Summer 2004

Message from the President

In this issue, you will find a recap of the Sylvan Park home tour, chaired by Kim Davis, and held on Sunday, June 13. SPNA extends its thanks to Kim, her committee members and volunteers, and those who allowed their homes to be on the tour. We report on the fourth of July parade as well.

Also in this issue is an announcement about the annual SPNA cookout held in conjunction with the national Night out against crime. We hope that you will come meet your neighbors and police officers from the west precinct.

Finally, I want to alert you to a monthly event that will be held immediately prior to the Association meeting each month. Too often, we all show up at the last minute—or later—press through our agenda as efficiently as possible, then dash away to the next thing we need to do. Perhaps some of us on the Steering Committee will linger to resolve outstanding issues, but rarely do we get to visit with folks.

So beginning August 9, Steering Committee members Keith Barnes and Janet Younts will coordinate a time for socializing commencing at 6:40pm. Please come to converse with your neighbors. And, if you would be willing to provide the refreshments for a future gathering, please let Keith or Janet know. I hope to see you, soon.

Susan Rodgers, President, 297-3251
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Quarterly Report of the Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association

May, 2004:
No actions taken.

June, 2004:
Agenda suspended to accommodate discussion of NES tree trimming. See Cam Thompson’s report, below.

July, 2004
Approved the expenditure of up to $1200 for annual Night Out Against Crime expenses.
Approved expenditures of up to $2800 for Home Tour expenses. [Note: Expenses of $2680 have been reported to date. The Home Tour realized reported income to date of $7100.]

Monthly Meetings:

The Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association meets at 7pm on the second Monday of each month, in the Senior Renaissance Center At the Cohn Adult Learning Center at the corner of Park and 48th Avenue North. (Enter though the door off the service area, accessible from 48th Avenue North.) A social gathering begins at 6:40pm.
Tuesday, August 3: SPNA Cookout, A Night-Out-Against Crime!
McCabe Community Center, 6pm-8pm

The Night-Out-Against-Crime is a national event that takes place annually on the first Tuesday of August, and is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Its purpose is to thwart crime by building stronger neighborhoods and by fostering partnerships between communities and local police.

This year the Night-Out-Against-Crime takes place on Tuesday, August 3rd. The Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association will be sponsoring a COOKOUT so that we may come together with our neighbors and meet new friends from Sylvan Park. Hamburgers, hot dogs and other picnic food will be provided at the McCabe Community Center (corner of Murphy Rd. and 46th Ave.) from 6pm until 8pm.

In addition to food there will be games and face painting for kids, the opportunity for those new to the area to register to vote or change their addresses with the election commission, and a chance to connect with the men and women of our local Police and Fire Departments in a casual atmosphere.

Sylvan Park is a great community because of the people who live here. It is a safe neighborhood because we take an active role in helping one another and making it harder for criminals to target individuals. Please come celebrate our successes and reaffirm our commitment to having a vibrant, safe place to live.

Sylvan Park Home Tour Recap
By Kim Davis, Home Tour Chair

The Sylvan Park Home Tour took place on Sunday, June 13, this year and was a smashing success, netting over $4000! Eight lovely homes were showcased on the Tour, as well as the newly-renovated Cohn Adult Learning Center, and the grounds at Dell and Alice Walker's home, the site of the tour Café.

The homes on the Tour this year were a healthy balance of historic, eclectic, and modern renovations and decorating. Thanks go to Jim Polk at the Cohn Center for making it available, as well as to all who volunteered their homes: Beth Fortune and Mindy Hobbs; Leslie, Brett, and Roxanne Haines; Jeff and Trina Estepp; Max and Abigail Fulwider; Jeff and Elizabeth Gorman; Shelly Steel and Beth Nagy; Glenna Groce; and Rory and Angie Lithgow.

Others deserving recognition include Leslie Haines for the striking graphics work she created for the tour books and signage, Laura Ellis for her copy writing skills, Alice Walker and Angela O'Neil for coordinating the tour Café, Tom Lord for coordinating the day's events, and Susan Rodgers for managing ticket sales—along with Tammy Roth—and just about everything else we dropped in her lap!

Each home had a sponsor, and the sponsors included A Farmer’s Daughter Lawn & Garden Services; Kimberly Davis, Realtor with Village Real Estate Services; AmSouth Bank; Richard Ice Building Group, Inc.; Regina DuBois, Realtor/Broker with Main Street Real Estate; The Wilson Group Real Estate Services; and RBC Mortgage and Lenders Title and Escrow.

Finally, a number of businesses made in-kind contributions without which we could not have achieved the level of success we did: Great Harvest Bread Company, The Produce Place, Sam’s Club, McCabe Market, Star Bagel, Café Nonna, Red Rooster, Jack’s Market, Robert Orr Sysco, Ruth Chris Steak House, Sylvan Park Shell, Park Café, Scoops, Import Flowers, and Fabu. We would also like to thank the folks at the McCabe Golf Course for hanging our banner over the entryway.

