

# Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Scott Michaels

T

he last time I wrote this letter was in February when we were in the doldrums of winter. February is the most difficult month for me. It has been ever since I went to college in the Virginia mountains where February was truly a nasty time. It falls between the festivities of the holidays and the renewal of spring. It's

dark, cold and depressing-even though I generally like winter. I enjoy the fires in the fireplace, good books and cozy time with my dogs. But there are limits...

Well, we have moved on to Spring and are getting ready to slide into Summer! We survived another winter and another February. We are ready to embrace the reawakening of our beautiful neighborhood for another

season of outdoor fun.

We kicked off the new season with our annual Spring SHNA meeting last month at St Andrews Episcopal Church's Parrish Hall. About 40 people attended in person and a few more via Zoom. I want to thank St. Andrews, again, for letting us use their lovely facilities and



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# A Letter From The President

(continued from page 1)

for being such a good neighbor. Much appreciated.

Our main focus for the meeting- as you will tell from other articles in this newsletter- was building a plan and a partnership to improve and maintain our parks. Several people and groups are working hard on building a process for this.

These parks are the centerpiece of our neighborhood-not just visually, but as a place to draw us together. We can even escape the darkness of February by walking to and around these parks and they become alive with activity as we move into the more active months.

To make a long story short, the City of Greensboro, the SHNA

Environmental Affairs Committee and the Sunset Hills Garden Club are working on a long range plan for our parks. The focus will be on both environmental balance and sustainability. All voices and opinions are welcome. We will be putting together a committee to oversee this and more information on how to join will be found elsewhere.

The overall plan will be for any concerns with the parks to go to this committee. They will, in turn, share them with the City of Greensboro along with a proposed solution. This will allow a process to address any issues in an organized manner.

We do need to keep in mind there are several limitations on what this committee can do. We have to work within the overall

guidelines and requirements of existing codes. Several features in our parks, such as the playgrounds and tennis/pickleball courts, are "grandfathered" and would not be allowed today without significant changes. Substantial changes to these areas or new infrastructure additions would have to meet current code. This would be very difficult considering we have a stream running through the parks!

We look forward to partnering with all interested parties to improve our green spaces and recreational areas. I hope you will consider being a part of the process and the solution.

For now, let's get outside and enjoy our parks!

\_\_\_\_\_ shna \_\_\_\_\_

# A Note From Your Treasurer

by Elaine Brune



**ow collecting 2025 Dues!**

Happy beginning of summer to everyone! Neighbors, as the new

season kicks in we're still collecting dues and contributions.

The neighborhood association dues of \$10 cash, \$11 through PayPal for the 2025 calendar year are now being accepted. Please consider paying dues so we can continue to provide activities in our parks, tree plantings, and more! We also



helped pay for the new centennial sculpture on Greenway and Madison.

Send or drop off checks to SHNA c/o Elaine Brune at 2504 Sylvan Road. I will have the little red post box on the table or drop it off through the slot in the red door! We accept contributions as well.

PayPal link: <https://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org/duesanddonations>

Questions? Email me at [sunset-hillsgsonc@gmail.com](mailto:sunset-hillsgsonc@gmail.com)

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# Stay In The Loop

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

You can also join our community email listserv by emailing Adam Graham-Squire at [adam.grahamsquire@gmail.com](mailto:adam.grahamsquire@gmail.com)

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

[www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org](http://www.sunsethillsneighborhood.org)  
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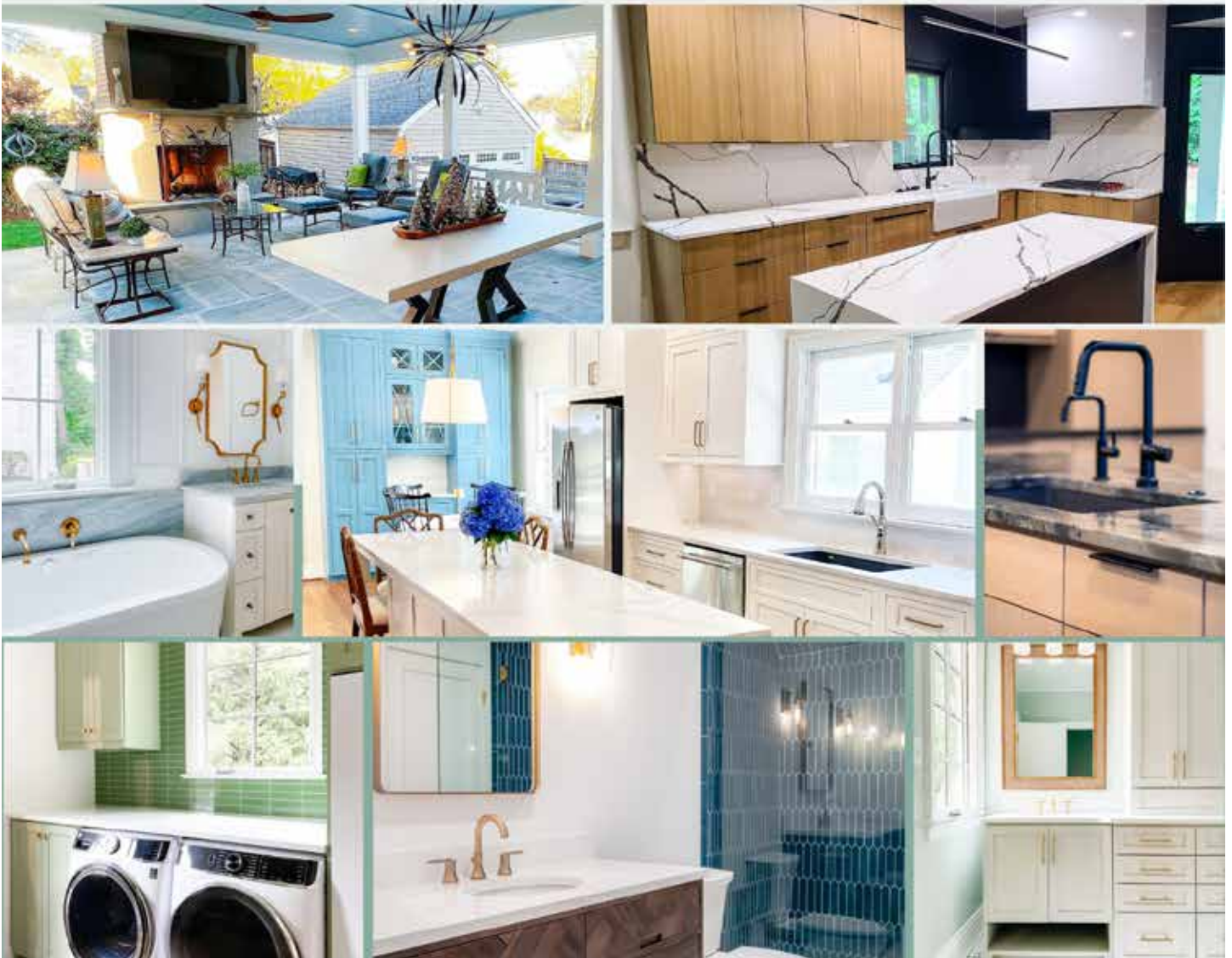
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# Abe Kaplan: 2025 Men's Parafoil National Champion

