



April 2016

Sunflower Gardens Neighborhood Watch Program

A Neighborhood Watch Program has been formed in Sunflower Gardens. The first organizational meeting was held December 7, with Sgt. Pam Gladish of the Bloomington Police Department as our guest. Sgt. Gladish works with neighborhood groups in and around Bloomington. She explained that purpose of these groups is to open lines of communication so that neighbors can support each other. A second meeting to formalize the program was held January 27, with 15 residents in attendance. We are working with the city to get approval for signs to post in Sunflower Gardens indicating that we have a Neighborhood Watch Program. All residents are welcome to be a part of this group.

The Neighborhood Watch Program was formally announced via email in February 2016 as shown below:

Effective immediately, the Sunflower Gardens Home Owners Association (SGHOA) has implemented a **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (NW)** program in our area, working with the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) and other law enforcement agencies in Monroe County to share information and support. Why? Because in the last year, various residents have reported problems with mailbox tampering, unfamiliar and noisy vehicles in our neighborhood at all hours of the day and night, and other suspicious activities. Some residents have already begun submitting NW information to authorities. We felt this would be a good way to join together and support one another.

What should you expect? Signage designating Sunflower Gardens as a **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ZONE** will soon be posted conspicuously in the area. We expect to have more frequent, randomly timed patrols through the area by the BPD, as well as by Indiana State Police. Periodic NW updates will be shared with you via email unless you opt-out. With the expected addition of streetlights in the area, these actions should make us all feel more secure in our neighborhood. We will provide a recap of activities for all who attend the next SGHOA Annual Meeting in the fall.

All residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity or problems near your homes to the following:

BPD Emergency Hotline: **911 –when immediate action is needed**

BPD Non-Emergency Reporting Line: **812-339-4477 – for sharing less time sensitive information**

Indiana State Patrol Reporting Line: **812-332-4411**

Streetlights coming to Sunflower Gardens

We have been informed that the City of Bloomington and Duke Energy will be installing streetlights in our neighborhood in the near future. The initial proposal is for one at the intersection of Sunflower Drive and Countryside Lane, another at the intersection of Sunflower Drive and Petal Court, and one in each of the three cul-de-sacs. We'll keep you informed as we get more definitive information.

Sunflower Gardens Welcome Committee

Edda Callahan, Donna Lobdell and Anita Westerhaus have been working together to form a Welcome Committee. They are gathering materials to share with new residents about Sunflower Gardens and Bloomington. Committee members plan to meet with new residents to formally welcome them to the neighborhood and to answer questions. The committee hopes to make new residents feel welcome in Sunflower Gardens. If you'd like to be part of this project, call Edda, Donna or Anita.

Cookout

The Sunflower Gardens neighborhood cookout is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 11th. Further details in the summer edition of the SGHOA Newsletter.

Replacement Shutters

During a hail storm in early April, high winds snapped a shutter in half on the home of Don and Anita Westerhaus, 1437 W. Countryside Lane. Since that time, several neighbors have expressed interest in joining together to get a discounted rate for either painting or replacing their shutters that are now badly faded.

Don has been talking to suppliers and compiling information about those interested properties, including the number of windows with shutters, size and color of shutters, etc. He reports that there is much variation between buildings and even between the two units in some buildings. A temporary replacement to the broken Westerhaus shutter has been found until details on a more permanent solution can be developed, so there's no rush to finish getting bids. Two different contractors have expressed interest in quoting on the project, and painting contractors are being contacted for quotes as well.

So far, eight property owners have expressed an interest in being included in the calculations. If the shutters and trim on your home could stand a facelift, please call or email Don (djwesterhaus@msn.com) (cell: 515-229-6151) to be included in the data collection. He will visit with you and gather information on your home to add to the list. There's no obligation to buy into the project if you decide against the cost once quotes are prepared. However, we expect to save everyone some money by joining together in whatever the group decides.

Repairs and Maintenance

In addition to shutters, the Board is currently working to develop a database of siding, roofing, paint, and other items that may need repair or replacement. As some of the older units in the neighborhood are nearing the ten-year mark, this is a topic we will be discussing more and more as time goes by.

Please be aware that if you are simply replacing shutters or other exterior materials with the same color and style as the originals, there is no need to submit a request to the Design Committee. However, if you wish to change the old color and/or style, a Design Committee request is required. Such changes are generally limited to colors and styles currently existing in the neighborhood. A Design Committee request form can be obtained by emailing Tim Callahan at tim.calla@gmail.com.

Greg Lobdell is currently negotiating with a contractor for power washing of siding. Per unit cost would be approximately \$150 or less if more units are involved. If interested, contact Greg at globdell@juno.com.

For those residents with sidewalk problems, we are attempting to make arrangements with the City of Bloomington to take part in their cooperative sidewalk repair program. More details on that as soon as we work them out.

Remember that, while the SGHOA oversees lawn care and yearly mulching, homeowners are responsible for maintaining the five-foot strip surrounding our units. This includes trimming bushes and shrubs, keeping planting beds weed free and attractive, as well as removing mold from siding. Should homeowners need assistance with any of these tasks, please contact Jamar Properties (jamarproperties@yahoo.com) for a list of suggested contractors.

While we're on the subject, a note of appreciation to Gary Arvin for the terrific landscaping of his corner of Sunflower Drive and Petal Court. It's a beautiful addition to the entire neighborhood.

Insurance Rates Going Up

Our insurance broker has informed us that although Travelers still has the best rates for us, those rates will be higher for the coming year. Our rates per square foot have not increased since Sunflower Gardens was first built, and property values have gone up substantially, leading to the increase of about 15-20 percent. The new policy will provide better coverage for liability and identity theft, and we'll be able to reduce the impact a bit by spreading the increase over a two-year period.

Board Meetings

The next meeting of the SGHOA Board is scheduled for 7:00 pm, Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at the home of Donna and Greg Lobdell.

Other Board meetings will be held in August and November, dates, times, and locations to be announced. The annual meeting will be held in October.

2016 SGHOA Board

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