

Sunset Hills Newsletter

Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods

October 2022

A Letter from the President

written by Scott Michaels

his is our last newsletter of the year and, therefore, the last one before The Most Wonderful Time of the Year in Sunset Hills- Lighted Christmas Ball Season!

This event means so much to so many people. I always say, it's the people who make this neighborhood such a great place to live. Nothing illustrates that more than the time and effort so many people put into making Sunset Hills the most festive place in Greensboro for the Holidays.

The Lighted Christmas Balls originated here in Sunset Hills- thanks to Anne and Jonathan Smith- back in 1996. The Running of the Balls started in 2011 and

continues thanks to Nick Loflin and so many others.

The Christmas Balls and surrounding events give so much to our community. It's not just a beautiful, magical display that brightens the holidays and brings cheer to so many people. It also makes tangible contributions to those less fortunate. Our efforts also support local foodbanks and help mitigate hunger in our city.

Last year, Running of the Balls raised \$74,000 and 19,000 pounds of food were collected. In all, over 4 million meals have been provided through the Sunset Hills Collection Sites. Please remember this when traffic increases and we suffer some minor inconveniences. It's all worth it in the end. Also, starting last year, Running of the Balls added a \$2.00 Carbon

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New Neighbor Coordinator

OPFN

Lighted Ball Coordinator for Greenway/Berkley Park OPEN

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Representative to the Neighborhood Congress

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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.

www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org www.facebook.com/SunsetHillsGSO

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(cont. from page 1)

Offset Fee and a lights recycling program was launched to make the event more environmentally friendly.

This year, we will have even more lights and balls in the neighborhood. The Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association paid to have electricity installed in the park between Berkley and Market. That means more balls and more lights! Last I heard, we were still looking for a coordinator for the new park area. If you are interested, please contact John Kelly, who is our liaison to Running of the Balls and works to get the balls up in the park between Market and Friendly and throughout the neighborhood.

Also, please let John or someone on the Board know if you are willing to help some of our neighbors who may need assistance hanging the balls in their yard. I know a lot of people would appreciate the help!

I also want to continue my tradition of recognizing Board

Members who contribute so much to our Neighborhood. Cindy Ramsay, our Board Secretary, does so much more than just take the minutes of our meetings- and she does take great minutes! She has worked diligently on our Centennial Committee to plan celebrations for our upcoming 100-year anniversary. She, along with David Hammer, have worked to get our projects through the Participatory Budget Process. She plans and executes the annual Easter Egg Hunt and works closely with our Social Committee. She does so much that I frankly don't know what we would do without her!

Hopefully, we will be ready to announce our New Neighbor Coordinators shortly. Just a few details to work out. Thanks so much to those who have volunteered. We are always happy to have more people join us! Just reach out to any Board Member.

I wish you all the Happiest of Holidays! I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood and look forward to 2023! •





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Amanda Loftis amanda@amandaloftis.io

Painting Brick: Should You Do it?

written by Scott Sidler

Painting brick is a lot like getting a tattoo. You better feel entirely confident that you want painted brick, and you want it forever, because there's usually no going back. The porousness of brick means that it pulls paints and other coatings deep inside the brick making it extremely difficult to remove. Rather than the paint sitting on top of the material like metal the paint seeps deep into the clay brick and no amount of scraping or chemicals can effectively remove all the remnants of the paint. Sandblasting is possibly the quickest way to completely destroy brick.

The type of bricks used in constructing your house were often chosen with a purpose. Their color and texture were selected to provide the appearance desired by the builder or architect. Before you paint brick think about what that style is and if you really want to cover it forever.

Painting Historic Brick

If you are considering painting bricks on a building built before the 1940s, please don't do it. In addition to their aesthetic beauty, historic bricks are softer than their modern counterparts and the lime mortar commonly used before the 1920s is extremely soft.

These softer masonry materials were designed to breathe and if they can't breathe you are setting yourself up for a world of hurt. When you use a sealer or paint brick of this age you often trap moisture inside which can lead to efflorescence and eventually spalling which is when the face of the brick is pushed right off the body and the brick quickly disintegrates into powder. Everything from masonry sealers to layers of latex or oil paints trap moisture and the bricks slowly eat themselves up from the inside.

When It's OK to Paint Brick Covering Patches

If you've had changes to the exterior like a door or window

moved and new bricks were infilled that don't quite match, then painting bricks is an excellent way to blend things together.

Modern Brick Only

First, they need to be modern brick. By that definition, any brick made after the 1940s. After WWII most bricks (especially in more urban areas) were being made in furnaces hot enough to create an extremely strong and resilient brick that was much harder than the historic bricks we talked about earlier.

