

Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods



Sunset Hills Newsletter | June, 2024

A Letter From The President

by Scott Michaels

T

here is a lot of focus on the History of Sunset Hills right now. To me, that's a very good thing.

I have always been fascinated by history and how we view things within a historical perspective. I was a history major in college at Washington and Lee University and that gave me a certain worldview. And I'm sure it's one of the reasons I love living in a house built in 1929 in Sunset Hills.

I spent the weekend volunteering for Preservation Greens-

boro's Tour of Historic Homes in Sunset Hills. I don't know the final count of tickets sold, but pre-sales were around 365 before the tour started. It was so gratifying to know so many people were interested in the homes and history of this special place we call home.

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Thanks to our advertisers for helping make this newsletter possible!

A Letter From The President

(continued from page 1)

I want to thank everyone who joined me as a volunteer and our neighbors who opened their homes. I also especially want to thank Preservation Greensboro and their staff for putting on this event.

This is the Centennial of Sunset Hills. We have a committee working on events recognizing this 100th Anniversary of the start of our neighborhood. Cindy Ramsay is working hard to raise money for us to erect a statue commemorating the occasion. Please contribute whatever you can. This is our gift to those who will own these homes and live in this neighborhood after us.

Owning an older home is definitely a challenge. Only people who love them will take this on. Each of us does what we can to improve and preserve these special houses. We also recognize we can't do it all, that trends and living styles change, and that someone will come after us and alter the house again. We are only temporary caretakers of these grand old homes.

David Hammer, our Sunset Hills historian, is leading a project to capture the memories of some of our neighbors who have lived here for decades. I'm so glad he is capturing their stories for us to share with future generations

of homeowners. I've talked with some of the longtime residents myself and they have fascinating stories to tell.

While we learn and recognize the history of our neighborhood and homes, it's important to remember that we are a part of that history. Our lives in our houses, the homes we save and improve and the parks and streets we protect will be history starting tomorrow. History lives on and history includes capturing lives lived and homes preserved.

_____ sh _____

A Note From Your Treasurer

by Elaine Brune



Now taking **Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association Dues** for the calendar year 2024. Dues are \$10 per house.

Please make sure to include the names as you want it to appear in the newsletter and the address.

Just \$10 gets you events and activities in the neighborhood (such as the Halloween party, Pig Pickin, Rock the Block and Tree Reforestation project) Plus you can list items or notices on our ListServ.

Make checks payable to **Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association (SHNA)** and drop off in the red

postal box on my porch or drop in the door slot of my home at 2504 Sylvan Road. Payments via PayPal are available through the website: <https://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org/duesanddonations>.



Questions? Email me at sunset-hillsgsonc@gmail.com

_____ sh _____

Stay In The Loop

You can follow along with regular happenings, updates, and news by following us on our Facebook page and on our website.

