



Photo courtesy of Judy Hall

# NEWS of GROVE PARK

February 2010

**President** – Maureen Gilewski 704.568.9744

**Vice President** – Kaye Walsh 704.536.5314

**Secretary** – Debbie Tipton 704.568.4269

**Treasurer** – Judy Hall 704.537.9587

[www.groveparkneighborhood.org](http://www.groveparkneighborhood.org)

## COMMITTEES

**Communications:** Chair, Mary-Ellen Jones

**Neighborhood Watch:** Chair, Mary Kay Brennan

**Neighborhood Signs:** Chair, Jewell Davis

**Charlotte East Community Partners (CECP):**

Representatives, Kristine Fisher and Shelin Wilder

**Code/Zoning:** Chair, Kari Brock.

## Message from Maureen:

The GPNA Board, Block Captains and Committee Chairs met on January 26<sup>th</sup> to plan the 2010 Agenda through May 2010.

**Our next GPNA Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Hickory Grove Recreation Center at 6709 Pence Road.** Our agenda will include an important update on our neighborhood signs and a plan to establish a working rapport with the East Town Market management for positive improvements on a focal point within our community.

**Elections for President and Secretary** will occur at our May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. We need 2 volunteers for an immediate short term assignment to coordinate the nominations, and at least 2 neighbors to accept the 2-year opportunity to become more active in Grove Park as board members. Through our neighborhood association we have extended our connections beyond our next door neighbors and have a forum for a stronger voice on issues that affect our lives and the well being of our community. Our board of directors, your participation in our periodic meeting and our terrific block captains are the core of our growing association. Let's keep GPNA strong!

Plans are underway for a GPNA International Spring Fest. We are looking for volunteers, particularly from our neighbors with roots from countries outside of the US, to help make this a festive event. Please contact me at 704.568.9744 if you would be interested in helping.

## In Sympathy

We extend our sincere condolences to our neighbors Ron and Sue Stading whose son Mark died suddenly on January 27<sup>th</sup> and to Doug Barber whose mother died January 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Neighborhood Signs

Plans for our neighborhood entrance signs continue to develop. The Sign Committee would like to know if there is a graphics artist/designer residing within our neighborhood. Please contact Jewell Davis at 704.537.1899 if you or someone you know would be willing to help.

## East Town Market Survey

Representatives from Grove Park plan to meet with the management of East Town Market to discuss the shopping center and the type of stores that we would be interested in and support. Your participation is greatly appreciated and the input received will be used in our meeting. We would like to show the management that there is large buying group right across the street. Please return by email from the point of distribution or by paper copy through your block captain by February 21, 2010.

**The new Grove Park Library** opened Saturday, February 6, 2010. It is located near the intersection of W.T. Harris and Hickory Grove Road, on Hickory Grove Road. It is no longer a cramped, dark space. Our new library is light and airy with room to grow. A wonderful gift to this new library are two paintings by our Ravenwood neighbor and friend Hildie Weiler (Hildie's family donated her work after Hildie's death last May). Show your appreciation of what we have, by using our new library often.

**Grove Park History:** In our last newsletter, many of you enjoyed **Acree Armstrong's** shared recollections from her Terry Lane neighbors of the early years on Terry Lane. Now it is your turn to share. If you have lived in Grove Park for some time and can remember the way it used to be - even a small account, please let us know.

Share your neighborhood news with your Block Captain or email information to Mary-Ellen Jones at [jjimj@gmail.com](mailto:jjimj@gmail.com).

Your Block Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details: \_\_\_\_\_

## Charlotte East Update from Nancy Carter:

The City is applying for a \$25MM federal grant and \$12MM city grant for the streetcar segment between Presbyterian Hospital and the Transportation Center. The 1.5 miles of laid tracks on Elizabeth Ave. will be completed and functioning at the end of the project. There will be a link with the Lynx line and other transit services. The present trolley cars can be used initially to save \$8MM on the project. Application for this

grant will not affect our eligibility for other transportation funding. Thanks to Winterfield Neighborhood President **Diane Langevin** who spoke as a member of the Streetcar Advisory Committee in favor of the grant application.

The City is also applying for a grant to buy new hybrid express buses to run on Central and Beatties Ford. This grant would cover the construction of stops for this service which can roll over to serving the streetcar and the buses can then serve elsewhere.