by Abe, Karen and Eric Kaplan



ello Neighbors!

My name is Abe Kaplan and for those who don't know me, I am a 16 year

old sophomore at Grimsley High School. I have lived in Sunset Hills with my family for eight years. I had a stroke at birth and live with right-sided hemiplegia. I started parafoiling, seated wheelchair fencing, about two years ago and my goal is to qualify for the 2028 Paralympics. I have been updating my neighbors periodically on my progress and I have been really busy these last few months!

I am excited to share that on April 12th, I won the US Mens Parafoil National Championship in Los Angeles, becoming the youngest male parafoil national champion. I also brought home a Silver in epee, and Bronze in sabre. In my final parafoil bout, I had to

**Right:** Abe proudly displays his gold medal as he became the youngest men's parafoil national champion in history



defeat one of team USA's 2024 Paris Paralympians. It was one of



**Above:** Abe (on right) prepares for his toughest test on the road to a national championship

my toughest matches and I was

thrilled to win. Winning the National Championship has put me on the right track to earning a spot on the US 2028 Paralympic Team.

To help raise public awareness for parafoiling, US Fencing hired a film crew to document my parafoil competition. The crew followed me around as I prepared for the day, interviewed me and my parents and captured my big win. The video will be made into a 30-minute documentary that will air on Bloomberg TV sometime soon. When we find out the specifics, we can share information

(continued on page 17)





# Summer Dreams START AT HOME IN SUNSET HILLS!

This summer, make your move with Ashley Meredith Homes. Whether you're looking for a cozy bungalow, a spacious home, or the perfect front porch to sip lemonade, we're here to help you find your Sunset Hills dream. Local expertise, personal service, and a passion for this neighborhood—because there's no place like home.

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# Dogs And Cats Are A Big Part of Sunset Hills

by Cindy Ramsey

T

his is **Blue!**

Fun fact: If you have mulch or sticks on your

side-walk, he will gladly dispose of them for you!



He likes to sit in the bay window and watch the world go by. He likes to help Reto with his yoga too.

8 year old Aussie **Sophie**. She's the best girl, and our daughter's side kick. She loves playing ball, meeting new kids at the playground and playing dress up with our 3 year old!



a year ago. He'll be seven soon. Not well socialized, he gets riled around other large dogs, but, he's actually a goofball and, like his sister, never hurts anybody.

I am capable of walking both dogs together, but it is no fun for anybody, so I take them separately. That's four walks a day, which is a pleasure in good weather, especially now when the neighborhood is bursting with beauty.



**Sheila** is a 7 year old female hairless cat. Although you may not believe it, she

is so soft to pet and unlike hairy cats you can pet her in all directions.



Here's a photo of our dog **Roscoe**.



**Lucy**, a 40-pound pit-mix, is almost three years old. My friend found her 2 1/2 years ago, abandoned with a broken leg. Now

everyone in Sunset Hills is familiar with this wild (but never harmful) child.

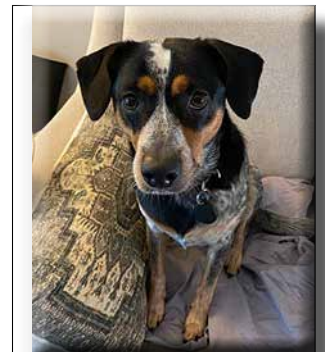
I rescued **Bentley**, an 80-pound Husky mix



**Piper** 11 year old She loves popcorn! She barks at all horses on TV.



**Abigail** Rescued via the Haley Graves Foundation. She loves tennis balls and treats.



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# Of Course The Sunset Hills' Yardsale Was A Big Success!



ay 3rd brought not only blue skies and warm breezes, but another successful Sunset Hills Neighborhood Yardsale!

More than fifty Sunset Hills families displayed their exciting treasures to share with crowds of deserving buyers. Yards and driveways were covered with vintage clothes, furniture, childrens' toys, and much, much more. Garages, basements, attics, closets and other spaces were emptied to give those long-saved and cherished items new life in a new home.

