



Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods

Sunset Hills Newsletter | September, 2023

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A Message From The President

by Scott Michaels

It's hard to believe, but summer is almost over.

Personally, I'm looking forward to the cool, crisp days of Fall. I like summer, but Fall, especially in Sunset Hills, is my favorite time of the year. I love walking my dog, Humphrey, along our sidewalks and seeing all the seasonal changes. Our neighborhood is always gorgeous, but even more so with all the autumn color the turning leaves bring to us.

However, I'll certainly miss all

the fresh vegetables from the Farmers Market!

The Rock the Block parties have been a great summer gift to the neighborhood. The monthly outdoor summer concerts are enjoyed by so many people. Not only the music and the food, but the chance to bring neighbors together during the busy, hectic summer months of travel, pool time,

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Website Coordinator

Robin Timmins | timmins203@gmail.com

Historian

David Hammer | davidhammer@gmail.com

Listserv Coordinator

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

Social Events

Garland Turner | garlandturner1@gmail.com

Emily Nunn | emily.p.nunn@gmail.com

Environmental Affairs

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

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John Kelly | kelly336@gmail.com

Garden Club Representative

Michelle Togut | togut@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch

Ferdinand Stout | ridgeway1031@hotmail.com

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Transportation Committee Chair

Gerry Alfano | mtidel@att.net

Representative to the Neighborhood Congress

Mike Pendergraft and Gerry Alfano

Newsletter Team

Roger Bardsley

bards09@gmail.com

Carl Phillips

cwpjr5524@gmail.com

Carole Potter

cilindse@gmail.com

Elaine Brune

sunsethillsgsonc@gmail.com

Chip Potter

jcpottergm@gmail.com

Marlene Pratto

mrpsunset@gmail.com

Robin Timmins

timmins203@gmail.com

Denise Baker

dnbaker3@gmail.com

Bob Holden

rwh22652@gmail.com

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A Message From The President;

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summer camps and vacations. Thanks, again, to John Kelly and company!

As the weather turns cooler other events will be coming up. Halloween, Thanksgiving and, of course, Lighted Christmas Ball Season and all the winter Holidays. One is never bored in Sunset Hills. Our Social Committee is working on a lot of events to bring us together during the fall and winter months. Those events include Halloween in the Park and numerous events for the Holiday Season.

Also, we will be having our Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association meeting for all residents in the Fall. Please watch the Listserv for the date. We will probably do it via Zoom again as we seem to have more attendees when we use that format. We are always open to suggestions and feedback. Feel

free to reach out to me or any Board member at any time. We always appreciate your input and suggestions.

We do have an opening for a Neighborhood Watch Representative to assist Ferdinand Stout when he needs assistance or backup. Please reach out to Ferdinand or to me if you are interested.

Also, David Hammer has transitioned to the position of Historian for Sunset Hills. He is working on several exciting projects to capture and share the history of our special neighborhood and special homes.

As we approach the Holiday Season

later this year, please feel free to reach out to our Environmental Affairs Committee for ideas on how to make Lighted Christmas Ball season more environmentally friendly.

And enjoy the rest of the summer and get ready for all fall and winter festivities!



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A Note From Your Treasurer

by Elaine Brune

To date we have 347 members of the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association. These are you and your neighbors who pay dues to our association. Membership list is on page 27. If you see an asterisk and bolded name this indicates a contribution above the dues payment. Thank you, generous neighbors!

It's not too late to be a 2023 member. Dues are \$10 cash or check or \$11 if paying via PayPal through this link: <https://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org/duesanddonations>

You can send checks to Elaine Brune, Treasurer 2504 Sylvan Road Greensboro, NC 27403 or save a stamp and get some exercise by dropping it off at my house. The red door has a slot that drops it onto our living room floor.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN! WE WANT YOU! These dues and donations help fund activities in our

neighborhood and allow you to post non-emergency notices to the list serv. Activities recently have been ridding the parks of non native plants, Easter Egg Hunt, and the May Pig Pickin', signs in the parks for the planting areas, etc.

Thanks again to all who have paid! And hope to see more members join us.

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

Ivy: Beautiful Foliage Or A Green Scourge?

