“A good home must be made, not bought.”
~Joyce Maynard, "Domestic Affairs"

Community Cohousing

By Martha Worcester (#564)

Imagine if you can to a time in the near future when the single digits, snow and sucking mud are a memory. Imagine strolling your neighborhood and meeting people you actually know by name – at the mailbox, at a front porch, at the children's play area, in the garden. Imagine eating out a few days a week at the best restaurant in town – your own community house. Imagine needing a ladder or a shop vac and not having to actually own one. Imagine wanting to learn to start seeds, can produce or brew beer and not having to leave home to do it. Imagine needing some help and knowing help is available for the asking.

As we, the first homeowners of Troy Gardens, continue to develop and grow as a community, it is worth taking a look at the meaning of cohousing.

"Cohousing" is the English term for a Danish concept of a "living community" – where residents are consciously committed to living as a community. In the 1960s, a group of Danish families found themselves dissatisfied with the trends in housing and neighborhoods. Bodil Graae published "Children Should Have One Hundred Parents," spurring a group of 50 families to organize in 1967. The stage was set for ongoing exploration of how to create an intentional neighborhood.

The Danish term 'bøjellskaber' was introduced to North America as 'cohousing' by two American architects, Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett, in their book: Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves. There are now over 300 cohousing communities worldwide, with over 90 in the US, including two groups here in Madison in addition to ourselves.

Cohousing usually develops from a group of like minded people coming together to create a community of homeowners. It can take 2, 5, 10 years to get a group, a vision, a design to completion. Some are new construction, some are retrofit apartment buildings or stand-alone housing blocks, and some are a combination.

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Updates & useful information

By Greg Rosenberg

Turning Over the Keys:

In a few days, we'll turning over control of the condo association to all you homeowners. I am so thrilled with the group of people who are living at Troy Gardens, and I have complete faith that you will be a fabulously successful community.

There were 14 people running for 7 seats on the condo association board - which is simply amazing to me, because most condo associations have a very difficult time recruiting board members. This is a wonderful demonstration of the level of commitment that all you homeowners are bringing to your community.

Although the MACLT is turning over the keys (so to speak), we still have work to do as developer. We have the landscaping, roadways and walkways to finish - as well as the Nature Education Center. And we will continue to work with McGann to make sure that warranty issues are addressed to your satisfaction. And then there is the ice skating rink that we'll open together next winter - I'm very excited to see how that turns out.

So we're not going away - but you all will be making your own decisions now. I have every confidence in you, and I look forward to sitting back and marveling at your work.

Merger Conversation:

Some of you may have already heard that the boards of the Madison Area CLT and the Friends of Troy Gardens are engaged in a "merger conversation", which formally began last week. At present, we are in the information gathering phase of things, talking to folks to find out what they think about the possibility of combining our programs under one umbrella. We have hired Kate Peyton to coordinate the assessment process, and she will be sending out a survey to all of you in the coming weeks to find out what you think.

The idea of merger flowed out of our predevelopment work on the Troy Gardens Nature Education Center project. To do this project, the MACLT will need to work very closely with the Friends of Troy Gardens (as well as with the TG Condo Owners Association) - and in the course of our conversations about collaborating with FTG on this project, it began to make more and more sense to put the concept of merger on the table and talk about it.

We've set a goal of making a decision on whether or not to merge by May 1st - so this will not be a long, drawn-out process. One reason we want to expedite the process is that we cannot move forward with our capital campaign to raise funds for the Nature Education Center until we reach a decision - and we want to stay on target to break ground sometime in 2008.

I want to emphasize that while we are very excited and intrigued by the possibility of combining our programs, we have not yet made any decisions one way or another. This would be a big step for both of our organizations, and we want to make sure that all the key stakeholders have a chance to voice their opinion before any decision is made. We want to make sure that a merged organization would be financially sustainable - that will be absolutely essential. And lastly, we want to make sure that whatever we do, we must continue to honor the commitments we have made to all MACLT homeowners. Lots more information to follow - just wanted to give you a heads up.

Construction Update:

As you can tell, McGann has largely moved off the site. Scott Hanko is still around most mornings doing punch list work and responding to warranty service requests - but he'll be wrapping things up at the end of February. At the February 27th potluck, I'll go over the plan for how we'll handle warranty work for the rest of the 1 year warranty period.

You won't see much activity for the next month. We are hoping that Ever Ready Electric will be coming back soon to do the final aiming of the streetlights. They are ordering some additional cutoff louvers so we can keep light off of the buildings and the side yards - but we don't yet have any firm dates from them.

