

WHCHA News

Walton Heights—Candlewood Homeowners Association Tri-Annual Newsletter

October 2011

Do you really want to win a *Darwin Award* ?

www.WHCHA.org

Special points of interest:

- ◆ **WHCHA Kids Halloween Party**
- ◆ **WHCHA Dues still accepted!**

This is a great time of year to begin prepping for the Darwin Awards. If you don't know what this award is, Google the term or study the cartoon below.



As the days shorten and it gets dark earlier, you could be in a prime position to win if you follow some simple steps.

First, go through your closet and find the darkest shirt or jacket you have. Next, put on some dark jeans and dark shoes. An excellent alternative is to put on full-body darkened camouflage gear.

If you are walking a dog, a black lab or other dark canine is ideal, and the darker the leash, the better.

As a final accoutrement, arm yourself with headphones or earbuds and put on your favorite rock song or talk show—be sure you turn up the volume!

By all means, leave any fluorescent mate-

rials or lighting accessories at home. Don't put on anything light colored or carry a flashlight!

Now go out for a walk around dusk or later on Southridge or Rivercrest or any of the streets in our neighborhood...and be sure to walk WITH traffic. If you follow these steps, you will be a prime candidate to win the Darwin Award!

All joking aside, when you head out for your walk, everyone knows that you are not trying to win this award. You may think that you can hear or see the cars coming and will simply avoid them. This may be true most of the time, but things happen—quickly! Animals dart out suddenly, a driver swerves to avoid a last minute incident, your dog spots a squirrel, or lots of other distractions arise. Sometimes a driver may have just left his favorite pub and may not react as anticipated.

While it's true that we want more police presence in the neighborhood, we do not want them coming to investigate any of our neighbors being struck by a vehicle when it could have been prevented!

**PLEASE use common sense:
dress appropriately and always
walk on the side of the road
facing ONCOMING traffic.**

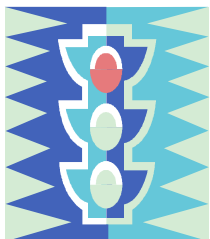
We do not want to be giving out
DARWIN awards!

Inside this issue:

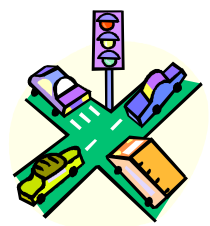
Intersection Revision?	2
New Police Sub-station?	2
River Mountain Trail Update	3
Yard Sales	3
Halloween Party!	4

Update on the Cantrell & Southridge Intersection

For everyone who sits watching the heavy traffic for any length of time at the intersection of Southridge and Cantrell, or Arkansas Highway 10 as it is also known, it is quickly obvious what a dangerous mess this intersection has become.



There are blatant and life-threatening violators who run red lights, make illegal turns, and execute other right-of-way violations. There are confused motorists unfamiliar with the non-standard intersection attempting to turn into the shopping center, and those who purposefully disregard the traffic laws by entering via the shopping center's exit only lane or going through the intersection, making a U-turn in the middle of Cantrell, and then entering the shopping center. No wonder there are so many accidents at that intersection!



The WHCHA Board has been approached by Lou Schickel, owner and developer of the Pleasant Ridge Shopping Center, requesting the support of Walton Heights-Candlewood residents on three traffic proposals regarding this intersection and two other nearby locations.

Mr. Schickel has proposed redesigning this intersection to revert to the limited 4-way intersection it was before the shopping center was built. At the request of the WHCHA Board, he agreed to create and fund a dedicated right turn lane on Southridge to westbound Cantrell if we support his intersection revision request.

There are many obstacles and negotiations to be discussed, especially those between Mr. Schickel's engineers and both the Little Rock and AR High-

way Traffic Engineers. The WHCHA Board has invited the Schickel team and the LR Traffic to the next Board meeting to gather more information.

The two other locations Mr. Schickel is seeking to have changed are: opening the rear parking lot of Belk to allow access to/from Woodland Heights Road, and creating a four way intersection at Town Center Drive and Cantrell (at the Shell station) This would be done by extending Town Center north into the First Security Parking lot and the current access into First Security being closed.

The primary interest of the WHCHA Board is the Cantrell-Southridge intersection, but all of the Schickel's proposals will be considered.

A New Police Substation Nearby a Possibility?

Perhaps you have read of the rash of burglaries and attempted armed robberies in and near the Pleasant Valley Subdivision off Rodney Parham and Arkansas Valley, near Whole Foods.



We have just received word, thanks to WH-C resident Dick Barland, that the Pleasant Valley POA is hosting a meeting with police officials and city leaders to discuss safety concerns.

One additional topic of discussion will be regarding the conversion of the recently closed US Post Office on Pleasant Ridge to an additional LRPD substation.

This would be a tremendous asset to our area, but we do not have any specific details at this time. Notification has been sent out on the WHCHA Google Group of the meeting on Thursday, October 6 at 6:30 pm at St. James United Methodist, enter though Door 3.

We hope to have someone from our association attend.

Please find a sample letter that you may send to City leaders at the end of the online version of the newsletter.