Combined with the advent of portland cement mortar which was almost exclusively used by the 1940s across America, the dangers of self-destructing and spalling bricks have largely been remedied.

What About Maintenance?

Are you prepared to maintain painted brick?
Unpainted brick is a virtually maintenance free product.
Every 60 years or so you may need to repoint lime mortar here and there, but other than a cleaning every now and then to keep it looking good it requires no additional work.

Painted brick will last you 10-15 years before it needs sanding, scraping, cleaning, and repainting. For a decent exterior paint job (one that will last at least a decade) you're looking at around \$8,000 to \$20,000 depending on the size of your house. Are you willing to pay that costs every 10 years?

Forever is a Long Time

When you paint your brick, you are making a decision for all the owners that will come after you and you need to be comfortable with that. If there is a small part of you that is uncertain, wait and think on it more before you make such a permanent decision. •

Sound System Available for SHNA Members

written by John Kelly

hanks to the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association (SHNA) we now have two lightweight, easy to use, portable PA systems for our neighborhood.

What's a PA system and why would I care?

A PA (public address) system is for amplifying the human voice. In its simplest form, it has a microphone, mixer, and loudspeakers. Both PA systems Sunset Hills has available have inputs for voice, music and general purpose devices. The speakers double as band monitors during Rock the Block events. Band monitors are smaller powered speakers that the band generally has pointed at them, so they can hear themselves and the other musicians while they play. The smaller size, makes them perfect for smaller events.

What are some potential uses for our small PA system?

- A small club meeting when you would like to play some music as people assemble and then have the ability to amplify a speaker using a microphone.
- You are having a child's birthday party and want to play some music while the kids play in the backyard.
- If you were having a small house concert and needed to amplify an instrument and vocal performance through a microphone.
- Popular in covid-times are outdoor movie nights with an outdoor projector and the PA could provide the needed amplified sound for the movie.

There are plenty of use cases, and it's great to have the equipment where we can take advantage of it (when it's not in use for Rock the Block events). The design is flexible enough to handle a small event with a single speaker and microphone or a larger event with multiple speakers working in parallel, yet still simple to assemble.

I will be posting a PDF on our Facebook page and also our SHNA web site on how to set it up (very easy) and how to schedule the PA if you need it.

Big thanks to SHNA for bringing this equipment in to help with the Rock the Block sound and a big shout out to our neighbor James Potter for his expertise, guidance and knowledge transfer! •



Upcoming Events!

Dates to Remember:

- October 29th Pumpkin Wall
- October 31st Boo on the Block/Halloween Party
- November 5th Planting Party
- November 19th Light the Park Party
- November 20th Ball Making Workshop
- December 10th Running of the Balls

Sunset Hills has so many great events planned for the coming months and we hope to see you there. Stay tuned for more details about each of these events by following our listserv announcements. •



Guided Family-Friendly Nature Walk in Sunset Hills

written by Anne Smith

Sunday, October 23; 2-3 pm

Join us for a casual, family-friendly walk through our park to see what we can find together! We will pause to look at birds, plants, trees, insects and more. This will be a joint event between Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs and the T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society.

We will gather at the tennis court off of Greenway at 2pm. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring binoculars if you have them.

No pre-registration required, just come join us for an hour to observe all of the species that call our park home.

Any questions can be directed to Robin Davis (1jaxmom@gmail.com) ●

Shine the Light on Hunger:

Annual Christmas Balls workshop

written by Anne Smith

his year marks the 20th Shine the Light on Hunger Annual Christmas Balls workshop! (The first Lighted Christmas Ball went up in 1995 and the first workshop/food collection 2002)

This year's event will take place **November 20 from 2-4pm** on Ridgeway Drive between West Market Street and Madison Ave.

We will furnish chicken wire for a contribution to Second Harvest or Urban Ministry. Bring 200 mini led (or incandescent) lights for each ball and we will provide instructors and instructions on making the balls. We will have the trailer out for food collection.

This is a dog and child friendly event. Will post more details on listserv in October/November.

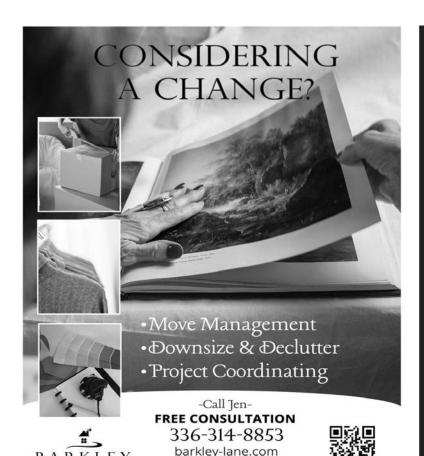
Please join us and Shine Light on Hunger! •







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Welcome Pastor Barbara Styers to Sunset Hills

written by San "Chip" Cook

In November of last year, the Rev. Barbara M. Styers answered the call to serve as pastor for First Moravian Church, located in our neighborhood and the only Moravian Church in Greensboro. Pastor Styers was installed as pastor in February, and along with her husband, Gray Styers, are now our new neighbors living in Sunset Hills.

