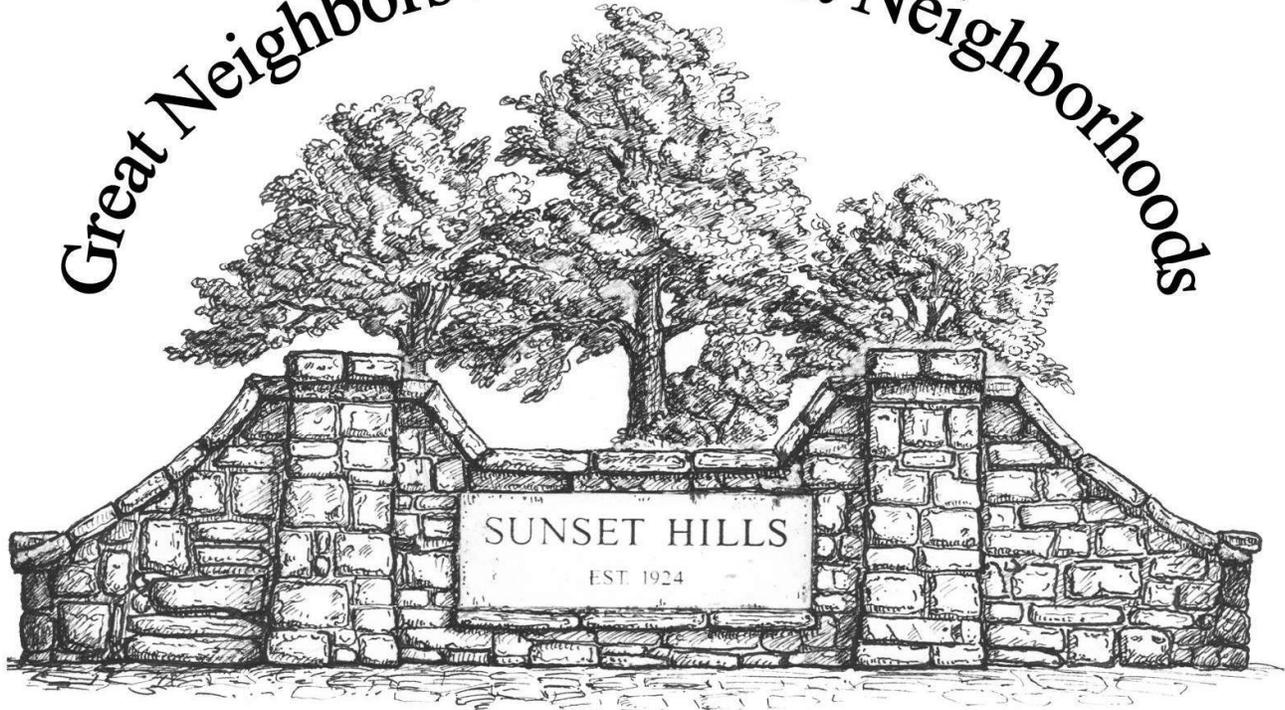


Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods



Sunset Hills June 2021

Greensboro, North Carolina

Annual Neighborhood Events

- January
- February
- March
- April
 - Easter Egg Hunt*
 - Great American Clean-up*
- May
 - Annual Pig Pickin'*
- June
- July
 - July 4th Parade and Picnic*
- August
 - National Neighborhood Meeting*
- September
 - Big Sweet Potato Festival*
- October
 - Neighborhood Meeting*
 - Halibut Party in the Park*
- November
- December
 - Lighted Christmas Balls*
 - Light Drive, Running of the Balls*

Calendar for non covid 19 time

The President's Message

From Scott Michaels

It's springtime in Sunset Hills! Flowers and shrubs are blooming, and our gorgeous neighborhood looks amazing. Spring is a time of new beginnings and, as we start emerging from a year of isolation during the pandemic, it feels even more special.

As we start moving forward again, I want to thank some of our Board members for their efforts in getting us through the last year and adjusting our neighborhood traditions to meet the requirements of the challenging times we have been through.

Cindy Ramsay has spear-headed the signs for Graduates that you are seeing now and saw last year. She has done a great job in helping us recognize these achievements and letting our students know we are all proud of all of them. She also worked with Judy Villela to substitute activities for our annual Easter Egg hunt.

Our Social Committee has been very active even though we could not do large, in person events. Many thanks to Sarah Purcell and Leah McCoy for their creativity and dedication in trying to keep our neighborhood events going despite the limitations of the pandemic.

I want to thank Michael Pendergraft for all his hard work and perseverance in working with the City of Greensboro for our new Sunset Hills street sign toppers. This was a long and sometimes challenging project. He worked long and hard to get this project to a successful completion. On a side note, several Board

(Continued on Page 3)

Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

President

Scott Michaels scottmichaels100@gmail.com

Vice-President

Burke Ramsey bramsay@gmail.com

Secretary

Cindy Ramsay Ramsayc01@gmail.com

Treasurer

Elaine Brune sunsethillsgsonc@gmail.com

Mail dues to: 2504 Sylvan Rd.

Neighborhood Watch

Mary Schwarz 720marybeth@gmail.com

David Hammer davidhammer1@gmail.com

Ferdinand Stout ridgeway1031@hotmail.com

Neighborhood Watch/ Block Captain Coordinator

Elaine Brune (South of Market) sunsethillsgsonc@gmail.com

Transportation Committee Chair

Gerry Alfano mtisdel@att.net (336)272-3512

Social Events

Leah McCoy leahmccoy407@gmail.com

Sarah Purcell sarah.h.purcell@gmail.com

Event Coordinators

Easter Egg Hunt -

Cindy Ramsey Ramsayc01@gmail.com

Fourth of July - Open

Halloween in the park -

Michael Driver michael@yourhometriad.com

Annual Pig Pickin -

Gary Rogers grgrlr@mindspring.com

Environmental Affairs

Erin Reiss erin.reis.1@gmail.com

Garden Club Representative

Michelle Togut togut@gmail.com

Web site coordinator

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Robin Timmins timmins203@gmail.com

Denise Baker دنبaker3@gmail.com

Representative to the Neighborhood Congress

Mike Pendergraft, Gerry Alfano



Sources of Neighborhood Information

The Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association has a website, Facebook page, and a listserv. Many pictures of neighborhood events appear in color on the website and on the Facebook page.

Get to know your neighbors in text and print and learn the news: <http://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org>. If you are not on the new Google groups listserv send an email to Adam Graham-Squire (adam.grahamsquire@gmail.com) and you will be added. The listserv is monitored. The neighborhood Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/SunsetHillsGSO>

When you have a question about tradespeople, spot a stray dog or cat or note something unusual, submit a message to the listserv and the message goes out to all the members. The listserv is monitored to keep the messages relevant to this area and on topics about the neighborhood. You must have paid your 2021 dues to submit a non-emergency message to the listserv.