When we get to spring, things will start picking up. Once things warm up and the ground dries out, Blair Landscaping will be back to finish up their work. It's hard to predict exactly when Blair will be able to start their work - it all depends on the weather.

Once the asphalt plants re-open, and we are done with the final grading on the site, Tri-County Paving will come back to do another coat of asphalt on the streets and walkways. This includes installing the walkways (and bollards) for the courtyard for the southern cluster of build-

continued on page 9
Meet Your Neighbors!

By Jeanne Merrill (#538)

**Name(s):** The Youngs  
(#562, Building 3)  
Minnie, Latisha, Dorra & Merriah

**Enjoying life in Troy Gardens**

I recently spoke with Minnie about her family, Troy Gardens and cooking soul food.

In 1995, Minnie Young moved with her family from Chicago to Madison. Minnie said she prefers the peace and quiet of Madison, compared to the roar of city living in Chicago.

Minnie and her daughters moved to Troy Gardens just a few months ago, but already it feels like home. Minnie's oldest children are on their own now, including her daughter Kiesha, who is 21, and her son, Lester, 20. Her daughter, Latisha, will be 16 years old soon. Minnie's adopted nieces, Dorra, 10, and Merriah, 8, attend Mendota Elementary and live with Minnie and her family.

Minnie enjoys living on the northside of Madison. She said the people here are kind and friendly. A few years ago, Minnie contacted Mary at the MACLT about the Camino del Sol housing development. But after learning more about Troy Gardens, Minnie decided to wait until the housing here became available. She said she's glad she waited. Minnie likes the space of her new home, where she has a home daycare program for neighborhood children called Minnie's Bundle of Joy.

Bundle of Joy takes kids from the age of 2 months to 11 years. She can take up to six children at a time - and she watches three now. She also does overnights. If you know of anyone in the neighborhood that needs daycare, please ask them to give Minnie a call.

When she's not busy with her daycare, Minnie enjoys cooking soul food, including greens, cabbage, chitlins and more. Her soul food treats have become well known at Mendota Elementary. She said she is looking forward to the Nature Center, where she hopes to cook up some of her favorite soul food recipes when the community kitchen is built. I think we can all look forward to that!

Dorra and Merriah have settled into their routines at Troy Gardens. Merriah is a bike rider and she loves skating in winter. Dorra is a swimmer and she enjoys cooking and gardening. Minnie and the girls plan to have a garden plot, where they'll grow onions, greens of all kinds, tomatoes, cabbage and more.

**Merriah, Minnie & Dorra - The Young Family**

**Your 2007 Board Members**

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<td>Megan Cain</td>
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<td>Greg Severin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha Worcester</td>
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Cohousing at Troy Gardens

By David Marshall (8574)

Before I found my way to Troy Gardens, I used to live in a much larger condominium association. Lots of buildings. In my building where we rented, there were six condominiums, and about eleven tenants. I didn’t know a single person’s name though I’d walk by them everyday. One day my next door neighbor and I got stuck in the laundry room together. I distinctly remember that he liked chicken paprikas and that he was an artist and made large styrofoam sculptures — but that’s as far as it went. What I remember most about that conversation, however, is the fact that I had no idea what his name was and I kept wondering if he knew mine.

It was just somehow easier that way — not to have to talk to anyone. Not to get to get involved with someone I didn’t know. To come home from work and feel relieved to close the door.

Here at Troy Gardens, I know 54 of my neighbor’s names. I don’t know how many of them like chicken paprikas, but I bet I could tell you where the majority of them are from.

To be honest, cohousing sounded good but I wasn’t exactly sure what I expected it to be. I don’t really know now — but I’ve been pondering on it — as I’m sure others have too.

As Martha pointed out, “share” seems to be a key element to cohousing. What has been so interesting about Troy Gardens is that we all have a “shared” experience. Many of us attended home buyers seminar together. “We all had the same choice of floors and fans.” (Every time I go into Kat and Jake’s, I lament the fact that I didn’t choose the green entry tile). And I’m willing to bet all of us would come over here every week when they were being built, waiting to see how much they had finished. How exciting it was when they finally put your floors in!

We certainly share the space out here - parking lots and courtyards (or some of us! Won’t it be strange for the front half to have the front of their house become the back when they have courtyards!). And certainly we’ll be neighbors in the gardens as well, elbow to elbow.

What about sharing lawn mowers together - buying 3 instead of thirty. We don’t really need that many stepladders, do we? And talking about buying, one of us has been seriously considering a buying consortium of sorts. If we all use the same furnace filters, why not buy them together if we could get them less expensive? And why not water softener salt or potassium chloride? And organic food products too?