Barbara and Gray moved from Raleigh where they lived for thirty years and raised two children. Gray is an attorney with Fox Rothschild. Their family includes adult children Richard, daughter-in-law Carolyn, and Remy. Richard and Carolyn live in Raleigh and Remy is a student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, in Nashville, Tennessee.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Rev. Styers holds a BS from Cornell University, an MBA from UNC Chapel Hill, and a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University. Rev. Styers is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and additionally holds a Moravian Studies Certificate from Moravian Theological Seminary. The Moravian Church maintains close ecumenical relations with the Presbyterian Church (USA), as well as the Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church, and Evangelical Lutheran Church. These close relations allow the sharing of clergy between denominations.

What follows is a transcription from a recent interview with Rev. Styers by Chip Cook, Sunset Hills neighbor and member of First Moravian Church:

Rev. Styers, can you share about your early background? Where did you grow up and can you describe your childhood?

First, please, call me Barbara. I grew up in Buffalo, only child in my family and lived in a neighborhood similar to Sunset Hills. So, I feel very at home living here. Growing up in Buffalo, my best friend lived next door and our birthdays were only a week apart. Folks thought we were sisters. I was struck down when she moved away in 8th grade, but we have kept contact over the years.

Related to that question, did you know as a young person that you wanted to become a pastor of a church, or did that happen later in life?

My mom was Presbyterian, but my father was Catholic, and that was how I was raised. I enjoyed being involved in church activities and intrigued by theology and interpretation of scripture. However, growing up Catholic, it did not occur to me I could become a pastor. Later when I married, my husband (who was raised Southern Baptist), and I were looking for a denomination we both felt comfortable in and found Raleigh Moravian Church. It felt like the right place to raise two kids. Later in my life, I realized the experiences from my youth were pointing to a call to ministry.



Barbara holding the first vegetable (a tomato) from the FMC Community Garden.



You became the pastor of First Moravian earlier this year, but you didn't completely move into Greensboro and the neighborhood until this summer, moving with your husband from your former home in Raleigh. What do you think of Greensboro and the neighborhood, and do you feel at home yet?

At the end of August, we sold our house, but we moved out in June. I feel at home living in this neighborhood, it was immediate. Yet, it was hard moving from Raleigh because we lived there for 22 years in the same house and overall lived in Raleigh for 30 years. Lots of stuff accumulated for three decades and we had to downsize. I really enjoy walking through Sunset Hills with the shady trees and beautiful front yard gardens. Additionally, on a quiet night when the windows are open, I can hear the distant train whistles, which also reminds me of growing up in Buffalo.

You are the first female leader of this church, and all the church staff, including the director of Christian education, director of music, treasurer, and administrative assistant, are women. What does that say to you as the pastor in a traditionally male dominated field, and what kind of impact does it have in working with this congregation and community?

It certainly speaks to changing times and people understanding things in different ways. Churches have evolved. Moravians love their traditions, but at the same time, this is not "your grandfather's church" with respect to expectations of roles. Moravians in particular do well at maintaining traditions that are worth preserving and yet still evolve and adapt. For me, I have been welcomed

here at the church...there has been no hostility or subtle messages of not being welcome. I feel like this has been a very smooth transition into this role as I grow and learn into this congregation.

What can I say about working with an all-female staff? Well, we all get along well. And we have a lot in common. Not all church staffs are all women but that does not mean they don't work together easily. We work together because we are able to work as a team, not just because of our gender.

One of your two children, Remy, is attending Vanderbilt to become a pastor. Did you inspire Remy, or was Remy already thinking about this as a career?

I would have to ask Remy for a more complete answer, but I will offer this. By the time I started divinity school, Remy was already active at Raleigh Moravian. At RMC, there was an associate pastor that inspired a number of youth at the time. Also, going to the Laurel Ridge Summer Camps (Moravian Retreat in Laurel Springs, NC) really had a positive impact on Remy.

Can we talk about your communication style, not only in delivering a homily or sermon, but in how you interact with people in the church and in the communities surrounding the church. You seem to be very approachable overall, and your sermons are often tied to events in our congregation, the local community or world. Can you describe your style?

