

# Fort Wood Newsletter

Issue 2: Fall 2011

The Historic Heart of Chattanooga

## YOU'RE INVITED!



FORT WOOD  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
HOLIDAY PARTY



## THIS THURSDAY!



**December 8, 6 - 9 PM**

at the studio of **Cansler Photography**



**850 Vine St.**



Thanks again to Brad and Helen Cansler for sharing their lovely studio with us.

Please come with your family and enjoy a festive evening with your friends and neighbors.



Snacks, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages will be provided by the Fort Wood Neighborhood Association.



Special guest, Finn Bille, our former neighbor, will be reading from his book "Fire Poems" inspired by the burning down of his Fort Wood home. His books will be for sale and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Red Cross for the benefit of people who have been affected by a house fire.



If you have a snack you'd like to share with us, please feel free to bring it.



Hope to see you then.



**If you want to imbibe, feel free to bring spirits!**



## 872 Oak St.

By Janice Heath  
928 Oak St.

Walking through the streets of Fort Wood, one sees many stately brick homes. However, everyone notices the beautiful frame home at 872 Oak Street; one of the largest frame dwellings in Fort Wood and one of the most fully developed Queen Anne style buildings in the neighborhood. Like many other buildings of this style, it has a complex roof line punctuated by a full-height round corner tower. Multiple types of wood shingle siding, turned porch posts, scrolled eave brackets, and ornate chimney brickwork are also details that point to the home's Queen Anne heritage. The inviting circular porch and original carved oak front door draw one to enter this magnificent home, where the entry boasts an original corner fireplace and beautiful wood stairwell.

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## 872 Oak St.

Continued from Pg 1

Robert B. Henderson and his wife Frank A. lived at 872 Oak Street beginning in 1903, although the home was actually built in 1897. Mr. Henderson served as Hamilton County circuit court clerk and was a power in county politics for years. He also served as president of Chattanooga Wheelbarrow Manufacturing Company and Hamilton Ice and Cold Storage. The organization of the Tennessee River Brick Company was the result of his efforts. In 1920, Albert M. Shepherd, Vice President and General Manager of Tennessee Paper Mills, occupied 872 Oak Street. Evidently, the house was a single family residence for most of its years.

A very interesting side is that the house on the left of 872, 876 Oak St. (now the Fairview Apartments), was built in 1893 by Dr. George R. West, a physician who practiced from his office downtown. For ten years after 876 was constructed, no other houses were built to the east, the 900 block of Oak Street.

Current owners, Randall and Virginia Soules, purchased the house in 1982. After many years of neglect, and being cut up into six apartments, it was boarded up and scheduled for demolition. Chattanooga Housing Authority rescued 872 Oak Street and the homes on either side, and auctioned them off with a condition that they be renovated back to their original state. The Soules were the sole bidder for 872 Oak Street, and after six years of renovation, occupied the home in 1988. To this day, passersby are drawn to the stately beauty of this elegant home in the heart of the Historic Fort Wood District.

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**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!  
HELP KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
BEAUTIFUL!  
PICK UP LITTER AND PUT IT IN OUR  
TRASH CANS**

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## Our Civil War Heritage



I heard that the cobblestone alley on Clark Street dates back to the Civil War. Do any of you know the history of this alley?

Shouldn't we place it on the Historic Registry to preserve it? If you are interested in aiding in this effort or have any information please contact Terri at [terri@hot-totty.com](mailto:terri@hot-totty.com).



## **CONTRA Dancing** **Kick up your heels!**

Join us for a family friendly great time and workout at All Saints' Academy, downtown at 310 E. Eighth St. the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month. The dancing starts at 8 pm. Folks of all ages and walks of



life join in. Its relatively easy and a beginners class is offered at 7:30 pm. Dancers are always patient with newcomers. Call

Robert Stanley at 266-3198 or Terri Bonfiglio at 508-2556 and we'll bring ya' dancin'! Check out the schedule

<http://www.contranooga.org/schedule.shtml>.

