

SYLVAN PARK

news



Summer 2007

The newsletter of the Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

SYLVAN PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (SPNA) MEETINGS

July 9, August 13, September 10 and October 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cohn Adult Learning Center (downstairs) 48th and Park Avenues

SPNA FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

Wednesday, July 4th, 9 to 11 a.m.

DISTRICT 24 METRO COUNCIL FORUM

Tuesday, July 10, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
West End Church of Christ

EARLY VOTING

July 13-28
Green Hills Library, Belle Meade City Hall,
Howard School Office Building
Visit Nashville.gov/vote for more information

ELECTION DAY

Thursday, August 2, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
McCabe Community Center & Cohn School

NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Tuesday, August 7, 6 to 8 p.m.
44th Avenue and Wyoming Avenue

SPNA Fourth of July Parade nearly here!

Celebrate Independence Day with your neighbors! Fun for kids and adults starts at 9 a.m. on July 4th at the Richland Park shelter. Once again we will have a parade of neighbors. So, kids, decorate your bikes with streamers, balloons and anything else that you can think of.

The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. and circles through the neighborhood. Cookies and lemonade afterward! We hope to have fire trucks for the kids, complete with fire hoses and friendly fire fighters. Adults can catch up with their neighbors and make new friends. Volunteers are welcome at 8 a.m. to help decorate. Thanks to Katie Cour and Laura Ellis for planning this event.

— Anna Means

Night Out Against Crime August 7th

Sylvan Park's biggest annual neighborhood event, our Night Out Against Crime, will take place on Tuesday, August 7th, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the corner of 44th and Wyoming Avenues. This national celebration is organized to thwart crime by building stronger neighborhoods and fostering partnerships between communities and local police.

Our neighborhood depends on a strong partnership with our public safety personnel, and we look forward each year to the opportunity to tell them so. SPNA will provide hot dogs, drinks and entertainment so that we may come together with our neighbors and meet new friends. Come celebrate and say, "Thanks for all you do!"

— Doug Eckert



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CRIME REPORT

The last month in Sylvan Park has shown a **lower crime rate than normal: only a few car break-ins and minor thefts reported, and one residential burglary.** The key word in the previous sentence is "reported." Police resources in Metro Nashville are allocated based on reported incidents. Reporting an incident generally only takes a few minutes of your time and provides you an incident number for use in filing your insurance claim. It also helps increase the likelihood of our neighborhood receiving additional patrols, which decreases the likelihood of a similar incident occurring again to you or your neighbor.

When you call 862-8600 to report non-emergency suspicious behavior or a crime that has occurred, we all benefit from the resulting attention. Don't be shy about calling if you see something suspicious.

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.

Greenways for Nashville's TrailWatch program has reported that the Richland Creek Greenway was the target of a geographically wide-spread graffiti attack sometime during the weekend of June 16. If anyone has any information or observed anything in connection with this crime, call the Park Police at 880-3429. Clean-up by Metro should begin by the end of the month. The Greenway is closed at night (while dark). If you observe anyone entering the Greenway, or loitering or parked on or very near it after dark, call the Park Police.

— Doug Eckert

SPEEDING CONCERNS

Now that some of our neighborhood streets have been repaved, we are seeing higher speeds again. We have on these same roads families with baby buggies and young children playing. When you see someone speeding in our neighborhood, you can pat the air downward with your palm out in front of you and a look of concern on your face. Of course you can also get a description and license plate number and call 862-8600.

— Doug Eckert

SCHOOLS REPORT

A one-time sales tax holiday will start on Friday, August 3, and end on Sunday, August 5. 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.

The 2007-2008 Metro Nashville school year will begin August 13. Students who are pre-K thru eighth grade will report for a half day. High school students will report for a full day.

Metro Schools will require Standard School Attire for all students when classes begin for the 2007-2008 school year. Standard attire puts Metro Nashville in step with school districts across the nation seeking to increase school safety, equalize the social impact of trendy clothing and create a calmer, more productive learning environment.

