



2006
Volume 1, Issue 1

Officers

Terry Neal, President
Vacant, Vice-President
Missy Hoffman, Secretary
Shelly Clark, Treasurer

Inside this Issue

1

President's Message
State of the Neighborhood

2

My Personal Goals

3

Re-zoning 40th Street

**Temple Crest
Neighborhood Boundaries**

West
30th Street

East
Temple Terrace

North
Busch Boulevard

South
Hillsborough River

**ALERT N.E.A.T. CLEANUP
3/11/2006**

Temple Crest Civic Association

Terry Neal, President
4242 Miller Avenue
Tampa, FL 33617
813-989-8100
terryneal@terryneal.com

TEMPLE CREST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Serving the Community of Temple Crest Since 1948

State of the Neighborhood



Significant Risk to our Quality of Life

From the President

By Terry Neal



After two years of revamping our newsletter format, we are revealing the new design with my observations about the state of our neighborhood.

First, let me thank our outgoing President Jeannie Johnson who has led us through the last two years; two years which have been extremely significant for Temple Crest.

Here are my concerns:

There continues to be a lack of seriousness from downtown about Temple Crest. It seems that whatever comes before them, whether it be zoning, code violations, or quality of life, Temple Crest permits get a rubber stamp approval without much concern about the effect on our quality of life. Let me illustrate with examples:

- For nearly 3 years unsafe and unsightly portables, which were allowed into our neighborhood without a permit, have not been appropriately cited. And now, as we seek to improve the look of 40th Street, a chain link fence is being constructed. The city has refused to take action.

- A mobile home, which was grandfathered into our neighborhood, was removed and instead of returning the zoning to single family residence, the city immediately and improperly issued a permit to build a quadriplex on a single lot.
- Not only did the city give Oxford Properties permission to build 231 apartments on Busch Blvd., despite the protests of residents and local police, we are now investigating whether they violated their own agreement to sustain at least 53% of the trees on this site. Stay tuned for this one.
- Although south of us in River Grove, but still along the 40th Street corridor, the city issued a permit to Clear Channel to build a monstrous billboard (next to Quincy's Restaurant) AND the city has allowed yet another improper use of property by ignoring a used appliance lot at the corner of Hanna and 40th Streets.
- Although River Hills Drive and other streets continue to be turned down for sidewalks, just north of Busch Blvd. on 46th Street the city installed a second set of sidewalks. They say HARTline requested it. HARTline denies the cities claim.

The list goes on and on.

There is some good news however:



- Although I complain about a perception of bad treatment by city staff, I sense a change in the wind, probably due to the activism of our residents. City staff seems to be getting the message that Temple Crest as a neighborhood is as deserving as any other in the city and that the residents are willing to fight for those rights.
- The 40th Street Project appears to be moving along. The bridge is due to go out for bid in a couple of months. (My only concern is that staff has estimated construction costs accurately – otherwise we will have more delays and excuses.)

There is much work to be done. There are some simple things each of us can do to help our community. Most importantly however is our attitude. Too long we have accepted second best, believing that because we were not South Tampa or Tampa Palms that what we got was the best we could hope for. Help me help you by believing in Temple Crest and believing that we are just as much a part of this community as any other neighborhood, and that we are just as deserving of the benefits of a high quality of life.

Happy New Year! Terry

SPREAD THE WORD

Please let me ask each of you to pass along this newsletter to your neighbors. Make copies and give to each house on your street. If you're receiving by e-mail, please forward to as many neighbors as possible **AND ask your neighbors to send me their e-mail addresses so that I can send them future issues by email.** Send those email addresses to terryneal@terryneal.com and mark in

the **subject line:** ADD TO TEMPLE CREST NEWSLETTER

Let me assure you that your contact information, including email address, is never sold or given to anyone. It will be used exclusively for communicating news of Temple Crest to you.

My Personal Goals

My personal goal for our organization is for two items:

- Increase awareness
- Increase participation

We can all become more aware of what is happening in our city and our neighborhood by sharing information – hence this newsletter.

Soon our association will have a website and I will be able to include links in the newsletter that you can click on to go to websites where you can find more information on whatever topic is included. An example of this to be included in future editions would be a hyperlink for the TREE HOTLINE number. You would be able to click on to the cities website on trees, where you can learn all about trees and how the city treats these valuable resources.

Emailing this newsletter saves us a lot of money that we can use for other projects. But if you or a neighbor does not have email please send me your address and I'll make sure you get a copy mailed to you.

Finally, my second goal: increase participation. I know how difficult it is to juggle family, job and all the other parts of modern life; however, there is much you can do to help us. Passing out copies of this newsletter to your neighbors is one. Attending a meeting occasionally is another. Calling, writing and e-mailing your elected officials is another. Let's not forget the most important part of participation either: registering to vote and then voting. That alone is a one hour investment in the next four years of your community's future.

Re-zoning 40th Street

At the December 10th meeting of the 40th Street Task Force, Cynthia Miller, Director of the City of Tampa's Housing and Business Development Department, told the assembled group that re-zoning would take place once all 40th Street properties were acquired.

This means that the neighborhood will wait for at least 2 years before participating in a plan for zoning the 40th Street Corridor.



Please join us! We meet at 7 pm on the second Monday of each month at our clubhouse located at 4242 Miller Avenue in Temple Crest. We've been around since 1948, when 40th Street was a country road, watching Tampa grow, so that now we are surrounded on all 4 sides by a major metropolitan area.

Our neighborhood is considered one of the most active in the state, serving as a model to other neighborhoods as to what can be accomplished when people are organized and focused. We continue to seek people to rally with us as we work for neighborhood improvements, including 40th Street. Our residents' joining together is our strength and one reason that we are able to open the ears of our elected officials. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings.

