

# CHARLESTOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 22153, Charleston, South Carolina 29413-2153

Winter 2003



*Outgoing president David Ingle and new CNA president Charlotte Caldwell*

## From the President's Desk

Along with admiring and respecting David Ingle, our past President, I am grateful to him for paving a smooth path for me to follow. On behalf of the entire Neighborhood Association, I want to extend our thanks to those board members whose terms have expired -- David Ingle, Mary Cutler, Betsy Parker, and Doug Lee.

A warm welcome is extended to our new board members, David McCormack, Rose Tomlin, Ad Ingle and Park Dougherty. Special thanks goes to Patty Uffelman who has so generously offered her guidance in the production of this newsletter. We would be lost without her gentle prodding and production.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your Charlestowne Neighborhood Association President. However, I would not have accepted the job, were it not for the commitment and dedication of the full board. The board has established eight standing committees; they are already representing the neighborhood at numerous City meetings.

They are learning about city codes and voicing concerns on our behalf. Every committee has set priorities for the year and has begun working to achieve them. We are all fortunate for their dedication.

As a neighborhood association, our overall mission is to improve the livability of our city. We are working in conjunction with all peninsular neighborhoods to speak in a strong concerted voice. For example, we are working with The College of Charleston and other neighborhoods in support of the Robert Stern design for the Simons Art Center. Although the college is not actually in our neighborhood, it is important that we support each other in concerns that impact the beauty, safety, and livability of the City. Likewise, we are working with peninsular neighborhoods from the Eastside south and across the peninsula. Crime does not stop at neighborhood borders.

I'd like to ask each of you to help the neighborhood communicate better and become more cohesive. It is really important to have every resident south of Broad Street join the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association. Through each and all modes of communication (membership meetings, newsletters, and e-mail) we have the ability to inform every resident of important issues concerning crime, taxes, or traffic impact from film productions or parades.

### **CNA Resolves**

*At its February 20 Board meeting, the Board unanimously voted that:*

*"The CNA should actively oppose any attempt by the Fort Sumter House to obtain a permit for a pier located on Murray Boulevard."*

*"The CNA should support the Robert Stern design for the Simons Art Center and send a supporting letter to Lee Higdon, President, College of Charleston."*

As an incentive, we are sending this edition of the newsletter to all residents south of Broad. Please join. If you have e-mail, please let us know so we can communicate important issues to you immediately. (Your e-mail address will not be shared.)

Again thank you. I'm honored to serve as your neighborhood president.

Dear Charlestowne Neighborhood Resident,

Your membership in the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association is valuable. Even if you are unable to attend the quarterly meetings, you can keep apprised of a variety of neighborhood concerns -- police protection and crime prevention, tourism, parking and traffic, taxation, infrastructure, film productions, parks, zoning -- through the newsletter and by e-mail. E-mail is an especially valuable mode of immediate communication for alerts on crime, street closures, and crucial issues.

As a neighborhood, we can speak with a stronger voice. We value your voice, and at the very least, your understanding of neighborhood concerns.

Please fill in the application below, mail with your check, and join the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association today.

Thank you,



Charlotte Caldwell  
President  
Charlestowne Neighborhood Association

2003 Membership Application  
Charlestowne Neighborhood Association

Family - \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Single - \$15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**  
Charlestowne Neighborhood Association  
Box 22153  
Charleston, SC 29413-2153

Please fill in the information below and return it with your check:

Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARLESTOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION - COMMITTEES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*The mission of Charlestowne Neighborhood Association is to give residents a concerted voice when considering matters that concern the peace, tranquility, and orderly well-being of this historic neighborhood.*

*We have established eight standing committees so we can stay apprised of City activities, assure that City committees and commissions are in compliance with ordinances as written, and be a strong voice for the neighborhood. Please get to know your committee representatives and share your ideas and concerns.*

### TOURISM COMMITTEE

**Ad Ingle, chair (723-8269)**

**Elizabeth Hagood, co-chair (579-9087)**

Lee Manigault

Park Dougherty

Rainey Evans

Richard von Werssowetz

Charlotte Caldwell

**Mission:** To monitor the impact of all forms of tourism on the residential neighborhood, in particular carriage, bus and walking tours, and the newest form of tourism, cruise ships.

**Specific tasks:** To attend and report on Tourism Commission Meetings, which are held every fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 PM, City Hall.

**Current priorities:** To provide residents with tourism information and numbers to call for violations. To encourage all residents to report violations. To develop long-range plans for managing tourism. To learn why cities like Key West are beginning to rethink their former love affair with cruise ships -- the livability cost vs. benefit analysis.

**What you can do:** Be informed about tourism regulations in your neighborhood and report violations to our enforcement officer, Officer Lamont, at 973-4863. Help us learn more about cruise ship impacts.

### CITY SERVICES, STREETS, AND TRAFFIC AND PARKING

**Robert Long, chair (577-6647)**

Cornelia Pelzer

David McCormack

Charlie Rhoden

Charlotte Caldwell

**Mission:** To monitor the quality of city services, condition of streets and traffic, and make recommendations to the board.