Yes, I feel I try to be approachable. I also try to consider

things from various points of view and understand how someone might arrive at a particular conclusion or idea. At some point I have to decide what I think is the best interpretation or best way forward. I try to base my decisions or responses to people prayerfully in design. Still, I am always looking for new evidence to reconsider and learn from responses and feedback.

What are you goals for serving as pastor at First Moravian? What do you hope to help achieve for this church and for people who are part of this congregation, either as members or people who engage with the church in other ways?

First Moravian is one rambunctious family at times, but I want members to come together. I want people to love each other and be able to disagree with each other, which follows the Moravian Church's motto. Trying to model a community where we pull together on key areas and can disagree on less important areas is my goal. I want people to enjoy our time together and love each other as people.

As for the neighborhood and outreach, it would be nice to become a resource for the immediate community, like the community garden we are building. We also want to continue with traditional activities that draw participation from the neighborhood, like Candle Tea, Christmas Lovefeasts, and our summer ice cream socials. Over the summer, we also hosted a beginning band class to encourage learning an instrument.

Overall, we want people to know that we respect and value all of creation and that is tied into our service goals. Urban Ministries, the Night Shelter, and collecting coats/jackets for the winter, are some examples. Closer to the neighborhood, we recently collected school supplies for Lindley Elementary School.

We have a diverse audience of readers for this newsletter, as we have a diverse neighborhood with different perspectives on religion and spirituality. In a general sense, can you share what teachings from your spiritual beliefs guide you every day in how you live your life, and how you want to help other people, whether they are Christians, Jews, Muslim, believers or non-believers?

For me, it's Jesus' commandment to love one another and learning how to love others. What love looks like to people who share diverse views is fundamental. Learning to express love that is respectful of diversity.

Is anything happening at First Moravian that folks in Sunset Hills should be excited about this fall and winter?

Yes, we are back this December with Candle Tea. It will be more scaled up from the pandemic period and will return to some of the favorite experiences that people remember: Including chicken pies!

Christmas Lovefeast is coming back in full swing this Christmas Eve, with three services, including the return of the children's Lovefeast.

We are reaching out to college campuses in Greensboro, including UNCG and Guilford College. We were at Guilford College this week for a campus ministry event.

Lastly, keep an eye out for announcements on our new community garden. We now have our new beds installed and ready for fall crops. The Greensboro New School will be using one of the beds for teaching their students. Perhaps some beds could be available for folks in the neighborhood who want to work with our church.

Right now, I am hoping that we are laying the work for the roots to take shape. Our church is growing a lot of roots and hopefully showing growth above ground in the near future, and we welcome you as our neighbors to participate with us. •

Information on First Moravian Church

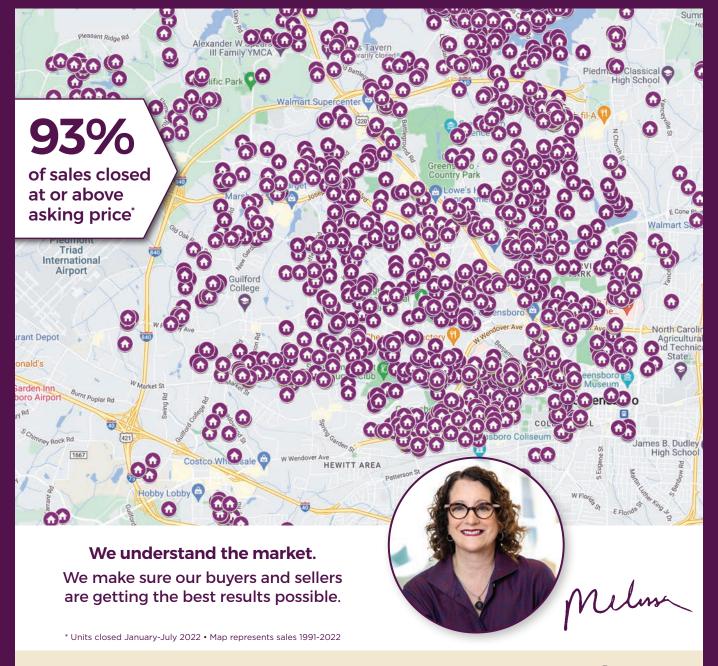
Want to know when chicken pies are available or other events at First Moravian?

Sign up for the weekly newsletter by emailing office@greensboromoravian.org and requesting the newsletter. Or, access the newsletter from the website at http://greensboromoravian.org/

You can join FMC services on Sundays at 11:00am for worship in person or via Zoom (Meeting ID: 205-454-336) or Facebook Live (@fmcgreensboro).

