

Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods



Sunset Hills Newsletter | December, 2023

***Happy
Holidays!***



***From Your Sunset
Hills Board***

What's Inside:

- *The new Sunset Hills Centennial logo - page 5*
- *The final installment of the history of Sunset Hills - page 6*
- *What's an ADU and is it right for you - page 10*
- *A new feature on your neighbors' good deeds - page 11*
- *A unique look at your skin through the words of a hilarious song - page 14*
- *An update from Abe Kaplan - Paralympic fencer - 17*
- *Historic Homes Tour coming to Sunset Hills - page 22*
- *And a very interesting interview with the big man himself - Santa paid Sunset Hills an early visit - page 28*

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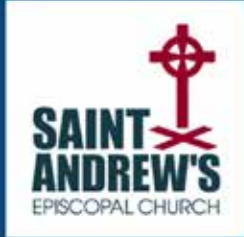
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A Note From Your Treasurer

by Elaine Brune

Now taking **Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association**

Dues for the calendar year 2024. Dues are \$10 per house.

Make checks payable to **Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association (SHNA)** and drop off in the red postal box on my porch or drop in the door slot of my home at 2504 Sylvan Road. Payments via PayPal are available through the website: <https://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org/duesanddonations>.

Please make sure to include the names as you want it to appear in the newsletter and the address.



Just \$10 gets you events and activities in the neighborhood (such as the Halloween party, Pig Pickin, Rock the Block

and Tree Reforestation project) Plus you can list items or notices on our ListServ.

Questions? Email me at sunset-hillsgsonc@gmail.com

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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

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Sunrays and Sunrooms: The Sunset Hills Centennial Logo

by Alec & Swati Pollack

We know you've seen them, the arched sunset-shaped windows populating the homes of Sunset Hills, little suns

perched atop enclosed porches providing not just sunshine but uninterrupted character to our beautiful and historic neighborhood.

We – Alec and Swati – live in a house built in 1927 featuring a south-facing sunroom wrapped with no less than four sunset windows. In the 1980s, former owners loved them so much they salvaged some (likely from a neighboring home renovation project) and retrofitted them to the façade of our little cottage nestled behind our house.

Swati grew up in Greensboro in the 1980s and 1990s near Guilford College and vividly remembers driving with friends and family through Sunset Hills admiring the diversity of iconic home styles with names like Tudors, Colonials, Capes, Greek Revivals and Craftsmen.

Soon after graduating from Carolina, Swati moved to New York City and a decade later, Swati and Alec met. In no time, they headed down to Greensboro to meet Swati's parents and for the next 15 years they made countless visits to Greensboro to see family and

childhood friends. Greensboro easily made an impression on Alec with its rich civil rights history, verdant trails, spring blossoms and architectural delights.



Fast forward to height-of-the-pandemic July 2020: We meet our now pal Melissa Greer, who immediately gets us, two haggard NYC transplants desperately in need of a residential respite from a city ravaged by COVID-19. We make a few requests: a historic house, a nearby park and walking distances from restaurants and a coffee shop. She tells us: "I have a house you gotta see." We walk into N Chapman and stand together in the sunroom, bathed by its warm and glowing light. By midnight, Melissa has us in contract.

It's Alec who notices one day that the arched windows resemble a sun setting into a hill. With wooden grills fanning out like rays from a semicircular sun, what else could

these arched windows be but the architectural namesake of our beloved neighborhood?

Some months later, a neighbor posts to our busy listserv a call for entries for a Sunset Hills Centennial logo. Within a day or two, life-long advertising creative Alec drafts a design that tells a story of architectural identity and a setting sun.

As you likely know, Sunset Hills will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2024, and it's an honor to commemorate with this logo the next century of Sunset Hills. It isn't lost on us that 100 years ago no one would have sold a house here to this Jewish-Italian gentleman and his East Indian wife.

Thankfully the world has changed along with Sunset Hills. Our community opens its arms to everyone by shining the light on hunger, filling food pantries, hosting block parties and welcoming all to the magical spectacle of our sparkling balls during the holiday season.

There's no doubt the next century of our neighborhood's residents will better reflect the diversity of the homes that define its parameters. May this logo become a symbol of pride and unity for the generous spirit of our residents, as we look back on our history and look forward to our future, far brighter than the setting sun.

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Sunset Hills History Series: Part IV

The Sociology of Sunset Hills

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 fourth 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!

Sales and uses of properties in Sunset Hills were restricted by the developer, A. K. Moore.

In the United States, deed restrictions have long been a popular tool used by developers to enhance or control the character and appearance of real estate developments. In the years before municipal zoning laws were established, developers utilized property restrictions to govern property use, building setbacks, and sometimes affected the value and appearance of structures built in their subdivisions.

In Westerwood, for example, Moore prescribed the setback of structures from the street, placement of garages, and disallowed use of property in

the neighborhood for business, manufacturing, or commercial purposes. These controls kept a uniform appearance in the neighborhood that resulted in wide grassy lawns and suburban character.



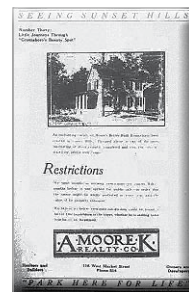
A. K. Moore

routinely added ethnic, religious, and cultural restrictions to deeds. Racial deed restrictions became common after 1926 when the U.S. Supreme Court validated their use. The restrictions were an enforceable contract and an owner who vio-

lated them risked forfeiting the property. Many neighborhood restrictions prohibited the sale or rental of property by Asian Americans, Blacks, and Jewish citizens.

