

Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods



Sunset Hills April 2015

Greensboro, North Carolina

Annual Neighborhood Events

January

February

March

Neighborhood Meeting

April

Easter Egg Hunt

Great American Clean-up

May

Annual Pig Picking

June

July

July 4th Parade and Picnic

August

National Night Out

September

Big Sweep Event

October

Halloween Party in the Park

November

December

Lighted Christmas Balls

Food Drive, Running of the Balls

SHNA President's Column

Thoughts on Spring and Our Physical Spaces

As Spring makes its welcome appearance in the neighborhood, we are reminded of Mother Nature's ability to renew and flourish. Often during this time, we, too, envision a fresh start for ourselves. Spring's arrival may invoke a gentle nudge to consider the health of our physical spaces and what greets us each time we walk into our homes. Does your home provide a relaxing and peaceful respite from the demands of everyday life, or conversely generate feelings of dissatisfaction, burden and heaviness? Perhaps in one room more than another?

According to the article "The Joy of Less" (Time Magazine, March 2015), at least one study shows that a home with too much stuff can actually lead to higher levels of anxiety. Dr. Issac Eliaz, integrative medical physician, views clutter as a barrier to health and wellness: "When patients describe their lives as messy and disorganized, they often experience symptoms of bloating, congestion, inflammation and poor digestion. If left untreated, these symptoms can progress to more serious health conditions." He goes on to say that

(continued on page 3)

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Sources of Neighborhood Information

The Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association has a website, Facebook page, and a listserv. Many pictures of neighborhood events appear in color on the website and on the Facebook page.

Get to know your neighbors in text and print and learn the news: <http://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org>. The *information* tab contains a list of tradespeople recommended by neighbors. If you are not on the listserv go to *Email listserv* and submit your email address to be added as a member of the monitored listserv. The neighborhood Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/SunsetHillsGSO>

When you have a question about tradespeople, spot a stray dog or cat, or note something unusual, submit a message to the listserv and the message goes out to all the members. The listserv is monitored to keep the messages relevant to this area and on topics about the neighborhood. You must have paid your 2015 dues to submit a message to the listserv.

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Easter Egg hunt coordinator. This position is open for the SHNA. You have a whole year before you have to work on it!! Please contact a board member if you are willing to head the planning for this event.

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DUES are due in January. However, it is never too late to pay for the current year. Please remit your \$10 directly to the treasurer, Emily Herman at 2512 Berkley Place. Checks for more than \$10 will be accepted as donations to the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association.

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(continued from page 1)

when people clear their clutter and discard unnecessary items, the resulting spaciousness they create can offer more energy, improving health conditions and overall vitality.

De-cluttering professionals differ on their approaches to removing clutter. We've often heard the recommendation to de-clutter by room. Marie Kondo, author of current national bestseller "The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up," recommends eliminating clutter by category beginning with clothes and working through more difficult categories such as mementos and photos. Whichever approach appeals to you most, that is where to begin. Perhaps making small, daily steps to clean and organize can provide you with the space to engage in new adventures, creative and/or healthy endeavors and maybe even a career change. Overall, a simplified, organized life often prompts us to realize what is truly important to us.

One upcoming option for getting rid of your clutter is the annual neighborhood yard sale on Saturday May 2nd, 8am to noon. Email Michael Driver at YourHome@Triad.rr.com for more information regarding participation.

Enjoy a wonderful spring season in the best of health.

Jo Strack



Lucky to be at Lindley Elementary

By Becky Deakins

Most of us realize our good fortune to be able to live and raise children in such a quaint yet vibrant neighborhood. For my husband and me, the neighborhood school was a part of the package when we decided to buy our house just before the birth of our first child. Now, 10 years later, we have a Kindergartner and a 3rd grader at Lindley Elementary and we've learned that Lindley's benefits far outweigh the convenience of the walk to school in the mornings.



Lindley has a diverse student body with a strong staff and an active PTA committed to community involvement. At Lindley, our children are not only challenged scholastically, but are also learning the beauty of their differences, and the power of working together to make their community better. Learning opportunities like International Day, tending and harvesting the school's garden and Gifts of Generosity service projects are weaved into each class's curriculum. After school events like Mr. Amana's theater camps, the Go Far running program and our end-of-year talent show are just a few of the many extracurricular programs available to our students.

Drive by Lindley at 2:30 on a pretty afternoon and you'll find students and parents on the playground after school. (Drive-through pick-up is offered, but staying for extra playtime together is a choice that many of us make daily.) Come sledding at the Lindley hill on a snow day and you'll find teachers, principals, students and their families – both present and past - gathered for fun on Lindley's campus. In the months from spring through fall, our garden is bursting with flowers, fruits and vegetables, many of which can be purchased at the Corner Market. And when school is out, families happily volunteer to weed and water the garden over the summer break, just for a chance to snag some fresh tomatoes or okra.

