

	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Madison Park Monthly Association Meeting</b>	
	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009</b>	
	<b>Time:</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	
	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Wedgewood Baptist Church Annex</b>	
	<b>Presenters:</b>		
	Meeting Chair: Ken Davis		<b>Attendee Count:</b>  <b>30 members</b> <b>1 police officer</b>
	Guest Speakers:		
<a href="http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/madisonpk/">http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/madisonpk/</a>			
<b>Agenda:</b>			

**Welcome: Meeting brought to order by Ken Davis, President at 7:32pm**

A note of farewell:

We received the following email from Police Officer Gene Lim on August 4<sup>th</sup>:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for getting to work with each of you throughout my ten years in the Westover Division. I am taking a new position within the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department effective Saturday 08/08/2009 and wanted to let each of you know how much I truly enjoyed working with and for you over the years. I feel that the Westover Division was the ideal spot for me to spend my first decade as a Police Officer, as I have gained a wide range of knowledge, wisdom, and experience as a member of this very hardworking, dedicated group of men and women. I wish all of you the best in your neighborhoods and businesses as we move forward to face new and different challenges. Officer Patrick Hairston, my partner, is still working hard in your Response Area and will be available as needs arise. Again, thank you all!

Sincerely,

Officer Gene Lim

#### 1. Crime Report – given by Officer Hairston

- a. Officer Hairston noted that Officer Lim was headed to the Electronic Monitoring division of CMPD.
- b. 4600 Bayberry – break-in of shed behind house sometime between July 4 and 18<sup>th</sup>  
 700 Brockbank – bicycle tire stolen July 15<sup>th</sup>  
 5100 Baker – breaking and entering by key (no forced entry) suspect(s) unknown. Victim's purse was stolen from her car earlier in the day.  
 5200 Baker – larceny from auto August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 500 Inwood – hit and run, lawn and shrubs damaged August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 300 Seneca – house break-in (victim knows suspect) August 2<sup>nd</sup>
- c. CMPD sponsored a Community Safety Awareness event at Yorktown Apartments Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Officer Hairston accompanied by a Spanish-speaking CMPD officer helped to spread the word about basic safety issues and crime reporting to the residents. Officer Hairston was interviewed by the media.

#### Note to residents:

PLEASE do not leave valuables in your car, regardless of whether it is locked or not. This includes cell phones, i-Pods, GPS devices, CDs, etc. These items are easily portable for you, and also for thieves. If you must leave them in your car, please make sure they are not in plain sight; do everything you can to keep them from being visible to someone who walks up and looks in your car. Lock them in the trunk; put them in the glove box, or even better, take them inside your house and **always** lock your car! It takes only a few seconds to smash a window, unlock a door, and grab an item out of a car.

Cars parked on the street are especially vulnerable. But, items have been taken from cars parked in carports and driveways. So, no one is immune. Safeguard your property. If there are no items in your car to steal, eventually they will either stop trying or move to another neighborhood where people are more careless.

If you leave items in your car, or visible in your car, you are basically assuring that you will be the victim of a crime. We live in a very safe neighborhood; but, for anyone who is looking for something to steal, it takes very little temptation to make them do it!

#### 1. Neighborhood Updates

**a. All-Stops Update**

The petitioning process has begun for the 4-way stop at Murrayhill and Wedgewood (western intersection); letters and postcards will be mailed out this week to the residents in the immediate area surrounding the neighborhood, requesting responses, etc., by mid-September, for submission to the City of Charlotte. A copy of this letter is available on our website, and on the resource table at the back of the room.