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**Two examples of the more than 50 families that participated in the SH Neighborhood Yardsale**

**Above:** Fun times & great bargains at our Sylvan Road Yard Sale every year. The Reaves family.

**Left:** Buyers look over all types of bargains at the Garvey's Yard Sale on S. Elam Ave.



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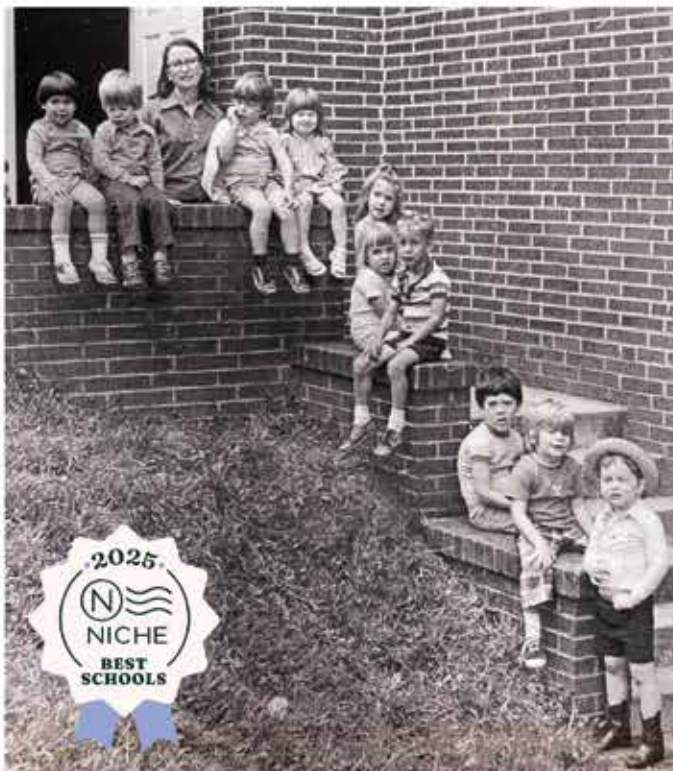
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In 1974 three mothers seeking a better educational experience for their children founded Greensboro Montessori School in the First Moravian Church on Elam Avenue. 50 years later, our School continues to educate students from Sunset Hills and throughout Greater Greensboro at our 10-acre campus on Horse Pen Creek Road.

With two academic buildings, four playgrounds, three permaculture gardens, a gymnasium, art studio, teaching kitchen, stage, and counseling center, we not only support our students' academic development, but also their social, emotional, and physical growth. Additionally, 70% of our teaching faculty and administrators have been at our School for five years or more.

### LOWER ELEMENTARY INFO SESSION

*for rising 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 1 P.M.**



**REGISTER**

Scan to register or visit [gms.org](https://gms.org)



*Another In Our Sometimes Regular Series Of Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

# "No Parking" Means A Safer Walk Or Ride



or those of you who have ever taken a walk, walked their dog, or biked down Madison Ave. and taken the cut through the fence at the east end of the

street to the parking lot of Embur and Tex & Shirley's then you are most likely familiar with this sign in the last parking spot. This may seem like a small thing, but it is a great aid in keeping the walkers and bikers safe when they are using this route to make their way to our great neighborhood restaurants, UNC-G, or other areas in that direction.

Bob Strack is our neighbor who is responsible for making sure this sign stays in place and is repaired when it is inadvertently damaged by a parking car. But he is the first to thank the management of Embur who

have allowed the neighborhood to keep this sign in place for the many years they have been our neighbor. Without their cooperation and acceptance of this not-so-small courtesy, the walks and rides through their parking area would probably look much different and be much more difficult to navigate - especially during their busy times.

This is not only our residential neighbors helping each other,

but our business neighbors, as well.

Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_ shwa \_\_\_\_\_



*Photo courtesy of Donna Riley*

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# NOTHING BEATS **SUNSET HILLS** IN THE SUMMER



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to live here  
and help  
others do  
the same.*



*Thank you for  
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*Melissa*



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# How To Support GCS

by Jessica Levco



When I bought my condo in Chicago, the first question I asked my Realtor was: "Where's the nearest bar?"

Ahh...how the questions change when you're house-hunting with a three-year-old.

I'm slightly less concerned about the walking distance to nightlife these days and more focused on elementary schools. When my husband and I bought our home in Sunset Hills, one of the main selling points was the positive things our Realtor told us about the Lindley-Kiser-Grimsley track our son would eventually embark on.

As a freelance writer for Action

Greensboro, I had the opportunity to help write the 2025 PreK-12 Public Education Report. The report

