Criminal destruction of trees

By Arnetta Lottier

Mrs. Pattie Boyd, long-time Captain in the 1700 blk of Holbrook St. complained this week about the almost criminal destruction of trees in her block.

Neighbors are upset because the razing of their trees and floweres were totally unnessesary.

This block has been one of the most beautiful AFRO Clean Blocks in the city. It is always the first in the spring to be cleaned and freshly painted. It stays that way all summer. You could always take visitors to this block and know it would be spic and span. What happened?

Last year they began the construction of new apartments all around this area; Aisquith, E. Lanvale, E. Lafayette Ave. and Holbrook St.

Despite this, 1700 Holbrook was able to maintain a top block under adverse conditions. Red mud and dust was a constant problem.

Another problem in this block was an old dead tree no one would remove. During a spring wind strom part of it LEW DOWN ON A TRUCK IN THE BLOCK.

The AFRO was instrumental in having the city remove the tree. We hoped that was the end of the problem for this little block but it was only the beginning.

With the construction of the new apartments, neighbors started worrying about the tupes of neighbors they would have. Many residents in this block have been there more than 25 years.

About a month ago, the construction company had the pavement torn up on one side of the street to run pipes. Tire urns had to be moved and neighbors were concerned the pavement would not be replaced as it was.

Things evently worked out on this problem now this latest hassle come up.

I hurried over to Holbrook Street to see what was going on. As I turned the corner, I almost ran up on the curb I was so chocked.

The street was filled with huge trucks and a beautiful tree was laying across the street. The pavement on one side was being dug up by huge drills and the street was a complete wreck.

It was unbelievable this could happen to a beautiful street - Mrs. Boyd said" It is a sad day for our neighbors. Not only have they torn up our streets, they have cut down our beautiful trees and ruined the flowers and...fences around our trees and ruined the flowers and fences around our trees".

Asked if neighbors had been vonsulted about this being done in the block, Mrs. Boyd replied "No one knew anything until the evening before when no parking signs went up in the block." I wasn't until the next morning, however, that they learned about the trees.

What will happen to these trees? Will they replant them in theblock? These were the questions residents wanted to know.

The answer was the trees would be cut up and the neighbors would get new little trees to replace them.

On one in the block is happy with this. Their beautiful trees were about five years old and only recently started providing shade for the block. Now they have to start all over again.

Not only that, who is going to replace their flowers around the trees that were destroyed or their wooden fences they made to go around their trees?

Why are things like this allowed to happen in quite well kept neighborhoods where people show they care about their homes and surrounding areas, including their beautiful trees? Don't they have the right to have some say as to whether their healthy trees should be taken down? These are some of the questions we are going to try and get answered for these neighbors.

Mrs. Boyd says she and her neighbors are about ready to give up trying to keep the block beautiful because it seems so futile. We say, Hang in there folks it's worth it for your block is a joy to see after you get it together.

(Photo by Arnetta Lottier)

1706 Holbrook St. residents are upset about their trees being cut down due to construction work on new apartment complexes across from them. These trees will be replaced by small new trees and these trees will be cut up.

Clean Blocks protect homes

Mayor's Trash Bash

Aug. 1 in Sector 3

Coldspring Lane (North)

North Avenue (South)

Jones Falls Expressway (E)

Dukeland St. and Wabash Ave. (W)

3
DRUID HILL PARK
DRUID LAKE
PRESTON ST
MONTEGO ST
ORCHARD ST
SALISBURY
BOYLAN
DRUID HILL AVE
DOLPHIN
DOLPHIN AVE
BRUCE
BRUNT
ROSEMONT
ROSEMONT AVE
MCCULLOH
MCCULLOH ST
DRUID PARK LAKE DR
ASHBURTON
ASHBURTON ST
PRATT
LAFAYETTE
LANVALE
FAYETTE
EDMONDSON
GWYNNS FALLS PKWY
MONTGOMERY
BALTIMORE
CAMDEN
PAUL
CHARLES
HOWARD
LIBERTY
SARATOGA
PENN
MOUNT ROYAL
BOLTON
CATHEDRAL
MADISON
EUTAW
GREENMOUNT
MARYLAND
CALVERT
N. CHARLES
ST PAUL
GUILFORD
HOLLIDAY
N. JONES FALLS
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