

Sunset Hills Newsletter

Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods

July 2022

A Letter from the President

written by Scott Michaels

Summer is here in Sunset Hills! The warmer weather means seeing more neighbors when I walk my dog, Humphrey, in the mornings to try to beat the heat. Neither of us is a fan of hot weather!

It's always a pleasure to walk through Sunset Hills. All the beautiful homes, plants and flowers, safe sidewalks and saying hello to people along the way.

Speaking as a Realtor, who works all over the Triad, Sunset Hills is one of, if not the, most desirable neighborhoods in Greensboro. Houses that go on the open Market usually have lots of showings and usually sell extremely fast. If the house is priced appropriately and in "show ready" condition, we often get multiple offers over the asking price.

But it's not just the houses and location that has people wanting to join us in Sunset Hills. It's the neighbors. The people who live here. Sunset Hills is a neighborhood in all the best senses of the word.

Neighbors get together frequently to socialize. We also join together to help those less fortunate by supporting the Running of the Balls, food banks, and supporting refugee families new to our country. Neighbors also support so many local civic, artistic, and environmental organizations. People truly live here and share their lives, time, and resources. (cont. on page 3)

Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

President Scott Michaels | scottmichaels 100@gmail.com

Vice President Burke Ramsay | bramsay@gmail.com

Secretary Cindy Ramsay | ramsayc01@gmail.com

Treasurer Elaine Brune | sunsethillsgsonc@gmail.com

Website Coordinator Robin Timmins | timmins203@gmail.com

Historian John Kelly | jkelly336@gmail.com

Listserv Coordinator Adam Graham-Squire | adam.grahamsquire@gmail.com

Social Events Sarah Purcell | sarah.h.purcell@gmail.com (temporary until new chairs found)

Environmental Affairs Erin Reis | erin.reis.1@gmail.com

Event Coordinators

Easter Egg Hunt Cindy Ramsay | ramsayc01@gmail.com

Halloween In the Park Michael Driver | michael@yourhometriad.com

Annual Pig Pickin Jennifer Edwards | veronicalucks@gmail.com

New Neighbor Coordinator OPEN

Lighted Ball Coordinator for Greenway/Berkley Park OPEN

Garden Club Representative

Michelle Togut | togut@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch Ferdinand Stout | ridgeway1031@hotmail.com David Hammer | davidhammer@gmail.com

Transportation Committee Chair Gerry Alfano | mtisdel@att.net (336-272-3512)

Representative to the Neighborhood Congress Mike Pendergraft and Gerry Alfano

Stay In The Loop

You can follow along with regular happenings, updates, and news by following us on our Facebook page and on our website.

You can also join our community email listserv by emailing Adam Graham-Squire at adam.grahamsquire@gmail.com

Please note that only current members who have paid their annual dues may send non-emergency messages to the community listserv.

www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org www.facebook.com/SunsetHillsGSO

Newsletter Team

Roger Bardsley | bards09@gmail.com Carl Phillips | cwpjr5524@gmail.com Carole Potter | cllindse@gmail.com Elaine Brune | elainebrune@gmail.com Chip Potter | jcpottergm@gmail.com Marlene Pratto | mrpsunset@gmail.com Robin Timmins | timmins203@gmail.com Denise Baker | dnbaker3@gmail.com Amanda Loftis | amanda@amandaloftis.io

(cont. from page 1)

These are wonderful events totally organized and financed by a group of neighbors and with contributions from attendees. They are a true gift to the neighborhood.

I won't name names for fear of leaving someone out, but I particularly want to thank John Kelly for all his work with both these events and with Running of the Balls. He even took on the task of getting power to the park between Berkley and Market, which we have needed and wanted for years. Come the holidays, we are hoping volunteers will provide lighted balls to hang in that park just like we do in the other one.

I also want to recognize Elaine Brune for doing the oftenthankless job of Treasurer so well. She is meticulous in managing the Association funds and ensuring we follow our bylaws and budget. She and her husband, Roger Bardsley, also contribute so much to so many other neighborhood projects. Like I said earlier, it's all about the neighbors and the people who live here.

The Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association is always here to support whatever we can in anyway our Bylaws and limited resources allow. The ListServ and this newsletter are important means of communication in our neighborhood. I encourage you to pay your \$10 dues and consider contributing to support our initiatives for the neighborhood. We are working on some exciting projects for the Sunset Hills Centennial and your support will make them possible.

