



Capitol Heights Newsletter June 2014

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Hello neighbors,



I am Terry Robinson, a resident of Capitol Heights for twenty-two years and I am proud to serve as President of the Capitol Heights Civic Association (CHCA) alongside the other officers and members of the Executive Committee for the next year. This year, as in years past, we want to promote the physical, social, and economic wellbeing of our neighborhood and protect the architectural heritage of our structures. To accomplish this we have identified a small number of important goals we want to achieve this term.

In no particular order we have established the following goals:

- Increase CHCA membership and participation
- Make a safer neighborhood through Neighborhood Watch and other means
- Continue progress on neighborhood-wide historic designation
- Endorse the Rental Property Maintenance Ordinance Initiative
- Enhance the appearance of the pavilion at Armstrong Park
- Improve cooperation with the Highland Park Neighborhood Association

In order to accomplish these goals we are focusing on events that encourage neighbors to get to know each other. Every time we meet with the Police Department they tell us the number one tool we have to fight crime is to know our neighbors. So we have decided to sponsor several events designed to promote neighborhood unity. They promise to be a lot of fun too.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information on some of our planned events such as Robin and Gwen's Porch Dwellers Party, the National Night Out in Armstrong Park with free hot dogs and hamburgers, and the annual Candlelight Tour of Homes. We have monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month and a group of us meet informally at the Capitol Grille every Saturday morning for some good southern

cooking and an endless pot of coffee. This year we are even going to resurrect an old CHCA favorite – we are going to construct and enter a float in the Christmas Parade.

In the coming months there will be plenty of opportunities to meet your neighbors, help the community, and have loads of fun all at the same time. I encourage each of you to participate as much as you can and share any ideas you may have for improvement. I hope to see you out and about.

Terry



Capitol Heights

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Sponsored by CHCA

**Armstrong Park on Madison Ave
Tuesday, August 5th
5:30 – 8:30 pm**

Hamburgers and hotdogs provided...bring side dishes, drinks and your lawn chairs/blankets.

Collecting for Montgomery's Food Bank – please bring a can good to donate.

Come and meet neighbors, the police who serve our community and stand united...

"This is our neighborhood"!!

Next Bond's meeting:
July 17th Summer Safety 5:30 pm
DPS South Central Precinct, formerly Montgomery Mall



Please make sure you sign in so Capitol Heights will be credited as "attending"...thank you!!

MONTGOMERY RESOURCES

Capitol Heights meet Stacy... Our Cat Lady



Hello! my name is Stacy Trantham . I have lived in Capitol Heights over 15 years and when I moved in, all the rumors about all the cats were so true. I've worked with feral cats/dogs for 20 years. I even personally have a large colony of feral cats that are well taking care of.

I know right off hand how feral cats can get out of control very fast, so I started having my feral cats spayed/neutered. Then I noticed less cats/kittens getting hit by cars and as more cats are fixed there are less sick cats and kittens being born. Knowing this, I started the feral project in our community to handle the over population. **Capitol Heights Civic Association** has a special account for donations and these funds go to neuter and spay the feral cats in our neighborhood. Right now we are the only community offering a feral cat fund. Our goal is to fix the cats, return them to the community to live out the rest of their days - not destroy them. This goal takes the participation of neighbors in capturing the cats...then feeding and watering them. As the Cat Lady, I am here to help our neighbors in the capturing of the cats, then taking them to get fixed, keeping the fixed cats at my place until they heal...usually around two weeks then bring them back to your area. The donations cover only the surgery and rabies shots... Nothing else. I rely on your food to feed them while they stay with me. If a cat is pregnant there is a separate fee and currently that would be paid by you. The best time to spay/neuter is at 5 months old or when they are 3 pounds.

Please help Capitol Heights care for our feral cats of by donating to our Feral Cat Fund
If you have any questions, call me [\(334\) 649-1952](tel:3346491952)



GARDEN GROUP of CAPITOL HEIGHTS

By Tricia Crowley

Capitol Heights Garden Group will be at this year's **Artober Fest** in October with plants to sell and share!



FRONT PORCH LIVING

The Porch Dwellers

By Gwen Moore



Robin and Gwen Moore invite you to Capitol Heights's first *PORCH DWELLERS* get-together

Friday, June 20th
6:00 – 9:00 pm
1827 Capitol Avenue

We will provide the music and the porch/lawn.

Neighbors bring their own lawn chair, beverages and an appetizer to share!



If you are interested in hosting one of these then choose a night that works for you and ask it to be posted on our calendar of events. We look forward to seeing our neighbors and friends!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH TIPS



SECURING WINDOWS:

This photo shows a spring shower curtain type bar to place between the upper and lower sash of a window. You could construct the same item out of a 2 x 2 to fit snugly between the two sashes. Add a handle to the wooden bar and make it easier

for you to remove when it's time to open the windows... THINK PREVENTIVE!!



STREET LIGHTS:

Take a walk on your street at dusk and make note of any street lights that are out...report them to 311...let's prevent dark areas!!

"A Connected Neighborhood is a Safer Neighborhood"



HISTORICAL RENOVATIONS TIPS

By Christy & Rich Anderson

Well, Rich's mantra is that you have to eat the elephant one bite at a time (usually while I'm hysterical about something--ok, everything at once).

