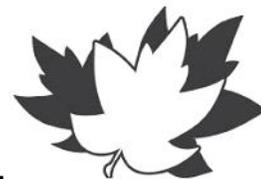




Earlewood



Neighborhood Newsletter

November/December 2009

www.earlewood.org

Thanksgiving Dinner

Wednesday, November 18, at 7 pm
Reformation Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving Dinner is a long-standing Earlewood tradition that is held a week before Thanksgiving. All Earlewood residents and their friends are invited. This year the dinner was moved to Wednesday night so residents can go to Vista Lights. Vista Lights is always held in the Congaree Vista on Thursday night the week before Thanksgiving.

The neighborhood association provides the turkey and dressing and residents are asked to bring their favorite veggie or dessert. Come and enjoy a great meal without having to cook one! You'll leave with a full stomach and a smile on your face! Hope to see you there!

Due to the Thanksgiving Dinner and Holiday Party there will not be a monthly neighborhood meeting in November or December.

Earlewood's Holiday Party



Saturday, December 5th

7 to 10 pm

2903 River Drive

(Large Victorian on the corner of Union & River with the giraffes in the front yard)

Make plans to kick off the Christmas season with your friends and neighbors on December 5th at Earlewood's Holiday Party. There will be great food with lots of spirits and good cheer! No need to get all dressed up - casual clothes are fine.

This year's party will be held at the home of Jeffery Schwalk and Clayton King. Jeffery and Clayton recently moved to Columbia from Austin, Texas, and they have graciously offered to host this annual event for our neighborhood. Please RSVP by December 3rd if you plan to attend. Call Clayton at 803-376-8901 or respond by email at <http://www.cpking.com/xmas/>.

Earlewood Centennial Celebration

"Earlewood Reunion" Set for May 1

2010 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of our neighborhood and plans are underway to commemorate this milestone.

Our first event will be held on Saturday, May 1st in Earlewood Park. Everyone who lives or has lived in Earlewood as well as people who have ties to our neighborhood are invited to the Earlewood Reunion.

Reunions always have great food so there will be a picnic in the park with hot dogs & chili, as well as Bar-B-Q pork and chicken plates. Soft drinks and lemonade will be sold by the neighborhood association.

One of the events that is planned is "Dancing through the Decades" where professional dancers will perform popular dances from the past 100 years. Dances from the Charleston, Jitterbug and Twist to the Electric Slide, Macarena and Crank Dat will be performed in the Amphitheater. The audience will participate in many of the dances such as the Hokey Pokey and Electric Slide.

There will be contests and relay games for both children and adults with prizes for the winning teams. Games like Tug-of-War, 3-Legged Race, Wheel-Barrow Race, Potato Sack Race and Eggs on a Spoon will be held in the baseball fields at the top of the park. There will also be Hula Hoop and Jump Rope contests.

A Scavenger Hunt with clues hidden in Earlewood Park and the area around the park will take place early in the afternoon. Cash prizes will be given to the teams who come in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

The grand finale of the Reunion will be a performance in the Amphitheater by a local band. If you have suggestions or a favorite band, please let us know.

Cynthia South and Fred Monk are the co-chairs of the Earlewood Reunion Committee. Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success. If you would like to help with the Centennial call Cynthia at 803-413-4758 or email her at cynthia.thomas13@yahoo.com.

Yard of the Month

November

3213 Lakewood
Jennifer McBroome of Russell Jeffcoat Realtors will present Candace Holmes with a \$25 Lowe's Gift Certificate.

December

923 Northwood
Kirstin Averhoff-Gilbert of Capital Relocation Group will present Claire Taylor with a \$25 Lowe's Gift Certificate.

ECCO Facebook Friend Request

ECCO is now on Facebook and membership is open to all. Just go to facebook.com and search for ECCO in all caps. We hope everyone in Earlewood will become a friend of ECCO on Facebook.

For the uninitiated, Facebook is a social networking website. Special features of Facebook permit users to send messages, post photos and status "updates." Facebook will be a valuable tool in notifying Earlewood residents about a neighborhood Crime Alert. We will also post event information, photos and discussions about neighborhood issues.

Holiday Crime Prevention

Nothing can ruin the Christmas spirit faster than becoming the victim of a crime. Home burglars view the holiday season as a time of opportunity to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards, and all the new gifts of small electronics, computers, jewelry, and easily sold valuables. Don't pile up empty gift boxes from your new computer or DVD player on the street for the garbage man. Burglars appreciate knowing that you have expensive gifts inside for them to steal. After a lucrative burglary, the chances of being burglarized again are increased to steal the new replacement products.

