TOWN OF CARY

Downtown Neighborhood Characteristics Study

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PREFACE

The administration of this survey was a replication of a study undertaken in the south part of downtown Cary in the Spring of 2007. For that reason, many of the sections have been condensed in order to decrease unnecessary duplication. If you are interested in more detail concerning the introduction, variables, or recommendations for future research and programs sections please see the first report at:
http://www.townofcary.org/depts/pio/surveysresearch/2006/index.htm. A copy is also available at the downtown Cary public library and the Town of Cary Planning Department. Also note that some sections will be the same as in the first study since the methodology was the same.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From September to October, 2007 the Town of Cary, with assistance from a graduate student at North Carolina State University, conducted a study of various neighborhood characteristics within two of its downtown neighborhoods. This was a replication of an earlier effort, which looked at the same characteristics in another part of the downtown. The purpose of the study was to illuminate attitudes and behaviors within the target area as well as compare the current study area to one previously examined. The current target area included census block groups 535.13-2 and 535.10-1. These block groups make up the north side of downtown Cary bounded roughly on the south by Chapel Hill Rd and on the north, east and west by Maynard Rd. Harrison Ave splits the two block groups down the middle. These two census block groups are considered areas of concentration of low to moderate income individuals as described in the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (Town of Cary, 2004). These areas have about 34% and 35%, respectively, low to moderate income individuals. The first administration of this survey examined the two block groups making up the southern portion of downtown, which fell below Chatham St and were divided by Academy. These two block groups were 535.01-1 and 535.07-1. These are also areas of concentration of low to moderate income individuals, 69% and 29% respectively. In this report, results are first provided for the current target area then a comparison of the first study is presented.

The survey contained items measuring neighborhood definition, sense of community, neighboring, citizen participation, needs and assets, perception of safety and demographics. It was paper-based and mailed to a random sample of households within each census block group. It was sent to 430 households within 535.13-2 and 440 within 535.10-1. A total of 233 responses were obtained resulting in a very good response rate, 26.8%. However, participants were not entirely representative of the population. They were mostly female, Caucasian, homeowners and live with a significant other.

Results provided a picture of a lack of social engagement within the current target area. Sense of community was only moderate with an overall score of 3.6 on a scale of 1 to 5. Residents also have a low frequency of interaction with one another. For instance, activities that prove neighbors are more than casual acquaintances such as borrowing items, visiting with one another, and spending time doing things together have an average frequency between "rarely" and "sometimes." For items that examine the number of neighbors residents' interact with the most commonly cited answer was zero. Results show that instances of citizen participation are also low. No more than 12.5% of respondents participate in either neighborhood activities or community problem solving more than "sometimes." Another indicator of low citizen participation reveals that about 70% of respondents aren't involved with any group, whether it be homeowner's associations, town-wide groups, neighborhood based groups, or informal groups. Overall perception of safety was also somewhat low with a mean slightly above average on a scale of 1 to 9.

Even though examination of many of the variables indicated needs within the area. Some indicators reveal some promising aspects of the current target area. For instance, residents selected more than twice as many assets from the list as they did needs. Also, the majority of

participants disagreed with statements that the neighborhood is dangerous, it has become more unsafe, and it is perceived as dangerous by friends and family.

These two census block groups were also compared across all the variables. There were significant differences for some of the items. For instance there is a higher sense of belonging within 535.13-2. Many of the neighboring items, participation in neighborhood activities, and community problem solving are all higher for this block group as well. There were also less needs and more assets within this block group.

The current study was then compared to the first implementation of this survey. Results indicate that differences between the north side of downtown and the south side are only significant for whether the neighborhood had a name, whether there is a homeowner's association, the number of needs selected, the number of assets selected, relative danger in the neighborhood compared to other parts of town, race, income, age, tenure in the neighborhood and Cary, and living situation. Comparison of each of the four census block groups found that census block group 535.07-1 has the highest sense of community, neighboring, participation in neighborhood related activities, average number of assets, perception of safety. Block group 535.01-1 has the lowest incidence of each of these. Block groups 535.13-2 and 535.10-1 which were the target areas for this study, fell somewhere in the middle for most of the variables.

A multitude of future research projects and neighborhood programs can be proposed for this data. A sampling of possible projects is provided. Both studies that collected neighborhood characteristics show that sense of community, neighboring, and citizen participation are all low. It is unclear as to whether this is the case throughout Cary or just in the downtown area. The Town of Cary and other community based groups would be well advised to take up community building activities in order to increase these characteristics and in turn increase the quality of life within Cary.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Description of Study
In the fall of 2007 The Town of Cary conducted a survey of two neighborhoods comprising part of the downtown area. The two neighborhoods were two census block groups located on the northwest and northeast sides of downtown Cary and are within the purview of the Town's community development plan. The purpose of the study was to capture various aspects of each neighborhood that would inform the Town of the health of the area as well as how to better work with the residents within each neighborhood. This was the second administration of this specific survey. The first was undertaken in two census block groups in the southern portion of downtown Cary. This study will allow the Town to compare the characteristics of each of the four block groups studied in order to tailor projects and programs to their specific contexts. The survey measured neighborhood definition, sense of community, neighbor interaction, citizen participation, needs, assets, safety, and demographic variables.

Importance of Neighborhoods
Communities are an important part of American life especially for the impact that they have on the lives of the residents. Jasek-Rysdahl (2001) states, "Communities provide support, order, and a framework that people need to help make sense of their lives." (p. 318-319). Neighborhoods can link people together creating channels for information flow and assistance (Granovetter, 1973) and they can affect behaviors, and social problems (Bronfenbrenner as cited in Dalton, Elias, & Wandersman, 2001; Maton, 2000). Another reason for assessment of neighborhood characteristics stems from the fact that every neighborhood within a city is different. In order to fully understand a neighborhood's problems and design successful interventions, one must first understand the characteristics of the neighborhood. (Denhardt & Glaser, 1999)

Variables[1]
As mentioned above the present study examined neighborhood definition, sense of community, neighbor interaction, citizen participation, needs, assets, safety, and demographic variables.

Neighborhood Definition
A neighborhood is defined as "a spatial construction denoting a geographical unit in which residents share proximity and the circumstances that come with it" (Chaskin, 1997, p.522-523). However, neighborhood boundaries are not always easy to define. Each individual person within a neighborhood may have a different conception of where the boundaries of that neighborhood lie. For the purposes of this survey the two neighborhoods were defined as census block groups. Even though census boundaries do allow for the comparison of a sample to the population they are still arbitrary geographic markers. For that reason, the present study included a question to determine how residents define their neighborhood. This item can provide the Town with a frame of reference as to how to target programs.

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[1] For more information on these variables please see the first report, "Downtown Neighborhood Characteristics Study: Spring 2007" at http://www.townofcary.org/depts/pio/surveysresearch/2006/index.htm.

Sense of Community

Sense of community has been defined in many different ways. For the purposes of this study, it included the following aspects based on McMillan and Chavis' (1986) theory of sense of community: "feelings of membership and belongingness, trust and mutual influence, and shared emotional ties with others in the neighborhood" (Martinez, Black, & Starr, 2002, p.28). Sense of community is an extremely important characteristic for communities. It has been linked to certain aspects of psychological health such as subjective well-being, happiness, coping, worrying (Prezza, Amici, Roberti, & Tedeschi, 2001), loneliness, and life satisfaction (Davidson & Cotter, 1991). It has also been found to influence residents' behaviors to improve their neighborhoods. Higher sense of community leads to discussing neighborhood problems with neighbors, (Bolland & McCallum, 2002), neighboring, and involvement in neighborhood groups (Manzo & Perkins, 2006).

Neighboring

Unger and Wandersman (1985) define neighboring as "the social interaction, the symbolic interaction, and the attachment of individuals with people living around them and the place in which they live" (p.141). As with sense of community, neighboring has implications for psychological health. It has been found to influence personal well-being (Farell et al, 2004) as well as certain behaviors such as discussing neighborhood problems, working with neighbors to solve those problems, and contacting elected officials (Bolland & McCallum, 2002). Neighbor networks are also able to reduce crime through collective social control (Unger & Wandersman, 1985).

Citizen Participation

Citizen participation is basically defined as involvement in decision-making. Murphy and Cunningham (2003) define citizen participation as "a process whereby the people of a community, regardless of income or position, join meaningfully in making social, political, and economic decisions related to the general affairs of the community" (p.111). It has been proposed that governments work through civic organizations to reach individuals (Sinclair, 2002). For that reason, it was important for the Town to understand whether individuals are involved in the community through civic organizations and with which groups they are involved.

Needs and Assets

For the purposes of this report information about both needs and assets were collected. Every community has both needs and assets so it was important to understand both (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993). Understanding the assets of a community guards against it being defined only in terms of what it is lacking. Collecting information about the needs of the neighborhood as seen from the residents' point of view ensures that what the Town understands as needs match the perspective of the residents (Witkin & Altschuld, 1995).

Perception of Safety

The final construct examined in this study was perception of safety. There are many costs associated with fear of crime including health losses due to stress and anxiety, increased feelings of loneliness (Gibbs, Puzzanchera, Hanrahan, & Giever, 1998), reduction in productivity, reducing social activity, and reducing physical activity (Dolan & Peasgood, 2006; Shenassa,

Liebhaber, Ezeamama, 2006). Perception of safety is also important specifically to the Town of Cary since safety is one of the Town's Quality of Life Guiding Principles (Town of Cary, n.d.[a]).

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

Setting

The setting for this study was a section of the downtown area of Cary, NC. The survey was sent to residents within two census block groups, which were 535.13-2 and 535.10-1. One is on the north west side of downtown (535.13-2), the other on the northeast (535.10-1). From here on 535.13-2 will be referred to as census block group C and 535.10-1 will be referred to as census block group D. Harrison Ave serves as a boundary between the two block groups, Chapel Hill Road serves as an approximate southernmost boundary, and Maynard Road serves as the northern most boundary to both of the block groups. These neighborhoods were chosen because of their proximity to one another. They also encompass part of the inner Maynard Loop, which is the focus of Community Development Block Grant funding as well as the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. The southern portion of these two neighborhoods is included in the TCAP area. Appendix B includes the maps of block groups C and D as well as block groups A and B which were analyzed in the first study. (Comparison of the two studies is not addressed until the end of the results section).

The overall area surveyed is fairly diverse. There is about an equal number of men and women and about an equal number of renters and owners. The racial makeup of the area is somewhat diverse, having about 36% minority group population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). See appendix A for exact percentages of each variable along with a comparison to the whole Town of Cary.

Block group C has a population of 3180 and D has a population of 1692 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Cary GIS found there are 6 churches, 9 HOA's, 2 grocers, 6 banks, and 2 schools located within the block groups. There is one park within the area, Robert V. Godbold Park. The C-Tran runs along one of the boundaries of the block groups (traveling down Harrison Ave). The block groups differ in terms of ratio of residential to commercial properties. For the total area examined the ratio of residential to commercial was 8.8. Within census block group C the ratio is 14.1 and within D it is 6.8.

Wake County GIS data lists a few subdivisions located in each of the block groups. The subdivisions within C are Taylor's Pond, Buckhurst West, Buckhurst, Parkview Townhomes, Sunset Terrace, Summer Ridge Townhomes, and Fairview Townhomes. The subdivisions within D are Northwoods, Habitat for Humanity, East and West Johnson, Kingswood, Maynard Forest, Highland Park, Ridges of Northwoods, Creekview Bungelows, Willoughby Place, Storm Court, Wickham Place, and Davidson Point.

The 2000 US Census reports that for C the median age is 31 and for D the median age is slightly lower, 29. For C the proportion of males to females is lower than for D. In C, 48% are male and 52% are female. In D, 51% are male and 49% are female. Also, slightly more people rent in D (53%) than in C (49%). Census block group D is more of a diverse neighborhood than C. For those over the age of 18, there is a higher minority group population within the neighborhood (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

The block groups are extremely similar when it comes to indicators of income. Within block group C 34% of households are low to moderate income households. Low to moderate is defined by earning less than 80% of the median income (Town of Cary, 2004). Within block group D 35% are low to moderate income households.

According to Cary Police Department (Town of Cary, 2007[c]), from January 1 to December 31, 2006 there were a total of 61 crimes within block group C, 23 of which were calls for service. Within block group D there were 270 crimes, 61 of which were calls to service. A call for service occurs when a report is completed for information purposes only. It is important to note that Cary does not track crimes based on census boundaries. So these results may encompass a slightly larger area than a block group.

Participants
The survey and cover letter were sent to a random sample of 870 households within the downtown area. The cover letter asked only residents 18 and older to complete the survey. The majority of participants were female, Caucasian, homeowners, and live with a significant other. Tables 1 and 2 and Figures 1 through 4 show the results of each demographic variable for the total respondents and each census block group.

Race
For the population as a whole, the majority was Caucasian. The same is true for each of the census block groups. However, a higher percentage of minority residents responded from block group D than did from block group C. Responses to qualify the "other" option were Caucasian and Asian or Pacific Islander; Caucasian and Native American or Alaskan; Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic; Pakistani; Bi-Racial; Multi-Racial.