## What I learned about GCS:

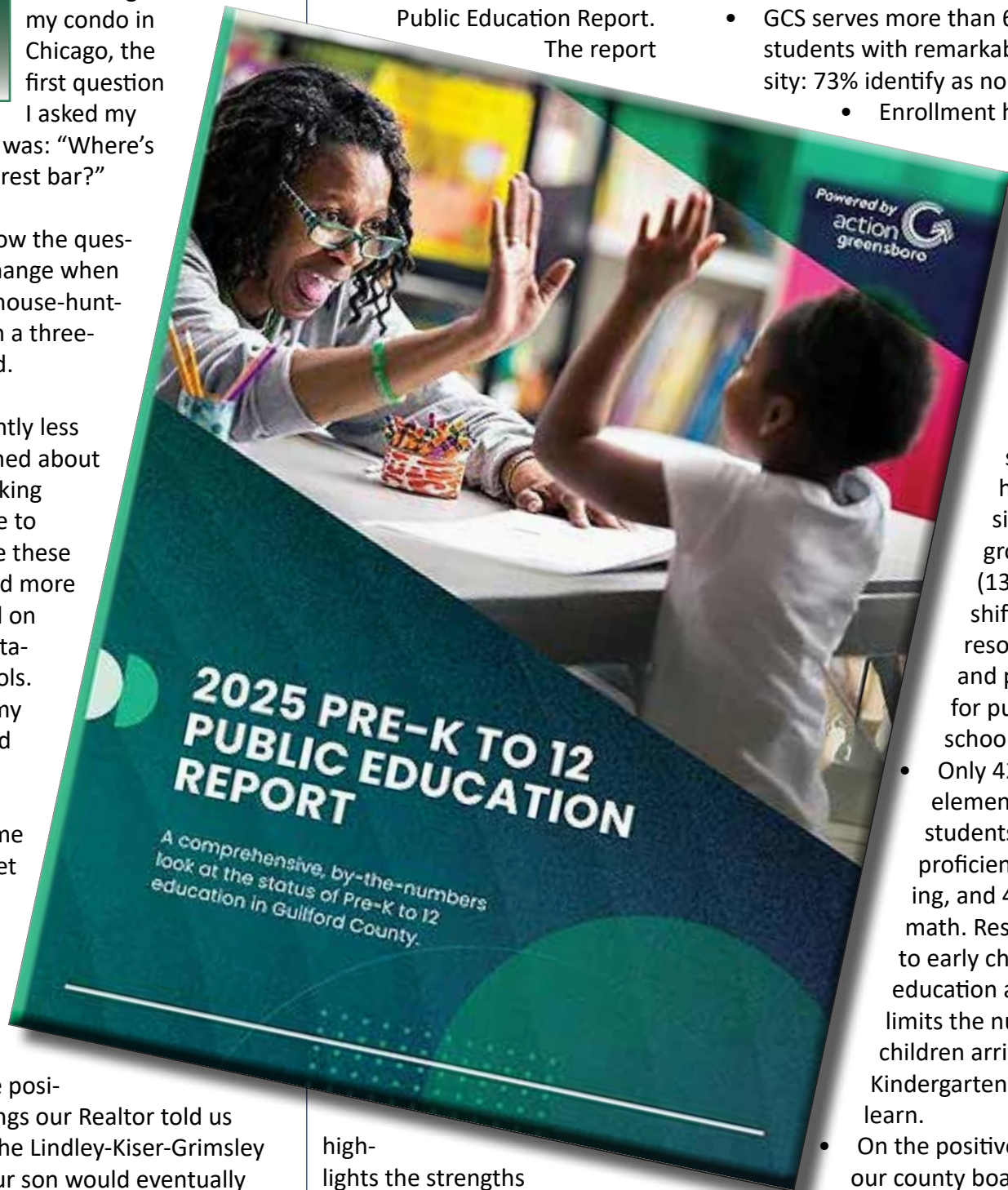
- GCS serves more than 66,000 students with remarkable diversity: 73% identify as non-White.
- Enrollment has declined by

by

7.4% over the past decade, but charter schools have seen significant growth (134%). This shift affects resources and planning for public schools.

- Only 42% of elementary students are proficient in reading, and 46% in math. Restrictions to early childhood education access limits the number of children arriving to Kindergarten ready to learn.

- On the positive side, our county boasts the highest high school graduation rate among peer



highlights the strengths and challenges facing Guilford County Schools. Let's take a look:

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# Developing A Landscape Plan For Sunset Hills Park

by Roger Bardsley, Beverley Gass, Patricia Martinez, Erin Reis, and John Riley

T

The concept of a Landscape Plan for Sunset Hills Park came out of discussions among the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association (SHNA) Board, Sunset

sons,” Patricia Martinez and Erin Reis, to be the points of contact between the neighborhood and the City. Then a small group got together and decided that an adopted park plan might be a good way to put everyone on the same page, putting the extra money raised for the neighborhood centennial towards the plan. The first step in the planning process was a Park Needs Assessment

advisable in our park, and the City is not creating any new unstaffed dog parks at this time.

The survey asked neighbors to provide input on how they use the park, the features which they use most often and what changes/improvements they desire. Here are the results:

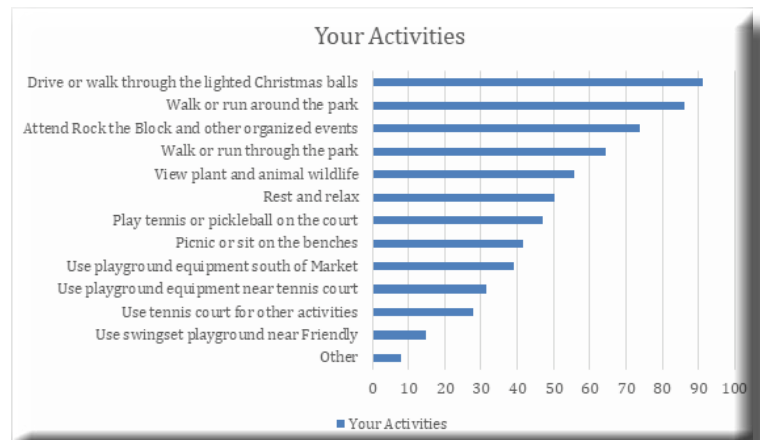
## Park Activities

- The primary uses are walking through or around the park (especially during Christmas ball season) and attending organized events such as Rock the Block.
- Secondly, the park is used for activities such as relaxing, picnicking or viewing plants and wildlife.
- Thirdly, the park is used for the amenities provided: playground equipment and tennis/pickleball.
- Comments made in the “Other”



Hills Environmental Affairs (SHEA), and the Sunset Hills Garden Club (SHGC). These groups have cleared invasives from the park, continued maintenance of the planting beds, participated in Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Stream, installed a monument for the neighborhood’s 100th anniversary, and planted more than 200 trees in 2017 through Neighborwoods, and more than 120 native plants and trees in 2024 for the neighborhood centennial. These groups have conversations with the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department about park maintenance, but these have been disjointed and sometimes contradictory. The SHNA established two “Park Liai-

son” section include:  
\* Three mentioned playing with dogs (and cleaning up





- after them)
- \* Three mentioned stream cleanups, other trash pick ups, working on projects in the park, and planting, watering, or weeding
- \* "I do walk through the park but with the moratorium on leaf removal and mowing this is far less pleasant."
- \* "A basketball goal would be nice."
- \* "Reading and writing."