SPNA Celebrates the Fourth of July

Bernard and Cheryl Pickney rounded up the Fourth of July posse and coordinated this annual event. There were approximately eighty participants on bikes, trikes, and various other modes of transportation. Special thanks go to Mitzi and “Uncle” Sam Stafford for providing the flags, bunting, music, and the lead car.
Nashville Electric Service Trims Trees;  
Cites Emergency  
By Cam Thompson

At their July meeting of SPNA, Steering  
Committee member F. Clark Williams presented  
slides of the half circular cuts that had been made  
to the crowns of trees on Nevada, near power lines.  
The trimming made the trees look as if a giant had  
come along and taken a huge bite out of them.  
There were several residents on Nevada who had  
employed arborists from the Gentle Arborist last  
year to try to clear the lines, working with NES in  
the process.

Mr. Springer, a forester with NES, was  
introduced to explain the NES action.  He reported  
that tree interference is the cause of most power  
outages.  NES has the worst outage percentage of  
comparison cities.  NES was not on a trimming  
rotation until 2001, when consultants recommended  
a three-year trim cycle.

NES has a much greater average of trees-  
per-mile to trim than normal.  Many of the trees on  
Nevada were on a line connected directly to a  
substation and were included on an imminent  
danger list.  Lines get hot and sag, and can then be  
blown into contact with trees by high winds, which  
is why there must be a 15’ clearance from limbs.  
All lines must be shut off when trimmers are  
working so they are not near hot lines, which is why  
trees in close proximity must all be done at one  
time.  Any tree within 10’ of a pole must be cut.

Work planners are supposed to send out  
letters, and reps to go door-to-door to deliver  
notices of impending work, with a two week,  
minimum, notice.  (This was not the case with the  
trees on Nevada and in other areas of Sylvan Park,  
because of the emergency situation.)

NES auditors check the work of sub-  
contractors.  Crews are supposed to carry cards  
with the name of their supervisor to hand out when  
questioned, in those cases when crew members do  
not speak English.  A tree with a blue dot means it  
will be trimmed.  Mr. Springer indicated that he will  
set up a walk-through on a Saturday to survey the  
areas cut with concerned residents.  Anyone  
interested in a walk through should call Susan  
Rodgers.
Sylvan Park Participates in Healthy Nashville Pilot Program

Healthy Nashville 2010, a mayoral council with the goal of making Nashville a healthier place to live by the year 2010, has chosen the Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association to participate in a pilot program to get neighborhood participants involved in walking: walking in groups, with a buddy, non-walkers and walkers together for fun and health.

Join the pilot program and receive a free pedometer (while supplies last). Enjoy the benefits and fun of walking with your neighbors and in your neighborhood. For details about the program call Cam Thompson or Janet Younts.

Hotline Usefulness Discussed

At its inception, the Sylvan Park Neighborhood hotline was a useful tool in getting the word out when issues of crime and security arose. When an incident occurred, signs were placed on Murphy road encouraging residents to call the hotline for an alert. When folks had incidents to report, they called the hotline.

Over time, the hotline has largely fallen into disuse. Rarely do individuals call, and even more rarely is the hotline used for an alert. Other forms of communication—chiefly the listserv—have come to replace the once useful tool. (The greatest limitation of the listserv is that only SPNA members may subscribe, in keeping with our agreement with our service provider.)

Although the expense is not great (about $200 a year), SPNA is considering discontinuing the hotline. To weigh in on this issue, send email to spnassociation@comcast.net, or call the hotline at 780-1199.

The SPNA Steering Committee

Susan Rodgers, President
Keith Barnes
John Summers
Mike Sullivan, Vice President
Tom Lord
Cam Thompson
Bernard Pickney, Treasurer
Laura Marquardt
Alice Walker
Ken Nelson, Recording Secretary
Patrick Merkel
F. Clark Williams
Ross Scott, Membership Secretary
Nancy O’Dell
Janet Younts

Membership Form

Individual membership is required to vote or hold office. Therefore, some households elect to obtain memberships for two adults (18 years of age or older).

Name(s): ____________________________

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Address: __________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Email: _______________________

☐ Please do not print my contact information in the SPNA Directory

☐ I am enclosing $15 for each adult in my household who desire to be voting members, for a total of $ ___.

I want to help! Please call me about ☐ Newsletter Delivery, ☐ Home Tour, ☐ Communications,
☐ Community Building Events, ☐ Other (please specify): ________________________________

Make checks payable to SPNA, and mail to SPNA/PO Box 92324/Nashville TN 37209