

truero trails

DECEMBER 1980



Truro Cathedral

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRURO HOMES ASSOCIATION

Truro Should Have Patrols by December 15th

By Gail Safeer

Because of the interest shown in the Neighborhood Watch program and the progress being made, Truro should have citizen patrols operating within the community by December 15. That's the word from the nucleus of Truro residents who are setting up this county sponsored self-help crime prevention program.

Dick Yates, of 8620 Pappas Way, has volunteered to coordinate the

TWO MORE TRURO HOMES BURGLARIZED AS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS FORMING

Burglaries continued in Truro at at least a one-a-month rate even as preparations to launch the Neighborhood Watch program in the community were being completed.

On Friday, October 17--the day after Truro's first Neighborhood Watch meeting--burglars broke into a home on Charles Hawkins Way and stole a coin collection, a stamp collection, jewelry and other valuables, carrying away the loot in stolen luggage. Entry was gained by forcing the first floor laundry room door, which was secured by a deadbolt.

A month later, on Saturday, November 15, burglars entered a home on Wakefield Drive and made off with gold and silver items, jewelry and some cash. In this break-in, entry was through a sliding glass patio door, which the burglars jimmed open.

Both burglaries were the work of professionals, in the opinion of Fairfax County police officials.

program in Truro, as a result of an organizational meeting several weeks ago. He is already hard at work getting the patrol concept in motion. He and several other Truro men recently participated in a Friday night orientation tour with the Neighborhood Watch group in Lake Braddock, which is sharing its experience with us. Lake Braddock has a very active unit, with three cars patrolling every Friday and Saturday night. Our area is smaller and our program less ambitious, at least initially, but we hope our volunteer group will grow. With a large and active group, individual duty will be minimal.

Apart from the citizen patrols, Dick has produced some revealing data on the cost of burning outside lights overnight--which very few of us in Truro do, thus contributing to Truro's allure to criminals. To burn one 100-watt light for 12 hours a night for 30 days (36 kilowatt hours) at the October-May rate of \$.0514 per kilowatt hour costs only

THE COVER

As is our habit, this year's December cover depicts a church of historic significance to our community: Truro Cathedral, in Truro, Cornwall. Back in February 1976 we ran an article on that Truro (and its cathedral), part of our bicentennial series on "The Truro Heritage." This month, in the article on page 7, we take a closer look at the cathedral itself. Material for both the cover drawing and the article was supplied by Dorenda Hubbard, of 8613 Pappas Way.

Neighborhood Watch

Why Call the Police?

Successful efforts to combat crime require the cooperative involvement of police and citizens. The police can't be everywhere. Many crimes wouldn't be committed if more citizens were alert to suspicious activity and notified police.

When Should You Call?

Call whenever you observe any suspicious events. Never assume that someone else will do what you should do. We prefer to get numerous calls on an event than none at all. Often citizens fail to call because they're not sure if what they see warrants a call. If you're in doubt, call immediately. Do not wait to confer with neighbors. Valuable police response time is lost this way. Don't worry about bothering us--or about your embarrassment if the call proves unfounded. Think instead of what could happen if you don't call. Next time, you or your loved ones could be the victims.

What Is Suspicious?

A stranger enters your neighbor's home while he's away, or someone crosses your or your neighbor's yard with no apparent lawful purpose; anyone trying to open a neighbor's door; a moving truck or van pulled up to a home when the owner is gone. Remember, burglaries often occur at times when they should be most obvious--in broad daylight, in full view of observers and with little effort at subterfuge.

\$1.85 a month. A 60-watt bulb is \$1.11 a month. Even adding the cost of the bulb, it's a bargain, Dick points out--a bit of protection no one can afford not to have.

Since not everyone present at the October meeting got a copy of the booklet entitled "Neighborhood Watch," I'll summarize its pertinent points in this and subsequent issues of Truro Trails (adjoining column).

FROM THE BOARD

By Russ Wylie

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1980

The Board of Directors of the Truro Homes Association met on October 27, November 13 and November 24, 1980, at homes of its members to consider the THA and TCC budgets for 1981. The first two meetings were taken up with budget requests presented by operating committees of the community--Architectural Control, Social, Tennis, Park and Community Center. The results of the board's deliberations and its rationale for the proposed 1981 budgets are summarized below.