Table 1. Race

Race	Total (percent)	C (percent)	D (percent)
Caucasian	76.7	83.5	69.8
African-American	11.2	7.3	15.1
American Indian	1.9	2.8	0.9
Asian or Pacific	5.1	1.8	1.9
Hispanic	1.9	3.7	6.6
Other	3.3	0.9	5.7

Gender
There were a higher percentage of females responding to the survey for the group as a whole and for each of the census block groups. The ratio of male to female respondents was extremely similar for each census block group and the group as a whole.

Figure 1. Gender
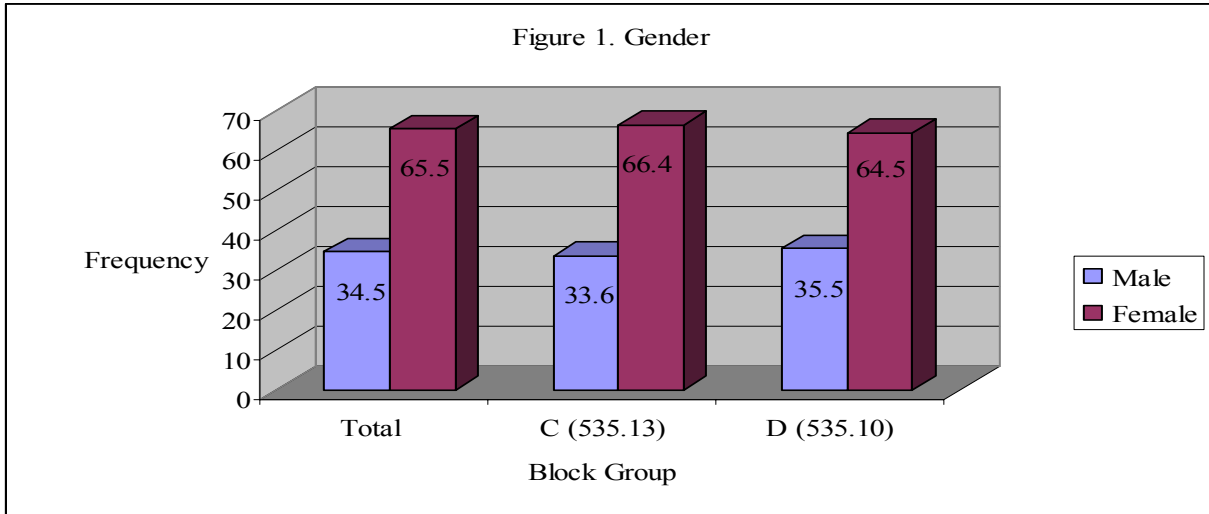
Income

Results show that the average response to the question about income fell between the response options of $50,001-70,000 and $70,001-100,000. The median range for the entire group was $50,001-70,000. The median range for block group C was $70,001-100,000 and for block group D was $50,001-70,000. However, pre-existing data on the income of the residents within each block group states that the median incomes for each area are fairly similar. The US Census Bureau reports that in 1999 the median income for C was $58,324 and the median income for D was $52,880 (US Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Cary Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (2004) indicates that the percent of low and moderate income persons who live in each of the two census block groups is almost equal, 34% for C and 35% for D.

Table 2. Income

Income	Total (percent)	C (percent)	D (percent)
$0-20,000	7.1	10.1	4.1
$20,001-30,000	9.6	9.1	10.2
$30,001-50,000	17.3	10.1	24.5
$50,001-70,000	16.8	18.2	15.3
$70,001-100,000	19.3	17.2	21.4
$100,001-120,000	11.2	10.1	12.2
$120,001-140,000	6.6	9.1	4.1
$140,001-160,000	5.1	4.0	6.1
Over $160,000	7.1	12.1	2.0

Education

The majority of respondents had a college degree or higher. This was evident in both block groups as well as the group as a whole. However, within block group D, more respondents had either completed some college or had a graduate degree.

Figure 2. Education
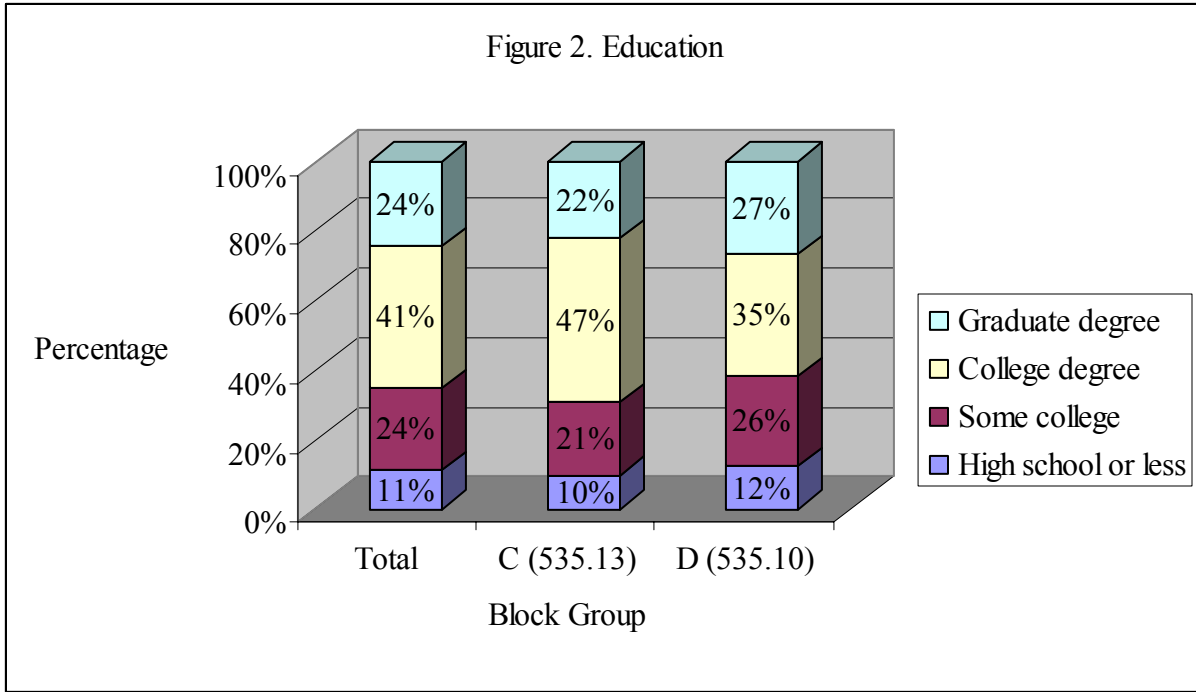
Homeownership
Results show that more people own their homes than rent in each block group.

Figure 3. Homeownership
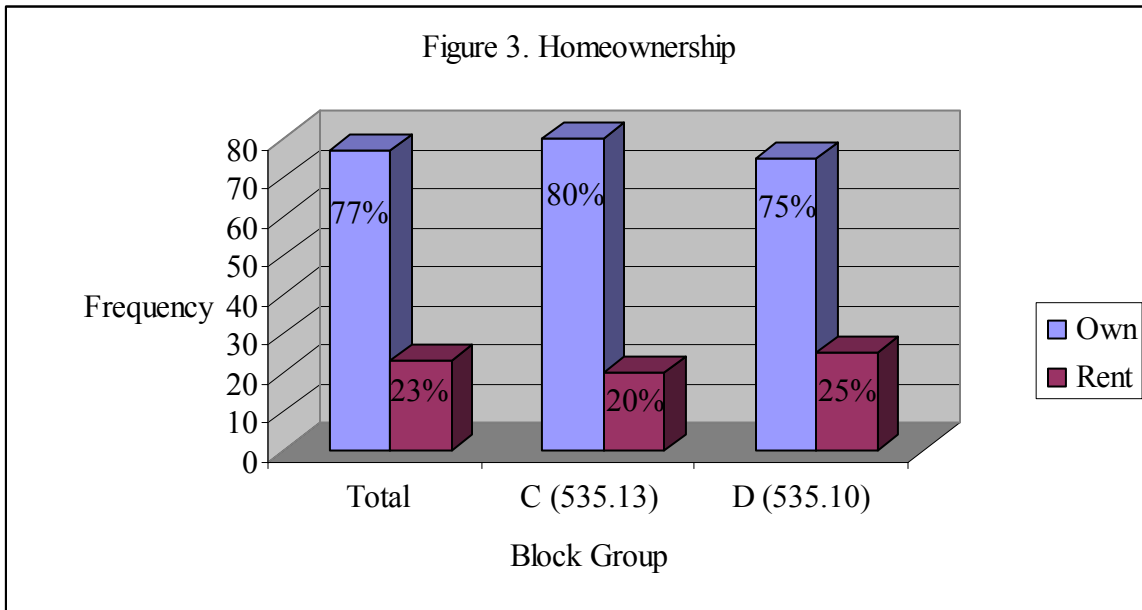
Living Situation
Results were collapsed to compare those who live alone with those who live with someone else. Someone else could be the "live with relative" option, the "live with significant other or married" option, or the "live with a roommate" option. Results show that more people live with someone else than live alone for the group as a whole and for each of the block groups. The majority of respondents reported living with a significant other.

Figure 4. Living Situation
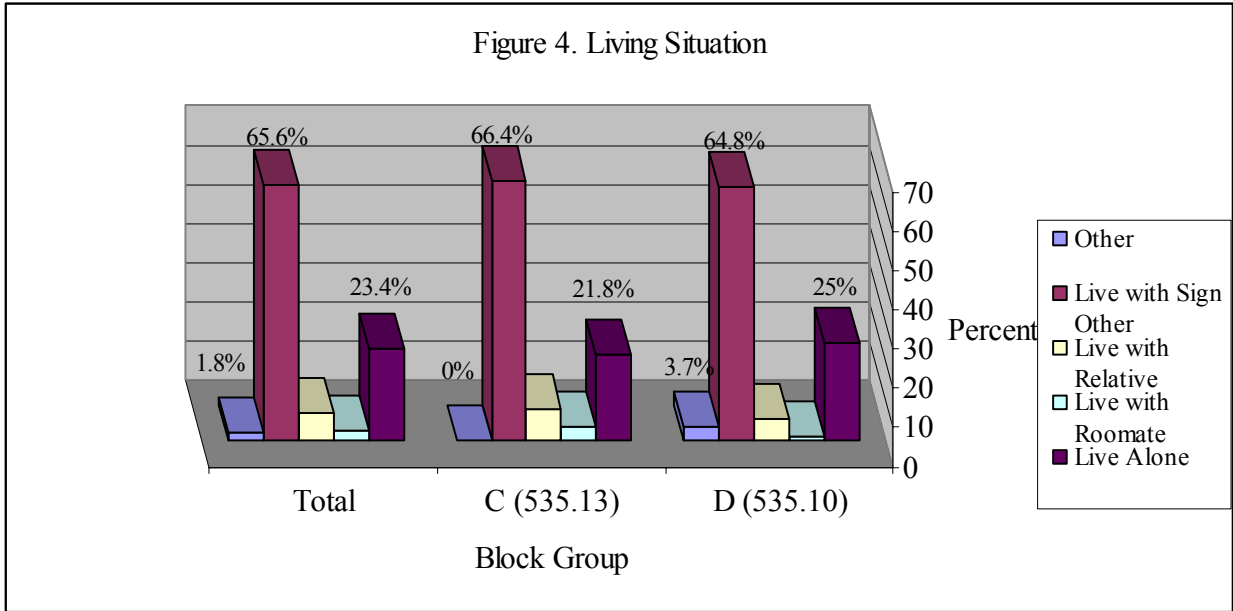
In terms of living with children, for the group as a whole 40% said they have children living in the house. More people within block group D had children under the age of 18 living in the home. This was 35% for block group C and 45% for block group D. For the entire survey area the range of number of children living in the household was 1 to 5 with a mean of 1.83. The most frequent response was 2 children.

Age
Age had a wide range in the present study. Respondents ranged from 21 to 88 with a mean of 46 years old. The mean age for C was approximately 47 and the mean age for D was approximately 45, which was a nonsignificant difference.

Tenure in Neighborhood
There was a very large range in terms of how long residents have lived in their neighborhood. It was .08 to 60 years, with a mean of 9.11. The average number of years in the neighborhood for C was 8.5 and for D was 9.8. In terms of how long residents think that their neighbors have lived in the neighborhood, the mean number of years within the neighborhood for the whole group was 8.5 with a range of 0.5 to 50 years. The average number of years the residents thought their neighbors had lived in the neighborhood for C was 8.3 and for D was 8.8. None of these differences were statistically significant.

Tenure in Cary
There was a very large range in terms of how long residents have lived in Cary. It was .17 to 80 years, with a mean of 12.1. The average number of years in Cary for C was 11.9 and for D was 12.2. In terms of how long residents think their neighbors have lived in Cary, the mean number of years within Cary for the whole group was 20.3 with a range of 1 to 100. The average number of years the residents thought their neighbors had lived in Cary for C was 10.7 and for D was 11.3. All differences were nonsignificant.

