



Sunset Hills July 2015

Greensboro, North Carolina

Annual Neighborhood Events

January

February

March

Neighborhood Meeting

April

Easter Egg Hunt

Great American Clean-up

May

Annual Pig Picking

June

July

July 4th Parade and Picnic

August

National Night Out

September

Big Sweep Event

October

Halloween Party in the Park

November

December

Lighted Christmas Balls

Food Drive, Running of the Balls

SHNA President's Column

By Carl Phillips

So, where did the term "lazy days of summer" come from? Maybe from the world of education because it seems like all our summer days are packed with places to go and thing to do. I marvel at the amount of coordination my children go through in arranging summer activities for the grandchildren. No wonder people long for a slower pace and the opportunity to just sit and enjoy each other's company.

So, a word or two about the Sunset Hills email listserv. When I started the listserv in 2007, with the help of Michael Driver, I envisioned it being a tool for neighbors to help neighbors. We had a very rough beginning with lots of opinions being shared. It soon became apparent that we needed to add moderators to the mix as well as a few guidelines. Those guidelines are posted on our neighborhood website at www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org, and I have included a copy below. For the most part, we are all good about following those guidelines, but on occasion it becomes a little challenging for our moderator team.

(continued on page 3)

Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association
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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>. The *information* tab contains a list of tradespeople recommended by neighbors. If you are not on the listserv go to *Email listserv* and submit your email address to be added as a member of the monitored listserv. 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 2015 dues to submit a message to the listserv.

.....
Easter Egg hunt coordinator. This position is open for the SHNA. You have a whole year before you have to work on it!! Please contact a board member if you are willing to head the planning for this event.

.....
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, Emily Herman at 2512 Berkley Place. Checks for more than \$10 will be accepted as donations to the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association.

.....
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Rules for posting on the Sunset Hills email listserv:

Please remember this service was started so that neighbors can more easily help each other. This is not the place for posting opinions or “me, too” messages. The moderator team appreciates your understanding and use of these rules.

1. Only neighbors who have paid their \$10.00 association dues are allowed to post non-emergency emails. Send checks to Emily Herman, 2512 Berkley Place, payable to SHNA.
2. If you wish to agree or disagree with a posting, please contact the individual who sent the email. This can be done by clicking on the “reply to sender” link at the bottom of each post.
3. The listserv cannot be used to vent anger or call names.
4. Non-solicited business recommendations are not permitted unless other neighbors are requesting recommendations.
5. You should personally introduce yourself to immediate neighbors, not post on the listserv.
6. State facts when using the listserv. Opinions should be kept to a minimum, or not expressed at all.
7. NO EMAIL FORWARDS unless it's official city or government related business.
8. Events happening in Sunset Hills can be posted; events happening outside the neighborhood cannot.

I can't begin to tell you how much joy I receive when a pet has been found, a service need is met, neighborhood events are shared and, most importantly, neighbors in need become overwhelmed with offers of help. It's those kinds of things that make Sunset Hills the neighborhood it has become. Yes, we have many beautiful homes and an incredible tree canopy, but it's what's inside those homes that makes Sunset Hills a great place to live.

A few weeks ago one of our caring neighbors organized a meeting with Greensboro Parks and Recreation and the Department of Water Quality. The meeting was about access to the stream that runs through our park (along Greenway) and the quality of that water, since our little folks have been known to play in the stream. The heads of both those departments were incredibly complementary of Sunset Hills and are doing everything in their power to address our concerns and come up with viable solutions. You'll hear more about this project, but it's a matter of neighbors taking action, not pointing fingers, that makes a community. I also feel the reputation of Sunset Hills helps when we express a need to our city departments. Members of the police department and city council are on our listserv and know firsthand our level of caring.

We are currently experiencing the neighbor helping neighbor phenomenon with Stephanie's recent post. I think Stephanie will be the first to admit that it took me a couple of years to convince her to sign up for the listserv. Within a matter of hours, after her request to help a neighbor was posted, she experienced the benefits of the listserv and the caring neighbors who make up our neighborhood.