We have shared food together already — and that food has been great! I look forward to potlucks. My wife makes great soup, but even she had to admit the soup selection last time was superlative.

Most of us share the same views - out of our windows. I keep watching to see the fox that Nathan saw by the gardens once!

We share work together. Margaret chases me off when I try to shovel her sidewalk, mindful to want to share in the experience of shoveling. I escape by telling her that I certainly don’t want to take that away from her, but I am obligated to shovel her walk because how would it look if we shoveled everyone else’s, but not hers? When spring slinks along, I think we’ll see plenty of each other - planting flowers, pulling weeds, taking strolls.

We share ideas. A little later today I’m headed over to Home Depot to look for the same dimmer switch for my dining room that I saw at both Megan’s and Nathan & Erica’s!

We share our problems. Nathan has the same water leaking into his basement that we had a few weeks ago. In fact, I met both of my neighbors once on my way to the recycling bin. It was already overflowing so we both had to load everything back in our cars. I was frustrated - but I just had to laugh when Erica said optimistically, “At least it’s a good sign that the recycling is overflowing and not the trash. That’s good news!”

We share our time. Potlucks and work group meetings. Solar water seminars. Monday nights at Anne, Owen & Justin’s. Marge & Ann’s birthday party.

Of course it is possible to shut our doors here, too - we all need our private lives as well - but at least for me, I find it’s hard not to get involved.
How A Water Softener Works

We call water “hard” if it contains a lot of calcium or magnesium dissolved in it. Water from aquifers and other underground sources collects dissolved minerals from rock - particularly calcium, magnesium carbonate, and manganese. These minerals give water undesirable characteristics that are dubbed "hardness."

Hard water causes two problems:

1. It can cause "scale" to form on the inside of pipes, water heaters, dishwashers, tea kettles and so on. The calcium and magnesium precipitate out of the water and stick to things. The scale doesn't conduct heat well and it also reduces the flow through pipes. Eventually, pipes can become completely clogged. In the kitchen, this translates to spotted wine glasses and scale on cookware. In the bath, it appears as bathtub ring and tile scum.

2. It reacts with soap to form a sticky scum, and also reduces the soap's ability to lather. Since most of us like to wash with soap, hard water makes a bath or shower less productive.

The solution to hard water is to filter the water by distillation or reverse osmosis to remove the calcium and magnesium, or to use a water softener. Filtration would be extremely expensive to use for all the water in a house, so a water softener is usually a less costly solution.

The idea behind a water softener is simple.

The heart of a water softener is a mineral tank. It's filled with small polystyrene beads, also known as resin. The beads carry a negative ion charge and have sodium ions attached to them (from the salt you put in your tank).

Calcium and magnesium (hardness) in water both carry positive charges. This means that these minerals will stick to the negative ion beads as the hard water passes through the mineral tank. Sodium ions also have positive charges, but not as strong as the charge on the calcium and magnesium. So the water softener swaps the calcium and magnesium out of your water replacing them with sodium into the water - and your water becomes "softened". Since sodium does not precipitate out in pipes or react badly with soap, both of the problems of hard water are eliminated.

Eventually, the beads contain nothing but calcium and magnesium and no sodium, and at this point they stop softening the water. It is then time to regenerate the beads.

Regeneration involves soaking the beads in a stream of sodium ions. Salt is sodium chloride, so the water softener mixes up a very strong brine solution and flushes it through the beads (this is why you load up a water softener with salt). The strong brine displaces all of the calcium and magnesium that has built up in the beads and replaces it again with sodium. The remaining brine plus all of the calcium and magnesium is flushed out through a drain pipe.

Regeneration can create a lot of salty water, by the way -- something like 25 gallons (95 liters). Regeneration takes place approximately every 1000 gallons you use.

Soft water results in less hard water scale build-up in water heaters and up to 25% less energy consumption.

Water softener salt is available in several fashions:

- Rock salt will save you a few pennies but it is course and occasionally you will have to clean out your brine tank due to all the nonwater-soluble impurities.
- Pellets are a higher purity salt - and while they might cost a slight bit more, pellets will extend the life of your softener and help keep your softener clean and problem free. It is recommended that you get pellets.

Only some softeners can use blocks of salt. Not recommended.

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The more water you use, the more often you’ll need to add salt. A good general rule of thumb is to check your softener once a month. To maintain consistently soft water, keep your salt level at least half-full at all times, but do not overfill because the salt can harden in deposits.

Your tank full of negative ion beads pulls calcium and magnesium (hardness ions) from your water, exchanging them with sodium ions, which are considered “softer”.

