

**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Number of Attendees</b>
August 2009	<p>Meetings: BCNA has no general meeting in August. 12, 2009.</p> <p>Communications: The August/September/October newsletter was prepared and mailed to members in late August 2009. It included meeting information for each of these months.</p>	
Sept. 2009	<p>Meetings: BCNA's General Meeting was held on September 10, 2009.</p> <p>BCNA's annual Pot-Luck Picnic in the Park was held on September 17, 2009.</p> <p>The BCNA Fall Park Cleanup was held on Saturday, September 26, 2009.</p> <p>Communications: The newsletter reached everyone in early September. News of these meetings was included in that. Email reminders were sent before the meetings.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>25</p> <p>7</p>
Oct. 2009	<p>Meetings: General Meeting on October 8, 2009.</p> <p>Communications: The August/September/October newsletter reached everyone in early September (we have no meetings or events in August). An email reminder to those on the list was sent in early October.</p>	8

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## **MINUTES**

**September 10, 2009**

The Brook Creek Neighborhood Assoc. meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7 PM by President Julie Mitchell at East Heights Early Childhood Education Center. This was the first meeting at our new place and day. We had 11 members present.

The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Julie Banhart gave an update on the dog issue on Miller Drive. She said that the person raising dogs for fighting was now on probation and was not to possess or own any dogs. He has since been caught with dogs in his possession and is now in jail, awaiting a hearing.

Reports of suspicious activity in the neighborhood were discussed. Julie Banhart had received an email from a resident who was in Brook Creek Park with her children when two cars pulled into the parking area. The resident saw money and a package change hands. She was concerned about what she should have done and that the park does not turn into a drug dealing area. Other residents reported that a red pickup truck has been seen cruising the neighborhood and that they take metal items from yards. Ideas were discussed on how to deal with these problems. If anyone sees any activity that they think is suspicious, it should be reported to the **Police Department at (785) 832-7509** as soon as possible, or, in the event of an emergency, call **911**.

Julie Mitchell gave an update on the demolished house at 1207 E. 13th St. The owner was to have filled in the crawl space with appropriate fill material and this has not been done. She will write a letter to the City Commission about the property owner not complying.

The Burroughs Creek "Rails to Trails" is beginning construction from 11th St. to 23rd St. The neighborhood associations for Brook Creek and East Lawrence have requested and received no parking on 13th Street, 300 feet east and west of the trail.

The Habitat for Humanity House at 15th and Summit is nearing completion. The question was asked as to what our neighborhood could do to help welcome the residents? A suggestion was made to offer them plant cuttings from our gardens.

New York School is in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer at our neighborhood school, call New York School at (785) 832-5780 for information.

The East Heights School staff have been invited to our potluck picnic.

The city is having a compost and wood chip sale and it is free, if you load it yourself.

If you see a street in need of driving lane lines, you can call in a report at (785) 832-3123.

Items tabled until next meeting are: stop or yield signs at 13th and Laura, more speed limit signs in the neighborhood and trucks not using the truck route and driving on our side streets.

Upcoming activities:

- September 17th-Potluck Picnic at Brook Creek Park beginning at 6 PM with food served at 6:30 PM----Rain Date is September 24<sup>th</sup>
- September 26th-Fall Brook Creek Park Cleanup beginning at 10 AM till 2 PM with lunch served. --Rain Date is October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Our next meeting is October 8th.

The meeting was concluded at 7:50 PM.

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## October 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Mitchell at 7:03 p.m. with 8 members present.

The treasurer's report and the minutes were read and approved.

Julie Mitchell reported that 7 people were at the Fall Brook Creek Park Clean-up and that some went way down into the creek to retrieve trash.

