

STRAUS PARK NEWSLETTER

JULY & AUGUST, 2008

Master Association Minutes

At the request of the SPMA, the minutes of its meetings will now be published only on the SP website, www.strauspark.org. The minutes may be accessed using the same procedure as that used to access the SP Directory. User name & password are also the same as for the Directory. If you have not previously registered for the Directory, or if you have questions on the publishing of the minutes, you may email me at m81babe@gmail.com or call me at 884-4337.

Calendar of July & August Activities

- Women's Bridge – Thursday, July 3rd & 17th - 1:00 PM
August 1st & 15th – 1:00 PM
- Independence Day Picnic – July 4th – 6:00 PM
- Pot Luck Group Dinner – Sunday, August 17th – 6:00 PM
- ECC Meeting – Thursday, July 10th – 10:00 AM
August 14th – 10:00 AM
- Master Association Board Meeting – Wednesday, July 23rd - 4:00 PM
August 27th – 4:00 PM
- Couples Bridge – Friday, July 25th - 7:00 PM
August 29th – 7:00PM

This information is available on the Straus Park website www.strauspark.org, on the "Calendar" link.

Newsletter Clarification

The newsletter is, for the most part, a regurgitation of Dave Calhoun's email announcements, with the exception of the Notes from the President. For this reason, there are some month's when it is totally unnecessary to publish a newsletter due to lack of additional info. If there are other subjects which you would like to see covered in the newsletter & are willing to assist in the coverage of those subjects, I would like to hear from you.

Independence Day Picnic

Barbara Tapley volunteered to organize the 4th of July picnic, & with the help of Joannie Doyle & Cathy Heuser, she planned a great event. Catering was done by Ed Boudreaux's, the new barbecue restaurant in Brevard. Flo Onnink provided the bikes & made all those gorgeous bows, etc. Thanks to these ladies & to all of you who attended and helped to make it such a fun affair!

New Chairs

I hope you all have had an opportunity to enjoy the six new Adirondack chairs on the beach behind the Lake House & the two new rocking chairs in front of the outside fireplace on the patio. We owe our thanks to the following folks for their

generous donation of those chairs: Art Fisher, Cathy & Kent Heuser, Demi & Al Loftis, Don & Rosie Moore, Reed & Jack Parker, Linda & Allen Sharpe, & Harry & Adrienne Fiedler.

Hospital Reception

SP residents Gerri & Don Crane, Bob & Carol Maxwell, & Drs. Carmen & Jim Kelling will host a reception for SP residents at the Lake House on Wednesday, July 30th at 5:30 PM to give us a progress report on our hospital's building project & the new technology being made available to us. Peter B. Elder, Chairman of the Transylvania Community Hospital Foundation will fill us in on all the latest info. It is glaringly obvious that most communities in the Brevard area have some part of the hospital named for them, due to donations provided by their residents, but SP is not among them. I hope you all will join Harry & me in providing our own community's support to our hospital, which is such an important part of our life here. Come on down to the Lake House, enjoy a glass or two of wine, some hors d'oeuvres, a little conversation with your neighbors, & support our community & our hospital.

Notes from the President

It has been a busy month since the June MA Board meeting. We now have Co-Chairs for our Social Committee (Cathy Heuser & Barbara Tapley), & have a gratifyingly large number of volunteers for our Beautification Committee, with Cathy Heuser as the Chairperson. These folks include Alice Tucker, Amy Fisher, Art Fisher, Nina Shippen, Linda & Bruce Janicula, Rosie Moore, & Jeanne & Steve Sotkin. They held their first meeting Monday evening, & at my request have begun 2 lists – a “need right now” list & a “for the future” list. The items on the “future” list will be budgeted for in the 2009 budget, if approved by the MA.

You may have noticed that the bulletin board has been removed from the corner at Meadow View & Straus Parkway. We are working with Jesse & Aaron at Rustic Edge Organic Furnishings to provide a mountain style (but relatively comfortable) bench for that corner, &, if this year's budget will allow, several more for various locations throughout SP. Some rearrangement of the landscaping will be done on that corner to provide a pleasant backdrop for the bench.

We may also have volunteers to check the chemicals in the pool on a daily basis. In the heat of the summer, this is even more important, in order to keep the water clear & the bottom & sides free of algae. Many thanks to those residents for accepting this very important responsibility.

I'm not sure many of you realize that we have high-speed wireless internet service in the Lake House. This means that you can take your laptop to any location in or near the Lake House – chairs on the beach, patio, inside, in the parking lot, etc. & access high-speed internet service free of charge. Log into “lakehouse” on your wireless settings on your computer for service – no password or user name required. If you are uncertain as to how to accomplish this on your computer, please call my in-house computer guru at 884-4337 or email him at m81dude@gmail.com.

Cathy Heuser has accomplished what the MA Board has been talking about for months. Billy Howell has donated to SP two of the four concrete picnic tables & benches that have been sitting willy-nilly at the bottom of Allison Creek Trail. We will be moving them in about a week to locations around the lake that will be useful to our residents & more esthetically pleasing to our eyes. Billy will remove the others for his own use.

We are taking action re the condition of our lake. A faulty conduit has been discovered at the entrance to the lake from Allison Creek, & one particular building project has caused significant silt build-up in the lake. The rectification of these issues is being pursued. I will keep you up to date as more info becomes available.

The Financial Oversight Committee will begin work on the 2009 budget next month. If you have any suggestions for improvements to our amenities or to our community in general re budgetary needs, please contact me at 884-4337 or at m81babe@gmail.com. I will pass on all of your comments to the SPMA & to the Financial Oversight Committee for consideration.

Please remember, we need your help with burned-out street lights. If you notice a non-functioning light, call IPM with the number off the lamp post. In addition, as the optical sensors need to be replaced in each lamp post, Cathy's Creek Electric is replacing them with timers which will alleviate the current problem of street lamps being on at inappropriate times.

The ECC has updated their Guidelines & Design Manual. This update can be found on the website. I encourage you all to familiarize yourselves with this update, since it is the very important document that enables us to keep our community up to the standard we all expect.

If you have not yet done so, please take a little time to read our Bylaws & Covenants as well as the revised Design Manual of which I spoke above. They can be easily found on the website, www.strauspark.org. Since all of us who live &/or own property here are governed by these legal documents & are required by law to follow them (when you sign the contract for purchase or rental of property here, you are agreeing to abide by our legal documents), it is necessary to be familiar with them. You owe it to yourselves & to your community to read them.

I am very encouraged by the increase in volunteerism & the interest being shown by residents of SP in our Master Association & in our general welfare as a community. This is what is needed to keep us on a positive track toward remaining the type of residential community we all bought into. I applaud your interest & appreciate your support. I'm always available for your comments or suggestions – even your complaints, although not too many of those, I hope! This is a wonderful community, & with your support, the SPMA can keep it that way.

If you would like to be included in the Straus Park Directory or have any changes, additional information, or corrections for the newsletter, please contact the author, Adrienne Fiedler, at 884-4337 or at m81babe@gmail.com. Thanks for your help.