



Newsletter of the **STRATMOOR HILLS**

Neighborhood Association

"Where Country Charm Meets City Convenience"

stratmoorhills.org

Summer-Fall 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS and MEETINGS

July ~ No meeting

August 7 ~ Picnic in the Park, 1:30 pm, Stratmoor Park

September 7 ~ Election of Officers and update on the
railroad spur, 6:30 pm, Stratmoor School

October 5 ~ Supreme Spaghetti Supper, 6pm, School

November 2 ~ Monthly meeting, 6:30 pm, School

December 7 ~ Christmas potluck, 6:30 pm, School

January 2012 ~ No meeting



Shawn Graves

APARTMENT PROPOSAL DEFEATED

Stratmoor Hills residents who were opposed to a plan by a Georgia corporation that wanted to build 241 rental apartments along Venetucci Avenue danced in the streets when the plan was defeated. The Georgia company employed InCompass Development, led by Ingrid Richter, to sell the

Plan to the County. In May 2011 the El Paso County Planning Commission approved the plan and sent it forward to the County Commissioners. But on June 9, 2011 the County Commissioners voted against the proposal. A few key people led by SHNA spokesman, Shawn Graves, made the case against the project in order to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood and keep Stratmoor Hills as it was intended by Fred Abrahamson, the developer of Stratmoor Hills ~ a quiet, residential community with a rural feeling, no street lights, few sidewalks, broad avenues, lush lawns and trees. The Commissioners considered the pleas of neighbors who live adjacent to the property, and

from business persons who feared curtailing of their income and from those opposed to even more traffic in our once-secluded community. The Georgia company explained that the apartments would create a sizeable income for the County, that Fort Carson requires more housing to accommodate the incoming aviation brigade scheduled to be here soon, and that SHNA homeowners would not see a devaluing of their properties. When all sides of the question were heard, the Commissioners voted down the proposal 3 to 2. Commissioners Hisey, Clark and Lathen voted against the plan while Commissioners Green and Littleton favored the construction. The amount of work, research, and deliberation that went into the battle by Shawn Graves and several concerned residents was tremendous. And now the Association must focus on improvements to Stratmoor Park and, as always, the need to continue our battle for traffic calming. In late June it was learned that InCompass Development leader Ingrid Richter wears many hats: She is a City of Colorado Springs employee, she works for her own company (InCompass Development) and sits on the Manitou Springs City Council, from which she recently resigned.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

A separate flyer has been delivered to your door as a reminder to attend the annual SHNA Picnic in the Park, Sunday, August 7, 1:30 pm.

WEB SITE

Thanks to Bill and Karma Duggin, we're up and running with our own web site. Go to stratmoorhills.org and you'll see the information newcomers and long-term residents need to know. This is a great step forward in communication for our community. And it will be changed from time to time. Thanks again to the Duggins!

The Stratmoor Hills Neighborhood Association is not a homeowner association. We are nonprofit and have no dues. All residents are members and are encouraged to attend meetings and participate in our many activities. We have one fundraiser a year and otherwise rely on donations from our

.ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It's that time of year to elect officers to lead the Association. Would you be willing to serve? Or do you know of someone who would be a good candidate for office? Elections will be held during the monthly meeting on September 7 after which the President appoints a Board of Directors. **VOLUNTEER !**

SUPREME SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The SHNA sponsors one fund raiser a year ~~ and this is it. Tickets are \$6 per adult, \$3 per child under 12 and children under 2 are free. Volunteers shop for, prepare all the food and drinks, then graciously serve it in bounteous amounts. **The doors open at 6:00 pm** on October 5th at the School. Come hungry and all set to have an excellent meal with your friends and neighbors. And if there's anyone out there who would like to help with the Spaghetti Supper, call Tom Egan at 576-0831.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

The judges will be out in the neighborhood the night of December 21 just after dark looking for the most outstanding decorations in Stratmoor Hills. The prize is a gift card to King Sooper.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Who is authorized to phone Code Enforcement about run-down houses, weeds, unlicensed vehicles, vehicles up on blocks, more animals than the county allows and other eyesores? **YOU ARE !**

Each of us must take responsibility to maintain our neighborhood. Phone Gayle Jackson with your complaint and a specific address. Her number is 520-6748.