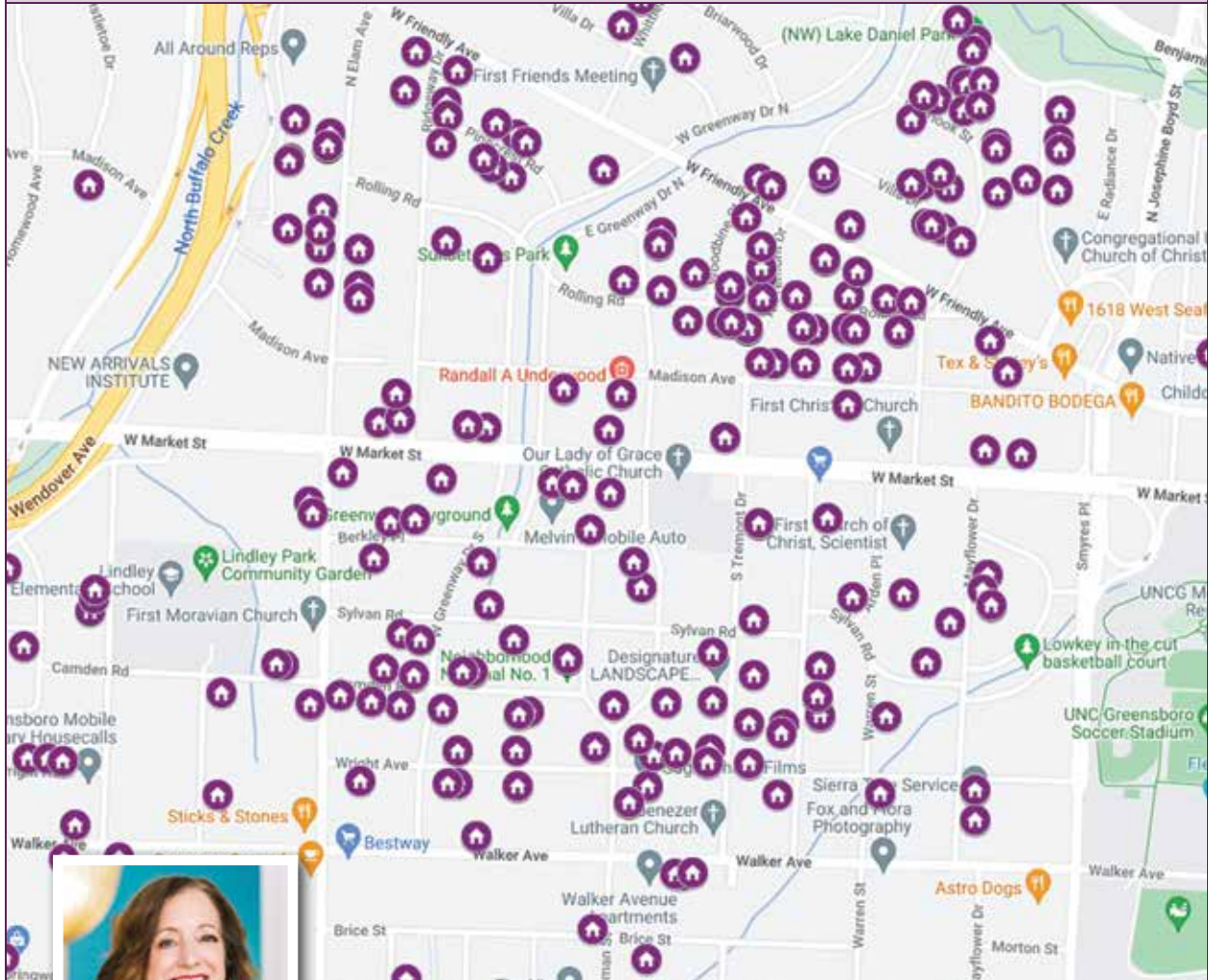
You can also join our community email listserv by emailing Adam Graham-Squire at adam.grahamsquire@gmail.com

Please note that only current members who have paid their annual dues may send non-emergency messages to the community listserv.

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Melissa

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S.O.S. SAVE OUR SHADE!

Sunset Hills Is Losing Too Many Mature Trees Each Year!



These valuable trees do more for our neighborhood than add charm and value to our homes, they are able to cool the surrounding landscape by 10+ degrees in summer and offer safe habitat & nourishment to a large variety of wildlife.

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) can cover a 50 foot Oak tree in a few years, cutting off sunlight, nutrients and eventually killing the tree.

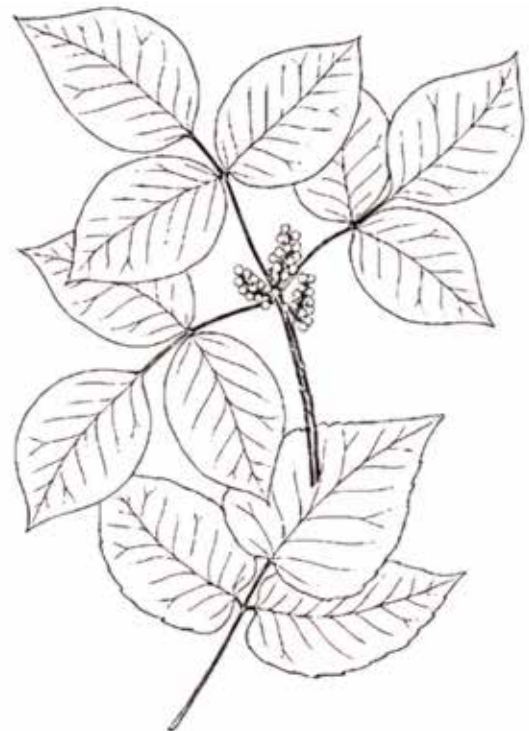
Thankfully there are Free & Easy steps Homeowners can take to SAVE OUR SHADE.

Arborists suggest using hand pruners, loppers, and gloves to work at waist height removing the leaves to get a good look at the Ivy's vines.

Use pruners or loppers to cut the vines around the entire circumference of the tree. This will separate the Ivy from their source of nutrients. Pull the cut vines down to



Above: English Ivy



Right: Poison Ivy

the base of the tree and continue pulling them out of the ground creating a 2 foot "Life Ring". This is easiest to do following rain.