**b. Update on Pinewood Elementary School Facility**

I contacted Jane Childrey to see if she had contact info for Mike Raible with CMS. Jane actually called him and provided us with an update on the Pinewood facility. [At this point, Ken invited Jane Childrey to take the podium and debrief the membership on the information she gathered from Mr. Raible. A summary follows.] Basically, CMS plans to do nothing about the huge pile of dirt that remains on the property, which was to be used to create the playing fields after the old school buildings were demolished. Given CMS's current budget constraints, bond issues (or lack thereof) and reluctance to put the "AAA" bond rating at risk, they have put the demo of the Pinewood facility on hold in the event that they need to reactivate the property as a school. However, they do not want to incur the cost of removing the dirt that they had dumped there. Jane did raise the issue of the dirt being a safety factor, and Mike was going to talk with his project teams about the liability issues and see what, if anything, could be done. He did mention fencing the dirt off, and Jane pointed out that a fence might actually make the dirt pile even more tempting to children in the neighborhood, which is a valid point. A member raised a point with regard to the dirt pile possibly being in violation of the non-residential esthetics codes of the City of Charlotte. To quote Jane, "Mr. Raible did not see a way to remediate the dirt pile for the foreseeable future." More to come . . .

**c. Yard Sales at Yorktown Apartments**

We have continued to have issues with the yard sales at Yorktown apartments, 1328 Tyvola Road. These sales have been basically 'commercial' yard sales – trucks being unloaded every weekend with 'merchandise' for sale. The traffic in and out of Yorktown for these events was problematic, causing backups on Tyvola Road, particularly eastbound. Donald Moore with Zoning issued a "Notice of Violation" which expired July 30<sup>th</sup>. Any future violations will be 'fined' offenses, which should resolve the issue.

**d. 1813 Tyvola Road**

This property continues to be our 'nuisance' property, as it has been for several years (on Tyvola, directly across from Londonderry). Kirk Young continues to work to try and get this property dealt with, but is not having much success. They are unable to locate the owner, and the home needs more than \$61,000 worth of repairs in order for it to be demolished. The City of Charlotte has opened a case for the needed repairs, but without the ability to locate the owner, there is not much more that they can do. Kirk has tried contacting the bank that holds the mortgage on the property; that bank was sold in March of 2009, and he is trying to locate the agent for the new bank. The property has far exceeded the time limits for a boarded-up structure, and we have had over 10 complaints recently about this property. The City has removed the boards since the time had expired for those to be in place, and Walter Abernathy, who is over Code Enforcement for the City, is preparing a full report to be given to City Council on this address.

We did receive word that vagrants have been seen going in and out of this location, and tying up their bicycles to the telephone pole out front, so it is believed that there are people living in the house, off and on, with no electricity, water, etc. This house was recently featured on WSOC-TV and on Channel 36 News, and Marty has been in contact with Curt Walton, etc., to try and turn the pressure up on the City to get this property dealt with, once and for all. The link to the online article on WCNC.com is:

[http://www.wcnc.com/news/topstories/stories/wcnc-072809-dd-landlord\\_ordinance\\_not\\_ready.84318f6e.html](http://www.wcnc.com/news/topstories/stories/wcnc-072809-dd-landlord_ordinance_not_ready.84318f6e.html)

**e. Magazine Scams**

We had a resident who recently reported a magazine scam taking place in the neighborhood. Young people are going door to door selling 'magazine subscriptions' to fund some sort of charitable organization, research trip or study abroad. The company involved in the scam is World Wide

Circulation (WWC). Do NOT purchase any magazines from these organizations – while they may be legitimate, they will likely cash your check and you will never receive the magazines. Information on this scam was also posted on our website. Please be aware that this scam happens frequently; they typically send teenagers/young adults who can be very charming, until you tell them no. If they are rude or ugly, report them to 911.

