

# Summer 2006 Newsletter

## July 2006



### From the President



Happy summer to everyone. I hope everyone's surviving the heat and rain. With this newsletter, we must sadly announce that, at the end of this year, our organization is losing several leaders whose roles have been essential to moving our neighborhood forward. Peter Kauber and Donna Guinard will be stepping down after many years of service. In addition to being the current secretary, Peter has done things such as website maintenance, chair the D.H. Griffin Committee, help revitalize a Crimewatch on his street, etc.

Besides being the treasurer, Donna has been the key player in the new signs you see at the neighborhood entrances, tackling zoning issues, etc. Neal Martin will also be stepping down from his service of distributing newsletters for the past several years. And since this is the end of the maximum 2-year term for me as president, we are in desperate need of new blood to fill these responsibilities and more. For example, the D.H. Griffin Committee has made significant progress in establishing a problem-resolution process with the D.H. Griffin organization, and we need someone to help continue this venture of communication and problem resolution. (Please see pertinent article below). Following is a list of some committees and other items that need support:

D.H. Griffin	Newsletter Distribution	Welcoming
Membership	Parks	Schools
Traffic	Zoning	Website

Please contact me at 337-7899 or [jimwooten@bellsouth.net](mailto:jimwooten@bellsouth.net). You can volunteer for whatever you're comfortable with. Anything will be appreciated, and remember, we really need some help.

Also, please visit our website at [swana-gso.org](http://swana-gso.org) for up-to-the-minute information on SWNA events, news, contact information, and links to useful local government/ community websites.

Thank you,  
Jim

### 2005/2006 SWNA Board

#### **President**

Jim Wooten  
337-7899

#### **Secretary**

Peter Kauber  
852-8791

#### **Treasurer**

Donna Guinard  
852-8791

### At-Large Members

Neal Martin  
292-4351

Michael Goad  
855-6821

### Committee Chairs

#### **Membership**

Donna Guinard  
852-8791

#### **DH Griffin**

Peter Kauber  
852-8791

#### **Distribution**

Neal Martin  
292-4351

#### **Signs**

Donna Guinard

#### **Welcoming**

Jennifer Horn

#### **Open:**

Crimewatch,  
Parks, Schools,  
Traffic, Zoning

### EVENTS



During this year, we already had a successful Easter Egg Hunt headed up by Megan Northcote, and plenty of people took advantage of the Spring yard sale.

On August 1, at 6:30 PM, we'll be having NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2006 at our Oaks West Park. We're supposed to have an equipment display by the Fire Department along with visits from local police and fire officials. There will be games and a cookout, and SWNA will be providing the hotdogs and drinks. People whose last names begin with a letter from A-M please bring a dessert to

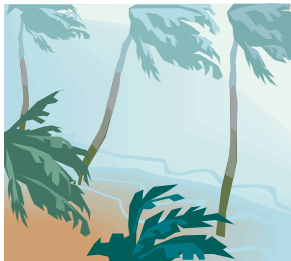
share. Those from N-Z, please bring a side dish or chips. There's fun for everybody, so walk on over!

Our SWNA ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for Monday, September 18, at Christ Fellowship Church, 2317 Stanley Rd; there will be free pizza at 6:30 PM, and the meeting (including an Emergency Preparedness Program - see article below) begins at 7:00 pm.

Finally, the fall yard sale is scheduled for October 7— If you are interested in participating, please contact Tom Alexander at 316-6555 to leave him your address, as he will post signs directing people to the different sales in the neighborhood.

### Annual Meeting – Emergency Preparedness Program – Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

Are you prepared for a natural disaster, terrorist attack, hazardous train/tanker accident, or pandemic? Do you know how to protect your family and help your neighbors if one of these emergencies were to occur? If you see a HazMat truck down the street from you, do you know what to do? Do you know what to do in the case of an evacuation? Unfortunately, any of the above emergencies is possible due to the times and area (proximity to the tank farm, railroad, and two major highways) that we live in. The American Red Cross, Guilford County Health Dept., Guilford County Emergency Management, and Greensboro Police and Fire Departments have worked together to create a community emergency management preparedness program. A representative from this group will be presenting this 30-45 minute program at our Annual Meeting. Their goal is to get this critical information out to all Guilford County citizens. In the event of an emergency, our emergency services personnel will be able to provide services to only a limited number of citizens. So the better prepared we are to take care of ourselves and our neighbors, the better our community as a whole will be able to survive an emergency. Please plan to attend this most important and informative program. Free pizza and drinks will be available at 6:30 pm. The program will start at 7:00 at Christ Fellowship Church, 2317 Stanley Rd.



### Pepper Hill-Old Farm Court Community Watch

It's official! A new community watch has been established in our neighborhood. Some years ago, a community watch covering a section of Pepper Hill Road and adjoining cul-de-sacs had been established. But over the years the watch had gradually lost its effectiveness and ultimately ceased to exist, for all practical purposes. Over the past six months, an effort

has been underway to rejuvenate a portion of the original watch, and that effort has now borne fruit. The watch area has a leader (Peter Kauber), two sets of watch co-captains (Pepper Hill Ct: Christina and Randy Shea; Old Farm Ct: Sheila and Junior Burcham), and 15 participating homes. If there are other folks in our neighborhood interested in establishing community watches, please contact anyone on the SWNA Board of Directors for guidance.

