



Summer 2008

The newsletter of the Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

SYLVAN PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (SPNA) MEETINGS

July 14, August 11, September 8 and October 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cohn Adult Learning Center (downstairs) 48th and Park Avenues

SPNA FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

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

SPNA NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Tuesday, August 5, 6 to 8 p.m.
Richland Park picnic shelter

EARLY VOTING

July 18 to August 2
Belle Meade City Hall,
Metro Office Building (near Howard School)
Visit Nashville.gov/vote for more information

ELECTION DAY

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

SPNA HOME TOUR

"September in Sylvan Park"
Sunday, September 14, 1 to 5 p.m.
Purchase tickets at Cohn School or
Southern Methodist Church

Join SPNA for our Fourth of July Parade

Celebrate Independence Day with your neighbors! Fun for kids and adults starts at 9 a.m. on Friday, July 4 at the Richland Park picnic shelter. Once again we will have a parade of neighbors. Kids, decorate your bikes with streamers, balloons and your wildest creative ideas.

The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. and progresses along Park Avenue and around the park. Cookies and lemonade will be served afterward. Adults can catch up with their neighbors and make new friends.

Volunteers are welcome at 8 a.m. to help decorate. — Katie Cour

Night Out Against Crime August 5

Sylvan Park's biggest annual neighborhood event, our Night Out Against Crime, will take place on Tuesday, August 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Richland Park picnic shelter. This year we'll be holding a neighborhood-wide pot-luck dinner. Please bring a dish to feed six to eight people, depending upon the first letter of your last name (see below). SPNA will provide cold drinks.

Last Name	A - F	please bring a salad
Begins With:	G - M	please bring a main dish
	N - R	please bring a side dish
	S - Z	please bring dessert

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. This is another great opportunity to visit with neighbors and to get to know each other. Come celebrate and say, "Thanks for all you do!" — Doug Eckert

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RICHLAND PARK PLANNING MEETING JUNE 25

Metro Parks will hold a public meeting to solicit comments and ideas for the future of Richland Park on Wednesday, June 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the basement of the Cohn Adult Learning Center at 4805 Park Avenue. Public feedback will be incorporated into a master plan that is being developed for the park. **Please make plans to attend!**

MORE NEWS ONLINE AT www.sylvanpark.org

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

SPNA reported in our last newsletter about recent crime around Cohn School and a letter sent by the association to local elected officials requesting action. I'm pleased to report that the Mayor's office, Metro Police and Metro Schools have taken steps to address the situation, as is explained in more detail on page (#) of this newsletter. Councilman Jason Holleman has been proactive in helping neighbors and city leaders confront this situation, and SPNA is very grateful for his work on Sylvan Park's behalf.

SPNA is committed to doing everything possible to help make our neighborhood an even safer and more rewarding place to call home. We're also dedicated to providing opportunities for all of us as neighbors to get to know each other better and to develop a stronger sense of community here in Sylvan Park. As you'll read elsewhere in this newsletter, our busiest time of the year lies ahead, and there are many fun events coming up to put down on your calendar. I hope to see you soon at a membership meeting, our Fourth of July parade, the Night Out Against Crime or the Home Tour.

— Rob Robinson

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

The annual neighborhood Yard Sale took place in May, and customers were reportedly out in full swing. As usual, SPNA placed an ad in *The Tennessean* to publicize the sale.

SPNA members voted to approve the following expenses: Yard Sale publicity and supplies (\$), printing costs for the June newsletter issue (\$250), Fourth of July parade expenses (up to \$200) and Night Out Against Crime expenses (up to \$500). Members also approved the following annual organizational expenses: Web hosting (\$239) and meeting and event insurance (\$250).

CRIME REPORT

Neighborhood concerns regarding Cohn School were the subject of an April 29th meeting with Mayor Karl Dean, Police Chief Ronal Serpas, Acting Schools Superintendant Chris Henson, District 24 Councilman Jason Holleman, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods Manager Brady Banks, and Marcia Warden and Ralph Thompson of the School Board, and led to following outcomes:

Metro Police have installed and are viewing output from a high-resolution, remotely-controlled surveillance camera that monitors the area in front of the school. Metro Police have committed to step up their onsite security presence, and will concentrate on perimeter patrol of the school and surrounding areas. Metro Schools agreed to discontinue the barring of tardy students from remaining in the building and will work on a long-term plan for increased security. Metro Police, Legal, Schools and Public Works will investigate the possible transfer of some street front ownership to Metro Schools, thereby allowing officials to conduct random searches for drugs and firearms as being "on school property".