### Park Features

The park features which are used the most align with the activities highlighted above:

- Trash receptacles, shade trees,



stone bridges, the stream, the DogiPot Litter Bag Dispenser and benches were the features most often used or appreciated.

- In terms of facilities provided, the playgrounds south of Market and near the tennis courts and the tennis court itself were most popular.
- The Little Free Library, the Environmental Library and the playground near Friendly had a lower level of use/appreciation.
- Comments made in the "Other" section include:
  - \* "Salamanders"

- \* "Areas to allow our dogs to run around in at the park."
- \* "In addition to Little Free Library, there are puzzle libraries also."
- \* "Blooming flowers, trees – natural color"
- \* "Water Fountain"
- \* "'Natural areas' look ratty. A landscaped mown park would be far more attractive."
- \* "I want our neighborhood park to be accessible and safe for people of all ages and for the high traffic areas (Rolling Rd. to Madison Ave. and the play area south of Market St. and play area by Friendly

Ave.) kept mowed and landscaped. I don't need planned shrubs and flowers beds, I would actually prefer trees only. I do want the city to clean up

the large fallen tree limbs on a regular basis. They become a tripping hazard, even small branches, under the "leave the leaves". Too many fallen limbs become an eyesore and the mowers just mow around them and you have tall grass everywhere. I like the leave the leaves, and I don't mind a few areas being left for insect and animal habitat, but these areas need to be well defined and maintained. Grass near the tennis courts and E. Greenway Dr. N. was way too tall

last year. I would also like to see a continued effort in clearing vines and invasive plants from the park."

### What Would You Like?

- Only one of the proposed improvements had a greater than 50% positive response: a nature/walking path (unpaved). Two other options approached 50%: pollinator garden and butterfly houses.
- There was not broad support either for more landscaped planting beds (29.6% of respondents), or more natural native areas in the park (30.4%).
- "Other individual responses" include:
  - \* Two request additional children's play areas/equipment/toys
  - \* Two pertain to dogs: areas for dogs to play and catch balls, and a little dog park
  - \* Two request bat houses and/or owl nesting boxes
  - \* Two advocate for better/more water fountains (three tiers: adult, child, dog)
  - \* "It's great. No improvements necessary."
  - \* "Addition of pickleball courts so more than one group can play at a time, frisbee golf course around the park"
  - \* "Controlling erosion in the high traffic areas, like the kid playgrounds"
  - \* "Create groves of flowering trees for a bigger impact, maybe in the Spring people from the City will drive around the parks and want to see the flowering trees/beds like the Light Balls."
  - \* "Native fruit trees and shrubs (persimmon, serviceberry, blueberry, paw-paw)"

(continued on page 16)

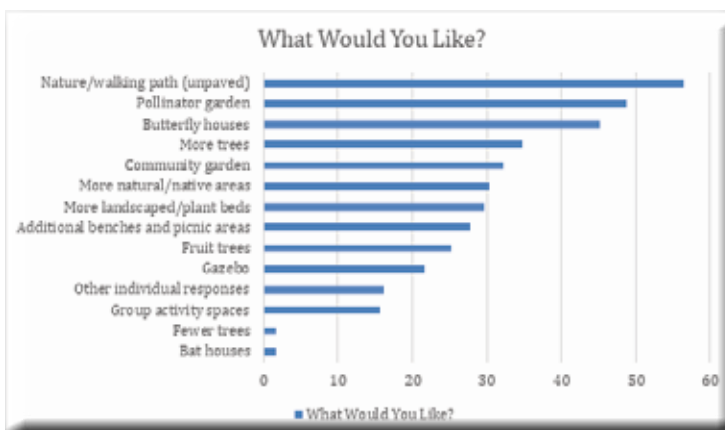
## Developing A Landscape Plan For Sunset Hills Park

(continued from page 15)

- \* "I would like to see the park be as easily maintained as possible so I advocate for more trees over landscaped beds. Beds require a lot of weeding, mulching and re-planting when plants die or are trampled on. I do not want to worry about planted beds being ruined by

- \* "I love the landscaped corners but I think we have enough; I love the paths we have and for safety reasons would like them to remain clear of debris, including leaves. I love the idea of pollinator zones but only if they are taken care of – random knee high non-native weeds blighting the park do not enhance the park or our property values. We all know this, so perhaps we need to have monthly cleanups sponsored by

a SHNA Park Committee."



If you have additional comments, questions or concerns about the survey, please send them to the Park Liaisons at environment.

children and pets. Several planned and maintained pollinator gardens would be fine but keep them small enough to be manageable."

- \* "Our urban park, just 1 mile from downtown, is not meant to be a wildlife refuge. It needs to mirror our Beautiful homes & well attended yards. Only a trained Botanist should make decisions as to what plants are added or removed."
- \* "More perennial flowering plants and shrubs, less wild unkept areas. It's a city park not a nature reserve."
- \* "No nature paths, no gazebo, less group activity spaces, don't turn the park into a preserve."

sunsethills.gso@gmail.com. The rest of the park planning process will take 9-12 months and involve several steps:

- **Data Collection:** We envision developing a base map that clearly shows various areas in the park and how they are used. It will also identify physical features such as benches, playgrounds, bridges and the stream.
- **Biological Assessment:** We would like to hire a naturalist to assess the health of the park and stream. We hope to use a person who was with the Piedmont Land Conservancy and currently teaches environmental courses. He also has extensive experience in stream restoration (our stream is in good shape but might need a

few tweaks).