# UTC's Master Plan, What About Yours?

By Lisa Mack 846 Oak St.

## Will we be swallowed up by UTC ?

As you may have heard, on November 2, 2011 UTC hosted their first public unveiling of their preliminary, "2011 Campus Master Plan" developed by Perkins + Will and that company's consultants. There were three concept maps that were titled, "Community Crossroads", "Streetfront Neighborhoods" and "Greenway Clusters". Each map had some similar land use and land acquisitions but featured different Gateways and concentrations on certain usages. We were told that once the process is complete UTC will unveil a single **"2011 Campus Master Plan Map"**. The planners gave an overview of each map, explained the color coding legend and welcomed our review and suggestions. We asked questions and gave our comments and when I say we, it included a few Fort Wood neighbors, college students, a MLK Neighborhood couple, and a variety of city movers and shakers. Mike Biderman e-mailed the three maps to everyone on our e-mail list. Each map emphasized a "Gateway" to the University, which appears as green, broken lines. After the Fort Wood contingent posed concerns over the traffic flow on the **"Gateway through our neighborhood"**, we were told that "Gateway" didn't equate to traffic flow. Oh really? Well, of course it does. But, whether it is foot traffic or vehicular traffic, it appears there will be a special session on traffic patterns and how to best manage the traffic issues for everyone.

The consultants discussed the importance of "identifying" UTC through the Gateways, to "reinforce the gateways", to connect the east and west campus and how to expand the campus over McCallie and onto MLK, increase the usage of the east athletic fields, purchase other property on that side, and perhaps add more parking lots and/or buildings.

Right now the University said it has 11,000+ students, expects to grow to 13,000 soon and 15,000 long term. As outlined by the University, they will need 1,200 new beds for enrollment of 13,000, plus an additional 500 beds for 15,000 students and additional academic, study, student support, parking athletic and recreation and facility

support space. **We already feel the impact of the 11,000. Can you just imagine what is to come!**

Don't get me wrong, I love UTC. It is an asset to our town and our neighborhood. As a University or a city, or a business, you have to have a master plan. I understand that. I was there for UTC's 2000 Master Plan unveiling and UTC did follow through on many of their potential land acquisitions, new buildings and housing. [The parking possibilities didn't pan out as hoped for, but then again it never does.] I have seen some of Erlanger's Master Plan. However, **Fort Wood also needs a "Master Plan"**. We need to be concerned with identifying our neighborhood as you come into the area. UTC builds beautiful, large brick entryways and we put up beautiful but small signs for Fort Wood. UTC has their eye on using our neighborhood as their "connector" from East to West, while we can't even get traffic engineering to help us with our parking problem that's exacerbated by the non-resident, University students. We need a voice. We need a plan and there isn't a plan that is too extreme at this point. If we make our "wish list" with the same grandeur as UTC, there is no telling what we can accomplish in order to best serve the interest of Fort Wood.

Maybe we should have grand entrances to our neighborhood in order to have our own identity and not to be swallowed up by UTC. Maybe we should look into adding a gate or two to limit access to our neighborhood, in order to create safer streets for our children, as UTC did on Oak and Vine for their students' safety. This would insure that Fort Wood isn't used as a traffic corridor for UTC students that don't live in our neighborhood and at the same time eliminate our parking problem. We need to brainstorm like UTC, the city and many other businesses and suburban neighborhoods do. Why we too might hire a planner to give us some ideas. Let's start talking. Let's pull together and make it happen for Fort Wood.

See next page for one of UTC's maps.