General

The budgets which the board will recommend to members will be published in the January Truro Trails. Treasurer Jerry Stranahan is making final adjustments to bring the budgets into line with board decisions and readying them for publication. Members will therefore have an opportunity to study the budgets before the general membership meeting in January.

The first budget which the members will consider in January is

that for the Truro Homes Association. It is primarily devoted to financing the Social and Park Committee activities and related matters. The largest single expense is park repair and maintenance. The second budget, considerably larger, is for operation of the pool during the summer and for repair and maintenance of the Truro Community Center facility, including the pool, tennis courts, basketball court and the immediate grounds.

THA Budget

Paths are the key item in this year's budget, just as in 1980. The Park Committee estimates that about \$6,000 is needed to complete repaving the paths. The board decided to recommend that the repaving be completed in 1981, the cost of which will be paid out of the reserve fund. However, to keep the reserve fund from being depleted, the board recommends that \$5,600 be paid into it to replace the amount required for repaving. This transaction will leave the reserve fund at about its current level, projected at \$6,879 for the end of the calendar year.

The board recommends that the THA assessment be maintained at the present \$40.

TCC Budget

At the May general membership meeting, the board was urged to recommend a TCC budget that would keep the facility and pool operation at the same top quality as in prior years, even if that means increases in user fees. Members were particularly vocal in opposing cuts in service or quality. The board did not take the membership's wishes as an opportunity to throw caution to the winds. But the budget recommendation worked out with the

Community Center Committee is believed sufficient to maintain a facility that well reflects our community's pride in itself.

The Tennis Committee requested the installation of wind screens for the tennis courts. Its proposal was that the entire area be wind-screened. Since complete wind screening would keep spectators at the pool and in the stands from watching the action, however, the board opted for funds for partial wind screening. This should be effective enough to keep the wind from ruining great volleys without preventing spectators from enjoying them. The partial screening will cost about \$400.

OFFICIAL
THA
NOTICE

The largest single new expense in the TCC budget will be \$4,000 to replace lounges, chairs and tables. Those who frequent the pool know that the furniture deteriorated last year in spite of everyone's efforts at rehabilitation.

A smaller item is a gas water heater. The budget will call for replacing the electric unit with a gas unit, and for the addition of higher capacity electrical outlets in the main room. Exterior safety lights will also be replaced with more energy efficient units. The new exterior lighting will pay for itself in reduced electricity bills. We estimate that the electric water heater will pay for itself in its first year through electricity savings.

The major long-term consideration for the TCC is the tennis courts. With Bob Gardner's help, the board has been pursuing efforts to understand the cause of the cracking and seepage. No one really knows how much a solution may eventually cost because no one as yet knows the ex-

act causes of the seepage and deterioration of court surfaces. But if we should have to tear up the two back courts, it would be expensive. So the board is again recommending a significant contribution to the reserve fund. The TCC reserve fund is estimated to be just over \$18,000 by the end of this year. A contribution of \$6,100 in the 1981 budget--plus interest expected to be earned in 1981--will raise it to more than \$25,000 by the end of next year.

The Community Center Committee recommended that we set aside funds for installing a French drain from the baby pool to an area beyond the tennis courts, to drain away water that may be damaging the baby pool. Jim Baker, pool manager, has called the committee's attention to some deterioration of the baby pool, particularly heaving of the deck. Better drainage may relieve the hydrologic (water) pressure that apparently causes the problem. Installation of a French drain is considerably less expensive than a complete rehabilitation of the pool itself. If water pressure under the pool turns out not to be the problem, we may eventually have to rehabilitate the pool.

The board will recommend a TCC user fee of \$180 for 1981, up \$15 from this year.

Reserve Funds

A reserve fund helps us meet occasional major expenses without resorting to periodic special assessments or wildly fluctuating annual assessments. The board uses the reserve funds of the THA and TCC to finance major capital expenditures, such as last year's new community center roof and pool recoating. The tennis court repairs will be paid for from the TCC reserve fund, once the problem is identified.

The reserve funds are not "slush funds" for unanticipated whims or miscellaneous expenditures. They are, in effect, both the ballast and the keel board that keep our community on an even course.

