

WOODLAND PARK NEWSLETTER

Woodland Park Improvement Association *** December 1989

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Woodland Park Improvement Association, your neighborhood organization, marks the beginning of its 43rd year of existence this month. Incorporated in 1946, the organization has actually been in existence since the late 1920's. Over the years, as the need has arisen, residents interested in preserving the quiet enjoyment of this pleasant neighborhood have come forward on a pro bono basis, and given the time and energy necessary to maintain and preserve the special sense of community which has made this neighborhood a desirable and welcome place to call home. The organization has been active and aggressive in maintaining the character of the neighborhood, housing issues, zoning issues, physical improvements to the neighborhood, and in providing a sounding board for the opinion of its residents on matters directly affecting Woodland Park.

For 35 years, this organization has contracted for public sidewalk snow removal, at a nominal fee. We have done so again this year.

After a dormant period of more than a decade, several individuals contributed the time, services and money needed to resume the annual neighborhood-wide block party this past June. A number of local merchants donated goods for this party, with the Western Market being exceptionally generous. As a result, the cost to the neighborhood organization was nominal. Bill and Carol Frederick of West Woodland, and several volunteers who helped them, deserve special thanks for their organizational efforts.

The organization is presently negotiating with Wetmore's concerning the use of a small parcel of land within the Woodland Park subdivision, which Wetmore would like rezoned to permit commercial use. In September, residents of Woodland Park overwhelmingly voiced their opposition to rezoning. However, nearly all respondents wanted the current condition of the lot changed and improved. In October, the officers and Board of Directors voted to negotiate, if possible, an agreement with Wetmore's, subject to city approval, which would allow limited, controlled use of the lot for employee parking only; would require landscaping subject to the approval of this organization; would contain effective sanctions for violation of the agreement; and would accomplish this without rezoning, thereby preserving the integrity of the neighborhood. This is a complex matter, as it involves prior litigation between WPIA and Wetmore's; the feeling and rights of contiguous property owners; the clear expression of the

membership of WPIA; and the city's right to regulate land usage within its borders. Long-time residents will recall this dispute was the subject of litigation beginning in 1946, and several times thereafter. In the late 1970's, the city proposed to rezone a section of current residential lots within Woodland Park just west of the existing commercial district, changing them from residential to commercial. That proposal was also vigorously fought by your neighborhood organization, resulting in its defeat. The absence of effective neighborhood organizations in other parts of the city has permitted similar changes to occur there.

The continuation of these efforts, and with them the preservation and ongoing vitality of the neighborhood, depends on your willingness to become actively involved. First, pay your dues. The amount is minuscule, and block directors will be calling on you shortly. Second, the annual meeting will take place in March, 1990. The organization is in need of volunteers to direct some of these efforts, or chair committees to plan others. We would like to organize another block party in June. We would like to explore the feasibility of a swimming pool-community center facility similar to that in Pleasant Ridge. Even the organization of luminary distribution on Christmas Eve could use your help.

Many of you receiving this newsletter are new residents of Woodland Park, and to you we offer our warmest welcome and a special invitation to become active and continue this tradition of community involvement. To our long time members and residents, many of whom have called me wondering about these items, and more, thank you for your patience. This has been an extraordinarily demanding year for me, and time has been in short supply. I look forward to seeing all of you in March.

Lyle Russell

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

On Christmas Eve, your block director and other volunteers will distribute luminaries, which for decades have lined the curbs of Woodland Park, spreading holiday cheer. Any help you can provide our block directors, would be greatly appreciated.

SNOW REMOVAL BEGINS

After a number of extremely mild years, it appears that the law of averages is about to strike. Snow removal has already begun, making timely collection of your dues (\$11.00) critical. When your block director calls, please pay in cash or by check made payable to the Woodland Park Improvement Association.

Snow removal prices (\$8.00 of your dues) have not changed significantly for many years. The same family has been providing snow removal since 1955, and our survey of comparable services last year revealed that the cheapest alternative service would cost approximately six times as much per household. Snow removal on the public sidewalk greatly helps children on their way to school, individuals who are unable to clear their own walks, and contributes to the sense of neighborhood unity we all enjoy.

Please help your block director with timely payment and remember the block directors are all unpaid volunteers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike Francis, the former block director of Upper Woodland, is our new treasurer. He succeeds Richard Dalton, who did a fine job of reorganizing the finances of our organization. The monies have been deposited in a commercial checking account which pays a modest interest rate on a monthly basis and does not charge a service fee. Our cash balance is approximately \$2,800.00. Of this, a significant amount will be spent for snow removal, other amounts for luminaries. Expenses for the June party have not been compiled, but will probably total less than \$100.00. Collections were greatly improved during the last 3 years, resulting in the good condition of our treasury. We hope to obtain 100% collection to maintain the solvency of the organization.

WOODLAND PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOC. OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President - Lyle Russell, Jr.
547-6852
1st V.P. - Richard Duggins
545-8066
2nd V.P. - (presently vacant)
Treasurer - Mike Francis
545-7165
Secretary - Ellen Hill
545-6574

Block Directors

Upper Oakridge 414 to 671
Gerald Pielack (455) Phone

545-1806

Lower Oakridge 229-391
Frank Fernandez (277) Phone
541-2487

Upper Drayton 416 to 671
Eric Shapiro (429) Phone
398-7886

Lower Drayton 215 to 671
Kurt Kusch (271) Phone 547-4055

Upper Woodland 415 to 671
Bill and Carol Frederick (640)
Phone 547-9389

Lower Woodland 151 to 393
Phil Kauffmann (225) Phone
545-3354

Upper Maplehurst 415 to 667
Ken Kamerschen (578) Phone 544-
7481

Lower Maplehurst 156 to 391
Barbara Hickner (224) Phone
399-5130

Lower Lewiston 156 to 490 (Even
Numbers Only) George Smith
(470) Phone 544-3165