**Let your voice be heard. Go to:**

<http://blog.utc.edu/news/2011/11/campus-master-planning-needs-your-input/>

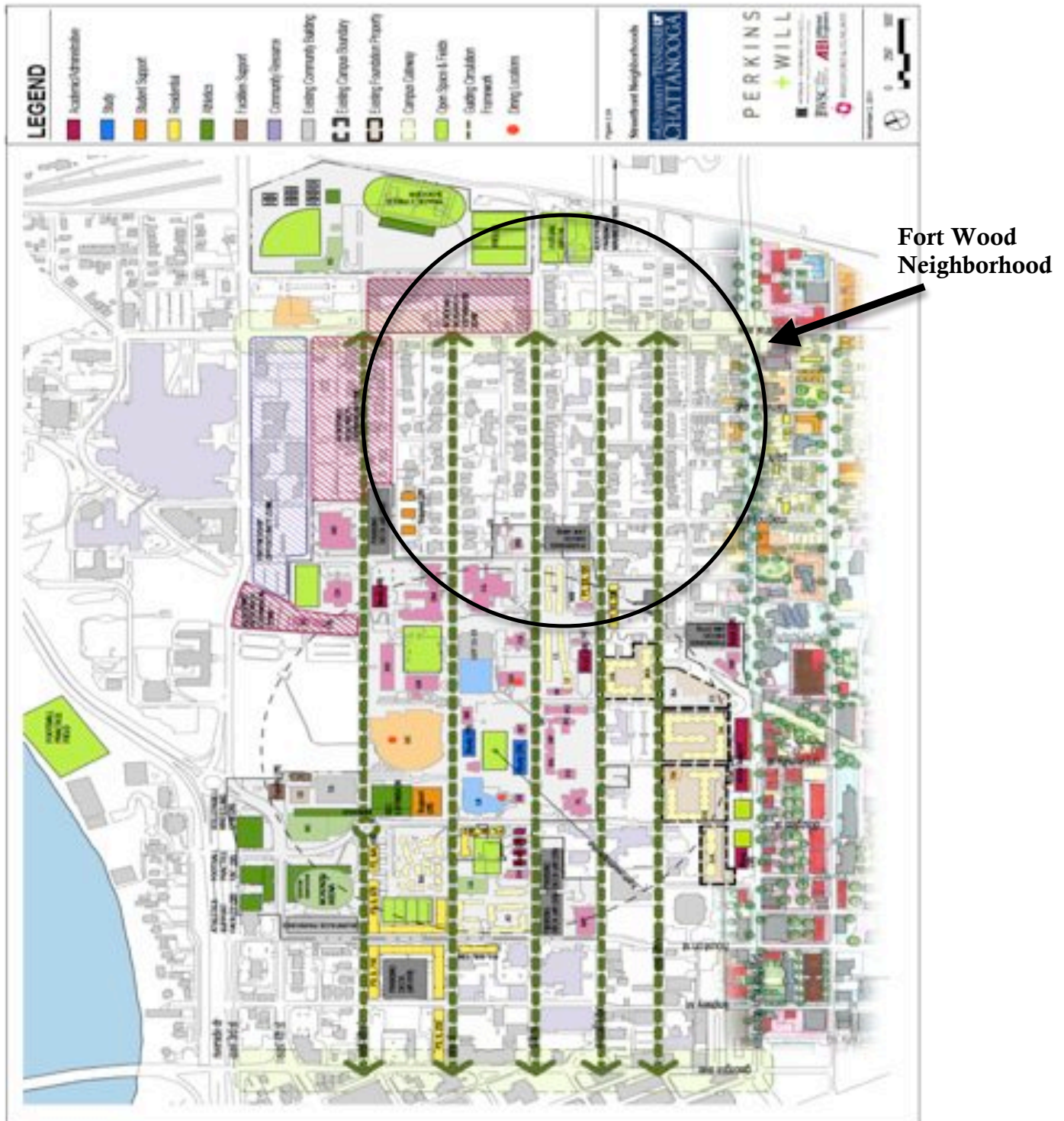
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yiXgAq970M>

# UTC Has a Plan, What About Yours?

Continued from Pg 3

Below is a map from UTC's Master Plan web site showing the "Streetfront Neighborhoods" plan. Note the traffic throughways in the bold dashed lines/arrows going right through our neighborhood. This and the other 2 plan maps can be seen at:

<http://blog.utc.edu/news/2011/11/campus-master-planning-needs-your-input/>



## WHY RECYCLE?

By Carolyn Insler, 848 Oak St.