Are you on the listserv? Do you want to know about the above post and what they mean to our neighborhood? Are you aware of the regular neighborhood updates and the current crime watch notices? If any of that sounds beneficial to you, then please email (cwpr5524@aol.com) me your name and home address and I will add you to the listserv. If you don't have email access, then ask one of your neighbors to keep you updated on important posts. We're all in this together, neighbor helping neighbor.

How to Do Stuff to Your Old House: Refinishing a Painted 1920s Wooden Door

By Katherine Rowe

Our Sunset Hills doors come from the 1920s and '30s. They're heavy, solid wood with solid brass knobs, back plates and escutcheons.

To replace one door with a new and equal quality door would cost nearly \$500.

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Try This Old House website for great do-it-yourself instructions:

<http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/how-to/intro/0,,20182964,00.html>

And if you are not interested in doing it yourself, call The Strip Shop at 274-5464 to do the work for you. Other places in town prefer to stay away from strip-only jobs. The Strip Shop will take about anything you have, including pretty old doors.

Prime and paint when you get it back home and enjoy the fresh look of old doors.

If you need a matching door for your home, try Architectural Salvage of Greensboro. It has several sizes of donated doors for sale starting around \$40.

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Annual Sunset Hills 4th of July Parade and Picnic

Please join your Sunset Hills friends and neighbors in celebrating the Fourth of July. The parade starts at 4:30 at the tennis court on East Greenway Drive. Decorate your wagon, convertible, tractor, scooter, or bicycle and join the fun. Walkers and pets are welcome too. Patriotic attire is recommended. The parade will travel east on Madison to Overlook and back down Rolling Road to the park. Residents along the route just may want to have their garden hoses or sprinklers ready in case the crowd needs to cool off.



After the parade, a band will entertain us starting around 5:00. Although there is no centrally organized covered dish dinner, bring your own food, beverages, chairs, and tables and stay until dark. Please bring a trash bag and help keep our park clean.

Several coolers full of water balloons are needed for the water balloon toss competition on the tennis court at 6:00 pm. Contact Scott if you will help with this or just bring a cooler of filled balloons. Think heat and cooling off!

If you have any questions, call Jane or Scott Harkey at 370-9692. See you there.



Photos courtesy of Harvey Herman, 2013

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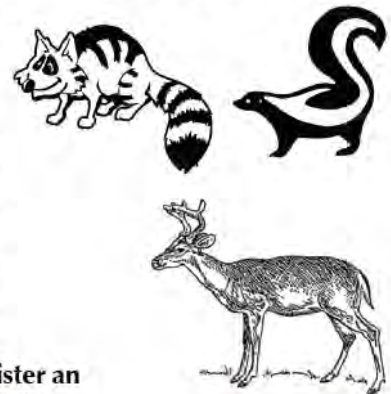
Raccoons & Skunks & Deer...Oh, My!



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One Man's Trash, Another Man's Treasure

By Carl Phillips

A few weeks ago I sent out a post on the listserv about wanting some broken concrete. Many of you replied wanting to know what I was up to now, and why was I wanting broken concrete. I happen to be a fan of rubble walls and saving the landfill some space.

When we first moved into our house, the sidewalk to our door was being lifted by tree roots. It needed replacing but I didn't want another poured concrete walkway. I broke up the cement and put in a flagstone walkway with pea gravel between the flagstones. I had a pile of concrete rubble so I decided to terrace our front yard since it sloped considerably toward the driveway side. Several compliments later, I decided my lack of desire to take the broken cement to the landfill was a good idea.



Spring forward fifteen years and now we are remodeling a 1950's bathroom. For those of you who haven't remodeled a bath, when bathrooms were built in the 50's, six inches of cement was poured between the floor joists before putting down the bathroom floor tile. Seeing these perfect cement rectangles stacking up in my front yard and on their way to the dump via my contractor's truck, I had another epiphany. I decided to terrace the other side of my house and put in a zinnia and vegetable garden, since that spot gets the most sun. So, the picture below visually explains my request for cement. The very top tier is my former bathroom floor, the second tier is from a broken up sidewalk that a Sunset Hills neighbor donated to my cause, and the third tier is from a sidewalk project on the UNCG campus and on Spring Garden.

