



THE ISLAND HOME NEIGHBOR

February 2016

Island Home Park Neighborhood Association



Island Home Park Holidays

By Nancy Campbell

The 2015 holiday season lived up to our splendid reputation for neighborhood events and almost made us forget the troubles (well, the road closure) outside our pillars!

The fifteen year old Children's Christmas Tree was the neighborhood tree this year. After a season of surprising growth, the blue spruce that was first measured at the waist of neighbor **BB Strange**, is almost beyond the reach of our ladders. New LED lights made for an awesome sight. A brigade of children descended on "their" tree to hang ornaments, continuing the charming tradition of the majority of the decorations at the bottom of the tree.

The tree lighting ceremony drew babies to teenagers. The drawing for the honor of switching on the lights was won by **Haiden Simmons**, who sweetly allowed younger sister **Lydia** to take her place. We admired the tree with hot chocolate and sweet treats as the sun went down.

The adult progressive parties were outstanding, providing Christmas food, drink and conversation at two houses. **Christie** and **John Kennedy** welcomed neighbors to their mid-century home. Everyone enjoyed their handsome updates and

sumptuous party foods. A precious moment happened when children from a birthday slumber party appeared at the door to sing Christmas songs. The spontaneous response was a round of Happy Birthday to You for **Aubrey**, the birthday girl.

The party progressed to **Skip** and **Charlotte Scalf's** home. Only the second owners in 90 years, everyone admired the bungalow's craftsman details while enjoying even more delicious party fare.

The countdown to Christmas Day was completed by neighborhood caroling through Island Home Park. The carolers began near the pillars at the **Grant** house and ended at the **Baldwin** home on Fisher Place. Hot chocolate and treats rewarded the children.

Thanks to **Jim Staub**, **Chloe Chitwood** (invaluable tree contributions), **Carole Allen**, **Bill Moorefield**, **Doug Allen** (tree light hanging and removal), **Brian** and **Rebecca Simmons** (LED lights), **Judi Gaston** and **Carolyn Williams** (tree lighting refreshments), **Chris Bottoms** and **Patrick Wolf** (tree decorations and equipment storage), **Jessica Rodocker** (progressive parties), **John** and **Christie Kennedy**, **Skip** and **Charlotte Scalf** (party sites), **Laura Barton**, **Melissa Baldwin** (caroling).

President's Message

By Nancy Campbell

Island Home Park's 2015 holiday celebrations, including our Christmas Tree, created memories for us all.

January gave us a chance to watch the snowfall, miss a few days of school, walk in a winter wonderland or join the fearless in the park on the sledding hill. Winter continues, but the days are longer and I think I see spring on the distant horizon. Is that wishful thinking?

Please check out the Island Home Park Neighborhood Association website. It has been redesigned and updated. Thanks to **Kurt Zinser** and **Rick Alexander** for this neighborhood resource.

Have you noticed that city traffic engineering relocated some signs and removed others throughout IHP? Traffic engineering is working with neighborhoods to reduce visual clutter. In case you wonder, we remain a neighborhood enforcement zone even after the removal of the orange 'enforcement zone' signs.

Parks and Recreation continues planning for updates to our neighborhood park, a project over six years in development. The first step is a safe and attractive walkway which will provide access from the Spence Place crosswalk to the park. We have been notified that we will have a neighborhood presentation by city representatives in several months.

In February, Tennessee School for the Deaf is beginning the second phase of a multi-year project that includes the demolition of two buildings and the construction of a new high school and dining facility. We are all concerned with the increase in traffic through Island Home Park. Neighborhood representatives are meeting with project leaders and Senator Becky Massey to work to minimize the impact on our neighborhood.

Our neighborhood association provides

IHPNA 2016 Committees

See a complete list of committee members on the web at ihpna.net

Childcare/Schools

Communications

Newsletter, Email Lists Administrators,
Website Maintenance

External Affairs

ad hoc Vulcan Quarry

Historical

Membership

Neighbor- to-Neighbor

Park

Safety and Security

Social

Easter Egg Hunt, Porch Hops, Fourth of July Party, Halloween Party, Christmas Holiday Events

Tree Decorations

Lighting, Decorating, Storing Supplies,
Tree Lighting / Refreshments

Progressive Parties

Neighborhood Caroling

South Knoxville Neighborhood & Business Coalition (SKNBC)

Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency

opportunities for wonderful social events, ensures that our voices are heard in the greater community, and allows us to keep each other informed about important news through our committee structure.

Please look over the 2016 list of committees for something that interests you. We can add your name to the list or provide additional information about committee responsibilities. Just contact me or any officer or board member.

Vulcan Riverside Quarry Blasting Update

By Joe Hultquist

Over the years, there has been an ongoing history of blasting at the Vulcan quarry on Riverside Drive, directly across the river from our neighborhood. Sometimes, it has been a significant problem, and at other times the blasting has been virtually unnoticeable.