DUES are due in January. However, it is never too late to pay for the current year. Please remit your \$10 directly to the treasurer, Elaine Brune at 2504 Sylvan Rd. Checks for more than \$10 will be accepted as donations to the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association.

(Continued from Page 1)

members also contributed personal funds, outside of the Neighborhood Association funds, to help place sign toppers in the Warnersville Neighborhood. Warnersville is the oldest African American neighborhood in Greensboro and this was our gift, on behalf of our neighborhood, to them.

Thanks to Marlene Pratto, this newsletter continues to go out several times a year. She is the driving force behind it- and could use some help! She also gently nudges me to meet my deadline for this column. Without Carole Lindsey-Potter the newsletter would not look as good in black and white or color. Thanks Carole for placing my late arriving column each issue.

Gerry Alfano, who along with Michael Pendergraft, represents us on the Neighborhood Congress also works hard to partner with the City to address and improve traffic and transportation issues in the neighborhood.

Thanks to Robin Timmins for managing our website and to Adam Graham-Squire for managing the ListServ. These communication mechanisms mean so much to so many.

Mary Schwarz does a wonderful job as our liaison to the Greensboro Police Department and in keeping us updated on potential criminal activity so we can all keep safe.

And I especially want to thank some of our newer Board Members. Erin Reiss is doing some exciting work revitalizing our Environmental Affairs Committee. And thank you Burke Ramsay for being our new Vice President!

Elaine Brune, our Treasurer for many years, has overseen how we spend our dues to support these initiatives and made sure we followed the rules. Your dues support these and many other activities that make our neighborhood such a special place to live. Please be sure to send your small annual contribution to her if you have not done so already.

If I have accidentally missed anyone, please forgive me and know your work is appreciated. Onward we go!

And as a postscript to my last message, yes, we kept the new dog. Humphrey is a wonderful addition to our family!



January starts the new year for our dues payment. \$10 per household per year. These dues go to events in the neighborhood, our newsletters, and most importantly now, putting back in the neighborhood. (read more about the tree reforestation project in this newsletter). Dues also allow you to post on our neighborhood website. You can also volunteer to help at the neighborhood swap-meet-serve where you can find, sell, or borrow items, report lost or found animals, etc.

Send or drop your payment off at Elaine Brune's house. 2504 Sylvan Road 27403. Make checks payable to Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association (SHNA). Or contactless at <http://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org/discussion.html>

Donations above the \$10 are greatly appreciated and allow us to expand our events and activities.

Please note we pay 59 cents to PayPal as a commission when paying contactless.

Elsewhere in this edition are the 325 members who have already paid the dues. Thanks and thanks for the neighbors who gave us a donation as well.



Rates for 2020 Newsletter

Advertising

- \$20- biz card size
- \$40- 1/4 pg (3.75 x 4.75)
- \$80- 1/2 pg (7.5x4.75)
- \$160- full pg (7.5x9.75)

advertising rates are per ad appearance.

Add \$10 if your dues are not up-to-date. Contact Marlene (see Newsletter Team on page 2) to arrange for an ad. Then send your check to Elaine Brune, address on page 2. Thanks to our advertisers for helping to offset the cost of this newsletter.

Ad and Photo Submission

Adobe InDesign is used for layout of the newsletter. All ads, photos and graphics that are submitted should be high resolution (300 dpi plus). Photos should be sent as jpeg images. High resolution pdf is also good. Remember, it is always easy to change to 72 dpi for the web, but not as good to change low resolution to high resolution. Please submit ads in the actual size you want.

If you have questions, please contact me at : cllindse@gmail.com and I will be glad to help.



POST COVID TRAFFIC SAFETY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Gerry Alfano

Now that traffic has resumed at pre-COVID levels, it seems as though speeding in our area is even more rampant than it was before the pandemic. In late January, a pedestrian was killed in the crosswalk on W. Friendly at N. Elam Ave. In February, there was a single car crash at the intersection of W. Market and N. Elam and the driver was killed. While I do not know if speeding was a factor in either death, speeding does increase the rate and seriousness of accidents. We have been fighting a battle with GDOT over traffic safety since I moved into the neighborhood 33 years ago. My guess is that it was probably going on even earlier. Traffic safety does not seem to have been a high priority for GDOT (Greensboro Dept. of Transportation)

We have been making some progress, but it has been an uphill battle. You have probably noticed that we have newly installed flashing yellow lights on W. Friendly Ave. at E. Greenway and W. Greenway, to warn drivers when traffic is entering. Either vehicles or bicycles will trigger the light. We would have preferred a traffic light at that intersection, but there are multiple reasons why GDOT would not install one in that location.

As some of you may remember, Todd Jones and I started asking GDOT to improve the safety of the intersection in May 2017 after a serious accident occurred at W. Greenway and W. Friendly. Cars are speeding on Friendly, making it extremely difficult for traffic coming out of the neighborhood. In addition, pedestrians and bicyclists cross the street at that intersection. Unfortunately, the flashing yellow light does not help folks who are crossing the street. If you are one of those people, please be incredibly careful when you cross. If you are driving on W. Friendly, please observe the speed limit and watch for pedestrians, etc. The speed limit is 35. We do not want to see another vehicular death in Sunset Hills.

In order to improve safety for everyone, we need a combination of traffic calming installations and enforcement, but it is really difficult to get either. GDOT has a new director who was not promoted from within the department (She worked in Planning.) and some of the old guard is retiring. There is hope the culture in the department will change and safety will become more of a priority. Currently, it is difficult to push for any changes because of the COVID crisis. Once we have a more normal situation, we will be inviting GDOT to a Sunset Hills neighborhood meeting and asking for additional safety improvements on our streets.



REMINDER: LOCK YOUR CARS

Larceny from Vehicles continues to be a problem in Greensboro. This is one crime citizens can easily help prevent by locking their cars and leaving nothing of value inside.

Generally, these criminals will not break a window because it will create noise, but they will take that risk if they look in the window and see a laptop, a purse, wallet, or especially a weapon.

“Last year we had 217 guns stolen from cars. These guns can be used in other crimes. GPD officers arrested 63 people in connection with stolen guns but we need your help. PLEASE don't leave your gun in your vehicle. Let's make Greensboro safe for all people.”

(GPD Facebook Page, February 24, 2021)



Sunset Hills' Sign-toppers! By Mike Pendergraft as told to Mary Pendergraft

The story of our sign-toppers is a story of neighborhoods working together. Sunset Hills was inspired by the project that Westerwood had done, so the Board of Directors got to work.

To cover the cost, they applied for a Neighborhood Small Project Grant from the city of Greensboro in 2015, the last year such grants were available.

We were given \$5,600 to put the toppers at all marked intersections on the outside borders of the neighborhood, roughly 35 in all. We thought that the process had been started by the city, but in 2019 we discovered that it hadn't.

