



Westerwood News

A publication of the Westerwood Neighborhood Association, Inc.

January 2004

NEW!

www.westerwoodneighborhood.org

Neighborhood Continues to Make Strides

-- By Marsh Prause

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to reflect on the past and take stock of what we've accomplished - and what we hope to accomplish in the future.

Many neighbors agree that 2003 was another good year for our neighborhood and our Association, as we built on momentum from 2002 to involve new neighbors, pursue new ideas, and foster a strong sense of community. Here's just some of what we did in 2003:

We boosted our newsletter to 8 pages bi-monthly, while maintaining a high level of substantive content. Neighbors have remarked how much

they appreciate the *Westerwood News* because it keeps them informed of neighborhood issues and is a great way for us to stay connected. City Council and leaders from other neighborhoods read our newsletter, and local papers have even quoted it. In 2004, we'll continue to hand deliver the paper, but we'll also unveil a supplemental electronic delivery.

Parks & Rec has agreed to place the Association's \$500,000 Park Renewal Plan for Lake Daniel Park on its departmental capital improvement project list. This is an important step in securing City funding for long overdue renewal of this heavily-used area that ties our neighborhood together. Michael Frierson has led

this effort for three years and is the person to contact with ideas and questions. Construction may begin on some elements of the plan this year, and we'll launch new fundraising activities to augment City funding. Also, we're working with the City to obtain a federal grant for the installation of environmentally-friendly parking surfaces on Mimosa Drive.

We developed a new website, www.westerwoodneighborhood.org, under the leadership of Richard Puchyr and purchased software to allow neighbors to work together in maintaining and

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Annual Election on Agenda for January Meeting

The Westerwood Neighborhood Association will hold its first meeting of the year on **Thursday, January 29 at 7 p.m. in the First Baptist Church Chapel.**

On the agenda are annual elections for the Association's Board of Directors. The procedure is governed by the Association's bylaws, which provide that the elections are to be held each January.

This year, elections will be held for three of the seven board positions, including one vacant since June 25, 2003, when Laura Linder resigned because of her move to New York State. The two current board members whose terms expire in 2004 are Emilie Sandin and Todd Rotruck.

The Board is comprised of the seven elected Directors, who serve staggered

two-year terms, plus committee chairpersons who generally serve one-year terms.

Under the bylaws, those eligible for election to the Board must own property in the neighborhood and reside here as well. Those who live in the neighborhood but don't own property here are eligible to serve as committee chairs. Spouses of property owners are considered property owners themselves regardless of whether or not their name appears on the property deed.

The bylaws provide that the president of the Association request oral or written nominations, including self-nominations, for positions subject to election at the meeting, and that the nominations be made to the secretary of the Association, who compiles a list of the eligible nominees.

Each eligible nominee has up to two minutes to speak at the meeting. Votes are by anonymous ballots cast by neighbors who own property in Westerwood and who attend the meeting. The three eligible nominees receiving the most votes will be elected.

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Quarterly Meeting & Annual Elections

Thursday, January 29
7 p.m.

First Baptist Church Chapel

Elections
Committee Reports
Announcements
New Business

Strides (continued)

developing the website. It's a great resource for reading back issues of the *Westerwood News*, reviewing crime statistics, and catching up on social events.

For the second year in a row, we collected more than \$500 for our neighbors at Mary's House. The money purchased Christmas presents for the children living there. These donations from neighbors like yourself really spread holiday cheer throughout the neighborhood.

Our finances are stronger than ever, and we continue to operate solely on revenue from fundraisers, donations, and advertising in the *Westerwood News*. Unlike many neighborhood organizations, we don't collect dues. Treasurer Marci Peace has done a wonderful job of organizing the Association's finances and helping us budget for the future.

We reunited a long-lost cockatiel with its owners through information submitted to the *Westerwood News*. This demonstrates the importance of our Association in communicating with each other in a neighborhood of more than 600 residences. Somewhere in Westerwood, a bird is sleeping more comfortably tonight.

We launched a major initiative in collaboration with the City to track and reduce noise and air pollution from old diesel engines at the Mitchell Plant across Benjamin Parkway from the neighborhood. Pollution emanating from the Mitchell Plant has been a matter of concern for years for many long-term residents.

We were active in the start-up of the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress, a City-wide alliance of neighborhoods that seeks to improve the quality of life in Greensboro by addressing issues important to neighborhoods and by empowering neighborhoods to resolve their own specific concerns. Gail Barger prepared a beautiful Westerwood storyboard that was presented at the Congress' first ever summit in October.

Under the leadership of Rebecca Northuis, **we sponsored a variety of social activities**, including a revival of the Chili Cook-off. These events, and our quarterly Association meetings, offer an incredible opportunity for us to meet each other. Many people have remarked that, if it weren't for Association events, they might not know neighbors beyond their own block.

We decorated both the Garland and Fairmont Street bridges this holiday season with newly purchased artificial garland. Reusable garland means we can host annual bridge decorating festivities for years to come.

It's inevitable that not everyone's going to be happy with everything our Association is doing. Whether you're satisfied or if you'd prefer that certain things be handled differently, you're welcome to become involved with the

Association and help make our neighborhood stronger.

Start your 2004 neighborhood involvement by coming to our quarterly meeting and annual elections on January 29.

If you're going to attend just one meeting, this is the best one. See you there!



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Election (continued)

At a Board meeting held within two weeks of the election, the seven elected Board members will choose the Association's four officers - president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer - from amongst themselves. Under the bylaws, the Board of Directors serves as the Association's primary decision-making body. Board members not serving as officers may serve as chairs of a committee.

For the last three years, the Board has met monthly. If you have questions about serving on the Board, or if you'd like to become involved with the Association in any other capacity, call Marsh Prause at 272-3553, e-mail him at marsh@westerwoodneighborhood.org, or call any board member listed below.

2003 WNA Board of Directors

Marsh Prause, president, 272-3553
marsh@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Todd Rotruck, vp & Community Watch
274-4479
todd@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Marci Peace, treasurer, 274-9252
marci@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Emilie Sandin, secretary & beautification
274-4424
secretary@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Rhonda Hensley, board member, 373-9160
hensley@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Annie Pletcher, board member, 275-6200
apletcher@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Gail Barger, zoning chair, 274-7821
gail@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Michael Frierson, park chair, 275-4224
parkrenovation@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Janine Griffin, newsletter chair, 378-6846
newsletter@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Kim Madden, web chair, 378-1322
kmadden@westerwoodneighborhood.org

Rebecca Northuis, social chair, 275-6934
rnorthuis@westerwoodneighborhood.org