By Teri Hammer

Ivy, is it a nuisance or is it an effective ground cover? Seems like it is both? Ivy is from Eurasia and was introduced to America by the English Settlers. It is quite effective as a ground cover when used in a specific area and it is inexpensive.

The use of ivy becomes a deterrent when the ground cover begins to climb up from the ground cover to becomes an invasive vine. Ivy vines will climb



up trees, into bushes and tress. If left unchecked, the ivy will choke a tree and cause eventual death. Also if ivy climbs onto a structure it will also damage the brick, wood or any other building material.

It might seem overwhelming to control the ivy in your yard or other area, but there are many ways to effectively control ivy. If is climbing a tree, simply cut the ivy at the base, cover the ground around the base with a control cover, such as cardboard or landscape fabric and mulch. Normally this will be effective



for many years. A similar approach can be used if ivy is climbing up any structure.

Alternatively, I would be happy to help with any project, no cost, to abate any issues.

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Photo by Georgiana Penn

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Sunset Hills History Series: Part III

Country Houses And Model Homes

by Benjamin Briggs, Former Executive Director of Preservation Greensboro Incorporated

Sunset Hills features charming architecture, gracious yards, stream-side parklands, and shaded sidewalks that are collectively considered a treasure for Greensboro. As one of our state's great Jazz Age communities – and with designation on the National Register Historic District in Guilford County since 2013, Sunset Hills enjoys wide recognition. This is the third of a four-part series about the history of Sunset Hills written by Preservation Greensboro's Executive Director, Benjamin Briggs in celebration of the neighborhood's centennial!

Sunset Hills features an impressive collection of house designs that rivals period housing stock of any other North Carolina city. Nearly all housing in the neighborhood post-dates 1924 with the conspicuous exception of Edgewood, located at 111 Arden Place, predates the neighborhood around it. Constructed in 1912, it was the residence of Judge Thomas Jefferson Shaw, a barrister and jurist



Above: 111 Arden Place - built a dozen years before Sunset Hills was developed.

of statewide reputation. The house was built as a country home for Judge Shaw and his wife, Mary. It was likely designed by architect J. H. Hopkins with striking stone walls of granite and quartz. By 1924, the Sunset Hills neighborhood brought this rural respite into the suburbs.

Moore devised a scale of price points within Sunset Hills to

cater to a range of customers by promoting “the future center of Greensboro’s most alluring home life, whether it be a lived in mansion or bungalow.” Large lots on West Market Street accommodated grand commissions while smaller lots featuring modest houses were located in the southern blocks close to Walker Avenue.

Sunset Hills’ developer A. K. Moore pioneered the model home in Greensboro to promote property sales. His first model home was publicized

in 1921 under the name “Castle Charming” at 406 Woodlawn Avenue in the Westerwood neighborhood, and in December 1924, he opened the first Castle Charming in Sunset Hills at 1714 Madison Avenue. Area businesses who participated in the construction and staging of the

model homes received generous publicity in the local press.

Subsequent Castle Charming model homes included 2301 West Market (1925), Tarheel Bungalow (1925) at 203 South Tremont, 1707 Madison Avenue (1927) and 1704 West Market Street (1927), and 2201 West Market Street (1929). The Castle Charming series was promoted as a home educational exhibit for the latest



A. K. Moore



Above: 1714 Madison Avenue - the first “Castle Charming” in Sunset Hills

ideas in home design, and Moore created a Tar Heel Bungalow series that was furnished with products

months ago Sunset Hills consisted principally of fields and woods. The only "development" was the

Some commissions not associated with Lorenzo Winslow were also intended to exude prestige. In January 1926, A. K. Moore advertised an "English type stucco, on [110] Tremont Drive" as "one of the most charming of the Sunset Hills homes...". The advertisement continues "In keeping with the "Class" are the homes developed in Sunset Hills. Large or small, modest or elaborate. They carry, too, that stamp of distinction."

beginnings of street grading. Today there are long stretches of asphalt streets, sidewalks, parkways, and over 40 homes completed or in course of construction."



made by 50 North Carolina manufacturers. Moore estimated that thousands attended the opening of the showhouses each year.