We have the most active and engaged Board I have seen since I came to Sunset Hills 16 years ago. We are always looking for new members to join our committees and take on leadership roles. Please contact me or one of the other officers by text or email if you want to join us or want more information. Our door is always open! •



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If you have questions about file formats or image resolution, please contact:

Amanda Loftis amanda@amandaloftis.io

Lights Out For Birds

written by Insa Lawler

Neighbors, with just a small effort we can help over 150 species of birds to fly more safely through Greensboro. Millions of birds migrate in spring and fall. They fly at night and rely on the stars and moon for navigation. Artificial lights can cause accidents or disorientation (which can lead to exhaustion) resulting in death.

The Audubon Society's Lights Out program has been developed to diminish these issues and to help the birds migrate more safely. The basic suggestion is simple: Keep lights out as much as possible at night time during the peak migration periods. For Greensboro, these periods are March 15-May 31st and Sept 10-Nov 30th. The City of Greensboro is joining this initiative by encouraging the managers of tall buildings and large facilities to turn off or block external and internal lights as much as possible from 11 pm to 6 am during these critical periods.

We can do the same in Sunset Hills, by adopting the society's following suggestions during the peak migration periods.

March 15-May 31 and Sept 10-Nov 30 11 pm to 6 am

Exterior lighting:

•At night, turn off exterior decorative lighting, e.g., by using timers, from 11 pm to 6 am. This includes Christmas balls (please see below).

• Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate all light directed upward and horizontal glare. Interior lighting:

•At night, turn off unnecessary interior lights or use window treatments that block light, especially on upper floors, from 11 pm to 6 am.

General advice:

• Install motion sensors and automatic controls for lights wherever possible.

•When converting to new lighting carefully assess quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology.

• Large or small, all efforts make a difference. Installing a timer for your outdoor lights year-round, for instance, will make a long lasting impact (and save you some money).

Last but not least:

The Fall period (Sept 10 - Nov 30) minimally overlaps with our traditional Christmas lighted ball season. Many folks put up their balls before November 30. However, this need not conflict with participating in the lights-out initiative. Again, timers can be a gamechanger. Turning off our lighted balls at 11 pm will diminish neither the joy nor the food donations. We can both shine the light on hunger and help migratory birds.

You'll find more information about the Lights Out program by visiting, https://www.tgpearsonaudubon.org/lights-out (Greensboro specific) or,

 $\label{eq:https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program (General initiative) \bullet$



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Carolina Wildlife Conservation Center





900 WILD ANIMALS SAVED IN 2022

It's baby season in North Carolina and you know what that means, the center is in its busiest time of the year.

> Approximately: 300 eastern cottontails 200 opossums 50 raccoons 200 gray squirrels And many more...

Did you know that American Minks inhabit North Carolina?

An orphaned American Mink Kit arrived at the center on April 14th weighing just 80 grams. Since then, she has opened her eyes and started to wean off formula to her natural diet. We will be working hard to set up an outdoor enclosure specialized for this slinky escape artist. Ms. Jet, the mink, will be in our care until early fall 2022.



IN THE NEWS...

Our goal is to educate the public on how best to handle unwanted wildlife and spread the word on humane eviction techniques to save more wild lives.

Our Executive Director, Morgan Rafael, appeared on WBTVs QC@3 to talk about ways to humanely evict wildlife as well as the importance of coexisting with nature. Some humane ways to deter unwanted wildlife are:

- Keep all pet food indoors
- Secure all potential den sites like crawl spaces, roofs, chimneys and under sheds and decks
- Shine bright lights and play loud music to get animals to move along

MANGEY FOXES STARVING, NOT RABID

Red fox are extremely susceptible to a horrific disease called mange. We are determined to help spread the word about the curability of the disease and decrease the suffering in these beautiful animals.

Red fox are commonly seen backyard wildlife. Unfortunately, many of the calls we receive about red fox are the reporting of a red fox with mange.

Mange is a mite that buries deep into the hair follicle causing hair loss, sores and lesions, extreme itchiness and ultimately emaciation and death.