More information will be provided via the Google Group as it becomes available. You may join the WHCHA Google Group from the homepage of the WHCHA website:

www.WHCHA.org

River Mountain Trail Update

Our neighborhood is unique in that most of it is surrounded by public land owned by the City of Little Rock.

The Little Rock Department of Parks and Recreation has developed Conner Lake and worked with Scout Troop 30 to build trails around it. Troop 30 also marked and improved the River Mountain Trail which runs from Southridge at the power lines to River Mountain Road. This beautiful, just over two miles long trail, parallels a creek most of the way, with views of rock bluffs, quiet pools, and small waterfalls.

The Little Rock Department of Parks and Recreation cre-

ated two beautiful signs clearly identifying River Mountain Trail.

Sam Piazza, with the help of his Scout Troop 27, mounted the signs on posts and installed them at each end of the trail. Sam and the Troop also built two sturdy benches and installed them for hikers to catch their breath. This was done as a project for Sam to earn his Eagle Scout badge.

This trail is a wonderful asset for our neighborhood and is already being used regularly by hikers, walkers, and parents with children. The Little Rock Department of Parks and Recreation would like to see our neighborhood adopt this trail under their

“Adopt A Park” program. By adopting a park, we would be responsible for maintaining the trail, which would include clearing weeds and brush as needed, clearing blockage, and making repairs. These are all chores that WH-C have already been doing, but now it would be official.

A motion will be made at the next Annual Meeting in March 2012 on our neighborhood Adopting River Mountain Trail under the Adopt-A-Park Program. Please be sure to attend the Annual Meeting to discuss and vote on this topic, and be sure to get out and enjoy the trail now!



WHCHA Neighborhood Yard Sales

Thanks to all sellers and seekers who participated in the Neighborhood Yard Sales on Saturday, October 1st! By the number of cars on the streets, it is obvious that it was another successful year. It was great seeing so many people out and about in the neighborhood on such a gorgeous day.

WHCHA added to the general fund by selling left-over uncooked hot dogs (but frozen in the interim) from the National Night Out event.

Thanks to Sara Marecki for her hard work and for running the concessions from her drive-way and to Mark Botner for hickory smoking the hot dogs. Reviewers said they were as good as local vendor, Hot Dog Mike's, only cheaper!

The WHCHA Board has voted to move National Night Out to October next year. This is an alternate time that many southern states have adopted... when it's not SO HOT!

With National Night Out moving to October next year, and with so many other fall events (Razorback Footback, Komen Walk, Big Dam Bridge Race), the Board has voted to shift the Neighborhood Yard Sales to the spring, but will skip 2012.

Therefore, the next Neighborhood Yard Sales will be in April 2013. Plenty of time for everyone to have more



Walton Heights--Candlewood
Homeowners Association

WHCHA
P.O. Box 17043
Little Rock, AR 72222
www.WHCHA.org

WHCHA News is the tri-annual publication of the
Walton Heights—Candlewood
Homeowners Association

Editor & Publisher: Vicki Botner
Duplication & Mailing: Delta Trust
Contributors: Roger Bolhouse, Jack Hitt,
& Sara Marecki

*Next WHCHA News will be
February 2012!*

5th Annual WHCHA Kids Halloween Party

**Monday, October 31st,
5:00 — 6:30 pm
12480 Rivercrest**

**Games & Activities
Pizza, Punch & Prizes!**

This is a WHCHA sponsored event, hosted by Mike and Pam Halter. Each year, the Halters elaborately transform their garage into a themed "haunted" house that is usually not too scary for the little ones.

You do not want to miss it!

After the party, the kids will be ready to trick or treat in the neighborhood. Please remember that all children must be accompanied by an adult.



October 4, 2011

Honorable Mark Stodola, Mayor via email mayor@littlerock.org
Mr. Bruce Moore, City Manager via email citymanager@littlerock.org
Chief Stuart Thomas
Little Rock City Hall
500 W. Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: West Side Police Substation, Former US Post Office, 11619 Pleasant Ridge Rd

Gentlemen:

My family and I reside in the Walton Heights-Candlewood area of Little Rock. It is important to us that the west-side LRPD substation referenced in the sales tax referendum be a top priority for all of you.

It is our understanding that LRPD and the City wish for the planned substation to be near Arkansas Hwy. 10 / Cantrell Road. We think that is a wonderful idea! We respectfully request and urge that you consider the **former US Post Office facility located at 11619 Pleasant Ridge Road**. This existing building is one block from Cantrell Road. It is an existing building that could be occupied soon and would not require a large capital expenditure.

This site is nearly equal distances from the intersection of University Ave. & Cantrell Rd., Chenal Pkwy. & Chenal Valley Dr., and Chenonceau Blvd. & Hwy. 10. There are practically no other locations that could serve all of the north- and west-side of Little Rock as this site on Pleasant Ridge Dr. The Pleasant Ridge Dr. intersection with Hwy. 10 provides great east-west access to all parts of the city along Hwy. 10, good south access along Rodney Parham and is convenient to Walton Heights-Candlewood and the Two Rivers Bridge to the north.

We urge you to act soon and bring a police substation to the northwest part of our City!

Sincerely,

cc: City of Little Rock Board of Directors via email board@littlerock.org