The Burroughs Creek Trail has broken ground and is being constructed on the old railroad spur line. Communication has been received from Shoeb Uddin of the City that the project is coming in (approximately 50%) under budget. The City would like to use those funds to expand the trail from 23rd Street to 29th Street, and was seeking letters of support to KDOT (which administers the funds) from neighborhoods and community organizations. The meeting voted to have Julie Mitchell write such a letter expressing BCNA's support of this suggestion. It was reported that ideas for future expansion of the trail include extending it to Mary's Lake, which is near 31st & Haskell, and to the north of 11th Street. It was also suggested that we contact the other neighborhoods that adjoin the trail about the possibility of holding a combined neighborhood trail clean-up in the future.

An update was given on the house at 1207 E. 13th St. The city believes that the foundation was properly filled in. The owner has 90 days from the end of July to inform the city of his plans for the property.

We had an update about the man on Miller Dr. who is prohibited from owning dogs. At his court appearance, his probation was continued.

We were informed that Free State High School will hold an electronic recycling event on October 31st from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most items are accepted free of cost, but there is a \$5 fee per computer monitor and a \$10 per TV turned in for recycling.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Our next meeting will be November 12th at 7 p.m. at the East Heights School gym.

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## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Email reminders of each of the general meetings were sent to members on the email list a few days before each meeting.

Emails were sent to the members on that list one evening, first asking their assistance in helping neighbors find their very young kitten who had slipped out of the house, and then (a few hours later) notifying those members that the kitten had shown up at home, on her own (see more details in “Good Neighboring”).

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## **NEWSLETTER (follows)**



# ***BROOK CREEK BREEZE***

Sept. / Oct. / Nov. 2009

<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> Thursday September 10, 2009 7:00 p.m. East Heights School	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> Thursday October 8, 2009 7:00 p.m. East Heights School	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> Thursday November 12, 2009 7:00 p.m. East Heights School
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## **THE TIMES (AND DAY AND PLACE) -- THEY ARE A-CHANGING**

BIG changes are coming to BCNA meetings. We have finally been successful in acquiring a new place to meet so that we can change our meeting night to avoid conflicts with City Commission meetings.

We will continue to meet the same months that we have been meeting: September, October, November, December, February, March, April, May, July. Our meetings will now be on the second **Thursday** of those months. **Mark your calendars now.**

We will no longer be meeting at the East Lawrence Recreation Center (ELRC). They were only able to accommodate us on Tuesday nights. Through several months of working toward this change, we considered many alternatives to the ELRC, but none were acceptable. Each had problems such as insufficient parking or fees for the use of the space. Finally, we met Cris Anderson, the principal at the **East Heights Early Childhood Education Center** (formerly East Heights Elementary School), and she welcomed our request. At this site, we have plentiful parking, a lot that is lit at night, and, with Cris's assistance, the usual fee was waived. (Details about parking and room location can be found below.)

There is one more change that we will have to make in our meetings. The working day at East Heights ends at 4:00 p.m. However, the custodian will be working until 8:00 p.m. The doors we will use will be opened about 6:40 p.m. so we can enter the building then. They will be locked after we are in, but we can open them from the inside. So, we all need to make an effort to be on time for meetings, or let someone know if you're going to be a few minutes late so someone can let you in. We will be meeting in their gymnasium and, as at ELRC, there will be folding tables and chairs that we will set up as we arrive, and take down as we leave, so arriving a bit early would be good.

The custodian leaves at 8:00 p.m., and we have to leave by then because it is the custodian's job to be sure all doors are locked and the alarms set. After that, opening a door means the alarms will go off. So, we will have **one hour** for our meetings. Most of the time, this has been sufficient time to cover

everything we need to discuss. But there can be no run-over, so we will have to start on time, be focused and succinct when raising and discussing the items of concern. We will have an agenda set, the most important items will come first and anything not covered will be dealt with at the next meeting. If you have an item you want discussed, please contact Julie Banhart (841-4997, [BrookCreekNA@gmail.com](mailto:BrookCreekNA@gmail.com)) or Julie Mitchell (865-3688, [juliahenrym@yahoo.com](mailto:juliahenrym@yahoo.com)) at least 4 days before the meeting so we can add it to the agenda.