If you have a rising kindergartner, or an elementary-aged child who is attending school elsewhere, you owe it to your family to give Lindley a look. Kindergarten registration is happening now and tours can be scheduled anytime. Just call the school at 294-7360. On May 1st, Lindley PTA will be holding our Spring Carnival on campus from 5-8pm and kindergarten registration night is Tues, May 12th at 6pm. Come out and catch a glimpse of the neighborhood school that we are fortunate to call "ours"!



Planting Trees and Shrubs

By Roger Bardsley and Elaine Brune (email address on p. 2)

Although fall is perhaps the best time to plant trees and shrubs, many people prefer spring because plant selection at the nurseries is better and the weather makes you want to be outside. You are also rewarded by almost instant foliage and blooms instead of having to wait through the long cold winter. The following recommendations were adapted from a brochure by Karen Neill, the Guilford County Extension Agent, and a brochure from Greensboro Beautiful used to guide volunteers during the annual Neighborwoods tree planting program.

Most trees and shrubs that homeowners pick out at the nursery are container-grown, but larger specimens may be “B & B” (ball and burlap) and are usually delivered by the nursery very close to where they will be planted. We will cover how to install both types.

Picking the Right Tree for the Right Place

As simple as this might sound, it is the most common mistake made by homeowners. Each tree or shrub should be planted in an area with the proper amount of sun for the species, and with enough space to accommodate the plant at maturity. The tag on the plant will indicate mature height and spread. Look at some of the huge oaks in Sunset Hills and remember they started as saplings 70-80 years ago.

Next, look for overhead and underground obstructions. Our neighborhood is being trimmed by Duke Energy to remove conflicts between tree limbs and overhead electrical lines. Don't plant a future conflict! Underground we have gas lines, water lines and sewer lines. If you don't know where your lines are, there are several locating companies who will mark them for you.

Digging the Hole

Dig the hole 2-3 times as wide as the diameter of the root ball. The tree or shrub will enjoy having an unobstructed area to grow into. Remove the rocks and bricks that will be in the hole. When our homes were built most of the trash was buried rather than removed. Do not dig deeper than the root ball! Use a tape measure or your shovel handle to measure the root ball depth. This measurement can be transferred to the hole you are digging. When you drop the tree into the hole it should sit just above natural soil level. Look for the flare at the bottom of the trunk – it should be visible when you finish planting.

We recommend digging the hole yourself, or having

a strong young person dig it for you. Hand digging does not take that long, and you get exactly the hole you need. Make the sides vertical, and reserve the soil for backfilling and for making a low mound (donut) around the tree. If you have someone auger the hole, make sure to eliminate the glaze on the sides of the hole by roughing it up with a shovel.

Planting Container-Grown Trees

Remove the twine and tags from the tree. Lay the tree on its side and gently pull the container off – if it does not come off easily just slit one side with a knife. Look at the roots – if the tree is root-bound and has roots circling the outside of the container (girdling), cut five vertical slits in the root ball about 1” in depth. If this is not done the tree will never send roots out into the soil.

Lift the tree by the root ball and place it in the center of the hole. Have someone hold the tree vertical (plumb) while you backfill with soil. Gently tamp the soil to hold the tree upright and to eliminate air pockets. Use any excess soil to create a small berm around the tree, about 18 inches from the trunk. Mulch the area with 3 inches of mulch, taking care to not place any mulch against the trunk. Slowly pour five gallons of water around the tree – this reduces transplant shock and hydro compacts the soil around the root ball. Container-grown trees generally do not need to be staked.

Planting B & B Trees

B & B trees have been dug at the nursery using a mechanical tree spade, and the root ball has been wrapped in burlap. Since the roots have just been cut there is no need to worry about girdling. The burlap is fastened around the trunk with nails. B & B trees are often fairly tall and can be very heavy. Lift the tree part of the way upright and roll it to the edge of the hole. As you roll it into the hole pull it up to the vertical position. If you are lucky the tree will be ready to backfill. If not, you may have to adjust it with leverage using a shovel. Don't hurt yourself trying to lift it back out of the hole!

Remove the nails from the burlap and tuck the burlap that covers the top of the root ball into the sides of the hole. The fabric is organic and will quickly decompose. Finish the planting as described under Container-Grown trees. B & B trees may not be stable if they are fairly tall and should be staked using guy ropes and short anchor stakes. Remove the stakes and ropes in 6-9 months.