Comparison of Respondents to Population
The table below illustrates the comparison of the participants to the population. Education, Income, Tenure, and Living situation cannot be compared to census data since the census data is either not available for these variables or is not in a compatible format.

Table 3. Representativeness of Participants to Population

Variables[2]	Response Options	Present 535.13-2	Present 535.10-1	2000 US Census 535.13-2	2000 US Census 535.10-1
Race	Caucasian	83.5	69.8	70.4	63.4
	African-American	7.3	15.1	15.1	15.0
	American Indian	2.8	0.9	0.5	0.6
	Asian or Pacific	3.7	6.6	4.9	11.7
	Hispanic	1.8	1.9	6.3	7.5
	Other	0.9	5.7	2.8	1.9
Gender	Male	33.6	35.5	48.2	51.3
	Female	66.4	64.5	51.8	48.7
Homeownership	Rent	19.8	25.5	48.7	52.8
	Own	80.2	74.5	51.3	47.2
Children present	Yes	34.8	44.5	34.8	39.4
	No	65.2	55.5	65.2	60.6

For age the respondents are not entirely representative of the population. They are slightly older than the population. The median age found for C is 46 and for D is 43. The US Census reports that the median age for C is 31 and for D is 29 for the total population. The median age ranges for C and D for only those over the age of 18 in the Census were 35-39 and 30-34, respectively.

So for race, gender, homeownership, and age the respondents are not representative of the population. This could be due to survey methodology. It was a mail-based survey, there was no Spanish version and it was not random within households.

Response Rate
Since this was a mail survey, response rate was a concern. However, results show a relatively good response rate. Out of the 870 surveys sent to residents, a total of 233 were returned yielding a response rate of 26.8%. However, 1 respondent was removed because it was missing the indicator of which block group the survey was coming from. The final N was 232. The survey was sent to 430 households within C and 117 were returned, yielding a response rate of 27.2%. It was sent to 440 households within D and 115 were returned, yielding a response rate of 26.1%.

Online versus Mail Surveys
In order to increase response rate, the survey was also available online through a webpage sponsored by North Carolina State University. After deleting the items mentioned above, only 37 (about 16%) completed it online and 196 completed it by mail.

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[2] For Census data race was by population 18 and over, gender was by population 18 and over, homeownership was by household, children present was by household.

Confidence Interval
The total number of respondents was 233 resulting in a margin of error of +- 5.5%. Census block group C had 117 respondents which yielded a margin of error of +-7.7% and census block group D had a response of 115 yielding a margin or error of +-7.9%.

Measures[3]
The following variables were measured in this survey: neighborhood definition, sense of community, neighboring, citizen participation, needs, assets, perception of safety, and demographics. Reliabilities were computed for most of the variables. Reliability is an indicator of the consistency with which the constructs are measured. Estimates of reliability fall between 0 and 1 with estimates closest to one indicating that the construct was measured with the least amount of error. All reliabilities were at least moderate except for citizen participation and needs. The full survey is represented in Appendix C.

Neighborhood Definition
Since the survey needed to stay anonymous in order that an informed consent form not be required, addresses could not be collected. To determine how people conceptualize their neighborhood, they were asked whether the neighborhood has a name with response options of 0=don't know, 1=no, and 2=yes. If they answered "yes" to this question, they were asked for the name of the neighborhood. Items were also included that asked participants to indicate which four streets serve as boundaries to their neighborhood. However, these were not analyzed given the physical structure of the target area. Measuring the number of blocks within the boundaries does not make sense with cul-de-sac type developments. Items were developed by the researcher with assistance from Town of Cary Planning Staff.

Sense of Community
For the purposes of this study, the sense of community subscale of the Perceived Neighborhood Scale was used to measure sense of community. Past research has found that the Perceived Neighborhood Scale is made up of four distinct and separate subscales: social embeddedness, sense of community, satisfaction with neighborhood, and perceived crime. The scale was originally developed to assess neighborhood characteristics and their relationship to parenting (Martinez, Black, & Starr, 2002). All items on the sense of community subscale were left in tact.

Residents were asked to rate their level of agreement or disagreement with the following items with response options ranging from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree.
- There are people I can rely on among my neighbors.
- People trust each other in my neighborhood.
- I feel I belong in my neighborhood.
- I care about what my neighbors think of my actions (e.g., how I dress, how I treat my child).
- I feel close to some of my neighbors.
- People in my neighborhood are usually warm and friendly.
- We help each other out in my neighborhood.

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[3] The same survey was used in this study as the first study. For the most part, the measures section (except for the reliabilities) was taken from the first report, "Downtown Neighborhood Characteristics Study: Spring 2007."

Past research has found a moderate reliability for the sense of community scale, α=.85-.86 (Martinez, Black, & Starr, 2002). The present study found that the reliability for sense of community was high, α=.924. However one item had a low item to total correlation and if deleted would increase the reliability to .935. This item was "I care about what my neighbors think of my actions." All of the other items had a moderate item to total correlation and would decrease the reliability if the item were deleted.

Neighboring

Neighboring behavior was measured using a modified version of Prezza, Amici, Roberti, and Tedeschi's (2001) Neighborhood Relations Scale. This scale was developed to study the relationships between sense of community, neighboring, and quality of life. All items from the Neighborhood Relations Scale were left in tact. However, two items were added to the scale. One measured how many neighbors participants would recognize if they saw them and the other measures how many neighbors participants know by name.

Neighboring was measured with 2 sets of items. The first set consisted of 5 items asking participants to rate how often they participate in the following behaviors with response options ranging from 1=never to 5=everyday:
- Visit with neighbors in their homes
- Have neighbors over to house to visit
- Stop and talk with people in the neighborhood
- Meet with neighbors to spend some time doing things together
- Exchange favors with neighbors

The other set of items asked participants to fill in how many neighbors they:
- Would recognize if they saw them
- Know by name
- Consider as friends
- Would have no problem asking to borrow little things

The original Neighborhood Relations Scale reportedly has a high reliability, α =.89 (Prezza et al. 2001). The reliability for the final entire neighboring scale used in this study was moderate, α=.812. Results indicate that if any of the first five items that measure the frequency of neighbor interaction were deleted, alpha would increase. However the change would be very slight.

Citizen Participation

Citizen participation was measured with a variety of items developed by the researcher. First, participants were asked to rate how often they do the following: informally talk with neighbors about a community problem, participate in neighborhood related activities (e.g. neighborhood dinners, festivals, etc.), and personally participate in community problem solving when a problem arises. Response options ranged from 1=never to 5=everyday. Reliability was only computed for these first three items. It was found to be moderate, α =.818. However, if any of the items were deleted the reliability of the scale would decrease.

Residents were then asked in which type of community they participate in community problem solving. Response options were "within the block", "within the neighborhood", "within the

town", and "none". The survey then asked about homeowner's associations. Participants indicated whether there was a homeowner's association within their neighborhood and if so what the name of the association is. Finally, participants were asked to indicate with what groups they were involved. Options were "neighborhood groups/associations", "town-wide community groups", "informal neighborhood groups", "homeowner's associations", and "none". If they weren't involved with any of the groups, they were asked to indicate why. If they were involved with any of the groups, they were asked for the names of the groups.

Needs and Assets
Some of the needs items were drawn from McGuire's (1997) Neighborhood Characteristics Questionnaire and Observation Scale. The Neighborhood Characteristics Questionnaire was originally developed to assess crime and delinquency and was then modified for a program evaluation and tailored toward use with families with small children (McGuire, 1997). The items drawn from the Questionnaire were litter/trash, graffiti, drug addicts, alcoholics and public drinking, vacant/abandoned store fronts, burned down buildings, unemployed people hanging out, and traffic. The rest of the items were developed by the researcher with the assistance of Town of Cary Planning staff. The reliability for the needs scale was low, α =.718. However, it is fairly similar to that found in a study using the original Neighborhood Characteristics Questionnaire, which was .77 (McGuire, 1997). The reliability index found in the present study would be increased slightly if the "other" item were deleted. All asset items were developed by the researcher with the assistance of Town of Cary Planning staff and had somewhat low reliability, α=.747. The reliability would be increased slightly if the "close proximity to resources" and the "other" options were deleted.

Participants were asked to indicate what problems they see with their neighborhood. The following needs were listed as options:
- Litter/Trash
- Graffiti
- Drug addicts
- Alcoholics & Public Drinking
- Vacant/Abandoned store fronts
- Burned down buildings
- Unemployed people hanging out
- Traffic
- Inadequate parking
- Noise
- Houses/yards not well kept
- Lack of common spaces
- Lack of recreation facilities
- Lack of sidewalks
- Inadequate sidewalks
- Street pavement in poor repair
- Curb and gutter in poor repair
- Other

Participants were asked to indicate what the assets are in their neighborhood. The following assets were listed as options:

- Large lot sizes
- Friendly people
- Pedestrian friendly
- Child-friendly
- Attractive landscape
- Available recreational facilities
- Close proximity to resources (e.g. grocery store, laundromat, bank, library, etc.)
- Locally owned businesses
- Religious organizations/resources
- Cultural organizations/resources
- Close proximity to restaurants
- Citizen/neighborhood associations
- Historic buildings
- Attractive homes
- Other

Perception of Safety

One of the safety questions was taken from McGuire's (1997) Neighborhood Characteristics Questionnaire and Observation Scale, specifically; neighborhood has become worse and more dangerous than other parts of the town. Other items were developed by the research in cooperation with Town of Cary staff.

Safety was measured in two parts. First, participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following four statements with response options ranging from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree:

- This neighborhood is more dangerous than other parts of the town.
- People are afraid to go out after dark in this neighborhood.
- Friends/Relatives don't visit this neighborhood because of safety concerns.
- This neighborhood has become more dangerous since I moved in.

Participants were then asked to rate how safe they feel within their neighborhood on a 9-point scale. The item was taken from the Town of Cary Biennial Citizen Survey (Town of Cary, 2006). The reliability of the scale was moderate, α=.891.

Demographics

The demographic items assessed race, income, education, gender, age, homeownership, tenure in the neighborhood and in Cary, and living situation. They were developed by the researcher and the Town of Cary Planning staff. The items measuring education, race, and income were taken from the Town of Cary Biennial Citizen Survey with slight modifications (Town of Cary, 2006).

Open-Ended

Five open-ended questions were added in order to determine whether there were any program development possibilities. Each item was developed by the researcher. The open ended items were:

- If you could change ONE thing about your neighborhood, what would it be?

- What is the ONE best aspect of your neighborhood?
- What is ONE thing that could increase your sense of community with your neighborhood?
- What is ONE thing that could increase your level of interaction with your neighbors?
- Where do you obtain the majority of information about issues/events in your neighborhood?

Procedure

The survey was designed, implemented, and analyzed by a graduate student at North Carolina State University. All instruments and procedures were approved by the North Carolina State University Institutional Review Board.

The procedure was as follows:

1. All surveys were labeled with either a C or a D that corresponded to the census block group to which they were being sent. That way, when returned, each survey could be matched to one of the two block groups.
2. The survey was also available online for those participants that prefer using the internet to completing a paper-based form. This was also done in order to increase the response rate.
3. A random sample was taken of each of the two block groups.
4. The survey along with a cover letter explaining the study was mailed to 430 randomly selected households within C and 440 randomly selected households within D. A random sample was chosen instead of sending the survey to all 1881 households within the target area to decrease costs.
5. Three weeks after the initial mailing was sent, a follow-up mailing was distributed. This mailing included another copy of the survey along with a follow-up cover letter. Since this was an anonymous survey there was no way of tracking those who had already responded to the survey. So, the follow-up was sent to all 870 households that were sent the first survey. Three weeks after the follow-up was sent, the survey was closed.

CHAPTER 3: RESULTS

Neighborhood Definition

Overall Results

In order to determine how residents define their neighborhood, they were asked whether their neighborhood had a name. Approximately 74% stated that their neighborhood had a name. The other 26% responded with either "no" or "don't know." Residents were then asked what the name of their neighborhood is. Table 4 lists those responses. "Northwoods" was the most frequent response.

Table 4. Names of Neighborhood

Name	Frequency	Percent
Northwoods East	1	0.59%
"Beddington" and also "Taylor's Pond"	1	0.59%
Appledown	1	0.59%

Bedingfield	1	0.59%
Boundary/Summer Ridge	1	0.59%
Branniff Drive	1	0.59%
Collin Creek Ln	1	0.59%
Creekside Bungelows	1	0.59%
Downtown Cary	1	0.59%
Kingsford I believe	1	0.59%
Maynard Forest	1	0.59%
Northhampton Drive	1	0.59%
Northwoods-Parkview	1	0.59%
Not just one	1	0.59%
Parkwood	1	0.59%
Pineview	1	0.59%
Susan Blake	1	0.59%
W. Johnson St	1	0.59%
"Old" Northwoods	2	1.18%
Northwoods/Kingwood	2	1.18%
Pine Ridge Apartments	2	1.18%
Summer Ridge Townhomes	2	1.18%
Wickham Place	2	1.18%
Northwood Mews	3	1.78%
Northwoods/Buckhurst	3	1.78%
Ridges of Northwoods	3	1.78%
Royal Oaks II	3	1.78%
Parkview Townhomes	5	2.96%
Queen Elizabeth Place Condos	6	3.55%
Willoughby Place	8	4.73%
Woodbridge Apartments	10	5.92%
Boundary Village Townhomes	11	6.51%
Buckhurst	12	7.10%
Kingswood	14	8.28%
Buckhurst West	18	10.65%
Taylor's Pond	18	10.65%
Northwoods	28	16.57%

Residents were also asked to define the boundaries of their neighborhood. As with the first study these boundaries were to be used to determine how many census blocks are within the residents' definitions of their neighborhood. However, the present neighborhoods have a cul-de-sac design which makes counting census blocks difficult. So, this measure was not used.