Every 1000 gallons, your tank is flushed with salt water from your brine tank to wash away the calcium/magnesium ions.
An Alternative to Softening with Sodium

(from Pipeline, a newsletter of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse, Winter, 2001)

“Sodium really has no redeeming value in the environment outside of saltwater or brackish water ecosystems. If alternatives to sodium chloride for water treatment can be developed, they should be used. Potassium chloride is a logical choice to reduce sodium discharge from water softening systems, to provide additional potassium in human diets, and to serve as a nutrient source for plants.”

~From “Potassium Chloride: Alternative Regenerant for Softening Water” by Dr. Kim Polizotto and Dr. Charles Harms

If you are concerned about water softening brine and its possible effects on your septic system (and the environment), an alternative chemical can be used. Potassium chloride is as effective as sodium chloride for water softening in both residential and commercial processes. Plus, using potassium chloride has several benefits: it reduces the amount of sodium in drinking water; the treated water contributes potassium to people’s diets; and it eliminates the addition of sodium from water softeners into a household’s septic system tank and drainfield.

Potassium chloride works exactly the same way that sodium does in the water softening process. The mineral tank is flushed with potassium (instead of sodium) from the brine tank to coat the resin beads. With its positive electrical charge, the potassium clings to the negatively charged resin beads in the tank. As hard water passes through the softener’s mineral tank, the calcium and magnesium in the water change places with the potassium on the beads.

The treated water now has a small amount of potassium in it. The mineral tank will eventually need to be regenerated when most of the potassium adhering to the resin beads has been exchanged for the calcium and magnesium carried in the water.

The regeneration process flushes the mineral tank with a potassium chloride solution that drives the calcium and magnesium minerals off the resin beads. The excess potassium, calcium, and magnesium-rich water in the tank is then discharged into the home’s drain pipes and into the septic system. The regeneration brine mixes with the standing water in the tank, then eventually flows into the system’s drainfield. Potassium is an essential mineral for plants; whereas, sodium can damage plant tissues.

Because sodium is replaced by potassium, this diluted wastewater is beneficial to a grass covered drain field. Wastewater from water softeners that use potassium chloride in their regeneration brine can be recycled to irrigate agricultural land. An article titled “Potassium Chloride ... Alternative Regenerant for Softening Water,” written by Dr.Kim Polizotto and Dr.Charles Harms for the Potash and Phosphate Institute’s Better Crops with Plant Food (Fall 1993), suggests using potassium in water softening units and then recycling the diluted wastewater as an alternative to disposing of it.

Polizotto and Harms mention that several cities in California, Florida, and Michigan have called upon the water softener industry to help reduce sodium and chloride discharge into municipal sewage treatment facilities. Reduction of these chemicals is necessary to meet discharge standards set to decrease groundwater pollution in those communities.

These researchers also tell of other towns that want to develop secondary markets for their wastewater, such as selling it to farmers for irrigation purposes. Because sodium may harm some plants’ growth, wastewater from treatment plants might not be marketable if sodium chloride is the predominant salt used for water conditioning in the community.

Cost may be the only drawback in switching from the standard sodium chloride used in most water softeners to potassium chloride. Both can be found in most retail home improvement centers, but the potassium chloride can cost up to twice as much (even more on the West Coast) as the sodium chloride. The average price of sodium chloride (in the East) is around $4 for a 40 pound bag, and potassium chloride costs approximately $9 for 40 pounds. However, consumer group studies show that, for many potential users, the health and environmental benefits of potassium chloride outweigh the price difference.

National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC)

Q&A

What are the health implications of using a potassium chloride-based product? The level of potassium contributed from potassium chloride softened water is safe for normal healthy people. For healthy individuals, potassium from the diet is absorbed slowly from the gastrointestinal tract and the excess potassium is excreted. However, in certain individuals with medical conditions such as kidney disease, diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure, the body may not excrete excess potassium. Individuals with these conditions must consult a doctor prior to consuming potassium-softened water.

Is water softened by potassium chloride safe for houseplants? Yes. Potassium is one of the 16 elements necessary for plant growth. It also helps plants resist disease and optimize moisture utilization.

How do I switch over to potassium chloride pellets? Do I have to empty the sodium product from the water softener? No, you do not have to empty the water softener. When you are ready to add more salt, simply pour the potassium chloride product on top of any remaining salt product.
Meet Your Neighbors!

By Martha Worcester (#564)

Pacia, Ron, Aubrey and cat Pilchard moved into 528 just as the worst of winter snows hit in January. Despite the mess, they have quickly settled in. For those of us living on the back side of the property, the light glowing through Pacia’s beautiful lace curtains is a cheery "welcome home" every evening.