(diagram on page 5)

sunset hills.
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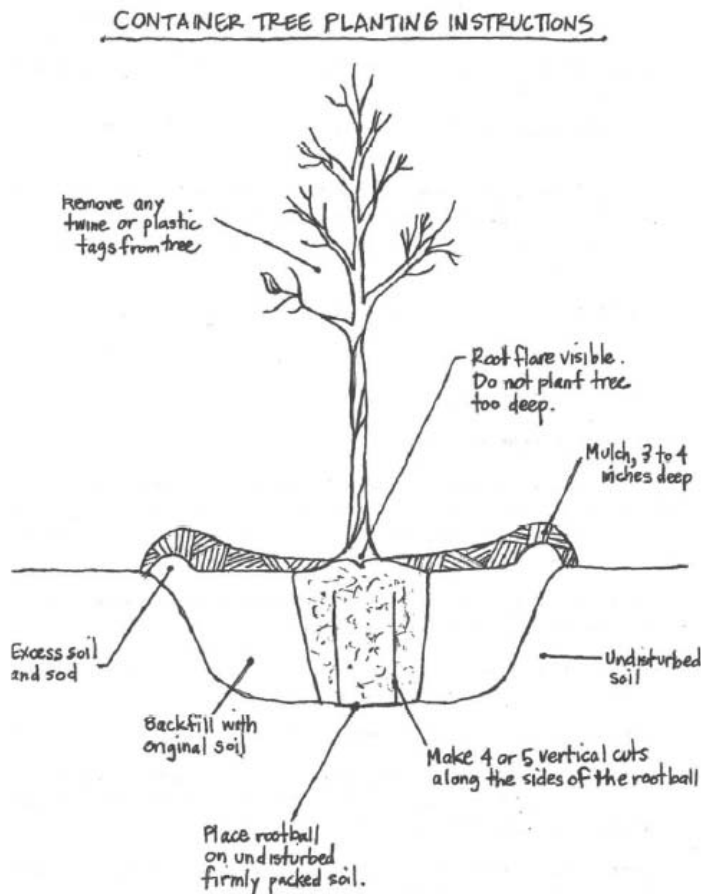
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(continued from page 4)

The following diagram illustrates the tree-planting procedure



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Master Gardeners in Sunset Hills

By Claire Morse

Has spring inspired garden planning? Have you spotted shrubs, trees or flowers and wondered what they are and how to grow them? Maybe a some vegetables would fit in your sunniest spot.

Sunset Hills is the home neighborhood of at least 7 EMGVs. They are part of a group of about 150 other Extension Master Gardener Volunteers who participate in activities you might enjoy. The Extension Master Gardener (EMGV) program is a not-for-profit educational program through NC Extension designed to enhance public education in consumer horticulture through the development and use of a trained and supervised volunteer staff. In essence, EMGVs are volunteer educators. For example, they plan and care for the Demonstration Garden, located next to the 5509 Burlington Road NC Cooperative Extension building. Access to the Demo Garden is free and open to the public. There you can see a wide variety of plants including some fruit trees and berry bushes that might fit right into your own landscape. In the Ag Center, during business hours, you can pick up lots of printed information about gardening, lawns and EMGV programs as well as materials for a soil test to learn what, if any, amendments may benefit your yard. Other EMGV activities can provide further advice and opportunity. For example, the 2015 Pass along Plant Sale, May 8 and 9 at the Ag Center, offers flowers, herbs, bulbs, shrubs and trees from the gardens of EMGVs for sale at very reasonable prices. Or you could attend one of the free Speakers Bureau programs http://www.ncsugarden.com/resources/guilford/docs/spring_2015_ggw_schedule.pdf

Like tomatoes? Attend the annual Tomato Tasting at the NC A&T farm this summer where you not only sample the many tomato varieties available fresh, but also tomato containing foods. Tomato cookies perhaps? Maybe you are a member of a group that would like to invite a speaker on a particular horticulture topic. Of course if you have a garden related question, you could call the Infoline (336 641-2404) where you might happen to talk with a SHNA neighbor. You'll get research based answers to your questions as a part of the education and outreach offered by the supervised, trained EMGVs. There are Guilford County EMGVs at the phone lines March 1 through October 31 weekdays.

Best of all, for those interested in further involvement, is to become an EMGV yourself. The program is already more than 30 years old. It has been taught by Consumer Horticulture Agent Karen Neill since 1988. It prepares folks to join in the not for profit education and outreach programs designed to further public understanding of and involvement in horticulture. Each year training begins in January and continues weekly. As an intern you'll be assigned a mentor to share the experience and get assistance if any confusion occurs. After graduation, opportunities for continuing to learn abound. Garden photography and pruning techniques are only two examples. Each active EMGV tailors his or her involvement in part, by selecting among youth outreach activities, educational technology and communication, Neighborwoods (an annual event assisting residents in particular parts of the City to plant appropriate trees in locations they have chosen), as well as the EMGV program mentioned above. As an intern, that is during your first year, your volunteer hours will provide experience with a wide range of the programs. Interested? More information is here: http://www.ncsugarden.com/resources/guilford/docs/2015_emgv_brochure.pdf, and the application form for the next training is available at (http://www.ncsugarden.com/resources/guilford/docs/2015_emgv_app_for_2016_class.pdf). Or call the Infoline number above to talk with an EMGV about this terrific opportunity to learn and then share your knowledge and enthusiasm.

