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Heinig Park Board Announcement August 2, 2008

On July 31, the Heinig Park Board met to review the progress on plans to improve the Park and playground equipment. Ashley Samuelson reported excellent progress with the Buy-A-Brick program in raising \$8,000 for new equipment and with a commitment of an additional \$5,000 from the Civic Association's savings, the Park Board was satisfied that the community could eventually raise all the money needed to build and maintain a great place for the community. The Heinig Board has removed from its agenda the Harris YMCA proposal, with thanks to all involved parties, especially the YMCA, for this consideration.

As Ashley and the Civic Association's efforts continue toward raising the needed funds, it is expected that the old playground equipment will be removed in October, with work to begin on the new playground in the following months. We offer our thanks to everyone who has contributed to this endeavor.

Frank Barnes
President, Anne Heinig Park Board

**TO BUY A BRICK, DOWNLOAD AN ORDER FORM AT
WWW.MBCIVIC.COM
OR CALL ASHLEY (704)556-9773**

THANK YOU to the following who have bought bricks or made donations since our last newsletter! Come to the fall picnic to see your brick!

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mike & Rebecca Anderson | Jim Keane |
| Chase Coale & John Anderson | William & Imogene Kinney |
| Kathryn Baker | The Kittlesons |
| Jeff & Catherine Barnes | Kurt & Karen Kottkamp |
| Hal & Pat Beck | Bob MacCaughelty |
| Linda & David Bentley | Guy Mandrapilias |
| Laura Blair | Marshall & Kim Millican |
| Rich & Ann Stewart Boss | Sarah & Jon Michael Morgan |
| Peggy Bridgers | Kurt & Rebekka Niederer |
| Mike & Leslie Carmichael | Jim Patterson |
| Russell & Anna Young Castilow | Bill & Marti Russo |
| Brian & Sharon Cox | Sheryl & Jeff Smith |
| Kenneth & Bonnie Dowd | Jeff & Summer Sneed |
| Ben & Rosemary Dunn | Stillman |
| Sara & Claudio Edelman | William Stimart |
| Chris Flynn | Jennifer Trevisol |
| Girouard | Phyllis Van |
| Brian & Tammra Granger | Constance Vickers |
| Hager | John Watkins |
| Ann & Phillip Hanson | Jim & Kim Walker |
| Katherine Henning | Lake Westfall |
| Julia Hite | Karen & Scott Willis |
| Gregory Hudson | |

THANK YOU TO ALL!

FALL PICNIC!!!

This is our most popular event of the year! Come to this FREE event with:



- ◆ Inflatables starting at 5PM
- ◆ BBQ, fried chicken & all the fixins at 5:30PM
- ◆ Live entertainment

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH
AT THE ANNE HEINIG PARK
Bring your own picnic blanket or lawn chairs**

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MOUNTAINBROOK

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As many of you may be aware, Kim Millican resigned as president of our Civic Association. Thank you, Kim, for your time and commitment to our Mountainbrook community. As the new president of the Mountainbrook Civic Association, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Karen Willis. I am a full-time wife, mother, employee and your President. I have many hobbies and favorite activities (gardening, Stampin', knitting, sewing, and anything outdoors) and balancing my life is an ongoing challenge and yet somehow keeps me motivated and centered. Last year I was the Mountainbrook Welcome representative and this year I was the Vice President until I took over the Presidency in June. My husband and I have lived in Mountainbrook for 6 years now and have enjoyed every moment. We fell in love with Mountainbrook and are proud to say we live here. You may see my husband Scott, our almost 2 year old daughter Elliot and me riding our bikes through the neighborhood or you may see us walking with our dog Blue. As we "cruise the hood," I continue to be amazed at its beauty and peaceful presence here in Southpark.

While riding my bike the other night, I thought it might be appropriate to mention our Civic Association Board. Who are we and why do we serve?