Although the Supreme Court ruled the covenants unenforceable in 1948 and although the passage of the 1968 Fair Housing Act outlawed them, the

offensive language remains in deeds of the era.



Above: Newspaper ad for Sunset Hills showing Restrictions

In the case of Sunset Hills, all restrictions instigated by Moore expired after a period of twenty-five years, by which time the City

of Greensboro had developed a code of building setbacks and zoning-use restrictions that replaced the original aesthetic and functional restrictions. Socially, the neighborhood grew

more diverse as Greensboro evolved into a larger and more cosmopolitan city.

The Austrian-born entrepreneur Abraham Kriegsman and his



Above: 413 South Chapman St. - former home of Abraham & Freida Kriegsman.

Right: 106 Arden Place - former home of Jennie Lu & Guy Laughon with its green Ludowici tile roof.



Below: 103 West Greenway Dr. North - former home of Charles Wharton Edwards and servant Emma Green.



Kenneth. They were members of Temple Emanuel and owned Kriegsman Furriers with Abraham's brother, Max. lived in the concrete block Cape Cod house built around 1940 at 413 South

Chapman Street.

The Georgian Revival brick house with a green

property in 1928. The couple apparently lost the house in the Great Depression after which the property passed through ownership of Reba and Benjamin Marks and Otto Zenke before being acquired by D. W. Hanson. Hanson is an adopted American name for Der Jin Wing and Lee Mieh Sing Wing who were of Chinese ancestry. The couple owned White Star laundry and owned the house beginning in 1969.

Charles Wharton Edwards, president of the Gate City Motor Company, built the imposing Neoclassical Revival-style house overlooking the Sunset Hills Park in 1926. Edwards founded Gate City Motor Company in 1914. Emma Green, a young widow of African-American descent, lived with the family, perhaps in the first floor bedroom of the house or in a suite in the carriage house, from which she managed domestic activities for the family. Mrs. Green exemplifies an exception in Sunset Hills deed restrictions that stated "No persons of negro descent shall own said lot or shall

wife Frieda represent the diversity of faiths in Sunset Hills. The couple immigrated to the United States in 1925 with their son,

Ludowici tile roof at 106 Arden Place in Sunset Hills was likely constructed for Jennie Lu and Guy Laughon, who acquired the

occupy said lot except as domestic servants in the employ of the occupant of the lot."

___ sh ___

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The Sunset Hills Garden Club, Nurturing Nature

by Greyson Kuhn

The Sunset Hills Garden Club (SHGC), founded in 1930, is one of Greensboro's oldest guardians of our city's natural beauty. Vitally active today with its 22 neighborhood members, SHGC focuses on sharing an interest in gardening and landscaping, while aiding in the preservation and maintenance of our neighborhood's natural habitat.

The club officially meets September through May. According to President Sue Riley, "We meet monthly to learn from expert guest speakers, to share our love of gardening, to exchange ideas, inspiration and plants, and to express our commitment to our neighborhood by helping maintain sections of the park."

Because Sunset Hills Park, bookended north to south by Friendly Avenue and Berkeley Place, is arguably the neighborhood's most prominent feature, this is where the club's efforts are most appreciated. SHGC tends various landscaping and gardening projects throughout the park. It also partners with Greensboro Beautiful and the city's Parks and Recreation Department to maintain their improvements. Last year, SHGC donated \$200 to the Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs Committee (SHEA) to aid in its implementation and oversight of

the massive removal of invasive, non-native plants from the park. This project was a great success for SHEA, and the garden club hopes to work more closely with them on future endeavors.



Above: Michiko and Paula

Recent and ongoing SHGC park projects include: planting 3 groupings of 3 or more native dogwood trees in various locations; trimming specified shrubs; planting other groupings of native azaleas, oakleaf hydrangeas and rhododendrons, as well as hyssop and Joe Pye weed (butterfly attractors!) at corners of the park. The club also plans to replace high-maintenance, non-native plants with native

Black-eyed Susans, ferns, and additional hyssop at the Sunset Hills sign gardens. Club members also circulated a neighborhood petition, which received 50 signatures, to add daffodils to

the spring bloom. Approximately 800-1,000 bulbs have been donated for the area near the playground on E. Greenway and Berkeley Place for neighborhood volunteers to plant. The club also takes responsibility for upkeep of the neighborhood signs and Little Free Library located at the playground by Friendly. Teri Hammer, Committee Chair for the park projects, says, "It's a pleasure to work with all the members of our club! Together, we're able to creatively beautify our gardens, and, I hope, inspire others. We take pride in doing our part for Sunset Hills."

Since 1930 the club, like our neighborhood, has evolved. Today's meetings forgo the formality of fine china, crystal and silver and rigorous membership application forms. Instead, the monthly gatherings include casual fare. Membership acceptance is based on a commitment to consistent participation and an enthusiasm to nurture our neighborhood's natural abundance. If that's you, and you're interested in learning more about joining the SHGC, contact Sue Riley at rileysmr@aol.com.

