



Annual Meeting Set for March 18

Please mark your calendars to join your neighbors for the Association's Annual Meeting, to be held at 7:00 pm on March 18 in the upstairs function room at Middleton Sport Bowl, 6815 University Avenue. The agenda includes brief presentations by local candidates running in the April elections, a financial report, a crime update, and elections of Association officers and board members. Beverages will be available to purchase.

Crime in the Neighborhood: We All Need to be Vigilant

Recent burglaries are a sad reminder that Stonefield is not as secure as it used to be. In just the last two weeks, thieves broke in through garage service doors at houses on Boundary and Clovernook Roads, both times during late afternoon to early evening hours, when no one was home. Over the past few months, Middleton has also suffered a spate of thefts from unlocked cars.

The Middleton Police Department urges us to leave lights and TVs on when we are away (so that our homes look occupied), to turn on outside lights at night, and to be sure that garage doors are closed. Locking all your doors is a must even during daylight hours.

If you need to leave your car parked outside, be sure it is locked and that nothing of value is visible – especially not removable garage door openers.

The Middleton Police Department has sent along the helpful tips shown on the next page. If you observe suspicious activity, the police do want you to call them.

Our Own Little Free Library Has Opened in Stonefield

With the help of several volunteers, your Stonefield Neighborhood Association has just purchased, designed, and installed a Little Free Library on Clovernook Road. It's a few feet east of the intersection with Woodgate, in the yard of John and Lynn Sweeney at 6502 Woodgate Road.

Little Free Libraries are those cute little boxes on posts that have been popping up around town, and across the country. The idea is that you drop off a book that you no longer care to own and pick out a new one from the box. There isn't any charge, as it's a free sharing program among neighbors.



But to get the Little Free Library rolling we could use some books! If you have any that you are willing to part with (adult, teen and children's), please put them in the Little Library as soon as you can.

Our thanks go to Robin Sweet (shown above) for leading the project and for designing, tiling, and painting the Library, to Kurt Sonnentag and Jon DiPiazza for digging through the frost line to put up the post, and to John Grande for installing the Library just before the snow storm.

Thanks also to John and Lynn Sweeney for graciously providing space in their yard and offering to keep the snow shoveled and the grass maintained around the Little Library. *(Continued on back)*

DON'T MISS OUT: Be sure to email us at SNAnews@aol.com and ask to get on the emailing list for regular, timely updates on what's going on in Stonefield.

Shoveling Snow and Other Joys of a Wisconsin Winter

The forecasters don't seem to agree on whether we'll have more or less snow than average this season. But they agree that it's far from over.

So please remember that **city ordinances** require your sidewalks be cleared to wheel chair width within 24 hours of snowfall ending. That includes following up to remove spillover created by city plows – but please do not blow or shovel snow into the road. Property owners on corners need to clean the path from the sidewalk to the road.

Be sure to clean around fire hydrants – the house you save may be your own. And please clear enough snow at curbside for Postman Larry to reach your mailbox from his vehicle.

Covenants and Restrictions

Current and new homeowners alike often have questions about the neighborhood deed restrictions and covenants. Fences, evergreens, post lights and roof shingles are common issues. You can find a complete set of restrictions and covenants on the Association's website at www.stonefield.org.

Stonefield's Own Little Library *(Continued)*

At Stephanie Mueller's great suggestion, we hope to run periodic promotions and, for instance, in March to ask for gardening books you no longer want, or for cook books in November, before the holidays, and so on. If you have ideas for others, please email Robin Sweet at roisweet@aol.com.

Lastly, thanks to the woman who raised the idea for the Library at last year's SNA meeting – a great example of why we get together every year.



Middleton, WI
January 2013

STONEFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SNAnews@aol.com | www.stonefield.org

President: Norm Arendt, *Treasurer:* Dave Diercks
Secretary: Ralph Swoboda, *Board Members at Large:* Mike Adler, Jim Dvorsky and Jeff Mattox
Mayor: Kurt Sonnentag, *Alderspersons:* Gurdip Brar (District 2) and JoAnna Richard (District 3).



**FROM THE
MIDDLETON POLICE**

Lock your doors

- Deadbolt locks are best. But whatever type you have, use them, even when you are at home.
- Keep garage doors closed and locked.
- Secure sliding doors and windows. Cut a broom handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced.

Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break into

- Lock all doors and windows when you go to bed or when you leave home, even if only for a short time.
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for long, connect some lamps to automatic timers so they turn on at night and off during the day.

Outside

- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.
- Keep car doors locked and contents out of sight.

If Your Home Is Broken Into

If you come home to find an unexplained open or broken window or door:

- Do not enter – the perpetrator may still be inside.
- Use a neighbor's phone to call the police at **911**.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles nearby, and note the descriptions of any suspicious persons in the area.

Other precautions you should take

Never leave keys outside under doormats, flowerpots, etc. Burglars know where to look for hidden keys.

Mark your property and document serial numbers

- Mark valuables with an engraver, e.g. with your driver's license number -- as a deterrent and to help police identify/return stolen property. Make a list of your property and take pictures of your valuables, their model and serial numbers, with a digital camera. Burn the photos onto a flash drive and give it to a trusted friend or relative to keep for you.
- The Middleton Police Department has partnered with LeadsOnline to provide citizens with a system for maintaining secure records of valuable property. You can sign up at <http://reportit.leadsonline.com>.

Middleton Police: Phone 824-7300