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TOWN HALL EAST NEWSLETTER

September 2002
Email: towneast@kornnet.org

***NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 2002:
WELCOME STATE REP. JOE ARMSTRONG***

We invite all members of the community to attend the next meeting of Town Hall East (THE), Monday, September 9, 2002 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 4904 Asheville Highway. We are pleased that reelected State Rep. Joe Armstrong will be joining us as our guest speaker. This is a great opportunity for you to hear from *your* representative about the latest happenings in the state legislature ... and the chance to ask questions. Don't pass it up! As noted below, MPC Planner Ann Bennett will also join us.

Membership Reminder: It is again time to renew your Town Hall East membership for the Sept. 2002-Aug. 2003 membership year. If you are not an active voting member, please join us! Take a moment to fill in the membership form on the back of this newsletter and drop it in the mail with \$10/year dues payment to our Treasurer, Tom Helms (at the above return address) or bring it to the September 9th meeting. A few of you have already paid in advance ... check your address on this mailing. If it says "Pd thru 8/2003" you're in good shape ... earlier dates, "Renew Today!", or "Join Today!" means it really is dues time. Your dues help pay for the newsletter ... keep your finger on the pulse of the neighborhood.

WEBSITE WOES-- REVIVAL ON THE HORIZON: We greatly miss the talents of John Hoover who stepped down from his role as webmaster several months ago due to other obligations. John is the dedicated volunteer who developed our website just a few years ago and managed it from the inception ... he is irreplaceable. Thank you John for all your help. It has been difficult to find someone with both the time and the talent to take this on. Thus far, there is one glimmer of hope on the horizon. Beth Sanderbeck, a board member of Fountain City Town Hall and their webmaster, has offered to maintain our website for a reasonable cost. Check out Beth's talents at the FCTH site:

<http://www.kornnet.org/townhall/>. We'll be discussing and voting on her proposal at the September 9th meeting. Got any other suggestions?? We value your input.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! TOWN HALL EAST TURNS 40! Our neighborhood was born in the '20s, and our community voice, Town Hall East, in the '60s. We think a party is in order to celebrate all things wonderful about our area. What do you think? Envision a sunny Dogwood Saturday in April down at Holston River Park ... live music, booths of artworks and goods for sale at the bazaar, a 5K walk/run around our greenway, children's games and activities, historical displays, food vendors, and more! This *large* group of volunteers from the community to lead the effort and make up all the committees that are necessary to make this go. We have 8 months to do it. We tentatively plan to hold a "feasibility meeting" on Monday, September 16th at 6:30 p.m. (location TBA, call 523-9117 for info) to determine if we have enough interest to proceed and, if so, to get started. Please attend if you are interested in helping to plan this celebration. We can't do it without you.

SUMMER SEES PROGRESS TOWARD HISTORIC ZONING ... MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEXT PHASE: A dedicated group of volunteers took on the City Directories this summer and gleaned much of the needed information on when ~1,100 homes in our area were built. This takes us one step closer to being able to institute Neighborhood Conservation (NC-1) zoning, which would protect the unique character of areas of our neighborhood that are 50+ years old. Areas younger than 50 years can be phased in as their 50th birthdays roll around. MPC Planner **Ann Bennett** will be attending our September 9th meeting to provide a bit of background information and answer questions about the process. And, of course there is the need for more volunteers as we proceed ... why not join the fun? There are things we need to complete our work:

1. We need **digital photos** of all the homes in the target area. This is a big undertaking, so the more photos we have, the better. Photos need to be taken between November and March when dense foliage will not block views of our subject homes. If you have a digital camera and are willing to volunteer, call Melissa at 523-9117 so we can coordinate efforts.

2. We need people to delve into our **history** and plot out the development timeline ... we're talking maps, old documents, and the like to tell the story of our neighborhood. If you have information on the history of your house ... architect info, blueprints, ownership history including any prominent owners, etc. ... that would be immensely helpful. We'll need several folks to focus on this endeavor, so please do call Melissa at 523-9117. Having a written history and all of these photos will be a great tribute to the neighborhood itself. Can't wait!