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Accessory Dwelling Units: Is This A Smart Option For You?

by Leslie Stainback

Maybe you're in the market for a home and can't find the right one that fits your budget. Or perhaps you're already a homeowner in need of extra income or a place for loved ones. Whether you are a potential homebuyer or a homeowner with changing needs, looking at accessory dwelling units, or ADUs for short, may be a great way for you to reach your goals.

What exactly is an ADU?

According to AARP, "an ADU is a small residence that shares a single-family lot with a larger, primary dwelling." They are their own contained space—complete with living, kitchen, bathroom and sleeping area. They can be part of a main residence, or be detached but on the property. An ADU can be created out of an existing structure (such as a garage) or built anew.

The Benefits of Having an ADU

They are are some key benefits to having an ADU on your property.

- *Close by, But Still Separate:* Privacy is maintained while remaining in close proximity. Accord-ing to Freddie Mac: "Having an accessory dwelling unit on an existing property has become a popular way for homeowners to offer independent living space to family members."
- *Aging in Place:* Similarly, ADUs allow older people both

independence and support from loved ones as they age. Having a classic "mother-in-law" suite is the perfect example and can be added or built.



ADUs can be basic or elaborate and come in a variety of shapes and sizes.



- *Affordable To Build:* Typically on the smaller side, ADU's are less expensive to build than larger, standalone homes and building one can also increase your property value.

- *Additional Income:* An ADU can generate rental income to use toward your own mortgage payments.

Bottom Line ADU's have become an impactful facet of the housing market and can be very appealing to buyers. It's worth noting that in NC because

an ADU exists on a single-family lot as a secondary dwelling, it typically cannot be sold separately from the primary residence. Keep in mind, regulations vary based on where you live, so lean on a local real estate

professional for more information if you are looking for a home with an ADU or thinking about adding one to your existing home.

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Great Neighbors Do Make Great Neighborhoods!

by Carl Phillips

This is the first in what we hope will be a regular feature of the Sunset Hills Newsletter. All of you are invited to submit your stories and showcase how your neighbors have helped out and really made a difference.

Nothing like a little get-away time to rejuvenate before the challenges of the holiday season. I had a business trip scheduled to Colorado Springs so Helen and I decided to turn it into a mini get-away. We stayed a few extra days to explore the area, then head south in time to see the Albuquerque Balloon Festival. It was something Helen and I wanted to do for several years.

Thanks to the perfect weather and the incredible scenery, our



one, adjacent to the old one, then moving the power lines. Unfortunately the new one would be located in the middle of our flower bed. At the time Carole was trying to reach us we were driving from Colorado Springs

time away couldn't have been more perfect, until we received a text, FaceBook Message and phone call from our neighbor Carole Potter. Carole was reaching out, using every form of communication she could, to let us know the power company decided to replace a power pole on our property line. Replacing the pole meant installing a new

to Albuquerque and didn't receive / respond to Carole's text or FB message. Carole decided to reach out by phone to let us know what was happening. At that point Carole and Chip had already taken action by stopping the workers so Carole and Chip could dig up our plants before the workers destroyed them. They also kept the plants watered so that when we returned they could thrive in their new location.

Carole and Chip are just one of the many examples of Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods. I hope this article sparks interest in other Sunset Hills neighbors sharing great neighbor stories.

_____ sh _____

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What I Do When There's Nothing I Can Do.

by Lauren Turner



On a Monday morning in October, I am sipping coffee while my toddlers nibble lightly toasted English muffins at our dining table in our safe, quiet home. Far away, in a place we call the Middle East, too many mothers have spent too many mornings swaddling corpses of their young beloveds. I am not unaware of their pain, but I have no space for it right now.

I do daycare drop-off and my day picks up its usual pace. I meet deadlines, deliver deliverables, and transfer laundry from washer to dryer between calls. I serve dinner on the dark pink plate, with the dark pink cup, but I forget to cut the bread “like this,” so it is fed to the dog. Tantrums turn to giggles in a shallow, lukewarm bath. And later, after I’ve closed

the last storybook and delicately denied the fifth request for “one more sip of water,” I turn to face my heart and find that it is broken and full of rage.

What do I do? I do what I always do these days when big things are happening (or when I’m bored, lonely, etc.): I reach for social media. I click through Sensitive Content warnings to watch video after video of fathers on their knees praying forcefully to an unfamiliar God in a language I can’t understand. I hear mothers wail in agony.

Those who aren’t reposting footage of death and mourning are posting self-oriented monologues. Real activists, arm-chair activists, long distance friends and neighbors all cast blame in different directions, demand condemna-

tion, and shame anyone who isn’t firmly, and vocally, on their side of the issue. Corporations, celebrities, and influencers make carefully prepared statements that land the wrong way — their tone of genuine concern is a veil too thin to conceal their underlying goal of brand preservation. Everyone is trying too hard, and everyone is getting it wrong. I scroll on.

Beyond these righteous performances are the folks who are up to business as usual. Women apply makeup in front of their phone cameras like mirrors, narrating every step of the application process while they inform me that, at my age, cream-based makeup is the only way to go (it hydrates!). I also learn that there are more than four different ways to tuck my freaking t-shirt into my jeans.

Ten minutes, an hour, an eternity later (I lost track), I am devastated, activated, and exhausted. I'm judging everyone for caring too much, not caring enough, or caring about the wrong thing. My heart is still broken, still full of rage, and I feel more alone than ever.