Some Special People

The board was very pleased with the care and effort that the committees put into their budget recommendations. Wally Bridgman for the Park Committee, Don Jenkins for Architectural Control, Lynn Alterman for Swimming, Jane Barber for Social, Bob and Jane Gardner for the Community Center, and Paul Anderson and Joan Ledebur for Tennis were all just super. Their proposed budgets reflected the pride we all feel in Truro. Yet their recommendations also reflected a modesty born of an understanding that the money involved was coming from their own pockets as well as their neighbors'.

Others deserve our thanks, too. Jerry Stranahan, our treasurer, organizes and oversees compliance with the budgets. He also wisely manages our cash and reserve funds so as to produce a significant interest income for the community. Jerry is an outstanding treasurer and a valued participant in board meetings.

Jim Baker, who operates the pool during the season and maintains the community center year-around, is incomparable. We don't think there is a better community facility in Northern Virginia than ours, and Jim deserves much of the credit.

Marj Bridgman has earned our thanks, too, for the work she does as record keeper. In most communities the role of record keeper is essentially clerical. Not in Truro; Marj not only keeps the records as efficiently as anyone could, but

also serves as Truro's official "greeter" of new families and is one of the community's most avid boosters.

Gail Safer is spearheading the Neighborhood Watch program, the progress of which Dick Yates discussed with the board at the second budget meeting. That effort may already rival the Park Committee for the most volunteer involvement. Neighborhood Watch is a proven, effective anti-crime program. But perhaps its greatest long-term benefit will be the bonds of camaraderie and friendship it builds among neighbors united in volunteer service to their community. It's just like Gail to be an instigator of such an activity.

FROM THE COMMITTEES

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Jane Barber

Halloween Spook House

The Truro Community Center still echoes with the screams of frightened visitors to the October 26 Halloween Spook House. Many thanks to Jane Gardner and all her helpers at this annual Halloween affair. More than 360 children and quite a few adults walked, stood and crawled through the haunted house, then munched on doughnuts and drank cider. Many thanks as well to the judges of our pumpkin carving contest. Carol and Ray Good had a difficult time choosing the award-winning pumpkin carvers, but came up with these:

6 and Under

1st.....Jenny Stallings

7 through 10

1st.....Samantha Hall
Ethan Gidez

2nd.....Joel Durgavich
Scott Napier

3rd.....Mike Plishker
Blake and Steve Frazier

11 and Over

1st.....Lara George
Lara Ledebur

2nd.....Krissy Murphy
Wendy Hauenstein

3rd.....Danielle Payne
Paige Van Sickle

Newcomers Get-Together

The newcomers party on the evening of November 1 brought together lots of new faces and old acquaintances. More than 80 people attended, bringing a great variety of delicious hors d'oeuvres. Jim Quarles won the door prize (champagne) and John Gratchner and Carol Greco received the "Get Acquainted with Your Community" game prize (a bottle of wine apiece).

Other News

● NEEDED: A chairman for the 1981 Spook House. Jane Gardner is willing to help, but since she works full time Sundays through Thursdays her free time is limited. Contact me at 978-1353 if you're interested.

● NEEDED: Social Committee members. In recent years most Truro events (10-12 per year) have been well attended, but the number of regulars on the Social Committee to help organize them has diminished to a mere half-dozen. It's hard to have a successful function even with the hard working committee members we have now. So I urge you to see if you can't volunteer a few hours once or twice a year to help with these popular community occasions. Your participation will help maintain a Social Committee to sponsor activities for you and your children. Some of our events include the

annual Pool Opening Party (June), Ladies Pool Days (four in all), the annual Shrimp Feast (July), the Halloween Spook House (October), a Newcomers Get-Together (November) and the Spring Ladies Luncheon (March or April). If you have the time to help, call me at 978-1353.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

By Donna Reistetter

Welcome, New Neighbors:

KRAUS, Richard and Leona
8712 Chippendale Court
978-0006
Senior Safety Advisor, Mobil Oil Corporation
Children: Larry (1964)
*Bobby (1965)

*Add to babysitter list.

The Clearing House

By Catherine Bergstrom

Our community continues to attract some of the nicest people, and three of these newcomers came to our November coffee. We enjoyed meeting them. Thanks to the old-timers, too--neighbors who made them feel welcome.