MPC FOLLOW-UP: In July, private developers withdrew their proposal to rezone 14 acres on Skyline Drive for a possible apartment complex. Plans for another proposed apartment complex, on the Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church property, are also on hold. After a Use on Review request to build a 100-unit complex on their property was denied by MPC, church officials decided not to appeal the decision to City Council. We understand the Church is moving forward with the planned development of a school and we applaud their efforts on that front (See more in "GOOD THINGS" below). Diversity in educational opportunities are welcome.

RECENT ELECTIONS: Congratulations to our newly-elected county commissioners: Diane Jordan and Thomas "Tank" Strickland. Don't forget to vote in upcoming state and federal elections coming in November. Early voting is just around the corner ...

A LITTLE FRIENDLY ADVICE: There have been recent reports hereabouts of stolen lawnmowers, other lawn and yard equipment, and garage items. The frequent culprit: dishonest fellas asking if they can mow your lawn and use your mower. Now for the advice: be sure you know the people you hire to mow, do yard work, and do home repairs. Don't prepay ... some are taking the \$\$ and also running with your lawnmower to the nearest pawn shop. And hey, do keep your garage door closed even when you're home. The casual shoppers are driving buy and plotting which goodies they'll take from *your* garage. Garage break-ins are by far the most common type of theft in our neighborhood. Take care and be safe!

NEW APPOINTEE TO THE BOARD: Town Hall East board member Mandi Bishop has moved out of the community and resigned her post on the Board. We thank Mandi for her contributions of time and energy during the past year. Al Acker has been appointed to complete her term.

GOOD THINGS! Good things have been happening all around us the past several months, so we'd like to take a moment to recap our welcome to neighborhood newcomers: **Comcast**, who has reshaped and retooled the former Kmart building, and **Stover's Two**, who has done a phenomenal job of reusing the former Kroger/Revco building as a business selling ceramic tile, hardwood flooring, and more. **Scott's Place** deli opened this spring in the former Kay's Ice Cream building. The new location opened the end of August. **Bag Lady Books** also opened in August just across the river at 6316 Asheville Highway. The **Wee Course at Williams Creek**, a par 3 golf course opens soon just off Delrose. And last, but not least, **Freedom Christian Academy** at Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church opens the doors of their K-6 school for the first time on September 3rd with plans to add the 7th and 8th grades next year. The academy will be housed in church facilities this year and will move into their new facility (the former Family Inns of America) for 2003-2004. For enrollment information, you may contact Principal Melanie Stipes or Administrator of Curriculum and Instruction Martha Blakely. Their phone numbers are 525-7807 and 522-2422. Please do your part to support all of these good things!

MAGNOLIAS ON MAGNOLIA. Stay tuned, folks. Our second and final round of plantings of several species of magnolias will take place this fall. We plan to meet with City arborists and other officials to plan more plantings along our formerly and soon-again-to-be great Boulevard. About 100 trees were planted in the spring by the combined efforts of the City and our fearless magnolia planting team. Council members Rob Frost, Mark Brown, and Barbara Pelot help fund this effort and treeman Jim Cortese helped get us rolling. But neighborhood volunteers made it happen. We still have funds left to purchase trees and bare spots crying out for green to grace them. We will be calling for volunteers on one or two Saturdays this fall to help get plantings done. Its community work that pays you back a hundred fold in terms of the beauty and improving character of our area. We hope you'll help.

MORE TREES. Another summer drought ... lightening strikes ... and more giant trees lost forever. It's time to re-evaluate your commitment to the future. Why not plant an oak tree or other hardwood this fall and help green the neighborhood for another 100 years. Thanks.

JOIN / RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!!

Name: _____

Please provide an email address if would like us to inform you of happenings between newsletters. The membership year runs from September 2002-August 2003.

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ ... Are you willing to receive the Newsletter via email? yes no
Please remit payment of \$10 per household to Tom Helms, Treasurer, Town Hall East, P.O. Box 6207, Knoxville, TN 37914 or bring this form and \$ to the meeting with you.