

JUDY HUBBARD

- o Resident since 1973
- o 39 years old

I moved to Cleveland Park from Georgetown ten and a half years ago. I was selling real estate in the early '70s, drove up Newark Street and fell in love with the neighborhood. At that time there were a lot of older people living here. Younger people have moved in. A lot of people on my street all bought houses within two or three years of each other. I wanted to be able to walk down the street and get groceries ....go to the Zoo. I knew the subway was coming. I didn't want to have to rely on my car.

I liked the architecture and convenience, but I didn't know when I moved in how important the people would be to me....my neighbors.... the shopkeepers. When you're out walking with your baby or your dog, you meet a lot of people....at the library, at the National Child Research Center (NCRC) playground and then at the Block Party. I joined the Babysitting Co-op, and met so many neighbors, not only on Newark Street, but on Porter, Ordway, Rodman, and Lowell.

The Halloween Party....I got involved in that just by being a mom who was at home with small kids. The Halloween Party, for years and years, was run by a woman named Barbara Burruss. She was the director of Macomb Playground. She retired and Clarence Anderson, her successor, wasn't told about the Halloween Party. Clarence was sitting in his office on Halloween afternoon when suddenly two or three hundred children, all in costume, appeared on the playground. Scared him to death. He didn't know what to do with them. The mothers in the neighborhood said we never wanted that to happen again. And so someone from the community and the director of the playground have organized a Halloween Party ever since.

There is a reputation in Cleveland Park. We want to do things for our community. If something needs to be done, it is done. Lou Stovall started a crime watch. The Boscoss saw a need for the Reno Road Coalition. Joe Howell, Gary Kopff and the Holens started up Friends of Tregaron again. During the public hearings on Tregaron, one could either testify as a neighbor or as an expert witness. Most of the neighbors around here chose to testify as just neighbors. But when they got on the stand, they had so many degrees, so much experience. The Zoning Board was overcome by the expertise. This kind of professional background is used in a community way.

Maybe Cleveland Park has just the right percentage of space. We don't have too much space around us; but we have enough so we don't feel crowded and so we can go out and meet our neighbors. Small town.... small town neighbors.