There are many logical reasons to recycle . You can google “why should I recycle?” to find out, but my reasons are more emotional. I grew up with parents who lived through the depression and felt that everything should be used and then repurposed but definitely not thrown out and wasted. Our old clothes went to the rag bag and we never bought paper towels. Our garbage went to the compost pile for the garden. Newspapers were saved and given to charity for recycling before any city wide programs were available.

When I left the farm these practices were so engrained in me that I continued to practice recycling and was thrilled as collection centers began to come about. When I lived in an area that had none, I would save my items and make trips to the closest city that did.

Now I live in a neighborhood that has pick up right in front of the house every other week! As I look up and down the block and see only a hand full of homes taking advantage of this, I wonder why.

## GRANT AWARDED TO FORT WOOD!

*From Neighborhood Services and  
Community Development*

Thanks to the hard work of Janice Heath, Mary Ann Zaha, and Debby Dunlap we were awarded a grant to replace our lamp post banners. Look for the work to begin in the next year.



Kelly and Justin Arnold, Vivian  
and William at 901 Vine St.

Gregg Deneweth and  
Joe Mitchell at 530 Central Ave.



## An Entertainment Treasure in Our Own Backyard!

By Nancy Bibler, 905 Oak St.



Fort Wood Neighbors! We have an entertainment treasure called **The UTC Patten Performances Series** within walking distance of our homes! It brings world-class music, dance, and theater to the **UTC Fine Arts Center on the corner of Vine and Palmetto Streets**. Past programs have included internationally known artists such as Dave Brubeck, Wynton Marsalis, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Acting Company, Pilobolus Dance Company, the Alvin Ailey Dancers, the Vienna Boys Choir, Kathy Mattea—to name just a few who’ve appeared here over the past 31 years. Programs are partially supported through an endowment which keeps tickets very reasonably priced: \$15 to \$22.00 per person. The box office is open daily, M-F, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., and for one hour before each performance. Roland Hayes Concert Hall holds approximately 500 patrons, so there are no bad seats, and plenty of parking is available behind the engineering building across Vine Street. The season runs from September to April every year. Programs remaining for the 2011-12 series are: **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** Thursday, February 16, 2012, 7:30 pm; **Diavolo** Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 7:30 pm; **Comedy of Errors – The Acting Company in Association with The Guthrie Theatre** Sunday, March 4, 2012, 7:30 pm; **Turtle Island Quartet** Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 7:30 pm

## Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure



By Debby Dunlap, Survivor, 839 Oak St.

On September 25, 2011, awash in pink and alive with enthusiasm, the Fort Wood Historic Neighborhood welcomed the 12th Annual Susan G. Race for the Cure. Our President, Mike Biderman along with officials from the national organization planned our participation in the event. Laura Richmond, a UTC senior, served as Chairperson of Neighborhood Beautification for the day. She recruited members of her sorority, Sigma Kappa as well as several young men from Phi Delta Theta, Delta Upsilon and Kappa Alpha Fraternities. They decorated with pink ribbons, balloons and banners and cleaned the streets along the race route before and after the event.

The weather cooperated and provided a beautiful fall afternoon. It became quite an enthusiastic and emotional sight as thousands of participants, many of them cancer survivors, passed quickly by. Our volunteers, some entire families, offered cups of much appreciated water as well as words of support and encouragement. On behalf of our community, many thanks to Mike and Laura for coordinating this event and to all our residents whose efforts made Fort Wood's involvement in the Race for the Cure so successful.