- **Hire a Park Designer:** We will need a professional to guide the Steering Committee through development of several alternatives for the future of the park. We will solicit qualification statements from interested designers and select a person or firm with whom the Steering Committee feels comfortable.
- **Solicit Input:** With our newsletter, listserv and periodic neighborhood meetings we will be able to display and describe alternative scenarios.
- **Develop a Draft Plan:** Once an alternative has been approved by the Steering Committee the Plan can be written and graphics prepared. It will need to be adopted by the neighborhood and approved by the city.
- **Implementation:** A plan is of no value without implementation. The consultant and city can help the Steering Committee develop a written plan that spells out various responsibilities going forward. It might also include suggestions for activities to be held in the Park and a mechanism for raising and resolving issues that the neighbors bring up.

To accomplish all of the above, we need a Park Plan Steering Committee. A few neighbors (Roger Bardsley, Patricia Martinez, Erin Reis, and John Riley) have already volunteered for the committee, and we have had one volunteer to chair. The Steering Committee will consider all survey results and the varying opinions and requests of our neighborhood. If you are interested in serving, please send your name, address, and a brief statement of interest to SHNA President Scott Michaels at scottmichaels100@gmail.com.

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## Abe Kaplan: 2025 Men's Parafoil National Champion

(continued from page 5)

the documentary in the Sunset Hills email group.

In March, US Fencing invited me to participate in a parafoiling demo during the 2025 NCAA Fencing Championships at Penn State. This is an effort to encourage colleges to create parafoiling programs and develop a pipeline to the Paralympics, just like they have for able bodied fencers. It was a privilege to represent my sport in front of some of the best fencers in the World, including several Olympic medalists. I competed, and won the sabre bout against another 2024 Paris Paralympian. It was a lot of fun, after I stopped being so nervous.

I shared in the last newsletter about my World Cup competition in Pisa, Italy in November, but I

did not mention that one day after returning from Italy I was hospitalized for several days with a kidney issue. The doctors were able to do a temporary fix that was good



*Above: Abe scores a vital point in his road to a national championship.*

enough to allow me to go on to win three gold medals in Atlanta in December and finish the season with my National Championship win. However, I still need surgery to correct the problem and that is scheduled in May. I will have to take a month long break, allowing me to rest and catch up on school work, which my parents seem to think is important.

Like most Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls, I continue to look for additional donors and sponsors to help me reach my Paralympic goal. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the Piedmont Fencer's Alliance Parafoiling Program, all proceeds go towards my training, equipment, tournament, and travel expenses. I am so grateful to all of my neighborhood donors and the team at the Compassionate Healing Collaborative in Greensboro for providing sponsorship in the field of mind and body wellness.

Thank you again for reading my story and supporting my parafoiling journey. You can follow me on Instagram @abekaplan\_fencing and contact my mom and dad if you have any questions. [karenjbrown77@yahoo.com](mailto:karenjbrown77@yahoo.com) or [esk6988@gmail.com](mailto:esk6988@gmail.com)

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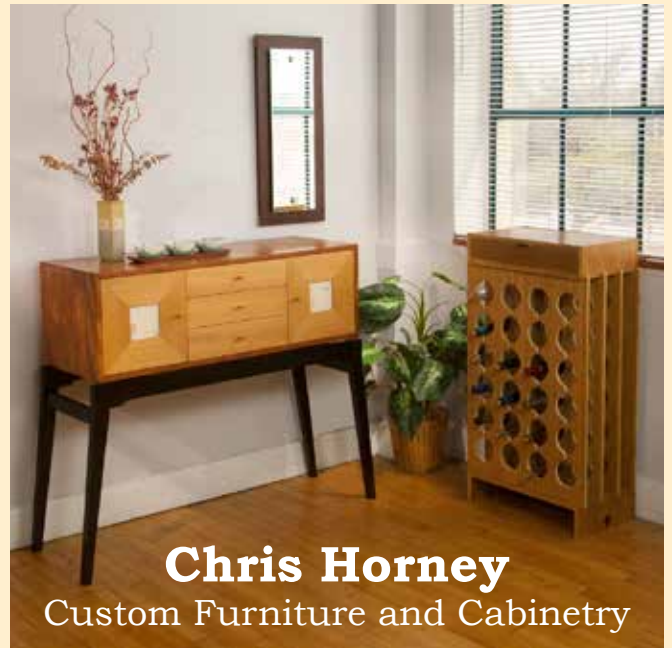




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# Meeting Summary Of The SHNA Annual Meeting

***This Meeting Summary for the SHNA Neighborhood Meeting (04/29/2025) was prepared by Zoom using AI Companion.***



## ***Quick recap***

Scott Michaels, the president of the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association, led a meeting with a mix of virtual and in-person attendees, focusing on the development and maintenance of the neighborhood's parks, particularly the Sunset Hills Park. The Environmental Affairs Committee and the Garden Club have been actively involved in the park's development, and the city of Greensboro's Parks and Recreation department has been involved in the process. The meeting also covered various neighborhood initiatives and updates, including the creation of a steering committee, the history project, the neighborhood's finances, and the welcome boxes for new residents. Next steps:

- Steering Committee to be formed for park planning process.
- Board to determine process for selecting Steering Committee members.
- Board to communicate next steps on park planning process after Labor Day.
- Environmental Affairs Committee and Garden Club to continue using established channels to communicate with city about park concerns.
- John to upload survey results

to neighborhood website.

- Board to send email to listserv with link to survey results on website.
- David to continue conducting interviews for History Project.
- Board to discuss and approve budget for next year's projects.
- Board to finalize decision on potential Styrofoam recycling trailer project.
- Beverly to deliver 9 welcome boxes to new residents from January-March 2025.

## ***Summary***

Scott Michaels, the president of the Sunset Hills Neighborhood Association, led a meeting with 5 people on Zoom and about 30 people in the room. The meeting was recorded for those unable to attend. Scott introduced the main speakers who were doing the work, and encouraged participants to raise their hands or come up to the microphone if they had questions. The meeting was a mix of virtual and in-person attendees.