WELCOME PACKET

We have welcome packets for newcomers to Stratmoor Hills. If you haven't received one, phone Tom Egan at 576-0831. Pictured here is Jalen Kuhn who worked hard preparing and delivering packets to new neighbors.



THE MILICHES ~ THEY'RE BACK !

Some people are so fond of Stratmoor Hills that they keep coming back. Several years ago Wally and Phyllis Mosher left Stratmoor to move to a new house but later returned to their Union Place home. Tom and Sheila Egan sold their Westmark house to downsize into a patio home. That didn't work out and they were back within three years. Now we're delighted to welcome back Joe and Marie Milich who departed their Loomis Avenue

digs to move to California. But now they're back and are remodeling a house on East Clover Circle.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A mom invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what your hear Mommy say," the mother answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

CLEAN UP DAY

Last May we held the annual Clean Up Day. El Paso Hazardous Waste sent employees to receive oil, paint, batteries and so on. We could not locate a trash company who would donate a dumpster(s) to us that would be picked up on Clean Up Day so we had to pay for one to be sure the dumpster would be taken away the same day. Several good neighbors made substantial donations to make dumpster rental a reality. We also collected cash as residents brought trash to the event. Our thanks to all who made this Clean Up Day possible.

VACATION CHECK REQUEST

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office has a special form on which you may request deputies check your house while you're on vacation. You may request a copy of the form from Liz Dreher at 719-520-7151.

GAS LEAK IN JULY

Nearby residents were understandably concerned when a gas leak developed along Crestridge Avenue at the alley between Westcott and Stratmoor Avenues. Contractors struck a gas line allowing fumes to billow out into the neighborhood. The Stratmoor Hills Volunteer Fire Dept was the first to respond to the emergency. Fort Carson sent a truck (pictured), El Paso County deputies blocked off parts of Stratmoor, Westcott and Crestridge. The City of Colorado Springs finally

showed up to control the leak and all was declared safe after several hours of high excitement. As one resident said, "We could all have been blown to smithereens!"



HOUSEKEEPING

- A reminder to trim your hedges so they do not obstruct sidewalks or intersections.
- If you leave your trash container outside overnight, please expect a bear to empty it for you.
- Pet wastes carry disease-causing organisms. Please pick up after your dogs. Not only is this a common courtesy but it will help
- in not contaminating our waterways.
- We maintain an extensive list of email addresses for our residents. It is used to notify you of meetings, bears in the area, and to keep you up to date on happenings in the neighborhood and the county. Send your email address to quinlanegan@q.com. Emails to you will be sent by blind copy so your address is not divulged

TWO WAY MIRROR

Do you know how to tell if a mirror has two-way glass? Do you wonder about this when you are in changing rooms, restrooms, etc. Here's how to tell: Place the tip of your fingernail against the reflective surface. If there is a gap between your fingernail and the image of the nail, then it is genuine mirror. However, if your fingernail directly touches the image of your nail, it is a two-way mirror.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A man bought a new fridge for his house. He put the old fridge in the front yard and hung a sign on it saying "Free to good home. You want it, you take it." For three days the fridge sat there without anyone looking twice. He eventually decided that people were too mistrustful of this deal. So he changed the sign to read: "Fridge for sale, \$50." The next day someone stole it!

EMPANADAS

Submitted by Edna Kosley

½ cup butter, softened

1 3oz package cream cheese

1 cup all purpose flour

1 cup fruit preserves

1/3 cup sugar

1 T cinnamon

Cream the butter and cream cheese until well blended. Beat in flour. Shape into a ball and chill for several hours. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before using. Roll dough thin. Cut with 3 or 4 inch round cutters. Place a spoonful of jam (or any other filling). Pinch rounds and press edges together. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet 15-20 minutes at 375 degrees. Immediately roll in sugar and cinnamon or confectioners sugar and enjoy. I make these for our coffee hour at Church and they are always a hit. They don't take a lot of time to make.

EDNA

TRANSPORTATION MYTHS

Victoria Chavez of El Paso Co Transportation sent us this myth which is reprinted below.

MYTH: Most of our personal transportation expenses go towards building and maintaining roads.

