



SPNA ADDRESSES COHN SCHOOL CONCERNS

Many of you are aware of increasing safety concerns surrounding Cohn School. In response to an event this month in front of the school campus, the SPNA membership voted to take immediate action to address this situation with the letter below.

Overall Sylvan Park is a very safe neighborhood in which to live, but like any neighborhood, sometimes an event occurs which raises safety concerns. Councilman Jason Holleman is also actively working on this issue with police and school officials. Hopefully working together we can restore the safety and tranquility of our neighborhood.

"We wish to express our strongest possible concerns about the safety issues related to Cohn School. The gun shots fired into a teacher's car last week serve only as the punctuation mark to an ongoing problem that has existed for years. Sylvan Park residents continue to witness and report drug deals and pot smoking in the park. Residents have had their car windows broken, tires slashed, and seen graffiti painted on walls and signs; they have witnessed reckless driving, illegal parking, and the proliferation of litter around the school. We also understand that the Cohn School facility is taking an increased degree of abuse from some students.

Over the past several years Sylvan Park residents have had meetings to express our concerns and to seek assistance from local officials. With the outburst of gunfire in our residential neighborhood last week, it is apparent to everyone that the situation is getting worse rather than improving. We have not been able to achieve any coordinated help from the various parties responsible for parks, schools, and policing and have had to work with the individual departments that are faced with different priorities, budgets, and lines of authority and reporting.

Therefore, we are requesting that you appoint a contact person for this problem, someone who has the authority to cut across department lines to work with a neighborhood committee to get these issues resolved.

We also believe that stricter supervision of students is required. We are requesting a full-time police presence at the school: not a resource officer in the normal sense, but one who would spend as much time outside of the school as

inside. We believe an active presence is needed to stop the many problems we are witnessing and reporting on an ongoing basis. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your representative to discuss our issues in more detail. I look forward to your response."

The letter is being sent to Mayor Karl Dean and copied to our councilman and local school and police officials. SPNA will continue to monitor the situation and work alongside these public servants to improve safety around the school.

Annual Spring Yard Sale May 10th

SPNA will hold its Annual Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, May 10th, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. SPNA will provide:

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

The cost of the Yard Sale is \$15.00 for SPNA Members and \$30.00 for Non-Members (which includes SPNA membership). A registration form is enclosed on page 3. For more information contact Wendell Goodman at (615) 385-2276 or goodmanwg@bellsouth.net.

Sylvan Park Home Tour Planned for Fall

Planning is underway for the 2008 Sylvan Park Home Tour, one of SPNA's major events and a fund-raiser.

We are seeking seven to 10 homeowners who would be willing for their homes to be considered for the tour, to be held in September or October. We also need plenty of volunteers both before and on the day of the tour. Please contact Tour Chair Susan Rodgers at (615) 479-3257 or susanrodgers@realtracs.com if you can help as a tour home or as a volunteer.

AT RECENT SPNA MEETINGS...**January**

The November meeting minutes were approved. The December meeting minutes were approved with the following clarification: "Those who join [SPNA] in December of any year will be paid in full for the next calendar year."

Neighbors can report illegal (after hours) trash collection to Metro Property Standards at (615) 862-6590.

There is theft identity protection available for Metro voters. See nashville.gov/vote for more information.

RCWA has a website:
richlandcreekwatershedalliance.org.

There was a home invasion in Cherokee Park and there were two armed robberies in SP recently.

Email spna@sylvanpark.org if you are interested in working on a grant for playground shading at Richland Park.

Treasurer F. Clark Williams reported that SPNA has \$7,376.33 in checking and \$4,024.35 in savings. Membership Secretary Jim Dade reported that SPNA ended 2007 with 176 members and we are starting 2008 with 35 members.

SPNA donated a total of \$200 to St. Luke's Community House.

The membership approved up to \$280 to print the first quarter newsletter issue.

SPNA elected its officers and Steering Committee members for 2008. (See page four for details.)

February

Metro Nashville Police Department Sgt. Connie Tripp from the West Precinct reported that two recent incidents of crime were unrelated (a purse snatching at McCabe Pub and an attempted burglary by a man in a car following a woman home). Sgt. Tripp reminded the group not to warm cars up unmonitored because of the risk of theft.

The Steering Committee approved a policy that discretionary expenditures would be limited to \$2,500 for the year, with \$100 limit per expenditure for expenditures that were not already allocated in SPNA's annual planning document.

A scam is circulating regarding a federal stimulus package. Do not provide your Social Security number.

A local environmental educational TV program, Earth Revolution, has launched to discuss how to conserve resources airing on Comcast Public Access Channel 19.

The following standing committees have been created for the year: Neighborhood Watch (Connie Putnam, Doug Eckert, Yvonne Eaves, Laura Ellis), Communications (John Summers, John Miglietta, Yvonne Eaves, Laura Ellis, Elliot Mitchell, Pat Williams and Doug Eckert) and the Home Tour (members to be determined).

Treasurer Wendell Goodman discussed the planned 2008 budget for SPNA as proposed by the steering committee. The membership approved expenses of \$800 for storage unit rental and \$475 for sponsoring a McCabe Little League team.

The membership discussed the proposed sale of the Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ property and heard concerns from church members in attendance about possible delays of the sale because of zoning bills filed by Councilman Holleman. The group discussed the Rite-Aid pharmacy proposed for the location. (Rite-Aid has subsequently withdrawn its offer to purchase the property, and the property remains on the market.)

March

The February meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Wendell Goodman reported that the SPNA has \$5,769 in checking, \$5,000 in a certificate of deposit, \$71.39 in its PayPal online registration account for a total balance of \$10,840.66. For the year so far, SPNA has an income of \$183 and expenditures of \$475. Membership Secretary Jim Dade reported that SPNA has 47 members this year.

The membership approved an expense of \$475.00 to Sylvan Park School's Parent-Teacher Organization.

Amanda Sluss and Brandon Hall from the Metro Emergency Communications Center gave a presentation regarding the work of the ECC and provided information on when to call (615) 862-8600, the non-emergency line.

A designated loading and unloading zone for visitors to Cohn School has been established on 49th and 50th.

The traffic light timing at the intersection of 46th and Nebraska does not appear to have been corrected, as was previously thought. The light is currently extremely long for traffic turning onto 46th Avenue.

Sylvan Park Annual Spring Yard Sale

SATURDAY MAY 10TH — 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: _____



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Jeff Middlebrooks, Home Energy Rater/Auditor

(615) 292-0393 or jeffmiddlebrooks@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 2 Sylvan Park School Spaghetti Fest
- May 10 SPNA Yard Sale
- May 12 Charlotte Pike Design Meeting
- May 12 SPNA Membership Meeting
- June 9 SPNA Membership Meeting
- July 4 Parade & Picnic
- July 14 SPNA Membership Meeting
- Aug 11 SPNA Membership Meeting
- Sept-Oct Fall Home Tour

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 e-mail to spna@sylvanpark.org or visit www.sylvanpark.org.

OFFICERS

President: Rob Robinson

Vice President: F. Clark Williams

Recording Secretary: Margaret Holleman

Membership Secretary: Jim Dade

Treasurer: Wendell Goodman

Steering Committee:

Yvonne Eaves, Doug Eckert, Laura Ellis, Lisa Ferris, Mark Lambert, John Miglietta, Bernard Pickney, Connie Putman, John Summers, 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 John Summers, editor, at (615) 386-9660, or e-mail at johnsummers@comcast.net.

Also, volunteers are needed for distribution of this newsletter. If you are interested in helping, email SPNA at spna@sylvanpark.org.

**— 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**