

SYLVAN PARK

news



Spring 2007

The newsletter of the Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

SYLVAN PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (SPNA) MEETINGS

May 14, June 11 and July 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cohn Adult Learning Center (downstairs) 48th and Park Avenues

SYLVAN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Spaghetti Fest
Friday, April 27, 4:30 to 8 p.m.
4801 Utah Avenue

SPNA YARD SALE — NEW DATE!! SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WEST NASHVILLE PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

Mayoral Candidate Forum
Thursday, June 7, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Montgomery Bell Academy

SPNA JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

Wednesday, July 4th
Mark your calendars now, info to come soon

NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Tuesday, August 7
McCabe Park Community Center
Details in our next issue

Richland Creek Run provides chills, thrills

More than 300 runners and walkers braved unseasonable 33-degree temperatures on Saturday, April 7, to take part in the inaugural Richland Creek Run. The frosty weather did not diminish the festive atmosphere, as presided over by Mayor Bill Purcell.

Jeff Edmonds of West End Park led all runners with a total time of 27 minutes, 33 seconds. Tonya Lumphrey of Sylvan Park led all female runners with a total time of 32:34. Photos and full results from the run are available at richlandcreekrun.com.

More than 75 volunteers were on hand to ensure that the five-mile race went smoothly. The Sylvan Park, Cherokee Park, Richland-West End neighborhood associations hosted the race. Saint Thomas Hospital, The Wilson Group, Montgomery Bell Academy, Vanderbilt University, the Hampton Inn Elliston Place and Metro Nashville Parks, the Nashville Scene and Lightning 100 WRLT-FM served as sponsors, and Sylvan Park area businesses The Produce Place, Climb Nashville and Star Bagel provided in-kind contributions. Living Word International Church (5100 Wyoming Avenue) pitched in by manning a refreshment station on the course, which looped through Sylvan Park and along new sections of the Richland Creek Greenway.

Net proceeds from this Celebrate Nashville event, expected to be approximately \$5,000, will benefit Greenways for Nashville, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the creation, protection, preservation, and promotion of Nashville greenways.

The committee that organized the race included: Jason Holleman, Race Director; Kip Campbell, Associate Race Director; F. Clark Williams, Associate Race Director; Renee Bates, Volunteer Coordinator; Katherine Beasley, Registration Coordinator; John Houghton, Hospitality; Paul Kingsbury, Hatch Show Print, Hospitality; Jane Laub, Metro Parks Liaison; Rob Robinson, Website, Online Registration; Darrell Urban, Sponsor Liaison, Publicity; Alice Walker, Sponsor Liaison; and Marsey Waller, Budget.

— Doug Eckert, Jason Holleman



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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Real estate in Sylvan Park remains healthy and stable. There is currently more inventory on the market than usual, but sales remain strong as long as the house is priced properly for the size and condition. As residents of Sylvan Park, we are all aware that the location just can't be beat!

To date, there are 53 homes on the market in Sylvan Park. Nine of these homes currently have "contingency contracts" on them. The average price per square foot is \$183/SF. There are seven pending sales in the neighborhood. These homes have an average price of \$162.35/square foot. In March there were three closings in Sylvan Park with an average sale price of \$179.65/square foot. In 2007, there have been a total of 20

closings at an average price of \$170.42/square foot. The average time on the market was 58 days.

New construction homes in Sylvan Park that are completed with quality, craftsmanship, hardwood floors, fireplaces, custom cabinetry, tile, wood/Hardiplank siding or brick (no vinyl), is selling for an average of \$200/SF. We live in a very unique neighborhood with a variety of homes and home styles. Each home is very different, and many factors determine the your home's true value. Contact a professional Realtor to help you understand the value of your home.

— Christie Wilson, The Wilson Group, (615) 385-1414

CRIME REPORT

Although the previous two months showed record low crime in Sylvan Park, the last 28 days have been more typical for our neighborhood. There were eight reported instances of cars being broken into (Sylvan Park's most prevalent crime) and three home burglaries. Two of the home burglaries were via broken back windows and happened during the day. There have been similar incidents in surrounding neighborhoods.

