

# Thompson-Hunter Neighborhood Association

*Dinner & Neighborhood Tales*

*Meeting Notes // January 14, 2013*

Courtney: Intro of board members; goals of assoc; survey for grant money

Donnis: Blessing

## **PANEL DISCUSSION / STORIES**

Rachel: Intro guest speakers – Arthur, Yolanda, Jessica, Vincent, Clementine and Jeff

**QUESTION:** *What brought you to the neighborhood and when?*

**Arthur Graham:** Moved to Hargett St 1950's when he was 6. Had 7 brothers. Where DMV building is now used to be a baseball field where there was an outdoor picnic shelter. There wasn't a rec center – that was their rec center where they would meet up to play. Lots of teachers, ministers, mail men lived in the neighborhood. Met wife and her mother who lived on Martin St and has lived there for 26 yrs.

**Yolanda McGill:** Came into the neighborhood looking for a fixer-upper and worked with Mr Brown. She saw lots of potential and bought her place in 2006, but has had to fight with the city on a couple of issues. Took about a year to fix it up, traveled for a bit, now is back to living in the neighborhood.

**Jessica Shore:** moved here about a year ago since Feb. Found out about the neighborhood through Lindsay and Ford and found a house off Watson. Has met lots of great neighbors.  
-Vincent: Has lived here 75 years. Grew up in Lincoln Park. Has seen the neighborhood grow, people pass away, and then it grow again. Gave thanks to all who is there to help make it prosper.

**Clementine Weaver:** Born and lived here for 80 years.

**Jeff DeBellis:** Moved to Hargett St in 2001. Had previously rented in Oakwood, but ended up buying here because he liked the diversity. Was the minority so people knew who he was and would say hi. Likes the diversity and history.

**QUESTION:** *What changes have you seen in the neighborhood?*

**Clementine Weaver:** Evolution and many changes. Remembers the DMV lot being a baseball field. Still lots of changes every day. Lots of progress and happy about it. Glad for new neighbors and old ones too.

**Jeff DeBellis:** There used to be a halfway house across the street from him; saw a driveby shooting; heard gunfire; plants/chairs stolen – but persevered and became more involved in the neighborhood and has enjoyed living here.

**Vincent Hedgepeth:** Kids now a days don't have what they used to have which is a "big momma" or a disciplinarian. He sees changes in a positive direction though – no more gun violence, neighbors getting more involved. He just hopes that we'll be able to be there for the children and not just say that's someone else's child and turn away. More community ownership for our kids needed.

**Yolanda McGill:** Attendance in association meeting is good and able to have frank conversation which she appreciates. Revisiting the community watch is a good thing and she likes that the association is not just trying to reinvent the wheel, but coming up with new ideas. She encouraged neighbors to continue to engage and BE a community.

**Clementine Weaver:** All families that had kids are grown, but she sees a lot of those kids coming back to raise their kids. It's a good place to grow up. People look out for other people here.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES**

Courtney: Stone building update – corner of East and Davie. Deemed historic building in 2000's and approved to make space for apartments for artist community.

Jeff: 4 lots on Martin and Haywood – city owned land acquired through redevelopment. South side used to be laundry mat and now the soil is contaminated so can't use it until city clears it. North side has 4 parcels of land and city will consider RFP's this month. More details to follow in next meeting (2/1/ @ 6PM)

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

- Next meeting we'll talk about Matching grants and community watch
- For non-emergency issues contact Officer Lee (919) 278-6338
- For issues such as lights out, potholes, things city can fix link to: [seeclckfix.com](http://seeclckfix.com)

## **SPRING CALENDAR**

2/18: THNA Dessert Meeting, 6:30 PM, Mt. Sinai

3/2: Neighborhood Clean-Up, 9 AM, Davie Street Park

4/15: THNA Dessert Meeting, 6:30 PM, Mt. Sinai (Board Elections)

5/4: Neighborhood Clean-Up, 9 AM, Davie Street Park