Stay on the alert this holiday season and if you see anything unusual call the police. Earlewood's neighborhood officer is Officer Wines. His cell number is 315-3792.

Fall Block Party

Despite the nippy weather, over a hundred Earlewood residents came out for the Fall Block Party that was held on the 3000 block of Columbia Avenue. The food was great and everyone enjoyed the music by Sounds of Suburbia.

Neighbors Jeffery Schwalk & Felecia Brown meet and find they only live a block from each other.



Recreational Trail construction to begin in January

Work on the Recreation Trail in Earlewood Park will begin in early 2010. The trail will be completed on or before the end of April - just in time for the Earlewood Reunion centennial celebration.

In 2008 Columbia Parks and Recreation received a \$100,000 SC Parks, Recreation & Tourism grant to build the trail. When the trail is completed more people will have an opportunity to enjoy Earlewood Park.

The trail will be almost a mile long and will wind through the heavily wooded area in Earlewood park that lies between the railroad tracks and Parkside Drive. There will be three entrances to the trail. The lower entrance is near the new Parks & Recreation Administration building and the Earlewood Community room. There will also be two entrances to the trail at the top of the park. These entrances will be used by Earlewood residents who walk to the park.

The surface of the trail will be made of slag poured on a 3 inch

gravel base with steel siding on both sides of the trail. This type of construction and surface material was selected because it is porous and will help prevent further erosion in Earlewood Park. A slag surface is also green as some of its components, such as small bits of rubber, are made of recycled materials.

The width of the trail is 8 feet wide rather than the standard 5 feet. This will allow two or more people to walk side-by-side. The trail will be used primarily by pedestrians and cyclists. Skateboards will not be permitted.

Recreational trails are viewed as lifestyle enhancements that contribute to improved health and the quality of life. They provide an opportunity for people to connect with each other and to nature. Research shows that property values increase as these communities are considered highly desirable places to live.

Earlewood residents are very fortunate to have this new amenity in the center of their neighborhood.



ERIK RUTHERFORD

2231 Main Street

Columbia, SC 29201

803.748.4145

Rutherford Agency

As an Allstate Agent and Earlewood resident, my knowledge and understanding of the people in our community help me provide customers with an outstanding level of service.

Letter from the President

It's hard to believe a year has gone by since you elected me to head the Earlewood Community Citizens Organization (ECCO). With your help a lot was accomplished. Naturally, there is still a lot to do.

First, we had two very successful holiday events last November and December. Remember that huge turkey that Sabrina Odom cooked for the Thanksgiving Dinner at Reformation. And what a wonderful turnout at McCant's Town Homes for the Holiday Party. Not only was the fellowship enjoyable, it was nice to see our elected officials and our city police colleagues hang around for much of the evening.

In the new year we started by expanding our newsletter to four pages and launching our new website. Both have increased our visibility considerably. This year was the first time we took ads to help offset the cost. So, thank you very much Erik Rutherford at the Rutherford Agency and Bill and Hi Roberson at Classical Glass on North Main.

The website will be a tool which will increase our reach and feedback with neighbors. So, please go to it often and check out what is going on. And you can leave comments that will be read.

Earlewood Park was a major focal point in 2009 as it will be in 2010. We saw and discussed the design for the new Parks & Recreation Administration Building and Earlewood Community Center. We now expect those construction projects to begin at any time.

Meanwhile, the Recreational Trail, through a grant that Earlewood residents identified, languished during the year. After some insistence for movement, the design for the trail was de-

veloped through Parks & Rec. Construction is expected to start in January.

We started working on our 501(c)(3) non-profit designation with the help of the Non-Profit Center at the University of South Carolina Law School. We had to pull together a lot of information, alter our bylaws to comply with IRS regulations concerning non-profits and now are in the final stages of completing the lengthy application. With some luck, we should have it completed and sent to the IRS as you are reading this.

In April we held our first block party of the year on Clark Street. The block parties give us a chance to meet our neighbors and get to know one another better by bringing people from all around the Earlewood community together. It was a grand time. As a result, with the help of members on Columbia Avenue, we held our second block party of the year. It was the first ever with live music, provided by a band, SOS, that included one of our own residents. Well over 100 people mingled during a sunny fall afternoon. And it even attracted City Council members Tameika Isaac Devine, Sam Davis, our district representative on council, and Kirkman Finlay. Besides the music, the highlights included Doug and Jeff's dogs and popcorn, the kids riding around on the Radio Flyer and the dogs.