The May 14th arrest of a 28-year-old self-professed gang leader included the confiscation of drugs and a nine-millimeter pistol from a burgundy Chevrolet Tahoe matching the description of the car involved in the shooting at Cohn School. Metro Police are investigating the possibility of a connection.

Since January there have been about 25 incidents of Sylvan Park's most common crime: car break-ins. However, 15 of those occurred on mostly one weekend in April. This means that overall so far this year, car break-ins are low in our neighborhood.

Remember: The best thing you can do to help is to report crime by calling the police at (615) 862-8600.

—Doug Eckert

SYLVAN PARK HOME TOUR SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 14

Planning continues for the Sylvan Park Home Tour, scheduled for Sunday, September 14, from 1 to 5 p.m. The tour is entitled "September in Sylvan Park," and it will showcase our beautiful neighborhood during one of the loveliest months of the year here in Nashville.

Event Chair Susan Rodgers reports that the committee is finalizing the list of participating homes. Cohn School and Southern Methodist Church will also be featured on the tour, and tickets may be purchased at those locations on the day of the tour. The tour is a major source of revenue for SPNA, so please make plans now to attend and to help promote ticket sales to friends,

neighbors and co-workers. In addition, we need to secure ad sales from area merchants to help defray the cost of the tour booklet. If you know of anyone who might be interested in having their homes on the tour, or in purchasing an ad, please contact Susan at 479-3257 or via email at susanrodgers@realtracs.com.

Finally, we need many day-of-event volunteers, so please contact Susan if you can help with any of the following functions: serving as a host in a tour home, ticket sales, hosting the café or providing refreshments and serving as a runner to assist with errands.

— Laura Ellis

RICHLAND CREEK RUN RAISES \$10,000 FOR GREENWAYS FOR NASHVILLE

SPNA sponsored the second-annual Richland Creek Run presented by Dunn Chiropractic Clinic in April. The event raised approximately \$10,000 to benefit Greenways for Nashville.

The Sylvan Park, Cherokee Park, Richland-West End, and White Bridge neighborhoods and Montgomery Bell Academy organized the run. The Wilson Group Real Estate Services and Saint Thomas Health Services also served as sponsors.

Mayor Karl Dean was the start official for the event and ran in the race. State Senator Douglas Henry and Metro Council members Megan Berry, Jason Holleman, and Carter Todd also attended. More than 300 runners participated. Results are available at richlandcreekrun.com.

Neighborhood retailers provided in-kind gifts of food, water, and door prizes, among them the

Produce Place and Star Bagel. Living Word International Church provided a unique—and much appreciated—water station featuring not only water, but also fruit, donuts (a remarkably popular item), and enthusiastic encouragement for the race's last half mile. Metro Parks provided a pair of bicycle officers to lead the runners along the course, and helped divert water from the course where it had pooled after the heavy rains of the preceding week.

Councilman Holleman, one of the principal organizers, said, "There is an incredible degree of cooperation and hard work from the race committee members and volunteers along with Metro Parks, the Police Department and Public Schools. Certainly the goal is to raise money for Greenways for Nashville, but a byproduct of this effort is the benefit of coming together as a community for the common good." — F. Clark Williams

SCHOOLS REPORT

District 9 School Board candidates Paul Brenner, Alan Coverstone, Stephen Hicks, James Lech and Lee Limbird spoke at SPNA's June meeting. Early voting for the election runs July 18 through August 2, and Election Day is Thursday, August 7.

A sales tax holiday will start on Friday, August 1, and end on Sunday, August 3. 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. Details are available at www.tntaxholiday.com.

The 2008-2009 Metro Nashville school year will begin August 11. Students who are pre-K thru eighth grade will report for a half day. High school students will report for a full day.



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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, suggest future articles or inquire about advertising, please contact Rob Robinson, editor, at (615) 838-1876 or rrob13@gmail.com.

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 Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association
(made payable to SPNA) to: P.O. Box 92324, Nashville, TN 37209**