Stay tuned for my next project which is a woodland garden. Many of you have already donated some shade loving plants for this project. It will take a few years to complete so stay tuned.

The Bats of Sunset Hills

by Kristy King

You may be wondering about those strange looking women that like to stare at houses in Sunset Hills at sunset. My name is Kristy King, and I am an Environmental Health Sciences Ph.D. student in the biology department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Cities like Greensboro are often located in biologically diverse regions. My dissertation project investigates how wildlife respond to habitat changes associated with growing cities. Changes include less vegetation and more manmade structures. My focal organisms are bats. Bats are the only mammal capable of true flight. They are the major predators and important controllers of night-flying insects. In Greensboro, bats produce one or two pups during the summer. Both adequate feeding and roosting habitat are essential for bats' survival and successful reproduction. After foraging all night, bats require a place to roost during the day for resting and/or nursing their pup(s). Bats that roost in groups are typically adult females that are related to one another (sisters, aunts, cousins, grandmothers etc) and have come together to help one another raise their pup(s) born in the early summer. Roost sites for raising pups include, but are not limited to, inside cavities of old trees, under shingles, behind wooden boards (like shutters), and inside sheds.

As part of my project, I compare roost sites between urban areas and rural areas. To identify important characteristics of urban roosts, I first have to find the bat roost. To find the roost, I capture bats in mist-nets (with my field assistants) when they leave their roost to forage. Once we capture the bats, we quickly take some measurements and attach a small radio-transmitter to their backs (via a degradable surgical glue). We then release the bat exactly where we captured it. The following day we drive around neighborhoods, with an antenna hanging outside the window, where we hear the radio-signal from the tagged bat. Once we find the signal, we contact the homeowner for permission to localize the bat's radio-signal on their property. Once we find the roost site, we take measurements of the bat roost and watch the bat and its roost-mates as they emerge to feed at night.

Sunset hills provides important roost habitat for Greensboro bats. The bats we have tracked to Sunset Hills were radio-tagged while foraging at UNCG (University of North Carolina at Greensboro). We have tracked bats from two to ten blocks from their foraging area. The two species of bats I am studying in



"Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) with a radio transmitter temporarily attached to his/her back - photo taken before release."

Sunset Hills are the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) and evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*). These two species show a preference for using houses as their roosts, when houses are available (ie, in urban areas). In rural areas, these two species roost inside tree cavities or behind sloughing tree bark.

We really enjoy working with the Sunset Hills homeowners! So far, none have known that they had bats on their property, because the bats most often roost externally on the home. Bats in Sunset Hills have been found to roost under loose boards on the home, behind roof flashing, and on the outside of chimneys (between the chimney stack and flashing). So far, we have not identified a colony that is getting into the actual home.

So you might wonder why we keep going back to the roosts (ie, your homes). Phenology is the study of animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal variations in climate. Urbanization could potentially influence the climate within a region, which could influence the timing of migration and/or reproduction in bats. We continue to watch bat roosts throughout the year to identify changes in the number of bats in one colony. This signifies a migration event (individuals are returning in the spring or leaving in the fall) and a reproductive event (pups are learning to fly and forage on their own). One of the easiest ways to measure the size of a colony is to do a "roost watch" where an observer counts how many bats emerge from a roost at sunset. By identifying changes in the colony size, we can identify the timing of these life cycle events.

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This summer, you may also see one of my lab-mates, Sarah Schimpp, doing her research in Sunset Hills. In addition to helping me with my project, she drives around the neighborhood with an ultrasound-recording bat recorder attached to the top of a Zipcar. She is trying to identify the best methods for monitoring urban bat communities. Recording bats with a bat detector, allows us to determine how many, and what species, are flying around because bat species have unique features in their echolocation calls. This, by the way, is why you will often see us pointing a bat detector toward emerging bats when we are doing a roost watch at your house.