Cookie Exchange and (?) Tree Tour

This will be on December 16 at 10 a.m. at the community center. Bring at least two dozen cookies--and the recipe for others to copy if you'd like. We'll sample some and exchange the others. This was a very successful event last year and we combined it with a tree tour (visiting a few homes to enjoy the special holiday decorations that so many of you have). This year our date, December 16, seems a little

early for most of us to be so organized, and we have just two "possible" homes to visit. If you would like to share in this holiday spirit by adding your home to our tour list please call me (978-6541) or just add your name on the 16th.

Sporting Goods Exchange--Sequel

Many thanks to those of you who participated. Although we had lots of sellers, we lacked enough buyers. But I hope we can continue these kinds of community exchanges and that the participation will grow. I was very impressed with the quality of goods offered for sale, and for those of you who missed this one here's a partial list of items that are still for sale (with sizes):

978-4920

Girls figure skates (3); girls roller skates (6 & 7); men's hockey skates (9); Girl Scout (cadet) uniform (8); ladies ski pants (8); boys down jacket (18); girls Schwinn bicycle.

978-2865

Hockey skates (6).

978-1470

2 pr. girls roller skates (4-5); 2 pr. ski boots (4-5); ski poles (S); skis (M).

978-4851

Addidas running shoes (6); ladies roller skates (7).

323-0845

5 bicycles (assorted sizes); men's hockey skates (4); roller skates (2); ladies roller skates (4); ice hockey knee pads (youth, 11-12 yrs).

323-7314

16-gauge shotgun; 2-man rubber boat.

978-4589

Men's 3-speed bicycle; girls banana bicycle.

323-6374

Massive baseball card collection; 2 new life vests (adult).

Mini History.....

TRURO CATHEDRAL, A CENTURY-OLD
REMINDER OF OUR TRURO HERITAGE

By Dave Jones

There's one church near us that bears our Truro community's name: the Truro Episcopal Church in the center of the City of Fairfax--a reminder of our historical ties to the Truro Parish of colonial times (Truro Trails, December 1978). But across the sea in England stands another, more magnificent symbol of Truro's heritage: Truro Cathedral in Truro, Cornwall. A comparatively new structure by European standards, the cathedral this year celebrates its 100th anniversary.

For centuries after its establishment in the early part of the 12th century, the town of Truro had only a simple Anglican church, St. Mary's, in the middle of town. But when the Diocese of Truro was created in 1876, plans were immediately made to build a suitable cathedral.

Construction began in 1880--the first Protestant cathedral to be built in England since the rebuilding of St. Paul's in London three centuries earlier. The architect, John L. Pearson, chose to build in the Early English style with a very strong French influence, prompting some critics to say that the cathedral would look more at home in Normandy than in Cornwall. It was built on the site of the old St. Mary's church, which was razed (except for its south aisle, which was retained and incorporated into the new structure over the objections of the cathedral's first bishop, Edward White Benson, who saw it as "a tinkering up of old stones"). It was a cramped site--right in the middle of town, hemmed in by other buildings, with no room for even the smallest lawn, its buttresses rising directly from the cobbles of High Cross--but it was the only

spot available.

The new cathedral's cornerstone was laid by the Prince of Wales, suitably garbed in a top hat and mason's apron, using a silver plated masonic trowel. Construction continued until 1910.

Visually and culturally, the cathedral dominates the present city of Truro. Its great central spire soars 250 feet over the heart of the city; its two western spires rise to 200 feet. The cathedral's west front has a huge rosette window and the porch below is ornamented with statues, among which are those of the first three bishops of Truro.

It is generally thought that Hugh Walpole's novel The Cathedral was inspired, at least in part, by Truro Cathedral--although it perhaps is just as likely that his inspiration came from Durham Cathedral in Walpole's home town.

Celebrations marking the centenary of Truro Cathedral have been going on all this year. They culminate on Christmas Eve with the Festival of Nine Lessons, devised by the first Bishop of Truro back in 1880. A colorful display of banners depicting the Celtic saints of Cornwall, made at schools throughout the diocese, will hang along both sides of the cathedral's nave until Christmas.



STAY WARM THIS WINTER

SOME TIPS ON DRESSING PROPERLY
FOR THAT COLD WEATHER DUE SOON



Winter can be a miserable and uncomfortable time for people who aren't prepared to cope with cold weather. In a couple of recent articles, Truro Trails has dealt with the subject of energy conservation, including ideas for making Truro homes warmer in winter. Here, extracted from a pamphlet prepared by the Virginia Association of Community Action Agencies, are some tips on dressing warmly during winter months.

