

Haw Creek

Community Association Newsletter



'Sign Line' on Tunnel Rd

In an effort to remind city council that Tunnel Rd is largely without sidewalks, despite the fact 18,000 cars a day use this roadway, East Asheville residents held a sign line on October 6th. Borrowing from long ago Burma Shave advertising methods, this fun method of citizen action prompted much waving and horn honking from supportive drivers.

What the City Council Meeting Meant to Me

-- Vickie Gaddy

From the beginning, when we were welcomed by the rhythmic thumping of many drums and crowds of people, we knew this would be no ordinary meeting. Joining me was my 81-year old mother Nora Jones who said this was the largest crowd she had ever seen in East Asheville. I was most impressed with the variety of people present, many neighbors but also many veterans.

Having not only Mayor Bellamy and the council members present but also many of the department heads made it a useful and interesting meeting. The video presentation about our area, our history and our sidewalk needs was well stated and convincing. City council and city staff now realize Haw Creek and east Asheville are a part of the city and a power to be dealt with.

Sidewalks for Safety Campaign Strides Forward



Our campaign to bring more sidewalks to Haw Creek and east Asheville has achieved its first goal. No longer is anyone questioning *whether* sidewalks are needed on Tunnel Road or elsewhere. The question before Asheville City Council is *how much* sidewalk do we need and how do we achieve this goal.

We estimate it will take about seven miles of new sidewalk to complete three major segments. They are Tunnel Road between the Asheville Mall and Oteen; New Haw Creek Road from Tunnel Rd to the entrance to Sondley; and Swannanoa River Rd from South Tunnel Rd eastward to where it reconnects with Tunnel Rd just west of the VA Hospital.

To meet this challenge and others, Asheville City Council met October 8th for a 'Capital Improvements' work session. As Mayor Bellamy discussed, traditionally, city council does their budget only one year at a time. The purpose of this retreat was to consider a five-year improvements plan.

For new sidewalks, three proposals are under consideration. They are:

Option 1) calls for 4.5 miles of new sidewalk citywide over the next five years. This is actually less than the 6.5 miles of sidewalk installed over the last five years.

Option 2) calls for 9.78 of new sidewalk citywide over the next five years.

Option 3) calls for 21.38 miles of new sidewalk citywide in the next five years.

The three sidewalk options are part of a larger package of capital improvements under council consideration. In addition to sidewalks, other capital improvements under consideration include street rebuilds; renovation of public buildings and new greenways.

Our next opportunity to influence this process will be an as-yet unscheduled citizen input session before city council in late 2010 or early 2011. Following that, council will begin the 2011 budget process with a capital improvements proposal coming to city council in March, 2011.

Stay tuned because our campaign for sidewalks is far from over. Your continued vigilance is vital as we seek to make our community safe for walking.

-- Chris Pelly

Images from the East Asheville City Council Meeting at Groce Church from Aug 31st.



Pedestrian Safety Website --

With the support of PARC (People Advocating Real Conservancy) we now have a website devoted to our pedestrian safety campaign. Want to read what's been reported in the media or print out a copy of the petition to gather signatures? Visit the website for this and other valuable information.

http://web.me.com/downtown6/Sidewalks/Sidewalks_for_Safety.html

Progress on Tunnel Rd, the beginning of 900' of sidewalk. Corner of Tunnel and Beverly Rd.



From The President

I want to thank the many east Asheville residents who attended, or tried to attend, the August 31st city council meeting in Groce Church. Before the meeting, using every last chair the church owned, we set up 296 folding chairs in Asbury Hall. And still, this was not enough. According to our ushers, once the hall was full, the Fire Marshall turned away another 150 or so attendees.

We estimate about 450 residents turned out in support of more sidewalks and greater pedestrian safety for East Asheville. This impressive outpouring is making an impact. Mayor Bellamy and the other members of city council seem to have gotten the message and this is reflected in the priorities outlined at council's October 8th 'Capital Improvements' work session.

Our position was well summarized in an email message from council member Gordon Smith: "You and the residents who attended made it abundantly clear that (1) You are asking for equitable treatment; (2) You want a concrete plan moving forward."

Equitable treatment is in reference to the fact that only about 3% of sidewalks in our city serve the neighborhoods on either side of Tunnel Rd. And a concrete plan is in reference to the fact that, after all the talk, the time has come for a planned schedule of improvements.