**Specific tasks:** Street Calming Requests, Events Planning (Road Races, Movie Productions); Utility and Infrastructure; Tree Planting.

**Current priorities:** To mitigate heavy traffic by substituting smaller buses, trucks, and vans in the neighborhood. To help create strong film guidelines for the City. To review criteria for parades and runs through the neighborhood.

**What you can do:** If you have suggestions on the film production guidelines, please contact Robert Long.



*February's filming of "The Notebook" at Broad and Church Streets turned the clock back to 1940. CNA's City Services, Streets, Traffic, and Parking committee is working on film production guidelines. Our priority is residential quality of life.*

### CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICE PROTECTION

**Karen Sywolski, chair (723-7212)**

Bonnie Gilbreth

Betsy Parker

Buie Shisko

Charlotte Caldwell

**Mission:** To work with the S.A.F.E. neighborhood watch organization, and with the larger Consortium of Neighborhoods to study crime prevention and police protection as it pertains to our neighborhoods.

**Specific task:** To meet with Councilmember Fishburne and Lt. Williams at City Hall the first Tuesday of every month and to report findings.

**Current priorities:** To heighten awareness of crime prevention/protection issues via e-mail and newsletter among the **members** of CNA. Learn about police protection and structure of the police department (car patrols, foot patrols, bike patrols, undercover).

**What you can do:** Report any/all crime to 1) the police (577-7434); 2) Karen Sywolski (723-7212) or Charlotte Caldwell (723-0958); 3) your S.A.F.E. block captains (if you do not know who your block captain is, call Tom Nipper at 577-6651). Leave lights on at night; install dusk

to dawn lights; put interior lights on timers; use your alarm; lock your cars.

### ***Keep Charleston Clean***

*It is the responsibility of every resident to maintain his property up to and including the curb, street lines, or gutter. This includes regular removal of litter and overgrown vegetation.*

*It is a violation of Charleston City ordinance to sweep or blow litter or debris from private property into the sidewalks, streets, or storm drainage system. **It is the responsibility of each property owner to instruct private maintenance contractors of this ordinance.***

### **MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Missie McClain, chair (722-7062)**

Walt Crone	Hal Deane
Diana Goff	Ben McCall
Patty Uffelman	Charlotte Caldwell

**Mission:** To maintain a complete list of the membership, to endeavor to increase membership, and to establish and maintain communications with all members through four newsletters per year.

**What you can do:** Distribute membership materials to friends and neighbors. Invite neighbors to CNA meetings.

### **PARKS AND PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE**

**Park Dougherty, chair (722-5910)**

Robert Long	Henry Fishburne
Charlotte Caldwell	

**Mission:** To observe, preserve, and improve the maintenance and use of the parks and playgrounds for the benefit of residents and visitors. To work with the City on clean neighborhood plans for streets, playgrounds, and parks.

**Current priority:** To ensure that residents have priority on playing fields and that fields are regularly maintained.

### **TAXES**

**David McCormack, chair (723-0466)**

Hal Deane	Gene Geer
Ben McCall	Emerson Read
Charlotte Caldwell	

**Mission:** To study the tax situation as it applies to our neighborhood and make recommendations for both the short and long range.

### **ZONING AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Rose Tomlin, co-chair (723-9177)**

**Lee Manigault, co-chair (722-8787)**

Charlie Rhoden	Richard von Werssowetz
Charlotte Caldwell	

**Mission:** To keep members of the Association abreast of current zoning laws and regulations, proposed changes or amendments, and any legislation affecting the interest of the Association.

**Specific tasks:** To attend the meetings of the City Planning and Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and the Board of Architectural Review and make recommendations to the Board as necessary.

**Current priority:** To support the Robert Stern architectural design for the Simons Center. To assure that the BAR is in compliance with City Ordinance section 54-240b...."The Board of Architectural Review shall not consider interior arrangement or interior design; nor shall it make requirements except for the purpose of preventing developments which are not in harmony with the prevailing character of Charleston, or which are obviously incongruous with its character."

**What you can do:** Write Lee Higdon, president of the College of Charleston (66 George Street, Charleston 29424) and let him know you support the Stern design. Write the Post & Courier. Send a copy of your letters to Mayor Riley and to Rose Tomlin, chair, CNA Zoning committee.

### **AD HOC BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

**David McCormack, chair (723-0466)**

Richard von Werssowetz	Cornelia Pelzer
Charlotte Caldwell	

### ***Sidewalk Harassment?***

*Representatives of Lodge Alley Inn are reportedly harassing residents and tourists on the sidewalks. If you encounter this harassment, please e-mail details (time, date, and description) to Lawrence Thompson in the office of the Mayor at ThompsonL@ci.charleston.sc.us.*

## **To All Charlestowne Residents,**

As you may have seen and heard in recent publicity, the Charleston Police Department is working hard to combat the problem of car theft in Charleston. This effort is being made on several fronts.

First, the Crime Prevention office is raising public awareness of the problem, asking citizens to stop negligent practices. These consist primarily of leaving cars unlocked, or with the keys in them, and often even running. We are also advising car owners of the most-stolen vehicles and offering a simple solution to the majority of our auto-theft problem by making "The Club" steering-wheel locks available at a very low cost.