Once cut, leave the upper Ivy on the tree – pulling it off could harm the tree and isn't necessary, the dead Ivy vines will eventually blend into the tree bark.

For vines thicker than 1" – a pruning saw is helpful but be careful not to cut into the tree bark.

Arborists prefer laying a 2-inch layer of thick leaf or chip mulch 3 feet around the tree. Be sure to keep the mulch 3 inches away from the trunk to insure air exchange.

Poison Ivy can sneak up a tree – make sure you know the difference.

_____ sh _____

Rock The Block Kickoff A Big Success

Happened on: **Thursday, May 16**

Music by: **Pressing Strings**

Sponsored by: **Melissa Greer**

Result: **Great Weather, Great Band,
Great Food, Great Fun!**



Above: Pressing Strings



Right & Below: The bubble machine was a hit with young and old alike



Above: Two young fans enjoying the music



Top: Pressing Strings performing at the ROCK the BLOCK Kickoff

Middle: Young boy is more interested in the music and fun than in his dinner

Bottom: Food Trucks are always a big hit at ROCK the BLOCK



Above: Many fans simply sat and enjoyed the show while others felt the music and wanted to dance

Left: Young and old came out to enjoy the fun.

Upcoming **ROCK The BLOCK** Concerts

When: **Thursday, June 13**
Music By: **Camel City Yacht Club**
Sponsored By: **Scott Michaels**

When: **Thursday, July 11**
Music By: **The Jared Stout Band**
Sponsored By: **Britney Blue**

When: **Thursday, August 22**
Music By: **Sam Fribush**
Sponsored By: **John Martin**



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Triad Musicians Matter & The Guitar Resettlement Project

by Kristy Jackson



hough I had to move to a one floor house to remain taking care of my partner of 23 years, I still own 1708 W. Market St. where my son currently lives. I reached out to Carole to see if I could submit an article to The Sunset Hills Newsletter. She graciously said yes.

In many cases, it's the musicians in the community that rally together to perform to raise money for social causes and each other.

I decided to create a nonprofit that could quickly help financially if they were in need themselves. I thought I would introduce you to my 501c3 Nonprofit, Triad Musicians Matter, that I formed in 2011 to help professional musicians from the Triad financially in the event that their ability to gig and earn money through their craft was affected by sudden illness, hospitalization, accident, death, or displacement from home due to fire or natural disasters. We

have granted over \$41,000 over the past few years. If you know of a musician who is struggling with the issues above we have an application that can be filled out and submitted online at our website.

In 2022, I added an additional mission for us to pursue. Having gotten personally involved in

As of today, we have gifted over 24 guitars to refugees who have come from Afghanistan, Cuba, Burundi, Ukraine and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Though our bylaws limit us to gifting in the Triad only, which I make clear when talking to prospective donators, our guitars have come from Greensboro, Charlotte, Wilmington and

Maui, HI. So if you have an old guitar under a bed collecting dust and would like to donate



Triad Musicians Matter
 (THE GUITAR RESETTLEMENT PROJECT)

refugee resettlement, I realize how important and supportive Greensboro is and has been in the past. I'm very proud of that. Knowing how important music has been to me and other musicians, I founded The Guitar Resettlement Project through which we gift donated guitars to refugees who are resettling in the Triad. All donators get a tax receipt for their donated guitar, a few which have come from Sunset Hills by the way. They are restrung, tuned and minor repairs are made if necessary.

to us or would just like to make a donation, we'd appreciate it!

We will be proudly partnering for the 3rd year with this year's Greensboro Summer Solstice on June 22. We will have a table out there to share what we do and I'd love to see you guys there.

www.triadmusiciansmatter.org
616-244-6893

_____ sh _____



LS
— —
Leslie Stainback

Now is the time to take advantage of our market!

Property values in Greensboro remain at an all-time high!

Whether you're considering a sale or happy right where you are, the strength of our market is great news for all property owners in the Triad!

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Our Ongoing Series of *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

Best Neighbors In The World!

by Carole Potter

C

hip and I are so lucky to have Carl and Helen Phillips as our neighbors. In addition to neighbors looking out to help neighbors, they have some of the best music in their back yard mini stage that we get to enjoy often in the summer.

But I want to tell you about something special that happened several years ago where Carl's help went way beyond anything you would expect from your neighbor.