See: [http://www.nooga.com/16603\\_chattanooga-hosts-12th-annual-race-for-the-cure/](http://www.nooga.com/16603_chattanooga-hosts-12th-annual-race-for-the-cure/)



Laura Richmond and Mike Biderman

### Notable Neighbor!

**Greg Heath**, 928 Oak St., Assistant Provost for Research at UTC, has just returned from Caracas, Venezuela, where he was involved with the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization teaching an international course on physical activity and public health.

### ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION AT THE MAYOR'S MANSION

Cindi Ladd has generously offered her Electric Vehicle Charging Station for free to anyone in the Fort Wood neighborhood, including friends and family. So..... if you or one of your guests are one of the avant-garde and have an electric vehicle, no more worries. Just plug in at Cindi's!



# Your Remodeling Project is a Symphony

By Randall Soules, 872 Oak St.

A **remodeling project** is similar to a symphony. In this analogy, your project concept or idea is the musical genre, the designer is the composer, and your contractor is the conductor. Each instrument is a trade or vendor that brings your remodeling project into reality.

**Choosing a Genre (Your Dream)** You've made a decision to renovate your home. You start to gather ideas from magazines, talk to friends and neighbors, and look for ideas in other homes. You might spend your Sunday's visiting open houses, taking notes and pictures. You make sketches and take some basic measurements of the space you want to modify. You discuss your ideas with your spouse and a decision is made to take the next step. You call in a designer.

**Choosing a Composer (Your Designer)** A designer, in this case, is not an interior designer. This is a residential designer that has the knowledge and experience to gather all of your ideas and put them on paper. She may be an architect or you may choose a design-then-build remodeling company that takes the project from the beginning to the end. In either case, you will end up with a real plan that will be used to build your project. This is the most important part of the building process. Don't underestimate the value of a well drawn plan. With a plan you can visualize your project, and so can everyone else involved in the project. *A plan puts everyone on the same page.* Imagine how a musical piece would sound if everyone were not on the same page.

**Choosing a Conductor (Your Contractor)** If you hired a design-build contractor to draw the plans, you may have already decided on a contractor. If not, you have some research to do. You may already know someone, or your neighbor knows someone that they recommend. Selecting a contractor is a whole article unto itself. Briefly though, look at their experience, ask for and check out their reference list, get a copy of their state, county and city licenses, get a certificate of insurance (Worker's Compensation and General Liability) from their carriers, and always trust your gut feeling. That is the short list, but every item is very important. Also be aware that statistically speaking, if you hire a friend to do your work, you are likely to be unhappy in the end. Also the contractor has to know what materials are best for each and every situation. Will they stand the test of time? Are they energy efficient? Are they likely to break before their warranty expires? Do they blend with the other materials used on the job? How should they be installed? In what sequence should they be installed? What is the best or proper installation method? This further clarifies why you should hire the best contractor you can.

**"Yes, but are you experienced?"** Your contractor is very important to the successful outcome of your project. A project can be "played" in so many different ways.

For example, listen to a piece of music as it is played by a grammar school band, a high school band, at a university band competition and at your symphony hall. Same piece of music, but vastly different outcomes. Just because you think the outcome will be exactly what you expect it to be, doesn't necessarily make it so. A conductor has to be familiar with each instrument in the orchestra. He may not be able to play each one, but he has to know what its capabilities are and how it will sound. A conductor has to know exactly when an instrument should play, how loud, at what tempo and how long. Likewise a contractor has to be aware of every trade that is on the job, when the next trade is scheduled, and what next action is required.

**"No fighting in the pit!"** Each trade not only has to be good at what they do, they have to get along with the rest of the "orchestra". They have to learn to play together. There is no perfect job site, and each project presents its own unique sets of problems and unforeseen situations. The trades and vendors have to adapt and improvise every day. So flexibility and patience are needed by all those involved.

