

Sylvan Heights Neighborhood News

Vol. II No. 1
January 25, 1997

[Newsletter of the Sylvan Heights Neighborhood Group]

JANUARY MEETING

NOTES: As you may know, we cancelled our January 11th meeting. The news was sent via the telephone tree, but if anyone who isn't on the tree yet showed up and found the doors locked, please accept our apologies.

SPECIAL GUEST: Our Councilman, *Horace Johns*, has accepted our invitation to join us at our February meeting (which will *not* be cancelled unless we are invaded by Martians). This will be a wonderful opportunity for us all to get to know the man who represents our district in the Metro Council. The Council will be making important decisions this spring on how the funds in our city budget should be spent. Please come share your views!

SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT! An individual in our neighborhood who was holding cock fights (illegal in Tennessee) in his back yard has moved out, after being visited by the folks at Animal Cruelty Control (352-0368) in response to some calls about this problem. If you are aware of any animals in your area being harmed, don't hesitate to call these helpful people at A.C.C. (352-0368)



Police Dispatch:
862-8600
Drug Hot Line:
244-DOPE
Animal Cruelty Control:
352-0368

A GOOD SIGN: The new NW sign we purchased with remaining 1996 funds has been installed at the corner of 35th and Elkins. *And speaking of funds...*

MEMBERSHIP DUES for 1997 are now due, so don't forget to bring your \$5 to the next meeting and give it to Dorothy, our Treasurer. If you can't make it to the meeting, you can mail a check (made out to "Sylvan Heights Neighborhood Group") to:

Dorothy Vreeland
208 Chamberlin St.
Nashville, TN 37209

AFTERNOON MEETING: Please note that our next meeting is in the **afternoon** (2:00 p.m.), rather than the evening. Several members have mentioned they prefer not to go out after dark, so we wanted to schedule at least one meeting this winter during daylight hours. The afternoon time also worked out better for Councilman Johns, who will

arrive at 2:30, after our regular business meeting.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING:

A petition is being prepared to collect signatures for curbside recycling. *K.D. Dove* has checked with the Solid Waste Department of Public Works, and they are considering expanding the area they service. Whether we qualify will depend on the number of signatures we get. If you'd like to help, call *K.D.* at 297-8876.



NEXT MEETING:

Sat., Feb. 8, at 2pm
Salvation Army Bldg.
3808 Park Avenue

KEEP AN OUT 4:

We've had more reports of "late-night door-knockers" claiming their cars broke down or ran out of gas. Please follow the example of one quick-thinking neighbor who responded with "*I won't open the door but I'll call the police and they can help you,*" if they should pay you a visit.

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*** Special Edition ***

November 1997

Dear Neighbor,

As you may know, we started a Neighborhood Watch program in this area last spring after hearing about a number of cars being broken into. Our main concern is safety in the neighborhood. Our success depends on our working together, so we want you to know a little about us in hopes you'll choose to get involved, if you haven't already.

● **HOW WE GOT OUR NAME:** Although some of our members live in smaller communities within this area, like "Westdale" (part of 37th Ave. North), "Elkins Park" (part of Elkins Ave.) and "Cat Town Hill" (part of Chamberlain Street), we decided to adopt one name – "Sylvan Heights" – to describe the larger, U-shaped area that includes all of these when we communicate with local government and the police. We are right next to Sylvan Park, a well-known neighborhood which has had a very successful neighborhood association and watch for a number of years. That and the fact that we have some of the highest hills in Nashville inspired our name.

● **BOUNDARIES:** The boundaries we chose are the railroad tracks on the west (along 40th Ave. North) and south (along Sentinel Drive and behind Normandy Circle), the interstate on the east (along 33rd) and Charlotte Pike on the north (see map on other side), because this area was not currently included within any of the already-existing neighborhood watch areas.

● **WHAT WE DO:** The guiding principle of neighborhood watch programs is that a neighbor's awareness is the best defense we have against most local crime. Our goal has been to raise our awareness of what is "normal" for neighbors in our area, so that we're more likely to notice something out of the ordinary. We recruit "block captains" in different areas who make the effort to personally meet their neighbors in the ten-house area ("block") where they live. We have probably all had times when we've seen someone we don't

recognize going into or out of a neighbor's home when the neighbor isn't there. They may be there with the neighbor's consent, house-sitting for them while they're out of town; on the other hand, one member of our group had all their furniture stolen one afternoon while uninvolved neighbors watched as it was loaded into a moving van.

Whether you want to be involved or not is entirely up to you. If you do, it may make you feel safer going out of town, knowing your neighbors are keeping an eye out for your property. And you will be expected to return the favor. It takes good communication for this to work. We have improved our relations with the police department dramatically in the past year and a half, and they are strongly supporting our efforts.

With Nashville's explosive growth, we also feel it's important to appreciate and preserve the special character of our neighborhood, with its old-growth trees, excellent hilltop views, and unbeatable location five minutes from downtown. Our group has organized alley cleanups and gotten more knowledgeable about the resources available to us to deal with problems like abandoned cars, trash dumping, graffiti, etc. We are proud of Sylvan Heights, and are taking these and other steps to make it a more desirable place to live.

If you are interested in coming to one of our meetings or learning more about us, just call one of us listed below by the area of Sylvan Heights we live in:

North: Jamie (269-5007)
South: Judy & Darwin (297-4858)
East: David (297-2274)
West: Donna & Pat (297-5114)

(see other side for additional useful phone numbers)