This may sound daunting, but this change offers us a more compatible night to meet, a comfortable place to meet, and the chance to be very focused on our business. (And, knowing we'll be done no later than 8:00 p.m. means we won't have to miss much of any Thursday night Jayhawk basketball games).

Directions to parking and the entry: At the north end of the building, there is a place to turn into a driveway leading to the back of the building. You will pass parking places on the north end of the building, but do NOT park there. Keep going and you will see a sign for parking that also says "one way" – the lot is a circle, with parking spaces on both sides of the circle. When you get out of your cars, face west and move toward the building. The building forms a small ell, with the sidewalk stretching to the south. Right at the ell is another entrance to the building. That's the one we will use. I will be there early the first time to direct people to the correct entrance and then to our assigned room.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

### OTHER CHANGES AND EVENTS

For several years we have had our pot-luck picnic in the park as our first meeting of the fall, and the business meeting the week after. This year, these are reversed. We had arranged with East Heights for meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the 9 months we meet. Rather than change things around the first month, we will have our meeting on Thursday, September 10. Our **pot-luck picnic** will be on Thursday, September 17, in Brook Creek Park. We've set September 24 as the rain date for the picnic. Our **fall park clean-up** will be on Saturday, September 26, with a rain date of October 3. See the specific invitations to each of these events later in the newsletter.

<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009:</b>	Meeting for Business
<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009:</b>	POT LUCK PICNIC IN THE PARK
<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009:</b>	RAIN DATE FOR PICNIC
<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009:</b>	Fall Park Clean-up
<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009:</b>	Rain Date for Park Clean-Up
<b>THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009:</b>	Meeting for Business
<b>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009:</b>	Meeting for Business

## MINUTES

**April 14, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Mitchell. No Treasurer's report was given, since the Treasurer was out of town.

Michael Almon introduced Byron Wiley and the Fruit Tree Project, an organization that has been in existence since last November. Its purpose is to get as many fruit-producing trees planted around the city as possible. They could go in schoolyards, churches, parkland, open space. They will also have workshops on grafting, knowledge of tree identification, etc. Trees have already been planted at East Lawrence school. They are also looking at possible ways to harvest fruit trees on private property where the landowners are not able to do so.

One of their main goals is education, which is why they are looking at planting trees at schools. They have a resource packet for the teachers to help their students understand just where our food comes from and how to watch the growth of the trees and fruit. They are also looking at the possibility of planting fruit trees in one or two areas of the Rail-to-Trail park.

Their website address is: <http://lawrencefruittreeproject.wordpress.com>. Their email address is lawrencefruittree@yahoo.com.

The status of moving meetings to Thursdays was discussed. Julie Mitchell has contacted the school district and got application. There may be a fee involved to use a school building after hours. The fact that we do not have much in discretionary funds is a problem, not only with the schools district but with other places, such as the fairgrounds. We will have further discussions about this once our Treasurer is back in town. Pelathe was mentioned as a possibility, but they are not financially stable, so long-term use of their facility is not assured. The Oread Friends Meeting house was considered, but there are only two parking spaces there and the streets around it are treacherous for members to park and walk at night. The roads are in bad shape, the lighting is poor, and there are deep ditches on either side of the road. We will continue to work with ELRC about the possibility of changing our meeting to another night. Julie Mitchell raised idea of meeting on Saturdays, which gave everyone a good laugh. Edgewood and the Boys & Girls Club were also suggested as possibilities. The discussion was continued to the next meeting.

The status of the blighted house on 13<sup>th</sup> Street was raised. The owner is still moving very slowly. There is a demolition permit issued for the house, but it is being taken down by hand, with just two individuals, and progress is almost imperceptible. The delay was scheduled for a City Commission meeting, but the meeting was cancelled because of Spring Break. A hearing is now scheduled for the City Commission meeting of April 28.