With Moore's promotional prowess, Sunset Hills was met with enthusiasm and properties sold quickly. An article published in the Charlotte Observer in September 1925 stated "Fifteen



From top - clockwise:
1707 Madison Ave.; 110 S. Tremont Dr. ; 2201 West Market St.; 2301 West Market St.; 1704 West Market St.; 203 Tremont Dr.



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The Centennial Is Approaching

by Cindy Ramsey

During the last centennial meeting it was discussed to not add another event to the neighborhood calendar but instead to add a special component to each of the existing events to celebrate the centennial. We will also have a social media campaign and additions in the existing newsletter. Preservation Greensboro will have Sunset Hills host the tour of homes and gardens and provide an excellent resource for the history of the architecture we see in the neighborhood. Below I have listed thoughts for each of those categories. It would be wonderful if we could have folks pick an area or area they would like to help with and we can have targeting meetings for those specific projects.

Please take a look at the categories below. Let me know what interests you the most and we can have a subcommittee meeting to plan those specific parts.

Events:
 Ideas to have a banner or crafts at each event. How else can we celebrate the centennial at these events?
 March: Easter egg hunt
 April: Neighborhood Meeting
 May: Tour of Homes?, Pig Pickin, Yard Sale, Rock the Block



June: Rock the Block
 July: Rock the Block, maybe 4th of July
 August: Rock the Block
 October: Neighborhood Meeting, Boo on the Block
 November: Light the park, Making Ball Workshop
 December: ROTB
 Other events: Nature walks, park clean up days,

Social Media Campaign/newsletter:
 Storytelling: Asking neighbors: What does Sunset Hills mean to you?
 Then and now photos
 Throwback Thursday
 Written stories from neighbors who have lived in the neighborhood a long time.
 Recorded short videos of stories for social media posts
 Historical information about the neighborhood

Other ideas:
 Tshirt design (could also be used for banner or yard signs): we have two submissions from neighbors
 Make a time capsule
 How to include nearby businesses (centennial specials..?)
 How to include the farmers market?
 Pickleball demo at the tennis courts
 We would love as much neighbor participation as possible!

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A Fresh Summer Treat: Tomato and Corn Custard Pie

by Scott Michaels

I love fresh, summer tomatoes! However, I'm not a fan of traditional tomato pies with mayonnaise. (I know, this may get me run out of the neighborhood or, perhaps, the state.)

But...

A few years ago, I discovered this recipe on the Food Network website. It is not only one of my favorites but is also my most requested recipe and dish for summer get togethers. I've



shared it with a lot of people, but thought some others might enjoy it as well.

Please note: This can be made without the crust as a crustless pie. That's the way I and most other people seem to prefer it.

Ingredients:

- 1 round refrigerated pie dough (half of a 14-ounce package)
- 2 beefsteak tomatoes (about 12 ounces)
- Kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 ears of corn, kernels cut off (1 to 1 1/2 cups)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 6 scallions, chopped
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese (about 4 ounces)

- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- Pinch of cayenne pepper

Directions:

1. Position racks in the middle and upper third of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees F. Line a 9-inch pie plate with the dough, crimping the edge with your fingers. Poke the bottom of the crust all over with a fork. Line with foil and fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake on the middle rack until golden around the edge, about 20 minutes. Remove the foil and weights; continue baking until golden all over, about 10 more minutes. (Omit this step if you prefer to make it Crustless)
2. Meanwhile, core the tomatoes and cut into 1/2-inch wedges; toss with 1 1/2 teaspoons salt. Spread the tomatoes in a single layer on paper towels to drain until ready to use.
3. Melt 1 tablespoon butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add the corn and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 5 minutes. Transfer 1/2 cup of the corn to a large bowl.

4. Add the heavy cream to the saucepan with the remaining corn and bring to a simmer. Carefully transfer the mixture to a blender and puree until smooth; transfer to the bowl with the corn. Whisk in the eggs, half each of the scallions and cheese, and a few grinds of black pepper; pour into the crust. Bake on the middle rack until the custard is just set, 35 to 40 minutes. Remove from the oven and increase the temperature to 400 degrees F.

