

sylvan heights

Neighborhood News

Feb '99

(Newsletter of the Sylvan Heights Neighborhood Group)

Happy '99 to all Sylvanites! It was a "White Christmas", sort of - white ice, that is. Anyone here on Chamberlin Street knows what a fun time we had with the hill on Christmas eve. We seem to have all survived.

As Judy Hoskins makes us aware, we had another great crime report for the period 12.7.98 - 1.7.99. In the two categories where we've usually had the most reports - "home burglary" and "larceny" - there was only one of each. These crimes are usually expected to increase over the holidays, so we fared very well...more evidence that the partnership between our group and the police is working!

Speaking of the police, for those of you not able to attend, our last full meeting of the group was held at the West Sector headquarters on Dec 12. We all got to know Capt. Tommy Hibbs and Sgt. Michele Coon a little better, and they seem genuinely interested in and proud of our involvement in the neighborhood. Sgt. Coon is our official liaison with the department. Good partners to have....

Next block captains meeting tentatively 2.13.99. Call Judy H. if you're planning to attend for location, etc.

POSITION OPEN :

Hey, we still need someone to take over the job of *Neighborhood Watch Director*. As our current leader puts it, "no pay, but great Fringe Benefits" - what she means is getting to know your neighbors, police & city government, feeling good about yourself and sleeping better at night! Any interested persons can call Judy at 297-4858.

I think I speak for all of us when I say how grateful I am to have had Judy Hoskins as director of the group (and also the watch) from the start. We hope to have you and Darwin with us for a long time, but we wish you well & godspeed whatever comes ...

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and while we're thanking people, let's not leave out Dorothy Vreeland for those awesome petit fours refreshments at the December Watch meeting.

ReLeaf Nashville: Huge Success!

Y2K

By now everyone has been exposed to some kind of information on the Year 2000 Bug (Y2K). We're all coming to grips with it in our own ways, and we thought we'd give you some insights from our own little corner:

* Michael Hyatt, local author and speaker on Y2K issues, is giving a "Y2K Community Briefing" (75 minutes) on Feb 15th at 8:45 A.M. at the Nashville Convention Center. For info contact Vicky Royal, 367-1824.

* There is a fairly active Y2K group in east Nashville, called PREP 2000. For those online, their website is:

www.pubwire.com/domann.

They are planning a Y2K event on March 6, with an organizational meeting for anyone interested on Saturday Jan 23, 1:30 PM at Joe's Diner, 1907 Eastland Ave.

* There's now a toll-free phone line for Y2K information: **1 888 USA-4Y2K**. Topics dealt with are power, telephones, banking, government programs, etc. They have both live and recorded information. Additionally, the FTC has publications available through their Consumer Response Center at (202) FTC-HELP.

NES is planning to put up power lines in our area. We need to be vigilant regarding this, so we can have a say as to where they go. Drive down Battlefield Rd. off Belmont and see what we're talking about (thanks Lissa). Stay tuned.....



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Neighborhood News

Apr '99

(Newsletter of the Sylvan Heights Neighborhood Group)

It's Spring in Sylvan Heights!

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From what we've seen, the dogwoods, pear trees, forsythias, etc. are making a valiant attempt to bloom despite the unpredictability of our weather.

Our meeting on March 27th was held at Judy & Darwin Hoskins' house, and was attended by Whitney McFalls, who is running for Metro Council here in District 24. She lives in Sylvan Park, and is a member of the neighborhood association over there.

Among the issues she lists on her agenda are fiscal responsibility and accountability for Metro Government, monitoring of education spending, protection of residential areas from commercial encroachment, and improving teacher/student ratios in our schools.

She also recommended an alliance with Sylvan Park in the watchdog effort regarding NES and the power line issue. To that end, there will be a meeting **April 12th at 7 PM** in the Cohn Adult Center, downstairs in the Renaissance room.

Metro Council elections are Aug. 5. Whoever you vote for, do go vote!