Second, a task force was organized consisting of seasoned auto-theft detectives and a group of patrol officers dedicated to seeking out stolen autos where they historically turn up. Arrests have already been made.

Third, police administrators and detectives are lobbying the family court and adult court systems for stiffer punishments for those convicted of the thefts, as repeat offenders account for the overwhelming majority of the thefts.

Here are some important facts you should know to better protect your property.

The Charleston Police Department had approximately 800 cars stolen in 2002, with approximately an 84% recovery rate. This is about twice the national average recovery rate. Most are recovered in 2 -5 days, intact, with door-lock and/or ignition damage. This indicates that our problem is not professionally equipped and trained thieves taking cars to "chop shops" or shipping them overseas. Instead, it is 12-17-year-old juvenile delinquents who steal over and over. We have an approximately 50% clearance rate (cleared by arrest, or lack of prosecution) with approximately 45 arrests in 2002. That translates to each arrested juvenile being responsible in many cases for 10-20 car thefts.

Why are the cars stolen? Fun, transportation, to commit robberies, or to loan to a drug dealer for a rock of crack so he can, in turn, use an expendable car for his "errands."

Here is the surprising fact: Contrary to popular belief and Hollywood, the cars being taken are typically family cars 6-10 years old; not shiny sports cars. Of the 800 stolen in Charleston, 200 were 1994-97 Honda Accords (in '98 Honda began using computer-chip keys; any late-model ones taken were due to keys being in them). Next most popular were the Jeep Cherokees and Grand Cherokees (up to 2001 models) accounting for about 90 thefts. Third were the 1992-95 Dodge-Chrysler-Plymouth minivans (the old, square design), approximately 40, and a few of the newer ones, followed by 1989-95 Dodge-Chrysler-Plymouth cars (about 40 combined total including Shadows, Dynasties, LeBarons, Acclaims, New Yorkers, Intrepids). Most of these share the same fragile locks and ignitions as the minivans in those years. Owners of these vehicles, beware! You must do something to deter thieves from picking your car to steal. Alarms are great, but they are just that: alarms, not deterrents. "The Club" is both a physical deterrent and a visible one as it can be seen from afar and it immobilizes the car. It takes professionals approximately 30 minutes' time as well as tools and practice to defeat it, and as stated, the thieves here are in it for a car they can take in 30 seconds, no more.

I hope this information helps your neighborhood reduce its high theft rate. Also remember not to leave valuables in sight in your car. Take them inside. An empty car with a "Club" is an absolute turn-off to a thief. Thank you.

**Sgt. Trevor Shelor**  
**Crime Prevention**  
**City of Charleston Police Department**

## **Stop auto theft: How to get "The Club"**

*"The Club" is available at cost (a savings of 50-75%) from Charleston Police Department for \$15.00. Call 720-2436 for more information.*

*There is a guarantee on each "Club" covering your deductible up to \$1000 for cars and \$1500 for trucks if the car is taken in spite of using "The Club." "The Club" is convenient to use as it is self-locking. Put it on, stretch it out, and you're set. The key is needed only to remove "The Club." The Police Department is selling them at cost, not for profit, just to get them on as many cars as possible to get the thefts to diminish.*

# CHARLESTOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 22153, Charleston, South Carolina 29413-2153

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Charleston, SC  
DMC

Don't miss the next members' meeting

**Monday, March 17, 2003**

5:30 - 6:30 pm

at First (Scots) Presbyterian Church

53 Meeting Street

Molly Wier Hall

Please walk if you can

Future meeting dates are

**May 19, 2003**

**September 15, 2003**

**October 20, 2003**

Please mark your calendar

## Officers and Directors, 2003

Charlotte Caldwell, President	723-0958
Walt Crone, Treasurer	722-9023
Hal Deane, Vice President	853-5964
Ben McCall, Secretary	853-5221
Park Dougherty	722-5910
Henry Fishburne	577-9118
Bonnie Gilbreth	722-3621
Elizabeth Hagood	579-9087
Addison Ingle	723-8269
David Ingle	722-3621
Robert Long	577-6647
Lee Manigault	722-8787
Missie McClain	722-7062
David McCormack	723-0466
Betsy Parker	722-1462
Cornelia Pelzer	853-8224
Charles Rhoden	853-7792
Karen Sywolski	723-7212
Rose Tomlin	723-9177
Richard von Werssowetz	723-6418

## Promote Compatible Tourism

City ordinances are designed to protect the livability of our neighborhoods. The two most common violations of our tourism ordinances are after-hours touring in residential zones and carriages that won't pull over to allow vehicles to pass.

**WITHIN RESIDENTIAL ZONES TOURS MAY BE CONDUCTED ONLY**

9 am-5 pm EST (winter) and

9 am - 6 pm DST (summer)

If you see a tourism violation write down  
**the name of the company**  
**the 3-digit number on the back of the vehicle**  
**the date, time, place, and kind of violation.**  
Call Enforcement Officer Lamont at **973-4863**  
to report the violation.

Note that the number on the back of the vehicle is for the Police Department. Do not call the Police.

**Do call 973-4863.**