Comparison of C and D
Comparison of the two block groups found that a larger percentage of residents within block group C reported that their neighborhood had a name, 82.3% compared to 65.4% for block group D.

The names of the neighborhoods within C were:

- Beddington
- Taylor's Pond
- Bedingfield
- Buckhurst West
- Boundary Village
- Summer Ridge Townhomes
- Buckhurst
- Collin Creek Ln
- Downtown Cary

- Northwoods
- Parkview
- Parkwood
- Pine Ridge
- Pineview
- Queen Elizabeth Place
- Susan Blake
- Taylor's Pond
- W. Johnson St

The names of neighborhood within D were:

- Old Northwoods
- Northwoods East
- Appledown
- Branniff Drive
- Creekside Bungelows
- Royal Oaks II
- Kingsford
- Kingswood

- Maynard Forest
- Northhampton Drive
- Northwoods
- Northwoods Mews
- Ridges of Northwoods
- Wickham Place
- Willoughby Place
- Woodbridge Apartments

Sense of Community
Overall Results
Sense of community was measured using 7 items which asked residents to indicate their level of agreement with each of the statements. Response options ranged from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree. Each of the individual item means are represented in Table 5. Results indicate that sense of community is only slightly above average as measured by each of the items. The means all fall between the response options of "neither agree nor disagree" and "agree." However, the most frequent response for all the items was "agree."

Table 5. Sense of Community Items Means

Items	Mean
1. There are people I can rely on among my neighbors	3.80
2. People trust each other in my neighborhood	3.53
3. I feel I belong in my neighborhood	3.58
4. I care about what my neighbors think of my actions	3.64
5. I feel close to some of my neighbors	3.44
6. People in my neighborhood are usually warm and friendly	3.65
7. We help each other out in my neighborhood	3.42

The percentage of people who selected each response option is represented in Table 6. Results show that the items that had the least amount of agreement were "We help each other out in my neighborhood" and "People trust each other in my neighborhood." Only slightly over 50% of respondents agreed within these statements, indicating that the levels of trust and reciprocity are somewhat low within this area. On the other hand, almost 70% of residents indicated that there

are people they can rely on among their neighbors. These items taken together indicate that in general, people in the neighborhood may not trust one another and may not help each other but there is at least one person among neighbors who people can rely on.

Table 6. Sense of Community Item Responses

Items	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree/disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Percent above 3 (neither agree/disagree
1. There are people I can rely on among my neighbors	6.7	5.4	18.3	40.2	29.5	69.7
2. People trust each other in my neighborhood	4.0	10.2	31.1	37.8	16.9	54.7
3. I feel I belong in my neighborhood	6.6	5.8	28.3	41.2	18.1	59.3
4. I care about what my neighbors think of my actions	4.9	8.0	22.2	47.6	17.3	64.9
5. I feel close to some of my neighbors	8.4	12.8	18.9	46.7	13.2	59.9
6. People in my neighborhood are usually warm and friendly	5.3	8.4	17.7	53.5	15.0	68.5
7. We help each other out in my neighborhood	6.7	8.9	32.9	38.7	12.9	51.6

Sense of community was also measured by computing an overall sense of community score. A composite score was computed by taking the average of all the individual items. The mean of this composite score was 3.58, which again falls between the response options of "neither agree nor disagree" and "agree," indicating that there is an overall sense of community that is only slightly above average on a scale of 1 to 5.

Comparison of C and D
Table 7 shows that mean levels of sense of community as measured by the individual items are slightly higher for block group C than for D. However, this difference is only significant for item 3, "I feel I belong in my neighborhood." The mean for the sense of community composite score was also higher for block group C than for D. This difference was not significant.

Table 7. Comparison of Block Groups for Sense of Community

Items	Means	
	C	D
1. There are people I can rely on among my neighbors	3.93	3.67
2. People trust each other in my neighborhood	3.62	3.45
3. I feel I belong in my neighborhood*	3.73	3.43

4. I care about what my neighbors think of my actions	3.68	3.61
5. I feel close to some of my neighbors	3.51	3.36
6. People in my neighborhood are usually warm and friendly	3.74	3.55
7. We help each other out in my neighborhood	3.49	3.35

*Significant at α=.05

Neighboring
Overall Results
Neighboring was measured using nine items. The first five asked residents to indicate how often they participated in five different activities with neighbors: visit with neighbors in their homes, have neighbors over to their house to visit, stop and talk with neighbors, meet to spend time doing things together, and exchanging favors. The response options were 1=never, 2=rarely, 3=sometimes, 4=often, and 5=everyday. The last four neighboring items asked residents to identify how many neighbors they interact with such as how many neighbors they would recognize if they saw them, know by name, consider as friends, and would have no problem asking to borrow little things. For the last four open-ended items, only numeric responses were analyzed.

The means for each of the items are listed in Table 8. Results show that all of the means are low. On average, items asking how often residents participate in neighboring behaviors fall between the response options of "rarely" and "sometimes", with the exception of stopping and talking to neighbors which is somewhat higher and spending time doing things together which is slightly lower. The most common response for the item asking about visiting with neighbors was "rarely." The most common response for stopping and talking with neighborsand exchanging favors with neighbors was "sometimes" and the most common response for spending time doing things together was "never."

Table 8. Neighboring Item Means

Items	Mean
1. I visit with my neighbors in their homes.	2.20
2. I have neighbors over to my house to visit.	2.17
3. I stop and talk with people in my neighborhood.	3.20
4. I meet with my neighbors to spend some time doing things together.	1.99
5. I exchange favors with my neighbors.	2.47
6. How many of your neighbors would you recognize if you saw them?	11.12
7. How many of your neighbors do you know by name?	7.91
8. How many of your neighbors do you consider as your friends?	3.60
9. How many of your neighbors would you have no problem asking to borrow little things?	3.97

For the last four items, which examined the number of neighbors residents interact with, the number of neighbors respondents would recognize if they saw them had the highest mean. However, the median for this item was only 8. For the number of neighbors residents know by name, the number they consider as friends, and the number of neighbors they would have no problem asking to borrow little things the most frequent response was 0. It is important to

understand the composition of these neighborhoods when considering the level of neighbor interaction. For instance, both block group C and D are composed of mainly complexes and cul-de-sacs. The low instance of the number of neighbors would recognize, know by name, consider as friends, and borrowing things could be a results of residents not interacting with people outside of their cul-de-sac. However, this is only speculation since this issue is not covered in the data.

Table 9 demonstrates the percentage of people who selected each of the response options for each of the first five neighboring items. The activity with the largest number of people participating more than sometimes was stopping and talking with people in the neighborhood. This could be because this activity takes the least amount of effort and the least amount of trust. On the other hand, meeting with neighbors to spend time doing things together had the least amount of residents responding that they do this "often" or "everyday".

Table 9. Neighboring Item Responses

Items	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Everyday	Percent above 3 (sometimes)
1. I visit with my neighbors in their homes	27.2	33.9	31.7	6.2	0.9	7.1
2. I have neighbors over to my house to visit	29.6	34.1	27.4	7.6	1.3	8.9
3. I stop and talk with people in my neighborhood	4.9	13.5	43.9	32.3	5.4	37.7
4. I meet with my neighbors to spend some time doing things together	37.1	32.6	25.0	4.9	0.4	5.3
5. I exchange favors with my neighbors	20.5	24.6	42.0	12.9	0.0	12.9

A composite score was also computed for these five items. The score had a mean of 2.41 which falls between the response options of "rarely" and "sometimes."

Comparison of C and D
The means for each of the nine items were compared across the two census block groups. Results indicated that in general neighboring is higher in block group C than in D. However this difference was only significant for items 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. For the items that ask for the number of neighbors (6,7,8,9) the results show that the number of neighbors that residents interact with is almost twice as high in block group C than in D.

Table 10. Comparison of Block Groups for Neighboring

Items	Means	
	C	D
1. Visit with my neighbors in their homes	2.25	2.14
2. Have neighbors over to my house to visit	2.20	2.14

3. Stop and talk with people in my neighborhood	3.32	3.08
4. Meet with my neighbors to spend some time doing things together*	2.14	1.84
5. Exchange favors with my neighbors	2.52	2.40
6. How many of your neighbors would you recognize if you saw them*	13.74	8.56
7. How many of your neighbors do you know by name*	9.75	6.00
8. How many of your neighbors do you consider as your friends*	4.33	2.81
9. How many of your neighbors would you have no problem asking to borrow little things*	7.91	3.60

*Significant at α=.05

The composite score for the first five items was also compared across block groups. Results show that the overall mean for block group C is only slightly higher than block group D, 2.49 and 2.33 respectively. This difference is not significant.

Citizen Participation
Overall Results
Citizen participation was measured using a variety of items. First, residents were asked to indicate how often they participate in community problem solving and neighborhood related events. The response options for these three items ranged from 1=never to 5=everyday. The level of participation in each of these items was low. Mean responses fell between "rarely" and "sometimes" with the most common response for participating in neighborhood events and personally participating in community problem solving being "never." However, results do indicate that residents are partaking in citizen participation activities at least informally since the most common response to informally talking with neighbors about a community problem was "sometimes." An overall composite score, computed by taking the average of each of the items, had a mean of 2.24 which fell between the response options of "rarely" and "sometimes."

Table 11. Citizen Participation Item Means
Item	Mean
1. Informally talk with neighbors about a community problem	2.48
2. Participate in neighborhood related activities	2.08
3. Personally participate in community problem solving	2.14

Table 12 shows the percent of people selecting each response option for each of the questions. The percent of people who participate in these activities more than "sometimes" is very low.

Table 12. Citizen Participation Item Responses

Items	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Everyday	Percent above 3 (sometimes)
1. Informally talk with neighbors about a community problem	21.8	22.7	43.1	11.1	1.3	12.4
2. Participate in neighborhood related activities	39.7	24.6	24.1	11.6	0.0	11.6
3. Personally participate in community problem solving when a problem arises	37.7	21.4	31.4	8.2	1.4	9.6

Residents were then asked to identify the level at which they participate in community problem solving. Approximately 38% don't participate in community problem solving at all and only 15% participate at the town level. The most frequent level of participation is at the neighborhood level.

Table 13. Community Problem Solving Reference Groups

Items	Percent
Within block	35.0
Within neighborhood	39.5
Within Town	15.0
None	38.2

Next, respondents were asked to indicate whether their neighborhood had a homeowner's association. About 30% responded that there is a homeowner's association in their neighborhood. Out of those that indicated that there was a homeowner's association the following names were given: Buckhurst West, Parkview Townhomes or CAS Incorporated, Queen Elizabeth, Ridge of Northwood, RS Fincher's or Taylor's Pond, Summer Ridge, and Summit Ridge. Cary GIS data list 9 HOA's within the target area.

Residents were then asked about their involvement in certain groups. The following options were available: neighborhood groups/associations, Town-wide community groups, informal neighborhood groups, homeowner's association, and none. Table 14 shows the percent of people indicating that they participate in each of the groups. Almost 70% of respondent indicated that they were not involved with any of the groups. Out of those who were involved, the largest amount of people were involved with informal neighborhood groups or neighborhood groups/associations. This could be an indication that the residents within these block groups are focused more at the neighborhood level and less at the town level.

Table 14. Group Involvement

Group	Percentage
Town-wide groups	6.2
Homeowner's association	12.1
Informal neighborhood groups	13.4

Neighborhood groups/associations	13.8

If respondents indicated that they were not involved with any of the groups, they were asked to indicate why they were not more involved. Each of the 88 responses was coded and the codes were grouped into themes. Themes from the first study were used as a starting point. The following themes emerged from the responses:

- New to the area: The resident has just moved to the area
- No groups: The resident stated that there are no groups within the neighborhood, don't know of any, or have not been approached by any one to join.
- No interest/no need: The resident does not want to be involved with any of the groups or the resident felt that the neighborhood does not need any of these groups.
- Other obligations/time: The resident is too busy with other obligations and/or does not have time to be involved.
- Resident differences: It is difficult to become involved because of the other residents. (language barrier, some have small children and some don't, cultural difference, people aren't friendly, renters treated differently than homeowners)

The final item asked respondents to indicate the names of the specific groups they were involved with. Residents reported being involved in the following groups.