If you see me, Sarah, or my assistants either driving around searching for bats or watching houses at sunset, please feel free to stop us and ask us questions. Our main goal is to share what we have learned and let you know about these amazing members of North Carolina biodiversity. We would also like to thank all the homeowners that have helped with this study. Getting permission from homeowners is the greatest obstacle I encounter with doing research in urban areas. I would be unable to study these unique mammals without your help. If you have bats at your house and would like to be part of my study, please email me (klking3@uncg.edu). If you are unsure if you have bats at your house or have questions about our work or bats in general, contact me. My research advisor, Dr. Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell (mckalcou@uncg.edu), a Sunset Hills homeowner, can also answer any questions that you might have.



"Sarah with a bat detector pointed towards a house."

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I Have Found My Passion

By Tracy Lamothe

Some of you may know that I had a restaurant for a little while on the corner of Greene and Bellemeade. Before that I was catering and making scones and muffins at a coffee booth at the farmers market on Yanceyville St. Those projects were great and I learned so much. The restaurant especially gave me lots of room to experiment and play with the best ingredients - things you can't buy in a grocery store.

Then my friend Heather, who was president of the PTA at Peeler Elementary, got an idea and as usual she roped me into it. We offered a cooking camp to kids after school for eight weeks. It was too much fun. My favorite memory of the two years I did it was pizza making day. We didn't make normal pizzas but I brought in different toppings that I asked each of them to try. One young lady tasted feta cheese for the first time. When the class was over and we were cleaning up she ate the rest of the tub! It was truly a delight to see her face light up after trying something new.

After my restaurant closed I continued to cater but without a proper kitchen to call home it was really tough. I was asked to come teach a class called Cooking Matters, a program put on by Second Harvest Food Bank. This time I got to teach adults and teens. I fell in love. Talking with adults who ask questions and want to learn more about what they put in their bodies and their families bodies is so rewarding! I will begin my eighth Cooking Matters class in July. Again, amazingly rewarding to help people realize their potential in the kitchen!

So in February I started Blue Spoon Cooking School. I want everyone to enjoy cooking, eating healthy and feeling stronger about their abilities. As they said in the movie Ratatouille "Anyone Can Cook". I really believe that. I am here to help you find your love in the kitchen and eat some delicious food along the way! (and maybe drink a little wine too.)

Reto Biaggi, a neighbor, friend and colleague has graciously allowed me to use the kitchen in Reto's Kitchen, 600 S. Elam Ave. next door to Common Grounds. I am offering Lunch and Learn on Monday July 13, 20, and 27 from noon until 1 pm. It includes a short demonstration of what we are having for lunch, lunch and the recipe to take home. I keep it to an hour so if you are working you can still make it.

Evening classes are a little more involved. Sunday June 28 from 6 - 8 pm we are doing a "Best of the Market"



class that will focus on what is currently available at the Corner Market that Saturday. We will have three courses and wine with each course. All wines are available for purchase at Bestway.

In July we will have two evening classes on the 13th and 27th. Both will be from 6 pm to 8 pm. On the 13th we will have a French menu to celebrate Bastille day on the 14th. Make sure to wear your striped shirt and white pants! On the 27th it will be "Singles Survival Night" cooking for one and two people.

Pre-registration is required for all classes. See the website www.thebluespooncompany.com for information and a registration form.

(recipe on page 11)

Blue Spoon Cooking School



Teaching the world to cook one person at a time

Blackened Chicken with Kale Pesto and Pasta

Clean chicken and sprinkle blackening seasoning over it. Oil baking pan and place chicken in the pan. Roast for 20 minutes or until cooked through at 350 degrees. When done, remove from the oven and reserve.

To make the pesto place kale, basil, almonds in the food processor. Pulse until blended but not into a paste. Add salt, pepper and cheese. Continue to blend. Add olive oil in a slow drizzle while the machine is running. When the pesto becomes blended and loose (but not a paste) stop the blending. Toss into the fresh pasta and serve immediately. Chop the chicken into bite size pieces and distribute to each plate. Pass more cheese for topping.



