

Colonial Acres Neighborhood Association



Winter 2007 Newsletter

OFFICERS

Lynn Strickland – President
Cindy Eschbach – Vice President
Lauren Beyer – Treasurer

MEETINGS HELD

Every Fourth Thursday of the month
(except November and December)
Colonial Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
1503 Colonial (at Quince)
7:00 PM

CANA MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain and improve the dignity and integrity of the homes in the Colonial Acres neighborhood, to preserve the residential quality of the area, to ensure orderly and compatible land use in the area, to encourage homeowners living in the area to improve their homes, to encourage real estate investors with property in the area to improve their holdings, and to work together on problems and issues of common concern.

Love Thy Neighbor Lawn Care Initiative

CANA is in the process of working with area churches to enlist volunteer help to assist residents who may have trouble maintaining their yards on a regular basis. If you know of someone who, due to illness or disability, may benefit from such assistance, please leave your name and telephone number at 786-2413. Someone will contact you to discuss the situation and see what might be done.



There are several ways we can work together to improve the appearance of our neighborhood and help maintain property values. Inside this newsletter you will find information on neighborhood clean-up projects scheduled for later this year and a crabgrass eradication service. The success of these projects depends on all of us finding time to volunteer and working together.

Original Homeowners and Fifty-Year Residents

Have you lived in Colonial Acres for fifty years or more? Once again CANA is in the process of identifying original homeowners or those who have lived in the area for fifty years or more. The First Annual Original Homeowners' Reception was held at Colonial Baptist Church last September. Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time and would like to make this a tradition. We have learned there are more of you out there who missed last year's reception and would like to attend the next one. If you have not notified us yet, or if you know of someone, please give us a call at 763-1438 or 682-4736.

Calling All WWII Veterans and Spouses!

CANA Wants You! If you are a resident of Colonial Acres and a WWII veteran or a surviving spouse of a WWII veteran, we would like to know. The *Commercial Appeal* recently ran an article honoring local marines who served in WWII, and we would like to highlight our resident veterans in upcoming newsletters, giving long overdue honor to those who served our country. Please contact us at 682-4736 or 763-1438.

CANA CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

Community Leaders Meet with Sheriff Mark Luttrell

On Saturday, 6 January 2007, officers of Colonial Acres Neighborhood Association, Burlington Area Neighborhood Association, Sea Isle Park Neighborhood Association, Southeast Memphis Betterment Association, and the Police and Citizens' Alliance met with Ms Beanie Self, Executive Director of the Southeast Memphis Community Development Center, Ms Jan Gordon, a local real estate agent, Mr. Steve Shular, the Public Affairs Officer with the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, and Shelby County Sheriff Mark Luttrell. The meeting, held at 9:00 a.m. at the Crescent City Restaurant, came about as a result of e-mail communication during the first week of 2007 between officers of the various neighborhood associations, all voicing similar concerns that we have been dealing with for several years running, and especially our helplessness in getting our city officials to address in a timely manner issues concerning crime and code violations. These issues came to a boiling point when gunfire was seen and heard in our neighborhood on New Years' Eve, and yet residents could get no response from the East Precinct of the Memphis Police Department, using either their emergency or non-emergency numbers.

Neighborhood association officers discussed how this problem has been exacerbated by mortgage companies offering 100 percent financing for property in our area to people with little or no credit. When the property needs repair or regular maintenance, these new "homeowners" often do not have the adequate funds, and many eventually just walk away when the property falls into disrepair. Sheriff Luttrell discussed the "broken window" theory of how such practice adds to our crime problem, and he shared some of his plans on how to get local "problem property" owners into the courts sooner. Sheriff Luttrell was also given the name of a drug dealer, operating from within Colonial Acres, who has had an outstanding warrant since November 2006. The MPD had tried three times to serve the warrant but had been unable to locate the individual. Sheriff Luttrell promised to serve the warrant that afternoon, and he did! Beanie Self explained this is not just an East Memphis problem, but that neighborhoods citywide have been voicing similar complaints and concerns. She discussed technical assistance (such as maps, blogs, or special training) offered by the Problem Properties Collaborative and the U of M. Another meeting is planned for next month.

Memphis City Beautiful



Crabgrass Eradication



Noise Control



Beginning this April, CANA plans to partner with Memphis City Beautiful and neighborhood churches to sponsor a clean-up day on the second Saturday of each month during the spring and summer. We will meet at a specified church at 9:00 a.m. for light refreshments and discuss that day's assignments. Materials and tools are to be provided by City Beautiful. Volunteers will be organized into teams and sent out to tackle simple clean-up projects. Teams will meet back at the church by noon to return equipment and discuss the day's accomplishments.

Another way we can improve the appearance of our community is to eradicate crabgrass and edge around the curb and sidewalk of our property. This year CANA hopes to offer a service, either free of charge or at a minimal cost, to residents who would like their yard sprayed for crabgrass. Since crabgrass grows at an accelerated rate, getting rid of it means you don't have to mow the yard as often, saving residents time and money. This is a new initiative, one we have not yet tried. If you are interested in receiving this service, please leave your name and number at 786-2413.

Section 22 of the City Code concerns common Noise Control Violations, stating in part that creating any unreasonably loud, disturbing, or unnecessary noise in such a manner as to disturb the public peace and welfare is prohibited. In particular, the playing of any radio, phonograph, musical instrument, or sound device in such manner as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in any type of residence or any person in the vicinity is prohibited. Many of us enjoy good music, but please be considerate of those around you.