To its credit, the City of Asheville and Ken Putnam, Director of the Transportation Department, is just completing installation of about 900' of new sidewalk on Tunnel Rd between Groce Church and the library. In addition, the state DOT has also installed a pedestrian crossing at Tunnel and Beverly Rds. This is an important first step that we hope is just the beginning of the effort to address our unmet pedestrian needs.

Thank you,

Chris Pelly,
President
Haw Creek Community Association

*Images from the East Asheville
City Council Meeting at Groce
Church from Aug 31st.*



Community Garden At Evergreen

Evergreen Community Charter School is proud to announce the start of its new community garden, the "Evergreen Earth Garden". The garden plans include a hoop house and beds for each grade. While the garden will be used as a learning tool for students and teachers, it will also be open to the Haw Creek community. The garden will include a limited number of community plots and opportunities to get involved with class projects and general garden maintenance such as watering, composting, and planting. For more information, please consider attending one of our brief community meetings.

The first meeting will take place on November 1 at 1:45pm. Meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month. Can't get to a meeting? We are also looking for donations of bagged leaves, grass clippings, compost, and tools (such as gloves, rakes, shovels, and trowels). Please contact the Garden Program Coordinator, Sarah Wishnick at sarah.wishnick@evergreencs.org or 828-298-2173 ext. 234 if you would like to get involved.

Bethesda United Methodist Church is having a Trunk or Treat event at the church on Sunday, October 31, 2010, from 4 to 6 pm.

Haw Creek Community Association 2010 Board of Directors

President	Chris Pelly	95 Cisco Road	231-3704	cpelly@buncombe.main.nc.us
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Park Liaison	Dick Meehan	48 Alpine Way	299-0442	rbm2@att.net
	Alex Babak	450 New Haw Creek Rd	280-7255	abironworks@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the Association shall be available to residents, as well as property owners, in the Haw Creek community and there shall be one class of membership.

DUES: Twelve dollars (\$12) paid once annually in January. Make your check to HCCA and mail to: HCCA; P.O. Box 9193; Asheville, NC 28815
Please include: member names, postal address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Visit our new website at www.hawcreeknc.org.

2010-II Meeting Schedule

Thurs, Oct 28th, 7:00pm
St Johns Church

Thurs, January 27th, 7:00pm
St Johns Church

Thurs, April 28th, 7:00pm
St Johns Church

Thurs, July/Aug
Annual Bar-B-Que date to come

Thurs, Oct 27th, 7:00pm
St Johns Church

*Any or all of the above are subject to change at any time. Please check calendar with each issue for any changes or check the website.

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Haw Creek Native:

Interview with Betty Clark

By Chris Pelly

Living in the home built by her grandfather in 1931, Betty Clark has seen many changes around Shawnee Trail, the street on which she lives in the Redwood Forest neighborhood. Today, the dull roar of nearby I-240 is a constant reminder of change wrought when highway construction sliced through east Asheville in the 1970's.



Betty and infant brother Charles with their great grandmother about 1930.



Betty's parents Pearl and LE Morrison about 1940.

"I was raised on Beaucatcher Rd and it was a quick trip back then to grandpa's house on Shawnee Trail," said Betty, "Today, I-240 and a widened Tunnel Rd make the distance seem further."

Although highways changed the character of Haw Creek and east Asheville, Betty herself has maintained a lifelong passion for the automobile. From her first car, a 1939 Ford, to her present day Cadillac, she has always appreciated a fine vehicle. So much so that she worked many years at Harry's On the Hill which enabled her to drive a fine yellow Cadillac through much of

the 1970's and 80's.

Born to Pearl Penley Morrison and Lester Ephraim Morrison in 1926, Betty and her younger brother Charles, attended Haw Creek School in the 1930's and early 40's. Her first job was working the candy counter at the Kress Department Store downtown for 25 cents an hour. "I made \$11 a week but when I was offered a position at Sayles Bleachery for \$18 a week as a secretary I took it." "Back then Sayles had a union and wages for everyone, even secretaries, were pretty good."

Politics were a big part of her family's life growing up. "Daddy was a die-hard Roosevelt Democrat. When my brother was fighting in the Korean War and Eisenhower, a Republican, ran on a platform of ending the war, daddy was torn." "Finally he said to my mother, I'll go fishing so I don't cancel out your vote."

Living now back in the home her grandfather built, Betty Clark reflects that although much has changed, much is still the same. Sayles Bleachery is now Super Wal-Mart and pastures have become highways but mostly people still want to help each other and give their children the opportunity to succeed.



Betty Clark with her Cadillac, Sept, 2010



Betty (Morrison) Clark on the hood of her first car, a 1939 Ford. Taken in 1945 when Betty was 19 years old.