- Northwoods Buckhurst
- Buckhurst West HOA
- Mayor's Advisory Council on Disabilities
- Community/Neighborhood Watch
- Various school and civil organizations
- Community Discussions
- Bunko
- neighborhood watch program
- Parkview Townhome Association
- Taylor's Pond HOA
- Summer Ridge HOA
- Queen Elizabeth Homeowner's Association
- bible study groups
- YMCA,
- White Plains United Methodist Church
- Downtown Cary Planning
- Reading Club
- Northwoods Neighborhood Watch

- Buckhurst Yahoo Group
- Culture Committee/PTA
- Library
- Wake County Public Library Book Sale Volunteer
- Book club
- Yearly neighborhood picnic
- Landscape committee within neighborhood
- Sexual Offender Task Force
- Cary Parks and Recreation Coach
- Townhouse Homeowners association
- Ridges of Northwoods HOA.
- Raleigh Durham Caged Bird Society
- Cary sports and rec.
- Christ the King Lutheran Church
- Cub Scouts
- Beaver Pine Way HOA
- Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
- Cary High School Band Boosters

Involvement in a neighborhood watch was mentioned by many respondents. Sixteen people (32% of the people who answered the question) responded that they were involved in a

community or neighborhood watch. The neighborhood watch groups seem to be located within Northwoods, Buckhurst West, Kingswood, Northhampton Drive, and Buckhurst.

Comparison of A and B
The means for the first three items were compared across block groups. Results show that the level of participation in neighborhood activities, informally talking about community problems, and community problem solving is higher in block group C than in D. This difference was significant for all three of the items.

Table 15. Comparison of Block Groups for Citizen Participation

Items	Means	
	C	D
1. Informally talk with neighbors about a community problem*	2.75	2.19
2. Participate in neighborhood related activities*	2.27	1.87
3. Personally participate in community problem solving*	2.35	1.93

*Significant at α=.05

Comparison of the two block groups also found that more residents within block group C were involved at some community level, whether it was the block, neighborhood, or town. Block group D had more people that weren't involved at any level.

Table 16. Community Problem Solving Reference Group Comparison of Block Groups

Items	Percent	
	C	D
Within block	41.96	27.78
Within neighborhood	48.21	30.56
Within town	17.86	12.04
None	30.36	46.30

Comparison of the block groups for group involvement revealed that there were more residents within block group D who were not involved with any group. Within this group, the most frequently selected group was neighborhood groups/associations and within C the most frequently selected group was homeowner's associations.

Table 17. Comparison on Block Groups for Group Involvement

Items	Percent	
	C	D
Neighborhood groups/associations	16.96	10.71
Town-wide community groups	6.25	6.25
Informal neighborhood groups	20.54	6.25
Homeowner's association	22.32	1.79
None	61.61	77.68

Needs/Assets
Overall Results
Table 18 shows the percentage of people selecting each of the needs. In general, "other" was the most frequently chosen need. Appendix D lists the 60 specific responses to "other." The next most frequently chosen needs were litter/trash and inadequate parking. The average number of needs selected was 2.14 out of a possible 18.

Table 18. Needs

Need	Percentage
Burned down buildings	0.4
Vacant/Abandoned store fronts	1.7
Graffiti	2.2
Curb and gutter in poor repair	2.2
Street pavement in poor repair	3.9
Drug Addicts	5.6
Unemployed people hanging out	6.0
Alcoholics and Public Drinking	6.0
Inadequate sidewalks	9.1
Lack of common spaces	14.7
Noise	15.1
Lack of recreation facilities	16.4
Traffic	18.1
Houses/Yards not well kept	20.7
Lack of sidewalks	22.0
Inadequate Parking	22.8
Litter/trash	22.8
Other	24.6

In general the most frequently chosen asset was close proximity to resources (e.g. grocery store, Laundromat, bank, library, etc.). The next highest assets were close proximity to restaurants and friendly people. The average number of assets chosen was 4.8 out of a possible 15. Appendix D shows the 41 specific responses to the "other" option.

Table 19. Assets

Asset	Percentage
Historic Buildings	4.7
Cultural organizations/resources	12.1
Citizen/neighborhood associations	12.5
Other	15.5
Available recreation facilities	18.1
Religious Organizations/Resources	18.1
Locally owned businesses	19.0
Large lot sizes	22.4
Attractive landscape	39.7

Attractive Homes	41.4
Pedestrian Friendly	41.8
Child Friendly	42.7
Close proximity to restaurants	53.9
Friendly people	55.6
Close proximity to resources	90.9

Comparison of A and B
Comparison of the percentage of people selecting each of the needs in each of the block groups reveals that the residents in each block group saw different deficiencies within their neighborhoods. Table 20 is a comparison of each of the needs of the block groups. For block group C, residents felt that "litter/trash" and "other" were the most pressing needs. For block group D, residents felt that "lack of sidewalks" and "inadequate parking" were the most pressing needs. In block group C the qualifying responses to "other" were related to:

- Traffic Problems such as speeding, cut through traffic, and not stopping at stop signs
- Sidewalks needing repair
- Trees need trimming
- Houses and yards with trash
- Sex offender living in the neighborhood
- Limited facilities within parks
- Rooming houses

- Barking dogs
- Vandalism
- Overdevelopment
- Lack of common area
- Cleaning up after pets
- Breed specific problems
- School crossing guard
- Unfriendly people
- Rental Units

Table 20. Needs of Each Block Group

	Percent	
Need	C	D
Burned down buildings	0.0	0.87
Vacant/abandoned store fronts	1.71	1.74
Graffiti	1.71	2.61
Curb and gutter in poor repair	1.71	2.61
Street pavement in poor repair	3.42	4.35
Unemployed people hanging out	5.13	6.96
Drug addicts	5.98	5.22
Alcoholics and public drinking	5.98	6.09
Inadequate sidewalks	5.98	12.17
Lack of sidewalks	9.40	34.78
Lack of common spaces	10.26	19.13
Lack of recreation facilities	11.11	21.74
Houses/yards not well kept	11.97	29.57
Noise	14.53	15.65
Inadequate parking	14.53	31.30
Traffic	18.80	17.39

Litter/trash	21.37	24.35
Other	24.79	24.35

Comparison of the average number of needs selected in each block group found that the average number of needs selected for block group C was lower than that of D, 1.68 and 2.60 respectively. This difference was significant.

Table 21 represents the percentage of people selecting each of the assets for each of the neighborhoods. Results show that for both block groups "close proximity to resources" was the most widely selected asset. "Friendly People" was the second highest for block group C and "Close Proximity to Restaurants" was the second highest for block group D.

Table 21. Assets of Each Block Group

	Percent	
Asset	C	D
Historic buildings	6.84	2.61
Cultural organizations/resources	11.11	13.04
Citizen/neighborhood associations	17.09	7.83
Other	17.09	13.91
Religious organizations/resources	19.66	16.52
Large lot sizes	20.51	24.35
Locally owned businesses	21.37	16.52
Available recreation facilities	25.64	10.43
Child friendly	43.59	41.74
Pedestrian friendly	46.15	37.39
Attractive homes	48.72	33.91
Close proximity to restaurants	49.57	58.26
Attractive landscape	53.85	25.22
Friendly people	59.83	51.30
Close proximity to resources	90.60	91.30

Comparison of the average number of assets selected in each block group found that the number of assets selected for block group C was higher than that of D, 5.32 and 4.44 respectively. This difference was statistically significant.

Perception of Safety
Overall Results
Perception of safety was measured using two different types of items. The first four asked residents to rate their level of agreement with statements concerning the safety of their neighborhood with a scale ranging from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree. Table 22 lists the mean for each of the items. In this instance a lower number on a scale of 1 to 5 represents a higher perception of safety.

Table 22. Safety Item Means

Items	Mean
1. The neighborhood is more dangerous than other parts of the town	2.02
2. People are afraid to go out after dark in this neighborhood	1.96
3. Friends/Relatives don't visit this neighborhood because of safety concerns	1.55
4. This neighborhood has become more dangerous since I moved in	2.11

Table 23 represents the individual responses for each of the four items. Results show that more people agree with "this neighborhood has become more dangerous since I moved in" indicating a perceived decline in safety.

Table 23. Safety Item Responses

Item	strongly disagree	disagree	neither	agree	strongly agree	Percent above 3 (neither agree/disagree)
1. This neighborhood is more dangerous than other parts of the town	38.1	35.4	16.8	6.2	3.5	9.7
2. People are afraid to go out after dark in this neighborhood	38.3	37.9	16.3	4.8	2.6	7.4
3. Friends/Relatives don't visit this neighborhood because of safety concerns	60.2	27.9	8.4	3.5	0.0	3.5
4. This neighborhood has become more dangerous since I moved in	38.5	31.0	15.9	10.2	4.4	14.6

The other type of item was a scale where residents were asked to rank their overall safety within their neighborhood from 1 to 9. The item was taken from the Town of Cary's 2006 Biennial Citizen Survey. Table 24 is a comparison of the results of the present item to that of the Town's Biennial Survey findings. Results indicate that the Town of Cary residents as a whole feel a higher sense of safety with their neighborhood than do those residents living within the present target area.

Table 24. Comparison of Overall Safety Item to Biennial Survey

Survey	Reference Group (safety within neighborhood or town)	Mean	Extremely unsafe=1	2	3	4	Average=5	6	7	8	Extremely Safe=9	% above 5
Present	Neighborhood	6.80	0.5	1.8	2.7	3.6	15.9	8.6	25.9	27.7	13.2	75.4
Biennial	Neighborhood	8.22	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.0	1.5	1.5	13.2	33.1	49.3	97.1
Biennial	Cary	8.10	0.0	0.0	0.0	.5	2.0	2.2	17.3	38.6	39.4	97.5

Comparison of A and B
Comparison of the two block groups revealed that there were no significant differences between the groups. This was the case for both the items measuring agreement with the perception of safety statements as well as the biennial survey item measuring overall perception of safety. Table 25 represents the means for each of the perception of safety items.

Table 25. Comparison of Block Groups for Safety

Items	Means	
	C	D
The neighborhood is more dangerous than the other parts of the town	2.01	2.03
People are afraid to go out after dark in this neighborhood	1.99	1.92
Friends/Relatives don't visit this neighborhood because of safety concerns	1.59	1.51
This neighborhood has become more dangerous since I moved in	2.12	2.10
How safe do you feel in your neighborhood	6.78	6.82

*Significant at α=.05

Open-Ended
There were 5 open-ended questions included in the survey. Open-ended response formats allow residents to include more detail in their responses since they are not constrained by response options. For each question, individual responses were assigned codes then codes were organized into themes. Codes and themes developed in the first study were used as a starting point.

Change one thing
The first question asked participants if they could change one thing about their neighborhood what would it be. The following themes emerged from the data: Appearance, Property Transition, Neighbors, Neighbor Interaction, Infrastructure, Traffic, HOA, Common Spaces, and Nothing

The Appearance theme is made up of responses that have to do with cleaning up houses or yards, adding streetlights, or cleaning up after pets. Examples of individual responses include:

"around perimeter of the neighborhood there are run down houses and apartments"

"clean up the yards/litter"

"That every homeowner cleaned their sidewalk and made their house fronts look better. I mean if they made some home improvements"

"More street lights on my street. There is also a big tree and the leaves and branches cover the only lighting there is!"

The Property Transition theme referred to responses where residents wanted to change the types of properties within the neighborhood such as getting rid of rental housing or having less development. Individual responses included:

> *"remove all rentals-home owners only-or provide an ordinance with regards to the number of occupants in a rental home"*

> *"Overwhelming growth in businesses and apartments and increase in traffic. Three grocery stores at intersection is ridiculous!"*

> *"no businesses in neighborhood"*

The Neighbors theme consisted of responses that mentioned changing the neighbors in some way such as neighbors being friendlier, changing the demographics of the neighbors in order to have more in common with neighbors, or certain people moving out of the neighborhood. Residents stated:

> *"The people"*

> *"higher class of neighbors"*

> *"more people our age to live here"*

> *"Rid neighborhood of sex offender"*

Neighbor Interaction referred to residents wanting to have more interaction with their neighbors that include such things as more people doing things out doors, neighborhood events, etc. Examples of individual responses include:

> *"To have some type of gathering just for complex residents"*

> *"encourage more kindness"*

> *"more activities for neighbors to socialize"*

> *"neighborhood activities - to get to know each other better"*

The Infrastructure theme consists of responses that referred to changing such aspects of the neighborhood as adding sidewalks, widening streets, and providing more parking. Individual responses in this theme were:

> *"sidewalks-it is very puzzling that we are a "side" road and we get a ton of traffic. I am always nervous walking my dog down the road"*

> *"sidewalks-is impossible to walk or drive because of people with animals walking in the street, and cars parking on both sides of the street opposite one another!"*

> *"parking inadequate"*

> *"wider streets"*

Traffic represents responses that mention decreasing speeding, adding speed bumps, or decreasing traffic noise. Individual responses included:

> *"better traffic noise shielding from maynard rd"*

> *"people speed on street and would post a sign that children is playing so they will slow down"*

> *"more stop signs to slow down speeders or speed bumps"*

The HOA theme represents responses that mention changing the homeowner's association in some way. Examples of responses are:

"I would like to have a homeowner's association to care for the entrance"

"dislike homeowners association"

"overzealous HOA board members"

Common Spaces refers to adding some sort of public space in the neighborhood such as recreational facilities, a pool, or a community center. Individual responses include:

"A park in the neighborhood"

"community center/club/pool area"

"Wish we had a neighborhood park-small green space-the way they do in London areas. The trees here seem to be coming down daily!"