5. Mix the remaining scallions and cheese, the panko, thyme, paprika, cayenne and 1/4 teaspoon each salt and black pepper in a bowl. Sprinkle 1/4 cup of the mixture on top of the pie. Pat the tomato wedges with paper towels to absorb the excess moisture, then coat with the remaining panko mixture and arrange on top of the tart. Sprinkle any remaining panko on top; dot with the remaining 1 tablespoon butter. Return to the oven on the upper rack and bake until the top is golden, about 15 minutes. Let cool 30 minutes before slicing.

6. Enjoy! And here is a link to the recipe online: <https://www.food-network.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/tomato-and-corn-custard-pie-3362669>

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The Greensboro Ballet Nutcracker: A Greensboro Holiday Tradition

by Jennifer Jones

While holiday planning is probably not at the forefront of many minds, it is on the minds of many dancers as preparations for the iconic holiday classic “The Nutcracker” begin in the sweltering heat of August. Visions of dancing the role of Clara, a mouse, snowflake, or the Sugar Plum Fairy occupy the thoughts and dreams of ballerinas. For dancers and dance organizations, “The Nutcracker” is in itself a season. It provides incredible opportunities for ballerinas to have professional performance experiences and to bring the beauty and grace of ballet to the community.



mance where moms who at one time danced the role of Clara, the Snow Queen, or a mouse share with their children the memories of performing on the beautiful stage of the Caro-

Continuing the tradition again this year, the Greensboro Ballet will perform the holiday classic “The Nutcracker” at the Carolina Theater. The performances will be December 9 & 16 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm and December 10 & 17 at 3:00pm at the historic Carolina Theater. This holiday family event also includes a separate Tea with Clara that will be held December 9 at 12:45pm and December 10 at 1:45pm in the Renaissance Room at the Carolina Theater. This holiday season, the Tea with Clara event will include a brief backstage tour and guests will learn Clara's lullaby dance right on the Nutcracker stage! Tickets for both the Nutcracker and Tea with Clara are available through the Carolina Theatre Box Office. (336) 333-2605 and www.carolinatheatre.com



reensboro Ballet, one of the only non-profit ballet schools in Greensboro, has brought “The Nutcracker” to audiences for almost 60 years. It is this performance that brings out little girls in bows and their best holiday dresses to watch in awe as dancers swirl on their toes. It is this perfor-

lina Theater. It is this performance where families watch their child, their friends, their grandchildren delight in bringing this story to life. It is this performance that is Greensboro Ballet’s Nutcracker.

Please come out and support your local arts organizations this holiday season!

The Guilford Courthouse Fife And Drum

by Sam "Chip" Cook

Since I was a teenager, I have played saxophone in community concert bands in Greensboro as well as Forsyth County. But a few years ago, a different type of ensemble caught my eye (and ear). Visiting Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, I heard the piercing sounds of the fife and drum, and I was hooked. I soon found myself learning how to blow on a fife and wearing 250-year-old styled clothing!

Our local area fife and drum corps ensemble, the Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum, started over twenty-five

years ago, and is just one of two fife and drum corps in North Carolina (the other at Tryon Palace in New Bern). It was founded



by Sunset Hills resident Steve Ware during Steve's tenure as a National Park Service Ranger at nearby Guilford Courthouse National

sometimes bass rope drums. These ensembles originated from a type of military field music going back to the 18th century and before, with fifes and drums assigned to every infantry (foot soldier) company unit in an army. Musicians were an important part of the 18th-century military. Fifes and drums played from sunrise to sunset and served as a primary mode of communication from commander to his troops during daily service and



Military Park.

What is a fife and drum corps? Historically, a fife and drum corps served as a musical ensemble consisting of, well, wooden fifes and snare and



battles. The sharp sound of the fife and the deeper, resonant tone of the rope drum provided a very loud

sound for all to hear in camp and on the battlefield during that time.

Today in the United States, fife and drum corps are found predominantly in the New England and Middle states on the east coast, with a few corps in Virginia and North Carolina, and a few other states. These are often community bands that are organized as nonprofits, volunteering for performances, and even as paid performers. Sometimes the mission of the ensemble is on a historical focus, like the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums. And in other examples, it could be a local fire or police department themed fife and drum ensemble,

forms with blue coats and red trim, or rather, red coats and blue trim, for musicians.