Seeking Tree and Garden Photos

Sunset Hills is known for its beautiful trees and gardens. The Sunset Hills Garden Club hopes to highlight some of our neighborhood's finest attributes by publishing a 2016 tree and garden calendar but we need your help. If you have photos of neighborhood trees or gardens (including your own) that you'd like to share, we'd love to see them and consider them as potential calendar shots. We're looking to represent all seasons in the calendar--from spring's earliest blooms to snow-covered trees.

To enter your photo(s), please email them to Michelle Togut at mbtogut@gmail.com by September 15, 2015. Please include the photographer's name and the location where the photo was taken. Order and price information are forthcoming



Spring Cleaning Your Sidewalks

by *Gerry Alfano, Chair, Transportation Committee*

Spring is finally here! Many of us are out walking or running, enjoying the milder weather. Some of us are walking for exercise, while others are walking dogs or walking to destinations, e.g., restaurants, stores, or the UNCG campus. We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood that has lots of sidewalks and trees making it a beautiful area to walk in.

It's time to inspect your sidewalks and make sure that they are clean and safe. You are responsible as a homeowner for all the sidewalks that adjoin your property. This includes any sidewalk that borders your property, including side or back yards. If there is vegetation covering the sidewalk or obstructing the sidewalk, you need to remove it. If there is dirt on your sidewalk, you need to clear it off. If there are leaves on the sidewalk, they need to be removed as those leaves become very slippery when it rains. The leaves decompose and color your sidewalks. That is unsightly and causes more rapid deterioration of the sidewalk.

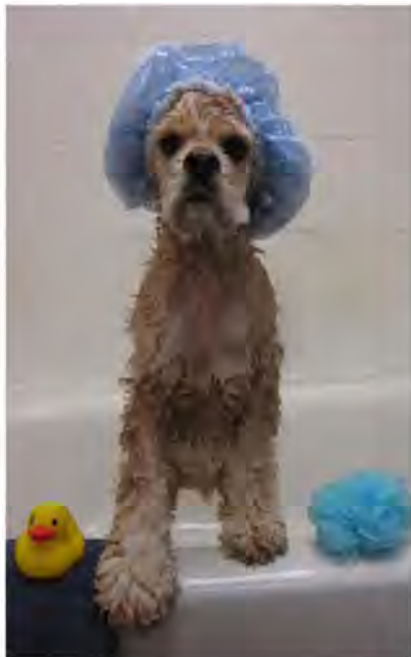
You also need to check to make sure that your bushes and trees do not block the sidewalk. There needs to be at least an eight foot clearance above the sidewalk. Make sure that a passerby can walk on your sidewalk with his or her arms raised and not hit any overhanging branches. If you are putting in additional plantings, make sure that they will not encroach on the sidewalk.

No one should park on the sidewalk. It is illegal to obstruct sidewalks. It can force the walker or runner into the street, which is dangerous. In addition, sidewalks are not designed for the weight of cars.

If your sidewalk needs repair or replacement, the City of Greensboro will do it. The homeowner is not assessed for repairs, replacements, or the installation of new sidewalks. You can call the City of Greensboro at 373-CITY (373-2489) and request that a work order be placed. Damaged sidewalks are unsightly and detract from the appearance of your home. They can also be dangerous for walkers and runners.

Taking care of our sidewalks make walking or running in our neighborhood an enjoyable and safe experience for everyone.

Spring Cleaning...For Your Pet!



During the month of April, get a
20% DISCOUNT
on baths Tuesday thru Friday as available

Baths include nail trim, anal gland expression and routine ear cleaning. Please provide proof of current Rabies, Distemper-Parvo and Bordetella vaccinations and monthly flea control care. Matted or heavily shedding dogs may be assessed additional fees. Dogs with excessive mats will be referred to the groomer. Call now to schedule your pet's time in the tub!



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A Way To Go Travel is dedicated to making our community a better place. We have teamed up with the American Heart Association for 2015 to encourage the members of Sunset Hills to form a walk team and help raise funds to benefit heart health research. Another way to give back is to book your vacations through our agency. We will be participating in a program called “Share the Wealth”. When you call to book your vacation, simply mention you live in the Sunset Hills neighborhood and we will offer you a \$100 discount along with a portion of the sales going to the American Heart Association. We can save you time and money, offer you knowledgeable advice and help your community when you book your vacation through A Way To Go Travel. Another benefit to forming your walk team is the opportunity to win our GRAND prize giveaway on May 16th at the Heart & Stroke Walk. We will be giving away a 4-day, 3- night all-inclusive stay to an adults only or family friendly property in Mexico, your choice. We are ready to fight back against heart attacks and strokes to become a heart healthy community.

