

Earlewood

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

Flea Market. Plant Sale. Art and Craft Fair. Local Food Showcase. And MORE!

THE EARLEWOOD EXCHANGE & PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 5th • 8AM - 1PM • Corner of River Dr. & Florence St.

For years, Earlewood hosted hundreds of treasure hunters and gardeners at its Annual Neighborhood Flea Market and Plant Sale. After a two-year hiatus, the event is back and better than ever! Make plans to join your neighbors and friends on May 5th for a taste of local gardens, attic treasures, crafts, art and food.

Earlewood gardeners have been busy for several months – dividing, rooting, propagating and planting seeds. The plant sale will showcase “old-timey” Southern favorites and a variety of “pass-along-plants” — Lilies, Iris, Zinnias, Cornflowers, Cosmos, Ajuga, Begonias, Red Hyacinth Bean, Moon Flower, Blue Bells, Oak Hydrangea and Angel Trumpets — just to name a few. There will be a huge selection (over 1,500 plants!) at very reasonable prices. And best of all — many of the plants for sale cannot be found at garden centers.

There are several ways Earlewood residents can help make this event a success.

Rent a space and sell. A

10 x 10 space at the Flea Market is only \$15. It's easy to register on-line at the Earlewood website (earlewood.org/exchange). If you have any questions just email us at earlewoodexchange@gmail.com. Or you can call 200-COLA (200-2652) and we will bring a form to you.

Donate items for the “Earlewood

Table.” Do you have a box full of unwanted items waiting for that yard sale you were going to have? Donating items (we will take anything except clothes!) that you no longer want or need will be a huge help to our neighborhood. Remember - this event is the main fundraiser for the neighborhood association with all proceeds going towards neighborhood beautification projects and events that directly impact the quality of life in Earlewood. Since we are a non-profit organization — all donations are tax-deductible. Call 200-COLA (200-2652) if you want us to pick-up items from your home on Friday, May 4th.

Volunteer. If you'd like to volunteer to help out on Friday, May 4th or Saturday, May 5th, please email quality@earlewood.org. There is a volunteer form on the website at Earlewood.org/Exchange.

Attend! Make plans to stop by the Earlewood Exchange and Plant Sale on May 5th. And tell your friends to come too!



NOMA Bark Park's helping out Smith Branch Creek

The NOMA Bark Park has started its second year with a bang – a small grant-funded project from the City of Columbia. The Bark Park is working to clean up Smith Branch as it flows through Earlewood Park and alongside the Bark Park. Not only will members and volunteers be picking up litter with Keep the Midlands Beautiful's Adopt-a-Waterway program, but they'll also be working on the plants along the creek. Volunteers will clean out invasive species like kudzu and privet and plant more native species along the creek. More vegetation will mean improved runoff from the park into the creek and can offer more shade to help wildlife. NOMA Bark Park will also be working with local partners like Doody Calls to spread the word about how scooping the poop from our pets will also help Smith Branch and the Broad River.

For more information about the Bark Park or to become a member: www.nomabarkpark.org

Earlewood 101

By Perrin Brunson

Whether you've lived in Earlewood for a few decades or a few weeks, this neighborhood is full of new things to discover. Rich history, exciting changes and an eclectic mix of residents are just a few of the hidden gems you find when you really get to know Earlewood.

So how do you get to know Earlewood? It's easy...get involved!

Earlewood is home to a very active and passionate neighborhood citizens organization. In addition to monthly meetings, Earlewood hosts exciting events for residents to have fun, kick back, and get to know each other. It's amazing who you meet when you get together with your neighbors...artists and carpenters, botanists and authors, college students and teachers, restaurant owners and waitresses, citizens who have lived here most of their lives and newcomers from all over the country.

By being involved in Earlewood, you have the chance to help make decisions that will affect this neighborhood for years to come. If you have kids, you might be interested to know that a group of parents in the neighborhood are working with the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department to design the new playground for Earlewood Park. If you're concerned about crime and safety, you might be interested to know that residents meet with neighborhood police officers monthly to discuss current problems and solutions, and that Earlewood is involved with a pilot program of a new emergency and crime reporting mobile app that has gained international attention.

When you get involved in Earlewood, it opens up a world of possibilities, connections, activities and information.

Getting involved can mean whatever you want it to mean. If you don't have a lot of time to commit to volunteering or going to meetings, there are many social events planned for this year that you can attend, and most of the committees meet only casually a couple of times a year. If you have more time to devote to the neighborhood, but you just don't know where to start or what you can do, you can come to the monthly membership meeting to talk to committee chairs and officers, or you can contact any of the officers and chairs through email.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Earlewood neighborhood had a lot of momentum as we began 2012 and we are continuing our activities at what certainly seems like an accelerated pace.