Well to put it simply, we are just like you. We have a love for Mountainbrook and have a desire to maintain its integrity and make our neighborhood a better place to live. Many of us have full time jobs or businesses. Some of us in addition to our jobs have family responsibilities caring for children, pets, and/or parents. We are democrats, republicans, or independents, if we follow a political party at all. Some of us have renovated our homes and some of us would like to. Some of us are outgoing and some of us are introverts. We are all different, yet have the same desires. We take time out of our schedules to attend monthly meetings, deliver directories, plan social events and neighborhood activities, print and hang signs, organize committees, do fundraising, track safety issues, beautify and maintain our landscape, write and publish our newsletter, track dues payment and contact information, keep up with park issues, manage the neighborhood finances, and welcome new neighbors to the neighborhood! That is a mouthful! As you can see, multi-tasking is a must!

Sometimes holding a board position is a thankless job and at other times it is a valuable and rewarding experience. The rewarding experiences are what keep us going and help us stay focused. This year has been challenging with board turnover and issues concerning our Park, yet we forge ahead and try to be good stewards of the neighborhood. We try to connect with you and understand your needs and your priorities. That isn't an easy job. Communication is a challenge and hard to maintain at times, but we know that it is a very important task. We know you may not understand the decisions we make, but we hope that you trust us to make the right decisions!

Building a good neighborhood takes time and energy; building a GREAT neighborhood takes more than that. In the coming months, I would like us to not only maintain a good neighborhood civic structure, but build a GREAT one! Having strong guiding principles and solid goals will help us to build a build that foundation.

So, what can you do? We understand that you may not want or have time to hold a board position. To start, we ask you to take the time to read this newsletter, read the emails we send, visit our website regularly (www.mbcivic.com), talk to your board members and neighbors, and if you get a chance, please plan to attend our fall picnic! The picnic is a fun free way to meet your neighbors. This year we would like to see you! So, stop by, say hello. And, if you think about it, thank your board members for volunteering their time!

Sincerely,

Karen Willis

President, Mountainbrook Civic Association

WHY SHOULD I PAY MY CIVIC DUES?? BY JANICE MAJOR

“If we don’t pay our civic dues, we all suffer.”

THANK YOU
TO OUR CIVIC
ASSOCIATION
MEMBERS!
WE ARE AT
72%
MEMBERSHIP!

Where does your money go?

Check out www.mbcivic.com for a detailed budget and cost breakdown.

Come to the annual meeting.

Read your newsletters.

If you still have questions, please call or email a board member and get the information you need!

As I have been going around Mountainbrook distributing directories and meeting my neighbors, I have talked at great length to people about the idea of neighborhood dues. People have given me quite a few reasons as to why they pay their dues or why they don’t, why they feel we should pay more or why we are already asking too much. It reminded me of something a great employer once said to me when I was complaining about not being paid as much as my co-workers, all of whom had different levels of experience and education. He said, “when you think about your salary, don’t think about what other people are paid, think about what you are getting as compared to what you are giving up.” That statement applies to so many different aspects of life besides salary. You must constantly keep weighing the benefits against the costs of everything.

In terms of civic association dues, I first thought, well, let me see what other neighborhoods pay and then I’ll do a comparison. Problem is, there aren’t any neighborhoods comparable to Mountainbrook. This is not a statement of pride, it’s just a fact. Name me one neighborhood that can claim all of the following:

- ◆ Great location
- ◆ Well-built houses that are a reasonable size, not starter homes/not super big
- ◆ Big lots with tons of trees
- ◆ A 4-acre green space with track, playground, volleyball, basketball
- ◆ Social events that bring the neighborhood together that appeal to all age groups
- ◆ A pool and tennis club that you can join, but you don’t have to join

The fact is, I couldn’t come up with one single neighborhood that is the same for comparison sake. You either find a bare bones neighborhood with no common green space at all, or the total opposite where the pool dues are forced upon you and the civic association controls everything you do. There are some in the middle, but not exactly comparable. So you have to ask yourself....how much is it worth to me?

