Sidewalks for Safety Campaign Heats Up

Efforts to shine a light on unmet pedestrian needs in East Asheville are beginning to have an impact. Following the May 22nd ‘Sidewalks for Safety’ walk along Tunnel Road, in which more than 200 participated, Asheville City Council and the NC Dept. of Transportation have begun to sit up and take notice. (pictures from the walk below)

With most of our major roads without sidewalks and with veterans from the Oteen-based Vets Quarters forced to walk the goat trails to the VA Hospital, our leaders are beginning to understand the need. Your letters-to-the-editor, e-mails, phone calls and participation in the walk have all helped create a climate where genuine change is possible.

Whether this will translate into sidewalks the length of Tunnel Road remains to be seen. For now, here are the successes we can directly attribute to your efforts:

1) 900’ of new sidewalk on the north side of Tunnel Rd between Beverly Rd and Lynnstone Court. Construction to begin in August.
2) NCDOT-approved pedestrian crossing at Tunnel Rd at Beverly Rd.
3) The addition of $143,000 for new sidewalks to the city budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st.
4) The agreement by Mayor Bellamy to hold an August 31st City Council meeting in East Asheville.

These measures are all a great beginning and we applaud these efforts by city and state leaders. But they are just a beginning. Much more needs to be done to meet the unmet pedestrian safety needs of our community. At our April 19th East Asheville Sidewalk Summit we identified a list of pedestrian improvement priorities, at right:

-- Chris Pelly

Highlights from Sidewalks For Safety Walk

Pedestrian Safety Website – With the support of PARC (People Advocating Real Conservancy) we now have a website devoted to our pedestrian safety campaign. Want to read what’s been reported in the media or print out a copy of the petition to gather signatures? Visit the website for this and other valuable information.
http://web.me.com/downtown6/Sidewalks/Sidewalks_for_Safety.html

East Asheville Pedestrian Improvement Priorities
As of May, 2010

Pedestrian Crosswalks
1) Tunnel Rd at Beverly Rd (Groce Church)
2) Tunnel Rd at Maple Springs/Governors View (Sonic/Bell Elementary)
3) Tunnel Rd at Crockett/New Haw Creek

Sidewalks
1) Tunnel Rd from Pleasant Ridge Rd east to Porter Cove Rd, AKA ‘Veterans Walk’ (from entrance of Parkway Forest sub’d to exit 55 of I-40)
2) Tunnel Rd from Beverly Rd east to Maple Springs Rd
3) New Haw Creek Rd from Tunnel Rd to Arco Rd.
4) New Haw Creek Rd from Beverly Rd to Sondley sub’d entrance

(\#’s 3 \\& 4 per Haw Creek Pedestrian Safety Plan in place since 2003)

5) Swannanoa River Rd from S. Tunnel Rd east to Tunnel Rd
6) Chunns Cove Rd from I-240 to Tunnel Rd

Pedestrian Safety Measures
1) Bull Mountain Rd from Tunnel to Riceville Rd, slow down cut thru traffic

Public Transit
1) Expand bus route service to Vets Quarters in Oteen. Route #29 to all day, #13 to Oteen and #28 more frequently.
Dear Neighbors,

Like a summertime garden, our efforts to improve pedestrian safety are beginning to bear fruit. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a short list of successes since our campaign began earlier this year. It is a great start, but only that. Until our veterans and all residents can walk safely on Tunnel Road and New Haw Creek and Swannanoa River Roads, our work is not complete.

Part of our success to date is because so many of you have cared enough to get involved. Having 228 people march up Tunnel Rd on a Saturday morning in May made an impact. The letters-to-the-editor and e-mails to council members made an impact. Getting involved really does make a difference.

And we need you to do it all again when council comes to East Asheville on August 31st. This is the recipe for success.

Finally, also mark your calendar for our annual Haw Creek Assoc., Barbecue Thursday, July 29th in Haw Creek Park beginning at 6PM. Good food from Ruby’s and good company from you neighbors. Sounds like another recipe for success.

Thank you,
Chris Pelly, president
Haw Creek Community Association

Support Local Farmers and Craftspeople

Hello Haw Creek Neighbors,

The Riceville Tailgate Market is open every Saturday 9 a.m. to Noon. It is located at 2251 Riceville Road, behind the Riceville Community Center and Fire Station. This is a community market supporting local farmers and craftspeople. In addition to vegetables and fruit, Warren Wilson meats, fresh eggs, honey, jams, bread and baked treats are available. Come and meet your East Asheville neighbors as you shop for delicious food and support our local farmers.

Nan Dauphine,
Co-Manager
Riceville Tailgate Market

Master’s Park Update

Taken from an email from City Staff

From: Debbie Ivester
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 9:11 AM
To: Jeff Richardson; Robert Griffin; Al Kopf
Cc: Roderick Simmons; Marsha Stickford
Subject: RE: Masters Park

Jeff

The update to council is:

Staff is completing the final construction documents for the park design, which is expected to be complete in mid-July. Once complete, staff will meet with the community group in July to review. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the opportunity between the community group and the city for a partnership agreement for future park development. Future park development will depend upon what the community group can contribute to the development, and what the city can contribute to the development. At this time there is no funding in the city budget allocated for park development.

Below is the revised project timeline taking us through partnership development. The original timeline put items highlighted in yellow to be complete in June, so these have been pushed out by about 30 days.