A serious problem dealing with animal abuse, dog-fights held in the neighborhood, and an attack on a dog and its owner was discussed. Neighbors and the BCNA are working with the Humane Society on this problem. Movement has been slow, but court cases are pending

Everyone was reminded that our spring park clean-up is scheduled for April 18. It was suggested that we consider cleaning up Burroughs Creek, at our fall clean-up, and perhaps include East Lawrence in the cleanup. It was also decided to ask the City to clean out parts of that creek periodically.

Text amendment regarding homeless shelters is on both the City Commission agenda (the 21<sup>st</sup>) and the Planning Commission agenda (the 22<sup>nd</sup>). Discussion included fact that Family Promise has been going ahead with temporary shelter of homeless families in churches, without permission. Reports of conversations with individuals involved indicate that the program is progressing smoothly. With the Salvation Army closing its shelter in the spring, the Community Shelter is looking for a place to rent, at least temporarily, to handle the overflow.

The meeting was adjourned.

**May 12, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. Susan Miller gave the Treasurer's report.

Julie Banhart provided an update on the animal abuse problem in the neighborhood. She also provided information from Midge Grinstead of the Lawrence Humane Society on general safety procedures for those walking in the neighborhood if faced with an aggressive dog.

The building at 1207 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street was discussed. A vote was taken on whether or not to inform the City Commission and Planning Department of our opposition to allowing non-conforming use of the attached garage at the property. The vote was unanimous to so inform the two City units. A letter will be sent to the Planning Department and City commissioners expressing our view.

Possible CDBG-R funding was discussed. Benches along the sidewalk in Edgewood Park would be a great improvement to the park. The time frame and rules regarding these funds makes receiving funds for the park benches unlikely, but we should keep them in mind for the 2011 CDBG application.

Moving our meetings to Thursdays, at a different location, was again discussed. Independence, Inc. requires a deposit. The Boys and Girls Club might be another option.

The Burroughs Creek Trail is scheduled to be built this summer. It will cross 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets. Currently, all of those streets have no parking near the trail except for 13<sup>th</sup> Street. ELNA is requesting no parking 300 feet to the west of the trail. We discussed requesting no parking 300 feet to the east of the trail. The vote to request 300 feet both East and west of the trail on the south side of 13<sup>th</sup> Street passed unanimously. A letter will be sent to the Traffic Commission, along with a similar letter from the ELNA. We will not meet in June or August. The meeting was adjourned.

### July 14, 2009

The meeting was convened by President Julie Mitchell at 7:00 p.m. Susan Miller presented the Treasurer's Report.

The question of CDBG monetary allocations for the fiscal year beginning in August was raised. Julie Mitchell informed the meeting that we had received the Operating Expenses funds that we had requested.

Julie Mitchell left the meeting to attend the City Commission meeting to speak to the problem on the property at 1207 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street and the delays in demolition of the structures.

While she was gone, the question of a new place for our meetings was discussed again – her need to leave the meeting to attend the City Commission meeting over a matter of concern to the neighborhood, a case in point about why we need to change meeting nights. This time we could report success. Julie Mitchell had initiated contact with East Heights and submitted an application. Cris Anderson, the principal of East Heights Early Childhood Education Center contacted Julie Banhart with the news that they would be very happy to have us meet there. Details of timing were worked out and we are simply awaiting the final approval documents from the School District. **[Note: See article on page 1 for the details of the change.]**

Julie Mitchell returned to the BCNA meeting and reported on City Commission action re 1207 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The City Commission rejected the property owner's request for a non-conforming use of the attached garage, and ordered it torn down.