**Entrance Signs Finally Complete (Sort of!)**

We hope you have had an opportunity to see the beautiful new Oaks West signs at Pennoak & Hilltop. They complete our original project of replacing the signs at the three entrances. They also depleted our treasury, costing over \$9,000 for the pair! We had hoped to have enough money left over to install permanent lettering on the Hickory Trace sign. However, the estimate for that project is \$2,000, which is about \$1,500 more than the association has available. If you are willing to coordinate another major fundraising for that project please contact Donna Guinard. Otherwise, we will accept and hold your donations for that purpose, hoping to eventually receive enough to complete the project. Please consider making a (or another) donation by completing the attached form and mailing your tax-deductible contribution TODAY! If you have any comments or concerns, please contact Donna Guinard at 852-8791, [dguinard@triad.rr.com](mailto:dguinard@triad.rr.com).



part of those residents continuing to experience the problem has made it difficult to determine the cause of the shaking. There is currently an effort underway to determine whether the “stadium” lights can be adjusted, to minimize the amount of light shining into residents’ windows. Some approaches to screening are being considered, in an attempt to address the appearance problem. Griffin is—and has been for some time—working toward a resolution of air quality issues. The Griffin organization has hired a consulting firm to help address the problem of fumes/smells settling in the area of the intersection of Pennoak and Creekwood. To date, no acceptable scheme for noise reduction has been uncovered. Since noise is the #1 complaint for most of the residents responding to the SWNA survey, the failure to move towards a solution to the noise problem is significant.

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE**

Jennifer Horn has stepped up to chair our neighborhood



Welcoming Committee. With help from several other neighborhood ladies, the mission of this committee is, “To become aware of new arrivals and to welcome them to the neighborhood by providing them with information about the city, our neighborhood, and our neighborhood organization through personal contact.” One item for the informational packet will be phone numbers of neighborhood babysitters—so if you’re a babysitter in the neighborhood and would like to add your number to the packet, please contact Jennifer Horn at [jhorn3@triad.rr.com](mailto:jhorn3@triad.rr.com).

**D.H. Griffin Committee**

Members of the D.H. Griffin Committee began meeting on a regular basis with D.H. Griffin personnel in March of this year. The intent is to work out solutions to various problems stemming from the closeness of Griffin’s heavy industrial operations to portions of our neighborhood. Based on the results of a survey conducted last summer by SWNA, the Committee had identified five main problem areas: noise, appearance, house-shaking, lighting, and air quality.



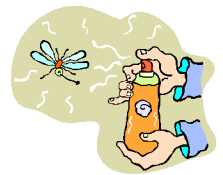
The following is a summary of results to date. House-shaking seems to have diminished in severity. A lack of assistance on the

**Rats and Mosquitoes**

Residents in one area of the Oaks West development have reported problems with rats and mosquitoes. Peter Kauber investigated both situations and the results are as follows:

**Rats:** According to the Guilford County Health Department’s specialist on rodent control, rats are a problem only if you are supplying them with food. There are three conditions to avoid: leftover dog food when feeding dogs outside, uncovered trash bins containing food products, compost piles containing table scraps. Bottom line: *If we don’t supply the food, we won’t have the rats!*

**Mosquitoes:** Since the mosquito problem seemed to be especially severe along our border with D.H. Griffin, a team of investigators that included Peter Kauber (SWNA), Kent Baltzer (D.H. Griffin), and three employees of the Guilford County Health Department recently walked the entire boundary that separates the neighborhood from Griffin’s operations. The team discovered standing water in several of Griffin’s large containers. Kent Baltzer stated his intention to cut slots in all of the containers so that water can no longer accumulate in them. This work was scheduled to be completed on the day following the discovery. Other remedies proposed by the Health Department were to be implemented within a week of the discovery.



**Membership**

Your annual membership runs from September to September. If you have not yet paid your voluntary dues which support SWNA’s social events (Easter Egg Hunt, Sundaes on Sunday, National Night Out, etc.), the Welcoming Committee, Newsletter preparation, as well as the Sign Project, please complete the membership form and mail it with your dues TODAY! SWNA needs your support in order to support you!



**2005/2006 Membership/Sign Donation Form**

Joining the SWNA is simple. Just fill out this form, check the Membership box, and write a check for \$10, made out to “Southwest Neighborhood Association”. To make a donation to the Sign Replacement Fund, complete this form, check the Donation box, and the appropriate amount. Forms and checks can be mailed to: Donna Guinard, 1602 Pepper Hill Road, Greensboro, NC 27407. Both dues and donations are tax deductible. Annual dues secure your membership from September 1 through August 30 of each year.

**Become a member today!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 My Volunteer Interests are:  
 \_\_\_Traffic \_\_\_Special Events \_\_\_Yard Sales \_\_\_SWNA Board  
 \_\_\_Crime Watch \_\_\_Parks \_\_\_Schools \_\_\_Newsletter Distribution  
 \_\_\_Zoning \_\_\_Welcoming \_\_\_Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed is my donation of:  
 \_\_\_ \$100.00  
 \_\_\_ \$ 75.00  
 \_\_\_ \$ 50.00  
 \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_