



The Walnut Hills Newsletter

Volume 14

Issue 9

September 2007

Next Meeting: Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7 PM Upper Level Church on the Rock 321 Edgar Ave

Meeting agenda: Minutes, Treasurer's report, Police report, Priority Board report, Presidents report, Committee reports, Announcements, Comments, Break into committee meetings.

Refreshments served at 6:30 PM

TRAGIC FIRE AT 260 INDIANA AVENUE

By Beverly Dunnington, Chairman

Residential Neighborhood and Beautification Committee

I would like for everyone to be aware of the fire that happened around 4:00 A.M. on July 16th at the home of our Vice President and good friend, Lela Estes. Lela has been a member of our organization for many years and has contributed greatly to the city of Dayton and our neighborhood for over 35 years. In the early morning hours on that terrible day, someone walked onto her porch and set a mat on fire at the front door. Thanks to Lela's cat, "Alley Cat," she was awakened and rushed to the front of the house to get to the roof of the front porch but was forced back due to the flames. She went to the back of the house and was able to climb out of a window and onto the roof. She managed to call 911 and her neighbors. Lela remained on the roof for some time until police officers Donald Bogner and Nathan Speelman along with her neighbor, Joe Miller, got a ladder and helped her down.

Thanks to the fire department, they moved Lela's furniture away from the front of the house to try and save it. Unfortunately, her savior, "Alley Cat," did not survive the smoke. God was definitely with Lela. It was a miracle that she was able to get out safely. If this had happened a week or two earlier, she probably would have been too sick to get out because she had been in the hospital for almost a week and was recuperating at home.

(continued on page 2)

Walnut Hills Trivia

There is a plaque at the back of the Upper Level Tennis courts in the Walnut Hills Park that reads; "Vinny" Westendorf Tennis Courts Dedicated 1958.

2007-2008 Dues are needed for our Programs!

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Please mail \$2.00 to the Treasurer:
Gamaliel Hartley
126 Glencoe Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45410 (or any officer)

Tax deductible donations accepted.

Membership from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008

— Police Report —

For 07/27/07 thru 08/27/07

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Unarmed Robbery..... | 00 |
| Armed Robbery..... | 01 |
| Purse Grabbing..... | 00 |
| Residential Burglaries..... | 03 |
| Garage Burglaries..... | 03 |
| Commercial Burglaries..... | 00 |
| Grand Theft Auto..... | 03 |
| Thefts from Auto..... | 05 |
| Vandalism..... | 10 |
| Residential Arson | 02 |
| Homicide | 01 |

Useful Phone Numbers

Priority Board Office 333-7373

Ken Marcellus Community adviser
333-7381

Walnut Hills Association Officers

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------|
| President | Gary Leitzell | 253-1359 |
| Vice Pres. | Lela Estes | 254-4657 |
| Secretary | Ella Smith | 256-3855 |
| Treasurer | Gamaliel Hartley | 256-3121 |
| S.E.P.B. Rep. | Mike Schommer | 256-2516 |

Neighborhood Committee Chairperson

Beverly Dunnington 253-6266

Fund Raising Committee Chairperson

Chad Snoko 258-2392

Park Committee Chairpersons

Harold and Ed Ayres 252-1067

Drug Hotline 333-3784

Bulk Waste 333-8774

Housing Inspection 333-3977

Truancy Hotline 542-3228

Abandoned vehicles 333-1038

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What's Happening in your Neighborhood?

For more up-to-date info go to
www.walnutHills.blogspot.com

The Walnut Hills Playgroup

Each Wednesday 10:00 AM to noon at the Walnut Hills Park. Call Gary for details 253-1359.

Colorado Ave Baptist Church Chat N' Chew and Rummage Sale

Corner of Colorado and Heaton Avenues
Saturday September 8th, 2007. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
New and Used Goods Sale plus Free-Will Luncheon (11:00AM-1:00 PM). Donations of salable items accepted. Call 256-1051

Also on the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 AM there is a prayer breakfast and on the third Saturday of every month at 3:00 PM there is Game Day for adults. So brush up on your cards and scrabble!

YARD SALES DATES

September 8-9, 2007 Walnut Hills Yard Sales Event

Adopt an Area

Clean up along Wyoming Ave
Saturday October 13th, 2007
Meet at Highland Park 11:00 AM
Call Mike Schommer for details
256-2516

FIRE ON WAYNE AVENUE

Late Friday evening on Aug. 17th there was a fire at the apartment building located at the corner of Wilmington and Wayne Avenue. It was thought to be arson, but that notion was quickly ruled out.

Someone used an extension cord to operate an air conditioner. Several elderly women were injured in the fire and several residents were also displaced.

Lela Estes, Beverly Dunnington, and other Walnut Hills area residents heard about the fire and offered assistance. If you know of someone who was displaced or requires help, please contact Beverly Dunnington at 253-6266.

Summer Beautification Contest

June award- 2052 Wayne Ave.
July award- 1256 Epworth Ave.
August award-1337 Creighton Ave.

The committee had difficulty selecting these winners. Many yards in the neighborhood were beautiful. Honorable mention goes to Everett Miller at 168 Edgar Ave. Hats off to our winners!

(TRAGIC FIRE AT 260 INDIANA AVENUE continued from page 1)

It appears that this was ARSON. This fire was deliberately set! As yet, investigators have not yet caught the perpetrator. There is a reward of \$2000 being offered by Crime Stoppers along with a \$5000 reward from the Fire Arson Department. WE ALL NEED TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THIS PERSON OR PERSONS. Keep a watchful eye on your neighbors and their property. Help one another keep our neighborhood safe. If you see anything suspicious, immediately call 333-COPS.

I have known Lela for less than a year, but I consider her a friend and am constantly learning about all the things that she has done for the city of Dayton and this community. She is a hard worker and is constantly giving back to the Dayton area even though she retired from the city some time ago. She is unselfish and very giving. Lela helps people and community organizations in any way that she can. She seems to have boundless energy and empathy for everyone.

Lela will probably not return to her Indiana Avenue home. Her home has suffered terrific damage, and she has suffered tremendous personal loss. Should she not return we will miss her and our community will be losing a great civic minded individual.

Please keep Lela and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Letter to the Editor. . .

. . . If this could happen to Lela while we were all sleeping peacefully, it is entirely possible it could happen to any of us that care what is going on. . . Until the persons responsible for the threat to Lela's life, the death of her cat and the burning of her house and her earthly treasures is found and dealt with; we are all in danger. . . I am so aware of it every morning when I leave for work and every evening when I pull up in front of the house and miss the Beacon of light coming from her porch.

. . . I have known her a shorter time than you and most others in this neighborhood. I don't always agree with her and I let her know when I don't, but I know she does what is in her heart, and is meant to be good for all of us. Lela, I miss you and Alley Cat and can't wait until you are back "home" and you "leave the light on" for me and everyone again! How about starting tonight, everybody in Walnut Hills "leaving the light" on every night to improve our neighborhood safety, in honor and support of Lela Estes.

Marjorie Champine-Vadnais