

THE LONGVIEW GARDENS GAZETTE

July 1994

Notes from the Chair



Welcome to the first issue of our neighborhood newsletter! The Longview Gardens Association (our neighborhood organization) is nearing its first birthday and we seem to be developing nicely. Lots and lots of news to report.

In case you've missed our previous notices and meetings, I'll begin at the beginning.

Just about a year ago a group of us got together to start a neighborhood association. During the spring of 1993, we held an initial meeting at our home and then our first organizational meeting at the Methodist Church on Milburnie. In August, we met at the Longview Baptist Church on N. King Charles and voted ourselves into existence as an organization and I agreed to serve as the first Chairperson and Don Osborne agreed to serve as Treasurer. In October, we had a delightful meeting at the Longview House where Poe family members gave us a tour of Clarence Poe's gracious home. (Clarence Poe was the developer of Longview Gardens).

At each of these meetings, various people signed on to work on

committees. The membership committee (Barbara Williams and Cathy Hedgepeth) worked diligently to set up a mechanism to distribute this newsletter and notices of neighborhood events. The Events committee (Gwen Scheidt, chair; Susan Reid, Azalee Sain, Catherleen Thomas, Winnie Lacewell, Dot Smith and myself) are planning our first neighborhood event for July 24th -a summer happening with an auction and carnival atmosphere. See the flyer enclosed!

One of my neighbors asked me, just "Why do we need an Association?" Lots of reasons.

My own most pressing concern is to develop a sense of community. In the not too distant past, many of us lived in small towns surrounded by family and friends we seem to have known forever. We naturally knew the people we lived near because we worked or prayed with them too. But now, many of us must relocate for our jobs, and streets no longer necessarily feel like communities. A neighborhood association can help Longview Gardens to remain a friendly family-oriented community, where we know our neighbors.

A neighborhood organization is also a wonderful way to ensure that Longview Gardens thrives. One of our goals is to let others in Raleigh know about our terrific neighborhood. Where else can people who work at Wake Medical Center or downtown live in beautiful older homes, with big yards, where some of those yards even boast lakefront property, within minutes of work- and for very reasonable real estate prices? And yet, as an older

established neighborhood, we often don't get the attention we deserve from those looking for homes. We need to make sure families buying homes know about our neighborhood. REAL ESTATE IS OUR JOB TOO!

Have you noticed any houses for sale on your block recently? Nearby? Have you mentioned these houses and the benefits of our neighborhood to any friends or business acquaintances currently looking to move? The best way to ensure that Longview Gardens develops the reputation we deserve, and that homes are sold to families who intend to occupy them, is to be part of the process.

One big advantage of knowing your neighbors is that we can watch out for each other. Knowing when your neighbor is out of town, watching for new and different (and even suspicious) vehicles is much easier when we know each other! We are all concerned with reducing crime. We must all, again, make it our job to be part of the process.

Join with me in celebrating our first Longview Gardens Summer Happening on Sunday July 24th, from 3:00 to 5:00 on the grassy field at the corner of Longview Lake and Bertie. We have something planned for all ages from face painting to an auction of white elephants. Details are on the enclosed flyer. Put the date on your calendar NOW and the flyer on your refrigerator door so you won't forget. Please call the Chairperson, Gwyn Scheidt (833-7030), and tell her what you can volunteer to bring or contribute, and how you'll be able to help.

And please, now that you know my face, when I jog by your home, stop me and introduce yourself. I always appreciate a breather from my exercise and would like to meet every one of my Longview Garden neighbors. Or stop by and say hello. I'm at 128 N. King Charles Road (which seems better known as Harvey Montague's house).

But now it's where I live with my husband Rick and daughter Leah.

Hope to see you all at the Happening!

BIG NEWS: GRANT MONEY TO LANDSCAPE THE NEW BERN AVENUE MEDIAN

Our hard-working CAC (which stands for the Citizens Advisory Council) has applied for and received a grant to beautify the median of New Bern Avenue. Many of us attended a delightful event at the Longview House to hear of these plans. Funds have been allocated from the state, the city is matching the state's grant with its planning and planting services, and the CAC has to raise a small portion of the matching funds, about \$3,000. This possibility represents the hard work of the CAC (chaired by Catherleen Thomas) and we will all benefit from the beautiful flowering trees that are planned. Please consider making a contribution to the effort. Send your checks payable to the "East Raleigh CAC," c/o Catherleen or Barbara Risman.

NOT QUITE BIG NEWS YET, BUT MAYBE:

LONGVIEW LAKE LANDSCAPING

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded two Raleigh urban foresters a landscape architecture grant to redesign some currently unoccupied urban space. The grassy field near Longview Lake is one of three sites under consideration. If we are chosen, the neighborhood association will have to promise to help with the project, and ensure its maintenance after construction. As this develops, we'll let you know more.
