

November 2006 NESNA Newsletter

President's Corner

The days get shorter, leaves on the trees are almost gone and the temperature is downright chilly in the mornings—all these are signs of 2006 winding down.

As the calendar year closes, so does the year for NESNA. Three of our strongest board members and NESNA supporters moved away. The 2006 officers were all new to the Board except for one. Those were very big shoes to fill and there were only "newbies" to try and fill them.

One of the things the previous board left was a strong neighborhood base on which the new board could continue to build. There are around two hundred members that pay the association dues each January.

What are some of the assets of being a member of a strong neighborhood association? What kind of dividends do you get for your \$10 yearly dues? Property values are up in the NESNA neighborhood. Let's see why:

- 50/50 sidewalk program
- Tree giveaway

- Beautifully paved alleys
- Street resurfacing
- Huffman Gardens
- Property ordinances enforced
- Active neighborhood "watch"
- Strong ties to City government through Bill Timms
- Strong ties to Community Services through Officer Dale Anderson
- Neighborhood website

I doubt the new street light on Court Street would have been installed that quickly without a strong network of citizens and city officials. That's the sign of a strong association. That's a pretty good return on ten bucks, now isn't it?

There are 1200 families within our boundaries. The 2006 board decided to try new activities to increase participation from these families and the members of NESNA. With the exception of the Easter Egg Hunt, all old and new activities met with poor participation. Skate night had only a handful of skaters. There were 10 ice cream lovers that braved the weather on that cold day in June for the Ice Cream Social. But, by far, the most disappointing activity was the annual picnic held in October. We planned food, drinks, games,

crafts and prizes for 100—125 people. Along with our faithful band of boys that help set up games and eat hotdogs, Senator & Mrs. Syverson and Bill Timms, there were 28, yes, 28 people that attended and signed in. And 5 of the 28 were there with the band!

Our monthly meetings are no better. Eight meetings have averaged 27 people attending. We have had top shelf speakers—the Mayor; the new Chief of Police; Patrick Hayes, the City's legal director; Ruth Miller, in charge of the America in Bloom contest; and just last month, the Superintendent of Schools, Dennis Thompson. It doesn't get any better than this, folks. Yet we have embarrassing attendances for these premier speakers. The Rescue Mission lady came out on a bitter cold night in February and spoke to NINE people! It is the faithful few who are there every second Thursday of the month and we thank them for their diligence. And if it weren't for the same five or six people, there would have been no Egg Hunt, no picnic, no newsletter, no nothing this year. But it can't go on.

This is the last newsletter of 2006. Starting in January, we will be going

to a quarterly newsletter that will be mailed to all 1200 families in the NESNA area.

There has been criticism of mailing out the newsletters. The simple truth is that there were not enough volunteers to deliver them door-to-door. Since May, the monthly newsletter has been issued from a Word document because our editor stopped laying it out and getting it printed. It would be great to have a new editor step forward and take over the job. Any volunteers?

As for other changes, we will have to see how the 2007 board plans to operate. But I think it's a safe bet to say that NESNA members have had their last picnic.

Deb Seyler

2006 NESNA OFFICERS

President:

Deb Seyler 962-8777

Vice president:

Bob Revers 962-6268

Secretary:

Mary Englund 965-2239

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Powers 968-1395

Coming Attractions

November:

- Monthly meeting: November 9, 2006 Guest speaker will be John Rhoades, Chief Operating Officer of Rockford Health System

December:

- Monthly meeting: December 14, 2006 Election of Board
- Cookie Exchange

January:

- Monthly meeting: January 11, 2007

Huffman Gardens 2006

A huge **WELL DONE!** to Frances Anthon and the Huffman Gardeners. This has got to be one of the best years ever for the Boulevard gardens. They were simply spectacular. Each one of the end caps were beautifully planted and maintained. The color choices as well as the plants--petunias and moss roses--were brilliant. Ms. Miller told us Huffman Gardens played a part in helping Rockford win the **America in Bloom 2005** contest, but this year's plantings have certainly done their

part in keeping Rockford at the top of the list.

And, I know for a fact, there will be new tulips for next spring...

December Cookie Exchange



We will be holding our second annual cookie exchange Thursday, Dec. 14. Please bring at least three dozen homemade cookies to exchange. The more cookies you bring, the more you can take home. Even though it is a "cookie" exchange, there was some delicious fudge last year that didn't last very long. And here's hoping someone will bring those out-of-this-world coffee, toffee, chocolate dipped cookies. Be sure to bring copies of your recipe so others can add your delicious recipe to their repertoire.



Book Club

If you enjoy sharing and comparing thoughts and ideas after reading a good book, you might find our reading discussion group just the right fit for you. The book we're reading now

is All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy. We will meet at 6 pm at the home of Elizabeth Powers, 1501 Custer Ave , on Sunday, December 3, to discuss the book. Refreshments will be served.

Auburn Street Project

Doesn't the finished project on Auburn Street look terrific? The sidewalk areas are well designed and have a certain cache about them. The period lights fit right in and the landscaping is complimentary and the road surface is a delight to drive on as well.

Free Virus Scan

To keep your computer up and running, you must have a plan to avoid getting infected by computer viruses. Many users have virus software, but they fail to periodically update it, making it virtually useless. A free, constantly updated resource is available for your use, called "House Call". It's available at this website:

<http://housecall.trendmicro.com>.



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