Sunset Hills Neighborhood Yard Sale



Time again for the annual Neighborhood Yard Sale. We do it every year on the first Saturday of May. This year that falls on May 2nd. Our posted time is 8am to 12 noon but you can run whatever times you want.

We will run our usual ad in the News and Record and a Craigslist ad, as well as a Facebook event (limited to 750 invitees).

So... participants, please email me at yourhome@triad.rr.com to let me know you are in. And anyone who wants to help organize and make signs that would be great.

Little Free Libraries in Sunset Hills

By Gerry Alfano



The Little Free Libraries is an international movement that began in Hudson, WI and has extended to every state in the USA as well as to 32 other countries. Its purpose is to promote the love of reading and to empower communities. Todd Bol, the co-founder of the movement, put up the first box as a tribute to his mother, a former teacher and book lover. Each box is different and reflects the individuality of the owner. The concept is simple and low tech: You take a book or leave a book to share with

others. Borrowing from the libraries is free and there is no requirement to return the books. This grass roots movement has spread rapidly since Bol put up that first box in 2009.

Sunset Hills has become part of that grass roots movement. We now have five Little Free Libraries in Sunset Hills. If you are unfamiliar with the Little

Free Libraries, they are boxes on a post (or some type of base) with a door that is weather proof to protect the books. Some of them are made from recycled materials. Others are painted with colorful designs. They are also popping up in other neighborhoods in Greensboro. The City of Greensboro, in partnership with Volvo, has a long range plan to put a Little Free Library in every single park in Greensboro.



Hills (and probably the first or second in the City of Greensboro) was put up at 205 Kensington Road by Rachel Richardson, a writer and a lover of books and the written word, in December 2012. She had received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and as part of the grant, she hired a local carpenter to build a Little Free Library that she placed in front of her house. Her 4 year old daughter loves their Little Free Library and thinks the books are intended for her. She checks every day to see what new books are there. Rachel also includes copies of a poem each week, which she calls "a poem for your pocket".

The Sunset Hills Garden Club (SHGC) installed a Little Free Library at W. Friendly Ave. and W. Greenway in the Sunset Hills Park near the swing set in 2013. The box was built and donated to the club by the brother of Barbara Harelson, the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited.

The club's primary focus is on children's nature books, but the SHGC welcomes neighbors to donate whatever books they want to share.



Mary Jacke, the current president of the Sunset Hills Garden Club, has a large box at her house at 207 W. Greenway. The Little Free Library, built by her husband, is on the Sylvan St. side of her house. He used the base from an old grill as the post for the Little Free Library. It is a really unique design.

There is also one at 2204 Wright Ave. built by Hap Kimmel and one at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2105 Market St. on the Kensington Road side of the church.

If you haven't checked out a Little Free Library yet, take an opportunity to do so. You may even be inspired to put up one of your own. If you aren't talented at woodworking, you can order a kit on line on the Free Library website: <http://www.littlefreelibrary.org/> Wouldn't it be wonderful if Sunset Hills, in addition to being known for its lighted balls and its historic designation, became known as the neighborhood with the most Little Free Libraries?

The first box in Sunset

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*85 times faster Internet claim is based on average US connection speeds referenced in Akamai's State of the Internet report for 3Q 2014.

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The Night Visitor

By Jane Mitchell

It was in 1964 that my family moved to Sunset Hills. We bought the Weatherly home at 2504 Camden Road. Of all the places we had looked, this was the neighborhood closest to UNCG where I was employed. Both the house and the neighborhood had what my mother used to call "a nice howdy-do" and it was convenient for shopping downtown and at the fairly new Friendly Shopping Center.

My son Tucker and I had been living in the College Park Apartments off Walker Avenue. In 1963 I applied for and was granted a Fulbright to study in France for the year. Tucker was not anxious to leave his friends at the Curry School so my mother and step-father moved to Greensboro so he could remain in school here while I devoted myself fully to "le perfectionnement de mon français." Hence the move to Sunset Hills.

Upon my return in 1965, I, too, moved into the house on Camden Road. Tucker had long been asking for a dog so the time seemed right for an additional member to our household. For his eighth birthday we brought home a lively wire-haired terrier that Tucker dubbed Joey. My recollection tells me that there was already a fenced-in area behind the garage that allowed Joey to sleep in a section of the garage and exit into the fenced area of the back yard. At any rate, that was the arrangement we decided upon for Joey.

One night we were awakened, at least my mother and I were awakened, by frantic barking from Joey's quarters. We knew something horrible must be happening out in our back yard. Mother grabbed a broom and a flashlight and I followed with Tucker's baseball bat and out we went into the night. The noise was coming from the fenced area where we spied Joey with some kind of small animal in his mouth, shaking it back and forth and creating quite a turmoil. Mother unlatched the gate into the fenced area and entered, proclaiming that it was a "possum." When Joey finally dropped the poor thing, we managed to shove it on the broom and throw it out of the fenced area into the back yard. That done, we made our way back to the house and into our beds.