Looking at the project again, we decided to increase the number of toppers so that almost every corner in Sunset Hills will have one. Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association paid for these additional items.

Gerry Alfano and I worked on this project, and we found an extraordinarily helpful partner in Deniece D. Conway, PE, Engineering Supervisor at the Greensboro Department of Transportation. She located maps of the area for us, and even rode through the neighborhood identifying appropriate intersections.

Through Ms. Conway, we learned that the Warnersville Neighborhood wanted to embark on a similar, though smaller project but lacked the funds. Located in south-east corner of Gate City Boulevard and Freeman Mill Road, this neighborhood is North Carolina's first official Heritage Community, founded by formerly enslaved individuals after their emancipation. The members of the Board of Directors of SHNA wanted to honor their story, so as individuals they donated enough money to allow Warnersville to reach their dream, too. Residents in that neighborhood are as eager as we are to see the finished products installed.

All our signs will soon be in place, so keep an eye out!

West Greenway South Slow Street This Year? By Elaine Brune

Last year West Greenway South from Market Street to Walker Avenue was closed to auto and truck traffic as a pilot program. When we asked the Director of Greensboro Transportation, Hanna Cockburn, about the 2021 plans we received a reply on April 28. Her reply "We are currently in the process of establishing a slow streets program across the city as part of the city budget process. Given that uncertainty, we don't have firm plans to close West Greenway, but will communicate with you and the neighborhood about the program opportunity following the completion of the budget process - hopefully by mid-June."

Many of us thought it was a very successful program and hope it will be implemented again in 2021. Although it will be starting a lot later than last year.



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Sunset Hills Tradespersons List

By Julia Bleakney
2011 Wright Ave
juliobleakney@gmail.com

In the February 2021 newsletter, we were happy to announce the relaunch of the Sunset Hills tradespersons list, with recommendations from your neighbors for plumbers, roofers, landscapers, handy-people, and everything else you can imagine!

We moved the list to a Google doc. To access the list, you can copy or type in this shortened URL: www.tinyurl.com/tradeslistgso

or if you have a QR reader on your phone, you can scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the list.



The list is also available on the Sunset Hills neighborhood website (<http://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org/>). Click on “Information” and “Tradespersons List” is the first item on the page.

The benefits of the Google document are many: everyone in the neighborhood can access and update the list in real time—it’s truly a community effort! Another plus is that it’s almost impossible to delete the list as it continually saves, but if you do happen to accidentally delete something, just email me at juliobleakney@gmail.com, and I can retrieve a saved version.

The one downside is that in transferring the list from an old Excel document into the Google docs, all the hyperlinks to the tradesperson’s websites were erased. So, as you browse the list, feel free to add hyperlinks to websites for your favorite tradespersons.

If you are interested in using the document, here are some rules to make sure we can all enjoy this service:

1. Please only put good reviews so we can keep it positive.
2. If the tradesperson you want to recommend is already listed, feel free to add your name as an additional recommender (rather than adding a new line)
3. If you see a listing that needs to be removed and you’re comfortable doing so in the Google document, feel free to delete. If you’re unsure how to delete, write a note under comments and Julia will delete periodically.
4. If you find something inappropriate or if you accidentally delete something and don’t know how to resolve it, contact Julia at juliobleakney@gmail.com.



Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association placed signs throughout the neighborhood today celebrating all graduates this year.

To all graduates this year: Congratulations! It has been yet another extraordinary year and you have completed your courses to move on to your next adventure. Our neighborhood is proud of you!! Keep learning and keep growing!

As we approach the end of another school year, I want to give a huge shout out to all educators who are finishing their last weeks of quite an interesting and stressful year. You all have been asked to adapt and wear so many hats this year. Thank you! I hope you can get some rest this summer to reset and reflect on what amazing things you accomplished this year.

BURYING POWER LINES: IS THERE INTEREST IN SUNSET HILLS?

By Gary Kenton

I moved into the Sunset Hills neighborhood six months ago. At the Feb. 3 meeting of the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association Board, I was given the opportunity to make a brief presentation about the benefits and potential drawbacks of burying utility poles.

The benefits of undergrounding are:

1. **Aesthetics.** Most of us barely notice them day-to-day, but the utility poles are a blight on our streets. Take a look and imagine our blocks without the poles. It's a beautiful thing.
2. **Fewer Power Outages and Reduced Maintenance.** Burying utility lines provides more reliable service and eliminates most disruptions due to severe weather (which is becoming more common) or accidents.
3. **Improved Community Safety.** In addition to power outages, utility poles can also pose fire and traffic dangers.
4. **Increased Property Values.** Sunset Hills is already a desirable neighborhood but eliminating utility poles would only enhance the value of our homes.

There are communities which have been successful in getting utility poles undergrounded, but it is not a simple or inexpensive process. A group of residents from Sunset Hills and Lindley Park has started meeting to explore the possibilities for buried power lines in our neighborhood. Several committees are being formed to do the research and other work involved. We don't have all the facts yet, but we do know that Duke Energy tends to exaggerate the costs and the potential damage to trees to discourage communities like ours from pursuing these questions. We think our streets can be safer and more beautiful, and that power outages can be dramatically reduced if power lines are underground. We have begun discussions with the City of Greensboro and other resources. If you are interested in joining with others in the Sunset Hills and Lindley Park neighborhoods to explore this issue, contact Gary Kenton at garyskenton@gmail.com or (336) 676-5719 (landline).

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Moravians in Greensboro

By Chip Cook or Wright Ave.

If you drive through Winston-Salem or about any corner of Forsyth County, you are bound to pass by a Moravian Church. Just 24 miles or so east, you will find only one in Greensboro, and it is right here in our neighborhood!

From the mid 1700's into the early 1900's, the Moravian Church had established congregations in the Moravian township of Salem (merging with Winston in 1908), and in the surrounding towns and countryside of Forsyth County. But now came the first endeavor in establishing a church in another major city in North Carolina...Greensboro.

By 1906, several Moravians had moved to the Greensboro area to work and live, and they expressed interest in having a Moravian congregation present in the city. Percy Kerner of Kernersville and Henry Snyder of Home Church raised even more interest.



Percy Kerner, pictured middle, front (youngest person), in 1890, with the Kernersville Moravian Band. Percy was a founder of the First Moravian Church in Greensboro

These men "walked the streets of Greensboro, evening after evening" to encourage the forming of a congregation. Their efforts bore fruit! The Southern Province of the Moravian Church acquired the former Grace Methodist Church, which was on East Lee Street (now Gate City Boulevard), and on October 5, 1908, the Greensboro Moravian Church was formally organized by Bishop Edward Rondthaler.

