



NEWS of GROVE PARK

November 2008

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Gilewski

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Vice President – Kaye Walsh 704.536.5314
Secretary – Debbie Tipton 704.568.4269
Treasurer – Pat Lyke 704.531.1310

Message from the Grove Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) President

Greetings neighbors! Please join your Grove Park neighbors at our annual **December Social on Tuesday, December 2nd 2008**. The December Social details are included in this newsletter. Thank you to Elizabeth Hylton who is chairing the organization of the December Social. This is another opportunity to mingle, meet new neighbors and reconnect with friends. Our neighborhood strength begins with our connection to one another and grows as we unite on common issues as a community.

2008-2009 GPNA Calendar reminders:
02 December 2008 – Holiday Social

03 March 2009 – Hickory Grove Recreation Center

04 May 2009 – Hickory Grove Recreation Center

Our quarterly meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month. Please mark your calendars. Our success depends upon your participation.

Please pass along neighborhood news and contact updates to your Block Captain. Your Block Captain will meet with the GPNA Board in the intervals between our neighborhood meetings; distribute the quarterly newsletter and other important updates.

Your Block Captain: _____

Contact Details: _____

Would you like to be more involved with your GPNA? Please consider joining one of our committees.

Communications: Chair, Mary-Ellen Jones

Neighborhood Watch: Chair, Mary Kay Brennan

Neighborhood Signs: Chair, Jewel Davis

Charlotte East Community Partners (CECP): Representatives, Kristine Fisher and Shelin Wilder

Code/Zoning: Chair is still open. The purpose of this committee is to keep us informed of upcoming code/zoning changes before they happen. Please contact Maureen Gilewski at 704.568.9744 if you would like to chair this committee.



The 2008-2009 Board of Directors held their **second Board Meeting and second Block Captain Meeting** on Tuesday, October 7th 2008. Vice President Kaye Walsh reported on her attendance at (2) East Charlotte Meetings on Tuesday, September 2nd 2008. The first meeting was the Town Hall Meeting with Charlotte's new police Chief Rodney Monroe. The second was a Citizens Forum with City Council at City Hall. Charlotte East Leaders addressed section 8 subsidized housing and the mobile food vendor issue in our area. We appreciate Kaye's GPNA representation.

We discussed preliminary plans for the development of a **GPNA website**. Mary Fabian has graciously volunteered her time to develop the website.

Jewel Davis, Sign Committee Chair, gave an **update on the development of GPNA Meeting reminder signs and neighborhood entrance signs.** The funds for the GPNA Meeting reminder signs were approved. Jewel reported that Sign Committee member Ron Stading made a trip to the Albemarle NC Department of Transportation office to review the Harris Blvd. construction documents. Ron reviewed the “existing conditions” drawings hoping to find reference to our neighborhood entrance signs. Without evidence of the signs, we have no grounds for requesting their replacement. Please speak up if you locate an old photo of these signs. Without the evidence we have to begin the process by requesting a right of way from the state.

The recent approval of the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation 2008 Bond Referendum on November 4th 2008 includes “**Linda Lake Neighborhood Park**”. The plans call for a small park that focuses on youth and family recreation. These parks typically include playgrounds, benches, walking trails, picnic areas, volleyball and/or basketball courts. The plans are designed and built in consultation with the surrounding communities. The location of the “Linda Lake Park” is at the end of Applecross Lane. \$100,000.00 of the bond money is earmarked for the “Linda Lake Neighborhood Park” site master plan.

At this time we have no new information from the city regarding our **Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP).**

Kristine Fisher reported on the great success of the Second Annual **East Charlotte Black Tie Gala** on October 11th at the Charlotte Museum of History.

Pat Lyke, our resident Master Gardener, is promoting **tree banding** in our neighborhood again this fall. It takes a unified approach to control the canker worms who are feasting in our city’s large tree foliage. Do you remember the aerial spraying of the worms last fall? Our only assault this year will be tree bands. Our neighborhood’s dense population of mature trees is one of our best assets which we need to protect. Please contact Pat Lyke if you would like information on how to band your trees. Thank you Pat for continuing to promote tree banding. Tree banding is also promoted by our Grove Park/Ravenwood Garden Club.



