



NEWS of GROVE PARK

February 2009

Photo courtesy of Ed Fox

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Vice President – Kaye Walsh 704.536.5314
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Treasurer – Pat Lyke 704.531.1310

Message from the Grove Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) President

Hello neighbors. It was a pleasure to see so many Grove Park neighbors at our combined meeting with Ravenwood on January 27th. We received a warm reception from our Ravenwood neighbors. Please allow me to summarize the meeting highlights for those who were unable to attend.

This was Ravenwood’s monthly meeting so their business was conducted as usual. Of interest to Grove Park was the Hickory Grove CMPD update from Sergeant Tim Maciejewski, who was filling in for Officer Conway. Detective Karen Harris also attended the meeting with Sergeant Maciejewski and explained her role within the Hickory Grove Division.

Sergeant Maciejewski reported that the house fire on East Lakeside is an arson case. Currently they have not arrested any suspect(s). Secondly, back in December one of our Ravenwood neighbors on Applecross was shot in his garage upon his return home. This was not a fatal shooting but Sergeant Maciejewski stated at this time it appears to have been a random act of violence. No suspect has been arrested. On behalf of GPNA I pass on our sincere concern and well wishes to both of our neighbors.

On a good note, as a result of our active Neighborhood Watch, there was an arrest in the December car break-ins and thefts that occurred between Ravenwood and Grove Park. CMPD is in the slow process of identifying and returning some of the stolen property.

My consistent message to all of you is get out into our neighborhood. Become acquainted with your neighbors to develop a sense of what is normal. Report anything you see that is outside the realm of normal that may result in a danger to you and/or your neighbors or our neighborhood. Do not be hesitant to call 911. A false alarm causes no harm but an omitted alarm may result in a valuable loss. Take an active role in overseeing our children. I, like many of you, grew up in a small town. Everyone knew each other and if you were “up to no good” your mother knew about it when you returned home; and it was not a pleasant warm welcome! However it kept most of us on the right

path. As always I say our neighborhood strength begins with our connection to one another and grows as we unite on common issues as a community.

An appeal was made for more help for “Let's Keep It Clean!” This is 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. The project involves a small amount of time to help pick up litter along our neighborhood boundaries on Harris Blvd and Robinson Church Rd. 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.

Augie Beasley from Ravenwood introduced the Grove Park/Ravenwood Garden Club’s first project for 2009, which is a Spring Garden Tour of 6-8 homes within the Grove Park and Ravenwood Neighborhoods. The purpose is to get to know our neighbors better, to pick up some ideas for our own gardens and to beautify our neighborhoods. The tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Watch for more information!

2008-2009 GPNA Calendar reminders:

Tuesday, 03 March 2009 – Hickory Grove Recreation Center at 6:30 PM in the Playroom, at the end of the first corridor.

Tuesday, 04 May 2009 – Hickory Grove Recreation Center

Please mark your calendars and attend. Our success depends upon your participation.

Michael Drive/Lisa Circle - I would like to formally invite our neighbors on Michael Drive and Lisa Circle to join GPNA!

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 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: GPNA welcomes our new Code/Zoning
Chair Karie Brock. Thank you Karie for volunteering to
keep us informed of upcoming code/zoning changes before
they happen.

* **Wanted:** A block captain for **Teague Lane**, a block
captain for **Preston Court**, a block captain for **Shady Lane**
and a block captain for **Michael Drive and Lisa Circle**.
Please call Maureen Gilewski 704.568.9744 if you are able
and willing to serve.



The 2008-2009 Board of Directors held their
third Board Meeting and third Block Captain Meeting
on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Our focus was the upcoming
agenda for our March meeting. Our first two meetings of
the 2008-2009 Association Year provided opportunities to
socialize with our neighbors through National Night Out
and the Holiday Social. The agenda for our next 2
meetings will focus on our neighborhood within the larger
community. The neighborhoods in the East and West of
Charlotte have been inundated with the majority of the
City's Section 8 subsidized housing. Did we assume the
City was looking out for our interests? While we lived our
day to day lives within the comfortable boundaries of
Grove Park, our community around us was changing.

* **Don't miss our March 3rd meeting.** Our meeting on
March 3rd at the Hickory Grove Recreation Center on
Pence Road will begin with a business meeting from 6:30
to 7:00 PM. At 7:00 PM Tom Hanchett, staff historian at
the Levine Museum of the New South, will present a
historical look at the development of Charlotte. Tom's
presentation is a very interesting look at how public policy
has shaped the housing patterns in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.
Mary Klentz from The League of Women Voters of
Charlotte-Mecklenburg will also be present. The League of
Women Voters is a member of the Mixed Income Housing
Coalition (MIHC). The MIHC is a grassroots organization
working to gain support for policies on community
sustainability.

Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP)

Kristie Kennedy provided the following update on 11
February 2009. The Planning Phase was completed in
August 2008. The surveying which continues is part of the
Pre-Design work. The Design Phase contract was
negotiated in September but the project has been on hold

due to the recession and the subsequent economic
uncertainty. The Neighborhood Improvements Department
was recently given the go ahead to continue with NIPs.
The final approval will come from the City Council
Meeting on March 9th.

Continue to Support Your Hickory Grove Library!

A committee is being formed to select art for our new
Hickory Grove Library Branch. The usage of the Hickory
Grove Branch is up 5%. Thank you for supporting our
community library.

Do you play chess or want to learn how? Chess players
meet at the Hickory Grove Library on Wednesdays at
6:30pm. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

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.

Garden Club News

The Grove Park and Ravenwood Garden Club meets the
third Saturday of every month, at 10:30 a.m. The next
meeting is Saturday, 21 February 2009. 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.

Dog Walking

Please be considerate of your neighbors and clean up after
your dogs.

Neighborhood Wildlife

Have you seen the flocks of buzzards visiting along Linda
Lake, similar to their visiting patterns along Lakeside Lake
last year? Have you see the daffodils and crocuses in
bloom, and watched day by day as the first buds of the
flowering quince open? Truly we are blessed, this is a
beautiful neighborhood!

Local Business

Agaves is now Agaves Family Seafood. Gone is the
Mexican food. The lunch-dinner menu is heavy on
seafood, burgers and subs. Curiously, it has a breakfast
menu that strongly resembles the old "East Town" menu.
You can stop by and pick up a take-out menu to browse
over the changes.

Thank you

"Mark & Kaye Walsh wish to express their thanks to the
Neighborhood Association for the nice card you sent after
Mark's mother passed away. Your thoughtfulness meant so
much to us!"