**f. Digital Speed “Driver Awareness” Signs on Tyvola Road**

The concerns that most of us have voiced regarding speeding on Tyvola Road, particularly in the area around Smith Academy of International Languages, may be able to be somewhat addressed. The Association, in the past, has had conversations with regard to putting up digital “feedback” speed signs near the school – displaying how fast your vehicle is traveling. But, the cost was prohibitive. The City of Charlotte recently identified a new sign that is less expensive. This development presented the Board with the opportunity to direct (with membership approval) the installation of two driver feedback signs for that location from the traffic calming funds that we still have in our account (currently \$13K). The previously proposed signs were so expensive that we could not even purchase one sign, let alone two. The cost for these new signs is \$6,200 total, and the City of Charlotte/CDOT has agreed to maintain them. The Board of directors discussed the expenditure of this money for the “driver awareness” signs along Tyvola Rd because there are so many children and such heavy traffic in the general area of Smith Academy. Given concerns, raised during the Board’s discussions, regarding “a fading usefulness” in the signs traffic calming effectiveness, CMPD has also agreed to back up the installations with the HITS team as they rotate through their divisional response areas, to help reinforce the signs effectiveness and keep traffic calm as it moves through this area. A motion to move forward with purchase and installation of the signs was put before the membership. There were no dissenting votes. As a result, the Board will be contacting the City of Charlotte with the membership’s approval of the motion to get the signs ordered and installed. It will likely be November/December before the signs are actually in and installed.

**Update 08/11/09:** Ken Davis contacted Doreen Szymanski with CDOT. She gave her approval to proceed with this project. It will be funded out of our traffic calming account (bringing the HOA-controlled traffic calming account down to roughly \$6,800).

**g. New Format for Website**

NeighborhoodLink.com has ported our site over to their new format. The look and feel of the site has changed significantly. Additional changes are expected. We are one of the first neighborhoods in the Neighborhood Link family to be selected to ‘pilot’ the new designs.

**2. Old Business**

April Mays, our recently replaced and much missed, past Secretary of the HOA, had a little girl. Mom and daughter are doing fine. No word on new father/husband’s current condition.

**3. New Business**

- a.** Treasurer’s Report: We currently have \$1,181.87 in our account. The HOA has 52 paid members. If you have not already done so, please pay your 2009 dues – they are due each year, in January, but are accepted throughout the current year, renewing in January. Membership forms **(and payment of dues via credit card/PayPal)** are available on the community resource table located at the back of the meeting room at each meeting, as well as online at <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/charlotte/madisonpk/>. In lieu of signing up online, you may also complete an application at your convenience and mail it and your check to Madison Park HOA, PO Box 242432, Charlotte, NC 28244.

**4. Open Discussion**

- a.** A member raised a question: What can you do if a contractor says that he is bonded but is not? Members responded that you can request from the contractor (before or soon after the work is started): a certificate of insurance specific to your project and copies of his licenses.
- b.** Two members voiced their concerns with regard to a fence that they had recently installed in their front yard. The City had notified the members that the height of the fence exceeded the height ordinance by one foot. Their wanting a fence installed in the first place rested on fears with regard to their own safety and security after several break-ins. Neither removing the fence nor lowering its

- height resolves their concern for their overall safety. They learned from the meeting that they could appeal the code violation, ask for a variance from the enforcement of the ordinance (so that the fence could stand as is) and work with the police to identify whether or not a neighbor is running a drug house.
- c. A general discussion of road conditions in and around Madison Park ensued with specific mention of potholes on Woodlawn Road. Councilman Andy Dulin (in attendance for the second time in two months) voiced his frustration not only with the potholes but also with the rough rail crossings many all of us travel over in driving Tyvola and Woodlawn Roads. Andy noted that Woodlawn is a NC DOT responsibility and the City does not have control over it.
  - d. Members with specific knowledge of the current condition of Woodlawn Road's sidewalks asked what could be done to clear them of overgrown trees and intruding grass that combine to make the sidewalks essentially unusable for long stretches.
  - e. Members with specific knowledge of the current condition of overgrown trees and grasses that were planted in association with the creek widening project (now finished) in the Bayberry and Montford area asked who is responsible for cutting and maintaining the creek bank plants that fall outside the homeowners' responsibilities.
  - f. Members identified 3 new problem houses: 2016 and 2024 Tyvola Road and 1030 Keystone Court. All three houses are taking on the appearance of being abandoned. Out buildings are collapsing and back yard grass is overgrown and telephone wires have come off the house(s).
  - g. Tariq Scott Bokhari, running for City Council, introduced himself to the membership and briefly discussed his reasons for running for office.

**Any New Members/First Time Attendees**

3 new members were in attendance:

**Jean Yeager**  
**Cathy Yeager**  
**Mark Stevens**

**Adjournment:** Time: 8:35pm.