Also from the last meeting, our crime statistics continue to be encouragingly low! There was

one auto theft, two aggravated assaults, one burglary and one larceny. We all believe that our level of awareness plays a significant part in this desirable result. Keep up the good work: noting license plates, calling neighbors when anything looks suspicious, just generally acting like it's our community...because it is!

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Word has it that property values in Sylvan Heights are already on the rise, due to factors like the new school, etc. Now there's a rumor we want to keep alive & well - spread the word! So what if property taxes swell a little...

Speaking of the new school, it's looking more and more finished every day. Did you know it's going to have a computer lab, gymnasium, health department and police station, all on premises? Although designed primarily for use by the children, several of these facilities will be made available to the community at large. Last we checked, completion was set for August of this year.

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There was a Y2K general awareness meeting held on the 27th, featuring a Nashville-produced video hosted by Leonard Nimoy ("Mr. Spock"). Judy Hoskins attended and summed up some of the things

covered. They include recommendations for at least 4 weeks worth of stored drinking water. Rainwater, etc. can also be purified using standard available water filters, ".05 micron or less", available for about \$30. Remember to store additional water for things like washing, flushing, watering, etc.

The video summed up by suggesting that communities ask themselves the following eight questions -

Do we have:

- 1) 3-4 weeks' water & food supply
- 2) Hard copies of important documents (bank records, birth certificates, etc.)
- 3) Non-electric lighting options (flashlight, kerosene lamp, oil lamp)
- 4) Non-electric heating options (kerosene heater, sleeping bag)
- 5) Supply of prescription drugs
- 6) First aid kit
- 7) Pregnancy supplies, plans if necessary
- 8) Ham radio operator in 'hood

The video is available at Blockbuster, and you can get more information on Y2K-related issues at (800) 948-8301.

Next neighborhood meeting is **April 10th, 1 PM** at Era Hogan's home, 3503 Park Ave.

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Neighborhood News

June '99

Okay, who's ready for summer? Hope everyone raised their hands, 'cause here it is!

Let's begin with news about the amazing new Park Avenue School, which seems like it's been going up at light-speed. The following comes from the May issue of "Return On Investment", the Nashville Chamber of Commerce newsletter:

"Enhanced School Option" debuts this fall -

Beginning in the 1999-2000 school year, businesses in the area surrounding the newly-constructed Park Avenue Enhanced Option School at 3707 Park Avenue, just off Charlotte Avenue, have a new perk to offer their employees.

"Enhanced Option School is a key component of the School Improvement Plan recently funded by the Metro Council and strongly supported by the chamber", says says Phil Trella, Chamber vice chair of education.

Parents who work in the "work site option school zone", regardless of their designated school zone, may enroll their pre-K through 4th grade students in this unique Metro school. The designated "work site option

zone" for the Park Avenue Enhanced Option School includes businesses located south of Charlotte and north of West End Avenue, roughly between I-440 and I-40. Another big plus: all classes will be small, around 15 students each.

"The added benefits of this school will give children a strong start and help ensure they will be successful not only in school but throughout their lives", says Trella. Applications are now being taken for the 100 seats available for children whose parents work in this area.

For more information contact June Centimole in the Metro Schools Zoning Office @ 259-8520.

NASHVILLE NIGHT OUT: August 3rd is this year's date for Nashville's "Night Out Against Crime". Cities all over America participate in this yearly event that helps neighbors get acquainted and show their commitment to keeping their neighborhoods safe. Sylvan Heights has held "Night Out" events for the past three years with terrific results. Last year's event included a bake sale, children's games, door prizes, and visits from local representatives and officials.

We hope to have an event again this year, but we can't do it without everyone pitching in! The theme for "Night Out" this year in Nashville is making your neighborhood more self-reliant and disaster resistant. We need ideas for fun activities, and volunteers to help carry them out. Please come to our next regular meeting (see below) where we hope to hear from one or two of our neighbors who went to a recent "Night Out" planning event.