About 1991, Vulcan decided to remove the ridge that forms a visual and sound barrier between the quarry pit and our neighborhood. I led the negotiations with Vulcan, which resulted in their agreeing to leave the ridge face at a significant loss to the company in terms of the total amount of stone they will be able to remove. They have been true to their word and have upheld that agreement, and they are standing by to this day. So, for that concession we should be grateful.

More recently, a few years ago the blast effects became much more noticeable in our neighborhood as they progressed in their mining operation. We interacted with the company as a neighborhood, and they seemed to be responsive. They placed a seismograph at various locations in the neighborhood, and held an open house for IHP residents at the quarry to show us the operation. After initial blasts that were very concerning, things eventually settled down to the point that there didn't seem to be much of a problem.

Then, in November of last year, there was a blast that really shook the neighborhood. There was much concern about possible damage to homes, and I was asked to talk to the Vulcan management. Subsequently, there was another major blast on December 8th. Further communication with Vulcan management elicited a commitment from them to (a) provide one or more seismographs to be placed in the neighborhood, and (b) work with neighborhood representatives to try to address our concerns.

IHPNA President **Nancy Campbell** asked me to chair an ad-hoc committee to address the problem, and subsequently appointed the membership of that committee. Those committee members are: **Brad Crattie, Bill Moorefield, Matt Teglas, Candace Archer, Bill Hahnemann** and myself.

Bill Hahnemann, Matt Teglas and myself met with Vulcan Regional Sales Manager Carl VanHoosier and Riverside Plant Manager Brandon Bounes on January 8th. We discussed several concerns and ideas about how to address those concerns. They agreed to provide, through their monitoring contractor Sauls, at least three seismographs to be placed in the neighborhood. That will allow the vibrations or waves from the blasts to be mapped to get a better idea of what is going on. They are also working with their blasting contractor to try changes and different techniques to try to mitigate at least some of the blast effects on the neighborhood. They also said they will soon be turning the direction they're working in the pit, from south facing to east facing, and that that will probably make a difference.

They've agreed to a meeting between our committee, Vulcan representatives and Sauls representatives to establish an action plan for moving forward and to continue to address all of the issues involved. They have also offered to take our entire committee on a tour of the quarry operation while it's in active use.

So, there is still much to be done, but we've at least gotten started. As impacted neighborhood residents, we're asking each of you to observe, as carefully as possible, the condition of your houses and property before and immediately after each blast. Photographs are helpful in that regard. Vulcan will give us advance notice before each blast (shot), and we will in turn notify the neighborhood via the E-mail listserve.

Upcoming Events

March

14th IHPNA Board Meeting, Akin Gym Health Room, TSD, 7 pm

26th IHP Easter Egg Hunt

April

3rd Covenant Health Marathon, 7:30 am race start time

15th - May 1

Dogwood Arts Trail throughout Island Home Park

29th Island Home Park Porch Hop, 6 pm, locations to be announced

May

7th TSD Run for the Deaf, cancelled due to campus construction

9th IHPNA Board Meeting, Akin Gym Health Room, TSD, 7 pm

July

4th IHPNA Independence Day Picnic, Island Home Boulevard Median, 11 am (time subject to change)

8th IHPNA Board Meeting, Akin Gym Health Room, TSD, 7 pm

September

IHPNA Annual Meeting, date and location to be announced

Knoxville neighbors. Soups are held quarterly in different locations. The next Knoxville Soup will be at 6 pm, April 7, at Dara's Garden on Maryville Pike. More information: southknoxvillealliance.org

Garden Club & Holiday Wreaths

The newly-formed IHP Garden Club met on Sunday, November 29th at Stanley's Greenhouse for our first group project. The Garden Club wanted to decorate our neighborhood's historic entrance with wreaths for the holidays. Members gathered together for a wreath making workshop led by Katie Roach from The Hive. Many brought greenery as well as goodies to eat. Katie taught us how to make a fresh wreath and each person went home with their own creation to enjoy. Katie made four wreaths that were hung at the entrance to our neighborhood to highlight its stately columns. Everyone had a very fun and festive afternoon together learning something new. The Garden Club meets on the second Sunday of each month at different homes. We look forward to more projects in the near future and welcome anyone who would like to join us!

South Knoxville Neighborhood & Business Coalition

Island Home Park Neighborhood Association is a member of SKNBC. The coalition promotes the welfare of south Knoxville neighborhoods and businesses. SKNBC addresses issues that affect south Knoxville and promotes positive relationships with the city and county. In 2015 SKNBC sponsored the south Knoxville Neighborhood Day at Chapman Pool and forum for city election candidates. We need a second SKNBC representative from Island Home Park. If you are interested in South Knoxville, please volunteer. Contact **Nancy Campbell**.

Knoxville Soup

Knoxville Soup is an exciting community-focused project sponsored by the South Knoxville Alliance (SKA). Open to the public, it is a combination of a soup, salad, dessert dinner and a showcase of proposals for community-based projects from which attendees will choose the winner. For a \$5 donation you get supper, a vote, and the opportunity to share time with interesting South

What Fools These Mortals Be

By Leo Scalf

H.H. Galbraith, J.J. Galbraith and Charles Galbraith were three of four brothers and all were involved in the real estate business. H.H., along with his wife Elsie, were responsible for the establishment of the Island Home Park Company. All three brothers were involved in all aspects of real estate including legal proceedings dealing with land, property, rentals, sales, signing and cosigning on loans.