The next morning we teased Tucker about sleeping through all the excitement and told him of Joey's visitor and our adventure. He looked at us as if we were pulling his leg., We countered with "If you don't believe us, go see for yourself." Out he ran to see the dead animal in the back yard, but to our dismay, it was gone. Yes indeed, that poor critter had "played possum" on us and escaped never to be seen again.

UPDATE ON PEDESTRIAN ISLAND ON ELAM

As many of you are aware, the pedestrian island that was installed on N. Elam Ave at Rolling Road in the spring of 2014 has been removed. It took a major effort and a petition to get the original pedestrian island installed by the Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT). The island was removed as a result of the sewer rehabilitation project by the City of Greensboro's Water Resource Department. GDOT was unaware of the project and that Water Resources did not replace the island after the project was completed. GDOT has contacted Water Resources and has promised us that a new pedestrian island will be installed within a few weeks. We will keep you updated on the progress of the re-installation.

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5:30 - 9:00 Pig Pickin and Potluck Picnic

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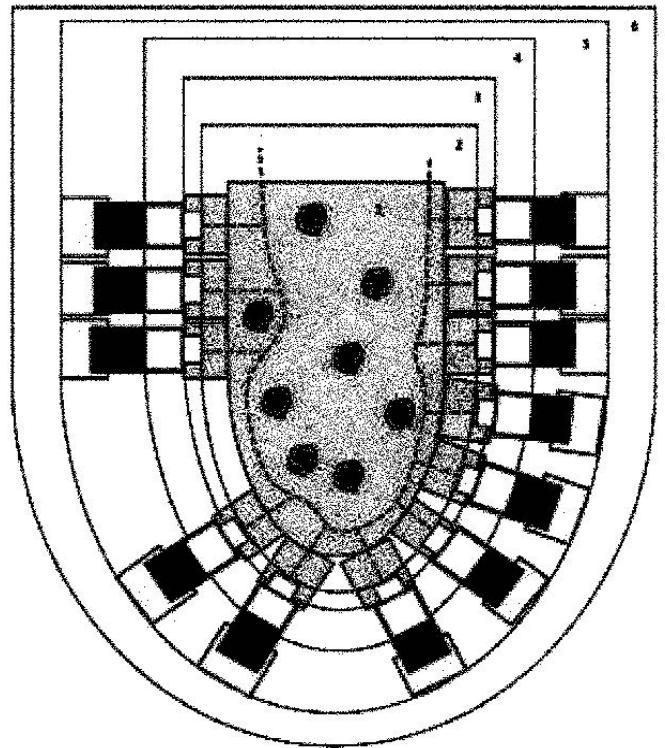


Pocket Neighborhoods

By Mike Pendergraft, Greensboro Neighborhood Congress Representative

Pocket neighborhoods are clustered groups (pods) of neighboring houses gathered around a shared common outdoor space. (See map for one configuration of a pod; multiple pods can be built.) Access is typically through a shared private drive rather than a public street. Houses are oriented around a common outdoor space which is typically at the center of the cluster of homes (the pod). A pod is a grouping of homes that share the common outdoor space. The common outdoor space is designed to encourage interaction between and among neighbors. A home owners' association maintains the common outdoor space and the infrastructure, that is, the private drive and utilities. Greensboro is considering amending the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) to allow this type of development. The pocket neighborhood concept with its associated regulations is being discussed currently by city staff with a stakeholders' group. A consensus has not yet been achieved among the participants as to how these are to be constructed or designed within Greensboro or where in Greensboro pocket neighborhoods will be allowed. Issues include the following:

- Whether they will be allowed in all residential neighborhoods, single-family as well as multi-family, as a matter of right, provided they meet design criteria.
- Whether they should receive their own zoning classification and/or require a rezoning. How much neighborhood input is required?
- What will be the design standards? For example:
- The size of each pod - from $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre up to 5 acres has been discussed (an example would be the parking lot at the corner of Kensington and Market.)
- What building lots for inclusion would be permitted?
- How many dwelling units and lots will be permitted or required per pod?
- How many square feet of common space is required per dwelling?
- What will be the parking ratio for cars per dwelling?
- How and where will the parking of cars be permitted or required?
- Is a specific orientation of the dwelling to the common area required?
- How will trash and its removal be provided for?
- How will the trash area be accessed and buffered?
- What is the maximum dwelling size?
- How many stories are permitted?
- How will pods integrate into existing neighborhoods?
- What will be the landscaping and tree requirements?
- Other issues?



Saturday, April 18 th Great American Cleanup and Mulch Day at the Park.