Chip and I are both retired and love to travel, especially we love to cruise. We were in the middle of the ocean, cruising away and enjoying great food and entertainment, when Chip received a text from Carl. I should preface this with the fact that we have a wonderful pet and house sitter, but this time something he was doing concerned Carl who thought he better check with us to tell us what he was seeing at our house.

He let us know that he was seeing a line of young people carrying pillows and bedding into our house. He said it looked like maybe a party but he didn't

know if we knew about it and just wanted to let us know. I think we probably never thought to tell our house sitter that we didn't want other people we did not know in our house while we were gone, and our house sitter knew them so it never crossed his mind.

So from our position on a cruise ship out somewhere in the

Right: Carl & Helen Phillips

Below: Carole & Chip Potter



ocean, our sitter received a text from Chip letting him know that we did not want those unknown people in our house, and certainly

not staying overnight. We heard back from him immediately apologizing and saying it was his girl-



friend's birthday and they were going to camp in the back yard and celebrate her birthday - he just didn't realize he shouldn't be doing this. So all left and we heaved a sigh of relief.

It's nice to know your neighbors are watching out for you when you are away. Thank you Carl and Helen for being concerned and letting us know. You are the best! I would have loved to see our housesitter's face when he got that text from us and knew that somehow we had an eye on the house from a great distance.

You never know when BIG BROTHER is watching!!

sh



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Sunset Hills History Project News

by David Hammer



First of all, a big Thank You to everyone who has participated in the project so far!

Second, here are the updates on the 2 components:

1. In conjunction with our Centennial Celebration, we have begun collecting documents related to the homes that make up our Sunset Hills neighborhood. With the cooperation of UNCG, we will be developing a website to house and organize the documents in a searchable format. Several people have provided documents and photographs.
2. We are also doing videotaped interviews with some of

our neighbors who have lived in their SH homes for a long time, and the UNCG team has agreed to post these videos on the website as well. So far we have identified 2 residents who have been in their homes for over 70 years!!, and several more in the 60+, 50+ and 40+ categories. I have completed 9 of the interviews and have sent these in to be loaded on the website. I hope to do another 6 or 7 to get us to at least 15.

One person declined to be included, which is fine, but the others have been absolutely wonderful, with great stories to tell and lots of history. One neighbor remembered Fritz Klenner walking by her house regularly, and remembered seeing a UFO that was also seen by others in the neighborhood.

Several told about some unusual features of their homes and how they came to be there, such as 2 front doors and 2 addresses for the same house!

This has been great fun and has given me an even stronger appreciation for our special neighborhood. During the interviews, I have asked each person for a piece of advice to pass along to younger and newer SH residents – almost every one has mentioned the importance of getting to know your neighbors.

There is still time to submit names for people to be included in the videotaping, or to submit documents for scanning. Please call me with any questions or suggested names!

_____ sh _____



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Park Happenings

by Sue Riley & Erin Reis



We are all fortunate to live in Sunset Hills, and we are all very fortunate to enjoy our wonderful park!

Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs (SHEA) and the Sunset Hills Garden Club (SHGC) as Adopt a Park, in conjunction with City Parks and Rec, have worked hard over the years to ensure the park has been maintained.

SHEA spearheaded the removal of invasive plants such as English Ivy, Privet, Tree of Heaven, and Mimosa trees. Poison Ivy, although a beneficial native, was also removed to make the park more enjoyable for people and their dogs. This was an enormous undertaking, and we all can see the benefit this spring- the park has never looked lovelier. SHEA adopted the stream and conducts stream cleans in the spring and fall that include a full reporting of the items cleared from the stream. SHEA also installed the kiosks with bulletin boards and environmental lending libraries. SHGC replants and maintains the corners and signs, maintains the bluebird houses and the Little Free Library on Friendly, sponsors neighborhood initiatives such as the daffodils, and is in contact with the city for maintenance, such as adding mulch to



Above: Sunset Hills Park from Friendly Avenue

Right: Specific seedlings are protected from mowing and other damage

the playgrounds this winter and removing debris after



Left: Babbling brook runs through Sunset Hills Park off of W. Greenway Drive N



Below: Sunset Hills Park has a thriving and diverse wildlife population



maintain a healthy park, the plan is to just pull the debris out of walking paths and

storms and park clean ups.

The park has come a long way,

let it be. According to the NC State Extension Office “Decaying logs attract insects, fungi, lichen, and moss, providing a food source for wildlife. As logs decay, they replenish soil nutrients and act as ‘nurse logs’ for new tree seedlings to sprout. Over 20 bird species, over 50 mammal species, and many species of reptiles and amphibians use downed logs in the southeastern U.S.” To be clear, the goal is not to allow debris to pile up in an unsightly manner, or into big piles which

would invite the kind of mammal none of us want in our backyard - but rather let the park be a park. When you see a fallen branch, instead of dragging it to the curb for pick up, please place it in a safe, out of the way place. Please feel free to help break up some of the branches into small pieces as you walk.