We are setting up a District 5 meeting to introduce the new Director of CATS, **Carolyn Flowers**, to review the results of the Council Retreat, and to receive an update on the initiative in Public Safety in the Eastway CMPD Division, linking a judge with the area.

Our appreciation goes to **Susan Lindsay** who brought up the topic of down zoning and corrective zoning at the Jan. 25th Council meeting. She stated that there are specific sites recommended in our area plans and that, without many rezoning cases, the Planning Staff could be assisting the Eastside in this fashion.

Please mark your calendars for the Business Showcase, sponsored by our Chamber East and the HTA, March 31, at the Park and for the Environment Day/Neighborhood Symposium at CPCC on April 17th.

The City's weatherization clinics at Eastland were most successful! Let's keep that great history of support going. Best to all, **Nancy Carter**

**Upcoming Community Events** - February General Meeting of Charlotte East Community Partners on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Hickory Grove Recreation Center on Pence Road, adjacent to the Hickory Grove Elementary School.

There are 3 speakers this month.  
Harry Jones - County Manager  
Ken Szymanski- Director/Greater Charlotte Apartment Assoc.  
Captain Jeff Pless - new Commander/Hickory Grove /CMPD

Contact [info@CharlotteEastCP.com](mailto:info@CharlotteEastCP.com) with questions.

### **Court Watch Program**

**What is Court Watch?** Court Watch is a citizen run volunteer program that holds the court system accountable for the decisions it makes regarding case disposition and adjudication. It basically gets neighborhoods to participate in the court process, allowing them to understand and perhaps influence how it is operated. *Imagine this...* A known prolific offender who has repeatedly been through the "system" has been arrested again for breaking into a home in your neighborhood. The Court Watch group that you belong to is notified and arranges for someone to go to the hearing where this person's pre-trial release is being considered. A Community Impact letter is generated and sent by the group to the District Attorney's Office, requesting consideration when pursuing the

charges, which is then added to the case file. A Court Watch member is in the courtroom each time this subject is in court.

**Getting started.** The University City Division of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is willing to facilitate the creation of such a group in this area. **Interested?** Please e-mail Officer Amy Stukekey at [astukekey@cmpd.org](mailto:astukekey@cmpd.org) indicating your name, address, and neighborhood. A meeting will be scheduled at the University City Division team office on University Executive Park Dr.

Please check out the following website from the New Orleans program. The focus of this group may not be exactly what is intended for the University City group, but it does provide some useful information. <http://courtwatchnola.com/>

**GROVE PARK-RAVENWOOD GARDEN CLUB** meets the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. **Augie and Mary Anne Beasley** will host the club on Saturday February 20. Their address is: 7009 Leesburg. **Pat Lyke**, our resident Master Gardener, will talk about plant propagation. This is a timely topic, as spring is almost upon us.

The April meeting will be the **annual spring plant exchange**. Be thinking now of what plants you have to share - whether a member or a neighbor.

The **Third Annual Garden Club Yard Sale** will be the third Saturday of September. As you begin your spring cleaning or sorting out, please set aside your unwanted items for this yard sale. Proceeds will be used for future projects that benefit all of us. For example, keep an observant eye on the Triangle gardens over the next few months, as you will be pleasantly surprised. Please contact **Mary-Ellen Jones** (704.535.5549, [jjimij@gmail.com](mailto:jjimij@gmail.com)) with any Garden Club related questions.

The **second annual Garden Tour**, sponsored by the Garden Club, is planned for Sunday, April 18, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. This tour is a unique opportunity to admire the beauty around us, while visiting the gardens of neighbors in Ravenwood and Grove Park. More information as the time approaches.

**Walk with a purpose:** for more than two years the Garden Club sponsored clean-up along the perimeters of our neighborhood (W.T. Harris and Robinson Church Road) make a difference and project more of the true image of Grove Park. In fact, whenever you walk, why not carry a bag and pick-up whatever litter you find. Remember nice, clean neighborhoods do not happen by chance; rather, they are the result of consistent effort.

**ASSOCIATION DUES:** Grove Park Neighborhood Association is a voluntary association (no mandatory ordinances); voluntary dues are \$20/year. Please make your checks payable to GPNA. Mail or hand delivered to Judy Hall, our treasurer. (7044 Lakeside Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215).

**Get acquainted with our GPNA Website** [www.grovecparkneighborhood.org](http://www.grovecparkneighborhood.org). Do you have something to sell or looking to buy? Visit the "Swap Shop" link.