Mange is a disease that can be cured on-site without the need to trap the animal and bring them to the center. This is best because it keeps the animal stress free and allows them to remain in their territory. Our Fox Project Manager, Vickie Reeves, drives to all the fox project sites to set up the cameras and speak with the good Samaritans about the treatment protocol.

To treat the fox, a feeding station is set out and a camera is put on the food. This helps us to learn the patterns of the fox movements so we know when to put the medication out so that only the fox receives the dose. The medicating process takes about 8 weeks.

Below is a fox who could barely see from the crust on her eyes. She is now bright eyes with a few weeks left to go in her treatment.



17 fox are currently being treated through our mangey fox project



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Sunset Hills Tradesperson List

written by Adam Graham-Squire

Now seems like a good time to remind everyone that we do have a list of recommended tradespersons for Sunset Hills.

You can find it below and on the Sunset Hills Neighborhood website (see footer): https://bit.ly/SHcontractors

This list was originally collected by Robin Timmins over many years. Its current form was created by Julia Bleakney as a google doc where you can look for recommended tradespeople as well as add names of tradespersons that you have used and liked. For example, I just updated Wally Overman's line to show that people recommended him today.

There are currently a lot of old recommendations (old=10+ years ago) as well as repeated recommendations, so Julia and I are currently working to clean it up a bit and make it more user-friendly. We do need help, though, in getting newer names added to the list. Besides people adding their own recommendations, we are also hoping to recruit some adventurous soul who is interested in the somewhat tedious and often thankless work of helping to keep the list up-to-date with new recommendations.

If you are such an adventurous soul, please email me at **adam.grahamsquire@gmail.com**. Or, if you want to prank one of your friends, send me their email address and tell me that you think they would be PERFECT for the job. •



written by John Kelly

hanks to the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association we now have abundant power in the South Greenway park!

Over the past few years, requests to the SHNA have been made to get power outlets in the south park. We are happy to report back that the power is installed, passed city inspection, and is being turned on by Duke Energy. The power can be used for social events, kid parties, bands, food trucks, etc. The electric panel will have a combination lock and access can be requested through the SHNA.

No more long extension cords pulling power across a busy road!

The city has very tight requirements on how and where power can be installed. We contracted with a licensed electrician that was paid for via Neighborhood Association dues and the city has agreed to pay any monthly power consumption moving forward. It's easy and cheaper for them to pay the bill than to figure out the break out consumption and invoice the neighborhood.

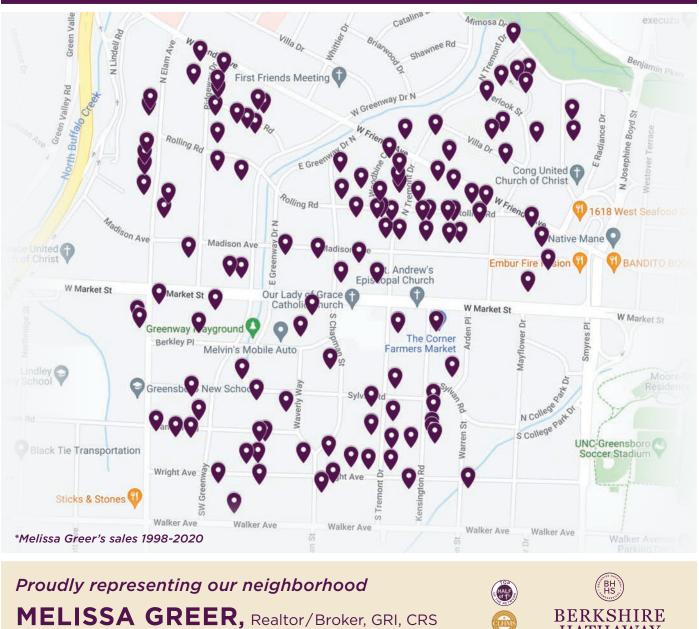
Power doesn't come without some shocks. One shock is the visual that the power infrastructure creates in the park. Unlike near the tennis courts, where the power panel is masked by the chain link wall, this power installation stands proud near the utility pole in the middle of the park. The SHNA knew going into the project that some landscaping would need to be done to mask the appearance of a substation in the middle of our beautiful park.