FACT: While the average household spends about 14% of their income on transportation, only about \$240 of that goes to fund the transportation system in the form of motor fuel taxes. An additional amount is paid by households in the form of vehicle registration and licensing fees. The lion's share of our transportation costs are vehicle related.

CURBSIDE CONSULTATION



It's not unusual to see a knot of men chatting along any avenue in Stratmoor. Along with all the dog walkers it gives our neighborhood a kind of small town flavor. Some good decisions and excellent recommendations come out of these curbside conversations.

A BENEFIT FOR SHNA

Owners of The Springs Funeral Services, Arlen and Teri Flores-Brown, have a bargain for you which will benefit the Association! To preserve your memories while helping the SHNA, they will transfer your pictures to a DVD for only \$10. Of that price, Arlen and Terry will donate \$7 to SHNA. You are invited to bring up to 100 photos (no wallet size and up to 8x10) to The Springs Funeral Services at 3115 E Platte Avenue. This generous offer is beneficial for all of us. Questions? 328-1793 We owe great thanks to Arlen and Teri (Westmark

residents) for helping us out in this completely memorable way.

B STREET FOOD PANTRY

A food pantry has sprouted up on B Street just behind the 7-11 at Crestridge. Stratmoor Hills United Methodist Church and Meadows Park Community Center are behind this effort and will pay the \$400 per month rent on the space according to Brian Kates, Director of the Meadows Park Center. Supplying food for the Pantry are West Side Cares, SHUM Church, Broadmoor Community Church and Fellowship of the Rockies who formed a coalition to help residents short on food. Food is distributed on the first and third Wednesdays from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. When you arrive at the Pantry, an employee of West Side Cares will do an intake procedure to learn what your needs are, including social needs. Kates' objective is to develop the Pantry to include recreational and leisure events. Marilyn White, a member of SHUM Church, said "We're looking for an organization to help us on some days. Would Stratmoor Hills Neighborhood Association residents be willing to give us a hand?" Anyone interested may phone Marilyn at 633-6463 or try her cell phone at 351-6863.

It is interesting to note that on the Care and Share web site dated May 2011, the Pantry is described as being located in Stratmoor Hills. We were astonished to read that there is a 40% unemployment rate in Stratmoor Hills. Yet in their emails they describe the Pantry as "Food Pantry on B Street." However, the pantry is actually located in Colorado Springs. We questioned the Pantry's title to Brian Kates who remarked that they like to give pantries a neighborhood name.

Suggestions to change the name to B Street Pantry, Stratmoor Area Pantry, or Stratmoor Valley Pantry all met with resistance. It is also noted that no one from Care and Share nor Mr Kates contacted the Stratmoor Hills Neighborhood Association to discuss the name before assigning it. While everyone commends this life-sustaining effort and many of us work at the Marian House and our own church pantries, we think the name of the pantry should better describe where it is located.

CHRISTMAS PAST

We were honored to host five members of the 4th Infantry Division Band from Fort Carson at our 2010 Christmas dinner. The music was so good that the musicians were interrupted by applause from the partygoers. John Kuhn borrowed a red suit from Santa to distribute door prizes to winners. Linda Bruce provided an elegant table setting of crimson cloths topped by pine wreaths and gleaming candles. Past President Dana Costa was presented with an engraved letter opener to thank her for her leadership during the past three years. Board Member Jim Hanson and President Tom Egan presented School Principal Pam Robinson and Counselor Diana Pike with a Christmas check from SHNA in the amount of \$300 to benefit students.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

Calvary Community Church members and several Westmark neighbors led by Pastor Matt and Lesley Johnson got together in April to offer their services in helping residents clean up their yards. About 25 Church members joined in the work day. Stratmoor residents appreciated the free help and we compliment the Johnsons for their initiative in helping elderly and handicapped neighbors

Sixty-five Years



Of Love

OLNEY CELEBRATION

Long-time Stratmoor Hills residents and particularly generous benefactors to the SHNA, Jean and Lynn Olney celebrated their 65th anniversary in April but It's not too late to congratulate them.