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Park Updates

any of you may have noticed the massive amounts of vegetation that were cut and hauled to the curbside along all sections of our park on Greenway Drive this summer. The team from Ripple EcoSolutions in Chapel Hill worked very intensively over 5 days in June to identify and remove or treat the many invasive plants that were growing in our park.

Once they were finished, we asked the City of Greensboro to send their team to haul away the vegetation. While this took several weeks due to the large amount of material, they did a wonderful job of cleaning up the curb and edges of the park for us.

While we are one of the first neighborhoods in the city to tackle such a project, we will not be the last. Many residents as well as members of our city staff are concerned about the detrimental effect of native plant species on our local biodiversity and ecology. Cities such as Charlotte and Raleigh have added invasive species removal experts to their payroll and Greensboro is also considering this possibility.



(Photo of the park prior to clean-up.)

There was an extensive article in an earlier newsletter this year about the negative effects of invasive plants on our environment. A digital (full color) version can be found on

the website.

For this newsletter update, we will focus on the top invasive plants to be on the watch for in your own yards and gardens as well as for re-surfacing in our park.

There is a highly-acclaimed reference list called the NC-IPC (North Carolina Invasive Plant Council) Do-Not-Purchase-or-Plant list (access it at https://bit.ly/plantlistPDF).

If you are doing landscaping this fall, consider removing some of these from your property and replacing them with native plants that are so critical for restoring the health of our natural world.

Want to get involved?

Volunteer!

We will be planting natives in our park on Saturday, November 5, 2022. The details are not quite in place, but the estimated timeframe is 10am-4pm. Bring your shovel, gloves, and a smile. Details will be shared on the Listserv in a few weeks.

Donate!

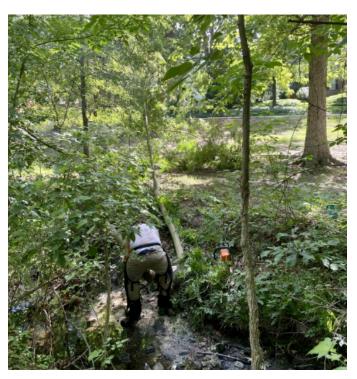
Our invasive plant removal was fully funded by a collaboration between the SHNA, SHEA, SHGC, and private donations. We are happily accepting monetary donations for the purchase of native plants for the park. Donations can be made to the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association, with a note on the check "Native Plant Fund." Kindly let the Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs committee know that you have made a donation to the native plant fund so that we can plan accordingly for our purchasing of plants (environment.sunsethills.gso@gmail.com).

Learn more! There are many local and online resources available. Any books or Youtube videos by Dr. Doug Tallamy will get you headed in the right direction! •

cont. Park Updates



(The ivy has been trimmed back from the tree to begin the process of its removal.)



(One of the Eco Ripple Solutions team working in the creek bed.)



(Piles of invasive plant material awaiting the City team to haul it away.)

How's the Market?

contributed by Leslie Stainback

ne of the biggest questions people are asking right now is: what's happening with home prices? There are national headlines about ongoing price appreciation, but at the same time, some sellers are reducing the price of their homes. That can feel confusing and makes it more difficult to get a clear picture.

Part of the challenge is that it can be hard to understand what experts are saying when the words they use sound similar. Let's break down the differences among those terms to help clarify what's actually happening today.

- Appreciation is when home prices increase.
- Depreciation is when home prices decrease.
- Deceleration is when home prices continue to appreciate, but at a slower or more moderate pace.

Experts agree that, nationally, what we're seeing today is deceleration. That means home prices are still appreciating, just not at the record-breaking pace was saw over the past year. In 2021, data from CoreLogic tells us home prices appreciated by an average of 15% nationwide. And earlier this year, that appreciation was upward of 20%. This year, experts forecast home prices will appreciate at a decelerated pace of around 10 to 11%, on average. This means, while moderating, home prices are still far above the norm, and

we'd have to see a lot more deceleration to even fall in line with more typical rates of home price growth. That's still not home price depreciation.

So what does this mean for our area? Realtor.com set out to find the cities that are defying price expectations with prices continuing to go up and up. Greensboro ranked #5 on their list of top 10 metros where housing prices continue to rise and sellers are still ruling the roost, at least for now. According to the article, the median home list price in Greensboro is \$319,000 and the percentage list price increase, year over year is 25.1%.

The area continues to be attractive to people looking to relocate, with North Carolina adding 112,000 residents between April 2020 through July 2021, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. We have seen the market locally continue to have low inventory and high demand, so this trend will likely continue even with rates slowly rising.