We have a funded plan to address the visual issue. Short term, the plan is to install some lattice around the power panels. This lattice will block the panels and blend into the natural surroundings. Long term (in the fall when transplanting will be successful), the plan is to add shrubbery and create a natural hedge hiding the panels but still allowing access. •





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Board Meeting Minutes

May 18th, 2022

Present:

Erin Reis, John Kelly, Scott Michaels, Gerry Alfano, Cindy Ramsay, Adam Graham-Squire, Elaine Brune, Michael Pendergraft, Burke Ramsay, Sarah Purcell

Financial Update:

- Burke and Elaine presented a budget versus actuals and projected expenses:
- 320 paid households dues thus far.

Social:

- Lighted balls workshop and light the park are two separate events. There is value in both events and the plan is to continue with both events. The lighted balls workshop can be used to add balls for the park Greenway/Berkely for 2022 holiday season. The board is looking for someone to be Lighted Ball coordinator for the Greenway/Berkley park.
- Jennifer Edwards is interested in chairing the Pig Picking party. May is already too busy. Possibly a fall event this year.
- The fourth of July has not been successful in many years. Historically budgeted for a band and porta potty. This year we can have a very marketed event and assess turnout for future 4th of July events. The board is looking for someone to take on the planning of the event/ parade.

New Neighbor Packets:

- Sarah has revamped the packet. Question: what committee should be responsible for passing out the packets. Goal was annually but it should be done more often.
- Should we have a membership or welcome team committee?
- The board is looking for a new neighbor coordinator to help with the logistics of distributing the new neighbor packets.

- Leah and Sarah are resigning as social chairs. Sarah is willing to stay on until we have a replacement. They would like to continue to help coordinate the Halloween Pumpkin wall and instagram.
- Many people are interested in being a part of the board and committees. For social committee: having 2 voting co-chairs will continue. The duties could be split as: one co-chair for children's events and one co-chair for adults. There has been confusion in the role of the board and social chairs with each neighborhood event. Co-Chairs will serve as management role to work with event coordinators and liaison information to the board. Sarah will send an email on the list serv to collect names for people interested in being the social co-chairs. The board is looking for individuals to serve on the social committee and social co-chairs.

Facebook:

- Cindy will email about becoming Admin on the facebook page or creating a new one. The use of social media needs to be streamlined and easier to update with pictures of events to encourage engagement.
- Possible name: Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association Greensboro North Carolina

Rock the Block:

- There is confusion from the neighborhood as to how the events is funded and any connection to SHNA. Each event costs about \$1500 per event. Bands \$800-1200, street closure \$75, Port-a-potty sponsored.
- Bucket has been generating roughly flush or positive \$50-60.
- John and his team are working with some neighbors who would like to sponsor the band in the coming months.
- John will be added as event coordinator for Rock the Block.The best way for the SHNA to contribute this year is to purchase a PA system that can be used

for all neighborhood events. Every year the board can ask what is needed to make the events successful. With the sponsorships- the contributions will mainly pay for tangible items.

- John will submit a request for funds from SHNA to pay for the PA system.
- SHNA will get a sign that says Sounds system is sponsored by SHNA

Power in the Park:

- Came in under budget. Extra funds to plant something to hide the structure and keep children away. The board needs a volunteer to put lattice to cover the area until planting can be done in the fall.
- The city will pay for the metered power.
- Bill for \$175 for fixed outlet at South park. All agreed to spend the funds to pay the bill.

Tree Program:

There is confusion in the process of paperwork

and payments. The process may need to be more streamlined. Step one needs to be asking if the person interested in a tree has paid dues. If not, there is the option to pay \$35 instead of the \$25 to cover the tree application and dues. Checks need to be cashed in a timely manner.

Since tree planting season is over, we will discuss further before Fall.

National Night Out:

- Martha had a proposal to have the event. Scott will talk to Martha and state that we have had a poor attendance and the police department is very understaffed.
- We can possibly try for 2023. Hopefully by then the staffing issues will be in a better place with GPD.

Future Meetings:

Possibly take July off.



Sunset Hills

Starmount

Lindley Park

Irving Park

What Does the Rest of 2022 Hold for the Housing Market?

contributed by Leslie Stainback

If you're thinking of buying or selling a house, you are probably starting to think about the timing of your big decision. Curious what the rest of the year holds for the housing market?