Field Visit                         Nov 2009
Preliminary Design                  Dec 2009
Design Review/Comment               Feb 2010
Final Design Complete               July 2010
Community Group Design Review       July 2010
Partnership Development             July/August 2010

Thanks and let me know if more info is needed.

Debbie

If you haven’t already, please continue your support of your Haw Creek Community Association.

Haw Creek Community Association
2009 Board of Directors

President       Chris Pelly 95 Cisco Road 231-3704 cpelly@buncombe.main.nc.us
Vice President  Beth Jezek 62 Cisco Road 299-0914 pastacook@att.net
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Park Laison     Dick Meehan 48 Alpine Way 299-0442 rbm2@att.net
Alex Babak      450 New Haw Creek Rd 280-7255 abironworks@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the Association shall be available to residents, as well as property owners, in the Haw Creek community and there shall be one class of membership.

DUES: Twelve dollars ($12) paid once annually in January. Make your check to HCCA and mail to: HCCA; P.O. Box 9193; Asheville, NC 28815
Please include: member names, postal address, phone number, and e-mail address.


From The President

2009 Meeting Schedule

Thurs, July 29th, 530pm
Annual BarbQue Dinner in Haw Creek Park
Thurs, Oct 27th, 7:00pm

*Any or all of the above are subject to change at any time. Please check calendar with each issue for any changes or check the website.

From: Amy McCrea
Printed by: BP Solutions Group
Printed on an IGEN Digital Press
Haw Creek Native:
Interview with Harry Burnette

By Chris Pelly

Born in 1921, Haw Creek native Harry Burnette has participated in some of the defining moments of the 20th century. In World War II he flew 25 missions on the B-17 bomber from England over to Germany and back. As a Top Turret Gunner on the ‘Flying Fortress’ he recalled a mission where his bomber ran low on fuel as it circled back to England. “We knew we didn’t have much and weren’t sure we’d make it back. Just as we touched down on the runway the engines coughed and quit.”

Having survived the war, Burnette returned to the land which has been in his family since the late 1800’s. To this day his 26-acre pastoral property, between the ball fields and the entrance to Happy Valley, retains the bucolic qualities of long ago Haw Creek. Although Mary, his wife of 54 years, passed away in 2004, his daughter Margaret King also lives on and helps maintain the property.

 Asked about the changes he’s seen since his younger days, Mr. Burnette recalls a more close-knit community, far smaller in numbers than today. “I remember a T-Model Ford had flipped over on New Haw Creek and all the neighbors lifting together to right the car.” And back then, “everyone farmed and folks shared what they grew and shared meat when a hog was butchered.”

Following graduation from Haw Creek High School in 1938 Harry’s first job was working at a service station on Swannanoa River Road. I was changing a tire for the manager of Sayles Bleachery when he offered me a job. I stayed there until I entered service in World War II. After the war, like his father before him, Harry worked for Southern Railways (now Norfolk/Southern) for forty years. He started as a switchman and advanced to Yard Conductor before retiring in 1985.

Harry Burnette was also a leader in the creation of the Haw Creek Volunteer Fire Department. “Before it fire trucks would have to come from all the way downtown, through the tunnel, to respond to an emergency in Haw Creek.” He recalls fundraising suppers in Roy Masters field to raise funds for building construction. “We’d raise a little money, build as much as we could, then have another supper to raise more money.” The fire station at New Haw Creek and Maple Drive is the evidence of their success.

Ways anyone can help support area schools.

-Box Topes For Education
-Target Red Card
-Ingles Advantage Card
-Coke tops
-Campbell Soup labels
-Dine out at area restaurants on school spirit nights

Know a Haw Creek native with a story to tell? Call Chris Pelly at 298-5299
Haw Creek Community Association  
PO Box 9193  
Asheville NC 28815  

Meeting  
Thurs, July 29th, 5:30pm  
Location: Haw Creek Park  

Haw Creek Kids Celebrate Memorial Day on May 29!  
Many kids were in school on Memorial Day so the 4th annual All American, Very Patriot, Children’s Bicycle Parade was held on Saturday, May 29. There were fewer kids than in previous years but they sure did have fun! The patriotic bike decorations get better every year. We were fortunate to have as guest judges vets from the Veterans Quarters residence in Oteen. The weather was perfect; the bikes were red, white and blue; the lemonade and cookies hit the spot and everyone got a prize. Even the grown ups had a good time! Congratulations to all the kids who once again, used creativity and ingenuity to pay tribute to our vets. And thanks to everyone who helped to make it happen.  

City Council Coming to East Asheville August 31st  
In order to better understand the unique needs of East Asheville, Mayor Terry Bellamy has agreed to convene a city council meeting in our community. Considering that all council members live in areas of the city other than East Asheville, we believe this will be an opportunity to update them on the challenges facing our community in 2010.  
Groce United Methodist Church at 954 Tunnel Rd has kindly agreed to open Asbury Hall, their meeting facility, for this 7PM meeting on Tuesday, August 31st.  
Our task at this public meeting is to make the case to city council about pedestrian safety in East Asheville. This is your chance to express how lack of pedestrian options is affecting you and your family. As we did at the April 19th East Asheville Sidewalk Summit, we will make a formal presentation but residents will also have the opportunity to speak.  
Equally important in making this event a success is having a strong turnout. Just being present, even if you don’t speak, sends a message you care. And council members count heads when choices have to be made. So mark your calendar and plan to join us for this important community meeting.  
-- Chris Pelly