"I would have a park built for the kids."

"Add a pool"

The Nothing theme was created for those responses that stated that nothing needed to be changed in the neighborhood.

Best Aspect

The second question asked residents what the best aspect of the neighborhood is. The following themes emerged from the data: Atmosphere, People, Location, Housing, and Trails.

The Atmosphere theme included responses that mentioned the feel of the neighborhood and how safe, quiet, or clean it is. Examples of this theme are as follows:

"very safe place to live. Low crime rate"

"feels like home/like a place of real people"

"nice place to live"

"quiet/clean mostly!"

"live close enough to have a feeling of belonging, and far enough not annoy each other"

The People theme referred to the people living within the neighborhood such as how nice or friendly they are. For instance:

"The people - we have a ethnically diverse neighborhood and I like that"

"friendliness"

"The children all play together and get along"

"We have very friendly neighbors that have become good friends. We all can count on each other when we need extra help"

The Location theme encompassed responses that had to do with the convenience of living in that area as well as responses that specifically stated "location." Convenience referred to being close to resources, work, transportation routes, etc. Individual responses included:

"close proximity to work and school"

"convenient to everywhere"

"location within walking distance of stores and downtown Cary"

Housing included responses concerning the housing stock. This included responses that said the best thing about their neighborhood was their house, or the look of the houses in the neighborhood, or the affordability of the housing in the area. Individual responses included:

"We have a great house and it is close to church and work

"nicely kept homes"

"very affordable housing expenses"

"rising home values"

"I love my house and garden"

The Trails theme covers responses that specifically made mention of the greenways system in their neighborhood. For example:

"greenway and walking trails"

"great access to the greenway behind Godbold Park"

Increase Sense of Community
The third question asked residents what would increase their sense of community. The following themes emerged: Interaction, Public Spaces, Change Neighborhood Composition, and Nothing.

The Interaction theme referred to responses that mention having events or activities, getting outdoors more to see each other, or simply interacting with neighbors in some way. Examples include:

"informal get-togethers"

"Seeing people outside of their homes"

"Some organized activities. We used to do more things on our block when the kids were younger, but now there is no one home to organize block/neighborhood activities"

"block parties"

Public Spaces refers to responses concerning having some sort of common area such as a pool, park, or community centers. Examples include:

"development of Taylor's Pond common area located off Rosebrooks Dr"

"family park-somewhere children can go and play i.e. basketball courts, climbing, handball courts"

"community center/clubhouse/pool"

The theme concerning Changing the Neighborhood Composition refers to responses that mention changing who lives in the neighborhood. For example, residents mentioned having fewer renters, having different neighbors, having more in common with existing neighbors, or certain people moving out of the neighborhood. For instance:

"rid neighborhood of the sex offender"

"less apartments and rooming houses"

"get rid of the renters"

"if neighbors were friendly and nice"

"having more people with our age/children"

The Nothing theme was created to encompass those who responded that they already interact with their neighbors and don't need anything to increase their interaction or those who responded that they don't want to interact with their neighbors.

Increase Neighbor Interaction
The fourth question asked residents to indicate what would increase their interaction with their neighbors. The following themes emerged: Interaction, Public Spaces, Change Neighborhood Composition, Time, and Nothing.

Interaction refers to responses that simply make mention of some kind of interaction whether it be participating in neighborhood watch groups, holding common events, or getting outdoors to meet one another. Examples include:

"street party"

"Having involvement with the community like a day for everyone to gather together. Have food or event."

"community activities, such as neighborhood picnics, block parties."

"If people are outside more, it would allow talking and interacting which could lead to relationships. I haven't lived here long which may be why I don't know anyone but it doesn't seem like many people spend time outside (exercising, etc.)"

The Public Spaces theme refers to having some common area for interaction such as a pool, community center, or park.

"community center in the neighborhood"

"Working on the development of the common area with my neighbors"

"common areas for recreation. e.g. parks, trails"

Changing the Neighborhood Composition includes responses that mention changing who the neighbors are or how they interact with one another. For instance residents mention the existing

neighbors being friendlier, having more in common with their neighbors or certain people moving out of the neighborhood.

> *"remove the registered sex offender"*

> *"people move in and out like flies"*

> *"higher class of neighbors"*

> *"common interests"*

The Time theme refers to having more time to devote to the neighborhood and interaction with neighbors.

> *"more free time!"*

> *"If I had more free time"*

The Nothing theme was created to encompass those who responded that they already interact with their neighbors and don't need anything to increase their interaction or those who responded that they don't want to interact with their neighbors.

Source of Information
The final open-ended question asked residents where they obtain the majority of information about issues/events in their neighborhood. Table 26 presents the results of that question. Results indicate that neighbors are the most common source of information in the neighborhood.

Table 26. Sources of Information for Neighborhood Issues/Events

Code	Frequency	Percent
NBC 17	1	0.6
Independent	1	0.6
Church/School	1	0.6
WRAL	1	0.6
Grocery Store	1	0.6
Surveillance Cameras	1	0.6
Library	1	0.6
Police	2	1.1
Other people (i.e. family, friends, realtor)	2	1.1
Radio	3	1.7
N&O	3	1.7
Town Hall	3	1.7
Newsletter	5	2.8
Nothing happens (there are no events in the neighborhood)	5	2.8
BUD	8	4.5
www.townofcary.org	8	4.5
Property Management Company	9	5.1
News	9	5.1
No formal channel (no particular source of information)	9	5.1
Internet	12	6.8

Fliers/postings	13	7.3
Mailings	13	7.3
Homeowner's Association	14	7.9
TV	14	7.9
Cary news	14	7.9
Neighborhood email group	19	10.7
Word of mouth	19	10.7
Newspaper	21	11.9
Neighbors	38	21.5

Comparison to Previous Study

As mentioned above, this study was a replication of one previously conducted during the Spring of 2007. The first study targeted the southern portion of downtown Cary, basically south of Chatham Street and the present study targeted the northern portion of the downtown area, north of Chatham Street. For the purposes of simplification the target area from the first study is referred to as the south part of downtown and the area targeted in the present study is referred to the north side. The maps of each of the block groups examined are represented in Appendix A. In general, there were a few significant difference between the 2 areas surveyed. The variables that were significantly different were: whether the neighborhood has a name, whether there is a homeowner's association, the number of needs selected, the number of assets selected, relative danger in neighborhood compared to other parts of town, race, income, age, tenure in neighborhood, tenure in Cary, neighbors' tenure in neighborhood, neighbors' tenure in Cary, and living situation. The following section highlights only the differences between the two areas.

Organization of Neighborhood: Many more participants in the north side than the south side responded that their neighborhood had a name. Approximately 74% from the north side said their neighborhood had a name compared to only 48% from the south side. This could be the result of more homeowner's associations on the north side of downtown. Almost 30% of respondents from the north said there was a homeowner's association in their neighborhood compared to only 6% in the south. Another difference is the presence of neighborhood watch groups within the north. 30.8% of residents who answered the question asking for the names of groups with which the individual is involved responded that they are involved with a neighborhood or community watch. This was not a group mentioned in the previous study.

Needs and Assets: Residents on the south side selected more needs and more assets from the list than from the north. For the needs, there was only a difference of 0.68. The most striking difference was in the number of assets selected. Even though the north side felt that they had fewer needs, they did not feel that they had more assets. There is a mean difference in the number of assets selected of about 1.3. The top three needs selected in the north were "other", litter/trash" and "inadequate parking." The top there in the south were "traffic", "houses/yards not well kept", and "other." The top three assets were the same for both areas. They were "close proximity to resources", "friendly people", and "close proximity to restaurants".

Safety: Overall, there was no significant difference in perception of safety for the two neighborhoods. However, there was a significant difference between the two areas when comparing how dangerous the neighborhood is with the rest of the town. Residents were asked to

indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement: "This neighborhood is more dangerous than other parts of the town." Only about 10% of respondents from the north side agreed with this statement. However, approximately 17% of the respondents from the south did.

*Demographic*s: Results indicate that there is a significant difference between the residents when it comes to race. In comparing the responses across the groups, results indicate there is a larger minority population within the north side of downtown. As compared to the south side, the north side consists of less Caucasians, more African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Hispanics. Income was also significantly different. The income of respondents was higher in the north than in the south. There was also a significant difference between the two areas when it came to age. On average, residents who responded from the north side were about 4 years older than those who responded from the south side. Tenure in neighborhood was also significantly different. On average, residents in the south side have lived in their neighborhood longer and have lived in Cary longer than the respondents from the north side. They also perceive their neighbors to have lived in the neighborhood and within Cary longer than the north side respondents perceive their neighbors to have lived in the neighborhood and Cary. This could be due to the fact that the south side is an older and more established neighborhood. Slightly more people within the south side reported that there neighborhood was in transition. There were people who had been there for a short period of time and others who had been there for many years. It is important to note that these differences are among participants, which were not representative of the population in either study.

Comments: As compared to the first survey administration there were far fewer respondents within the current area who qualified answers by writing in comments. Respondents in the south side tended to write in comments next to their quantitative responses. However, on average the respondents from the north side did not. This could be indicative of accessibility or linkage to venues for public comment within each area. For example, the abundance of homeowner's associations within the north side could provide a venue for residents to air their grievances or they may just be better able or willing to access other public comment venues.

Homeowner's Associations: Residents within the north also seemed to have slightly less animosity toward homeowner's associations. This could be due to a self selection process. For instance, there are a total of 9 homeowner's associations within the north side. Residents may have moved into the neighborhood because of the homeowner's associations.

Online versus Mail: Another difference was in the percent of respondents who completed the survey online. A fewer percent of residents within the south side completed the survey online, 4.5% as compared to 16% for the current study. This could indicate the proficiency of internet use or the preferences for using the internet as a public comment space.

Open-Ended Themes: There were a few differences between the north and south when it came to developing themes for the open-ended items. For the item that asked residents what they would change in their neighborhood, the north side had a few more themes than did the south side. They were Neighbors, HOA, and Common Spaces. As opposed to the south side, the north would like to change their neighbors in some way, change the HOA, and add common spaces.

For the item that asked residents to state the best aspect of their neighborhood, the north side had a couple more assets. The residents mentioned the housing and the greenways trails being the best aspects of the area. These were not mentioned by residents in the first study. Finally, there were more reported sources of information within the north side. The sources that were not included in the first study were NBC 17, Independent, Grocery Store, Surveillance Cameras, Police, Radio, Property Management Company, Newsletter, and Neighborhood Email Group.

Comparison of All Block Groups
Since the neighborhood characteristics study has been implemented twice, the Town now has neighborhood level data for four separate census block groups. The following section is a comparison of all four of the block groups.

Demographics for all 4 neighborhoods
A variety of demographic variables were compared for each of the block groups. Table 27 represents the US Census Bureau's demographic indicators for each of the block groups studied. Results show that A and D have the largest minority population; A has the lowest median income and D has the highest; gender across block groups was fairly similar; homeownership is fairly similar across block groups; there are more individuals with children living in the home in D than in any of the other groups; Block group B has the smallest percentage of people at low to moderate income and A has the highest; on average, block group B has an older population; D has the largest population and A has the smallest.