The Current State of the Colonial Acres Neighborhood Association (CANA)

The Colonial Acres area covers over two square miles, contains over 3,600 MLGW customers, and is home to over 5,000 registered voters, including at least 63 current residents who purchased their homes new over 50 years ago. The neighborhood includes three public schools (Willow Oaks Elementary, Colonial Middle School, Overton High School) and two public parks: Godwin Park, which includes a walking path and a playground, and 59-acre Willow Park, containing baseball and soccer fields, a community center, swimming pool, and playground. Colonial Acres is also home to several churches of various denominations.

Although the rate of increase in crime and criminal activity in Colonial Acres is consistent with the Memphis overall rate, violent crime is at a level lower than for the rest of the city (zero homicides in 2006). One way to fight crime is with an active code enforcement system, but for almost nine months the area west of Perkins has been without the regular services of an assigned Code Enforcement Inspector. Another way to fight crime is with an active Neighborhood Watch program. Unfortunately, our once-effective system has collapsed, in part because the city placed our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator on furlough. After several months her position has been re-established, but only at 10 hours per week. One great asset for CANA has been the three dedicated and hard-working volunteers of the Police and Citizens Alliance (PACA), which operates in the East Precinct out of the Mt Moriah station. CANA would like to say, "thank you very much," to these gentlemen.

The Future State of CANA

The program for the general neighborhood meeting in October 2006 was Code Enforcement, presented by the two top Memphis Code Enforcement managers. They made commitments that are just now starting to be realized. CANA's Executive Committee met with Judge Potter regarding a unique solution to some blighted properties in our area that are beyond code. Early in January of this year, Sheriff Luttrell met with the leaders of several neighborhood associations and committed the Sheriff's Department to join with other enforcement agencies to begin dealing with CANA problem issues. Deputy Chief Michael Smith of the MPD and four of the key persons responsible for our neighborhood presented a plan of action at the January 2007 general meeting. County Commissioner Steve Mulroy, City Council members Carol Chumney and Dedrick Brittenum, and House District 93 Representative Mike Kernell have participated in meetings and toured the neighborhood.

Now is the time for CANA to get organized, in order to take maximum advantage of the recent governmental attention. Neighbors happen. The people who live in the homes around you are your neighbors by definition, but it takes energy and attitude to be NEIGHBORLY: sociable, considerate, kind, friendly, helpful, hospitable, caring, cooperative, and trusting. Neighborhood Watch is the systematic local vigilance by NEIGHBORLY members of the community. Participating in CANA's Neighborhood Watch program is a way for Colonial Acres residents to become NEIGHBORLY and get organized against crime and blight.

Our goal is to have well over 3,000 dues-paying members of the Association, and we believe we can achieve this goal because we already have so many NEIGHBORLY members of our community. Colonial Acres has been subdivided into 120 neighborhood areas of about 30 homes each, with each area needing a Watch Captain to enroll residents in the Neighborhood Watch program and as dues-paying members of CANA. Currently we are in need of 97 volunteers to be neighborhood Watch Captains. We are also in need of volunteers to manage our website (colonialacres.org) in order to maximize the effectiveness of this resource, providing vital crime prevention information and the ability to report violations of the city code. Finally, CANA is always in need of active standing committee members to carry out the various aspects of our mission.

Be a partner in the solution. Complete the enrollment form below and indicate on the check list how you would like to contribute to your community. You may return the form by mail, but better yet bring it with you to our next general meeting, which is on Thursday, February 22, at Colonial Baptist Church, beginning with a 7:00 presentation of the Blue Crush program.

<p>Colonial Acres Neighborhood Association 2007 Membership Information Form</p>	<p>Mail \$10.00 Dues to: P.O. Box 240033 Memphis TN 38124-0033</p>
<p>Name: _____ (Last Name) (Preferred First Name)</p> <p>_____ (Names of Family Members)</p>	
<p>Street Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone Number for Neighborhood Watch Alert: _____</p> <p>Other Telephone Numbers: _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address: _____</p>	
<p>Colonial Acres is blessed with trees and sidewalks but cursed with crab grass and other weeds. CANA is organizing a Lawn Care Team to assist residents in maintaining neighborhood "curb appeal". Please indicate whether you give permission to receive the services listed at right.</p>	<p>Apply weed killer to any crab grass in my lawn when appropriate: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Edge the curb and sidewalk in front of my home: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

- Please check the activities of interest to you:
- ___ Join Watch Team for my Neighborhood
 - ___ Neighborhood Watch Alert Call Committee
 - ___ Neighborhood get-to-know you socials
 - ___ Honor Veterans event
 - ___ Contribute articles for the newsletter
 - ___ Distribute the newsletter
 - ___ Newsletter ad sales
 - ___ Join an Adopt a School program
 - ___ Volunteer for the Lawn Care Team
 - ___ Beautification Committee
 - ___ Land Use Committee
 - ___ Organize a Neighborhood walk/ride patrol
 - ___ Join an Adopt a Park program
 - ___ Participate in Voter Registration
 - ___ Neighborhood Watch Team Co Captain
 - ___ Volunteer for New Neighbor Welcome
 - ___ Suggest and develop programs for neighborhood meetings.



Jan Gordon
335-5264
jangordon@bellsouth.net

We support Colonial Acres Neighborhood Association!

We know the Colonial Acres market and we'd love to answer your real estate questions. Please contact us if you have questions about your area; we're happy to help!



Kat Gordon
921-0691
katgordon@bellsouth.net

We encourage you to join the neighborhood association and get involved- we did!

~Jan and Kat Gordon Crye-Leike, Realtors
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