Bottom Line:

The big takeaway is home prices haven't fallen or depreciated nationwide, they're just decelerating or moderating and our area is still appreciating at record levels. Inventory remains low and demand remains high. •





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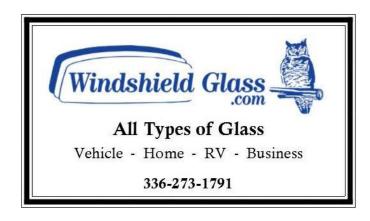
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Respecting the History of our Homes

written by Katherine Rowe

My across-the-street neighbor Brooks Graham has a burgundy bathtub. And a matching sink. And lots of burgundy tile.

Her chrome-plated faucet handles remain in place, from when the plumber tightened the last nut in 1939, before turning the house over to its new owners. In 1939, that was Carrie and Eccles Hedrick, according to the National Register survey done for Sunset Hills in 2012.

That burgundy and yellow bathroom has been carefully preserved as my neighbor has restored other rooms in the home.

But her original bathroom remains one of the most charming in Sunset Hills and one my neighbor is grateful has remained intact all these years.

"It never crossed my mind," to demolish and update, Brooks says today.

Sunset Hills is experiencing a boom in renovations and Architectural Salvage of Greensboro volunteers, of which I'm one, have noticed. ASG recommends homeowners leave original pieces in place and maintaining them when possible. Much history and craftsmanship are lost when original fixtures are replaced with new ones.

When keeping fixtures in place isn't possible, please consider donating any unwanted old house parts to ASG. If your contractor is not willing to make the donation, think about making it yourself, for a tax receipt from ASG.

Brooks isn't the only homeowner with a charming old bath.

Neighbor Eleanor Link's hall bath, with its cheerful cobalt blue and white tile and quirky pedestal sink, has been in place since it was first built in 1927. Eleanor has maintained the bathroom for more than 40 years of ownership, only replacing the toilet and adding a light fixture. Sunset Hills homes are graced with lots of charm - burgundy bathrooms,



(Brooks Graham's original bathroom. It's located very conveniently close to the original radio room in her home in Sunset Hills. Yep, radio room.)



(Tile details in the bath. Cute floral liner tiles are two shades of pink.)



(Original windows, door and all trim molding with reproduction tile in a Sunset Hills sunroom.)



(Eleanor Link's bath with its quirky original sink.)



(A before-and-after photo of an original brass door knob. This effort takes about 20-30 minutes with 000 steel wool to achieve.)



(Original glass knob and polished escutcheon.)

"It never crossed my mind to demolish and update"

coal fireplaces with their cast iron doors, clicking radiators, paneled wooden doors with solid brass knobs and escutcheons.

All of these parts can be spiffed up and retained with a little bit of work or the help of professionals. A truly nerdy evening at home polishing brass door knobs pays off when it brings back the warm glow of the metal. Even beautiful wavy-glass windows can be reglazed for less air leakage.

Adding storm windows contributes to energy efficiency. Repairing or updating your old home in a National Register neighborhood like Sunset Hills can earn the homeowner tax credits if the work is qualifying. The tax credit process is detailed but not too complicated. Several neighbors have used this program successfully, including myself.

And many home buyers look for an original, well-maintained old home, keeping home resell values steady. •

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Light the Park Party

Hosted by Rock the Block

The Rock the Block group is planning to have a Light the Park event on November 19th on Greenway Drive between Madison and Rolling. The plan is to have the park and a few homes around the park pre ball hung and ready to flip the switch on the night of the 19th. The road will be closed for neighbors to wander around before the heavy influx of holiday traffic comes our way.

This year, if calculations are correct, we will hit a major milestone of over 5 millions meals provided to the local food banks through our neighborhood efforts during ball season. The combination of canned food collection, sponsorship and registration money from the Running of the Balls and miscellaneous cash donations given is what brought us to the milestone. The number is calculated by adding up the pounds of food along with the monetary donations... doing a little math on how much it costs Second Harvest to provide a meal to the needy.... and low and behold we are at 5 million meals since the start of the lighted Christmas Balls! Not many neighborhoods can equal that impact to their local

community!

On November 19th, starting around 6ish, we will host the Isaac Hadden Organ Trio to help celebrate this milestone. We will have one or two food trucks (TBD) on hand and maybe a hot coffee truck since the weather should be cooling down. The event is sponsored by Fourth Elm Construction and we could not bring in this level of talent to the neighborhood without our sponsors!

