



Photo courtesy of Ed Fox

NEWS of GROVE PARK

April 2009

President – Maureen Gilewski 704.568.9744
Vice President – Kaye Walsh 704.536.5314
Secretary – Debbie Tipton 704.568.4269
Treasurer – Pat Lyke 704.531.1310

Message from Maureen: **It's time to vote!** First I extend my appreciation to Kaye Walsh and Pat Lyke for their year of excellent service to our community. According to our bylaws we elect our vice-president and treasurer every odd year, and elect our president and secretary every even year. On May 4, 2009 GPNA will elect a Vice President and Treasurer. Contact Kaye Walsh (nominating committee chair) with nominations. We encourage our neighbors to consider a more active role. The time commitment is nominal, your input is invaluable. Call or email Kay to nominate yourself or a willing neighbor for either Vice President or Treasurer (704.536.5314, captainandcongo@peoplepc.com). To date we have 2 nominations, Kaye Walsh is willing to run for another term as Vice President and Judy Hall has accepted the nomination for Treasurer.



Summary from our March 4th GPNA Meeting

Due to an emergency situation Tom Hanchett was unable to join us on March 4th. Instead Tom will join us on Monday, May 4th (a day prior to our planned meeting date). Come hear Tom's informative presentation!

The 2009 election of Vice President and Treasurer was announced and the need for a Nominating Committee Chair. Mary-Ellen Jones gave the Communications Committee report. When Officer Ericka Conway gave the latest crime report she explained that area crime updates and other CMPD news is available at cmpd.org (register on "Notify me"). Nancy Carter our District 5 City Council Member gave an update on Eastland Mall, Independence Blvd and the Streetcar plans. Karie Brock, our new Code/Zoning Chair was introduced. Jewel Davis and the Sign Committee were recognized for the great new meeting signs! When the Sign Committee and Maureen Gilewski attended a Neighborhood Matching Grants Workshop at the Methodist Home Park on February 12th, we learned that a great deal of planning and fund raising is needed before we can apply for grant money for neighborhood signs.

Maureen briefly discussed the Charlotte East Community Partners (CECP) issues she would like GPNA to embrace.

- 1-Existing & future subsidized housing in E & W Charlotte.
- 2-Section 8 vouchers (poster identifies the locations)
- 3-Nonsupport of inclusionary zoning, incentives, exemptions, variances, exclusions and deferrals.

These issues affect our property values and the long-term sustainability of our community. We can make a difference with a strong collective voice in East Charlotte. Tom Hanchett's presentation on the historical development of Charlotte explains how public policy has shaped housing patterns in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Along with the Mixed Income Housing Coalition (MIHC) we will launch our campaign for viable public policy.

The 2008-2009 Board of Directors held their **fourth Neighborhood Council Meeting** on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. We discussed the agenda for the next GPNA meeting, the newsletter, nominations, block captain vacancies, reports from block captains and committee chairs and representation at upcoming community events.

Please note this change and plan to attend! Next GPNA Meeting is Monday, 04 May 2009 at 6:30 PM – Hickory Grove Recreation Center on 6709 Pence Road located at the new Hickory Grove Elementary School. Agenda: 6:30 Voting, 7:00 Tom Hanchett's presentation.

Remember to share your neighborhood news with your Block Captain. He/she meets with the GPNA Board in the intervals between our neighborhood meetings; distributes the quarterly newsletter and other important updates.

Your Block Captain: _____
Contact Details: _____

Thanks to Sarah Shaw who volunteered as Block Captain for Michael, Rua, Lisa and DeMill.

Still Wanted: Block captains for **Teague Lane, Preston Court, and Shady Lane**. Ideally we would like a representative from the respective streets. If interested call Maureen Gilewski.

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, Karie Brock.