## ***Sunset Hills Park Development Meeting***

The meeting focused on the parks in the neighborhood, with a particular emphasis on the Sunset Hills Park. The Environmental Affairs Committee and the Garden Club have been actively involved in the park's development, including invasive removal, tree planting,

and maintenance. The committee has also been working on a plan for the park's future, aiming to create a shared vision for the park. The city of Greensboro's Parks and Recreation department has been involved in the process, with representatives from the department attending the meeting. The partnership between the neighborhood and the city is expected to strengthen going forward.

## ***Park Design and ADA Compliance***

Scott discussed the plans for the park, including the potential for a master plan and the hiring of a designer. He emphasized the importance of considering the park's restrictions due to its location and the need for ADA compliance. Scott also mentioned the possibility of adding a dog park, but clarified that it would be an unstaffed facility. He encouraged the group to consider hiring someone with experience working with the city on public spaces. Scott also mentioned the city's policy on using native plants and restricting invasive species. He acknowledged the group's proactive approach to working with the city and expressed hope for a staff position to help with invasive and native plant management.



### **Park Usage Survey Results**

Scott expressed gratitude for the team's quick response to safety issues and their ability to handle them in-house. He also praised the team's communication and responsiveness, particularly in relation to the invasive removal project. Scott emphasized the importance of using the newly established channels of communication for park concerns. The team discussed the development of their own plan for the park, focusing on managing the plants and growth rather than changing the location of amenities. John Riley presented the results of a survey conducted to understand how the neighborhood uses the park and to document changes they would like to see implemented.

### **Park Development and Maintenance Plan**

Scott presented a high-level overview of the park's development and maintenance plan, emphasizing the importance of community input and professional help. He outlined the process, which includes data collection, biological assessment, and community engagement. The plan will be shared with the neighborhood and the city for approval before implementation. Scott also mentioned the formation of a steering committee, which will be composed of neighbors. The Garden Club's role in maintaining landscape beds was discussed, with Scott suggesting that the city could potentially take on this responsibility.

### **Neighborhood Initiatives and Financial Updates**

The meeting focused on various neighborhood initiatives and updates. Scott discussed the creation of a steering committee to address ongoing issues and encouraged interested members to reach out. The history project was also mentioned, with a delay due to the migration of library files to a new platform. The treasurer, Elaine, provided an update on the neighborhood's finances, highlighting a surplus of \$36,562 and plans for future projects. Beverly, the new neighbor coordinator, introduced the welcome boxes for new residents, which include gifts and information about the neighborhood. Nancy Hoffman, City Council person, shared her discovery of a historical dress and its connection to Greensboro's history. The conversation ended with an open forum for questions and feedback.

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## Another In Our Semi-Regular Series Of Neighborhood Craftspersons

# Bill Johnston - Turning Clay Into Beautiful Works Of Art

**I**f you are frequently walking or driving around Sunset Hills in the vicinity of West Greenway Dr. and Kensington Rd. you may have been fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of one of our true neighborhood artists - Bill Johnston on his way between his home on West Greenway and his studio/gallery on Kensington. And if you were even more fortunate you would know that his studio is full of a wide variety of unbelievably unique and colorful pottery. Pottery that graces many homes and businesses throughout our state and many of the surrounding ones as well.

If you visit Bill's studio and gallery you will be amazed at the wide range of styles and types of stoneware he produces from a humble lump of clay. And the exquisite colors he achieves through the variety of minerals he mixes to develop his custom glazes are extraordinary! Marry these two processes together and you have some of the most creative and beautiful works of their kind anywhere. And it's all done right here in Sunset Hills.

Bill discovered his new talent more than thirty years ago while living in his hometown of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina. After taking a pottery class at the local community college, he enjoyed using handmade pots and wanted to try making them myself. After a few years of practice he learned to "throw bowls on the wheel" and then to assemble wheel

thrown and hand made parts, to sculpt and alter the forms. To combine them to make exceptionally unique items. Not long after friends started asking if he would sell his artworks, and "Voila" - a new business was born!

If someone is looking for a gift for a wedding or special occasion they can visit Bill's website listed below and see many more of his creations. Or better yet, contact him by phone or text and set up a time to visit his studio and gallery. He will be glad to open his gallery most any time.

Bill and his creations are true treasures and we're fortunate that he calls Sunset Hills home!

308 Kensington Road  
Greensboro NC 27403  
Tel 336.707.6500  
[billfortyseven@gmail.com](mailto:billfortyseven@gmail.com)  
[williamjohnstonpottery.com](http://williamjohnstonpottery.com)

shna



*Top: Bill loving paints one of his creations*

*2nd from Top: Leaf dish with acorn*

*Above: Display of recent works in Bill's gallery*

*Right: Bronze pear*







**Above:** Bill's kiln yard and sunny showroom

**Below:** Cezanne - Apple sculpture



**Below:** A display of three Billbirds - water bottles that are signature pieces



**Right:** Bill turning the base of one of his famous Billbirds



**Above:** Grandfather Mountain and the Moon wall platter

**Left:** A recent display in Bill's art gallery

## How To Support GCS

(continued from page 13)

- On the positive side, our county boasts the highest high school graduation rate among peer counties in North Carolina, and students are earning substantially more industry credentials than in previous years.
- Nearly 1 in 5 teachers left the district last year. Yikes.
- The majority of school funding (57%) comes from our county, making local engagement particularly important.

### How to get involved

Since moving here, I've discovered several ways to get involved, even as a newcomer to the community. You can attend School Board meetings, join a local PTA (you

don't have to be a parent!) and support education-focused non-profits.

This is easy to write, but getting actively involved can be hard. Especially if you're a working parent, your resources, time and energy are stretched pretty thin.

So, here's something very easy you can do: *Support GCS with your vote.*

In the 2024 election, only 40% of voters in Guilford County supported a quarter-cent sales tax referendum to raise teacher pay. The measure failed for the third time in the past five years.