Historically, this allowed commanders on the battlefield to quickly identify their musicians, as music was the battlefield radio of that time, used not only for in camp calls like reveille or taps, but also to arms, cease fire, retreat, direct-



In today's fife and drum corps there is no danger of the battlefield, just lots of fun performing for audiences! There are also alternative uniforms consisting of hunting frocks, as well as waistcoats or vests (especially during warmer weather). Who joins a fife and drum corps? All walks of life, young and older. Sometimes a corps will offer a group for tweens and teens, and then an *continued on page 20*

playing more modern arrangements of popular music for parades during Memorial Day, St. Patrick's Day, and other events in their communities.

In the United States military, the US Army 3rd Infantry Regiment, also known as "The Old Guard," is assigned the Army's remaining fife and drum corps unit, which includes fifes, drums, and valved bugles. This unit wears the 18th century period US Continental Army musician uniform, which includes a red coat. Red coats, was that not the uniform of the British Army? In the 18th century, musicians typically wore the reverse colors of the infantry units to which they were assigned. And these uniforms typically followed the inverse of the Continental Army soldier uni-

ing column movements, and other calls during the battle. Musicians were the radio operators on the field of battle, and their instruments the communication technology of that time. This is the core concept of a fife and drum and why it is traditionally called field music.



Reusable Plates at the Toddler Party

A (Not So) Radical Act Of Parental Environmentalism

by Lauren Turner

At 11:47 p.m. on a Sunday night in early June, worn down by the endless parent-work-parent cycle and desperate to inject some joy into our family life, I booked a stale-looking two bedroom Vrbo at the closest beach with a workable vacancy. Three days later, my partner and I packed up the kids and set off to Surf City, N.C. to exhaust ourselves with the usual chores of parenting, but at the beach. No surprise, it was not the perfect vacation. But it was one of the best (and also one of the only) trips we've had since becoming a family of four and it's a memory I'll hold close forever. There were still tantrums and protests against the hourly reapplication of sunscreen, but, in spite of it all, we had actual fun.

Although the setting was lovely, sitting on the deck in the evening (exhausted, yes, but beach exhausted), I couldn't ignore the many abandoned development projects along the oceanfront. Block after block, were half-built houses with rusty For Sale signs stuck in the nearby sand. Some cursory internet research confirmed what we'd suspected: oceanfront development in the area has essentially stopped altogether given that some areas of the coastline are expected to be mostly underwater in the next 20 years.



I consider myself to be an environmentally aware person, so this particular prediction should not have been shocking to me. But, it was. Comprehending that the land beneath us at that moment would be underwater in 20 years gutted me in a way that no other dismal climate-related projections have. I immediately thought of my son, who is too young to remember this trip. In 20 years he will be 22, and when we look back at photos of him and his sister conked out in their jammies on a lime green bunk bed in our beach rental, I will tell him that the house where we slept that summer was washed away. I felt sick. Then I felt sad. Anger followed sadness, and then I decided to start making different choices. Not, "paper over plastic" kind of choices but the kind of choices that make me a little

bit uncomfortable. I immediately felt relieved and a little excited ("Yay! I'm doing a thing!").

On our drive home, my excitement turned to overwhelm as I began to plan my daughter's upcoming birthday party. Performing socially acceptable acts of everyday environmentalism is easy — I take reusable bags to the supermarket (when I remember), I smugly decline reusable straws, and do all the other things that are expected of a person of my demographic. But, planning a low(er) waste toddler party? This was going to be actual work. It was going to be inconvenient, socially risky, and it was going to challenge my aesthetic sensibilities.