Ron was born in Germany and his childhood was typical of the mobile U.S. military family. Pacia grew up in Urbana, Illinois. Ron graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and eventually put his physics degree to work for Wolfram Research, a software company in Champaign. Pacia (whose name is pronounced "PAY-shuh") studied mathematics and computer science at the same university, and Ron and Pacia met when she worked at Wolfram during her senior year. After graduation, Pacia headed to New Mexico for a year of networking research at the National Labs.

When Pacia decided on grad school (computer architecture) at UW in 1999, Ron had had enough of a long-distance relationship. He worked a telecommuting deal with his firm and joined her in Madison. Ask Ron about long-distance telecommuting. It has its issues.

Pacia finished her masters but took a detour from her PhD plans with the birth of her charming boy in 2002. After a lifetime of school schedules, she is enjoying raising Aubrey and being present for each new day and season. Ron now works at the UW Waisman Center in the childhood development brain imaging studies.

Aubrey just turned five and is in pre-school this year. Pacia intends to homeschool. Aubrey loves music, is a big Wiggles fan and is proficient with the CD player buttons and remote. He also loves baking, whipping out banana bread, muffins and cookies with his folks. This winter at Troy Gardens has provided some good sledding and Aubrey has also taken up an interest in snow shoveling -- something his Pop optimistically hopes will last through the teen years. And he recently had his first adventure on ice skates at Tenney Park, pronouncing skating "harder than it looks."

Ron is a serious student of tai chi, training regularly in the martial art with a master in Chicago. Pacia has practiced tai kwon do and is now a yoga practitioner. Both Ron and Pacia have been avid bikers but their longer distance runs have been curtailed by parenthood. They hope to get Aubrey hooked on cycling. For now, they take full advantage of what Madison has to offer a young family. The Dane County Farmers' Market is a favorite excursion.

After years of gardening in pots, the whole family is looking forward to their garden this summer. Aubrey has high hopes for carrots and sugar snap peas, while Ron intends to master tomatoes and Pacia will explore a wide variety of greens.

Pilchard, a charming long-haired tabby cat with glorious green eyes, can often be seen catching some rays in a sunny window.

Recycling Update

The recycling company here actually takes Plastics #1 through #7. Please rinse yogurt and butter containers - but as long as it has a number on it, they will accept it.
It’s very nice to have a beautiful garden around your home, and I believe none of us can complain living next to 26 acres of community gardens and natural land. Besides, we all have our private backyards that can be converted into small flower gardens as well if we want, and we can boast with rain gardens on our property too.

At the beginning, through my lack of proper English maybe, I mistakenly remembered the word ‘water garden’ and I already proudly saw gold fish swimming in our little ponds with water lilies in my mind. Later I learned we wouldn’t have water gardens, but rain gardens instead, although this knowledge didn’t take me closer to the truth as I realized I didn’t even know what a rain garden was.

I started to read about them, and not only I don’t feel sad not to have gold fish and water lilies around, but I’m much more enthusiastic about having rain gardens instead. But what exactly is a rain garden? No wonder this word didn’t sound familiar, as the concept behind this type of garden doesn’t date too far back in time.

**Rain Gardens**

By Ágnes Rédei (#574)

The first rain garden for residential use was created in Maryland in 1990, and since then they have become increasingly popular in the home landscape. Rain gardens are designed to capture and soak up storm water runoff from our roofs, driveways and walkways before it enters a lake, pond and river. To stop storm water runoff is especially important, as it is considered one of the main sources of water pollution. The increased number of paved surfaces (parking lots, driveways) and also rooftops results in storm water runoff, when the rain water quickly gets into storm drains and surface waters which can increase erosion and flooding. Instead of running off into storm drains, rain gardens allow the water to slowly filter into the ground, reducing the chances for local flooding.

(Compared to a conventional patch of lawn, the rain garden allows about 30% more water to soak into the ground!)

Rain gardens are not only useful, but can be an attractive alternative to lawn landscapes. Not only easy to maintain once they are established, they also provide habitat for birds and butterflies. Though the rain garden is not a prairie and the focus is on flowers, it is best to use native, non-invasive species that are resistant to the stress of both short period of pooling and also dry periods between rainfalls. The UW-Madison Environmental Resources Center has a useful manual for homeowners on how to build and maintain a rain garden.

The location of the gardens can be seen on the map below. But the final design and work - with the help of the Landscaping Workgroup - should be ready by spring. I’m confident we all will enjoy the result!