We had a very successful Flea Market and Plant Sale in 2009. One of the best in fact. Over \$1,200 was raised for the ECCO kitty. A big hit at the Flea Market was the Earlewood table with items donated by our members. It did extremely well.

In August, National Night Out at the community center in Earlewood Park was bursting with people. To me, the

best part of the event was the diversity of our people that came and engaged with one another. They ranged in age from 1 to 93. Almost a full century. We have such a wonderfully diverse neighborhood with a lot of new people who have moved in. It was gratifying to see them come and take part.

Speaking of centuries, we have begun laying the ground work for our Centennial in 2010. We have settled on two major events - one in May and one in October. With all of the other things going on, frankly it is has been hard to get to the planning stage, but now it is upon us so it moves to the front burner. Please get involved. We need volunteers.

A project that continues to be a priority is our effort to get a Dog Park for the North Columbia area. The Dog Park Committee, led by Rebecca Spratlin, has done a tremendous job of moving this forward. Like a lot of things, it is now stuck in the political process. We are trying to make sure it doesn't get caught there. Fortunately, we have support from Columbia City Council. But there also are state agencies to contend with, which is our current hurdle.

It has been a pleasure being your president for the past 12 months. While we won't have our regular monthly meetings in November and December, if there is something on your mind, please call or email me. Or talk with me at the holiday events.

Fred

Fred Monk
President



Earlewood Crime Statistics
can be viewed on the
police department's web site

[www.columbiapd.com/
compstat/slides/nregion.html](http://www.columbiapd.com/compstat/slides/nregion.html)

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E-Wood Snapshot: Erik Rutherford

Erik Rutherford is a fourth generation Columbian, who now is growing his family and his business from Earlewood.

Erik is married to Tiaa Booker Rutherford. Tiaa is a neighborhood planner for Richland County and also chairs the City of Columbia's Planning Commission. They have a wonderfully energetic daughter, Nina, who is a third grader at Logan Elementary



Erik owns the Rutherford AllState Agency on North Main Street

School. Their other family member is Omar, a beagle.

Erik has a prospering Allstate Insurance Agency on North Main Street. It is a multi-cultural agency that can handle insurance requests for English-speaking and Spanish-speaking customers. He was a founding advertiser in the Earlewood newsletter.

We asked Erik a few questions about Earlewood.

How long have you have lived in Earlewood? Tiaa and I have lived in Earlewood since 2000. We enjoy living so close to downtown Columbia.

How has the neighborhood changed during that time? I've seen more families with young children move into Earlewood. The number of young professionals living in Earlewood has also increased. I think more people have "discovered" Earlewood over the past 10 years and know it is a great downtown neighborhood.

Why did you decide to locate your business on North Main and what

do you hope to see happen on North Main? I enjoy having my insurance agency so close to my home and also near Logan Elementary where Nina goes to school. Once the North Main Streetscaping Project is completed I hope to see more small businesses move there. It would be great to have some restaurants and shops on North Main.

Why do you like living in Earlewood? Earlewood has wonderful parks and great neighbors. We like the mature tree cover in our neighborhood and older houses with architectural details like transom windows, hardwood floors and glass door knobs. I also like living in a community that has been designated a historic neighborhood.

What improvements do you hope to see in Earlewood. I would like to see higher enrollment at Logan and more young families in our neighborhood. I would also like to see more activities in Earlewood Park such as festivals and music in the amphitheater.

Earlewood Executive Council

The Executive Council is composed of the officers and committee chairs and meets monthly to discuss plans and projects for Earlewood.

President	Fred Monk (765-0264)
Vice-President	Drue Barker
Secretary	Martha Mason (252-4584)
Treasurer	Bill Eiwien (252-1507)
Member-at-Large	Susan Wilson
Past President	Jim Prater

Committee	Chair
Communication	John Sinclair
Elections	Scott King
Grants	Wes Crosby
Membership	Virginia Bedford
Nominating	Tiaa Rutherford
Police & Safety	Brenda Creson
Quality of Life	Fred Monk
Street Captains	Ford Mason
Zoning	Brian South

ECCO Membership Form

July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Email _____@_____

(Please email address print clearly)

_____ Individual Membership (\$5.00)

_____ Household Membership (\$10.00)

**Please mail this form with your dues to:
Earlewood Community Citizens Organization (ECCO)
PO Box 30225
Columbia, SC 29230**

This form may be downloaded at www.earlewood.org