

ON THE

FRONT



PORCH

Neighborly News and Views from Uptown • February 2008

We Are Not Alone ...

by Rich Bullington

Within the last month, two of my neighbors have had their houses broken into. One had his door kicked down twice in a week. Another had jewelry and other small valuables stolen. These are only a few of the recent incidents in and around Uptown.

These crimes are nothing new; and they are not crimes unique to our neighborhood. But there seem to be growing waves of such incidents. We will go through periods of calm and quiet, followed by what seem to be nonstop home invasions and break-ins. When we are in those downward trends, what are we to do? How should we react?

Our natural reaction is to protect ourselves, in any way necessary. That may involve adding certain barriers, like stronger gates and doors, more locks, security cameras and alarms, and maybe a large snarling dog or two. For some, firearms are the option. These attempts to protect home and family are understandable reactions to crime. I believe, however, that they are also the results of a lack of hope. In my opinion, the lack of police involvement in the community, and the attitude of some officers that we should expect what we get in the neighborhood, are almost as detrimental to the community as the crimes themselves.

I say that because I have seen the opposite, here in Uptown. There have been times when regular patrols throughout the area could be expected. The officers made themselves known and, it seems, did everything they could to at least present some sense of security in the neighborhood. I even remember seeing cops making their rounds on bikes a few times! And it was at these times that, I believe, we felt most positive and hopeful about the community.

Other than responding to crime, I never see police patrols in the area any more. They are around – police cars can be seen looking for tickets on Mill, or driving around Danny Thomas. But I don't see (or hear of) the positive presence that was once evident.

I'm not the first to complain about the lack of police involvement, and I won't be the last. And, in truth, the problem goes beyond the police force to our City Officials. This is a climate in which spending money on a new football stadium takes precedence over adding resources to fight crime. It is also an environment in which the insane amount of traffic accidents (at this count, about 11) on Mill does not, according to city traffic officials, constitute a problem or "pattern", even after a police officer was hit on Mill by a driver ignoring stop signs.

In effect, it feels, at times like these, that we are on our own. The help that was once there isn't as evident today. So, we need to look after ourselves. And that might involve adding those security doors and locks and fences, and maybe even guns. But as we build up the barriers to protect our possessions, I would like to suggest that we continue doing the other positive things that help to open up our community. Continue to become involved in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors. Go to Neighborhood Watch meetings, and join the Community Association. Check the YAK once in a while to see what people are concerned about, and add your two cents. Be outside – take a walk or ride a bike around the block once in a while (maybe not so attractive during the cold temperatures, but still possible).

As we are doing these things, we also need to expect more from our law enforcement and city officials. Make your voice known. Report anything suspicious to police. Call to ask for increased patrols. Report problems to the Mayor's Action Hotline. And don't accept anyone telling you to expect what you get because you live in this area. We do have a problem with crime, and it isn't going to go away overnight. We may not be Germantown, or Collierville, or even Harbortown. And I don't think most of us really want that. But that doesn't mean we can't expect the same kind of action from our police force or city officials that members of those communities expect. We do ourselves a favor, and will continue to improve Uptown, when we make it clear that we do, indeed, expect better. We are doing everything we can for our community; it is time to expect the same from those who are paid to help.



THUMBS UPTOWN



Thumbs Up to the **Memphis Police Department** for catching the four juvenile burglars breaking into homes on New Year's Day.

We appreciate your diligence and your commitment to actually get out of the squad cars and chase them down on foot!

An even bigger **Thumbs Up** to the **Juvenile Court System** and the **District Attorney General's Office** who has remanded offenders in custody until their court date and set a bond applicable to the serious nature of the crimes - Aggravated Burglary (2 counts) and Theft \$999 - \$9,999 (1 count).



Thumbs Down to the **parents** of the **juvenile vandals** (aged 13 to 16) in the neighborhood who are destroying not only property but people's peace of mind. **Keep control of your children - it's your JOB!**



Thumbs Up to the **residents of Uptown** for taking a negative and turning it into a **positive** for the neighborhood - getting together and **pooling resources to act as one voice!** We will prevail through determination, connectivity and resourcefulness!

If you would like to contribute to Thumbs Uptown or any other section of the On The Front Porch newsletter, please email your submission to OnTheFrontPorch@gmail.com. Of course, we reserve the right to edit any submissions for either content or length, and may even reformat them to fit the space allotted.