SEWER LINE INSURANCE

We asked Ralph Ravenscroft, District Manager of Stratmoor Water and Sanitation, about the feasibility of buying sewer line insurance. He does not recommend it. Ravenscroft said he's heard of people who submitted claims which were denied because (in the fine print) the policy holder is required to have the sewer line cleaned every six months. He recommends putting the premium money into the bank. "I don't think they will cover any losses associated with a sewer backup," Ravenscroft said. He believes it is better to put the money in the bank that you would spend on premiums. He went on to say, "I have heard where some of these companies will only cover your line repairs out to the property line. In most cases the line will be damaged in the street and the homeowner ends up paying thousands of dollars for repairs in the street that the insurance failed to tell you they do not cover. I have been cleaning my line out once a year and have not had any problems yet. If you have doubts about the condition of your line you could have a company come in with a camera to do a video of it so you can see for yourself if there is any need for concern."

LOVELY STRATMOOR HOME

Lung Ginzel of Loomis and Dove Place gave permission to feature her perfectly maintained home. She has lived in the house since 1962.



GOOD LUCK, NICK !

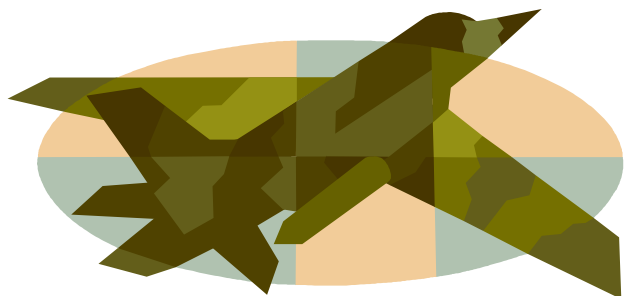
Nick Budnella of Sinton Avenue has enlisted in the Marine Corps. He's off for basic training in the fall.

URGENT CARE

Memorial Hospital has established an Urgent Care facility on Circle Drive next to Kohls. It's the closest medical organization to Stratmoor Hills. We know a woman who went there on a Saturday morning at 9 am with a bleeding gash in her arm, but had to wait three hours before being seen. Would a hospital Emergency Room have been faster?

AIR FORCE CADET

We've followed the career of Caleb Whitlock over the years. It's hard to believe that he will enter his senior year this fall. Caleb has excelled academically. For instance, he received three awards for the 2010-2011 academic year for being the top academic performer in Space Systems Engineering, Rocket Propulsion and Astroynamics. Whitlock was chosen as Director of Operations for his squadron and second in command for Squad 28. After receiving a top secret clearance, he is currently doing a summer internship at the intelligence agency National Reconnaissance Organization in Washington DC. The NRO designs, builds and operates spy satellites for the US government. In mid-July, Caleb will instruct cadets in survival training for three weeks and then begin his final academic year. Those of us who've watched him grow up on Westcott Avenue are endlessly proud of this outstanding scholar.



COUNTY COMMISSIONER DENNIS HISEY

We asked Commissioner Hisey if he would write an article for the Newsletter. Here's his response:

"Thanks for letting me contribute to the Newsletter. I appreciate everything you do for your community.

Midyear status report on the State of the County: Sales tax revenue is coming in over budget for the first quarter of the year, even if it is a spike on the graph and not a long term trend, it is a welcome relief in the face of declining property tax.

The move to consolidate many county departments at the Customer Service Center on Garden of the Gods is on track with the Department of Human Services already in place on the third floor. The Clerk and Recorder, Treasurer, Assessor, Health Department and Workforce Center will be moving in this fall. The Commissioners, county Attorneys and administration and finance will move across the street to Centennial Hall late this year and an optimistic time line has the Sheriff's Office moving into our current building by the end of the year.

The County continues to play catch-up on road maintenance. With about 1,000 miles of gravel and 1,000 miles of pavement in the County road system, motorists are driving on roads in poor condition more than we would like but the maintenance dollars from the vote approved RTA are providing some much needed relief.

I appreciate citizens that care about their neighborhood and have used the SHNA as an example as how neighborhoods that don't have a formal Home Owner Association can make a difference. Thanks for being involved."

DENNIS HISEY, County Commissioner

719—520-6414 Cell 351-2121

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

I was driving when I saw the flash of a traffic camera. I figured my picture had been taken for speeding, though I knew I wasn't. To be sure, I went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly. But again the camera flashed. Thinking this was

pretty funny, I drove past even slower three more slowly, laughing hysterically as the camera snapped away each time while I drove by it at a snail's pace. Two weeks later, I got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt.