Don't be shy about calling if you see something suspicious. It was emphasized again at a recent West Precinct meeting that officers appreciate hearing from anyone who can provide reasonable suspicions of illegal activity.

Call (615) 862-8600 if there is a non-emergency occurrence that you would like investigated. But if you see ongoing evidence of drugs being sold at a certain location, for example, call the West Precinct directly at (615) 862-7747. You can also report drug-related activity anonymously through the department's (615) 244-DOPE [3673] hotline.

— Doug Eckert

SCHOOLS REPORT

A one-time sales tax holiday will start on Friday, April 27, and end on Sunday, April 29. The sales tax holiday is intended to let Tennessee families save money on clothing, school supplies and computers. No state and local sales tax will be charged on the purchase of qualified items. The state has prepared a Web site to provide information about the weekend, www.tntaxholiday.com.

Hillsboro High School Graduation will be Monday May 21st. The ceremony will be held at the Lipscomb Allen Arena at 6 p.m. Congratulations to all of our Sylvan Park area seniors and their parents! **May 24 will be the last day of school** for grades Pre-K through 12. The day will be a half day.

Cohn Adult Learning Center's Summer Community Education classes will begin the week of June 11. There is wide range of classes offered in the program. For a catalog of the classes please contact Jim Polk at Cohn Adult Learning Center. Jim can be reached at (615) 298-8050.

— Yvonne Eaves

THE "NEW TOWN" OF SYLVAN PARK

A "walking town" where most residents lived within a few miles of the city center, Nashville was not a healthy place to live following the Civil War. In the winter coal smoke and the associated soot would often permeate the rooms it heated and pour from downtown chimneys onto pedestrians. The well-to-do man of the period took an extra starched white shirt to work, knowing the one he wore would be gray by lunchtime.

Even by the late 1860's, the city had no sewers and no regulations governing waste disposal by tanneries or other downtown businesses. Miracle cures for "chronic diarrhea" were advertised in the papers.

When folks wanted to escape the city, increasingly they thought of Richland Park, a longtime picnic area near scenic and clear-flowing Richland Creek, favored for its ease of access via the relatively well-maintained Charlotte Pike toll road, passenger trains making three trips a day through the area and even a steamboat landing on River Street.

This was, after all, also the area chosen by the founder of Nashville, General James Robertson, who presumably could have had his choice of Nashville land. West of Richland Park

were several wealthy pre-war Victorian mansions with such features as formal gardens and fields for hunting hounds.

In 1887, a man who favored grand ventures, Doctor Henry M. Pierce, organized a land company that he thought would found a new city on the location, one he unimaginatively called, "New Town". With several partners, Pierce bought four thousand acres of land around the area, laid out lot lines and – complete with booming cannon, waving flags and band music – opened for sale on May 24th of that year. With the exception of "Park Street" for the choicest lots around Richland Park, streets were named after the states they expected to attract buyers from: Delaware, Dakota, Indiana and so on.

James A. Bowling, who later bought, developed, and built a large number of homes in the area, bought the first lot. The home he is most closely associated with at 4501 Nebraska still stands, as do several large trees around it which led to the house being known as "Sylvan Park", the name which later was transferred to the entire area. The new development had to weather tornadoes and the depression of 1893, but the location held its luster and by the early 1900's "New Town" had given way to "West Nashville."

— Doug Eckert

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's a great thing when a neighborhood has more news than newsletter. There are many wonderful things taking place in Sylvan Park this spring. As our real estate update makes clear, there is plenty of value in owning a home in Sylvan Park. I think the greatest value in this neighborhood, though, lies not in our residences or our addresses but in each other.

There are a lot of intriguing characters and kind-hearted folks here that I am proud to call my neighbors, and I hope you feel the same way. If you agree and haven't already joined SPNA, please consider signing up soon. We'd love for you to be a part of our organization, and I'd hate to see you continue to miss out on all the fun. — Rob Robinson

AT RECENT SPNA MEETINGS...