In January we celebrated the one-year anniversary of the NOMA Bark Park. No one in their wildest dreams expected the dog park to be such a magnet. Now with some 300 members from across the Columbia Metro area, the Bark Park in one year has established itself as a community resource.

And the impact is much more than just having a place for dog owners to bring their dogs. It has become a social center and it also has been the catalyst for the clean up of the Smith Branch that is adjacent to the park. Recently, through Impact Earlewood and the NOMA Bark Park, a second clean up of the stream and its beds was accomplished. Tremendous progress with more to come. Soon Smith Branch itself will be a place for relaxation – another amenity to Earlewood Park that has been underutilized for so long.

And that was just the start of a busy year ahead. We are moving forward on our neighborhood crime signs. Many thanks to all of the Earlewood neighbors who made donations to cover the cost of the signs. It is another indication of the involvement we have in our community.

After a two-year hiatus, the Earlewood Exchange & Plant Sale (formerly the Earlewood Flea Market & Plant Sale) returns to the neighborhood in a new location at the corner of River Drive and Florence Street. This year's event will also include an Arts & Crafts area and local artists. The neighborhood bakeries will also be there to serve up their breakfast specialties!

Besides Smith Branch, Impact Earlewood also is working with the Disc Golfers to start alleviating some of the erosion in the park. That work is in its initial stages and is running in conjunction with the Department of Parks & Recreation's move to mitigate some of the runoff to prevent the erosion of the Nature Trail after heavy rains. There is a lot more to come in this area and it is a priority for the neighborhood and Parks & Rec.

Impact Earlewood once again will be involved in the See Spot Run fundraiser for the Humane Society with its annual race and dog walk in June.

By mid-summer, the new Community Building and the new Parks & Recreation Administration Building will open, creating a multitude of opportunities for future activities. In conjunction with that, a new playground will be established and the water fountain that was moved from Earlewood to Township Auditorium decades ago will be back in its home again.

So, we hope to hold our National Night Out in August in the new Community Building. In August, we also will nominate our slate of officers for the next two year term. That election will be held at our September meeting.

As you can see a lot is going on. And we want to keep it that way. Thanks to all for being so involved.



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Landon & Jordan Thompson



Landon and Jordan Thompson grew up in Nashville, so it is understandable that they love music and are accomplished musicians, Landon plays the guitar and piano and both of them are excellent vocalists as well. They are also artists and enjoy painting and crafts.

In 2010 they moved to Earlewood and purchased their first home — a brick bungalow on Lakewood. Since then they have had a succession of home improvement projects. Landon says, “We love building things and making our house into a place that we really want to live in. If there’s an area of the house that is not enjoyable to look at, it won’t take us too long to change it!” Because of their passion for decorating in a thrifty way, they were featured on The Nate Berkus Show, “House Proud.” The show flew both of them to New York City for three days where they each remodeled a small chest-of-drawers in the thrifty DIY fashion and then presented them on the show to Nate. Jordan describes the trip as “... truly a wonderful experience!”

Their passion for home improvement has spilled over into their yard. This new interest has proved more challenging to the duo because they had never gardened before. Even though it has been challenging, Landon says, “We have taken on the challenge and seen our thumbs turn a shade greener every season.”

In 2006 Landon and Jordan started their photography/videography business, Landon Jacob Productions, and specialize in capturing a couple’s journey from their engagement through their wedding. And now because many of their clients are having babies they are also beginning to add this subject matter to their repertoire!

How long have you lived in Earlewood?

We moved here in 2010 so just over two years.

Why did you choose to buy a home in Earlewood rather than other neighborhoods?

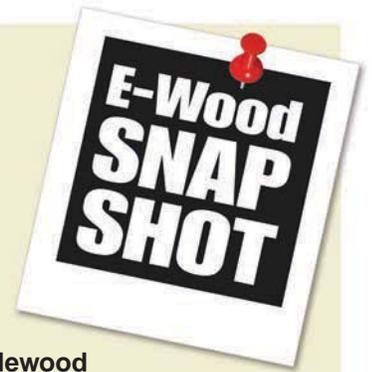
We were looking for home just outside the downtown area of Columbia. Earlewood had a great mix of young, middle-aged, and older people, which was something we were looking for. We loved being close to a park, the interstate, and loved the bungalow styled homes.

What do you like best about living here?