Know a Haw Creek native with a story to tell? Call Chris Pelly at 298-5299

Haw Creek High School Reunion

-- Chris Pelly

Unknown to many newer valley residents is the fact that Haw Creek once had its own high school. Until 1948, when declining enrollment sent our teens to Lee Edwards High School (now Asheville High) and later to Reynolds, Haw Creek youth were schooled in the same building from grades 1 to 11.

On Saturday, October 9th many of the remaining Haw Creek High School graduates gathered in Bethesda Church for their annual reunion. With the last class having graduated 62 years ago, participation is slowly declining.

Nevertheless, Joe Bly (class of '45), regaled us with the story of the quiet and shy girl whose talent show singing brought the audience to its feet and gave her the confidence to enter the adult world. Winner of oldest grad present was Virginia Cordell Boone (class of '31) followed by Elizabeth Trantham (class of '34).

Spending time with these Haw Creek originals, one cannot help feeling they are in the midst of living history. With each having spent 60, 70, 80 or even 90 years in the Haw Creek community, each convey a sense of groundedness rare in our society and our neighborhood is the better for it.



Starting in the back row on the left: W. C. "Dash" Hensley, Jr., Hilda Gasperson, Roy Mac Gasperson, Barbara Young, Harry David Burnette, Elizabeth Jolly Trantham, Edwin & Mary Penley Whitaker, Judy Jolly Stevens, Oscar Lewis, Helen Hensley, Joyce Trantham Keever, Mabel Lewis Mungo, Berkley & Bob Ruiz, Don Hensley, Joe Bly, Ethel Ray Austin

Sitting down: Virginia Cordell Boone, Elva Vogelsang Hawkins, Clara Elizabeth Webb Cooper, Billy Webb, Margaret Burnette King

Meeting

Thurs, Oct 28th, 7pm

Location: St Johns Church

Lost Your Pet? ACT FAST!

-- Beth Jezek

If you lose your dog or your cat, it's important that you act fast! Visit local animal shelters every few days to look for your animal and to complete a lost pet report. Our closest shelter is operated by the Asheville Humane Society at 16 Forever Friend Lane, Asheville 28806 (behind Deal Motor Cars on Brevard Rd.) Phone: 828 761-2001.

In North Carolina the legal hold time for stray animals is 72 hours. After that, the animals can be evaluated for adoption, euthanasia or transfer to a rescue group. There will be fees involved in claiming your pet from a shelter.

You should also talk to your neighbors, post fliers in your neighborhood, at local vet offices, in grocery stores, etc.

Better yet, take preventive measures. Get your pet microchipped, get a collar with ID tags, and keep your pet indoors or in an enclosed yard. Most importantly get your pet spayed or neutered to keep them from wandering off to find a mate.

If you find a pet without identification, you can take it to the shelter during business hours or call Animal Control at 828 252-1110.

For more information see <http://www.ashevillehumane.org/lost-found>.

Salute To Neighborhood Toy Stores

Sarah Evers: Dancing Bear Toys-255-8697

Gary Green: The Toy Box-254-8697

Stan Collins: Once Upon A Time-274-8788

On Saturday, Nov. 13, the American Specialty Toy Retailers Association (ASTRA) will launch a nationwide salute to neighborhood toy stores.

Asheville is lucky to have three locally owned toy stores—Once Upon A Time, The Toy Box, and Dancing Bear Toys—who will unveil the 2010 list of the “Best Toys For Kids” as selected by ASTRA member stores across the country. The criteria is toys that deliver exceptional value, expand a child’s imagination, invite discovery, and encourage creativity!

“Parents are discovering that shopping at neighborhood and independent retailers is not only the most convenient choice, it also is economically and socially responsible,” stated Kathleen McHugh, ASTRA president. “For every \$100 spent in local, independently-owned stores, \$68 returns to the community—in contrast with only \$43 dollars when consumers shop at a national chain”.

“In addition to fun, toys build creativity, help in child math, spelling, and science, as well as inviting imaginative discovery,” confirmed the three store owners. “We supply quality over novelty, classic and innovative toys that are affordable, provide endless opportunities for creative fun, and last for years, even generations, of playtime. It’s what the child can do with the toy, rather than what the toy does.”

Generally, toys sold by independent stores are not available in the mass market or advertised on television. They are made by smaller manufacturers, who focus more on quality and educational value. By supporting your neighborhood toy stores, you may bring home more than just the perfect gift, you’ll share in the spirit of the season.

Have a Fun Day,

Cassidy C. Cloyed