**"We don't need no education!"** Not! An educated contractor can make your project sing. And there is so much to learn. Just as technology changes every day, so do building practices, materials and legislation. You need a contractor that is consistently continuing his or her education. Trade shows, conferences, trade magazines and building associations offer the latest in building news and methods. You don't want a contractor that is static - one who already knows it all because he or she has been in the business for a long time. There has never been a time when so many things are changing on a daily basis. Your contractor must be an informed contractor!

**"Can you hear me now?"** A conductor waves his baton at the orchestra, but he should never forget the audience behind him. They are the reason he is there. This is why **communication** is so important during a project. You will have hundreds of choices to make and there will be a thousand messages exchanged to arrive at these decisions. This will involve face-to-face chats, phone calls and emails. No matter what method is used to communicate, having a contractor with communication skills and good procedures is invaluable. It is imperative for both parties that these communications are kept in a safe reliable place for future reference.

**"When the party's over..."** **At the end of the performance** would you say that the concert was a success? Were there several encores? Did the audience give the orchestra a standing ovation. If you did your due diligence from the start to the finish, you will have an outstanding remodeling project. Pat yourself on the back, Mozart!

## !! Message Board !!

- ◆ Watch out for CAROLERS! Don't be surprised if you see a group of enthusiastic, but not necessarily perfect pitch carolers making their way up and down Oak Street, sometime between 7:00 and 8:30 pm Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. Carla Pritchard is the Head Caroler
- ◆ MANY thanks to Tom Bibler for organizing our Friday Two get-togethers!
- ◆ Mike and Susan Biderman will be welcoming their 3<sup>rd</sup> grandson in January
- ◆ CONGRATULATIONS to Catherine and Matt Martin on the arrival of Charles Samuel, a beautiful baby boy!
- ◆ Randall & Virginia Soules are selling their home at 872 Oak St.. See <http://housesforsalechattanooga.com/?p=656>. Call Randall at 423-667-0809
- ◆ JUST MARRIED! – Congratulations to Nancy Poston and Chip Caldwell who made it official on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- ◆ CONDOLENCES – our neighbor Porter Yarbrough, 68, passed away Sunday, October 30, 2011
- ◆ FOR SALE: 2 big old antique brass wall sconces w antique holophane shades, \$300; 25 ft of antique ornate European wrought iron fencing with floral motif, \$350. Call JoBeth at 503-7393
- ◆ Rick Wilson is running for Hamilton County Mayor in the 2012 election
- ◆ BEAUTIFUL VICTORIAN FOR SHORT TERM RENT: perfect for your holiday visitors! A night, a weekend, or a week. 858 Oak St. Call JoBeth at 503-7393 More details at: <http://www.vrbo.com/177513>
- ◆ Larry and Karen Schenk are selling their home at 508 Fortwood Place and moving to FL. 6080 sq ft Recent renovations of \$10,000. Asking \$399,000. See realtor.com for 24 pictures.

## STOLEN STATUE!



We are sad to report, a person or persons has absconded with the Mayor's Mansion antique bronze statue. It is very heavy. It was stolen the night of Nov. 20th or the morning of Nov. 21st. Cindi and Mark Ladd, owners of the mansion, are offering a **reward of \$250** for the return of the statue, no questions asked, or **\$750** for information leading to the retrieval of the statue and conviction of the criminal. If anyone knows anything about this, please call Cindi at 265-5000.

**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY  
PHONE NUMBER**

**698-2525**

For newsletter suggestions and to be placed on our FW email list, email Terri Bonfiglio at [terri@hot-totty.com](mailto:terri@hot-totty.com), Newsletter Editor

## Get in touch with NAMI Chattanooga

By Jane Elmore, 901 Oak St.

### What is NAMI?

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and many communities across the country. NAMI Chattanooga has been an affiliate for nearly 30 years.

### What is the NAMI Mission?

NAMI is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with mental illness, their families and communities. Our mission is accomplished through mutual support, education and advocacy.

