



Cypress Home Owners Association

February 2008

www.cypresshoa.org

President's Report By Judith Fischer

First, a warm welcome to the new members of CHOA's Board of Directors: Vice-President Don Moreau, Secretary Betsy-Ann Toffler, and Member-At-Large Dawn Masick. It's encouraging that three homeowners are interested enough to volunteer to serve our community. Many thanks to Karen Hesky for continuing to serve as our invaluable Treasurer.

We face a challenging year in getting our finances in order, and we ask for your support and patience. (See Treasurer's Report on back page.)

An ongoing CHOA problem (pet peeve?) is dog owners who let their dogs run and/or do not clean up after them. This is not a sanitary situation, particularly when dogs run free in a courtyard where children are playing on playground equipment. Please grab a plastic bag when you go out to walk your dog.

Remember to address maintenance problems or requests to Ramona Acosta, our Accell property manager. Please call 949-581-4988 or email Ramona@accellpm.com.



CHOA Board of Directors 2008 (Top to bottom) Dawn Masick, Karen Hesky, Betsy-Ann Toffler, Don Moreau and Judith Fischer

Around the Block By Betsy-Ann Toffler

I grew up in a small town in northeast New Jersey where everyone knew everyone else. It was a real neighborhood, a neighborhood where we all lived in and out of each other's homes and where everyone knew everyone else's business, not always such a good thing, but friendly nonetheless.

Times were different then. We had no Internet, no cell phones, no answering machines. As a matter of fact, some of us didn't even have telephones, and most of us who did had party lines. When we picked up our phones to make a call, an operator said, "Number please," and we dutifully gave her the number and hoped that the other party wasn't listening, which usually they were.

It was a post-World War II community, and some of our fathers and sons hadn't come back, and we all mourned their loss.

It was also the beginning of the television era, and when the wealthier of our neighborhood families got the first television, all us children crowded into their finished basement to while away our days watching Westerns.

We played on the streets together in the long, lazy summer afternoons that stretched out into the nighttime, and we languished in the luxury of good neighbors, loving friends, and the security of knowing that as long as we had each other, somehow, we'd all be safe. It was a long time ago.

Today I live 3,000 miles and 45 years away from that place, and I find myself in a community surrounded by strangers. We have all the modern conveniences; we all drive cars; we have sophisticated communications; we're more affluent; and yet, we don't seem to know each other.

People are rushing around, off to work or play or to tend to household chores, and no one seems to have the time to say hello when a neighbor passes by on the street. The most we get is a hurried wave as a car drives away.

Yet, we're still all in the same boat. The times may have changed, but we're still people, and we're neighbors. If we took the time to know each other, we would probably find that we share the same worries and the same joys. Each of us has his or her share of sadness, trouble, aggravation, and frustration as well as excitement, happiness, and good luck. And the truth is that if we knew our neighbors and shared with them more, the bad things would be halved, and the good things would be doubled.

So the next time you're out for a run, or walking the dog, or bringing in the groceries, or simply enjoying the air, and you see one of your neighbors, say "Hello" or "How are you?" or even "Lovely day, isn't it?" Let's turn our community of strangers into a neighborhood of friends. It all starts with a welcoming smile.

Ed. note: This is a new column in our CHOA newsletter. If you are interested in contributing, please email your submissions to Editor Judith Fischer: fischer.judith@sbsglobal.net.

Welcome and thanks to new Assistant Editor Sabrina Moreau.

**Clubhouse Rental
Contact Dawn Masick
484-7900**

**Board Meetings
Clubhouse #2, 7:15pm
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Thursday, March 27, 2008**