WESTY'S

The old "North End" Building
346 N. Main Street Memphis, TN
Open 7 days 10:45am-3:00am

Happy Hour 4 - 7
Blue Plate Specials Mon - Fri
Come Try Jake's "Original Hot Fudge Pie"
Written Up as Memphis' BEST

901-543-"FAST"
We Deliver

On The Front Porch has a monthly distribution of over 1,200 copies throughout the Uptown area. If you are interested in advertising, please email us at OnTheFrontPorch@gmail.com.

Advertising Rates and Sizes:

- 1/8 page (3.75" x 2") \$20
- 1/4 page (3.75" x 5") \$30
- 1/2 page (5" x 7.5") \$55
- Full page (7.5" x 10") \$100

Please make checks payable to Uptown Community Association

120 Auction Suite 101
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
901.578.2773
pyramidliquors@bellsouth.net



UPTOWN COMMUNITY

Community Building Projects and Program in Uptown

From the Desk of the President ...

1/20/08

UPTOWN: A Statement of Change

What is progress? According to the dictionary it can be a movement toward a goal. It can also be a steady improvement, as of a society or civilization. I think “improvement” is the operative word. As a community we seek to make progress and improve our lives in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, we will look to improve our neighborhood but need to be mindful that the neighborhood, like any neighborhood, will never be complete. Improving the neighborhood is an on-going process. Even after all homes are built, people have moved in, and businesses inhabit the community, we as residents will be responsible for maintaining the area by minimizing crime through things like neighborhood watch, picking up trash, and watering our lawns.

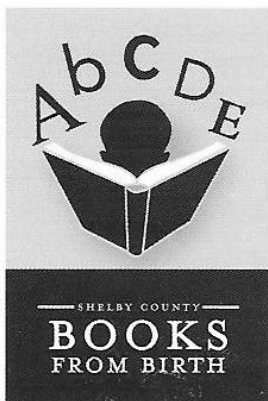
All this progress, I believe, can happen and will happen through the work of current and future residents. Although we need to remember that progress takes a very important entity...”Time.” Even the most ambitious people in our neighborhood may need to wait before they see community improvements as a result of their labor.

Throughout the history of mankind, all progress has taken time. Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492 but it took until 1776, nearly 300 years later, before the United States became an independent state. This country needed another 183 years before it was a nation of 50 states. Remember, Rome was not built in a day. Even God, as the Bible says, needed 7 days to create the universe. Although to paraphrase a line from the film *Inherit the Wind*, we do not know if those 7 days were 7 twenty-four hour days or if the 7 days encompassed a greater length of time.

While those are extreme examples of things that have taken a while to materialize, just recall all the slow but progressive changes which have occurred in all of our lifetimes. Not too long ago we could not say “e-mail that to me”, “fax that over”, or “place a bid on E-Bay.” Uptown is no different. Many Memphians still remember this as Hurt Village and are surprised with the progress in this neighborhood over a relatively short period of time.

I am excited about being the newest President of the Uptown Community Association. With the help of everybody, it is my hope to help the community and the association to improve and progress.

Dr. Robert Levine



Shelby County Books From Birth

If you have a preschool-aged child (from birth until their fifth birthday) living in Shelby County, you are eligible to participate in Shelby County’s Books From Birth program!

The State of Tennessee and Governor Bredesen are teaming up with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library program so that all preschoolers in Tennessee can have their own Imagination Library. Just think, a book mailed to your children each month until their fifth birthday, absolutely free!

For more information or to sign your child up for the program, go to
www.booksfrombirth.org

INSIDE UPTOWN

Neighborhood Watch Report - Safety and Crime Awareness

On January 5, 2008, we held our first neighborhood watch meeting for the year. The South Main Precinct came in full force to address the spike in home burglaries and vandalisms. The officers were attentive to our concerns and presented a new plan for community safety. Together, we discussed what we as residents should do and what the police should do to improve safety in Uptown. Some messages were new- some remain the same.

Residents:

- Install security alarms (arm at all times – away & stay)
- Turn on porch lights
- Close blinds
- Get to know your neighbors – exchange phone numbers and email addresses.
- Call 545-COPS for ANY suspicious behavior regardless of WHO it is. Until our neighborhood is safe, we cannot afford to be overly sensitive – suspicious is suspicious.
- Request directed patrols – 525-9800. *Note – directed patrol lasts for two weeks, after two weeks you must call again.
- Enroll in MPD's CyberWatch - <https://kiosk.memphispolice.org/cyberwatch/>. This site keeps you informed on the crime in our area and who is committing the crimes.