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**Are they a breeding ground for mosquitoes?** No. Mosquitoes need 7 to 12 days to lay and hatch eggs, and standing water in the rain garden will last for a few hours after storms. Mosquitoes are more likely to lay eggs in bird baths, storm sewers and lawns than in a sunny rain garden. Also, rain gardens attract dragonflies - which eat mosquitoes!
Cohousing
cont. from pg.1

tion of all. Suburban communities might enjoy large acreages, while urban communities revere each square inch of their limited common space.

Although each community is a unique reflection of its members' tastes and desires, there are some common components:

- A group of people who are interested in developing a supportive and inclusive community
- A focus on living and walking, not driving and parking, with space designed for utmost community interaction
- Safe play areas for children
- A common house with recreational facilities, kitchen and dining area where meals can be shared
- Shared community work to maintain the shared community property
- Shared resources – from equipment and tools to books and magazine
- A plan for decision-making and conflict resolution

That word "shared" comes up a lot.

While a certain percentage of proposed cohousing projects never get beyond the talking stages, no completed cohousing communities are known to have failed.

At Troy Gardens, we are going at the project from a different direction. We have the homes and homeowners and must now come together to create the community. At a lecture on cohousing last summer, the organizer talked about the traditional cohousing projects in Madison (both completed and in the design phase) and then introduced Troy Gardens as an "if you build it they will come" model.

Well... guess what? We came. We're here. It is going to take shared vision, work and consensus to make Troy Gardens not just our homes, but also our intentional neighborhood. The future is in our collective hands.
Handy Hints & Tips

By Margaret McEntire (#570)

Handy hints for removing stains from our kitchen and bathroom counters

Our kitchen counters are manufactured by the Wilsonart Company of Texas, whose customer service department was easy to reach and very helpful when I asked for advice on how to remove the rust stain left behind by my innocently placing my cast iron skillet on the counter. (I’d recently moved in and wanted not to inadvertently muck things up.) The fellow with whom I spoke advised making a paste of baking soda and an ammonia-based cleaner - his examples were Windex and 409 cleaner. It worked like a charm.

Far less simple were my attempts to remove stains to the bathroom counters, manufactured by the Elite Marble Company here in Wisconsin, which all-too-easily picked up the ink from the packaging of toiletries that I’d placed on the counter. Elite’s Website recommended three courses of action, all of which I tried, in order, and none of which worked, to the detriment of my pocketbook: applying denatured alcohol, turpentine, and finally paint thinner. Finally I called Elite (its offices had been closed for a spell), which suggested Gel Gloss cleaner - handily available at our local hardware store, Meikle’s - and it worked like a charm.

Call me at 249-0062 if you want to borrow my Gel Gloss to try out on your own bathroom counter stains. 
http://www.elitemarbleco.com/

Recycle your household solvents at Dane County's Clean Sweep, opening in May!

Clean Sweep is Dane County government’s free service that collects and safely disposes of our household hazardous wastes (for example, paint, solvents, household cleaners). Go to http://www.dane county cleansweep.com for full information. Based on last year's hours of operation, Clean Sweep ought to open for business this season in early May, on Tuesdays through Saturdays. As spring approaches, Clean Sweep's 2007 schedule will be posted on its website.

It's not for nothing I drive an aging pick-up truck - I volunteer to haul our collective first batch of household hazardous wastes to Clean Sweep the first Saturday it is open. Call me at 249-0062 to arrange. Note that Clean Sweep encourages users to peruse and take away other householders' Clean Sweep deposits, and I have often taken away paint and the tail end of household cleaners donated by others who utilize Clean Sweep.

The good news/bad news about recycling at Troy

Agreed: we moved here because we have a vision of living sustainably. The good news about this collective goal: we're recycling -- to the point of an overflowing bin. The bad: some of us continue to put trash in the recycling bin, which contributes to that overflow. (Recent sight-ings include fast food containers, recyclables encased in plastic bags strictly for the convenience of those depositing their recyclables into the bin, and styrofoam packing blocks and peanuts still inside cardboard boxes.)