Being close to downtown Columbia, the park, the community garden, ECCO, community events, being close to the interstate since we travel, the neighborhood watch program, we love the street we live on and our home, and most importantly our neighbors and community. In just 2 years, we’ve become very close to all our neighbors and several others who live in Earlewood and they are very dear to our hearts. It seems like many people who live in Earlewood share a lot of the same passions and hobbies, which is another reason of why we enjoy each and everyone’s company.

What would you like to see happen in Earlewood?

I can’t really think of much. I guess the only thing is I would love for there to be less theft in the area while school is out. It’s not really noticeable while school is in.



New Neighborhood Watch Signs

Thanks to the contributions of many Earlewood residents, 16 new Neighborhood Watch signs will be installed throughout Earlewood in the near future. Officer Walker said these signs have been very successful in reducing criminal activity in other cities across the country and we hope they will do the same in Earlewood!

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City to Hold Neighborhood Leadership Summit

The City of Columbia is holding a one-day Neighborhood Leadership Summit on Saturday, April 28 at Dreher High School.

The goal of the summit is to help people to learn how to be a leader in the community. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There is no cost to attend.

Topics include building partnerships; engaging social media and effective networking; planning community events; running and effective meeting and fair housing.

Free food and parking will be provided.

For more information contact Charmaine D. Clark at Community Development. She can be reached at 545-3403 or email her at cdclark@columbiasc.net

What is the Earlewood Community Citizens Organization?

ECCO was formed in 1977 in order to maintain and improve the quality of life, residential character, safety, and sense of community and pride in the Earlewood neighborhood.

COMMITTEES

There are nine committees within ECCO that are responsible for distinct areas of neighborhood interest. Contact information for the committee chairs can be found on the website at www.earlewood.org, and a brief description of each committee is included below.

- ▶ **Street Captains:** The “eyes and ears” of the neighborhood
- ▶ **Communications:** Publishes the printed newsletter and maintains the website
- ▶ **Elections:** Conducts the regular elections every two years or any special election
- ▶ **Nominating:** Nominates officers prior to the elections.
- ▶ **Quality of Life:** Improves quality of life in Earlewood through beautification initiatives, social events and more
- ▶ **Subcommittees:** Parks & Recreation, Holiday Events, Impact Earlewood Volunteer Initiatives, ECCO Nights Out
- ▶ **Police and Safety:** Works with the residents and the police on safety and crime prevention
- ▶ **Zoning and Planning:** Works with residents and local government to improve the neighborhood through zoning changes and reporting of zoning violation.
- ▶ **Subcommittees:** Historic Design and Review
- ▶ **Membership:** Maintains current membership database and promotes membership
- ▶ **Grants:** Identifies and applies for grants to the benefit of the neighborhood

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED TODAY

If you're ready to get involved, here are four things you can do today to get started:

- ▶ Visit the ECCO Facebook group (you'll need to request to join this closed group) to catch up on all of the latest online discussions. You'll find everything from discussions about the state of the neighborhood to postings about lost dogs, as well as updates on news and events.
- ▶ Visit the website at www.earlewood.org for committee chair and officer contact information. All committee chairs and officers will be happy to answer any questions you have or help you find out more ways to get involved. You can also use the contact form on the website for general information.
- ▶ Get out there and meet your neighbors! Go next door or take a walk around the neighborhood and introduce yourself to anyone you see. Any day at almost any time, you'll find your Earlewood neighbors out walking their dogs, working in the yards, or taking their children to play at the park.
- ▶ Join ECCO! You can fill out your membership application and pay online.

If you're able to attend the meeting on Thursday, April 19th, please come by and introduce yourself. We look forward to meeting you!

ECCO Membership Form

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Individual Membership (\$10)

Household Membership (\$20)

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

Or go to www.earlewood.org, complete the membership form and pay online.



ECCO OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2010-2012

The Executive Committee (EC) includes officers and committee chairs. The EC meets monthly to discuss plans and projects for Earlewood.

PRESIDENT	Fred Monk (765-0264)
VICE-PRESIDENT	Drue Barker
SECRETARY	Cynthia South
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Susan Lourie

COMMITTEE	CHAIR
COMMUNICATION	Perrin Brunson
DOG PARK	Rebecca Haynes
ELECTIONS	Jim Prater
GRANTS	Wes Crosby
MEMBERSHIP	Virginia Bedford
NOMINATING	John Sinclair
POLICE & SAFETY	Virginia Bedford
QUALITY OF LIFE	Greg Hilton
STREET CAPTAINS	Ford Mason
ZONING	Brian South