In 1918 the congregation started a Sunday school on the former West Lee Street about a mile from the church. A year later, The Wachovia Moravian, the Southern Province's magazine, began to call the congregation the "First Moravian Church of Greensboro." However, bright prospects of growth turned dim when it was realized that the area surrounding First Moravian (nearby downtown) was "over-churched."

The congregation stagnated, then began to dwindle. Financial difficulties arose, and there were doubts on First Moravian's future. The congregation needed a true renewal.

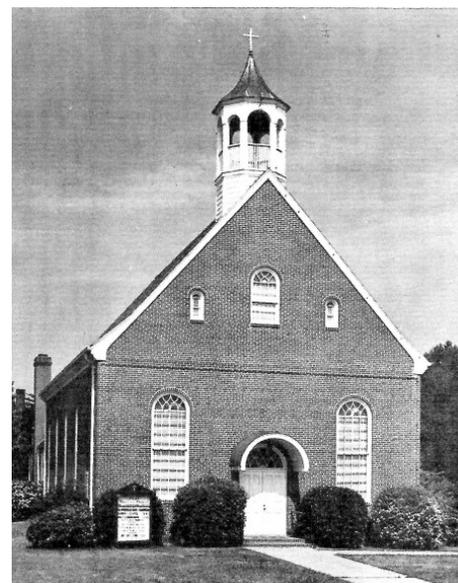
And that is exactly what it got under two pastors. First, Pastor Donald Conrad (1929-1934) re-inspired the congregation with a number of new members. Then, Pastor George Higgins (1934-1941) shepherded the congregation to the present site on Elam Avenue. The property was purchased in 1937, and a "sanctuary hut" was built for church services. While the "hut" was supposed to be only a temporary place of worship for the congregation, it was more than 10 years before ground was broken for the new sanctuary. Finally on April 3, 1949, First Moravian dedicated its new church sanctuary.

A brick "scouting lodge" was also built by 1949, which later became the church's "Candle Hut." During this building's time as a scouting lodge, scoutmaster Julius Hayworth developed the most well-known scouting program in the southeast, promoting several scouts to Eagle Scout status.

(Continued on Page 11)



First Moravian Church using the former Grace Methodist Church location on Lee Street (Gate City Blvd) - Circa - 1908



First Moravian Church's Elam Avenue sanctuary, circa 1949

(Continued from Page 10)

Later, six Sunday school rooms were added in 1951, and the former “sanctuary hut” became the church’s fellowship hall. In 1960, a larger education and fellowship building was built, the “New Fellowship Hall” (with the former fellowship hall becoming the “Old Fellowship Hall”). Additionally, a church parsonage was built in 1948 and church office, built in the 1920’s as a private residence, was donated in 1960. The last major facility improvement came with the sanctuary enlargement by about 100 seats in 1985 (including a balcony).

Since the 1960’s, First Moravian has become the primary experience for Moravian Candle Tea in Guilford County and in Greensboro, and this is probably the most recognized event at the church in the surrounding community. This event evolved around the development of the Putz, which is credited to the church’s Women’s Fellowship and Libby Holder’s work in expanding it. Today, First Moravian is also host to the Greensboro New School (which operates independently), as well as to several secular clubs and community groups.

Though it has had periods of struggle, Greensboro’s Moravian Church has shown resilience and built its own legacy in our shared neighborhood community.

Moravians?

So, who are the Moravians? Moravian refers to a small group of Germanic Protestants who fled to America in the 1700s to escape religious persecution in what is now the Czech Republic (Moravia region). They first arrived in Pennsylvania but eventually spread to other states, including North Carolina.

It has been said that the Moravian Church is the “closest church to every other Christian church.” Worship services are a mixture of what you may experience in a Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, or Episcopal church; simple and informal, yet reverent; liturgical but not ritualistic.

Sources:

Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Interview, Harvey Veach, Head Usher, First Moravian Church (May 12, 2021)



First Moravian Church’s Elam Avenue sanctuary, circa 2021



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Adventures in Remodeling Part One

By Michael Driver

We've been in our house here in Sunset Hills for a good 18 years or so and it doesn't seem like that long when you look at it. Ok ok it is a long time. Measured out that's a good 6570 cups of coffee, but only if you're a coward and only drink one cup a day. We've had a lot of plans since we moved here, some of which we have done and some of which we have been waiting to do when we go to sell, which obviously isn't happening any time soon at this rate. So my wife finally let me know in no uncertain terms that if we are staying in this house (and apparently we are) then it was time to start doing some of the things we had always planned. All of this egged on by the fact that we've been stuck in this place for a good year (that's over 365 cups of coffee if you're counting) and we've noticed every. Single. Crack. In. every. Plaster. Wall. We remodeled the kitchen a few years back, done the master bathroom, and put on a roof (which is not really that exciting) but we still had things we wanted to do, so like the rest of the country, we decided it was time to remodel.

We had always planned to finish our attic and make it into a bedroom. Our goal was to move our daughter up there when she got to be driving age so it would be harder for her to sneak out of the house in the middle of the night. Knowing what I was like as a teen, I was trying to plan ahead. Hey I wasn't always an upstanding citizen, and neither were you. You, like me, probably know exactly which stair step creaked the loudest in your parents' home. And lo and behold, I turned around and my kid was not a kid anymore- I was giving her driving lessons. So it was about time to do that bedroom. But the



problem was the attic was full. Full. Everything we had saved or figured we would do something with eventually ended up those permanent stairs with the door closed. So we had to find a place for all that stuff, or at least some of it- the stuff we weren't giving away/donating or selling. And the only place we didn't have stuff already was the basement. Now if you live in the same neighborhood I do (and you do) and you have a basement, you have a water problem. Or you will one day. To paraphrase a line from Casablanca, maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but soon, and for the rest of your life. We went from a dry basement when we moved in to a trickle leak basement to a moist basement to a flooding basement over the last few years. And a waterproofing expert has told us that the water was not coming from above, it was coming from below- an old well combined with a rising water table and the water finding its way under and around our basement foundation. Our sump pump wasn't cutting it by itself anymore- water was starting to come in everywhere. So Phase 1 became Basement Water Eradication- we got some estimates and \$2500 later, we were getting a french drain installed by Premier Waterproofing. We timed it so that we could leave for a day or two and they would be done by the time we got back (we went to the Mountain Lake Lodge in Virginia, where they filmed scenes from Dirty Dancing, and that's a whole different article) but they were delayed a day and the cement we thought was 4-6 inches deep turned out to be concrete with rock and a good 10 inches thick in places. So they weren't quite finished when we got home. But

finally they got the drain and new sump pump installed. And I'm still cleaning up dust. We should have opened a hole in the wall and installed a fan first because rock dust went everywhere. Everywhere. Everything in the house ended up with a gray tint to it. But our basement has not had a single drop of water on the floor since (as long as the power is on). So we put in shelves and starting moving the attic stuff to the basement.