- Come meet your neighbors, and help make our park more beautiful!
- You bring a shovel, gloves, (a wheelbarrow), and a friendly smile.
- We'll bring the doughnuts.
- Meet at the tennis courts at 8:00AM. We should be finished no later than 11AM. Even 30 minutes of your time will help.
- Questions? Email Mary Jacke: maryjacke@yahoo.com

You may share your ideas or obtain more information by contacting Michael Pendergraft (336-339-2788, mrp_mlp@bellsouth.net) one of the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress's representatives to the stakeholder group or Nicole Smith at the Greensboro Planning Department (433-7258 - nicole.smith@greensboro-nc.gov.)



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Galileo Night at the Three College Observatory

May 1, 8:00 p.m.

The Three College Observatory is located in central North Carolina approximately eight miles south of Burlington. On a straight line between Greensboro and Chapel Hill the observatory is at about the midpoint. The observatory may be reached from Greensboro in approximately 45 minutes after a drive of some 33 miles. Detailed map can be found at this link: <http://physics.uncg.edu/tco/locationMap.html>



Look through the observatory's 32 inch telescope.

Enjoy a brief program about Galileo's discoveries by historian of science, Dr. Ken Caneva and astronomer, Dr. Steve Danford.

This program is free and no tickets or reservations are required. Guests are asked to call 334-3242 after 5:30 pm on the night they plan to attend "Galileo Night" for a recorded announcement of weather suitability (program will be cancelled if rain is in the forecast). Please dress for outdoor conditions.

For more information: <http://physics.uncg.edu/tcoor> - <http://performingarts.uncg.edu/globe-and-cosmos/> or call 336-334-5844



SUNSET HILLS RECEIVES CITY GRANT

The Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association is pleased to announce that we have received a Neighborhood Small Projects Grant for \$5600 from the City of Greensboro. The grant will fund 35 street sign toppers throughout the neighborhood. The sign toppers are decorative and will read "Sunset Hills." They are designed to make the neighborhood more visible and safer. Sign toppers have already been placed in other neighborhoods, including Westewood, Aycok and Fisher Park. They will be made and installed by the City of Greensboro. It will probably be several months before they appear.

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Dear Emily

My husband and I moved into the "FAB" mid-century modern at 1710 Sylvan Road last month —

Our dream home!

Just by chance, we drove past it last fall on one of our "cruisin'-dates" and it was Love at first sight - truly a diamond in the rough. I immediately put our house in Friendly Acres on the market and it sold to the first couple who viewed it. From then on things just fell into place.

It's the perfect Restoration project for empty nesters, both semi-retired and respectful of the original fine craftsmanship and uniqueness of our 1956 beauty. Enclosed are our dues for 2015 - SHNA - thrilled to be part of the neighborhood.

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Anna Bradford



Pig Pickin' - July 2014

This handwritten note was received by Emily Herman, SHNA Treasurer, and is printed with the permission of the authors.

Scott Michaels

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Scott.Michaels@allentate.com
www.allentate.com/ScottMichaels



A few things to know about solicitation.

1. Political parties and non profits are exempt from the license requirement.
2. Anyone else is required to purchase and prominently display their "Privilege License."
3. If a solicitor approaches you / your home, you should ask to see their "Privilege License." If they do not have one I would recommend you politely tell them you are not interested and, after they leave, call 911 and report them.
4. Everyone needs to know that criminals will pick the easy targets. The city is not just trying to make money by selling these licenses, but is protecting us from shady characters by not allowing them to roam through the neighborhoods casing homes. Criminals will quickly learn that the solicitor method of casing our homes will not work in our neighborhood and will go elsewhere.



Photos by Melanie Rodenbough



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The Greensboro Science Center

By Bob Gingham

I first visited the Greensboro Junior Museum, as it was then known sixty years ago. The museum became the Natural Science Center of Greensboro. Today "The Greensboro Science Center" is a mere eight-minute drive from our neighborhood. Its Animal Discovery Zoological Park, Museum, OmniSphere Theater, and Carolina SciQuarium are impeccably maintained. The staff are friendly, accessible, and enthusiastic.

Fewer than 10% of the more than 2,000 US zoos and aquariums are granted AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) accreditation. Our Center is among them.



"...when thunder rolls, lions will roar back. What other creature, besides the lion, the tiger, and the whale, can answer Creation in its own language?" Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, *The Tribe of Tiger*



What's wrong with this picture? (This is not a five-footed Bengal but the tail end of a tigress and front of the tiger, as they pass one another).


Between now and 2020 ambitious expansion plans are afoot.

I used to see zoos only as prisons, but the practice of managing zoos has changed radically today, emphasizing the critical roles of breeding and education. There are refuges like the Genesis Wildlife Sanctuary on Beech Mountain, NC, where wild animals have disabilities that prevent their release back into the wild. Or Tigerworld near Charlotte, a nonprofit animal conservation and educational center "dedicated to rescue, rehabilitation, and preservation of exotic animals." Zoos provide the valuable service of introducing many of us to exotic life forms we might never otherwise witness. And with extensive habitat loss and poaching today, captivity is often safer than what we sometimes naively call "freedom in the wild." This is the case with the majestic, but endangered Bengal tigers, the largest subspecies of tiger. As for Sumatran tigers, sadly there are now more in captivity than in the wild.