Don't be afraid to wait to tackle a project (so long as the delay doesn't lead to structural deterioration, let common sense prevail), even if that kitchen/bath/etc. isn't the best. Live in the space and see what works and what doesn't. We worked on another house before we put the second bathroom in our current house (long after taking a second bathroom out), and that time really gave us the opportunity to think through how the space needed to function. The result would have been different had we charged ahead, and we probably would have been undoing or redoing some of it by now.

Don't watch any of those Crashers shows while you're in mid-project!

Love the IKEA kitchens--we've done two--and will be doing another shortly. I wish I had known about IKEA when I did my first house, I could have gotten more cabinets for the same amount of money I spent on ordering cabinets from Lowes. After you figure out how to put the cabinets together, it goes fairly quickly. Use IKEA's kitchen planner, which will generate a cabinet list and a plan you can pull up at the store. That generates your order list (you still need to pick out hardware and extras), which will be ready for pick up by the time you make your way from Kitchens to the pickup/loading area.

Tip 1: if you want to see finishes in real life before trekking to Atlanta, order drawer fronts in different styles, you can return what you don't want or need to the store when you get your cabinets (save those receipts!); **Tip 2:** do this on a weekday, it makes the process and experience much faster and easier (yes, we learned that the hard way); **Tip 3:** It's worth towing a U-Haul trailer over and back. The beauty of stock cabinets is that you can return them--we miscalculated something on our first try, and returned the unneeded cabinets and swapped them out. The downside is that it is in Atlanta and you will need to load all those flat packed boxes yourself, but we got a whole lot of cabinets for not a whole lot of money. And if you're not good with measurements or dislike piecing together the pieces of your own kitchen, this is probably not the best

route to go. They've got some modern looking appliances too (made by Whirlpool), so be sure to make room in your U-haul for those as well if you're going for a more modern look.

Paint. Don't be afraid of color. The worst thing that can happen is that you have to repaint something.

Drawings. There are some talented folks in the neighborhood, and some talented young architects and draftsman who do small projects on the side that aren't large enough for a firm to consider. Sometimes it's worth having the aid of someone who can draw and help you sort out the best way to arrange your space to make it work for you.

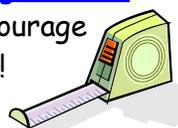
I've been meaning to do this and haven't (I think about it every time I look at old pictures of the house), if you've worked on the outside of your house, take pictures from the same vantage point a couple of times a year--you often don't notice changes because you see things every day, and it can be that little nudge of encouragement that you really ARE making progress, even if you feel like you're spinning your wheels (that is experience speaking, as I'm sure Rich will attest to).

Rich's Renovation Tips

Mostly, I'll second what Christy said. Re: the Ikea Home Planner web app, it can be found here: <http://kitchenplanner.ikea.com/US/UI/Pages/VPUI.htm?Lang=en-US>

I'll also add this: If you're planning an extensive home improvement project on an older home (like many of those we have in Capitol Heights) save your old studs/framing lumber if you demo any walls. Even after removing nails, those old heart pine 2x4s and 4x4s can be reworked into very pretty tables or countertops. Not to mention the possibility of reusing them for structural elements. Christy and I have done both with great results. Also, there may come a time when you need to replace a stud or a piece of framing. Modern lumber is not dimensionally true and will require furring out if you're trying to match the width of an old wall.

These renovators featured in our newsletter are tried and true...thank you Glenn, Christy and Rich...!! If you have any tips to share, please write to capitolheightsmontgomery@gmail.com. Share your experiences and let's encourage other neighbors to buy and renovate!!



Did you know?

By Karren Pell



July 4th in Capitol Heights in 1924

While Capitol Heights was still a town independent of Montgomery, the PTA published a weekly newspaper. The copies I have date from 1924. In an editorial dated July 3, 1924, comes this suggestion to the residents of Capitol Heights:

Unfurl Old Glory from your flag poles tomorrow, for tomorrow is the "Fourth." Let every resident of Capitol Heights display an American Flag, that those who drive thru may not only recognize the fact that this community is wide awake, but that they may also realize we are 100 percent American community and proud of the flag that stands for freedom.

Later in the same edition, a notice has some familiarity:

Those who intend spending July 4th on the Heights may find a little diversion and real sport at Crampton Bowl. The champion West Point Route baseball team will meet a picked team from Columbus, GA with a double header. The Masonic Band will furnish the music and the first game will be called at 2:30 sharp.

So we see the residents of Capitol Heights were not so different from us on that Fourth of July 1924--flying flags and enjoying baseball.

Have a Happy Fourth in 2014!!



MEMBERSHIP APPEAL:

One of the most frequently asked questions with regards to any Civic association membership is: **"What can the Association**

do for me?" The answer, quite frankly, depends on you. Why did you join Capitol Heights Civic Association and what do you want to gain? What you get out of any association, including CHCA, is directly proportional to what you put in. The greatest benefit of any association is the networking, educational and camaraderie that takes place between members. Time and time again, CHCA members have been privileged to hear that other associations respect the solidarity of our community and members. It is no secret that CHCA members have an enormous sense of pride in their association and their fellow members. But this benefit is not a given. To experience this camaraderie first hand you must participate by giving an investment of time and effort in CHCA activities.

For more info on Capitol Heights Civic Association, email us at capitolheightsmontgomery@gmail.com

YARD OF THE MONTH June



2022
St Charles Ave
**Congratulations
Joyce!!**



105
S. Lewis St
**Congratulations
Geno & Felicia!!**

If you have a neighbor who is making a difference in their yards or notice a yard in the neighborhood that is really shining...write to us at capitolheightsmontgomery@gmail.com Tricia & Karren