Until, and even after, we obtain a larger recycling bin, may we suggest the following for the benefit of all of us:
1) Read Peliterri's information posted on the trash and recycling bins about what constitutes trash, what constitutes a recyclable.
2) Always flatten your cardboard boxes, for the convenience of others using the recycling bin. As well, flatten your plastic bottles and cans.
3) Separate, as appropriate, what you are recycling. This allows you to pull aside Styrofoam packing blocks and peanuts, which may be recycled (see #4), as well as plastic bags, which also may be recycled (see #5).
4) Recycle your Styrofoam peanuts and packing blocks at The UPS Store at 1213 North Sherman, 663-9090, located in the Northgate Shopping Center, corner of North Sherman and Aberg Avenues. It’s open Monday - Thursdays 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fridays 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. If that’s not on the path of your travels, I volunteer to drop off those materials on your behalf; call me at 249-0062 to arrange.
5) Recycle your plastic bags at Pierce's Market in the Sherman Plaza and/or Copps Foods in the Shopko Center off of Aberg Avenue.

The TGCA Board agreed to pay $5 more a month for a larger recycling bin. This should help alleviate the problem.
New Computer Service for Troy Garden

BAB'S COMPUTER SERVICE
Your IT Solution

On-Site Service & Repair
Are you fed up with the hassle of disassembling your PC and hauling it to a repair shop every time it has problems—only to wait a week or more to get it back? We will come directly to your home to solve your computer troubles right on the spot. We offer same-day and after-hours service.

Networks
If you have two or more PCs in your home, have you considered networking them? A network allows your computers to share files, a printer, and an internet connection. Even better, a wireless network is the cutting-edge way to connect all of the computers in your home.

Firewalls & Internet Security
How secure is your computer? Have you downloaded the latest patches and updates for Windows? As internet usage has grown, so have security threats. One way to protect yourself is to install a firewall, which keeps intruders from sneaking into your computer and accessing your private data. Firewalls also can alert you when spyware programs attempt to transmit your sensitive information over the internet. In particular, firewalls are crucial if you have the always-on internet connection of DSL or a cable modem. Protect yourself and your family....

Preventive Maintenance
You wouldn't drive a car for years without changing the oil, so why ignore your computer? Like any investment, your computer needs constant care—which means keeping it dust-free. When was the last time your PC had a thorough cleaning? If it's been more than 6 months, it's time to schedule a Preventative Maintenance visit.

Upgrades
Is your computer several years old? Is it slow to boot up? Are you running out of storage space? We can breathe new life into your PC by upgrading some of its key components. Even if your system is fairly new, you may need a few enhancements to accommodate your growing collection of digital photos, movies, files, or video games.

Custom Built PCs
Virus Detection & Removal
Data Backup and Recovery

Yacouba  -  558 Troy Dr
Phone: (608) 239-3812 Day time
E-mail:trayc@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Perfect for a child who has outgrown the crib, this toddler bed features a sleigh design and 2 side rails that will keep your child from falling out. It's low to the ground, making it easier for your child to climb right into bed. Made from solid wood. From Delta.
* Solid wood construction, caramel finish
* 2 side rails for added safety, and low to the ground for easy in and out access.
* Dimensions: 57"L x 30"W x 28"H
* Made by Delta  * Available only online
* Uses a standard crib mattress
* $100 obo + the mattress
If interested, contact Yacouba (#558  traorya@uwm.edu)

Gathering

Anne, Owen & Justin Markofski
518 Troy Drive

Every Monday Night
Time: 6:30 - 9:00

Our home will be open for friends and neighbors to gather. We want to provide a weekly venue for those interested in sharing life.

We will provide bread and wine. Feel free to come empty handed or bring a favorite snack or beverage.

You're Invited!
Meet MACLT staff!

By David Marshall (#574)

**Name:** Sharene Wilcox... who by
the time you read this will be... Sharene Smith.

Agi and I met up with Sharene and her soon-to-be husband David at a local brewpub. It was packed, so we ended up back in a dark corner. We were kind of spread out and I was wondering how in the world I was going to interview her. I couldn't really see her, but I could hear her... and that's when I had the epiphany that I was hearing the essence of the Sharene Wilcox - her laughter. I think I, and all of you, will remember that mirthful sound for many years to come because you can't be around Sharene without hearing laughter.

**Where is she from?**

Santa Cruz, CA. Louisville, KY. But Centerville, Ohio is where she called home. She went off to school to Wheaton College in Illinois where she received a degree in Communications Studies with a minor in art - and dreamt about going into advertising.

A previous marriage brought here to Sun Prairie, WI - where she ended up staying, eventually gravitating into Madison. A temp job took her to Dane County Title (does that have a familiar ring to it?) where she worked for 7 years. One too many closings for Camino del Sol brought her to the attention of a certain Greg Rosenberg - who was looking for someone experienced with closings for a new project he was starting.