Update from Nancy Carter: on March 23rd the council approved three previously delayed capital projects within our community. **1)** Engineering Services for Grove Park Neighborhood Improvements; **2)** Intersection improvements at WT Harris and Milton Rd; **3)** Intersection improvements at Independence and Harris. **4)** Last month City Council lobbied in DC for funding of several Charlotte projects which included the planning for Eastland Mall and the Streetcar project. **5)** NCDOT will no longer fund the city mowing of the state right of ways so the city is returning the mowing to the state. NCDOT is committing to 2-4 cuts per season. This includes Harris Blvd, Albemarle Rd. and Independence Rd. **6)** April 1st - September 30th, Code Enforcement's expanded hours 8 am - 8:00 pm (M-F). **7)** CATS is making cuts in their service. The adjustments are mainly lengthening the time between bus arrivals and moving ahead the last run of buses. Please refer to their website on charmck.org for the posted adjustments.

Leash Law: The City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have strict leash laws that apply to all animals except cats. Animals must be on a leash, contained within a fence or within an **operable and marked** invisible fence. An animal may be loose in its own yard if there is an adult (18 years or older) immediately next to the animal **and** the animal responds to direct verbal commands of the person. Please be a good neighbor and responsible pet owner. Violations will incur stiff fines ranging \$50.00 - \$500.00 as well as permanent seizure of the animal. To report an animal at large, please call 311.

Association Dues: Grove Park Neighborhood Association is a voluntary association (with no mandatory ordinances); our voluntary dues are \$20/year. Please make your checks payable to GPNA. Mail or hand delivered to Pat Lyke, our treasurer. (6332 Grove Park Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28215).

EXCITING NEWS: The Grove Park and Ravenwood Garden Club is pleased to announce their first annual Garden Tour, Sunday, April 26th from 1:00pm – 5:00 pm. A self guided tour of 6 private gardens and the “Triangle”, signs leading to the gardens will be posted the week of April 19th. The intent is to promote neighborliness while appreciating the natural beauty within our neighborhoods. Your donations will be gratefully accepted, however there is no charge.

Grove Park Gardens

Arnie Cann and Helene Hilger, 6613 Williams Rd.
Mary Ann Williams and Skip Griffin, 6901 Linda Lake Dr.
Bob and Samantha Laughlin, 6624 Lakeside Rd.

Ravenwood Gardens

Mary Ann and Augie Beasley, 7009 Leesburg Rd.
Laura and Lee Baber, 7101 Applecross Ln
Charlotte and George Hay, 7133 Applecross Ln.

Thank you: On behalf of GPNA Mary Kay Brennan presented our Resource Officer Ericka Conway with a \$100.00 gift card from Wal-Mart. Ericka is expecting a new baby, imminently. Officer Conway sent the following note: "Thank you so much for the sweet card and gift card. That was way too much and thoughtful of you and the neighborhood. You guys mean so much to me and I really do appreciate it. It has been so much fun getting to know you and all the residents of Grove Park over the past few years. I look forward to coming back already to serve everyone."

Shortly before Christmas we lost a long term neighbor on Linda Lake Dr., Mr. Warren Hood. Soup and a sympathy card were delivered to the family. The Hood family's card of appreciation was shared at the last GPNA Meeting.

Upcoming Community Events

April 16th 6:30pm
Charlotte East Community Partners (CECP)
Hickory Grove Recreation Center, 6709 Pence Rd.

May 2nd 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Community Forum on Mental Illness
For consumers of Mental Health Services in Char-Meck
St. Johns Baptist Church, 300 Hawthorne Ln.

May 12th 7:00 pm
Mayoral Candidate Forum
Anthony Foxx and John Lassiter
Windsor Park Elementary School

May 16th 7:45am – 3:00 pm
14th Annual Neighborhood Symposium
Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S. College St.

May 21st 6:30 pm
Charlotte East Community Partners (CECP)
Hickory Grove Recreation Center, 6709 Pence Rd.

Hickory Grove Library meeting on Saturday April 18th at 10:00 am to discuss the plans for the new library. There is a concern that our local branch employees will be transferred to other branches. Please come out and support the retention of our local branch employees. You may also voice your support by signing the petition at Aggie's Restaurant.

Congratulations to Niki Cook who is graduating with honors from Hickory Grove School on May 21st! If any neighbors would like to attend the graduation you may contact Brenda Cook at 704.536.1633. Niki will be attending Gardner Webb University in the fall.