What do I do? Desperate to feel a different way, I step outside of myself and approach my pain and feelings of helplessness in the same way that I approach challenges when working with my clients. I call on my training and experience in conflict resolution, mediation, negotiation, and leadership and organizational development. I let go of the desire to fix my feelings, fix other people, or fix the problem, because I can't. Instead, I focus on moving through my feelings and working with the problem. After a few weeks (and many Instagram relapses), I draft a scrappy list of what I can do when there's nothing I can do. Here goes:

Seek genuine connection. It is both very sound advice and also completely unhelpful to tell folks not to engage in social media in times of crisis. I'm fully ashamed to admit how much of a role social media plays in my life. And also, it is both too much and not enough in times of collective anguish. Instagram rabbit holes keep me stuck in an exhausting loop of despair and judgment that's tough to break. Recently, a friend sent out a message to our group chat that said something like, "Everything is too much right now. Does anyone want to connect in person to create community around everything that's going on?" It was a proactive and somewhat vulnerable offer, and folks took her up on it. Honestly, just receiving the bid for genuine connection gave me a sense of peace. Social media has its place, and so does corporeal connection.

Hold contradictions. While for me it is not a contradiction to say

that the murders of Israelis and Palestinians by Hamas and Israel are both horrific and condemnable, I understand very well that a lot of folks have a hard time allowing both of those things to be true (for good reason). Whenever I have trouble holding contradictions, I try to remember to ask myself what I have to lose by allowing both things to be true. Here is an example of two truths that I regularly struggle with: as a white woman in the world I am an oppressor and I have also been (am still) oppressed. (More on this tricky bit below).

Get out of judgment. When I start to feel judgmenty, which happens almost hourly, I remind myself



how much extra energy I would have if I let myself and others off the hook for all the ways we are getting it wrong. Maybe the woman trying on outfits for Instagram wiped away her tears for Israel and Palestine just before she hit "record" on her phone because she's hooked into capitalism like the rest of us and she's got bills to pay and mouths to feed. Or, maybe she genuinely thinks it's sad that people are dying, but doesn't know how to help because atrocities like this are always far enough away that she can pretty safely ignore them. What kind of inspired action could I take, if, instead of just hate-scrolling, I assumed these more generous interpreta-

tions about her, and folks like her in my community, to be true?

Use my privilege. I, along with the people I love most, am fed and safe. I have resources. I am part of the dominant culture in my country and in our neighborhood. In short: I have powerful privilege. (I spent a fair amount of time denying that privilege, until I started to practice holding the truth that I am both oppressor and oppressed. See "Hold Contradictions" above.) I constantly have to remind myself, especially in times of despair, that, as long as I have it, I might as well try to use my privilege in the small ways I can to make the human experience safer for all of us. I can do this by

trying to normalize non-dominant culture within my community through curiosity and bids for connection that start productive conversations. Like, for example, this essay.

None of this is easy. I struggle daily. And frankly, approaching big issues and big feelings this way feels unsatisfying -- like, it isn't enough, or it doesn't matter. While I don't have the truth about what to do, I firmly believe that tapping into the practices above does a lot more for myself, my family, our community, and, yes, Israelis and Palestinians, than scrolling on social media (I still do that too).

_____ sh _____

Musical Bookends

by Brad Reaves

My teaching life gives me inspiring musical diversity. My youngest student is 5. When asked if a student is too young my response is “I’ll give anyone a chance”. Another youngster, a red haired 6 year old, came with his ukulele for a lesson without his middle school big brother. Big brother started with me in the 2nd grade when the younger brother was a toddler playing with our grandkid’s Thomas Trains in my downstairs den. These days big brother rocks acoustic fingerstyle, electric leads, bass and passionate vocals with a settled in vocal maturity.

My 81 year old vocal student has graced my music studio door for 15 + years. He recently arrived a little late due to a Dermatologist visit with a song on his breath saying I want to write, then, record this. He looked like Edward Scissorhands had given him a shave.

***I went to the Dr to check on my skin, he sang
She told me boy I can’t believe the shape that you’re in
I’m gonna start freezing and scraping today
I cried Doctor please don’t do me this way
Doctor, Doctor tell me what can I do
She said you’ll have to learn to sing the dermatology blues***

I like it, let’s flesh it out - both of us knowing puns and wordplay are part of the song writing game. My student, a walking Doo Wop encyclopedia had a call and response chorus. (Doo wop, pre rock n’

roll a capella harmony music that emerged under street lamps, in stairwells, tiled rest rooms or any place that provided an echo)

***Derma (Derma) Derma (Derma) tology blues
Derma (Derma) Derma (Derma) tology blues
It’s only skin deep but you can’t refuse
You’ve got to learn to sing the dermatology blues***

Doo wop, pre rock
n’ roll a capella
harmony music

We dove into the bridge,

***I used to love the sun, when I was young
From the Carolina Beaches to the Carribean
But if you go there I’m talking true
Fun in the sun’ll grow wrinkles on you***

Verse 2

***Tanning beds are safe, so they said
You just get tanned, you never get red
They make you look good for a week maybe two
But 20 years later you’ll resemble a prune
Salon operator tell me what can I do
She said I’ve got another special deal for you***

My lovely wife’s voice over for the commercial

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You can hear the song here. You may need to copy the link and paste it in your browser.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r94jyNXhXJcNKF2DxC-1q-jf33jNJJMPZ/view?usp=sharing>

Once a dear friend, RIP, said “What I love best about managing people is watching them grow”. Teaching is that for me, however, it hurts a little when they move away or disappear into college. One middle school kid’s family recently moved to Georgia. He started with me in the 2nd grade. We wrote and recorded songs, played ukulele, guitar and sang. As he grew his vocals were very very powerful. The kid is a good dancer but got none of that from me.