Optional - Install attractive security doors and/or a door jam:

<http://www.larsondoors.com/security/index.htm>

<http://www.masterlock.com/cgi-bin/product> Door Jam

<http://www.lowes.com>

American Doors 5728 Stage Road Bartlett, TN, 38134 - 901 385-3995

Unsupervised Disorderly Youth – Call 545-COPS to report juveniles hanging out after curfew. (Curfews) Under 17 Monday - Thursday 11:00pm: Friday - Sunday Midnight. Also report juveniles hanging out during the day before school is out. Again, report ANY suspicious behavior.

Police: Uptown is served by the South Main Precinct – 525-9800. The South Main Precinct has committed to being accountable for directed patrols requested by residents - you must call 525-9800 to request. Officers will check suspicious individuals as loitering and disturbing the peace are against the law.

Remember, the mission of the Police Department is to create and maintain public safety in the City of Memphis. We do so with focused attention on preventing and reducing crime, enforcing the law and apprehending criminals.

The vision of the Police Department is to create and maintain for the City of Memphis an environment of public safety recognized for its zero tolerance for crime and its compassion and responsiveness to the needs, rights, and expectations of all its citizens, employees, and visitors.

<http://www.memphispolice.org>

The following have also pledged to serve the citizens of Uptown:

District 7 Barbara Swearingen Ware Swearingen.Ware@memphistn.gov (901) 458-9406

Super District 8, Position 3 Myron Lowery myron.lowery@memphistn.gov (901) 521-4300

Super District 8, Position 2 Janis Fullilove Janis.Fullilove@memphistn.gov (901) 576-6786

Super District 8, Position 1 Joe Brown (901) 274-4724

Congressman Steve Cohen Tennessee 9 District 901-544-4131

City of Memphis Mayor Willie W. Herenton (901) 576-6007 mayor@memphistn.gov

Are you being served?????

Report by Tanja Mitchell

UPTOWN IMPRESSIONS

Uptown Sweets

I have always loved to bake.

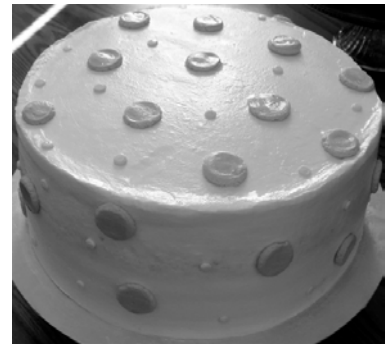
Probably because I have always loved anything with sugar in it. My dad and I used to stay up into the morning hours baking everything we had the ingredients for before Christmas. When I got married, John became the perfect test market for all of my treats. He loved that I was on a mission to bake the perfect chocolate chip cookie – after all, it was his opinion that counted most!



Through the years I've had people tell me that they would buy some of the goodies that have come out of my oven. So last year, I hunted down a cake decorating class and decided to get a little more professional in the appearance of my treats. After a couple of months of practice, I decided to go ahead and launch my little sugar venture – Uptown Sweets.

www.UptownSweets.com is up and running and full of pictures of some of my recent cake endeavors. But it's not just about the cakes! I make a mean cinnamon roll and the chocolate chip cookies are quintessential. So far, I've had great feedback and look forward to seeing the little business grow!

Ashleigh Carroll



CALLING ALL PARENTS AND EDUCATORS IN UPTOWN

Whether you are passionate about education and learning, currently a school teacher, or a concerned parent – let's get together to discuss the educational future of our community.

If you are interested in being a part of this movement, send an email to tmitchell@henryturley.com.

Let's get something instructive started in Uptown!

UPTOWN TOP TEN

Top Ten Reasons to Love Your Neighborhood ... even though it can't take you out to dinner and buy you chocolates

1. I love Uptown because I have a REAL yard right here in DT Memphis.
2. I love Uptown because nice folks plant trees for me. And I can help plant trees for others if I ask real nice :)
3. I love Uptown because we know our Police Officers and they know us (and we miss seeing them).
4. I love Uptown because I get to have neighbors from all cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. We are eclectic.
5. I love Uptown because it is steeped in history.
6. Where else can you get a Roxies Burger (aka, Uptown Burger)? (FYI- I was at lunch today with Harold Collins, dist. 3, new City Council member and the Roxies Burger came up!)
7. I love Uptown because we get to experiment and be creative (The U of M "green" house and The Fulcrum artist community).
8. I love Uptown because I dig front porches and porch swings. And we got plenty of 'em.
9. I love Uptown because I can ride my bike to Beale Street, The Orpheum, Autozone Ballpark and the Fedex Forum.
10. I love Uptown because I actually know my neighbors AND their dogs!