Schools Director Dr. Pedro Garcia asked for approval from the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education after a study committee gathered information about Standard School Attire. As defined by the committee, Standard Attire includes navy blue, black or khaki slacks, shorts or skirts and white or navy blue shirts with short or long sleeves and a collar. Each school may also select up to four additional colors for shirts.

The 100th year celebration of Sylvan Park School has been rescheduled for August 31. The school is planning several events for this celebration, and the organizing committee is seeking neighborhood volunteers who can help. Susan Machalik is the contact. If anyone has any old bikes, a bicycle built for two, vintage clothing or anything else that represents the period of time, please contact Susan at 569-7335.

— Yvonne Eaves

YARD SALE A SUCCESS

Thirty-five households participated in the SPNA yard sale in May. The weather was perfect, the turnout was great and sales were reportedly good. The yard sale is an annual event, so mark your calendars for next May!

— Wendell Goodman

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As anyone who has lived in Sylvan Park for any length of time is aware, the issue of a conservation overlay has been a contentious topic in our neighborhood. There are sound arguments and valid concerns to justify being in favor of and opposed to this form of zoning.

This has not been an issue that the SPNA steering committee has discussed during the course of this year. SPNA has focused the entirety of its time and resources in 2007 on activities and initiatives that bring our neighborhood closer together and ultimately serve the greater good for Sylvan Park.

I heard someone say recently that our relationships with each other should ultimately matter much more than the structures, our homes, that make us neighbors. I agree. We are fortunate to live in a great neighborhood in a great city in a great country. I hope we can all get back to being good neighbors very soon.

If you are looking to do just that, there are plenty of opportunities in the near future. The Fourth of July Parade and Night Out Against Crime are annual SPNA events where neighbors get together for fun and fellowship. I hope you will take time to attend these events and, even better, to get involved to help make them a success. See you soon.

— Rob Robinson

AT RECENT SPNA MEETINGS...

Metro Council At-Large candidates Steve Reiter and Ronnie Steine addressed the membership to discuss their reasons for seeking office and their ideas for making our neighborhood and our city even better places to call home.

Members had a candid and respectful discussion about the conservation overlay debate that evolved into a conversation about ways that we can work, learn and grow together as neighbors.

Greenways for Nashville's Jane Laub thanked SPNA for its efforts to support the organization through the Richland Creek Run. The first-year event raised more than \$6,000.

— Anna Means

OVERLAY BILL WITHDRAWN

As reported in The Tennessean, the City Paper and local TV stations, a Metro Council bill that would apply a proposed conservation overlay in Sylvan Park, originally deferred indefinitely in January 2006, was reintroduced and then withdrawn at the Metro Council meeting on June 5 by District 24 councilman John Summers.

— Rob Robinson

MAYORAL FORUM HELD AT MBA

West Nashville Presidents' Council sponsored a Mayoral Forum at Montgomery Bell Academy on June 7. Approximately 200 West Nashville voters got to hear from five candidates who want to become our next mayor: David Briley, Bob Clement, Karl Dean, Buck Dozier, and Howard Gentry. Dozier grew up in Sylvan Park and attended Cohn school.

Moderator Pat Nolan presented questions to the candidates which they answered in turn as well as selected questions from the audience. The questioning primarily focused on schools and neighborhood issues. The meeting was well attended, and the attendees were treated to a lively discussion and a chance to talk directly to the candidates.

— Wendell Goodman

COUNCIL FORUM JULY 10

A Metro Council District 24 forum has been scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10, at the West End Church of Christ. The event is free and open to the public.

The four candidates who would like to be our council representative are Katherine Beasley, Jason Holleman, Gary Pennington, and Irwin Venick. This will be a great chance to see the candidates and hear their opinions on the issues that affect our neighborhood. There will be time following the formal meeting for the attendees to talk with the candidates. Remember that the candidate elected will be your representative for at least four years and perhaps eight. Early voting is open from July 13 until July 28, and the election is August 2 for mayor, vice mayor, council at large and district council.

— Wendell Goodman

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.

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

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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