### NAMI has 3 goals:

- Education about Mental Illness
- Support of families and loved ones of the mentally ill.
- Advocacy for better services and treatment for the mentally ill.

### NAMI Chattanooga provides the following services:

- Meetings that bring families, friends, consumers and providers of mental health services closer together by sharing insights and techniques that help with the challenge of living with mental illness.
- Local affiliate monthly newsletters that keep members informed about new developments, the status of services and activities in the local area, and newsletters from NAMI TN and NAMI National..
- Educational information at meetings, via the newsletter, email and websites, as well as courses that provide members with practical information about how to cope with mental illness and medications.
- Pertinent resources such as books, DVDs, and research publications.
- All NAMI classes and support groups are FREE and confidential.

For more information access [NAMICHattanooga.org](http://NAMICHattanooga.org) or [NAMINational](http://NAMINational.org), or contact Jane Elmore who lives in Fort Wood at 901 Oak St. She can be contacted via phone (827.4049) or email ([jelmore51@yahoo.com](mailto:jelmore51@yahoo.com)) or just stop by her house!

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT . . .

By Mike Biderman  
840 Fort Wood St.  
423-316-9504  
mdbiderman@aol.com



The Fort Wood Neighborhood Association Board has dealt with two important issues this summer. The first is parking. As many of you know, we distributed a survey to get a sense of the neighborhood regarding parking issues. That survey was distributed late last year and the data summarized this spring. From it we learned that hardly anyone wants Vine St. to be two way. We also learned that a substantial majority of folks want the parking restrictions that apply to the 800 blocks to be extended to Central Avenue.

On the basis of the results of the survey and discussions with neighbors, the board voted to ask the city Traffic Engineering Department to implement three changes: 1) Extend the Fort Wood restricted parking zone to Central Avenue on Vine, Oak, and Fort Wood Streets, 2) Extend the hours of enforcement from 7 AM on Mondays through 6 PM on Fridays, and 3) Eliminate the one-hour grace period. The Traffic Engineering Department requires that petitions for changes such as these be signed by residents of the neighborhood. To that end, board members have been going from house to house distributing petitions. If you've been given one, please give it careful consideration. (Of course I hope you sign it, but at least give it consideration.)

The second important issue that has faced the board this year, as in past years, perhaps from the beginning of time, is the issue of disturbances arising from parties, in most cases fraternity parties. Members of the board have met with representatives from UTC. More meetings are planned in the near future. Our goal is to eliminate the noise and disturbances resulting from fraternity parties held in the neighborhood. Wish us luck.

The 2011 pool party was held at the Fort Wood Apartments pool on August 14. It was a resounding success. Thanks to Bruce and Susan Hagemeyer for their hospitality. The pool and its surroundings were a perfect place for neighbors to chat and catch up.

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure coursed through the neighborhood on Sunday, September 25. Fort Wood volunteers were in charge of the water station on Vine St. near Perkins Park. I'm happy to report that we handed out water to a few thousand people. It was a wonderful afternoon for a wonderful event. I hope that residents of the neighborhood will join me in welcoming the Race for the Cure back to the neighborhood next year.

The annual Fort Wood Holiday Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 8 at the studio of Cansler Photography. This is the third year that Brad and Helen Cansler have invited us into their studio for this party. The last two parties have been joyous events. I'm sure this year's event will be just as wonderful. The neighborhood association will provide the hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks. If you have a favorite dish to share, please bring it or just bring yourself.

Finally, I remind all Fort Wood residents of the developments going on around us. UTC is developing a master plan that will certainly impact the neighborhood, hopefully in a positive fashion. As this plan and other plans for the areas and streets surrounding Fort Wood develop, it is important that we provide input to the planners. We have to keep ourselves apprised of the proposed changes and do what we can to insure that those changes will be in our best interests.

If you see me walking my dogs, please say hello.