The annual Fall Clean-up was discussed, especially the need to set a date before the September newsletter comes out. The sense of the meeting was that this matter would be left to Julie Mitchell and Julie Banhart to decide.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



NEW YORK SCHOOL



Nicole Allensworth, PTO President at New York School has the following announcements:

They are looking for a coordinator to oversee their Box Top for Education program. The coordinator would need to periodically collect the box tops that come in. They are in a container by the front door. The coordinator would then count them and organize them. At the end of the year, the PTO will look at how much we have in box tops and then pick out things from the catalog. Nicole does not think it would be a hard job, especially if the coordinator does a little at a time. If you are interested, please contact Nicole at [nallensworth76@yahoo.com](mailto:nallensworth76@yahoo.com).

For students in any school in Lawrence, Hy Vee is offering the "Smiles for Education" program.. Here is how it works.

- 1) Each week, at the HyVee store or pharmacy, register:
  - One student (K-12)
  - One school (K-12)
  - The customer name and contact information.
- 2) Shop and save with the "Smile for Education" products found in Hy-Vee's special "Smiles for Education" section of the weekly ad.
- 3)
  - 10 Winners will be drawn each week for 8 weeks.
  - The winning student will receive a laptop computer
  - The winning school will receive a check for \$5,000



### LAWRENCE HUMANE SOCIETY



The Lawrence Humane Society has several events going on in the coming months. They include:

- **'Hogs for Dogs'** is a raffle with a new Harley Davidson motorcycle as the prize. Tickets can be purchased at the Humane Society - price \$25.00. The raffle will be held on October 3, 2009.
- Two events will be held on Saturday, September 5, 2009. An adoption event, with animals who need a home and people who can answer questions about the animals and the adoption procedure, will be held at the Orscheln store on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Petco will host "Yorkie Day," from 11:00-1:00. This is a fundraiser and Humane Society staff and volunteers will be manning a table with special items for sale.
- The annual Animal Fair will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on November 8, 2009. It will go on all day. There will be animals there from the Humane Society who are looking for a home. Plus there will be many vendors with animal-themed gifts for sale, information about rescue groups, nutrition, and many other things. If a dog or cat is part of your family, or if you're thinking about adding one, this event provides lots of information and a good time.
- **"Santa Paws"** - where your pet can have his/her picture taken with Santa Claus will be at the Animal Fair and also at the Humane Society during 2 weekends in December.

## WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

2211 Genessee Court - Jacob W. Letourneau

1418 Oak Hill Ave. - Kimberly A. & Jason M. G. Evers

1419 E. 19th St. - Jesse Kaufman

1825 Miller Dr. - Veronica M. Chavez

1511 Powers St. - Carson Gee

1527 Lindenwood Lane - Libby D. Devin

1535 Cadet Ave. - Joel Kaczor & Jeff White

1719 Bullene Ave. - Joshua McGee

1514 Craig Court - Zachary Staats

1604 Harper St. - David C. Gillette

1321 E. 18th St. - Hugh F. Hines

802 Lynn St. - Brandon W. Dahl



1405 Oak Hill Ave. - Marc R. Anderson

1208 Almira Ave. - Jeffrey S. & Anna S. P. Jackson

908 Ward Ave. - Michael & Laura Helweg

1820 Haskell Ave. - Amanda M. Williams

1616 Matthew Terrace - Rebecca M. Bates

918 Oliver's Court - Kristopher S. Amos

1515 E. 18th Terrace - Merle K. & Ramona F. Burkhardt

1606 Irving Court - Dustin Borland & Karen A. Thede

940 Anna Tappan Way - Justin B., Jr. & Adrienne Rexwinkle

1829 Brook St. - Martha B. Taylor & Herbert Friedson

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## HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE CITY

### ***If you have bulky items to dispose of:***

Call Solid Waste at 832-3032 for a pick up of large items like appliances or couches. Up to 5 auto tires may also be picked up free each year.