This transfer of stuff was going to take a while, so while we were boxing, sorting and throwing out, we decided we would start addressing the outside. Since we have a walkout basement, we have always had to go downstairs to go outside to our patio- we'd always wanted a kitchen door to a nice big deck. So it was time for Phase 2- Big Deck! We hired our friends at This Old Punk to install us a DECK- not some 12 by 12 square but a deck that ran the width of the house in the back with room for both seating and dining. Of course, turns out our cement patio was not thick enough to hold the weight of this beauty, so we had to dig footings for supports which the city had to



inspect before we could build. So we got half the lumber dropped off at the house and waited for over 2 weeks for the City of Greensboro to come and look at 4 holes cut into the patio and approve. Literally had to have the City look at 4 holes in the ground. Nothing happens quickly with the City, let me assure you. But finally we got our holes approved and construction began. And then lumber prices went up in the middle of the project. Way up. Turns out everyone in the country decided they wanted to remodel their houses at the same time, creating a lumber shortage.

Thanks America! The design was great and everything finally got done but then we had to wait for the city to come back out and approve everything (not just the holes, but the whole). Weeks went by and finally an inspection which resulted in having to add a few more supports to an already Rock Solid design- literally this deck was more solid than our house. But we went ahead and installed french doors from the kitchen to the deck and started using it while we waited for the re-inspection, cause it was starting to get cold.

And speaking of cold, we wanted to take care of some draftiness in our house. Our house was originally a 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with no basement (they dug the original section out later) and like many of you with classic homes we have an addition on the back that was done much later and ours was covered in asbestos siding. Now asbestos is bad, but only if you are breathing in the dust- siding doesn't normally become "friable" (i.e. airborne and breathable) unless you are breaking it up. So it wasn't for safety that we wanted to cover it up - it was because the addition containing our kitchen and owner suite had very little to no insulation. So if we put vinyl siding on it with a layer of insulation under, we would eliminate many drafts and stay a bit warmer during the winter. So that was Phase 3- we had our friend Chuck Pruitt of Pruitt's Flooring (who does a bit of everything) add gray siding to the back of the house, and our plan was to match that siding when we repainted the house in the spring- our Final Phase. But we had an attic to finish first.

With the attic all emptied, it was time for Phase 4- turns out it was quite a sizable space. We debated whether or not to split it into two rooms but decided that if we kept it as one, we could install a smaller HVAC system- what's called a Mini-split. It's basically a small heat pump sized for one room. And I found a great deal on a brand new one on Ebay and since I had a tidy sum in my paypal account, I bought it. Yep I bought a heating and cooling system on Ebay. And that wasn't the first time. We had this weird cardboard finishing the walls in the attic and power already run there (apparently someone had lived up there before but with NO AC!) so we tore all that out so we could install sheet rock for a smoother look. We did enjoy the old fruit crates that finished the ceiling, some of which were from the 50's, and had our friends at Quid Pro Quo Services start the finishing and painting. They also installed the mini-split for us. Our permit required inspection by the City (Again? Yes, again!) so we had an inspector come and review everything- he seemed happy with everything and was literally walking to his car when he stopped and said "Hey I didn't see a UL Sticker on your mini-split." I had never thought to look for the UL Sticker. I figured everything heating and cooling related would be fine. But as it turns out, NC requires an Underwriter's Laboratory approval to anything sold and installed in the state. And ours, for some reason, did not have a UL approval sticker. When I told the Ebay Seller that he not only sold me the wrong unit, but he couldn't even sell these things to anyone in the state of NC, he happily sent me a return authorization and refunded my money before I even sent the thing back. So instead of saving money on a cheaper mini-split, I had to go pay for a more expensive one AND had to pay to have it installed a second time. But now it's done, it works great, and the kid has moved upstairs and is enjoying her new privacy. And I'm enjoying the fact that no one can get in the windows without a 2 story ladder.

Now it was time to sit back and wait for spring so we could do Phase 5, the final phase. Repaint our weirdly faded to pink white brick. Soon as we paid our taxes we planned to have the outside painted to match our new gray vinyl. We were just waiting for spring to get here. And then February 12th came...

The Little Prayer Box

By Diane Cashion and Frances Taylor

Under a small dogwood tree on Pinecrest Road stands a sweet little prayer box. Its creation is truly a neighborhood effort that represents a dear and deep affection of the wonderful folks that live on our street. A few years ago, Diane Cashion had an idea to extend the reach of the prayer ministry at Hope Chapel Church here in Greensboro. The idea was to capture prayer requests from the neighborhood and include neighbors in the experience and support of intercessory prayer. The Hope Chapel prayer team meets weekly to lift up the prayers of the congregation; and the thought was “Why not offer this to others outside our church?” But then, as sometimes good ideas and intentions go, it never really got off the ground.



Fast forward to an amazing trip to Vietnam where neighbor, Frances Taylor, was intrigued by the beautiful spirit houses she saw everywhere in that unique, faraway country. Upon her return to Greensboro, she described her fascination with these structures to her Pinecrest neighbors over a glass of wine. The conversation that night made Diane rethink the idea of the prayer box again. A casual comment about her desire to have a neighborhood prayer request box resurfaced. Then the beauty of neighbors collaborating began.

Drawing on the amazing talents and gifts of fellow neighbors, the months-long, secretive work commenced. Consultation and construction between Richard Mansell, Betsy Brodeur and Frances produced the prayer house we all enjoy today. Paint selection was well-thought-out and implemented. Fellow neighbors contributed to the efforts by offering discarded paneling and hardware from their own home remodeling works. Even beloved pets got a “shout out” on the finished box with silhouettes of past and new loves adorning its sides. It was a truly a labor of love and kindness!

On the night of October 4, 2019, the prayer box was presented to a very surprised Diane at an informal gathering of friends on the street. Later, the installation under the lovely dogwood completed the project. This prayer box represents a love and appreciation that exists between the neighbors on Pinecrest and adjacent Greenway and Ridgeway Streets. It also represents a special invitation to leave a prayer request that is in your own heart!

To date, numerous prayer requests have been submitted. Many prayers have been received during our Covid quarantine. It is indeed a privilege to intercede to Our Creator on behalf of others. The invitation is open to all! Please feel free to leave your own request some day soon. And as the box proclaims: Prayer Changes Everthing!



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Summer Camp Blast!!

We HOPE everyone has had an awesome year! Our names are HARTLEY KUPIEC and KINSLAIGH NEWKIRK. We are going to be rising seniors at CALDWELL ACADEMY. We are having a summer camp June 14-18 (Monday-Friday) for all rising kindergarteners through rising 5th graders. It is going to be a blast!!! The cost will be \$150 for the whole week or \$30 per day. It will be at 324 East Greenway Dr. North from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Due to COVID, we are asking for you to provide your child's lunch. Popsicles and bottled waters will be provided everyday. We will be doing crafts, water activities, games, free play, sports, and more!! We are so excited!