In my opinion, this little neighborhood is one of Charlotte’s best kept secrets. When I moved here less than 3 years ago, my family and I were greeted within the first week by not just the civic association welcome committee, but also an array of different neighbors—one brought homemade baked bread, one invited us to happy hour at her house, and another invited us to her home for an open house to introduce us to the other new neighbors on the street. That’s more interest and compassion than I received in all my 6 years at my previous home! As time goes on, I realize those weren’t just isolated incidents. People in this neighborhood actually CARE about their neighbors....what a concept.

If people knocking on your door with baked bread and invitations is not your scene, fret not. You can at least know that if you need something, you can pick up your directory and locate a neighbor anytime. If you just want to be left alone, well you can have that too—we have plenty of wooded lots with tall hedges and you can just sit back and enjoy the deer and rabbits and other critters crossing through your yard and forget that you are right in the middle of a busy city. How many close-in neighborhoods still offer that in Charlotte?

Well obviously, I could go on and on about the terrific wonders that are Mountainbrook. However, I can

understand that if you are strapped for cash in this economy (as a lot of us are), you might start going through your bills and thinking which ones you can cut in order to save money. But if you cut out your civic dues, *is it really a savings in the end?*

Let’s say I don’t pay my current \$75 dues. Then let’s say my neighbor doesn’t pay either, and so on and so forth, until collections are way down. The truth is that Mountainbrook has a lot of great assets, but if we don’t take care of them, nobody else is going to do it for us. So without the proper funding, we have to cut the grass less and less, we let the landscaping die and can’t afford to replace it, our signs get vandalized or stolen but we don’t do anything about it, the park looks atrocious, the neighbors aren’t communicating like they used to, blah blah blah. Before you know it, the neighborhood has a reputation of being one of those places that has outlived its glory days. There goes the property value!

As I contemplate this, I realize that if we don’t pay our civic dues, we all suffer. If you are having trouble paying, if you want to know how the money is spent, if you have an old dispute with the civic association that caused you to stop paying in the first place.....I encourage you to give it another thought. Call your civic board members, ask questions, visit the website, look at the budget. You’ll see it’s money well spent. If we don’t think it’s worth it to invest in our neighborhood, then maybe we’ve forgotten how great it really is. Let’s all do our part to keep Mountainbrook great!

MOUNTAINBROOK

Congratulations to the Yard of the Month Winners!

Please see our website at www.mbcivic.com for photos of these beautiful homes.

- April : 3328 Mill Pond Road, Richard & Jeannie Rutherford
- May : 3508 Mountainbrook Road, Bill Crane
- June : 3426 Mill Pond Road, Chris & Cheryl Pappas
- July : 3001 Shaker Drive, Steve & Susan Harmon
- August : 3800 Table Rock Road, Bob Bohnhoff & Sandy Andrews



Supper Club

Each 2nd Saturday of the month is the Mountainbrook Supper Club! These are casual evenings and you are not committed for the whole year. Keep an eye out for reminder signs at the entrances and help us keep the "neighbor" in neighborhood. Join us at these neighbors' houses for the following dates:

- September 6 : Picnic
- October 11 : Mayhews
- November 8 : Reichards
- December 13 : Jenkins

Contact Laura Blair for details
704-553-1901



Look for signs throughout the neighborhood for more info on upcoming events.

Check out www.mbcivic.com for more info and a calendar of events

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR.....

