

Winter 2006 Newsletter

January 2006



From the President



I hope everyone's Christmas and holiday season was wonderful. It's a new year, and we have a new plate before us. We had some really great events last year and some great breakthroughs in crimewatch (of which you're informed in the article below). . . but this is by no means the end of it.

In this newsletter, you'll find a list of scheduled events for 2006. We hope to have even greater success with turnout and relationship-forging of our neighbors for an even stronger and more connected community. Anyone who made it to National Night Out this past August got a feel for how this can work.

In addition to the events planned for this year, I continue to encourage neighbors to organize block parties as the one held by Granada Lane residents in the past years. (If you'd like information about organizing one for your street, please contact me, and I'll get you in touch with the right people). Also, please welcome your new neighbors to the community, and tell them about the stuff we do. In fact, as one of our objectives for the new year, we are creating a Welcoming Committee. The goal is that new neighbors will be welcomed and given pertinent city and neighborhood information. They will be informed of neighborhood events and made aware of the Southwest Neighborhood Association. Our hope is to create a strongly connected community and help residents know what to do and who to call should they witness questionable or illegal activities around them. Please contact me at 337-7899 or jimwooten@bellsouth.net if you are interested in being involved with this. Below is the complete list of objectives:

SWNA Objectives for 2006

1. Execute the scheduled events: Please see the article below, which details the events for 2006.
2. Complete the two sign projects at Pennoak and Hilltop: Donna Guinard continues to work out the details for these projects.
3. Continue the DH Griffin issues resolution process, via the DHG Committee: Please refer to the article below.
4. Pursue the establishment of a Welcoming Committee: Mission statement: "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."
5. Establish/rejuvenate at least one neighborhood watch: The cliché is that it just takes one step at a time. We plan on putting one watch together, and then moving on to the next. At this time, there is one fully functional neighborhood watch on Granada Lane.
6. Undertake an organizational sustainability effort, to address SWNA sustainability: We'd like to investigate how to grow our organization to a point that we can effectively man and operate the committees needed to keep this a strong, safe, and desirable neighborhood.

Jim Wooten

Association Plans Events for the Year

SWNA has adopted a plan and schedule for year 2006 community events. As in the past, the choices reflect two considerations: the popularity of similar events in previous years, and the willingness of one or more volunteers to step forward and accept responsibility for an event. Note that we have included one event for which we still need a coordinating volunteer—so we have indicated that event (Sundaes on Sunday) as "tentative" at this point. Here is the schedule:



Event	Date/Time	Location	Coordinator	Notes
Easter Egg Hunt	Sat., 4-8-06, 1 pm	Oaks West Park	Megan Northcote, 855-5999	
Spring Yard Sale	Sat., 5-6-06, 8am – 12 noon	Neighborhood-wide	Tom Alexander, 316-6555	Rain-date: 5-20-06
Sundaes on Sunday	Sun., 6-25-06	Oaks West Park	NONE —Call Jim Wooten, 337-7899, to volunteer	Tentative —we will need a volunteer to coordinate
National Night Out	Tues., 8-1-06, 6:30 pm	Oaks West Park	Jim Wooten, 337-7899	Free food!
SWNA Annual Meeting	Mon., 9-18-06	Christ Fellowship Church, Stanley Road (tentative)	Jim Wooten, 337-7899	Refreshments at 6:30 pm; meeting begins at 7 pm.
Fall Yard Sale	Sat., 10-7-06, 8am – 12 noon	Neighborhood-wide	Tom Alexander, 316-6555	Rain-date: 10-14-06

2005/2006 SWNA Board

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337-7899

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Peter Kauber
852-8791

Treasurer
Donna Guinard
852-8791

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855-6821

Neal Martin
292-4351

Committee Chairs

Membership
Donna Guinard
852-8791

DH Griffin
Peter Kauber
852-8791

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Neal Martin
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Signs
Donna Guinard

Open:
Crimewatch,
Parks, Schools,
Traffic, Zoning



Crime/Police Activity in the Area

Greensboro Police Officer Steve Roberts spoke at both the SWNA Annual meeting on 9/19/05 as well as a follow-up meeting on 11/3/05. He indicated that this area had one of the highest crime rates in Greensboro. Luckily, it was determined that he was referring to a larger area than just our neighborhood. Most of the crimes are occurring at businesses on Wendover, Landmark, Bridford Parkway, etc. The few crimes in our neighborhood consisted mainly of automobile breaking and entering, property vandalism, and drug issues. Officer Roberts indicated a lot of auto B/Es do not require breaking-in. Vandalism look for the easy targets – automobiles that are left unlocked. He recommended everyone keep their car doors locked at all times, even when the vehicle is sitting in your driveway. He also recommended not leaving large amounts of money, CDs, laptops, etc. in your vehicle. If you leave valuables in your car, you should lock them in the trunk so they are not visible. This includes just purchased bags of merchandise.



