

Longview Gardens Gazette

April, 1996

PUT APRIL 16th ON YOUR CALENDAR!

SPRING MEETING OF THE LONGVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Short organizational meeting with elections and then a panel presentation and discussion on

Living in an Urban Neighborhood: Benefits, Problems, and Safety Concerns

Panel includes (our own)

Cathy Hedgepeth, School Psychologist at Project Enlightenment

Garman Troup, Project Director, Resources for Seniors

Officer, Raleigh Police Department

Each speaker will present a very short and informal presentation, with lots of time for questions and discussions. If any of these questions has ever crossed your mind, then this meeting is for you:

Have you ever wondered at what age it is safe to let your children (or grandchildren) bike the neighborhood alone? What about walk to a friend's home?

Have you ever wondered if there are special resources for senior citizens who live near downtown?

Are there any special safety tips useful for urban dwellers?

Business meeting to begin at 7:00 with panel to follow immediately thereafter. Location is the home of Barbara Risman and Rick Kane — 128 N. King Charles Road. Refreshments served.

Notes From the Chair:

I organized this panel because of discussions I've had with neighbors about safety concerns for our homes and for our children and grandchildren. Many of us grew up in smaller cities, suburbs or small towns where crime was less prevalent. All of us grew up when crime rates were lower and children were safer. And yet, as a sociologist, I know that crime has actually fallen over the last decade—yet we all still feel at risk. It is hard to know when fear is rational, and we should keep our children in sight. But sometimes I think fear is irrational, and we ought to let them have more space to grow. To know the difference is the hard part. It is also difficult to know when fear is rational and we should stay inside

at dusk—or whether walking the dog or taking a jog in the brisk springtime evening is OK to do. How do we know? Hopefully, we can learn from our panel, and from discussing their ideas with each other. So—do come and bring all your experience and common sense to share.

Before the panel discussion, the first order of business will be to elect new officers. I've served as Chairperson now for three years and feel that it is definitely time for new blood in this position. Some of the other current committee chairs feel similarly. We need to decide as a community, to support our neighborhood organization. That means other people need to volunteer for leadership roles. The best nomination is self-

nomination—but any nomination is a good one. The Chairperson's job is really quite manageable (helping to put this newsletter together, organize a yearly event, and organize business meetings.) Do call if you would like to volunteer before the meeting, or if you have a good idea for someone else to nominate. My number is 821-2506. Other positions open: newsletter distribution organizer, real-estate committee chair, new neighbor welcoming committee chairperson and treasurer. Longview Neighborhood Association exists only if we all work together. There is no better way to meet your neighbors than to volunteer to help run this organization.

—Barbara Risman

More on Other Side...