Another “leaver” will disappear into his future after this year. He started with me in the 6th grade and is now a senior in the Weaver Academy guitar program. I advise my students to plan their life so it will include music and also plan on a side hustle so they can have music on their own terms. I tell them to prepare for opportunities and enlighten them how when I started the playing music I love, PCs, cell phones, the internet, home recording DIDN’T EXIST and few could even imagine these tech times we are in.

There are more stories in my musical book ended life, too many to tell in this edition. If you are interested in guitar, voice, bass, songwriting, recording, harmony study give me a ring...or..is that term even applicable anymore?

___ sh ___

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Successful Competitions For Our Neighborhood Paralympic Fencer

by Abe & Eric Kaplan



Hello Neighbors!

I wanted to write to say "Thank You!" for your support and to give an update on my parafencing journey. The last time I wrote, I was training for my first World Cup in Warsaw, Poland. I was the youngest fencer there and I competed with some of the top parafencers in the

For the first time, I competed in all three weapons: foil, epee, and saber. The competition was tough and I am proud that I finished with silver medals in epee and foil, and a bronze medal in saber.

working hard towards my goal of making it to the 2028 Paralympics in LA and I am still hoping to find donors and sponsors to help me achieve this goal.

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the Piedmont Fencer's Alliance Parafencing Program, all proceeds will go towards my training, equipment and travel expenses.

Donations can also be mailed to the Piedmont Fencers Alliance



Parafencing Program: Greensboro Fencing Academy, 2001 Wendover Ave E, Greensboro, NC 27405. Please be sure to write "parafencing program" on the memo line of your check.

You can also follow me on Instagram @abekaplan_fencing. Thank you again for reading my story and supporting my parafencing journey.

If you have any questions for me or my parents please email my mom or dad.

Mom: karenjbrown77@yahoo.com
Dad: esk6988@gmail.com

___ sh ___



Left: Abe showing his North American Cup medals



Above : Action from Orlando

Right: Abe awaiting his match results

Below: Abe scoring in a match



world. I did my best and learned a lot from the experience. I finished as the second best American in epee and I was chosen for the men's foil team on the last day of competition.

Since then, I've been training hard six days a week. At the end of October I travelled to Orlando, FL for my first North American Cup.

Coming up next, I have been invited to train at the Olympic training center in Colorado Springs this month. Then I will travel to Cardiff, Wales for another World Cup event. I have a long way to go but I will keep



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< Eric Crouse & Carolina Maturino

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Good News For Sunset Hills Playground Park

by Annie Reaves

Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department has approved the re-planting of Daffodil bulbs that were damaged when dead tree debris was removed in 2021.

The once lovely naturalized bed of Daffodils near the stone bridge, re-mained a cheerful reminder for many years that indeed Spring was just around the corner.



1000 Dutch Yellow Daffodil bulbs were donated by a generous Sunset Hills resident and the planting will take place in late December.

Many thanks to the volunteers working on this project and the Sunset Hills Garden Club for their support.

— sh —



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When: 'Running of the Balls' on Dec. 16th, 2023 6:30 pm till 10:30 pm

Where: First Christian Church Parking Lot - 1900 West Market Street



1st Annual "Sunset Hills Running of the Balls Chili / Firepit / Christmas Caroling Sing-A-Long" !!!!!

Who: You

What: We will sit by the fire, eat chili, sing Christmas Carols!! That's it!!!



Why: So neighborhood friends can have an excuse to hang out!

Hosted by FCC so all are welcome!

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Resettled Refugees Need Winter Coats

By Bob & Betty Arms

Last year at about this time you all responded to our first Dare2Share article and donated 40 coats that our church was able to give to refugees and the homeless in Greensboro. THANK YOU!! In total our church was able



to distribute 302 winter coats last fall/winter.

So far this fall, in the 6 weeks we have been taking appointments, we have given away 194 coats. More than ever! Our supply is low and the need is high.

Recapping the ministry of our church, Christ Church Greensboro – we have been hosting a winter clothing giveaway for 10 years now. Last year, between November and February, we served approximately 150 refugees from Afghanistan, Congo, Sudan, Vietnam and Uganda. We were able to coordinate shopping visits with refugee case workers from local resettlement agencies as well as



with sponsors from other churches. Additionally, we provided clothing and coats to a number of homeless in Greensboro. Our ministry – Dare2Share Warmth – has allowed us to build partnerships with other churches and non-profits. We have been told repeatedly that supplying warm winter clothes, particularly coats, is a valuable service to new refugees

who are often experiencing winter for the first time.

This year will mark the 11th year of serving our Greensboro neighbors in this way. Please support this need by bringing your winter coats (We especially need men's coats.) by our home at 309 Woodbine Ct. any time

between Dec. 1st and Jan. 1st. There will be a box on our front porch for the coats with a form to claim a tax deduction

if you'd like one.