Since the SWNA annual meeting in September, Officer Roberts has brought issues in our neighborhood to the SCORE team. The SCORE team is a group of people from different City departments who meet to address a wide variety of neighborhood issues. They have inspected and are enforcing yard maintenance codes. They are tagging and towing illegally parked vehicles (vehicles, either properly registered or non-registered, which are parked on the street and not moved for seven or more days). They are investigating rental housing maintenance issues, as well as several other City ordinance issues. They have also made several arrests within the neighborhood related to drug trafficking, living on public property, and house break-ins. And they are investigating and watching other suspicious activities in the neighborhood. Officer Roberts wants the citizens of our neighborhood to know that the police are targeting the neighborhood in an effort to make it a safer and more enjoyable place to live. They hope to ticket speeders in the near future to try to slow traffic to the safe and posted speed of 25 mph. He strongly encourages anyone who observes any illegal or suspicious activity, or non-compliance with any City codes

(dilapidated housing, more than 4 unrelated adults living in a house, grass more than 12" tall, piles of branches in the yard or street for long periods of time, unused vehicles parked in the street or in a yard, a need for more street lights, etc.-see further details below), to please call his office and let them know. Because they have such a large area of Greensboro to cover, they cannot be in our neighborhood all the time. It helps them for us to be their eyes and ears and let them know what's going on here. If you think an officer needs to come right away, please call 911. If you want to report a non-emergency occurrence, please call or e-mail one of the numbers listed below. And it is not a problem to remain anonymous, if you wish to do so. This contact information can also be found on our SWNA website, at SWNA-gso.org, the News page. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Peter Kauber or Donna Guinard at 852-8791, or pkauber@triad.rr.com or dguinard@triad.rr.com.

The city is also looking for rental housing violations in our neighborhood. If you would like to have the house you rent or lease inspected to see if it is in accordance with the minimum housing code ordinance (available at the City's website at www.greensboro-nc.gov under the Engineering and Inspections Department) or to verify that a Rental Certification has been issued for the property, please call 373-2111.

City Ordinance Codes (not complete): 1) Motor vehicles on the street must have a current registration tag and must not sit unmoved for more than 7 days. Motor vehicles on private property must have a current registration tag and must be able to move forward and backward, or must be kept in a 3-sided building or garage. Once tagged, vehicle must be moved within 10 days or vehicle will be towed at owner's expense. 2) RVs, boats, and trailers are not allowed to be parked in the street, except temporarily. If they are on personal property, the tires must be pumped up and they must not create standing water or vegetation growth greater than 12". 3) Private property lots must be kept free of dense vegetation growth more than 12" high (e.g., grass), downed trees/limbs, tires, furniture, appliances, etc. Once tagged, owner will have 12-15 days to comply before situation is corrected by City at the owner's expense. Leaves not collected by the loose leaf curb collection must either be placed in trash cans or in **clear** bags, and placed at the curb for pick-up on our regular trash collection day. Sticks and limbs must be bundled in no longer than 5 foot lengths, with bundles weighing less than 50 lbs. each, and placed at the curb for pick-up on our regular trash collection day.

Officer Steve Roberts: 373-7707 (office); 913-5573 (pager)
steven.roberts@greensboro-nc.gov
 Officer Matt Menshew: 373-2262 (office); 430-6608 (cell)
Matt.Menshew@greensboro-nc.gov
 Western Division Office (Swing Rd.) – 373-2637 (8am – 5pm)

There is also a new website at <http://p2c.greensboro-nc.gov/main.aspx> which lists police reports and can be searched by street name or person/business name. You can also file a police report at this website.

D.H. Griffin Committee

In 2005, the SWNA Board of Directors authorized the formation of the D.H. Griffin Committee in an attempt to develop mutually beneficial solutions to problems arising from the close proximity of the Griffin operations to parts of our neighborhood. The Committee spent a good portion of 2005 establishing and organizing the committee, surveying neighbors, and gathering other relevant information. Besides the survey information, two types of critical information were (and still are being) gathered: first, selected neighbors have been recording events and activities related to Griffin operations, in those cases where the events or operations are perceived to be detrimental to our residents' quality of life. Second, members of the D.H. Griffin Committee have been compiling information on local, regional, state, and federal organizations that might be able to assist us in developing solutions. The first task facing the committee in 2006 is to develop a strategy for moving forward. Now that we have acquired the relevant information, the question becomes how to use that information to create solutions. Subsequent newsletters will update you on the committee's progress. Anyone interested in joining the D.H. Griffin Committee should contact Peter Kauber, at 852-8791. We welcome new members! Also, we are seeking volunteers from those parts of our neighborhood most affected by Griffin's operations. We need people who are willing to maintain a daily record of any D.H. Griffin events or activities that negatively affect our quality of life. (Volunteers are not required to join the D.H. Griffin Committee but are certainly welcome to do so.) If you are interested in volunteering to help us record Griffin-related events and activities, please contact Peter Kauber, at 852-8791.

Membership



Your annual membership runs from September to September. If you have not yet paid your voluntary dues this year, which support SWNA's social events (Easter Egg Hunt, Sundaes on Sunday, National Night Out, etc.) 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: _____
 Address _____ Email: _____

Membership: _____
 Donation: _____

Your Volunteer Interest of:

Traffic Special Events Yard Sales SWNA Board
 Crime Watch Parks Schools Newsletter Distribution
 Zoning Other (specify) _____

Enclosed is my donation
 \$100.00
 \$75.00
 \$ 50.00
 Other: _____