By Carlee Dempsey

Just a little background information, a major goal of fair-trade businesses is to help producers receive a fair price for the products

Me: Where did Art & Soul's name come from?


Me: What makes Art & Soul unique?

Me: Why did you decide to open Art & Soul on Spring Garden?

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(continued from page 11)

Jenny: For two reasons, one, this is an amazing location. You can't beat its accessibility and community feel. Two, the windows. With a major in Merchandising, I have always loved the art of creating eye-catching displays. The minute I saw the windows I knew this was the spot to open Art & Soul.

Me: Why did your family choose to move to Sunset Hills?

Jenny: We fell in love with the neighborhood and the community support we immediately felt when we moved here.

Me: What is your favorite part of living in Sunset Hills?

Jenny: Its incredibly convenient. We love to ride our bikes. So the fact that we can ride to dinner at Hops or to Best Way for popsicles and beer is awesome.

Me: What's your favorite local spot, besides Art & Soul?

Jenny: We love Hops Burger Bar, Josephine's and the Corner Bars.

Art & Soul is located at 1938 Spring Garden Street. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Starting in October, the store will be open on Sundays as well. The website and e-commerce store will be up and running in November of this year. For the time being, visit Art & Soul's Facebook, Pinterest, and Instagram pages for a look at their hand made products!





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Ross: Superdog

By Jeri Rowe

I never would've believed it. But there it was, on a Thursday in April, on page A4 of the News & Record under the headline, "Guilford confirms third case of rabies."

Our dog Ross made the paper.

It was a Tuesday, mid-morning on South Tremont. Construction crews were tearing up our street out front, and Ross was in the back coming snout to snout with a rabid raccoon.

The raccoon lost.

The drama was played out in the second paragraph of a 12-paragraph story. There he was, except not in name. Just in this: "The raccoon came into contact with a dog."

Great. In the pages of my former employer. Just great.

I wrote something on Facebook. An editor from the New & Record saw it and asked me if she could use what I wrote on Facebook in the paper.

Meanwhile, Facebook messages and personal emails shot back and forth over the Sunset Hills listserv to me and my wife, Katherine, about the fate of our dog, Ross.

Neighbors thought the worst. So did we. Kath told me about Ross' dilated pupils after the attack. She hosed him off right after the attack. He was covered in mud. Afterward, the animal control officer told us to keep Ross away from us for two days and watch for the telltale sign of rabies.

We all know the signs. Irritability. Restlessness. Viciousness. Labored breathing. If we saw it, we all knew Ross' fate: We'd have to put him down.

For two days, I could barely look at him. I kept seeing in my mind the raccoon's picture on phone, its midsection as thick as a volleyball and remembering the first word Kath wrote to me in a text message.

It's an abbreviation we all know.

"Omg."

Now, Ross is no canine saint. With his paws, he has gouged our wood windowsills by barking at everything he sees and hears -- a dog, a bike, a pickup truck, a garbage truck, a UPS truck, a squirrel, a chipmunk, the rumble of thunder and I swear a ghost.

Gotta be a ghost. Nothing's ever there.

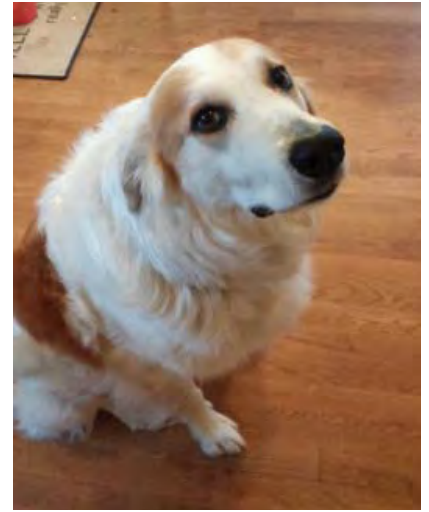
And he's cross-stitched our dining room table with scratches by jumping up and thinking it was his own personal perch. Of course, it wasn't. My wife can't even talk about it. She's still mad -- and it happened four years ago.