A fellow by the name of James F. Baker, grandfather of Senator Howard Baker Jr., had loaned the brothers some money, \$2500 to be exact, in September of 1922. Then, in 1923, following Mr. Baker's death, a note was discovered for that loan during the settling of his estate. H.H. and J.J. Galbraith had signed the note.

The note read, in part, "September 19, 1922. James F. Baker. We the undersigned, as endorsers of a note for \$2500 signed by J. Albert Robbins, secured by real estate notes of J.J. Connor, duly agree as endorsers to an extension of said note for sixty days from September 17, 1922, and guarantee payment of same or any renewals thereof." The note was, as most notes tend to be, replete with legal jargon but the point is that H.H. and J.J. had borrowed some money and had signed a note promising to pay it back.

As fate would have it, both James F. Baker and J. Albert Robbins died in 1923. Of course, the Galbraith brothers were still responsible for the 1922 note. But James and Albert are both dead, so why not seize the opportunity presented by their demise and keep the \$2500? And that's what they did.

Needless to say, the Baker and Robbins families didn't see things in the same light as the Galbraiths and evidence of the note was presented in the

Chancery Court at Knoxville, Tennessee. Case NO. 32,052. J. F. Baker, ET AL VS. Charles E. Galbraith. Oddly enough, the court agreed with the Galbraiths. The money was theirs.

On June 15, 1929, an appeal was heard, sanity came to the front, and the decision was reversed. Did the Galbraiths relent? No, terms of the loan were not met and the dispute continued. A foreclosure was conducted on December 7, 1931 and the property connected to the loan was sold. But, a deficiency from the sale of the property left a few loose ends. On November 18, 1933 Chancery Court entered a deficiency judgment, then again on December 4, 1942, renewing the deficiency.

By 1942, H.H. Galbraith had passed away and his real estate holdings amounted to a six foot deep hole in the ground. J. J. and Charles Galbraith were still around and they both declared bankruptcy in February of 1947. As one might well imagine, they lied and in August 1949 it was discovered that the brothers had been concealing funds and ownership of property in the name of Elizabeth H. Galbraith, Charles' daughter. Both are charged with perjury and the monetary judgment was that the Baker heirs were to collect \$122,792.69 plus interest and court cost. The Galbraiths filed an appeal with the State Supreme Court of Tennessee and, on December 14, 1951 they lost.

So ended a 29 year battle over a \$2500 loan. Shakespeare got it right, "What fools these mortals be."

Run for the Deaf Cancelled

The Tennessee School for the Deaf regrets to announce the canceling of the Run for the Deaf due to major construction projects. These projects will continue for the next 3 years. Questions or comments should be sent to Jeanne Fair at jfair@tsd.k12.tn.us

Memoriam

Judith Pope Cummins passed away December 23, 2015. Judy's grandparents built a home on Spence Place in Island Home Park in the 1920's. She told wonderful stories about the time she spent with the Popes as a child and provided an important connection to the early years of our neighborhood. She raised four children on Island Home Boulevard, where she lived for over 60 years. We extend our sympathy to her family, including her son **Charles Cummins** and granddaughter **Kate Rose** who live in Island Home Park.

Warren Maclin, long-time Spence Place resident, passed away January 5, 2016. Our thoughts go out to his family, including his wife **Janice**.

Mildred Ida Ward Hiscock passed away January 14, 2016. A life-long resident, she grew up on the campus of Tennessee School for the Deaf. The Ward Building was named for her father. She lived for many years on Maplewood and was a neighborhood fixture on her bicycle, later as a daily walker. We extend our sympathy to her family, including **Bill** and **Judy Hiscock** and grandsons, who live in Island Home Park.

New Neighbors

Tommy and Jamie Smith, Hillsboro Heights. Tommy is with Ackerman PR and Jamie has her hands full with 3 small children, Carter and twins Avery and Caroline.

Josie McKinney, Hillsboro Heights. Josie and her little dog join fiancé **Nathan Hunter**.

Ashley and Daniel Crowder, Maplewood Drive. Married just a few days ago, Ashley is a speech-language pathologist and Daniel is the owner of a food truck and a partner in a soon-to-open Sevier Avenue restaurant. They have three big dogs and a cat.

Rachael and Ryan Leach, Hillsboro Heights. Rachael and Ryan moved from the Boston area after a road trip to visit long-time friends on the boulevard. You might see them being walked by Maxine, their 14 year old dog.

Dr. Larry and Ginger Wolfenbarger, Spence Place. We welcome Larry and Ginger back to the area after 40 years away. They are renting now with the hopes of staying in the area.

Sign up to receive IHPNA emails by sending a request to Greg Congelton at gregleton@comcast.net.

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Visit the IHPNA Online at ihpna.net

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