Donna Delmas attended a West Sector neighborhood watch meeting, where some general items of importance were stressed, including the correct use of both 911 and 862-8600. When you call 911 (for a real emergency), if you can say nothing else, be sure to say your address. Also, know the addresses of any suspicious houses for quick reference. Sgt. Michele Coon reemphasized the importance of *making those phone calls* whenever you see something suspicious, whatever it is. The # of calls determines how much manpower we get in our sector.

Neighborhood Meeting: Saturday June 12 @ Ron Mckinley's, 209 Sentinel, 1 PM. (Bring chair!)

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Aug '99

SUMMER IN THE CITY!

Hope everyone is keeping cool however they can. This issue is mainly to announce the coming of **Nashville Night Out, Tuesday August 3rd.** Our group will be having a neighborhood walk and cookout behind the Korean Hanvit Baptist Church, starting at **6 PM.**

This is our neighborhood...let's help keep it safe, clean & beautiful!

We now have our very own Sylvan Heights website - <http://www.homestead.com/sylvanheights/index.html> Thanks Judy!

Handy phone #'s:

- Police non-emergency: 862-8600
- West Sector N'hd Watch Coordinator, Sgt. Michelle Coon: 862-7747
- Abandoned Vehicles: 862-6590
- Animal Control: 862-7928
- Bulk Item Pick-up: 862-8971
- Health/Sanitation: 340-5644 (overgrown, trashy areas, lots, etc.)
- Codes: 862-6602 (unsafe buildings, conditions, etc.)
- Metro Beautification: 862-8418
- Chipper Info (Public Works): 862-8641
- Property Records: 862-6083
- Neighborhood Resource Center: 385-9346

Council of Community Services:

- 385-2221
- Oasis Center: 327-4455
- Nashville Prep 2000 (Y2K issues): 329-9331
- *****
- A "West Nashville Y2K Community Conversation" was sponsored by Cohn/W. Nashville Community Education Program on July 10th. Panelists included representatives from Metro Water, NES, Red Cross, Metro Office of Emergency Mgmt., Nashville Prep 2000, and others. Minutes of the meeting are posted at our new website.

Free Y2K Prep Meeting, Aug 24 @ Cohn Adult Learning Center, 4805 Park Ave. 298-8050 for more info.

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Oct '99

Each year around this time we try to catch that first day when the weather breaks out of the heat cycle. I have it as Sep. 21 this year...not jacket weather yet, just a feeling in the morning air. And to make it a little more dramatic, remember - this is the last summer of the century!

* * *

Bessie Hanserd did us all a service by attending two neighborhood-related meetings held back in September. She was particularly impressed with the Neighborhood Alliance gathering, noting newly-elected mayor Bill Purcell's apparent commitment to our common cause. She reports that he intends to have an official "Neighborhood Office" in place during his time as mayor, and seemed sincere about his commitment to this issue. She has more details to give out at the Oct. 9 meeting.

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We're currently investigating into getting yard signs for announcing the date, time and place of our neighborhood meetings. They would be placed (with permission) at strategic locations, corner lots etc., and removed immediately following. This is already being done by other associations around us, and could help solidify regular attendance at meetings.

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For updates on this and other issues relating to Sylvan Heights, remember we now have a website:

<http://www.homestead.com/sylvanheights/index.html>

We're looking to make this a full-service site, where eventually you can download the newsletter, related items and links, etc.

TIP: assign it a "favorite" status on your toolbar, so you don't have to type the name in every time.

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This being the last newsletter until December, we're again devoting time to Y2K issues & updates. Judy Hoskins found a very useful article on overall preparedness in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution from 9.19.99. To get the entire article, go to their website at:

<http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/reports/y2k/dos.html>

Listed here are some general suggestions, dos & don'ts, etc:

WATER: Store one gallon per person per day for drinking purposes. Use clean plastic jugs with tight lids. Water for other uses (cleaning, flushing, etc.) can be stored in larger items like garbage cans, water beds and

children's wading pools. Locate your house's main water shutoff valve and learn to operate it in the event of burst pipes.