The number of homes available for sale is likely to grow

Economists are showing that the gap between supply and demand is decreasing, creating more options if you are looking for a home. Inventory will continue to be lower than the pre-pandemic normal, but the numbers are steadily increasing. As a buyer, having more options is welcome news but housing supply is still low, so be ready to act fast and put in your best offer up front. As a seller, your house may soon face more competition when other sellers list their homes. But the good news is, if you're also buying your next home, having more options to choose from should make that move-up process easier.

Mortgage rates will likely continue to respond to inflationary pressures

Experts also agree inflation should continue to drive up mortgage rates due to inflationary pressure, albeit more

moderately. As a buyer, work with trusted real estate professionals, including your lender, to understand how rising mortgage rates impact your purchasing power. It may make sense to buy now before it costs more to do so, if you're ready. As a seller, rising mortgage rates are motivating some homeowners to make a move up sooner rather than later. Timing your move correctly is key to getting the best rates in the best possible market.

Home prices are projected to continue to climb

Home prices are forecasted to keep appreciating because demand still outweighs supply. Experts agree that after the intense surge in prices around the country, the appreciation should slow, but because there is still low inventory, prices are unlikely to decline. As a buyer, continued home price appreciation means it'll cost you more to buy the longer you wait. But it also gives you peace of mind that, once you do buy a home, it will likely grow in value. Purchasing a home is historically a good investment and a strong hedge against inflation. As a seller, price appreciation is great news for the value of your home. Again, look to your real estate professionals to determine the right balance of the best conditions possible for selling your home and buying your next one. \bullet

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Rock the Block Summer Schedule

We are happy to announce that the Rock the Block summer outdoor music events will continue this year and our band bookings are starting to take shape.

Our guiding principles are to focus on the months that the kids are out of school (June to August), keep the date on a Thursday (so we don't step on weekend plans), start and end early (to respect the neighbors) and to choose quality musicians and food trucks.

We started a bit early this year in May with Bandemic which was a Classic Rock/Pop high energy group that opened up

our season strong. We really couldn't resist that Cinco de Mayo fell on a Thursday, so we called around for our favorite taco truck and got busy! We had a crowd of about 250 neighbors and friends enjoying great weather and welcoming the transition into Spring. Lots of sweaty smiling kids running around the park without electronics is always a great sign.

With the help of donations from neighbors, we were able to cover the expenses of the band, sound equipment and street closure. A big milestone for us, we welcomed our first sponsorship of our event - John Martin and Forth Elm Construction for providing the porta potty! John is a new neighbor on Greenway Drive, having grown up on Ridgeway, and we want to thank him for his support! It's the kind support of neighbors like John that allow us to pull these events off!

In July, we will welcome The Wilson Springs Hotel from Richmond Virginia to our neighborhood.

Hailing from all parts of Virginia, The Wilson Springs Hotel is rooted in country, folk, and bluegrass. They released their debut self titled album in fall 2021 and have been on the road for most of 2022. Their music plays into traditional roles within the genres but is also taken to a unique sound that is The Wilson Springs Hotel. New grass, Rockabilly, Country Rock- the list doesn't really end. Having just recently seen WSH at Rooster Walk in Martinsville, Virginia, they bring a high energy show each and every time.

For August, we welcome Abby Bryant and the Echos. Seeing so many young girls in the neighborhood, we thought it would be empowering to have a female lead front and center rocking things out. Growing up in Gastonia, North Carolina, singer Abby Bryant and guitarist Bailey Faulkner have been hanging out and playing music together since they were kids. The pair has cemented their presence as a regional powerhouse with debut album Not Your Little Girl released with their full group Abby Bryant & The Echoes. The debut LP is a confident and rebellious collection, showcasing Bryant's vocal abilities and claiming the band's hard-fought place in the world of vintage-inspired southern soul rock.

August also marks our first musician sponsorship of our events. Pam Frye of Frye Build and Design has agreed to partner with us to bring in Abby Bryant and the Echos. Pam's business is a well know, respected and firmly established in Sunset Hills for her design and renovation work. She specializes in the older historic home that drove many of us to move and live in Sunset Hills and she loves music so this was a perfect fit. We thank Pam for her help in keeping this outdoor neighborhood concert series alive.

Our plan is to end the year as we did last year with an outdoor event under the lights when we flip the switch and light up the Greenway park (north and South Park) for ball season. Tentatively scheduled for Saturday November 19th, our goal is to have live music, food trucks and neighbors gather as the timer kicks on the lighted balls in the park. It is still months away so details are very light.