Table 27. Demographics from US Census

Variables[4]	Response Options	A 535.01-1	B 535.07-1	C 535.13-2	D 535.10-1
Race	Caucasian	68.5%	83.5%	70.4%	63.4%
	African-American	13.8%	8.6%	15.1%	15.0%
	American Indian	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%
	Asian or Pacific	1.0%	1.7%	4.9%	11.7%
	Hispanic	16.1%	4.6%	6.3%	7.5%
	Other	0.6%	1.3%	2.8%	1.9%
Gender	Male	51.8%	45.5%	48.2%	51.3%
	Female	48.2%	54.5%	51.8%	48.7%
Homeownership	Rent	59.5%	43.3%	48.7%	52.8%
	Own	40.5%	56.7%	51.3%	47.2%
Children present	Yes	25.7%	25.8%	34.8%	39.4%
	No	74.3%	74.2%	65.2%	60.6%
Median Age[5]		32.1	36.6	30.9	28.9
Median Income[6]		$28,833	$50,167	$52,880	$58,324
Percent low to moderate		69%	29%	34%	35%

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[4] For Census data race was by population 18 and over, gender was by population 18 and over, homeownership was by household, children present was by household.
[5] Median Age is for total population
[6] Median income is from 1999 statistics

income[7]					
Population		623	781	1692	3180
Population over age of 18		492	605	1276	2357
Number of Households		269	360	679	1202
Average Household Size		2.25	2.17	2.49	2.65

Table 28 represents the demographics for the residents who participated in the study. Analyses were conducted to determine if there were significant differences between the block groups for each of the demographic variables. There were significant differences among the block groups for all the demographic variables except for education and number of children living in the household. As compared to the US Census data, block group D has the highest proportion of minority population. The lowest was within B. A and D have more renters responding than do B and C. Similar to the census, B has an older population. Respondents have lived the longest within B. And block group C reported the shortest amount of time in Cary. The highest average income level was found within C and the lowest within A

Table 28. Demographics of Participants

Variables[8]	Response Options	535.01-1	535.07-1	Present 535.13-2	Present 535.10-1
Race	Caucasian	82.7	94.0	83.5	69.8
	African-American	8.6	2.4	7.3	15.1
	American Indian	3.4	1.2	2.8	0.9
	Asian or Pacific	1.7	0	3.7	6.6
	Hispanic	0	0	1.8	1.9
	Other	3.4	2.4	0.9	5.7
Gender	Male	36.2	36.9	33.6	35.5
	Female	63.8	63.1	66.4	64.5
Homeownership	Rent	33.9	15.1	19.8	25.5
	Own	66.1	84.9	80.2	74.5
Children present	Yes	30.0	28.2	34.8	44.5
	No	70.0	71.8	65.2	55.5
Income	0-$20,000	10.0	6.7	10.1	4.1
	$20,001-$30,000	18.0	8.0	9.1	10.2
	$30,001-$50,000	30.0	10.7	10.1	24.5
	$50,001-$70,000	28.0	24.0	18.2	15.3
	$70,001-$100,000	10.0	24.0	17.2	21.4
	$100,001-$120,000	2.0	17.3	10.1	12.2
	$120,001-$140,000	0.0	5.3	9.1	4.1

[7] From the CDBG plan for low-moderate income
[8] For Census data race was by population 18 and over, gender was by population 18 and over, homeownership was by household, children present was by household.

	$140,001-$160,000	0.0	1.3	4.0	6.1
	Over $160,000	2.0	2.7	12.1	2.0
Education	High School/Equivalent or Less	8.5	5.9	9.7	12.5
	Some College or Technical	40.7	29.8	21.2	25.9
	College Degree	35.6	38.1	46.9	34.8
	Graduate Degree	15.3	26.2	22.1	26.8
Average Age		46.62	52.29	47.39	44.93
Median Age		45.00	51.00	46.20	42.50
Average Length of time in neighborhood		12.19	17.25	8.48	9.76
Average length of time in Cary		18.66	22.45	11.95	12.19
Living Situation	Live Alone or Widow/Widower	50.0	30.2	21.8	25.0
	Live with Roommate (non-relative)	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.9
	Live with Relative	7.1	1.2	8.2	5.6
	Live with Significant Other/Married	39.3	67.4	66.4	64.8
	Other	3.6	1.2	0.0	3.7

Some of the attitudinal and behavioral variables were analyzed to determine if there was a difference between any of the four block groups. The variables examined were sense of community, frequency of neighboring, number of neighbors resident interact with, informally talking with neighbors about a community problem, participating in neighborhood related activities, participating in community problem solving, average number of needs, average number of assets, perception of safety, and overall perception of safety. Results show that there was a significant difference among the groups for all the variables examined. Table 29 represents a ranking of the block groups on a scale of 1 to 4. They are ranked according to which one has the highest mean for each of the variables. One is the highest and 4 is the lowest.

Table 29. Ranking for Each Block Group

Variable	A	B	C	D
Sense of Community	4	1	2	3
Frequency of Neighboring	4	1	2	3
Number of Neighbors Interact With	4	1	2	3
Informally talk with neighbors about community problem	4	2	1	3
Participate in neighborhood related activities	4	1	2	3
Participate in community problem solving	3	2	1	4
Average number of needs	1	3	4	2
Average number of assets	3	1	2	4
Perception of Safety	4	1	3	2
Overall Perception of Safety	4	1	3	2

Overall, according to the above rankings, block group B seems to be in better health as a neighborhood than the rest of the block groups. It has the highest sense of community, neighboring, participation in neighborhood related activities, average number of assets within the neighborhood and highest perception of safety. Block group A seems to be in the worst health of

all the block groups. It has the lowest sense of community, neighboring, frequency of talking about a community problem, participation in neighborhood related activities, lowest perception of safety and highest average number of needs within the neighborhood. However, it is important to note that not all the differences between the neighborhoods are significant.

1. Block group B had the highest sense of community, but it was only significantly different from A and D. It was not statistically different from C.

2. For the average frequency of neighboring block group B was the highest. It was significantly different than block groups A and D, but not C.

3. For the average number of neighbors residents interact with there was a significant difference between A and B, A and C, B and D, and C and D. A had the lowest mean, B and C had the highest.

4. Block group C had the highest average frequency of informally talking with neighbors about a community problem. It was significantly higher than both A and D but not B.

5. There was a significant difference between A and B, A and C, B and D, C and D for participating in neighborhood related activities.

6. There was a significant difference only between C and D for personally participating in community problem solving.

7. There were significant differences between A and B, A and C, and C and D for average number of needs selected.

8. Block group B had the highest average number of asset selected, but the only significant difference was between B and the other three block groups. The other 3 block groups did not differ from each other.

9. For the average of the first four safety items block group A had the highest mean which translated into the lowest perception of safety. The differences between block group A and the three other block groups was significant.

10. For the item that asked residents to indicate their overall perception of safety on a nine-point scale, block group A had the lowest mean. The differences between block group A and the other three block groups were statistically significant. So, overall block group A has the lowest perception of safety. Even though block group B had the highest perception of safety, it was not significantly different from C or D.

CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION

The present study was undertaken in order to assess the health of another part of the downtown Cary area. The Town was interested in finding out the health of its neighborhoods by examining residents' attitudes toward their neighborhoods and the behaviors within them. To do this, the

Town implemented a survey that measured sense of community, neighbor interaction, citizen participation, needs, assets, safety, and demographic variables. Since this was the second administration of the survey, the Town was also able to examine the differences between four different neighborhoods in terms of the variables mentioned above.

Results show that for some of the indicators, attitudes concerning the neighborhood are somewhat positive. When asked to rate their level of agreement with statements concerning how safe they feel their neighborhood is, they generally disagreed with statements that stated their neighborhood was more dangerous than other parts of the town, the neighborhood has become more dangerous over the years, it's unsafe after dark, and it's too dangerous for friends and relative to visit. Another indicator of positive attitudes is the fact that the number of assets chosen from the list more than doubles than number of needs selected. The most common assets selected were "friendly people" and "close proximity to resources" and the most common needs selected were "other", "litter/trash" and "inadequate parking." Even though there were a few indicators of positive attitudes there were many that showed a variety of deficiencies in the target area. For instance, overall sense of community was only slightly above average on a scale of 1 to 5. Also, overall perception of safety was low falling just above average on a scale of 1 to 9.

For behaviors within the neighborhood results show that involvement in community related activities is low. Neighboring is extremely low with the frequency of certain neighboring behaviors such as visiting, doing things together, and exchanging favors all having a frequency close to either "rarely" or "sometimes." Another indicator of low neighboring is the fact that the average number of neighbors who residents interact with is low. This lack of neighboring is reflective of the overall state of neighboring in America, which has been declining for single and married individuals over the last 30 years (Putnam, 2000). Citizen participation is also extremely low. The frequency of participating in community problem solving or neighborhood related events falls between "rarely" and "sometimes." Also indicative of the lack of positive behaviors is the fact that about 70% of respondents reported no involvement with any type of group formal or informal. Reasons for non-involvement included the following themes: new to the area, there are no groups in the neighborhood, no interest or no need for involvement, other obligations/time, and resident differences.

Even though behavioral indicators are not entirely positive, there do seem to be some potential mechanisms for future involvement. For example, almost 30% of respondents reported that there was a homeowner's association within their neighborhood. At the present time, only 12% of respondents are involved with their HOA. There is also a potential for neighboring behaviors since the most commonly cited source of information about the neighborhood comes from neighbors.

Open-ended questions were also included in the survey to allow residents to elaborate upon a few aspects of their community. They were first asked what they would change in their neighborhood. Results show that residents would like to change the following about their neighborhood: appearance, property (decreasing rental property), neighbors, increase neighbor interaction, infrastructure, traffic, HOA, and common spaces. One disheartening result as was found in the first study was the number of people that mentioned getting rid of rental property or renters within the neighborhood for each of the questions. There seems to be some tension

between homeowners and renters, since about 10% of respondents said that what they would change is to decrease the number or renters/rental properties within the neighborhood. However, there is no evidence that the existence of renters is detrimental to a neighborhood. Are renters less friendly people, care less about the neighborhood, suffer from a lack of involvement? There is no evidence of this. The majority of those residents who stated that they would like to decrease the number of rental units did not provide an explanation. Past research has found that renters participate in more neighbor interaction than owners and are more active in the community than owners (Krueckeberg, 1999). Others have attempted to dispel the myths of multifamily rental units. It has found that rental property does not add any more burden on government; it does not decrease property values; large apartment complexes do not add to traffic congestion; renters are not less desirable as neighbors in terms of their social interaction or community attachment (Obrinsky & Stein, 2007). Participants were then asked what is the best part of their neighborhood. Residents thought the best part of their neighborhood was: atmosphere, people, location, housing, and trails. They were also asked what they felt would increase their sense of community and neighbor interaction. They felt that interaction, public spaces, and changing the neighborhood composition would increase their sense of community. Each of these was also proposed as potential ways to increase neighbor interaction along with increasing the amount of free time.

This survey also allowed for a comparison of two areas of downtown Cary that comprise four different census block groups. Comparison of the north part of downtown to the southern portion found significant difference between the two areas for a few variables. In general, more areas within the north had a name and had more homeowner's associations. The south side had more needs and more assets. More residents within the south side thought their neighborhood was more dangerous than other parts of the town. The north side also had a higher minority population, higher income, older population, and a shorter tenure in the neighborhood. In terms of attitudinal and behavioral variables, census block group B has the highest sense of community, neighboring, participation in neighborhood related activities, average number of assets, perception of safety. Block group A has the lowest incidence of each of these. Block groups C and D which were the target areas for this study, fell somewhere in the middle for most of the variables.

One potential problem with the current target area that was not mentioned by respondents in the first study was a concern of a registered sex offender living in the neighborhood. A total of 9 participants (15%) stated that having a registered sex offender within their neighborhood was a need or problem. When asked what is the one thing they would change about their neighborhood, almost 6% reported that they would like the registered sex offender to move out of the neighborhood. With the requirement that convicted sex offenders register as such, anyone can search their neighborhood to determine if there is a convicted sex offender within their area. Even though they are required to register there are no requirements on where they may reside except for the fact that they cannot knowingly reside within 1000 feet of a school or day care (NC SBI, n.d.). There are currently a total of 37 registered sex offenders living in Cary, which is lower than the state average as well as lower than surrounding cities (City-data.com, n.d.). It is not the intent of this report to make light of the fact that this is a major concern for residents within the target neighborhood. However, this is a problem that the Town of Cary is not able to address.

Strengths[9]

The biggest strength of this survey was that it allowed the Town of Cary to collect baseline data within the downtown area. As the Town Center Area Plan comes to fruition, it will be valuable to have baseline information upon which to compare future assessments of neighborhood characteristics to determine the impact implementation of the plan has had on residents. With multiple references to sense of community and neighborhoods within various Town documents, it was important to understand the current level of each of the neighborhood characteristics examined. Again, with baseline information, goals and objectives within each Town plan mentioning enhancement of neighborhood characteristics can be monitored. Another strength was the variety of variables examined. The survey as a whole provides a large breadth of information for planning and evaluation purposes. Still another strength is that the majority of variables had at least a moderate reliability, indicating that the variables were measured with little error. Finally, this study allowed for the comparison of multiple variables across four different census block groups.

Limitations

One of the major problems with the measurement of sense of community is that sense of community may be completely different in one community than in another making comparisons between neighborhoods difficult (Hill, 1996). Another problem with the study was the representativeness of the participants to the population. According to census data, the demographics of the participants do not match the population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). One cause could be that the sampling procedures were not random within households. This could have introduced response bias. Another cause may be that the survey was not available in Spanish, which could have eliminated potential respondents. Another limitation concerned the coding of the open-ended comments. Only one person was coding the open-ended comments. So, reliability analyses cannot be performed. The coding of the responses can be influenced by the perceptions and experiences of the researcher. In the future, there should be more coders for the open-ended comments. Another limitation concerns the section on needs and assets. Participants were asked to check any problems they see with their neighborhood and any assets of the neighborhood. However, not checking a particular asset may not mean that it is not there; it may just mean that that person does not see that as an asset. One final limitation is that the research project was not participatory. However, the study was designed to quickly receive a wide breadth of information for future programs and research.