After feeling my feelings for a mo-

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ment, I shook it off and established a set of principles to guide my planning: 1) Buy as little as possible (e.g., borrow from others, use what I already have), 2) Anything bought should be completely recyclable or reusable, 3) Avoid the typical superfluous toddler party stuff (e.g., no gifts, no goodie

bags, no excessive decor). With my principles set, I determined that, apart from food and drink, the only purchases I needed to make were for serving: plates, cups, and napkins. So, I scoured the Internet for suitable options. Bamboo plates were out (not cute enough and their reusability is questionable). Clear plastic cups were out (not recyclable, despite some claims to the contrary, and too easy to break). All actually recyclable cups were way too big for tiny toddler hands, so those wouldn't work either,

own, that felt like too big of a risk at this stage in my journey. So, I settled on the only FSC Certified, plastic packaging-free disposable napkins the Internet had in stock. There was a single pattern available: Frida Khalo (perfect!).

The morning of the party, I felt anxious. Will people think I'm overdoing it? "Who buys reusable plates for a TODDLER party?" Will I seem like a careless out-of-touch parent? "Frida Khalo napkins? What's wrong with Baby Shark?" Should I apologize for my low(er) waste approach in a casual self-deprecating way or pretend it was an accident? "I swear I bought disposable Elsa plates, but then these darn things showed up!" In the end, I said nothing and everything was fine. A few comments were made about the cups and plates, but all neutral to positive. Was it inconvenient? Yes, slightly. More than once I found myself in the kitchen washing an abandoned plate or cup, so that

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Editor's Note: Images of plates and cups may or may not be the actual items mentioned in this article

Long story short: I bought a set of 24 colorful melamine plates with timeless patterns and an almost matching set of small, BPA-free reusable plastic cups. They are our forever party cups and plates. We'll be eating and drinking from those suckers at parties until my kids graduate high school. Although I was this close to using the drawer full of mis-matched cloth napkins I already



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The Summer of Zelda

by Michael Driver

It's 2018. I'm standing outside of the Sanctum with my sword drawn. I have upgraded my armor as far as it can go. I've loaded up on health and I have the strongest weapons that I can get. I cannot be any more prepared than I am. I'm ready.

And yet I'm not.

I've come so far in this game, hours and hours, but I don't want to finish the final boss off because I know that once I do, the game will end. The summer of Zelda will be over.

Last Christmas my daughter had asked for a Nintendo switch and you know being the good dad I am I made sure that I told Santa. She may or may not have still believed in Santa at the time- she said she did but I'm pretty sure her friends had already clued her in. She may have been humoring me- in our house, the oft repeated phrase was "If you don't believe you don't receive." So she told us she did but you know she probably didn't. Quite honestly I didn't want her to find out the big secret because I didn't want her to lose that part of her childhood yet. So we believed her when she said she believed and we kept up the pretense on our end just in case. And though I got a good deal on a Switch the look on her face on Christmas Day was worth paying full price.

Of course Santa forgot to include new games so the next few weeks were spent looking for cheap ones because Santa's a tightwad. Let's face it- these games are not cheap! So we found a pretty good used copy of Mario Kart and we bonded over it. All of her friends had played the old one for the Wii U which was now relegated

to the basement. And then I found a super good deal on the Legend of Zelda- Breath of the Wild, the latest in an ever-growing list of fantastic versions Nintendo puts out with each console release. I told her it was for her but she and I knew it was really for me.

I just wasn't a big sports guy. I mean I ran cross country for a bit but I've never really been interested. Participating, watching, any of it. My brother he can back me up this- he'll tell you the story of how I refused to come out and join his pickup baseball game because I wanted to stay inside and read a copy of the Constitution that I picked up. Big fight and I yelled that one day he'd wish he had read about the Constitution. That day has yet to come. However, one Christmas my father, who loved gadgets, got us an Atari 2600, and Bro and I bonded over that and thus began my lifelong love of video games. My father didn't give me a lot- his stubbornness and his desire to fix things, however, were passed on to me. Puzzles and games fit right into that. Hence, video games.

It seemed my daughter had received some of the same Nerd genes from me- she did play field hockey and soccer a bit but was more interested in reading Harry Potter and such. So this is where we bonded- Geekdom. Don't think I was one of those dads who had nothing in common with his daughter. I have taught her many of the things I think are important, girly or not. And since I wasn't busy watching football while she was out doing ballet or something

super girly- we both sit squarely in the Middle Ground between male and female. She leans toward Anime which I don't but we have many geeky things in common. Nerd is no longer male or female, masculine or Feminine. This is why it Geek Culture seems to be growing in popularity- it seems to lie beside the extremes of Jock male vs. girly female. The world needs more middle grounds. And I don't mean to sound sexist but if I was incredibly sportsy and my daughter was incredibly girly we have very little middle ground and I never wanted to be THAT father.

