

Simply Shandon

Spring 2009

News From The Shandon Neighborhood Council

Visit our website at www.simplyshandon.org

Shandon Neighborhood Council

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Letter from the President



The Shandon Neighborhood Council has several new members. At the annual meeting on March 2nd, the Council said goodbye to four retiring members and hello to six new members. The retiring members are: Robin Copp, Mary Sowell League, Jackie Barker, and Steve Brennan. Together, these Council members represent over 30 years of leadership in Shandon. We thank them for their many years of thoughtful leadership and service. They will be missed. The new members are: Caroline Clarkson, Jane Key, Terry Sharpe, Tushar Chikhlikar, Jesse Burke, and Seth Rose. Please join me in welcoming them. They will bring a new enthusiasm to our neighborhood projects and leadership.

I have recently attended two seminars that should help improve our neighborhood. In March, I attended the City of Columbia Police Department Neighborhood Watch Seminar. This was a very informative seminar on home and identity theft. See the article in this newsletter about home safety evaluations. I hope that you will consider having an evaluation done on your home. In April, I attended the neighborhood history workshop that was put on by the Historic Columbia Foundation. The workshop was very well done and reminded us that we need to be aware of the rich history of our neighborhood and the need to capture stories before they are lost.

We are still in the process of improving our neighborhood website. Our goal is to make it the go-to resource for information about our neighborhood. The website address is currently www.simplyshandon.org.

As always, feel free to contact me if you should have any questions or concerns.

John Myrick
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Home Safety Evaluation

The City of Columbia Police Department offers free home safety checks and burglary assessments. At your request, a Crime Prevention Officer will come to your home or business to inspect the security measures in place and to identify areas that need to be improved. Special attention is given to common points of entry and hardware, such as doors, windows, and locks, as well as lighting, overgrown foliage, security of outbuildings, and other correctable areas. Once the officer completes the assessment, he records the findings on a form that is given to the owner. The officer should discuss the findings with the owner or person responsible, outline recommendations for improvement, and answer any remaining questions. The Crime Prevention Unit maintains a carbon copy of the report. If the property owner needs assistance in installing deadbolt locks or having windows pinned, the Crime Prevention Unit will assist in contacting the City of Columbia Support Services division to have these devices installed once the hardware has been purchased.

To have an evaluation performed on your home, call the Crime Prevention Unit at 545-3553.

Shandon Neighborhood Logo Contest results are in!
See page 3 to view the finalists and cast your vote!

A Letter from the Chief of the Columbia Fire Department

The Fire Department has had to reduce expenditures in the current budget and in next year's budget, which begins in July. Initially, we cut line-items ranging from replacement equipment to uniforms and projected fuel costs. But these cuts were not enough to meet the budget restrictions, and we had to find ways to stretch operations while having the least amount of impact on services. After carefully evaluating several alternatives, the Fire Department's Command Staff decided to take engines out of service at the Atlas Road station and the Shandon station and to add a firefighter to each of the two ladder trucks in these stations. These trucks can operate both as ladder trucks and as engines because they have pumps and carry hose and water. This is similar to the operation that is employed at the fire station on Spears Creek Church Road, which is working well.

We focused on these two stations because there were only three city fire stations that had two staffed trucks in them. The third station is at Headquarters on Laurel Street, which has a rescue company and an engine company that doubles as the hazardous materials team. While we do not like to decrease the department's capacity, this plan keeps all fire stations open and does not change the number of trucks or firefighters dispatched. **Previously, when a house fire occurred in Shandon, five trucks with different functions responded from three fire stations. Now, five trucks respond from four fire stations.**

This change went into effect on April 1 and we expect it to remain through the coming budget year, at least until June 2010. We do not expect it to affect insurance premiums for homeowners or business owners unless it becomes permanent. We have been told by the Insurance Services Office, Inc., which rates cities' fire protection, that this is viewed as a temporary situation as long as it is corrected within 18 months. We hope that the budget situation will improve by then and that we can return to normal operations.

I am happy to talk with residents who have questions about this change. My phone number is 545-3705, and I can be reached by email at cfdanderson@columbiasc.net.

Bradley Anderson, Chief
Columbia Fire Department

If you would like to submit an article for publication in the newsletter or if you would like to place an ad, please contact Tina Cundari at tcundari@sowell.com or 933.9793.

Attention Dog Owners

Lately the Shandon Neighborhood Council has received many complaints about dog owners not picking up after their dogs or letting their dogs run around without a leash, which in some instances has led to dog fights and attacks. Both of these things can be avoided. If your pooch takes a poop in someone else's yard, please clean it up. And when you do clean it up, please do not place doggie bags in the piles of yard waste that are not yours. This is not only courteous, but is required by a county ordinance. The ordinance states: "The owner of every pet shall be responsible for the removal of any excretions deposited by his or her pet on public walks and ways, recreation areas, or private property other than that of the owner." Richland County Code, Ch. 5, Section 5-6. There is also an ordinance that requires dogs to be under "restraint or confinement." Richland County Code, Ch. 5, Section 5-5. So please do not let your dogs run free, especially if you know that there is a potential for your dog to become aggressive. Also be aware that dogs are not permitted at the field adjacent to Hand Middle School. Doing these simple things will help keep our neighborhood safe and clean for all, including our beloved pooches.