That loss directly affects our ability to attract and retain the educators our students need. Is it any surprise that nearly 1 in 5 teachers left the district last year?

Keep in mind that past bonds have directly benefited Lindley and Kiser, where a lot of Sunset Hills kids go to school.

Interested in reading more? The full report is available here: [https://issuu.com/gsochamber/docs/action\\_greensboro\\_2025\\_pre-k\\_to\\_12\\_public\\_education](https://issuu.com/gsochamber/docs/action_greensboro_2025_pre-k_to_12_public_education)

*Jessica Levco is a freelance writer for small businesses and non-profits. She can be reached at [jlevco@gmail.com](mailto:jlevco@gmail.com).*

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# Sunset Hills Garden Club Work And Learn Sessions

by Michelle Togut

**I**

f you walk by the Sunset Hills Greenway Park on the first or third Monday morning of the month and notice a small group of people pulling out weeds, or clipping hedges, or tidying up one of the beds—that's the Sunset Hills Garden Club at work.

The Monday sessions are part of the Club's **Work & Learn** sessions, led by Master Gardener Patricia Martinez.

As part of the city of Greensboro's Adopt-a-Park program, the Garden Club tends to 15 beds scattered throughout the park,



have included propagating perennials, repairing a bad pruning job, proper edging and how to sharpen your yard tools.

The opportunity to meet neighbors and enjoy the outdoors while getting tips from a Master Gardener is just another reason Sunset Hills is a

great place to live.



The bi-monthly **Work & Learn** sessions provide Garden Club

sessions are devoted solely to bed maintenance, others include education on a variety of topics related to gardening. Recent topics

members with an opportunity to learn new things, while we work together to help make our neighborhood's park a welcoming place for community members to enjoy.

\_\_\_\_\_ shwa \_\_\_\_\_

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# Rock The Block: Summer Concert Series

by Emily Morgan



Sunset Hills, the summer fun is just getting started! We kicked off another exciting season of **Rock The Block** in May, and there are still three amazing concerts this summer. Mark your calendars and get ready for more evenings of great music, delicious food, and wonderful community spirit!

Here's what's coming up:

**Rock The Block** is all about bringing neighbors together, enjoying incredible live music, supporting local businesses, and having fun in a family-friendly setting. Each



## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

June 12

MACKENZIE  
ROARK AND  
THE HOT PANTS

July 17

HOT LIKE MARS

August 21

DANGERMUFFIN

event features food trucks, a closed-to-traffic road and

park space where kids can safely run and play, and a welcoming atmosphere for all. Just bring a chair, your favorite beverages, and

get ready to make some great memories! We extend a heartfelt thank you to all our corporate sponsors and generous neighbors who make **Rock The Block** possible.



See you at **Rock The Block** — let's keep the music and community spirit alive

all summer long!

— shna —





**Above:** Camel City Yacht Club rocking the block

**Right:** Kids drawing on the tennis court with chalk

**Below:** Greeting old friends and making new ones at Rock The Block



**Left:** Even pets enjoyed Rock The Block

**Right:** Great food is a big part of Rock The Block

**Below:** Smiling faces were everywhere at Rock The Block



#### Opposite Page:

**Top:** Camel City Yacht Club played great music for the first RTB

**Middle:** A big crowd enjoyed the music and food

**Bottom:** Kids just having fun



## 2025 SHNA Membership List

(continued from Back Cover - page 28)

|                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bradford & Anne Reaves                | Mark & Elizabeth (Boo) Stauffer* |
| Stephanie Reese                       | Michiko Stavert*                 |
| Linda Hiatt & Peter Reichard*         | Craig & Caitlin Stay             |
| Jesse & Ashleigh Reier                | Janet Lilly & James Steele       |
| Dan & Erin Reis                       | Richard & Martha Stepnowski      |
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| John & Susan Riley*                   | Ferdinand Stout*                 |
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| Gary & Lee Rogers                     | Andy & Marti Sykes*              |
| Lyn Rollins*                          |                                  |
| Randal & Kimberly Romie               | Kirk & Kara Tate                 |
| Josh & Kelly Rotenstreich             | Jody & Lynn Tester               |
| Robert & Tina Rothbart                | Gerry Alfano & Merrill Tisdell*  |
| Anthony & Wendy Rotunda               | Larry & Joanie Tomar             |
| Jeri & Katherine Rowe                 | Bryan & Billie Toney             |
|                                       | Deborah Koper & Steven Truitt    |
| Garrett & Samantha Saake              | Scott & Allison Walker           |
| Betty McCormick & Daniel Sander*      | Tony Harrison & Anne Wallace*    |
| Angie Hall & Chris Santana*           | Stephen Ware*                    |
| Charles & Deborah Saunders*           | Jessica Levco & Matthew Warman   |
| Nancy Stoudemire & Randy Schmitz      | David & Julie Welsford*          |
| Ray & Mary Schwarz*                   | Bruce & Lisa Westall*            |
| Grady Scott                           | Phyllis White                    |
| Tammy & Lauren Grubbs-Shaney          | Mark & Valerie Wilkerson         |
| Deborah Sullivan & Gardner Sheffield* | Hana Brown & Dan Wilder*         |
| Lee Comer & Tracy Shuford*            | Nina Williams                    |
| Michael & Jacquelyn Sigmon            | Jeff & Tami Williams             |
| Rob & Cynthia Slater                  | Linda Rhyne & Paul Williams*     |
| Susan Slocum                          | Rudmel Wittmann*                 |
| Joe & Barbara Small*                  | William & Penny Wofford*         |
| Elizabeth McMurray & Cordon Smart     | Justin & Samantha Worley*        |
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# 2025 SHNA Membership List

*Neighbors paying dues as of May 12, 2025*

*We wish to thank all of you who support the neighborhood.*

*Those marked with \* have contributed more than the dues. We appreciate your generosity.*

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*(continued on Inside Back Cover - page 27)*