The Isaac Hadden Organ Trio is a Jazz-infused improvisational funk-rock from Asheville, NC. Voted Best of the Blue Ridge 2022! This cutting edge group redefines the modern organ trio and carves out a distinct voice in the world of funk, jazz, rock, and R&B. Isaac Hadden Organ trio borrows from a wide array of musical traditions to create hard-grooving, powerful, dynamic music that will rock both brain and booty.

The group is led by up-and-coming guitarist Isaac Hadden. From a young age, Hadden has been bending brainwaves and wowing audiences with his high energy playing style and

animated stage presence.

IHOT also features powerhouse drummer lajhi Hampden, who holds a Grammy nomination for his work with John Legend and has performed high-profile gigs all over the United States and in Europe.

On Organ/Keys is Bill Stevens, an esteemed musician in the southeastern U.S. and beyond. Known for his work with the Lee Boys, Stevens has toured the country performing passionate music with a wide array of artists.

We are working on a t-shirt design to commemorate the five million meals that will only be available for folks in the neighborhood. We will have more info on the shirts as the idea potentially develops into reality.

So come help celebrate this incredible milestone! Sometimes we get overwhelmed by the effort and work to pull off ball season and we don't acknowledge the positive impact that this uniquely Sunset Hills event has on the community! •

-John, Barry, Josh, Aubrey, Jason, and Ryan



Resettled Refugees Need Winter Coats

by Bob and Betty Arms



It has been a HOT summer, but it is going to get colder! If you don't have a warm coat, winter in Greensboro can be harsh. Thankfully, many of us have several, but sadly, many don't have any. Would you be willing to give the coats you are no longer using to someone who needs one?

Our church, Christ Church Greensboro, has been hosting a winter clothing giveaway for 9 years. Last year, between November and February, we served approximately 150 refugees from Afghanistan, Congo, Sudan and Uganda.

We were able to coordinate shopping visits with refugee case workers from local resettlement agencies, as well as with sponsors from other churches. Additionally, we provided clothing and coats to a number of those without homes in Greensboro. Our ministry – Dare2Share Warmth – has allowed us to build partnerships with other churches and non-profits. We have been told repeatedly that supplying warm winter clothes, particularly coats, is a valuable service to new refugees who are often experiencing winter for the first time.

This year will mark the tenth year of serving our Greensboro neighbors in this way. Please bring your winter coats only (especially need men's coats) by our home at 309 Woodbine Ct. any time between Oct. I 6th and Nov. I 3th. There will be a box on our front porch for the coats with a form to claim a tax deduction if you'd like one.

Please direct any questions to betty.arms@icloud.com •





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Leave the Leaves

written by Robin Davis

It's fall and the leaves are just beginning to fall. Did you know that you can make a difference for conservation by simply doing a little less tidying up this fall? Pollinators and other invertebrates use dead leaves and other plant material for winter cover. Additionally, leaves will decompose and enrich your soil, capturing more water and carbon along the way and giving all of your plants (trees included!) much needed nutrients.

You can start small if that feels more doable.

Choose an out of the way area of your yard to gather leaves for the winter. Whole leaves are important... so move them to your area without mowing them first. Next, gather a few sticks in a pile for shelter, foraging, and perching. We have many ground-nesting birds and small mammals that will use these happily. And lastly, place a shallow container of fresh water with a few pebbles or rocks for perching that you can easily wash and refill.

You'll enjoy watching your very own nature preserve come to life at no cost to you but with a large payoff for nature.

Once you get the hang of this, you'll likely want to keep the leaves in several places in your gardens! A light covering of leaves as falls naturally in nature will protect and enrich your plantings over winter. In areas that you gather leaves in more concentrated form (from moving them into one area), it is best to let those gather on what was previously bare earth as opposed to over plants that could be smothered with such a deep covering of leaves.

The photos (*right*) show using fallen ivy branches off of trees to make a nest in the lower portion of my back yard. I borrowed this idea from the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill where their gardeners gather and artfully place all of the fallen sticks into teepees, nests, and other creative arrangements for people and nature to enjoy long after they have fallen! •

Want to learn more?

- https://auduboncnc.org/leave-the-leaves-by-sarah-hatfield/
- https://www.nwf.org/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2015/OctNov/Gardening/Leave-the-Leaves
- https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves









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End of Summer Stream Cleanup

By Robin Davis, Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs

Asmall group from our Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs committee gathered on a Saturday morning in August to remove any foreign materials from the stream that runs along the playground area from Berkley to Market St in the Sunset Hills Park along Greenway.

This was our second stream clean this year in the same area and it was interesting to see what had found its way into the creek since our last clean up! In total we removed 14 1/2 pounds of litter with items ranging from plastic buckets, balls, and other children's toys to plastic orange bailing twine from pine-needle bales, masks, plastic water bottles and caps, clothing, and bagged newspaper flyers (the ones that get tossed out by our driveways on a seemingly weekly basis).