Thanks!!

Questions: betty.arms@icloud.com

— sh —



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Mr. DeMille, We're Ready For Our Close-Up

by Rene Lawrence

One hundred years old and we've never looked better; Sunset Hills is ready to be the featured Historic Neighborhood for Preservation

Greensboro Inc (PGI) 14th Annual Tour of Historic Homes (TOHH) in 2024. What you ask are the TOHH and PGI?



PRESERVATION GREENSBORO
Saving Greensboro's Treasured Places

PGI, is our city's nonprofit dedicated to persevering Greensboro's historical structures and neighborhoods. They are responsible for managing Blandwood Museum, The Carriage House and Architectural Salvage of Greensboro. Memberships, tours of Blandwood, fees from the Carriage House and sales of salvaged goods help to support PGI. The TOHH is PGI's largest annual fundraiser.

Every year PGI selects one of Greensboro's historic neighborhoods for the TOHH asking 5 or 6 of the homeowners to kindly open their homes to the public. Last year Westerwood was the featured neighborhood. The oldest continually inhabited structure was on

that tour, boy did that house have some stories to tell. PGI writes a script for each home with a history, interesting architectural features and cool stories. Docents stationed throughout the home keep watch

and point out the interesting aspects of the open homes.

This doesn't work without us. We need 5 or 6 wonderful neighbors to

volunteer to open there homes to the public for the 2 days of the tour. Two of our neighbors have already agreed to open their homes. We also need many many volunteers as docents in the open homes to help the public move through and enjoy the homes on the tour. Docents volunteer for 3 hour shifts and for your service you receive a free tour ticket.

Dates and contact information are below. We already know Sunset Hills is the best neighborhood, time to show the world!

___ sh ___

14th Annual Tour of Historic Homes
Saturday May 18 th 11:00am until 4:00pm
Sunday May 19th 1:00pm until 5:00pm
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We look forward to many more years of building and designing in Sunset Hills and continuing our journey with all of you. Thank you, again, for allowing us to be a part of your neighborhood. Here's to another 20 years of creating, building, and growing together!

With gratitude,
Frye Build + Design

Sunset Hills Centennial

by Cindy Ramsay

Sunset Hills Centennial is quickly approaching. The neighborhood that we all call home was formally considered a neighborhood in 1924. The history of this land runs much deeper than 100 years. Before Sunset Hills was established this land was forest. The Saura and Keyauwee are thought to be the first to inhabit the land. Once colonization began, the first settlers in this area were Germans, Quakers, Welsh, English and Scotch-Irish. As with all land in America, it has a complicated past. Greensboro was established in 1808. The city grew quickly and focused on building a strong community around education and rail transportation. The 1920's brought a great deal of neighborhood growth. The first skyscraper was built downtown and neighborhoods like Lake Daniel, Westerwood, Hamilton Lakes, Latham Park, and Sunset Hills were created. Over the past 100 years the people, the landscape and the architecture has changed. Throughout this centennial year,

some of that history will be shared through newsletter articles, social media posts and events.

The Centennial Committee has developed a list of events and ideas to commemorate this milestone. Regular neighborhood events will happen with additional activities to celebrate a little extra for our

In the construction work of Sunset Hills everything possible and practical has been done to preserve its 185 acres of beautiful trees. The developers have, in many cases, changed the sizes of lots rather than permit the destruction of a tree in the laying of a drive, gas or water line. Hundreds of dollars have been expended in moving

and transplanting trees from street right-of-ways. How blest is the resident of Sunset Hills for the preservation - for this gift of Nature that has been years and years in the making."

These sentiments are still shared today. Our neighborhood was build around trees and we still cherish the natural canopy that makes Sunset Hills so unique.

Since the start of the tree reforestation program led by Randal Romie, we have already

started to chip away at that goal. Please consider planting a tree on your property to help us reach the goal of 100 trees. The tree canopy is aging and our best asset needs replanting.

One of the ways we will celebrate the centennial, is by adding a work of art to the park. The neighborhood association and centennial committee is commissioning the talented artist, Lawrence Feir. He will construct a work of art that speaks to the importance of trees and natural areas in Sunset Hills. Lawrence knows the neighborhood well as a former resident, and he has created works of art throughout Greensboro, most recently, at the Cone Cancer Center.



100th. Keep an eye on the newsletters, list-serv, website and kiosks for updates.

The neighborhood has set a goal of planting 100 trees in the neighborhood. Looking through the brochure linked on the Sunset Hills website, there is a quote describing the importance of trees in this neighborhood.

In 1925 it was written "Everybody has an inherent love for trees. It is nothing short of tragedy to see a great oak, elm or maple hewn to the ground to make way for progress.

___ sh ___



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You Can Help Bring More Trees To Sunset Hills

by Randal Romie, ASLA

Members of the Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs Committee have re-invented the SH Reforestation Program in an effort to plant at least 100 native canopy trees in the neighborhood to celebrate the Sunset Hills Centennial 1924-2024. You can join the effort by ordering your very own tree(s) through this program at a very reasonable price! Let's do this!

