651.639.6383

2297 Folwell
Contact: Irv Fang, 651.645.3304 or fangx001@umn.edu

Go to www.umn.edu/ugrove for listing information.
Barbara Lukermann has a few things in common with the former prime minister of Britain – except politics – she emphasized. Both were born during the same era in the U.K., educated at august British universities, had fathers who were grocery store owners, and both grew up to be influential leaders. While Barbara has never led a country, she has – for a half century – influenced policy on the state and national levels to improve land use planning and environmental quality. In the 1970s, Barbara was national chair of the American Institute of Certified Planners for two years. She was one of four citizen members on the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board under Governor Wendell Anderson, and Governor Rudy Perpich appointed her to the then Metro Waste Control Commission. As a commissioner, she tackled the Pig’s Eye Island sewage treatment expansion, sludge disposal and air quality issues, earning her the family nickname “Sludge Queen.”

Barbara was born in northern England’s Yorkshire County, a dichotomous landscape of coal and textile industries and also the land of the Brontë sisters where black face sheep dot the rural village landscape. Her only sibling, a sister, lives in Cheshire. Barbara was 15 when World War II ended. Churchill was out and the Labour Party was in. This new government focused on nationalizing health care and the railroads, and a massive educational reform expanding the university system and creating fully-funded state scholarships. Before this, only a privileged few could afford college. Both she and Maggie Thatcher benefited. Barbara went to Cambridge on state scholarship.

After a year hiatus following graduation, Barbara applied to Ph.D. programs in the United States and was accepted at the U in the geography department where she met her future husband, Professor Fred Lukermann, newly returned from his field work in Asia Minor. Because of nepotism rules at the U then, an academic appointment was not in the cards for Barbara so she joined the architecture and planning firm of Cerny and Gardner in 1956. The firm had its office in the Metropolitan Building, one of the city’s historic treasures, but it and some 200 other buildings were victims of the 1960s urban renewal of the Gateway Development District meant to reform Washington Avenue’s skidrow reputation. Robert Cerny, a modernist devotee and architect of several homes in the Grove, was instrumental in promoting this renewal process.

Barbara’s work at the firm was preparing comprehensive land use plans for the Twin Cities first ring suburbs that did not have either planning staff or the ordinances in place to manage growth. She and two other employees eventually bought out the firm’s planning contract and created Midwest Planning and Research. Their company grew to 65 employees when Barbara left to work solo. In 1982 she joined the Humphrey Institute as a senior fellow, teaching land use planning courses in the newly established master’s planning degree. She also works part-time at the U’s Center for Urban and Regional Planning (CURA), a university-wide center engaging faculty and students in applied research of relevance to the state.

When Barbara is not consulting and teaching, she volunteers in our community. She’s been a board member of the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation, a Grove president (under her tenure the UGHA and U defined criteria for selling a home on a hardship basis), and is currently a Falcon Heights Planning Commissioner.

Barbara Lukermann has always been a bridge between academia and practice. The University Grove News}