"Wear a bathing suit under your clothes everyday because we will be doing water activities"

If you have any questions and/or want to RSVP, text (336) 339-2307 (HARTLEY) or (336) 580-8331 (KINSLAIGH). Please RSVP by June 1 Tell your friends.:



Attic Treasures

By Chris Horney

Last year we started clearing some space in our attic; the accumulation after 30 years had reached critical mass. Most of the decisions were easy (toss it or keep it) but some less so. Getting into the detritus of my own childhood brought me to a halt—so much that my parents had saved from that period, passed on to me when they downsized from our family home decades ago. Now it simply must be dealt with.

There's the expected mix of toys, school projects, and some plastic models, none of which a person my age should still have stashed away in boxes; but there are also the personal mementos, handwritten lists, sketches, notebooks. The first items are ones that I fondly remember, and a few of the toys may have some vintage value if sold to collectors, but probably wouldn't, in total, pay for a good lunch. I wouldn't hesitate to part with them. But the second ones, the oddly personal things that we write down, make notes about, are more akin to diaries—in the moment deeply felt, but so, so embarrassing to view in retrospect.

In one box, for example, were two items: the original Dungeons and Dragons starter kit, books and dice; and a strategic World War 2 "game", essentially maps and what-if scenarios with cardboard army symbols. But the fact is, I never "played" either of these, because there was no one else in my small town who was even remotely interested in such things. So I drew diagrams of dungeons (dozens still in that box), created a fantasy world all my own, and to this day have no idea what either game entails, and no interest in finding out. When I shared this particular bit of dead-end childhood pathos with my wife, her stark assessment: "Well, that explains a lot."

And it actually does. Why hold on to this stuff? What purpose has it, does it, will it ever serve? It's not as if I'll use it, be inspired by it, or incorporate it into any creative project. If discovered, would it enlighten anyone as to who I was? Maybe we harbor some delusions that our unearthed early musings may be akin to a trove of Jane Austen juvenilia in a long-lost trunk. Ann's harsh reality-check oddly gave me 'permission' to discard those items, as if finally their simple disclosure was enough. It was also a reminder that, in some ways, I really have not changed as much as I would believe, and I hate admitting that.

I've been delving deeper into this notion of nostalgia, why and how it's triggered. It's a topic researched by philosophers, sociologists, and psychologists, and not as simple as mere 'sentimentality.' One author noted "one of the bitterer truths that nostalgia helps us deal with is the fact that we so rarely know when things are ending." Unlike graduations or retirements, the mundane day-to-day moments in our lives aren't celebrated at their finish, and just cease to be, often gradually and unrecognized. The classic 1979 text on the topic was by the sociologist Fred Davis. He calls nostalgia "a marvel of rational condensation, (that) manages at one and the same time to celebrate the past, to diminish it, and to transmute it into a means for engaging the present." It's about reconciliation with ourselves, and if, as Proust with his madeleine, you're able to turn it into a work of art through remembering past events, now unsullied by the emotions of that moment, then there's an upside to the condensation.

After enjoying the musty old copy of Mr Davis' book, I did a quick search on rare book sites to find a copy (still collecting some things); there were very few copies available, the cheapest around \$200, and several over \$1000. If only I had found one of those in my attic.

How Styrofoam is Bad for the Environment

By Karen Frazier (used with permission of the author)

Problems with Styrofoam

Styrofoam has become such an accepted everyday product that people often don't stop to realize that it is made from polystyrene. Polystyrene is a petroleum-based plastic. In fact, Styrofoam is the trade name for polystyrene. It gained popularity because it is lightweight, offers good insulation properties that keep products cold or hot, and keeps things safe during the shipping process without adding weight. While there are some positive aspects of the material, the years have shown that Styrofoam also has harmful effects.

Environmental Health Concerns

Environmental health concerns start with the elements used to make Styrofoam. Styrene, for example, is the foundational ingredient used to make polystyrene. It is broadly used in the manufacture of plastics, resins, and rubber.

The EPA and the International Agency for Research on Cancer have established styrene as a possible human carcinogen. For those who are exposed regularly in the manufacture of products made with styrene, some of the acute health effects experienced include:

- Irritation of the skin
- Irritation of the eyes
- Irritation of the upper respiratory tract
- Gastrointestinal effects

Chronic exposure to styrene leads to further complications, including affects on the nervous system. Symptoms of chronic exposure include:

- Depression
- Headache
- Weakness
- Minor effects on kidney function
- Fatigue

Non-Biodegradable

Styrofoam appears to last forever, as it is resistant to photolysis, or the breaking down of materials by protons originating from a light source. This, combined with the fact that Styrofoam is lightweight and therefore floats, means that over time a great deal of polystyrene has accumulated along coasts and waterways around the world. It is now considered the main component of marine debris.

While it can be recycled, the recycling market is diminishing. In many communities people are told that their recycling companies will not accept polystyrene products. Those that are recycled are remanufactured into things like cafeteria trays or packing filler. Today, in this place, we commit to the recycling of Styrofoam.

Non-Sustainable

Another reason that Styrofoam is harmful for the environment is that it is made with petroleum, which is a non-sustainable resource. Additionally, petroleum production creates heavy pollution.

Food Contamination

When Styrofoam containers are used for food, chemicals can leach into the food, affecting human health and the reproductive systems. This is accentuated if people reheat the food while still in the container.

Alternatives to Styrofoam

Coming up with a suitable replacement for Styrofoam has been quite a challenge for scientists, although there is hope. Recently, a company called Ecovative Design has created a line of products product made from fungi that are Styrofoam-like and aspire to be a more environmentally friendly replacement.