Reader's Digest

NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OUT

On Tuesday, August 2nd, neighborhoods throughout El Paso County are invited to join forces with thousands of communities nation-wide for the 28th Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event. Co-sponsored by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office the event runs from 6pm to 10pm, residents are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ~ Tom Egan, 576-0831

Vice President ~ Wally Mosher, 540-8246

Secretary ~ Jessica Kuhn, 358-7293

Treasurer ~ Marta McDonald, 445-9829

Hostess ~ Linda Bruce, 516-5966

Newsletter Editor ~ Sheila Egan, 576-0831

Newsletter Proofreading ~ Phyllis Mosher, 540-8246

Newsletter Distribution ~ Jessica Kuhn, 358-7293

Jim Fisk, 232-7505

Jim Hanson, 576-5734

Dick Heikes, 392-9695

Phyllis Mosher, 540-8246

ASSOCIATES TO THE BOARD

Associates are those neighbors who have elected to help as needed instead of holding down an office or sitting on the formal Board.. They deliver newsletters, cook burgers, spaghetti and hot dogs, shop for supplies, arrange for comfortable tables, decorate and look for advertisers for the newsletter. Associates include James Bradford, Hilde Colgrove, Cindy Dent, Jane Dillon, Carol DiOrio, Bob Gassett, Jose Gonzales, Lesley Johnson, Edna Kosley, Jalen Kuhn, John Kuhn, Matt McDonald, Jim Pesicka, Ed Plante, Connie Ramaglia, Joey Sanderson, Becky Shute, Madonna Stanovsky, Janet Stevenson, John Sulley and Dick West.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SHNA

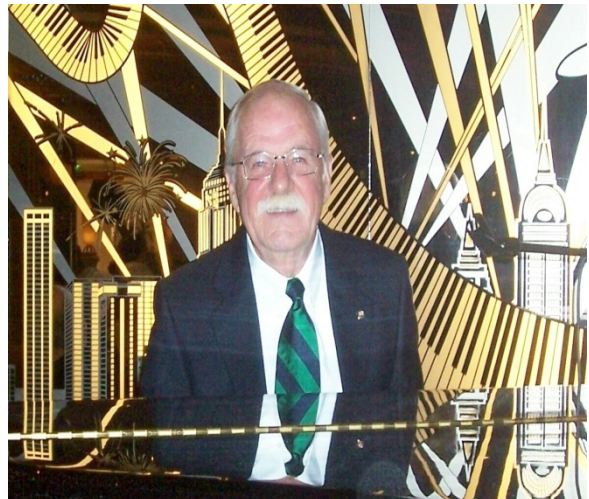
It certainly has been an interesting and enlightening year as your President. There were great social meetings at our annual Supreme Spaghetti Supper, the Picnic in the Park and the Christmas potluck. Once again we were able to help the children of Stratmoor Elementary School with a cash gift, a goal set by the Board of Directors.

As you can see, Fort Carson is under way with contract work on the new railroad spur near B Street. I hope the work won't impede travel for too long. Dick Heikes and Wally Mosher are serving on an El Paso County committee overseeing improvements for Stratmoor Park.

The El Paso County Commissioners voted against the proposed apartment development on Venetucci. It was a hard-fought fight by many in the neighborhood who were not in favor of the proposal.

In particular, I thank the members of the Board of Directors who met every month, planned events, put out an informative newsletter, worked on a web site for our community, found speakers and handled neighborhood problems. We were not always in total agreement but we got the job done and heard plenty of advice from other sources.

Please keep an eye out for traffic, safety, crime and home maintenance to insure we continue to have the fine neighborhood we have always had. And thanks to all those of you who come out to volunteer your time and talents.



TOM EGAN

ALWAYS BUY LOCALLY

Please make it a point to support the businesses and organizations who advertise in our Newsletter. And don't forget those who contribute door prizes for meetings: IHOP, Village Inn, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Arby's, Carl's Jr, Popeyes and Dominoes.

COMING SOON

Sturdy brick house on Westcott Avenue, 1588 sq feet, 3 BR, 2BA, 2 car, large lawn, one level, storage shed. For further information contact Scott