Mr. Rosenberg was the executive director (and pretty much the only staff person) of the Madison Community Land Trust (MACLT) and his new upcoming project included finding 30 homeowners in a mixed affordable housing / market rate cohousing community. He knew he needed some help on this one, so he brought Mary Myers and Sharene Wilcox into the picture. Sharene started with MACLT in August, 2005 where she put together a first rate homebuyer's education session - and enter from stage right, Troy Gardens…

**What did you enjoy most working with us?** "Getting to know all of you--the homeowners. Feeling like I was a part of building a wonderful community. And going to potlucks you all are the best cooks!

**What did you learn working at MACLT?** "A lot about development and working with the city. I learned a lot about collaboration-teaming up with other organizations to make things happen. Working for a non-profit was a very different experience."

**What do you see in your future?** "Your community is going to be amazing. You will learn to self govern and grow together into a close knit Community - that will be so awesome. I expect a baby boom in the next few years! Troy Gardens will become a model in sustainability and I hope more developers will look to you as an example. I'm so excited for all of you!"

**All of us are very excited about you - when's the big day?** "Next Friday, February 23rd. We are going to have a small ceremony with family and a party for our friends on Saturday. A two day affair."

**Who's the lucky fellow?** David James Smith - a custom fixture builder who hails from New York City originally, though his accent doesn't betray that fact. David has been in Wisconsin about 9 years now and works for Wisconsin Built, Inc in Deerfield making cabinets, counters, tables, display cases, and bars. You can see his handiwork at the Dane County Regional Airport, Cocoliquot and at the many Chipotle's across the country!

**What do you like to do in your free time?** "I love movies--especially foreign and indie films. I used to be a regular at Hilldale Theater on Sunday afternoons with a bucket of popcorn with extra, extra, extra butter. (You have to say "extra" three times!) I enjoy watching Badger sports -- I used to go to a lot of football games, but found I was going broke, so I've switched to hockey!

I enjoy curling up with a good book and reading into the wee hours of the morning. My recommendation is "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson--I have a copy if you'd like to borrow it! I also love to travel--it makes it nice having family overseas! But, lately my free time has been taken up with wedding planning and cleaning out my house to make room for David's stuff and trying to fix up/clean/pack up his house to get it ready to sell."

**What is your new job?** "I will be a real estate closing specialist for land acquisition for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). I'll be doing closings in a Troy Gardens framework protecting forests, green space, waterways, etc."

**Are we going to be seeing you around?** "Yes-you won't get rid of that easily! I intend to stay on as a volunteer for awhile - and I'll be stopping in to say hello every once in a while."

**Where are you going on your honeymoon?** To the Troy Gardens Potluck - Tuesday, February 29th - Lakeview Lutheran Church. See you there! "...And then sometime next summer we'll be spending some time in my uncle's villa in southern Spain."

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Best Wishes Sharene & David from everyone here at Troy Gardens!
Lakeview Library Events

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free Tax Preparation
Provided by AARP volunteers every Thursday afternoon through April 12 for the elderly and for low and moderate income families. Call 246-4547 to schedule your appointment.

Preschool Storytimes
Tuesdays through April 17 at 10:15 or 11:15 am.
Preschoolers enjoy a fun-filled storytime of stories, songs, laughs and crafts. Siblings welcome!

Friends of Troy Gardens Upcoming Events

March 16 - Registration deadline for new Community Gardeners
March 31 - Community Gardens Registration Day at Lakeview Library, 10:00 am - 1:00pm
April 21 - Volunteer Day - Community Garden Opening Day, 9:00 - 12:00

District 12 & 18 Candidate Forums for April 3rd Election
Monday, March 19
6:00 - 7:30
Lakeview Library

Book Baby
Thursdays
February 8 - March 29 at 10:15 am.
15 minutes of stories and songs for babies 0-18 months old. It’s fun for parents, too.

Toddler Time
Thursdays, February 8 - March 29 at 11:15 am.
Toddle on down and enjoy 20 minutes of stories, songs as you shake your sillies out. For children ages 16-35 months with adult.

Donuts with Dad
First Saturdays: April 7 & May 5 at 9:30am.
A Saturday morning storytime especially for dads (and uncles and grandpas) and their preschool kids. Come listen to some stories, watch a short movie and munch on donuts, coffee and juice.

Used Book Sales
Saturday, March 17 from 9am - 5pm. Our used book sales are the third Saturday of the month. Drop off used books anytime the library is open. Proceeds enable the library to sponsor our programs.

Scrabble at the Library
Wednesdays from 10am - 12:30pm.
Attention word lovers! The scrabble players want new competition. Exercise your brain by playing other adults for fun.

Drop-In Knitting at the Library
Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:30pm.
Knit and make some new friends. Beginners to advanced knitters.