### ***Do you have hazardous items (e.g., paint, pesticides) to dispose of, or do you need household products?***

The City of Lawrence/Douglas County Household Hazardous Waste Facility accepts hazardous waste throughout the year by APPOINTMENT ONLY. Call 832-3030 to schedule. Paint, pesticides, cleaners, used oil, mercury thermometers, spent batteries, and expired medications are accepted. No fee for Douglas County households.

If you need things like latex paint, solvents, household cleaners, among other things, call the same number, which is also the Product Reuse facility. The products there are free.

### ***How do you report a street light that is out?***

Call Westar Energy at 1-800-383-1183. The City pays Westar Energy to maintain and repair street lights.

### ***Who is responsible for mowing alleys and areas between sidewalks and curbs?***

Property owners are responsible for mowing, trimming, and maintaining their property, including areas in the right-of-way such as alley areas and yards behind fences and behind buildings.

### ***Is there a consumer protection telephone number you can call in Douglas County:***

Yes. The Douglas County District Attorney's Office operates a consume fraud hot line at 785-330-2849. Information about consumer protection is also available online at [douglas-county.com](http://douglas-county.com).

The Kansas Attorney General's Office also has consumer protection information on its website at [ksag.org](http://ksag.org).



*Come to our annual  
Pot-Luck Picnic  
in the Park*

*Tuesday, September 17, 2009*

*Brook Creek Park Gazebo*

Come anytime after 6:00 p.m.

Food will be out & ready to eat by 6:30 p.m.

BCNA will provide: Fried Chicken & soft  
Drinks

You bring: Side Dishes or desserts  
Table service for yourself  
& your family

We'll all get to try new things by sharing the  
side dishes and desserts.

Come see old friends, meet new neighbors,  
and enjoy good food and good company.

Rain date:  
September 24, 2009



**Join Us  
for  
Brook Creek's Fall Park  
Clean-Up**

**Saturday, September 26, 2009**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Come help us clean up the creek and the nature trails. Fall is a good time to clean out the creek before winter storms add more debris (makes our spring clean-up easier).

If you like to use the nature trails, come help us clean up debris and trash from the trails and the woods so they can be comfortably used, even in the late fall and winter.

We have a good time each fall during the clean-up, so come join us. We'll get started about 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Everyone's help is appreciated, whether you can stay and help for a long time or a short one.

Rain/cold date:  
Saturday, October 3, 2009



Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

1944 Miller Drive

Lawrence, KS 66046

PRSR STD U.S. Postage <b>PAID</b> Topeka, KS Permit #9
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## *Join Your Neighborhood Association*

Dues are \$1.00 per person, per year. This gives you voting rights at BCNA meetings. Clip, fill out, and mail to: Susan Miller, Treasurer; 1235 Prairie; Lawrence, KS 66044

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

- I am enclosing my \$1.00 annual dues
- I am enclosing \_\_\_\_\_ extra to help the neighborhood association.

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## **GOOD NEIGHBORING**

The Brook Creek neighborhood experiences what have been called “random acts of kindness,” as does every other neighborhood. Most residents just don’t report them for inclusion in these reports.

We would like to recognize Susan Miller’s “good neighboring.” While at Edgewood Park recently with her granddaughter, she saw that the area was full of trash scattered about. So, while her granddaughter happily played in the park, Susan spent the time picking up the trash and properly disposing of it.

Julie Mitchell (BCNA’s president) and Julie Banhart (BCNA’s coordinator) came through to help a distraught neighbor. Julie Mitchell received a visit one evening from a neighbor whose 3-month-old kitten (who had never been outside on its own) had managed to slip out of the house (they thought through the dryer vent hole in the basement). After spending a couple hours searching for her, the family got to Julie M’s house. She called Julie B (who maintains the email list) and, after getting details about the kitten from the owner, Julie B issued an email to all on our list, asking that they watch for the kitten and giving contact numbers if they found her. Happily, a call later that night from the owner informed us that the kitten was safely at home again, and the email list members were duly informed of that fact.