

Spring 2009 Newsletter

March 2009



From the President:

Greetings from your friendly SWNA! What an interesting winter we had. One week we are outside enjoying the fresh air, washing cars, playing at the park, and enjoying the warm weather, and the next we are shoveling almost a foot of snow! I am sure many of us had a blast in the rare white blanket. My family enjoyed some sledding. I would love to see some pictures. My wife took some in our backyard and the contrast of the white with the blue sky was awesome.

I enjoyed one of my most favorite things to do of all time. While the snow was falling about 11:30 pm I was able to take some time and just walk around and enjoy creation. It's amazing how quiet and bright everything was at midnight. To hear nothing but the gentle snow falling and the crunch beneath your feet was a rare treat. It reminded me that although we are in a tough time economically, some of the most enjoyable things are free.

I urge all of us to take inventory of all that we do have. As a neighborhood it is more important than ever to watch out for each other. One may never know the importance of an encouraging word or that phone call asking if they need anything. You may even know someone who is in transition and maybe paying a bill for them is within your means or if giving them a loaf of bread is more in line, Dollar Tree has loaves of bread for..well...\$1.00. It is only by working and acting together we will see this through as a community.

Don't know your neighbor? Go outside and meet them. Who knows, you just might be living next to your new best friend or that person who may know someone that needs someone just like you to work with them. I am constantly reminded that we are not meant to live by ourselves but as a community. The blessing we have in this neighborhood is that we have so many people from different backgrounds. There are interesting people just around the corner. Another good way to meet your neighbor is to come to the Easter Egg Hunt. Even if you don't have kids, it's a great way to see people you share a neighborhood with. Don't forget to bring money for delicious funnel cakes (\$5.00) and for your homeowner dues renewal (\$10.00)!

Greg Clark

2009 SWNA Board

President
Greg Clark
580-2295

Treasurer
Colleen Sovich
315-6038

Secretary
Tami Titchner
855-7697

**At-large
members**

2009 SWNA Committee Chairs

Open:
Distribution,
Membership,
Crimewatch,
Zoning,
Schools, Parks,
Traffic

SWNA 2009 Membership Form

Joining the SWNA is simple. Just fill out this membership form and write a check for \$10, made out to Southwest Neighborhood Association. Forms and the check can be mailed to: Colleen Sovich 1112 Pepper Hill Road, Greensboro, NC 27407. **Become a member today!**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Interests: Traffic Yard sales Special events Membership
 Parks Schools Zoning Newsletter Distribution
 SWNA board Crime watch Welcome Committee Other (specify)

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The annual SWNA Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Palm Sunday, April 5th, from 2:30 – 4:30 at the park. Any changes will be posted on the signs at the neighborhood entrances. There will be plenty of eggs to go around. Some eggs will have prizes. Face painting, a bounce house, and music by our friends at Seacoast Church. Those of you who attended know how much fun it was. This year we are adding something a little extra. Funnel Cakes will be available for \$5.00 by Cameron's Funnel Cakes. Rumor has it they are the best around so come prepared. It is also a good time to renew your SWNA membership which is \$10.00.

Reminder of some City Ordinances

As we mature as a neighborhood it is important to remember and be aware of some city ordinances. These are not meant to harm any one person or to cause any one person any un-reasonable inconvenience but to help all of us as a whole have a better and more attractive neighborhood. It is the duty of each one of us to make sure these ordinances are followed. Here are portions of a couple of the ones that have recently been adjusted:

SIGNAGE: Sign Ordinance 30-5-5.19 (in part in regarding off site real estate signs, these signs are including but not limited to for sale, for rent, yard sale, and open house).

“shall only be allowed in public right of way for weekend use”. The hours are from 12 noon on Friday to the following 12 noon on Monday. No signs are to be out during the week.

“Shall be free standing not attached to utility poles or other structures.” If you have a house for rent or advertising for a yard sale you are welcome to put a sign on your personal property but no sign will be allowed on light poles, telephone poles, street sign poles, or other structure not in line with the ordinance.

PARKING: The other recent change was adopted and will go into effect on July 15th, 2009. This may affect more of us than the previous one. The parking ordinance #08-211 Section 3:

- 1) “Required parking spaces and drives shall be constructed and adequately maintained with a hard all-weather surface such as asphalt, concrete, brick, CABC (gravel), or other approved material. Grass and bare earth areas shall not be acceptable.”

Simply put, the city will no longer allow parking on the lawn. I am sure this is meant for long term so my thinking is that if you park on the grass to move something out of the way, wash a car, or accommodate for a party, no-one is going to call the law on you. If the yard is a normal place for you to park, I would recommend an alternative.

If you want to read the entire ordinance feel free to log onto <http://www.greensboro.nc.gov> and search for sign ordinance or parking ordinance.

Membership Drive:

SWNA is the voice for the Beechcroft, Hickory Trace, and Oaks West neighborhoods. SWNA needs you for committee leaders (Community Watch, Zoning, Welcome, DH Griffin, Membership, Newsletter Distribution, Parks), event coordinators (Sundaes on Sunday Social, National Night Out, others?), volunteers at events, and participating members. Membership Cost is only \$10.00 per household for the year (September 2008 – September 2009). Join us and meet your neighbors!