FOOD: Best choices are canned and non-perishable foods that don't require refrigeration or cooking: canned tuna, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, cereals, etc. Don't wait until December to start shopping, as prices may be higher then and lines could be long due to last-minute "runs".

WARMTH: You should have a source of heat that does not depend on electricity or gas from mid-December on. These can be woodstoves, kerosene heaters, fireplaces, etc. Remember to provide for adequate ventilation, and have fire extinguishers available.

LIGHT: Flashlights are better than candles, so have several around with lots of batteries on hand.

MEDICAL: Prescriptions should be filled before mid-December to last through the beginning of the year, at least.

Nashville PREP 2000 Office:
(615) 329-9331

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Next Sylvan Heights
Neighborhood Meeting:
Saturday October 9, 4:00 PM
@ New Park Avenue School

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Dec '99

A lot was accomplished at the neighborhood meeting on Nov. 13, held at Linda Park's home (she did a terrific job chairing the meeting!). **Special guests** included Officer Campbell of Metro Police and Councilman John Summers. We sincerely thank them for their support of our neighborhood efforts. Some items discussed at the meeting were:

NES POWER LINES:

Roni Snider reported that she has been elected Chairman of a citizens committee working with NES on a proposed route for the new power lines they plan to install, and is trying to get a route that avoids residential areas as much as possible.

ELECTIONS:

* Diane Green volunteered to take over for Bessie Hanserd as our new group treasurer - **THANKS DIANE!** And **THANKS BESSIE** for handling this for 3 1/2 years!

* Karen Swingly volunteered to become our new group Secretary and take minutes of future meetings. **THANKS KAREN!**

* *Linda Park agreed to be the new **President of the Sylvan Heights Neighborhood Group**, to arrange for the monthly meeting location, make the meeting reminder phone calls,

and be a contact person.

THANKS LINDA!

* Judy Hoskins agreed to continue in the role of Neighborhood Watch Director. **THANKS JUDY!**

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LOCATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

Because of costs involved in using the new Park Avenue school, schedule requirements, etc., it was decided to keep monthly neighborhood meetings on the **second Saturday of the month**. We will continue meeting in members' homes or perhaps try and make arrangements to meet in one of the churches as we've done in the past. Linda Park will be handling this.

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CRIME:

We had a great crime report, again! Thanks to Sgt. Brooks Harris for the statistics. Check with Judy (297-4858) if you want details.

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ZONING:

John Summers told us a developer wants to re-zone the Normandy Circle area as "multi-family" and explained what some possible outcomes of this could be. After discussion, we voted to oppose the new zoning proposal. Councilman Summers also suggested we try getting a special type of zoning

("historical overlay") on parts of our neighborhood with houses built before 1950, that would help prevent changes of this type being introduced. Diane Green agreed to try and look into the issue. Anyone who thinks their house might qualify, please let us know!

* * *

NEW YEAR'S:

Anyone having a need for emergency services over the New Year's weekend who has a problem with the phones (911) can find help at the nearest fire hall or police precinct. Our nearest emergency location is Fire Station #13, at 410 45th Ave. N. (just across Charlotte). We held our first two Nashville Night Out events there, and the kind folks from that station also joined us at last year's Night Out at Chamberlin and Dakota. They are asking that we check on any neighbors in our area who may have special needs (handicap, etc.) if there is a phone problem. Finally, from Linda Parks' notes on the **N'hd Watch Meeting @ West Station, 11/15**, we hear police are "doubling up" their patrols, nobody will be off duty that night. Be on guard for scams about Y2K, and get accurate information. [We have some extra copies of Red Cross Y2K brochure that gives preparation advice. If you'd like one, call Judy at 297-4858.]