With an attractive new Application to encourage participation, we are providing a greater selection of canopy trees, and they will be in 3-gallon containers, approximately 3'-4' hgt., which is an ideal size for the

tree to root-in and flourish. Also, this size allows for easy planting, and there is no limit to the quantity of trees you can order to plant in Sunset Hills.

It is vitally important that we maintain the aging urban forest of Sunset Hills, and this is the perfect time for planting. An Application containing all the information to order trees is attached, or hard copies can

be picked up in the Nature Lending Libraries in the SH Park. The application deadlines are November 8 & 29, with trees delivered in approximately 14 days. If you have questions, please email Randal Romie: rsromieasla@gmail.com.

[gmail.com](mailto:rsromieasla@gmail.com).

See the accompanying flier in this newsletter to order. Plant a tree today for the next 100 years!

— sh —

Deadline for ordering trees is December 18

\$15/tree is your cost to reforest your neighborhood, which is slowly losing all of its original trees. The SH Neighborhood Association will pick up the balance of the cost for all who have paid their annual dues.

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Lighten The Burden Again This Holiday Season

by Erin Reis, Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs



ere are several ways to **Lighten the Burden** on the community and the environment (as well as your electricity budget) this Holiday Lighted Ball Season:

- Save energy, and reduce your electric bill and carbon emissions by making new and/or replacement balls with LED lights. While LED strands cost more up front than incandescent, factoring in the cost of electricity, an LED ball will cost the same as an incandescent ball for the first year and substantially less each subsequent year. The technology for these strands keeps improving, and they are just as visually appealing as incandescent lights!
- Put your lights on a timer so that they don't stay on all night (or day). Consider turning your lights off at 11pm each night or follow the schedule of the balls in the park, which are set to turn on at dusk (using light-sensitive timers) and stay on for 6 hours. Not only will this reduce energy consumption, it will preserve darkness for wildlife (especially migrating birds), and also prevent late-night neighborhood drive-throughs.
- Recycle your old burned-out light strands; don't just put them in the trash! You can take them yourself to ECOFLO, 2750 Patterson St., or you can drop them in one of the designated bins for light strand recycling that will be placed throughout the neighborhood. Just look for the green **Lighten the Burden** signs!
- And of course, be sure to donate food (and/or funds) at the

designated trailers throughout Sunset Hills!

Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs (SHEA) will be trying again this year to help with the above efforts. Thanks to Nick Loflin, the Running of the Balls continues to have a "Carbon Offset Fee" of \$2 per order this year. That money will be used to purchase a carbon offset for the neighborhood, as well as LED light strands to replace burned-out incandescents and timers for the balls in Sunset Hills Park. Our goal is to turn the balls in the park 100% LED over the next 9 years!

SHEA will have a table at the Ball-Making Party outside the Smiths' residence to promote ways to "Lighten the Burden" this holiday season. We will have information, LED light strands and timers for sale, and bins to collect burned-out light strands for recycling. Bring us your burned-out lights! SHEA will also be placing burned-out light collection bins for recycling throughout the neighborhood. Please see sunsethillsneighborhood.org/environment for locations!

What the Inflation Reduction Act Can Do for You

The Inflation Reduction Act can also help you save money, energy, and carbon emissions with incentives to increase access to clean technology. You may be eligible for discounts on efficient electric home appliances and weatherization, and tax credits on solar panel installations, electric vehicle purchases, and more. To find out what discounts and tax credits you might qualify for, visit <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>

— sh —

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An Interview With Santa, Ho Ho Ho!

by Jon Kesler

A few of you may have seen our special visitor walking through the park last year the week before Christmas, but many of you may not be aware that Santa visited Sunset Hills on one of his pre-Christmas shakedown cruises in preparation for the big day. I had the good fortune to interview Jolly Old St. Nick while on special assignment for the Sunset Hills Newsletter. Over an eggnog and a plate of Martha's delicious Christmas cookies, Santa shared some of his insights about the holiday season and what life is like for him and Mrs. Clause. Following is an unredacted transcript of that interview.

Reporter: So, Santa, I really appreciate your time, especially right before Christmas which no doubt is your busiest time of the year.

Santa: Well, you're right about this being a busy time. These pre-Christmas trips are part of the work and I'm always glad to spend a little extra time in Sunset Hills. And by the way, these cookies are pretty darn good. Please thank your wife for me.

Reporter: I'll do that. You said you enjoy spending extra time in Sunset Hills. Can you tell me more about that?

Santa: As you can guess, I've been coming to Sunset Hills every year since there was Sunset Hills. In fact, I was coming here even before that when there were a

couple families homesteading on North Buffalo Creek, long before Sunset Hills was a twinkle in Arthur Moore's eye, heck even before the Benbow Farm was established. But that's ancient history. You're probably more interested in today. When passing through Christmas Eve I started seeing those Christmas balls. As I recall, that was about 1996. If I remember correctly, I was listening to Jimmy Buffet's Christmas Island on the cassette player in the sleigh when I first saw the balls. At that time the balls were just a curiosity, I didn't give them a second thought. Then the next year there were more and even more the following year. By jingle, there have been more every year since. You know, on a clear night I can see Sunset Hills from 40,000 feet, 25 miles out. It's amazing.

Reporter: Zounds, that puts things into perspective. Let me ask, what made you decide to pay the extra visit and take time to actually look around? Did you just want to see the balls close up?