And he does leave his little ... er ... "presents" around the house. You know what I mean. It happens even when he's been outside. He doesn't get it all ... out.

But he is our dog, the lovable 70-pound Australian shepherd/Golden retriever mix we rescued a few years back after 13 months on the end of a chain. He's the playmate of Strider, our black-and-white Border Collie. But Ross is the real personality of the house.

He can moan in tones and catch a tennis ball on the fly. He likes to nuzzle necks, nudge for back scratches, crawl into bed during thunderstorms and greet everyone who comes into the house with his nose right in their crotch. Every morning before daybreak, he's at my knee or acting as my sentinel. We downstairs, I get the paper from

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(continued from page 14)

out front and he lies at my feet as I read the very paper he appeared in April.

But he can be a fighter. Known in our neighborhood as a fighter. I've always loathed that.

Until that Tuesday.

During a noon newscast, when they read about it in the News & Record, WGHP anchors talked about our dog. In an ominous tone, as anchors always do, they said they didn't know if the dog attacked was up to date on his shots.

Well, Ross is. He even got a booster shot that Tuesday.

The following Saturday, he made the News & Record. His photo appeared above the paper's name on A1, and his story appeared on the front of the Life section. I knew it would happen. Always does. Newspapers love animal stories.

For days afterward, I'd run into neighbors on our walk, and they'd all start with, "There he is. Ross, our hero."

Today, Ross is fine. Made me believe even more in the importance of rabies shots. Now, he's back to his old ... er ... tricks.

"Presents" in the house. Freaked out by thunderstorms. Barks at everything he sees, hears or imagines beyond our front door,.

Lovely.

Now, if only that could change.

Jeri Rowe, the former staff columnist of the News & Record, now works as the senior writer for High Point University.



Click it..

Or turn it,
But lock your
car

"I accidentally left my car unlocked last night. It was rummaged through (at least I get to organize the glove box now). Nothing of consequence was in the car and no damage. Just a reminder to us all."

"Our car (which was, truthfully, probably left unlocked) was rifled through last night."

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Membership and Treasurer's Report

As of June 15th we have 337 paid households. Dues are \$10. If you haven't paid your 2015 dues it's not too late. Membership entitles you to use the listserv, a wonderful way to stay in touch with the neighborhood; ask for help; sell/give away stuff; get vendor recommendations from your neighbors; and help reunite the occasional lost dog/cat/bird with its frantic owner. Check out the front page of this newsletter for annual events that bring neighbors together for social occasions and work projects that help to keep our neighborhood looking good. Send a check made out to SHNA for \$10.00 to me, Emily Herman, 2512 Berkley Pl. If you use two names and want to be listed that way or use a name other than the one on your check, please let me know. Call me at 275-6015 if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Many thanks to Robert Powell, Tom Rogers, and Jim & Janet Stenersen who made contributions since the April newsletter.



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Adventures in the Snow!

By Cal Meyers

One night in late February it started snowing a lot. I was really excited about having the next day off from school and I couldn't sleep. As midnight rolled around, my Mom and I decided to take our dog and go on a midnight hike through Sunset Hills. It was snowing really hard, but it was completely silent. My mom and I were the only people in our neighborhood who were outside enjoying the beautiful snowfall. It was like we had the whole world to ourselves!

We hiked over to the Greenway. As we walked into the wooded area, the only thing we could hear was the trickling water in the creek. We stopped there for a few minutes and watched our dog as he sat and listened. As the snow got thicker, we had fun writing words in the snow. Our dog had a lot of snow on him, but he was kept warm by the waterproof sweater he was wearing! It was a really magical time for the three of us, and I couldn't wait to tell my Dad and little brother about it the next morning! While sledding and building snowmen is a lot of fun, I recommend that the next time it snows in Greensboro, everyone get outside and take a nighttime hike. It doesn't have to be at midnight. You will be amazed at the stillness and the beauty. I loved our midnight snow adventure.