- When indoors, insulate your body with several layers of clothing. Three garments loosely layered are warmer than one, and if you get hot you can always peel down.

- Wool clothing, worn in direct contact with the skin, is warmest. Polyester knits are not as warm as wool or cotton. Comfortable sweaters, long underwear, and tights or long socks (if you don't wear pants) will also keep you warm.

- For sleeping, flannel pajamas

are warmer than synthetic materials. Long underwear is also comfortable and warm for sleeping. Several lightweight blankets are warmer than one very heavy blanket. A knit cap will keep you warm at night, too; you can lose one-half to three-quarters of your body heat through your head whenever it's uncovered.

- Keep an afghan or blanket on hand for warmth when you're sitting still. Remember, though--you'll be warmer if you're moving around.

HOSTS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS SOUGHT

The Experiment in International Living is bringing a group of Chilean students (ages 16-18) to the Washington area for seven weeks during January and February. Host families are being sought in the Northern Virginia area.

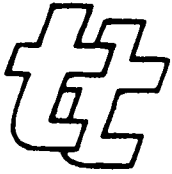
The students' native language is Spanish; however, they have a fair to excellent understanding of English. During their stay they will attend local high schools and participate in other activities, but the main purpose is for them to experience life as members of American families.

For further information on sharing your home and way of life with a foreign student, call Florence Calhoun, program coordinator, at 256-7039.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE--Estey upright piano, \$250. Call 978-4878.

FOR SALE--Magnetic weatherstripping for Truro entry doors. Full set including door-bottom sweep, \$15. Door-bottom sweep alone, \$4. Contact Bill Ulman (days--897-9330, evenings--323-6496).



this and that ••

Twice before we've reported on Truro Manor, the luxurious new "upper brackets" estate in McLean being advertised in the Washingtonian magazine. Truroites standing in line to buy this posh home will be delighted to learn that the asking price has been reduced--down from \$2,150,000 to an even \$2,000,000. That makes it a lot easier to write the check.



A question answered correctly in the last second of the game gave W. T. Woodson High School a victory on "It's Academic" on TV last month. The Woodson team, led by Truro's Jeff Bostak, of 4103 Necostin Way, scored 380 points to edge out Langley High School on the final question of the Channel 4 program on November 15. Jeff and his two Woodson teammates will compete in a playoff match with other winners later in the year.



Truro's Joe Tranchini was one of the reasons the W.T. Woodson High School football team did so well in the Northern District this year. Joe quarterbacked the Cavaliers as they swept through a successful season with a 5-1 district record (coming in second behind West Springfield High School) and a 9-1 overall record. Joe is the son of Joe and Cookie Tranchini of 8709 Pappas Way.

FROM THE EDITOR

Chalk up a big page 1 boo-boo for your editor last month. In the November issue, Gail Safer's story on the Neighborhood Watch program

mentioned that since she worked at a county library she could borrow an engraving pen for anyone who needed one to mark valuables. What Gail really wrote was that Suzanne Rehder could do that, since it is she, not Gail, who works at a library. My careless editing messed it up. So if you still need an engraving pen call Suzanne (978-7529). Meanwhile, I'll try harder.



Sometime early in my tenure as Truro Trails editor, I came to the conclusion that "Truroites" was a proper appellation for Truro residents. I've used that term ever since. In researching the article on Truro Cathedral on page 7, however, I ran across a reference to "Truronians"--from a little book on Truro, Cornwall, by David Mudd. After considerable thought (two or three minutes) I've decided that my term is easier to pronounce than his. So I shall continue to refer to us as Truroites. Any objection?



Note the later-than-usual deadline (December 27) for the January issue. That's to accommodate the editor's comings and goings. The issue, complete with 1981 THA and TCC budget summaries, should be out by the 5th, as usual.

TRURO TRAILS

is published each month by the Truro Homes Association. Members are invited to submit material for publication to the editor at 4205 Elizabeth Lane. The deadline for the January issue is

DECEMBER 27

Dave Jones, Editor....978-3857
Donna Reistetter, Dis-
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