Santa: That would be yes and no. Yes, the balls definitely were the attention getter, but what I really enjoy is seeing the joy in people's eyes as they stroll through your neighborhood. It gives me the chance to see people from all over coming together, thoroughly enjoying the moment. The world is so divided these days. It's refresh-



Above: Santa really loved Martha's delicious Christmas cookies with his eggnog!

ing to experience that moment in time when people share their joy and are filled with warm feelings and cheerful wishes for each other. I can only hope they hold onto those feelings long into the New Year. By the way, do you suppose Martha has any more of those cookies? I seem to have devoured the whole plate.

Reporter: Sure thing Santa. Excuse me a minute and I'll get them.

Santa: And I'll take another hit of nog while you're up if you don't mind.

Reporter: Roger that. Let me shift the conversation a bit. You mentioned that you're here tonight on a shakedown cruise. What do you mean by that?

Santa: You don't think we pull off visiting every child in the world in one night without doing a lot of lead work do you? Goodness no. Christmas Eve has to go off without a hitch. There are no "do overs" for the big day. So, starting early in December we make some practice runs to various places. The Prep and Landing Crew goes out first, then I follow up with the sleigh. Usually, I run the shakedown cruises with six of my regular reindeer and a couple of the second stringers. I like to keep the bench motivated and up to speed, just in case they have to step in. That's never happened, but better to be prepared and not need them than to need them and not be prepared. By jingle, I like the sound of that, maybe I should write a business book.

Reporter: That begs a question then Santa. You're here and I saw you with one of your elves earlier. But where are the reindeer? Do they go back to the North Pole and wait for you?

Santa: Goodness no, that would be a goofy way to wear them out. For this run I have the elves switch out the sleigh runners for a set of wheels so I can land on grass, and I've found the perfect spot. I set the sleigh down on the football field over at Grimsley High. It makes a great landing spot, and the reindeer absolutely love the

Whirlies' tender grass. I'm telling you, they snarf that stuff like frosted Christmas cookies. I hope that's okay. I won't get in trouble for that, will I? By the way, that elf who travels with me, that's Trixie. She's been my right-hand elf for the past couple hundred years. One of your popular movies says my go-to elf is Bernard. I don't know where they came up with such rubbish. Trixie is a one and only. We'd be lost without her.



Above: This may or may not be a recent photo of Trixie - she's a little shy, being several hundred years old!

Reporter: That's good to know Santa and I'm sure they'll cut you slack on using the football field. Perhaps next year I'll get to meet Trixie too. I know we're short on time, but before you go can you tell me a bit about how your year works, getting ready for the big day? Do you ever have any down time?

Santa: That's a good question son. You don't mind if I call you son, do you? After all, I'm as old as my tongue and slightly older than my teeth. For the love of holly, I am older than everyone else in the world.

Reporter: That's just fine Santa. Go ahead.

Santa: Most people don't realize it, but we're incredibly busy right after Christmas and on through the spring. You see, we try to stay up with trends and start to order materials early in the year, so we don't have supply chain

problems down the road. It takes the twinkle out of the tinsel when we can't finish a bag full of dump trucks because we don't have the wheels. There's no time to go back and do rework, so figuring out what we'll need for the coming year early on is critical. And like every other manufacturing operation, Covid wreaked havoc on our lines. We ended up needing to fabricate a lot of parts that we generally purchase in bulk. I plan the workload to give us some downtime in the summer.

Reporter: By then I'm sure you're ready for a break. What do you and Mrs. Clause do to let your hair down?

Santa: We really enjoy sailing. It's a lot like flying you know. Same sort of need to play the air currents, stuff like that. So, we generally go down the islands for a month or so, pick up a charter, and head north. I love going into dock bars and watching the people watch me. If I've heard it once, I've heard it a gazillion times, "Hey honey, look at that old guy over there with the platter of oysters. He looks like Santa wearing a Hawaiian shirt, doesn't he?" If they only knew, it's such a hoot. I've got time for one more question, then I really must be on my way.

Reporter: Okay Santa, here's the million-dollar question. What gives you the most satisfaction from your job?

Santa: Good, I thought you were going to ask me a tough one. That's easy. I like to see people enjoying the gifts I give them way beyond their childhood. You for instance. See those blocks over

Continued on page 30

An Interview With Santa, Ho, Ho, Ho!

continued from page 29

there on your mantle? I clearly remember the night I left them for you and look at this, you're still enjoying them.



Above: Santa possibly making a trial run over Sunset Hills.

Reporter: Wow! I wouldn't part with those for anything. What, I must have been about two when you gave me those?

Santa: Two years, seven months and ten days to be exact. We keep track of such things you know. Anything else?

Reporter: Will you be back to stroll around Sunset Hills in 2024 Santa? When?

Santa: I'll definitely be back, and I'll be sure to bring Trixie with me again and maybe a couple more helpers. I don't have an exact schedule yet but watch for me. We're going to try using ChatGPT for scheduling in 2024. Trixie says it's the thing to do, but between you and me, I'm going to do it the old-school way for a back-up plan. I really must be off now. The reindeer will be getting restless, and Mrs. Clause is waiting up for me. It's been my pleasure.

Reporter: Thank you for your time Santa and . . . Santa? Where did he go? Did you see him leave Martha? Stop the tape.

— sh —

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 Parks Fields & Hart Ebersole*

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