Monette Rebecca presented the work she is doing to establish the Richland Creek Watershed Alliance to preserve Richland Creek and improve its water quality. To participate, email monetter@comcast.net.

Mayoral candidates David Briley and Karl Dean addressed the SPNA membership to share their reasons for running and their ideas for making Nashville and even better place to live.

Volunteers are needed for the SPNA yard sale, 4th of July parade, newsletter writing and delivery, and upcoming candidate forums for local elections. Email spna@sylvanpark.org to get involved. — Anna Means

Sylvan Park Annual Spring Yard Sale

SATURDAY MAY 19TH — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

REGISTRATION FORM

Terms: Each Household...

- Is responsible for its own set up and tear down.
- Will set up on its own property.
- Will manage its own sale and keep the proceeds.
- Merchants on Charlotte Avenue and Murphy Road will be invited to participate.

Pre-Sale Instructions:

- Please have all items out and priced by 8 a.m.
- Please make sure that your items are visible from the street unless there is a sign in front yard to direct your customers to your back yard or garage.

What SPNA Will Provide:

- Bright balloons on your mailbox to identify your sale.
- Maps with specific address listing special items of interest as provided by participants.
- A large ad in The Tennessean on Friday and Saturday publicizing the neighborhood sale and indicating where customers may obtain maps to the sale locations.

After the Sale (if you want to donate unsold items):

- SPNA will arrange for a charity to pick up leftover items (SPNA cannot be responsible for items not picked up).
- Place all items at the street in an orderly fashion.
- Put out only salable items: NO TRASH PLEASE!
- SPNA will have donation receipts for those households that would like one.

FEES: MEMBER \$15.00 - NON-MEMBER \$30.00, WHICH INCLUDES SPNA MEMBERSHIP

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SYLVAN PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL TO:

WENDELL GOODMAN - 4901 PARK AVENUE, NASHVILLE, TN 37209 - (615) 385-2276

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Items of Special Interest: _____

The **Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA)** is the collective community voice for addressing neighborhood issues such as zoning, security, beautification, traffic, metropolitan services, and environment. SPNA meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Senior Renaissance Center of Cohn School, located at the corner of Park Avenue and 48th Avenue North.

The general purpose of SPNA is to provide opportunities for the residents and others interested in the Sylvan Park community to work together to improve the conditions and quality of life within the community. For more information, send an email to spna@sylvanpark.org or visit www.sylvanpark.org.

MIKE'S HOME REPAIR & REMODELING: (615) 739-8888

Sylvan Park resident **Mike Asher**, 221 38th Avenue North

LeQuire

GALLERY

LeQuire Studio & Gallery: See the work and studio space of nationally recognized sculptor, Alan LeQuire. Classes are available March through June.

Tues. - Sat. 10a to 3p — 4304 Charlotte Ave — (615) 298-4611
lequiregallery.com

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OFFICERS

President: Rob Robinson

Vice President: Margaret Holleman

Recording Secretary: Katherine Beasley

Membership Secretary: Jim Dade

Treasurer: F. Clark Williams

Steering Committee:

Yvonne Eaves, Doug Eckert, Wendell Goodman,
Barbara Lamb, Anna Means, Patrick Merkel, John
Miglietta, Bernard Pickney, Rob Stack,
Pat Williams

Sylvan Park News, the newsletter of the Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association, is published quarterly. If you would like to contribute an article, or suggest future articles, please contact Rob Robinson, editor, at (615) 838-1876, or e-mail at rrob13@gmail.com. Also, volunteers are needed for distribution of this newsletter. If you are interested in helping, contact Janet Younts at (615) 383-1878.

**Want to place an ad in the SPNA News?
Send an email to spna@sylvanpark.org
for full package details.
Space is limited, and therefore available
on a first-come, first-served basis.**

— JOIN SPNA — TAKE PART IN SYLVAN PARK!

Join the Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA) and help make our neighborhood an even better place to live. Dues are \$15 per year. We meet the second Monday of each month at the Cohn Adult Learning Center.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ Circle One: New Member Renewal

**Return this form with a check for \$15
(made payable to SPNA) to:**

**Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 92324, Nashville, TN 37209**