

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I recently returned from a business trip to Russia, more grateful than ever for the quality of our own lives and for the beauty of our city and our neighborhood. One of the most striking features of the Russian living area (I hesitate to use the word neighborhood) is its high density and general decay. In a society in which everyone theoretically owned everything, no one really felt responsibility for caring for anything outside their front door.

One of the most promising aspects of our neighborhood in what is now rated as one of the most livable cities in America is that we can live practically downtown and still have large yards, big houses and quiet streets. To live in the center of one of the nicest cities in America in a low density and esthetically beautiful setting is a very rare treat.

But we can not simply rest and enjoy it, although we surely must do that as well. In an era of high growth in our region, we must make sure that our neighborhood receives the good press that it deserves. When newcomers are looking for a reasonably priced, inside-the-beltline neighborhood with great schools and a warm and friendly community, they need to know about us! And as a neighborhood, we must take pride in our environment: not only our own homes and yards, but our streets and greenways. Let's all support the City of Raleigh Beautification Project for the median of New Bern Avenue. Give generously of your time and money for this worthwhile program. Perhaps our neighborhood association could do even more: we could adopt one of our own streets in Raleigh's program to encourage a cleaner environment. Let's make our local environment the best that it can be!

- Barbara Risman

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you interested in helping to prepare a public relations packet to send to the local media and to real estate agents? Help spread the word about Longview Gardens.

Are you willing to join a team to greet newcomers to the neighborhood. This is a very fun and worthwhile project.

Would you be willing to help organize a "Best Garden in the Gardens" contest for our spring flowers?

Would you head a team to "adopt" a neighborhood street and keep it clean and bright?

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Regular business meetings in 1995 will continue at 128 N. King Charles on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The first 1995 meeting on Wednesday, January 18th will be devoted to planning a spring event, discussion of a neighborhood directory, and the possibility of a "Best Garden in the Gardens" contest.

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*The Longview Gardens Neighborhood Association is limited only by our own creativity and energy. So give of yourself. Remember: The more you give of yourself, the more you receive from others.*