So I got that super cheap copy of Zelda and started playing it- it was more for myself, I guess, as I wasn't quite sure if she was even interested in it or not. She had mentioned it a few times. And she knew I loved it- they even got me a t shirt for father's day with the Zelda Tri-Force Logo on it that I still wear proudly. I told her she was welcome to play it anytime she

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The Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum

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ensemble for adults. And everything in between.

The Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum is an all-volunteer ensemble for ages fifteen and up, performing at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park for several events during the year, as well as throughout Guilford County and beyond. Some notable events include the annual battle-ground anniversary (around March 15), Memorial Day, Independence Day, and General Nathanael Greene's birthday (August 7). Guilford County and the surrounding area is steeped in American Colonial and Revolutionary War history, and it is a very special feeling to perform in this musical tradition with this area connection.

If you are interested in historical cosplay honoring Colonial American history that provides a musical creative outlet, the Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum may be an opportunity for you or one of your family members, or both. Learning the fife or drum as a second instrument (or first) could be an exciting endeavor.

If you are interested, you should be at least 15 years of age and be able to attend regular practices. The ability to read music is highly recommended for musicians; learning the fife or drum as a second instrument is always acceptable. You must be able to commit to attending the events and performances. Most importantly, you must be ready to have fun traveling and performing with the Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum.

The members of the Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum are ready to help teach new members (two of our members are full-time band teachers). If you are interested in joining the Guilford Courthouse Fife and Drum, please contact Michael Nelson at me_nelson@yahoo.com or Chip Cook at chip.cook@gmail.com

The Summer of Zelda

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wanted, so she picked up the controller one day after hearing about it from her friends, and started playing her own game. And got hooked. She soon surpassed my progress, opening more worlds and completing more puzzles, doing so much more than I did- I had a job, after all, and it was summer for her so she had plenty of time. The Summer of Zelda began for her- when she wasn't outside, or at the pool, or doing daycamps, or have fun with her friends, she'd play some Zelda. And when she wasn't playing, in the evenings after she had gone to bed and the wife was watching TV, so would I.

We bonded over it. My child and I do things all the time- We talk about stuff, I talk about her friends and ask questions about her day. I don't want to be that Dad who is distant or separated from his kid. We went to the beach and we run around and do stuff all summer and try to ask her about her life while doing other stuff. And while doing that, I would ask her how to do this thing or mention that I got this shield or you went to this place before me, etc. She got the Master Sword before I did, And she gave me details on how I can get it. I would give her hints on how to complete a certain Quest Or get a certain weapon back and forth. At the beach or the pool or in the car when we were together we would talk about Zelda

Reaching the end of the game and the end of the summer. And I didn't want either to end. Not just the game- the game is great. It's probably one of the best versions of The Legend of Zelda I have ever played, and it's been amazing to play. I didn't want to finish it. But what I really didn't want to end was us.

She was in the in-between, after 6th grade with 7th grade looming on the horizon like a storm. I remember 6th grade, when I discovered Stephen King and Edgar Allen Poe and Walt Whitman, and I started my decline into "depravity," sneaking movies like

Alien and playing video games. But it was 6th grade when I discovered girls and I had my first "girlfriend." So I knew this was it- the transition from 6th to 7th grade will be a huge one, when she officially becomes a woman, and then she may become that distant, sullen teenager that I was, and it may take a much more concerted effort to reach her, more work than I have been putting in, in order to stay close to her. So right then, I didn't want it to end. I wanted to keep The Summer of Zelda going as long as I could. Because this could be it. By the next Christmas, she'll will have given up on Santa and she won't care about the Easter bunny or any of that kid stuff. The time is coming that magic may no longer exist in her life. That's what I really didn't want to end. The Summer of Zelda was more

than just a game- it was the end of youth, and selfishly it was about her believing in me, super dad, in my "infallibility" and by next summer, what will happen then? The days of me kissing a boo boo to make it go away are gone. Band aids and smooches won't fix everything. What comes next? Can we keep playing or will we have to change games completely, find something new, some new way to relate. Or maybe she will turn into her own person, and with that will become someone separate from me.