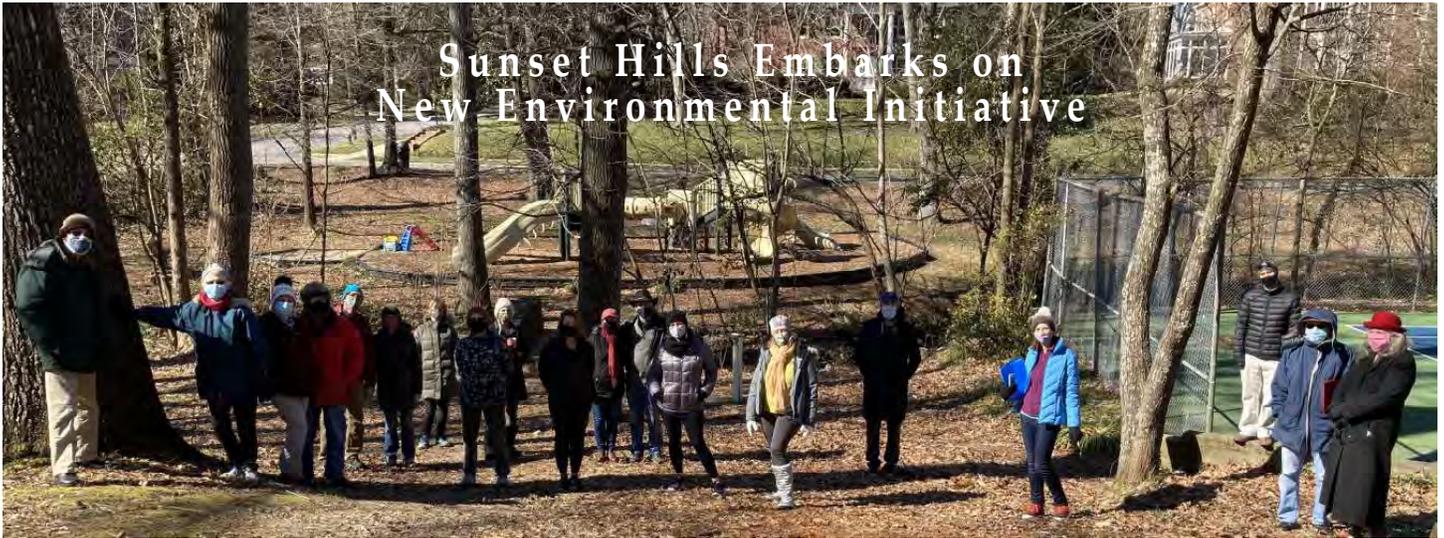
If you want to make eco-friendly choices to eliminate the use of Styrofoam, look for products that include features such as:

- Manufactured from renewable resources
- Contain biodegradable materials
- Are easily recycled

Reduce and Reuse

The best thing for environmentally conscious consumers who know how Styrofoam is bad for the environment to do is to reduce their use of Styrofoam. They should also encourage and support movements that do the same.

Sunset Hills Embarks on New Environmental Initiative



What do the residents of Sunset Hills want to see in place within the next five years that will make our neighborhood a model of environmental sustainability and ecological health?

That is the question which forms the foundation of a new project being undertaken by the Sunset Hills Environmental Affairs Committee, a group of roughly 20 engaged neighbors who share concerns related to climate change, and who seek to work together within our own community and with other surrounding communities in order to move our neighborhood forward in environmental areas. To kickstart this effort, the Committee joined the Enlivening Neighborhoods program created by Emerging Ecology, a local nonprofit organization that works with communities to create citizen-engaged programs which foster opportunities for resolving current economic, social, and environmental issues.

Starting in February this year, Emerging Ecology facilitated meetings with residents of Sunset Hills to explore the question above and begin thinking about ways to collectively act upon it. In addition to getting to know one another more at the first meeting, participants performed a “baseline” assessment of the Sunset Hills neighborhood through a walking survey, noting things that contribute to an environmentally healthy neighborhood (or that don’t!), and noting what features make Sunset Hills unique.

The walking survey results led to collective brainstorming sessions on ways to make our neighborhood a model of environmental sustainability and ecological health, while preserving its traditions and character. Through a series of online and socially-distanced outdoor meetings, the Environmental Affairs Committee formed three subgroups which will focus on the following projects:

Stewards of Sunset Hills:

This group will focus on the natural environment, both in Sunset Hills Park and in individual yards, by promoting practices that enhance ecological health. Potential projects include encouraging native plants and gardens, planting trees, and rehabbing the park to remove invasive species, ensure stream health, install a walking path, and place educational signage. The group’s contact is Robin Davis, 1jaxmom@gmail.com.



Renewable Electrification while Preserving Historical Character:

This group will focus on finding ways to increase the production of renewable energy in the neighborhood and encouraging residents to make their homes more energy-efficient. The group’s contact is Adam Graham-Squire, adam.grahamsquire@gmail.com.

Sunset Hills Eco Communications:

This group will focus on promoting the other two subgroups' activities in Sunset Hills in a positive, engaging, unified manner, in addition to developing its own projects, such as a club for neighbors interested in collectively reducing their individual carbon footprints. This group will share information, project news, and opportunities through the neighborhood newsletter, listserv, website, new neighbor welcome packets, social media, and as many other channels of information as it can find! This subgroup will work closely with the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association as projects are announced. The group's contact is Erin Reis, erin.reis.1@gmail.com.



Setting up for recycling

The group is preparing for our last session facilitated by Emerging Ecology on May 22, where we will be developing concrete plans for each subgroup's first short-term and long-term projects. As the first official Enlivening Neighborhoods project, Sunset Hills hopes to create a model that other neighborhoods can follow to identify shared values and concerns, and to turn those into neighborhood-specific goals for environmentally-focused projects. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements and project updates as we collectively work to make our wonderful neighborhood as environmentally and ecologically rich as it can be! Don't hesitate to get in touch with the group contacts mentioned above if you have ideas or would like to get involved.

Our late friend, Jerry Pifer

By Bob Arms

Feb 18th we lost a beloved long term resident of Sunset Hills - Jerry Pifer. Jerry faithfully served our community coordinating the distributions of our newsletter to the 320 homes north of Market St. for six years.

Betty and I moved to Greensboro right across the street from Jerry and Deborah four years ago this summer. Two weeks later they hosted a block party for us to meet our neighbors (or was it for them to check us out? :) Jerry and I became quick friends, and enjoyed many bike rides together.



Over the last year, as cancer began to limit his abilities, Jerry asked for my help. I was glad to. February was my first run at coordinating the army of kind and faithful volunteers. My big thanks to all of you who have been patient with me as I've tried to fill Jerry's shoes. Together, we'll make it, but Jerry will always be deeply missed.



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CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS INCREASE

Each week we are continuing to see a rise in catalytic converter thefts. The most common are from Toyota Priuses and various makes of minivans- but it can happen to any car. Here are some tips to help in preventing your catalytic converter from being stolen.

- 1) Park in a garage or well-lit area
- 2) Engrave your VIN number into your catalytic converter.
- 3) Weld your catalytic converter into your car's frame.
- 4) Install a car alarm that goes off when it senses vibration.
- 5) Park close to the curb to deter access from underneath your car.
- 6) Install a catalytic converter security device.

Hello neighbors! Please see the notice above from the Greensboro Police Department about catalytic converter theft. This was happening fairly often in our area last summer and fall. If you see something, say something, as this is quite an expense for the car owners to replace



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Sunset Hills Neighborhood

Hi, I am Hartley Kupiec and I am 17 years old! I go to Caldwell Academy and I am looking for summer jobs! If you are looking for a pet sitter/ pet walker, house sitter, babysitter/ mom's helper, someone to take up and down your trash cans, garden, clean or get your mail, here I am! I can pet sit and/or house sit when you are on a vacation, I can walk your dogs any time of the week and take up and down your trash cans on your trash day. Also, I am available to help any young children with summer school work if needed! I am very flexible with times and days. You can get in touch with me either by email or text/call! My email address is: hartley.kupiec@caldwellacademy.org and my phone number is: (336) 339-2307

If you have any questions please contact me!