The cool thing about this year is that power has been installed in the South Park, so if volunteers can dig in we will have lighted balls on both sides of Market Street for the first time.

A lot of effort behind the scenes is put into these events and we hope that you can join us and enjoy catching up with old neighbors and meeting new ones. We try and make sure the music and food are worth grabbing a lawn chair and making the trek to the park. Having lived in the neighborhood for many years, it's truly wonderful to see the influx of young children running around the contained tennis court area with smiles on their faces. •

Summer Schedule (more dates to be announced soon):

- July 14th: Wilson Springs Hotel
- August 25th: Abby Bryant and The Echos





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We need more wonderful people to join this team. To encourage our neighbors to send great people our way, we've set up the

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EMPLOYEE OWNED!

The SHNA needs YOUR help. There are several positions and volunteer opportunities available for upcoming events. If you have any interest in the positions listed below, please email:

- * Scott Michaels (SHNA President) | scottmichaels | 00@gmail.com
- * Burke Ramsay (SHNA Vice President) | *bramsay@gmail.com*
- * Cindy Ramsay (SHNA Secretary) | ramsayc01@gmail.com

Openings:

- 2 Social Events co-chairs
- Lighted Ball Coordinator for Greenway/Berkley park
- 4th of July parade/party coordinator
- New Neighbor Coordinator
 (to assemble and bass out new
 - (to assemble and pass out new neighbor packets to new neighbors) A volunteer to help place lattice in the Greenway/Berkeley Park to cover the
- A volunteer to help place lattice in the Greenway/Berkeley Park to cover the new power source (cost of materials will be covered by the SHNA)





pets.allgood@gmail.com



Neighborhood National

Golf simulator sharing in Sunset Hills. Imagine Airbnb meets a world class golf simulator, and it's all wrapped up into a fun and laid back club in the neighborhood.

Book a tee time online. Come and go on your own. In 1 hour door-to-door members can easily spend 45 minutes playing or practicing at Neighborhood National.





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The Dangers of Grass Clippings

Grass clippings can mean danger for both motorists and sewer drains. Learn how you can help keeps roads safe.

Issue 1: Grass clippings create a very slick and dangerous surface and act as a "sheet of ice" for motorcyclists. **Issue 2:** Grass and other yard debris can clog drains and worsen local flooding issues.

Issue 3: Road markings are less visible when they're covered in lawn debris.

So what should you do? Always blow your grass clippings back into your yard either while you're mowing, or afterwards with a leafblower. Be sure to also bag up larger lawn debris for pickup. ●



Don't Blow It!



Help maintain safe roads by keeping grass and leaves on your property

Green Invaders... Invasive Plant Removal in the Sunset Hills Park begins in June

Through a collaboration between the City of Greensboro, our SHNA, Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs, Greensboro Beautiful, the Sunset Hills Garden Club and several residents, the removal of invasive plants (as well as poison ivy!) from our neighborhood park will begin this June.



Chinese privet in bloom. Listed by the USDA as one of the worst invasive species in the South. It dominates the shrub layer and often becomes the only shrub underneath trees, especially in stream side areas.

Ripple Ecosolutions of Chapel Hill will identify, treat, and remove these green invaders from our park and stream banks. The company is licensed, bonded and insured and has worked on many similar projects for neighborhoods and public properties as well as for residential homeowners. This is particularly important to the collaborating partners due to the proximity of our stream. Further, the principal of the company serves on the NC Invasive Plant Council. He works actively in the field on a regular basis up and down the East Coast which enables him to see what happens to our ecosystems as a result of an imbalance of non-native, invasive plant species.

According to the NC Forest Service website, invasive exotic plants are those plants transported outside their normal home ranges and cause damage or harm in their new location. In their new homes, these alien species are free from the natural competition, herbivores, insects and diseases that normally keep populations in check. Increasing global trade and widespread use of non-native plants for horticultural and landscaping purposes has contributed to the enormous challenge we now face.

While many plants are accidentally introduced into new areas, many more are purposefully transported outside of their home range for a variety of reasons. Not only do these plants have the potential to become established and invasive in their new environments, but they may also carry with them exotic forest pests, such as insects and pathogens, which can have devastating consequences on natural ecosystems. Therefore many exotic species can spread rampantly, displace natural plant species and become nuisances. Invasive species are recognized as one of the leading threats to biodiversity.