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Cheers to Drinking Local But only if you are over 21 By Carlee Dempsey

Three years ago, the North Carolina Division of Tourism and the NC Brewer's Guild, a non-profit organization focused on promoting North Carolina beer, deemed April NC Beer Month. In 2014, the Brewer's Association, a craft beer industry group, announced that breweries were opening at a rate of 1.2 per day across the United States. Currently, in North Carolina alone there are approximately 100 breweries.

So why does all of this matter? Well on one hand, Greensboro is currently home to three craft breweries with two more scheduled to open in the next year. On the other hand, it's April, i.e. the best excuse you'll have all year to go out and support *local* all month long; which essentially means sampling many of the varieties of craft beers.

Five of my favorite local spots in Greensboro (with excellent NC craft beer selections), rest within walking distance of Sunset Hills; Sticks and Stones, Filling Station, Fish Bones, Suds & Duds and The Mad Hatter. Recently, Common Grounds even put a bar in for all of us who really love the idea of an afternoon coffee with a side of beer.

Along with enjoying a draft and / or bottle from local breweries at your favorite corner bar, you can learn even more about NC crafted brews at events throughout the month of April. Pig Pounder, Gibb's Hundred Brewing Co, and Natty Greene's Brewing Co. are all hosting various events in honor of NC Beer Month; everything from Beer Education night featuring Pale Ales at Gibb's Hundred on April 1st to Pig Fest 2015 at Natty Greene's on April 25th.

All together, our local breweries have 10 events planned for NC Beer Month. So don't miss out on the chance to support local craft while enjoying events fit for even all the winos and "light" beer drinkers in the Hood! Cheers.

For more information about NC Beer Month events in Greensboro, visit:
www.nattygreenes.com
www.gibbshundred.com

State of the Neighborhood!

By Michael Driver

Every year I run the statistics for sales of homes in our lovely neighborhood. This year was an interesting one, as you will see.

2014 was a good year for us, with 37 homes sold in the neighborhood, compared to 35 in 2013. However, the homes sold in 2013 averaged \$119 per square foot while 2014 sales averaged \$117 per square foot. So on average we actually went down \$2 per foot this year. What could account for the drop in average dollar per square foot?

Well, we had some large homes sell this year, and the larger the home the lower the dollar per square foot, just based on size alone. That does skew the average. But if you look closely at the numbers, we had two homes sell for substantially below our usual price range. We had one house at 1802 West Market which was a foreclosure (and in dire need of work) which sold for \$51 a square foot. In the case of 206 N. Elam, the home was in need of updating and sold for \$72 per square foot. Eliminating these two anomalies from our list changes our average to \$120 a square foot, which is a small but still significant increase over last year.

We also have to look at the Days on Market, or how long it takes a home in Sunset Hills to sell. In 2013 houses averaged 100 days on market and in 2014 they averaged 88 days on market. If we eliminate the two aforementioned homes, our average does not change. Even though those two homes sold for less than the average amount, they still sold in less time than last year's average. So not only did we see a small increase to our dollar per square foot sales price, we saw a decrease in the days on market!

This goes to show that we all made the right decision to move to Sunset Hills. The architecture, the trees, the sidewalks and the amenities, all these things add up to a great place to live. And it helps to have great neighbors as well!

You can download the reports from my website - <http://yourhometriad.com/sunset-hills-2014/>



Membership and Treasurer's Report

As of March 23rd we have 319 paid households. Yea! Putting dues envelopes in the December newsletter was a great idea. Dues are \$10. If you haven't paid your 2015 dues they are due now. Check out the front page of this newsletter for annual events that bring neighbors together for social occasions and work projects that help to keep our neighborhood looking good. Send a check made out to SHNA for \$10.00 to me, Emily Herman, 2512 Berkley Pl. If you use two names and want to be listed that way or use a name other than the one on your check, please let me know. Call me at 275-6015 if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Many thanks to the following people who made contributions since the February newsletter: June Barron, Bryan & Annetta Bartle, Sidona Black, Chris & Mary Anne Busch, James & Cynthia Butner, Steve & Linda Danford, Michelle Erickson, Robert & Kate Foster, Michael & Laura Gage, John Jones & Kelly Swindell, Percy & Nora Jones, Harley & Mollie Lyles, Craig & Lyn Mankoff, Tom & Kathy Martinek, Daniel McCoy, Larry & Gerry Pike, Elizabeth Smith, Michael & Deborah Smith, Mike & Mary Pendergraft, Bradford & Anne Reaves, Patrick & Eileen Shannon, Herb & Ellen Wells, and Richard & Lois Wells

This month's newsletter was formatted by Carole Lindsey-Potter. Thank you, Carole!

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