

# MIDTOWN NEWS

This is your GARDEN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER May 2004

## MIDTOWN MESSAGE

John B. Wright students write about what it would be like if they could fly over our community:

The Butterfly  
By Angel

If I were a butterfly, I would see cars. They would be stopping at the light. Waiting for the green big, big light to go, go. If I were a butterfly, I would see BIG beautiful flowers in a BIG backyard. Flowers, flowers blue, green, yellow, pink, red, and violet flowers.

Bird Flying  
By Esteban

If I were a bird, I would fly over the school. I would see the buildings, people running, and cars driving. It is fun.

## APRIL SUMMARY

This month's meeting was opened by another performance by talented Wright School students. This time we heard the after school chorus.

We had one guest speaker, **Rebecca Lee**, coordinator for the International Exchange Student Program. She spoke of the need for host families and the benefits for all involved. Last year Midtown residents sponsored two students from Vietnam. If you would like more information, please call Rebecca at 579-2700.

**Nicole Smith**, one of our residents, spoke about her role in helping to keep our neighborhood safe from drugs and other negative influences. She stressed the importance of getting involved in what is going on, being watchful, and taking an assertive stand with officials in order to get things done. Nicole was raised in this neighborhood, went to school at John B. Wright and is now raising a family here.

**BIG NEWS** - Brad Holland announced that mayor and council voted 7 - 0 to abolish the "suicide" lane on Grant Road.

## SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

**JOHN B. WRIGHT:** **Ida Plotkin** spoke on Principal Lisa Langford's behalf. She reports that the school is focusing on its goal of student achievement. The school is in need of volunteers willing to work one on one with students in all academic areas. If you have an hour or two a week to spare, please call the school at 232-8100.

**LIBRARY/LEARNING CENTER:** **Anna Marie Patti** reports that bidding for contractors will begin soon. She

asked for volunteers to form an "art committee". They will be responsible for deciding what type of art we would like on the outside of the building. **Brad Holland** shared that it has been strongly suggested that the library be named the Martha Cooper Library. It was her dream to have a Midtown library. If you would like to be on the art committee please call Anna Marie at 881-0244.

**BOTANICAL GARDENS:** **Nancy Laney**, director of the gardens, reports that they would like to purchase two lots adjacent to the gardens for educational purposes. This will require a zoning amendment. She gave examples of how this could be a very positive thing for our neighborhood: The homes would maintain a residential look, they will be beautifully landscaped (of course) and they will provide eyes and ears in the neighborhood during the day.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

🌸 **FLOWER ANGEL:** **David Kha** would like to nominate **Anna Marie Patti** for this month's Flower Angel. She has been the backbone of volunteer efforts in building the Midtown Library/Learning Center. She is an incredibly valuable asset to Midtown. She has also been vigilant in keeping up the traffic circles. The newly painted sculptures look fabulous!

The newly formed **Midtown Garden Club** is soliciting your recipes! In keeping with our name, "**Midtown, the Garden District**", several residents are now meeting and plan to be growing our own vegetables and herbs in a community garden very soon. We would like to get your favorite recipes that use vegetables and herbs and try them out on the "vegetables" of our labor! We will post all selected recipes on our Garden Club web page so all can share and enjoy. Who knows, maybe we will have a Midtown food festival someday and feature your special recipe! For more information call David Kha at 323-8278.

## NEXT MEETING

May, 2004  
6:30 Potluck  
7:00 Business Meeting  
John B. Wright School  
4311 E. Linden  
Bring a dollar and a dish!