Maybe we will look back on the Summer of Zelda as the turning point, as that time she left behind childhood and started becoming a young woman. I hope that I am still part of what she becomes, and that there is still magic in her life.

Michael is an almost 20 year resident of SH who runs, watches movies, plays video games, reads books, hangs out with his family, and sometimes sells houses with RE/MAX of Greensboro.



Centennial Celebration Scanning Project

By David Hammer, Neighborhood Watch

With the Sunset Hills Centennial coming up soon in 2024, we are planning a fun project to honor and preserve our history.

regarding a particular home, or could also include videos of interviews with some of our long-term residents (more on this one later) or with any individual who would like to

about particular people/homes over the years – this is going to be an opportunity to save and catalog a portion of that history.

Here is how it will work: On a couple of dates later this year or in early 2024, we will hold “scan-a-thons,” where we will provide scanning services for any SH resident (or former resident) who would like to bring documents,



We will provide more information soon regarding times/ places/etc. for the scanning, but this is a “heads-up” to be on the lookout for any materials you may have that you would like to include. Old photographs (maybe some “before and afters”), documents related to your home, articles from magazines or other sources that reference



your home, and any other historical documents that are linked to the SH neighborhood, would all be perfect for this. I would especially

share some thoughts related to the history of the neighborhood.

Here is a link to the UNCG Gateway Project site – you can see several examples of what other groups have contributed:

<https://gateway.uncg.edu/home>

photos, or videos related to the history of their home. We are working with the staffs at Preservation Greensboro and at UNCG who have agreed to assist with the project and provide the storage for all of the materials in a central place that can be accessed at any time by any interested party. The UNCG staff have also volunteered to help us organize and curate the materials to make them easy to find in the future.



If you have any suggestions or ideas regarding the project, please let me know – my contact information is below.

Again, we will provide more details as we get closer, but now is the time to start looking for anything you would

like to find the SH residents with the longest tenure and set up a time to do a brief interview with them.

like to include.

In addition to documents, we can also accept video material – this might include some video footage

Teri and I have lived in SH for almost 35 years, and now Tyson (our daughter) and Jace Strandberg live here as well. We have heard a lot of stories

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Reusable Plates at the Toddler Party

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there were enough clean ones to go around. But, honestly, as an introvert, I kind of enjoyed the break.

If you're thinking, "So she bought some reusable cups and plates for a birthday party. What's the big deal?" Or worse yet, "Actually Lauren, for as long as melamine stays in a landfill, you'd have been better off buying plastic or maybe even styrofoam," then you, friend, have missed the point of this hastily written essay. The point isn't that reusable cups and plates are the most environmentally sound option. Certainly, not having a party at all (or not having children at all) would've been more environmentally sound.

The point is that I interrupted my instinct to buy all new things, prioritize convenience, and make decisions dictated by what other parents would think of me. I chose not to buy into the narrative that as a busy mom, I should "reclaim my time" by buying all disposables. To be sure, I'm as busy as any other modern parent and my time is precious. But, the sick feeling I had sitting on the deck in Surf City, made me realize that there are things way more precious than the 60 minutes I spent washing some reusable cups and plates.

Do I think that my individual act of (not so) radical parental environmentalism means much in isolation? Nope. But, I do think it was a critical first step for me in doing it all differently. And, I think that if I keep doing it all differently -- especially if we all start to do it differently -- chances are better that when my son is 22 we can visit the place where he first played in the ocean, and the stale house with the lime green bunk bed will still be standing. As for the next time you host a toddler party, you get to choose how you serve your cake. I hope you'll consider borrowing my 24 colorful melamine plates with timeless patterns and an almost matching set of small, BPA-free reusable plastic cups.



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Sign up for a reminder when registration opens on 9/1/23 on our swanky new website by clicking below:

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