~ Hartley Kupiec



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What Does it Mean to be in a Sellers' Market?

Contributed by Leslie Stainback

There's no doubt that 2021 is the year of the seller when it comes to the housing market. If you are a homeowner thinking of moving to better suit your changing needs, now is the perfect time to do so! Low mortgage rates are in your favor when you are ready to purchase your dream home, downsize, or relocate. High buyer demand may give you the leverage you need to negotiate the best contract terms on the sale of your home. Here's a look at what's driving this sellers' market and why there's so much opportunity for homeowners who are ready to move.

1. Historically low inventory. Even with a slight rise in homes for sale this spring, inventory remains at an all-time low. Strong home buyer interest is creating a major imbalance between supply and demand, but sellers are beginning to reenter the market. Act now to take advantage of buyer demand and get the most money for your house. As inventory of homes grows later this year, options will increase, lowering demand.

2. Frequent bidding wars. As a result of the supply and demand imbalance, homebuyers are entering bidding wars at an accelerating rate. The National Association of Realtors reports that 4.8 is the average number of bids on the most recently closed sales. As buyers face increasingly tough competition while searching for a home, they are more likely to be flexible and generous in their negotiations. This allows the seller to choose the best buyer for their needs and be selective about things like repairs, time to find a new home, appraisal contingencies, and more. Working with your trusted agent is the best way to determine how to navigate the negotiation process when selling your house.

3. Days on the market. In today's market, sellers are not waiting long to find a buyer for their home. If you are looking for a fast closing there has never been a quicker market. According to Triad Multiple Listing Service, Sunset Hills averaged four days on the market in April. In my opinion, the sales for April would have been higher had there been more inventory. Days on the market are swift, multiple offers are prevalent, and buyer confidence is rising.

The bottom line: If you have ever given even a casual thought to selling your house, now is the time! We are in the ultimate seller's market. Selling your house can be daunting, especially in a fast-paced market. However, the fact that we're in such a strong sellers' market clearly eliminates many common concerns.

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Sunset Hills Has New Business Neighbors

By Angie Besecker

Fern + Amelia is open at 1615 West Friendly Avenue in Greensboro. The shop features a thoughtfully edited collection of vintage, handmade, and found elements for the home and garden.

F + A was created by interior designer and Greensboro native Angie Besecker with the assistance of her daughter Ava Besecker. The pair love to travel and curate, and share a passion for beautiful, purposeful, and endearing objects. Their favorite international travel destinations include Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Beijing, and Cayman Brac.

The shop is nestled in a vintage 1950's space located at 1615 West Friendly Avenue near where Angie grew up as a child. Before Josephine Boyd Avenue was created by the state, Madison Avenue ran in front of the building and the address was 1615 Madison Avenue. The shopping district was originally called Top of the Hill. During the up-fit of the adjacent space, a business advertisement was discovered behind the drywall. Angie and Ava restored the vintage signage for the Mayfare Bake Shop and Creamery, and are trying to find anyone who may remember the original tenant. Please reach out if you have any information.



ELAN Design Source

Angie is also the proprietor and globally-inspired interior designer behind ELAN – located in the connected space to Fern + Amelia.

ELAN is a full-service interior design firm and home furnishings boutique. All of the furniture, lighting, accessories, rugs, wallpaper, fabric, and original art quality crafted and curated from hundreds of local, national and global artisans and manufacturers. The ELAN showroom also offers bench-made custom upholstery and an on-site reupholstery and pillow workroom.

Angie has an extensive background in graphic, textile and interior design, and has always been obsessed with color, texture and creating livable, layered spaces. She has worked on local, regional and international projects.

ELAN is the exclusive stockist for Farrow and Ball paint and handcrafted wallpaper in the Triad. The British paint is mixed in small batches in Dorset England and has long been iconic in the world of architecture and interior design. Farrow and Ball is known not only for their quirky names (Elephant's Breath, Dead Salmon, Sulking

Room Pink), but also for their gorgeous rich, traditional hues and amazing quality. The paint offers deeper colors in an eco-friendly water base with high-performance finishes. The paint also has an amazing capacity for subtle, handsome transformation under different light conditions.



Farrow and Ball paint is extremely difficult to match because of its proprietary formula with different viscosity. The paint's polymers change how it adheres to the wall. As a result, not only is the texture different, but so is the way the light reflects. ELAN is currently offering complimentary color consultations by appointment.

ELAN's exterior is painted in Farrow and Ball Wevet No. 273 and Vardo No. 288, and the exterior of Fern + Amelia features Lamp Room Gray No. 88 and Churlish No. 251.

Whether you are just needing paint or wallpaper advice, searching for the perfect chandelier, or are in need of a complete home makeover, ELAN can help you create illuminating and inviting spaces.

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May 2021 Treasurer Report - Membership List

By Elaine Brune

We added 147 new members to the membership list since our last newsletter. Thanks to all who have paid their dues and paid more. Below are list all who have paid. Names in BOLD and * are neighbors who have contributed more than dues. Thank you all for your generosity!

325 households have paid their membership dues of the 800+ homes in Sunset Hills. These dues help pay for events and activities. Our latest expense are the Congratulations to the Graduates signs. Our biggest expenditures this year will be the ongoing tree reforestation and !NEW! The Sunset Hills Sign Toppers!

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO BE IN THIS ELITE GROUP. Please Join! Dues are \$10 per calendar year. We accept checks or cash at 2504 Sylvan Road (Payable to SHNA or through PayPal at <http://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org/contact.html>. Note PayPal deducts 59 cents for each transaction.

Thanks to all our neighbors who have paid their dues.

Elaine 336 601 5719

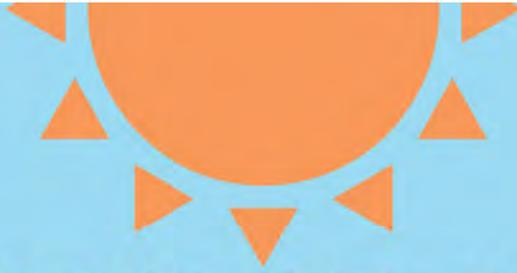
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Erol & Lisa Yurtkuran
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OUR LADY OF GRACE SUMMER CAMPS

COME JOIN US IN PERSON!

SAVE THE DATES!

Week 1: June 14-18

Week 4: July 12-16

Week 2: June 21-25

Week 5: July 26-30

Week 3: June 28- July 2

Week 6: August 2-6

REGISTER NOW!

Visit Our Site For More Information
<https://www.olgcamps.org>

336-275-1522