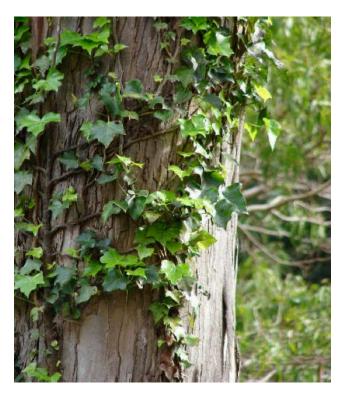
"Everything on our planet is connected. A healthy ecosystem leads to healthy wildlife which leads to healthy people." -Conservation International

Many invasive plants reduce biodiversity by occupying habitat normally utilized by native species. More aggressive invasive species can actually displace natural vegetation by growing so densely as to prevent reproduction by native species, or by physically overtaking natural vegetation such as is observed with kudzu. The long term effects of invasive plants on biodiversity are just beginning to be understood. Forests are complex systems of interacting organisms; the loss of one plant species can affect many other plants, animals, and microorganisms. The interactions are so complex, that often we do not realize their extent until the devastating consequences of biodiversity reduction are observed.

Invasive species also play a role in climate change due to their tremendous negative ecological effects. The University of Massachusetts at Amherst released research that was published just a few weeks ago in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that encourages prioritizing this on a local level. Dealing with invasive species now will make our ecosystems more climate resilient. Tackling invasive plants on the local scale is a critical preparation for climate change.

The NC Invasive Plant Council reports an estimate of \$34.7 billion spent each year in the United States managing invasive plants. The continued introduction and unchecked growth of invasie plants is harmful to our economy, our environment, and can lead to human health issues. English Ivy, for example, creates habitat that allows mosquito populations to thrive, thus increasing the chance of mosquito borne illness to both humans and pets.

The initial phase of the this project in our Sunset Hills Neighborhood park will take approximately one week to complete and is planned for late June. The 5-man crew will return in early fall for a few additional days to handle follow up on the initial work as well as to address some plants that require treatment at a different time of their growth cycle than summer. A combination of methods will be used to eradicate the more than 20 invasive species that were identified growing in the park. Some will be manually dug or pulled, some will be sprayed with targeted herbicides in a prescribed amount. The park will be closed to the public and residents while the project is being completed to allow the successful completion of the removal as well as to prevent anyone from being harmed by debris, saws, sprays, etc.



English Ivy ~growing up a tree where it will fruit and then be spread throughout the neighborhood by birds

Once the invasive plants have been managed, the plan is to replant with indigenous plants that truly belong in our ecosystem. Many native plants will come back on their own once the competition has been removed, but supplementing with some additional species will help to stabilize the soil along the stream banks, prevent erosion, and provide food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators.

Stay tuned for ways to get involved in this replanting effort come Fall of 2022! We are both proud and excited to be a pilot neighborhood for Greensboro in our efforts toward becoming the greenest city in the South. •

To learn more about invasive species and what you can do to help, check out these resources:

- http://nc-ipc.weebly.com
- https://www.ncforestservice.gov/forest_health/invasives.htm
- https://ncwildflower.org/invasive-exotic-species-list/
- https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/invasive-plants-and-your-forests
- https://www.massachusetts.edu/news/why-confronting-invasive-species-one-best-ways-prepare-climate-change









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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Yost & Little Realty

2022 Membership List

Thank you to our 330 members of the Sunset Hills Neighborhood!

* indicated contributions above the membership dues

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Dues are collected each year starting in January and continuing through the year. The cost is \$10 per household per year. These dues go to events in the neighborhood, our newsletters, and most importantly, now putting trees back in the neighborhood. Dues also allow you to post on our neighborhood listserv where you can find/sell/borrow items, report lost or found animals, etc.

Send or drop your payment off to Elaine Brune at 2504 Sylvan Road, 27403. Make checks payable to Sunset Hills Neighborhood (SHNA), or pay online at https://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org/duesanddonations Donations above the \$10 are greatly appreciated and allow us to expand our events and activities.



Murray says have a happy 4th of July! And he reminds you to please keep your furry friends safe and indoors during fireworks.





Michael Driver RE/MAX of Greensboro 336.333.MIKE