Holiday Dinner: Mark your calendars for a special event. Everyone is invited to the annual **Grove Park Holiday Dinner** at Hickory Grove Presbyterian Church gym, on Tuesday December 2nd at 6:30 pm. **The meat will be provided by GPNA.** Please bring a side dish, dessert or drinks to share with your neighbors. Call Elizabeth Hylton at 704.536.9163 or Brenda Cook at 704.536.1633 if you are able to assist with the set-up or take down for the dinner. Set-up for the dinner is at 6:00 pm. The Holiday Dinner is a Neighborhood Watch Event. The Church does not charge for Neighborhood Watch Events. Donations will be collected at the dinner to give to the Church in thanks for the use of the gym.

Safety Concern: It’s dark out there! Our daylight hours are short and many of our neighborhood walkers/joggers are in the dark. Please be careful. Walk against the flow of traffic, rather than with the flow of traffic. Carry a flashlight in your hand on your traffic side, wear a light colored jacket, fluorescent safety vest or armband.

National Night Out: A belated thank you to Brenda Cook who hosted Grove Park’s National Night Out in August. Talk about neighborliness! Old friends reconnected, new bonds were forged and good food enjoyed. Actually this is the first newsletter since, so the first opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to Brenda.

Association Dues

Grove Park Neighborhood Association is a voluntary association, our dues are also voluntary, and for this reason all the more appreciated when you do contribute. Thus if you are so inclined, please make out a check for \$20 to the Grove Park Neighborhood Association and mail to Pat Lyke, our treasurer. Pat’s address: 6332 Grove Park Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28215.

Support Your Hickory Grove Library

Watch for upcoming news for plans of the new Hickory Grove Library Branch. Our usage of the current Hickory Grove Branch is an important step in obtaining our much needed new facility.

Garden Club News

The Grove Park and Ravenwood Garden Club meets the third Saturday of every month, at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Mary-Ellen Jones 704.535.5549 for further information. Prerequisite: a desire to be a part of a group of friendly neighbors committed to the well being of our community, while enjoying each other's company in the process.

Let's Keep It Clean! Please volunteer a small amount of your time to help pick up litter along our neighborhood boundaries. All it requires is a willing heart, a pair of gloved hands, and a trash bag. Contact Lin Vickery to get on the "Keep It Clean" schedule, 704.641.6130 or Linvickery@carolina.rr.com. A service project of the Grove Park/Ravenwood Garden Club, you do not need to be a member of the Garden Club to participate in the project.

Need a BABYSITTER? Kelly Fabian, a responsible 15 year old, **Red Cross Certified** babysitter is available! Call 704-281-0984 for more information/to check availability, or email her mom at mfabian1@yahoo.com.

The Problem with Ivy

Tell me why the ivy twines, Ivy League schools, ivy covered cottages – all romantic notions. But the truth about ivy is far from romantic. The state of Washington has listed ivy as a noxious and toxic weed and forbids the sale of it. The state of Delaware has cleared ivy from hundreds of trees and called it “an aggressive invader that threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas.”

Now many of our beautiful Grove Park trees are being strangled by ivy. Below are some reasons you may want to have the ivy cut from your trees and also pulled out of the ground. Be warned, though—it is a devil to get rid of. It is resistant to herbicides like Roundup. The best way is to cut it at the trunk and tear as much out of the ground as possible.

- Ivy on the ground smothers native plants by preventing sunshine from reaching them.
- Ivy harbors dust, pollen, rodents and rodent manure which can cause real problems for people with allergies or immune problems.

- It can be a liability – the ivy girdles the tree trunk as it climbs and when it reaches the top can act like a sail in a wind, causing it to fall. The sheer weight of ivy is a huge drag on the tree and makes infested trees prone to blow over.
- Once it covers the tree it can prevent leaf-out, eventually killing the tree.
- Ivy is aggressive and creeps uninvited into yards. The vines develop seeds that birds then carry to other areas.
- Thick ground ivy can harbor undetected pools of water that harbor mosquitoes.
- Ivy acts as a fire ladder in which flames spread rapidly up the vines catching the entire tree on fire.

Anyone for an ivy pulling party?

-Jan Cimbala