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Shandon Neighborhood Logo Contest

Cast your vote for our new neighborhood logo! The Shandon Neighborhood Council has narrowed the field from our logo contest to the following two entries. Please e-mail your choice to C-L-Moore@att.net by July 1 and look for an announcement coming soon. Thanks to everyone who submitted logos for the contest!

Logo A:



SHANDON NEIGHBORHOOD

Logo B:



*Thanks to everyone who
submitted logos for the contest!*

2009 Meetings of the Shandon Neighborhood Council

Sunday, July 12 at 4:00 p.m.
(Sims Park)

Monday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m.
(Emily Douglas Park)

Monday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m.
(Sims Park)

James Smith

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FREE TENNIS LESSON FOR SHANDON!



Hi, I'm Seth Rose, one of your newest Shandon Neighborhood Council members and a former 2003 NCAA All-American tennis player for the Gamecocks. Although my job as a Richland County Prosecutor keeps me busy, in an effort to meet more of my neighbors, I'm offering one free tennis lesson for my fellow Shandon residents during afternoons and weekends this summer. If you're interested, or just want to say hello or voice any concerns about our neighborhood, please call me any time at 361-2360. I look forward to meeting you!

– Seth Rose

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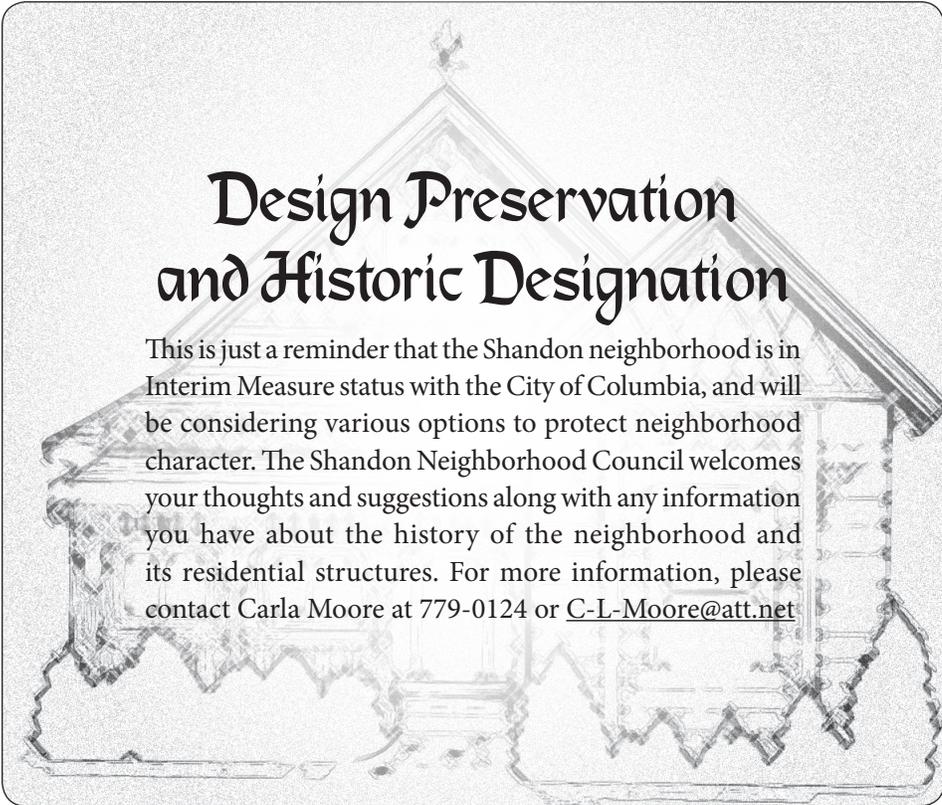
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Design Preservation and Historic Designation

This is just a reminder that the Shandon neighborhood is in Interim Measure status with the City of Columbia, and will be considering various options to protect neighborhood character. The Shandon Neighborhood Council welcomes your thoughts and suggestions along with any information you have about the history of the neighborhood and its residential structures. For more information, please contact Carla Moore at 779-0124 or C-L-Moore@att.net

National Night Out

For the first time ever, Shandon is going to join other neighborhoods in hosting a National Night Out gathering. National Night Out is an annual event that takes place around the country and is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen community spirit. Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 4 at 6:00 p.m.** The Shandon Neighborhood Council will host an ice cream social at one of the neighborhood parks (location TBA). The mayor and other city council members will be invited to attend. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and to send a message to criminals that our neighbourhood is organized and is standing up against crime.