Riding the Rails

By Carole Lindsey-Potter

When I was very young, my parents decided to vacation in Miami Beach. As part of the travel experience, we booked the autotrain leaving from Front Royal, VA. Speed forward to about ten years ago. I read "The Christmas Train" by David Baldacci. It is about a man who travels from Washington DC to Los Angeles by sleeper car on Amtrak. He takes the Capitol Limited to Chicago and the Southwest Chief to LA. I was hooked! I wanted to try Amtrak.



The Coast Starlight Parlor Car

Since then, we have been on many trips on Amtrak, including three on the Empire Builder, Chicago to Seattle where our daughter lives and one from Los Angeles to Chicago on the Southwest Chief. But I want to share our latest trip. Our daughter Dianna and her husband are making a big move, and I mean big. Dianna was accepted into the Master of Philosophy program in theoretical linguistics at the Arctic University of the North in Tromsø, Norway. So our trip to visit them in Seattle will be the last for a long time. For our trip home, we wanted to do a new route, one that is touted as the most scenic in America. This would be a five day, four night trip starting with the Coast Starlight from Seattle to Sacramento.

The Coast Starlight was different. It had a parlor car exclusive to sleeper passengers. Amtrak trains west of Chicago are double decker. The long routes have observation cars with windows curving up for viewing, and a café downstairs. This is also where volunteers from the National Park Service do wonderful commentaries of the trip. There is also a dining car serving meals cooked on board. The parlor car had eight comfy arm chairs that



Crossing California on the Zephyr

could swivel 360°, four dining booths and a bar upstairs. Downstairs there was a movie theatre – you heard right – a movie theatre showing two films a day. We spent much of this first leg of the trip in the Parlor Car.



Next we boarded the California Zephyr – two days and nights to Chicago. Now the scenery became even more spectacular. From the Sierra Nevada range to the Rocky Mountains, we were treated to glorious views. We saw the red rocks of Nevada and Utah, and upon awakening the next day, the Rockies still had snow topped peaks and lush greens. As we descended into Denver the plains of Colorado and Nebraska lay before us, and the following morning we

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In Utah - view from the Dining Car

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awoke to the rolling green hills of Iowa. Luckily we were only two hours late into Chicago and we were able to make our connection to the Cardinal, headed for Charlottesville, VA. If we had missed our connection, Amtrak would have put us up in a hotel in Chicago for the night and we would catch the Cardinal the next day. Unfortunately, the freight lines own all of the tracks and Amtrak has to pull to the side to allow right of way for the freight trains. This can cause havoc with the Amtrak schedules. You need to be flexible because there is nothing Amtrak can do about this.

The Cardinal was an overnight trip to Virginia through Indianapolis and on to Cincinnati, then through Kentucky

and West Virginia. It was probably the least impressive route we have taken, but the Amtrak personnel were wonderful as usual and the trip was still enjoyable. From Charlottesville we caught the Crescent for our final leg into Greensboro. During the trip we met many interesting people. Amtrak is conducive to friendliness and conversation. For more information about Amtrak, visit their website, www.amtrak.com. You will find lots of useful information. And always feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Amtrak.



The Colorado Rockies near Denver

BEWARE COPPERHEADS!

One day this week our yard worker was weed eating in the front yard at the curb when he lopped off the head of a young copperhead. I called the county agent to get information on keeping snakes away. His colleagues said to keep low growing plants clear, stacked lumber should be struck loudly before moving, and be careful around rocks. The young copperheads are just as venomous as the adults.

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Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Discussion:

- Sunset Hills Survey Results.
- In relation to the survey, a brief discussion of Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association Bylaws.
- A motion was made to make a donation to the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress, in the amount of \$200.00. (Sunset Hills has two representatives who serve.) This motion was seconded and accepted.
- Neighborhood Health Event on Thursday, March 19th, at First Christian Church.
- Abandoned house at the end of Madison Avenue.
- Kotis Properties and development at the end of Madison Avenue.
- House Bill 201 in the North Carolina General Assembly, the bill that would repeal our right to file a zoning protest petition.
- Hopeful for a favorable decision soon regarding a grant application for historical street Sign Toppers.
- Upcoming SHNA newsletters in April and July.
- Lots of activity on our neighborhood streets because of sewer maintenance, trees and utility lines upkeep, and new cable installation.
- 312 households have paid dues and made contributions YTD in 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Kerry Meyers



Crime Watch and Prevention

On a recent Monday night the crime watch coordinators met at the Swing Road police station for a monthly crime update. There were some interesting pieces of information put out that warrants this update.