We also removed some limbs that were impeding water flow in the creek which was very low at the time of our clean up due to lack of rain in Sunset Hills in recent months. It was lovely to see a native cardinal flower blooming along the stream bank and a much cleaner stream bank than what we saw at our first clean up. Clearly the removal of invasive plants has made a visible difference in this area of the park in particular. We did still see some lingering ground English lvy, monkey grass, and autumn clematis as well as a few other invasive plants that are slated for treatment again this fall and/or early spring 2023.

The Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs Committee has officially adopted this section of the stream and a sign will go up later in the year. We are charged with a semi-annual clean up and reporting of both the litter removed as well as the quality of the water and flow to the Water Resources Department of the City of Greensboro. With our collaborative stewardship, the waterway will remain clean and healthy as it should be! •

Want to join us?
Reach out to **environment.sunsethills.gso@gmail.com**

Stream before clean up (August 2021)



Stream after clean up! (September 2022)



"Lighten the Burden" This Holiday Season

By Erin Reis, Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs

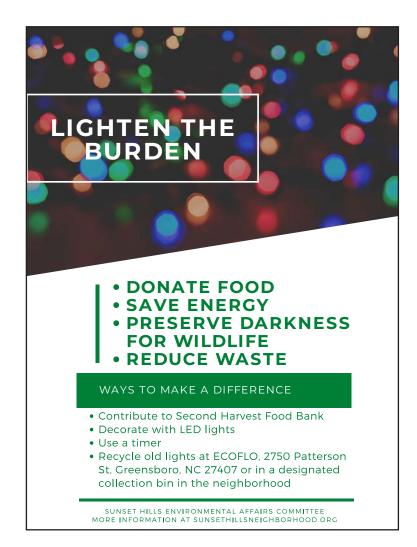
he Holiday Lighted Ball Season will be upon us very soon, and just like last year, there are several ways you can "Lighten the Burden" on the community and the environment (as well as on yourself when paying your electric bills).

- I. Save energy, and reduce your electric bill and carbon emissions by making new and/or replacement balls with LED lights. While LED strands cost more up front than incandescent, factoring in the cost of electricity, an LED ball will cost the same as an incandescent ball for the first year and substantially less each subsequent year.
- 2. Put your lights on a timer so that they don't stay on all night (or day). Before November 30, consider turning your lights off at 11pm (to help migrating birds). After November 30, consider following the schedule of the balls in the park, which are set to turn on at dusk (using light-sensitive timers) and stay on for 6 hours. Not only will this reduce energy consumption, it will preserve darkness for wildlife, and also prevent late-night neighborhood drive-throughs.
- 3. Recycle your old burned-out light strands; don't just put them in the trash! You can take them yourself to ECOFLO, 2750 Patterson St., or you can drop them in one of the designated bins for light strand recycling that will be placed throughout the neighborhood. Just look for the green "Lighten the Burden" signs!
- 4. And of course, be sure to donate food (and/or funds) at the designated trailers throughout Sunset Hills!

Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs (SHEA) will be trying again this year to help with the above efforts. Thanks to Nick Loflin, the Running of the Balls continues to have a "Carbon Offset Fee" of \$2 per order this year. That money will be used to purchase a carbon offset for the neighborhood, as well as LED light strands to replace burned-out incandescents and timers for the balls in Sunset Hills Park. Our goal is to turn the balls in the park 100% LED over the next 9 years!

SHEA will have a table at the Corner Farmers Market in

November, as well as at the Ball-Making Party outside the Smiths' residence on Sunday, November 20, to promote ways to "Lighten the Burden" this holiday season. We will have information, LED light strands and timers for sale, and bins to collect burned-out light strands for recycling. Bring us your burned-out lights! SHEA will also be placing burned-out light collection bins for recycling throughout the neighborhood. Please see sunsethillsneighborhood.org/environment for locations!



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The Annual Running of the Balls

December 10th, 2022

(Runners start at 6pm followed by walkers)

It might be 700 degrees outside right now, but cooler days and the Running of the Balls will arrive soon enough!

Sign up to receive reminder emails at: https://bit.ly/ROTBemails

We're looking forward to celebrating "The Greatest 5k(ish) in the History of the World" with an in-person event and no Covid restrictions in 2022. This race, and the 4 million meals it has provided, are made possible by wonderful folks like you. We're hustling right now to make this event as fun as possible, and we hope you and your loved ones can come enjoy it with us as well.

Nick and the RWH Gang info@therunningoftheballs.com



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