Ideal Furniture Company, Inc.

594 North Second Street
Memphis, Tennessee
526-8266

*SERVING THE MEMPHIS AREA
SINCE 1945*

Show this coupon and you
will receive *10% Off* the
FIRST \$100.00 on your
next purchase

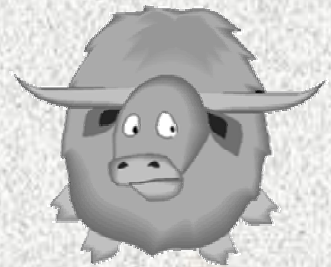
FREE DELIVERY



Need Extra Space ?

**Uptown Homes Residents
Use this coupon for
1st month free
Any size storage unit**

Uptown Storage is more than just storage units.



FEBRUARY -

**MAKE IT
POSITIVE
MONTH!**

UPTOWNYAK.COM

YOUR COMMUNITY WEBSITE

UPTOWN PROFILES

Uptown Residents - In Their Own Words

Rob Levine - New Uptown Community Association Co-Chair for 2008!

Dr. Robert Levine works as a full-time clinical psychologist with the US Department of Justice. He also works part-time in private practice working with children, adults and families.

Dr. Levine is married to Becky Gould-Levine. They are the proud parents of three cats. Rob has lived in Memphis for four years - two of those in Uptown Memphis.

Rob's extensive list of professional memberships include - American Psychological Association, Memphis Area Psychological Association, MPACT, North District Representative for the Downtown Neighborhood Association and past former co-chair for the DNA Home Tour.

We asked Rob a few pertinent questions:

What are your goals for the Uptown Community Association?

Raise money, make progress and stabilize the UCA for continued improvement in Uptown.

What is something most people don't know about you?

I have links to two Democratic Presidential Candidates - I went to the same high school as Hillary Clinton and lived in the same town as Barack Obama. I also went to the same high school and worked at same high school radio and TV station as Harrison Ford. At that same high school I met my beautiful wife.

What are you reading right now?

Rich Dad Poor Dad



Welcome Uptown Community Association Board of Directors!

President – Robert Levine
Vice President – Julie Ray
Secretary – Becky Levine
Treasurer – Dwayne Stone
Beautification Chair – Drew Peterson
Code Enforcement Chair – Casey Bonds
Crime Watch /Safety Chair – Larry Bonds
Newsletter /Advertising Chair – Elizabeth White
Communication & Marketing Chair – Tanja Mitchell
Block Captain Chair – Paul Thomas
Recruiting/ Membership Chair – Jonnye McElyea
Special Events Chair – Jessica Myers

UPTOWN CONNECTIONS

What's On and What's Up in Uptown

Friday, February 1-

International Blues Challenge

5:00 p.m.

Beale Street

Go down and check out the world's largest gathering of blues bands as they vie for prizes and the title!!

Saturday, February 2-

Uptown Neighborhood Watch Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Uptown Square Apartments, 252 North Lauderdale

Keep your resolution - get involved in your community in 2008!!

Saturday, February 9-

2008 Neighborhood Conference

7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cannon Center for the Performing Arts

255 North Main Street

Thursday, February 14-

Valentine's Day

All day!

Everywhere!

**Friday, February 20 &
Saturday, February 21-**

**Cirque de Soleil
Saltimanco**

Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

and 7:30 p.m.

Fedex Forum



**MISS
CORDELIA'S
GROCERY**

**737 Harbor Bend Road,
Memphis, TN 38103
misscordelias.com
901-526-4772**

Deli:
7:00 am - 9:00 pm

Grocery:
7:00 am - 10:00 pm

U

**PUTTING "YOU" BACK
INTO COMMUNITY**

UPTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Uptown Community Association

Membership dues are only \$15 for individuals, or \$25 for a family. Your membership helps to support our many neighborhood activities - cookouts in the park, Meet and Greet evenings, etc.

For more information, and/or to join electronically, contact Julie Ray at cafrancisco@aol.com.

The UCA needs VOLUNTEERS for newsletter delivery, assistance in events and development, etc. Please contact the Chair related to the activity for which you would like to volunteer (see list on page seven) or send an email to cafrancisco@aol.com.