1. Bike thefts are on the rise. As Officer Ben Winfield put it: "These are adults stealing adult bikes" There are a lot of bike riders in our community and they are being targeted. Those of you with the \$1000 bikes might want to keep an extra sharp eye on them and ensure they are locked up tight.
2. The city has reconfigured the police zones. Sunset Hills is now in two different zones. North of Market Street has officer Ben Wingfield (336) 373-7707 assigned as our resource officer and South of Market has Officer Larry Roberts assigned (336) 412-3919. Either resource officer can be called whether you are North or South of Market. We will miss Officer Rosann Talbert who is now assigned to the Fleming Road area North and West.
3. The city has a very experienced officer from the Criminal Investigation Division assisting with all the car break-ins. (Not just in our area). There were actually two cars stolen in other zones. Both cars have been recovered. One car had a spare key left in the car making it easy for the thieves. Another point to be made here is that most if not all the cars that were recently broken into in Sunset Hills were left unlocked. I've heard people saying that "I'd rather leave my car unlocked so they won't break a window to get in". It's like feeding stray cats. You leave food out for them and they will just keep coming back. Sorry cat lovers. But if

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we keep making it easy in our area to get into cars the criminals will just start with our area. Only one car in the last two years, that I know of, actually had a window broken to gain entry. That car had a large quantity of parts, tools, boxes in plain view.

4. Never pay a solicitor with a check. They don't care about the junk they sell you. They want your routing number and account number. They then go to a printer and have checks made up with your account and routing number. They setup a fake business name and use those checks to buy things. The checks come out of your account.

5. Speaking of solicitors, magazine solicitations have been on the rise. Officer Wingfield said that some of these guys are the most aggressive at the door because they are basically indentured servants. They are given a quota and if they don't meet that quota they don't get a bed for the night or a meal. Groups drive these solicitors around in vans from city to city so that the solicitors have nowhere to go. The solicitors are worked by the groups, forcing them to sell magazines and other things.

6. Starmount is getting a heavily dose of solicitors. ATT is one of the names they are soliciting under. They may or may not be with ATT but they are using that name. The fine is \$100 for a solicitor without a privilege license. Also, security system solicitation is big in Starmount. Starmount is the next neighborhood to the west. One solicitor was very demanding and tried to order the resident to open the door. If anyone is getting solicitors knocking at the door please email me at (dougnkaren@att.net) so I can pass this information on to our resource officers.

7. This may be a repeat for a lot of you but there are quite a few new people in the area. Solicitors are required to have a city permit prominently displayed at all times with their name on it, not just a company name. Each person must have a permit with his or her name on it. If a solicitor is not displaying the permit, he or she probably doesn't have one. Ask to see it. Call the non-emergency number at 373-2222 and report the incident. Again, feeding the stray cats analogy. The permit is called a "Privilege License" and looks like this: Its about 3" by 4" in size and the solicitors are required to carry some form of ID as well and are required to show it to you if asked.

A few things to know about solicitation.

1. Political parties and non profits are exempt from the license requirement.
2. Anyone else is required to purchase and prominently display their "Privilege License".
3. If a solicitor approaches you / your home, you should ask to see their "Privilege License". If they do not have one I would recommend you politely tell them you are not interested and, after they leave, call 911 and report them.
4. Everyone needs to know that criminals will pick the easy targets. The



city is not just trying to make money by selling these licenses, but is protecting us from shady characters by not allowing them to roam through the neighborhoods casing homes. Criminals will quickly learn that the solicitor method of casing our homes will not work in our neighborhood and will go elsewhere.

Doug Thurbon

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