Another concern that we would like to remedy is the mowing down of canopy seedlings. Every two weeks we routinely destroy any chance of the natural regeneration of healthy canopy trees by mowing the entire park. In an attempt to let canopy seedlings grow to the point where we can recognize them, then protect them, we have set aside three “No Mow Zones.” The zones will not be “no mow”

forever, there will be wide mowed pathways, the edge by the street will be mowed, and all of it (except



Left & Above: Numerous signs point out ways we can protect our Park

Right: Bluebird houses are scattered throughout the Park

Below: Sunset Hills Park has several Little Lending Libraries placed in various locations



While the project to rid the park of invasives was a success, we still have random spots where stubborn invasives such as English Ivy, Sweet Autumn Clematis, Japanese Honeysuckle, and Mimosa trees have come back. SHEA and the Sunset Hills Board are looking into hiring the company who did the initial project to return one day this summer. Signs will be posted, and flower beds, including the daffodils, will not be treated. And don't forget that we are trying to reestablish canopy trees throughout Sunset Hills as part of our Centennial Celebration. The goal is 100 new trees this year, and we

are halfway there! SHGC has committed to 10 new Dogwood trees in the park, in addition to the ones already planted in coordination with Greensboro Beautiful this past fall. Be on the lookout for the SHEA forms for your new trees in the September newsletter.

Both SHGC as Adopt a Park and SHEA have been working hard to make our park better for us all. We hope you love and enjoy the park as much as we do, and will join with us in keeping the momentum going!

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the seedlings!) will be mowed occasionally so that it will not get too tall.

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Tour of Historic Homes

On Saturday May 18 and Sunday May 19 more than 350 people toured these outstanding homes that your neighbors graciously opened to the public. This was Preservation Greensboro's Fourteenth Tour of Historic Homes and Gardens.



Above: Numerous volunteers made the Tour a great success

Right: 2206 W. Market St.

Right Below: 200 E. Greenway Dr. N



Right: 201 W. Greenway Dr. N



(continued on page 18)



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Tour of Historic Homes

(continued from page 17)



Above: 1710 Wright Ave.

Right: A steady flow of attendees viewed the Homes for two days

Far Right Above: 1706 Madison Ave.

Far Right Below: 1716 Madison Ave.



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Update From Your Parafencing Neighbor

By Abe Kaplan



ello Neighbors!

It's Abe Kaplan again, writing to give everyone an update on my

latest parafencing news. For those of you who may not know me, I am a 15 years old and I have lived in Sunset Hills with my family for seven years. I had a stroke at birth and live with right-sided hemiplegia. I started parafencing about one year ago and my goal is to make it to the 2028 Paralympics. I have been updating my neighbors periodically on my progress.

Thanks to the generosity and support I have received from the community, I was able to travel to Cardiff, Wales in January to represent Team USA in a Parafencing World Cup. I was the youngest parafencer there and I was honored to meet and compete with top parafencers from around the world. I worked hard and I did well enough to be chosen to compete in the final team foil

event. It was an awesome experience and I learned a lot.

In February, I competed in a Parafencing North American Cup in Charlotte, NC. This time,

I defeated a two time world champion to earn my first gold medal in

and epee.

Coming up next, I will go to Brazil to compete in the Parafencing Zonal Competition. In between competitions, I continue to train about five days/week, spend time with my family, and catch up on my school work!

I am still looking for donors and sponsors to help me along the

way to my Paralympic goal. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the Piedmont Fencer's Alliance Parafencing Program, all proceeds go towards my training, equipment, tournament, and travel expenses.

You can also follow my on Instagram @abekaplan_fencing. Thank you again for reading my story and supporting my parafencing journey. Please feel free to contact

my mom and dad if you have any questions. karenjbrown77@yahoo.com or esk6988@gmail.com



Above: Abe proudly displaying his Gold and Silver medals



Top: Abe preparing for his next competition



Below: In a pivotal match Abe makes a thrust against his opponent

Below: Abe at the US Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado



foil and I also received silver medals in epee and sabre. I was invited to another camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs in March to train with Team USA. And in April, I traveled to Salt Lake City to compete in the National Parafencing Tournament, where I finished with a silver medal in sabre and bronze medals in foil

_____ sh _____



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