- Friday, August 22nd : Movie Night at the Pool*
- Sunday, August 24th : Pool Picnic & Games*
- Monday, September 1st : Labor Day Celebration & Tennis Social*
- Saturday, September 6th : FALL PICNIC 6PM
- Tuesday, September 9th : Civic Association Board Meeting
- Thursday, September 11th : Garden Lovers Meeting
- Thursday, October 9th : Garden Lovers Meeting
- Tuesday, October 14th : Civic Association Board Meeting
- Friday, October 31st : Halloween Party at the Park
- Tuesday, November 11th : Civic Association Board Meeting
- Thursday, November 13th : Garden Lovers Meeting
- Tuesday, December 9th : Civic Association Board Meeting
- Thursday, December 11th : Garden Lovers Meeting
- Sunday, December 21st : Christmas Caroling

*Membership to Mountainbrook Swim & Tennis Club are required for these events. Please see the Club's website, www.mountainbrookclub.net for more information.

SPEED HUMPS ON HIGHVIEW???

The Charlotte DOT has decided to remove Highview Road from the speed hump construction list for this year following the ruling on a recent appeals hearing. A homeowner appealed the speed hump petition that was sent in by residents in Mountainbrook, Beverly Woods East and Belingrath. The DOT ruled in favor of the appeal due to the following reasons:

- At the time the petition was filed, the policy requirements state that you must have 60% of property owners sign a petition in favor AND you must have the endorsement of all of the HOA's involved. The Beverly Woods East HOA did not endorse the project at the time of the filing.
- The City has since changed the policy to require either the valid petition OR the HOA's endorsement, not both. However, during the time of the filing, the policy had not yet been changed. The DOT stated that there has been turnover in property ownership since the time of the filing and therefore, they couldn't be sure if the petition still met the 60% requirement.

Apparently, the policy was unclear and the homeowner who appealed was dissatisfied with the manner in which it was handled. The DOT has communicated to the civic association that if we still wish to pursue the speed humps, we may re-submit next year. It is our understanding that this process will begin in late fall. The same Mountainbrook residents on Highview who initiated the petition plan to do so again at that time.

If you have any questions, please contact the CDOT Business Manager, Phillip Reiger, at 704-336-4896.



If you would like to place an ad in our quarterly newsletter or annual directory, please see our ad rates at www.mbcivic.com

or contact

Mike Anderson

Directory @MBCivic.com

704-556-0456

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN!

Want to get involved in your neighborhood? The positions of VP & Membership are open on the board of directors. If you have an interest, please contact Karen Willis for more info.

| <u>Your Current Mountainbrook Civic Association Board Members—here to serve you:</u> | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| President | Karen Willis | President@MBCivic.com | 704-564-3399 |
| Vice President | OPEN | VP@MBCivic.com | |
| Treasurer | Sandy Carlson | Treasurer@MBCivic.com | 704-554-4793 |
| Secretary | Jennifer Carwile | Secretary@MBCivic.com | 704-837-7492 |
| Beautification | Camille Coers | Beautification@MBCivic.com | 704-499-6362 |
| Directory, Website, Acting Membership | Mike Anderson | Directory@MBCivic.com | 704-556-0456 |
| Membership | OPEN | Membership@MBCivic.com | |
| Newsletter | Janice Major | Newsletter@MBCivic.com | 704-643-9722 |
| Safety | Glen Drysdale | Safety@MBCivic.com | 704-969-1750 |
| Social and Anne Heinig Park | Ashley Samuelson | Social@MBCivic.com | 704-556-9773 |
| Special Projects and Anne Heinig Park | Burt Arrington | AnneHeinigPark@MBCivic.com | 704-551-0567 |
| Welcome | Bill Martin | Welcome@MBCivic.com | 704-906-1902 |

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR NEW & IMPROVED WEBSITE—WWW.MBCIVIC.COM

This **MOUNTAINBROOK** newsletter sponsored by:



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www.majorcleaninc.com

**Mountainbrook Civic Association
PO Box 472926
Charlotte, NC 28247**

**SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6TH
FALL PICNIC!
SEE INSIDE FOR
MORE DETAILS....**

«FName1» «LName1»
«FName2» «LName2»
Or Current Resident
«Address»
Charlotte, NC «ZipCode»