CHAPTER 5. DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH AND INTERVENTION

As with the first administration of this survey, results indicate that residents are not that involved within their communities and do not interact much with neighbors. This section offers a sampling of possible future research and program endeavors based on these results. The list below is in no way comprehensive of all programs and research that could be implemented. It is not the aim of the researcher to suggest that the Town should take all the responsibility for all the programs listed. The residents should have ownership in any neighborhood endeavors that the Town institutes. The following is a slightly condensed list of research and intervention from the

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[9] The strengths and limitations sections are taken directly from "Downtown Neighborhood Characteristics Study: Spring 2007," which can be found at http://www.townofcary.org/depts/pio/surveysresearch/2006/index.htm .

first study. For more detailed information concerning directions for future research and intervention please see the first report "Downtown Neighborhood Characteristics Study: Spring 2007," which can be found at http://www.townofcary.org/depts/pio/surveysresearch/2006/index.htm .

Future Research
Continual Assessment of Neighborhood Characteristics
The present study was a replication of the first survey administration in another part of downtown and it provides baseline data for a variety of neighborhood characteristics. Continual assessment of these characteristics is important in order to determine whether they are changing. As populations within neighborhoods change so too will attitudes, behaviors, norms, and roles of residents. It is also important to do multiple assessments of neighborhood characteristics since many Town plans have as an objective or goal to change some community characteristics such as sense of community. These include the Pedestrian Plan (Town of Cary, 2007[b]) and Land Use Plan (Town of Cary, 2003). Continual assessment will also allow for measurement of the impact of the Downtown Streetscape (Town of Cary, 2001[a]) renovations. These characteristics could also be measured across the entire town. Other research could also uncover not only how residents act toward others in their neighborhood but also how neighborhoods perceive one another across the entire town.

Network Analysis
Another potential research project is a network analysis. The present study attempted to identify how information flows through neighborhoods. At first glance there seems to be at least one formal channel, homeowner's associations. About 30% of residents reported that there was an HOA in their neighborhood. However, only about 12% reported involvement with an HOA. Almost 70% reported not being involved with any group, formal or informal. There does seem to be at least some informal channels of information flow. About 44% of respondents report that their source of information about their neighborhood is neighbors, word of mouth, neighborhood email groups, or other people (family, friends, etc). Since there does seem to be informal mechanisms of information flow, the Town could examine how these channels operate in each neighborhood. For example, the Town could work to identify gatekeepers and community leaders within each of the neighborhoods.

Photovoice
Another research methodology that could be used is photovoice. This is a technique where residents take pictures within their neighborhood in order to answer certain research questions. Examples include but are not limited to, "what are the assets within your neighborhood" or "what do you dislike about your neighborhood." This technique could be used with both adult and youth populations. The pictures could then be displayed throughout the neighborhood. Photovoice ensures that the research process is participatory and provides more depth and elaboration to answer research questions (Wang & Burris, 1997).

Other Qualitative Research Methods
One direction for future research is the use of more qualitative methods. A survey was utilized in this study to decrease costs and time demands. However, further analyses with qualitative methods such as participant observation, focus groups, or interviews would be beneficial.

Quantitative surveys can only gather so much information. However, when teamed with qualitative methods, a large breadth and depth of information can be examined.

Neighborhood Indicators Partnership
Another direction for future research is exploration of the Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. As a partner, an agency develops an information system that compiles existing data as well as collects new data. The data can then be used for baseline data, program development, community building, policy making, evaluation, or shared across municipalities. For example, the results of this survey could be a starting point for indicators concerning the health of neighborhoods.

Sidewalks and Parking
Other assessments concern the need for sidewalks and parking within the neighborhoods. Residents were asked to identify the needs within their neighborhood. Two of the most frequently selected needs were lack of sidewalks and inadequate parking. These needs were also mentioned when residents were asked what is the one thing they would change about their neighborhood. There is currently a sidewalk installation fund, so the Town may need to work with residents to identify the most needed areas for sidewalks. The Town could also work with residents to identify where parking is needed and how to resolve the problems.

Evaluation of Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative
The Town currently has a major program focused on neighborhoods, the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. It consists of 4 subprograms; Neighbor to Neighbor, Housing Rehabilitation Program, Neighborhood Improvement Matching Grant, and Facade Improvement Program. These programs have great potential for addressing some of the concerns of the neighborhoods. In order to determine if these programs are effective and whether citizens understand, know about, and utilize the resources available to them there should be a comprehensive evaluation of these programs. Evaluation can inform program effectiveness, improvements and future marketing strategies.

Future Programs
Involving Youth
Neighborhoods are also an important part of children's lives. There is a multitude of ways to attract youth to involvement within their neighborhood. One activity is a Saturday program for youth and their families to discover their neighborhoods coordinated possibly through the local community centers or Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department. This program could include a walking tour of their neighborhood, a neighborhood map-making exercise or exploring backyard habitats. The Town could help develop community gardens for schools to use. Finally, the Town could develop a youth public art program. This program could provide youth artists with opportunities for displaying their works. For example, there could be temporary murals painted by art classes displayed throughout the Town. Art classes could work with area newspapers to paint designs on newspaper boxes. Youth could also work with area residents to design art specific to their neighborhood in order to help the neighborhood develop an identity.

Public Art
Related to youth programming recommendations, the public art program could be expanded to include more citizen participation. Fostering neighborhood identity through the use of public art is currently one of the recommendations in the Public Art Master Plan (Town of Cary, 2001[b]). In order to achieve this, the public art program could increase identity and pride by allowing residents to design and create art within their own neighborhoods. The program could also increase citizen participation by allowing residents to design their own art for the downtown streetscape project. For example, residents could participate in a design contest for art pieces to be placed in the Town Center Park or the Square. The winners would then be able to install their own creations.

Increasing Neighboring and Sense of Community
Results indicate a low incidence of neighboring as well as a low sense of community within both census block groups. There are a variety of programs or activities that could be implemented to increase neighbor interaction. The activities mentioned below are just a sampling. In order to increase neighbor interaction one must first bring the residents together.

Meet and Greets:
To increase neighboring, residents need a venue to meet one another. This could be done through neighborhood block parties, neighborhood pot-lucks, movie nights, community gardens, neighborhood games, or garage sales. As part of the present study, residents were asked to identify what would increase their sense of community and neighbor interaction. Many people mentioned neighborhood events/activities as something that would increase their sense of community and neighbor interaction as well as something that they would like to change in the neighborhood. Examples of events included:

- dinners
- get togethers
- street party
- yard sales
- complex parties
- community day
- organized activities
- neighborhood meetings
- neighborhood gatherings

- picnics
- Town events
- cookouts
- parades
- festivals
- Chrismas celebration
- activities for children
- block parties
- fundraiser

Time Banks:
Once residents have a chance to meet and get to know one another they may be more inclined to help one another. One formal process of residents providing assistance to one another is through Time Banks. The concept behind time banks is basically a bartering system. When an individual helps another he/she earns 1 time dollar per hour of service. That individual can then trade his/her time dollar for services from another. There are a wide variety of services this could encompass. Examples include helping a neighbor with planting, house repairs, transportation or child-care. Time banks as formal systems of interaction show residents that they are more than their needs, that they also have valuable resources to offer others.

Fostering Neighborhood Pride
Other possible neighborhood interventions concern building community pride. This could be done through a variety of programs such as neighborhood awards, landscaping contests, neighborhood newsletters, or developing a neighborhood history.

Enhancement of Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative
The Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative could be expanded in such as way as to address some of the concerns of residents. For example, one of the major concerns in the area was litter/trash. A neighborhood clean up could be organized by the Town and residents and utilize the neighborhood improvement matching grant. Other problems include houses and yards not being well kept and problems with the appearance of rental property. The Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative could be expanded to include rental property owners or residents of rental property for the home rehab program and the neighbor to neighbor program. More marketing and outreach of the programs could improve the use of all of these programs.

Overcoming Individual Differences
When asked what is one thing that you would change about your neighborhood, many residents indicated that they would decrease the number of rental properties in the neighborhood. Problems with rental property was also expressed as a need in the area. Residents also expressed wanting to change the characteristics of the people living in the neighborhood such as having friendlier neighbors or having more in common with the neighbors. Each of these indicate at least some tension between neighbors. One way to overcome these differences could be to get renters involved in the neighborhood or to help residents understand the value in every individual. For example, meet and greets allow a venue for residents to get to know one another. Reaching out to rental property owners could increase their concern for their property within the area and the neighborhood itself. Providing welcome kits to all new residents (renters and owners) could be a way to reach out to foster a sense of connectedness even among new residents.

Increasing Citizen Participation
Results of the present study indicate that citizen participation is low. Few people are involved with community problem solving, neighborhood events, and community and neighborhood groups. One way to increase formal citizen participation could be to increase a slightly more informal version of participation. Study circles centered within neighborhoods may provide that participation. Study Circles are basically discussion groups where residents from a wide variety of backgrounds come together to share personal stories, talk about community problems, and develop a plan for community change (Study Circles Resource Center, n.d.). It wouldn't necessarily need to be a formal group but merely scheduled discussions that anyone may attend.

Apartment Complexes and Multi Family Dwellings
When asked to identify the reason they are not involved in any groups, a few residents indicated that the reason was that they live in an apartment complex or rental community. One interpretation of this could be that because it is a rental community there are no associations such as HOA's. Another could be that they are not needed because it is a rental community. A couple examples of attitudes within rental communities are as follows:

"In apartment communities there are "no neighbors" There is "no" platform to introduce them to each other. There is no sense of community. There are no associations"

"I live in a rental townhome community not a home owner community. So it's a different feeling of involvement here"

Based on these types of comments, there needs to be a focus on rental communities such as apartment complexes or townhome communities. As Cary continues to experience growth, more and more apartment communities will be built. It is important to understand the social dynamics within these communities as well as their relationship to the town as a whole. The Town must include everyone, from renters to homeowners, in the decision making process. The focus of efforts within the Town cannot always reside with homeowners and homeowner's associations. There should be efforts to increase the sense of community and neighboring within rental communities. One future endeavor is to conduct research with apartment communities specifically to understand the neighborhood characteristics examined in this study. Another could be to help residents or property managers within these communities implement community building effort. The Town could develop a community building handbook to be given to residents and property managers and provides examples of various programs that could improve the social dynamics within communities.

Evaluation and Participation
Whatever future programs are developed, it should be noted that those programs need to be evaluated. Without evaluation, program leaders/developers have no idea whether the programs are effective as well as what needs to be changed. Involving residents in research, program development, and program implementation will ensure that residents' voices are heard and ensure that the residents' concerns are addressed. Also, in order to obtain community buy-in any program has to be developed, implemented, and evaluated in collaboration with residents.

Citizen Participation
Currently the efforts undertaken at the Town to ensure citizen participation include: public hearings/meetings, focus groups, mailings, web poll, and surveys (Town of Cary, n.d.[b]). It seems as if the Town does a commendable job with ensuring that residents' opinions are considered when developing and implementing Town plans. However, there is no indication that there is community ownership of the plans or of any projects that the Town implements. Arnstein (1969) developed a ladder of citizen participation where the level of citizen involvement and control falls on a continuum from manipulation to citizen power. The current state of citizen participation within the Town of Cary seems to fall somewhere in the middle which is labeled Tokenism. This level includes instances of the Town giving information to residents, asking residents for their opinions, and residents serving on bodies that do not have much control over decision making. In any future endeavors it is important that the Town keep in mind how it structures citizen participation so that it may move forward on the ladder to increase citizen control and power and not regress to the level of manipulation where residents serve to rubberstamp plans and programs. There is definite room for improvement in terms of citizen participation. There are a variety of ways that the Town could involve residents to ensure that there is community ownership of projects. For example, as mentioned above, the Town could include citizen design and creation of public art in the downtown streetscape plan. They could also help to organize residents to conduct a neighborhood visioning process where residents could decide what they would like to see happen within their neighborhoods within the next 5 or

10 years. The Town could also help residents develop their own neighborhood plans or institute neighborhood councils.

Community Building
As the Town of Cary continues to grow, there needs to be a focus on community building efforts if the Town truly does have an interest in fostering a sense of community. Currently, there is a lack of community building programs within the Town. The only programs that could possibly have the potential for community building are the neighborhood improvement matching grant and the public art program. However, the matching grant only provides monetary assistance to groups for specific projects within their neighborhood and the public art program is still not yet a venue for true citizen participation. Community building is indeed within the purview of local governance. Past research has proposed that the role of municipalities is changing. City and Town managers as of late have been called on to participate in community building efforts by helping residents create a community identity, seeing to the needs and values of the community, encouraging residents to participate in the decision-making process, and creating partnerships with other community entities (Nalbandian, 1999; Nalbandian & Oliver, 1999). There are different ways in which community building could be implemented. The Town could create a neighborhood services division within the community development section of the planning department that would handle community building efforts. The Town could also start on a smaller level and pilot a few new programs with the existing departmental structure. Implementing large scale community building efforts through its existing structure would also be an option. Another option could be to encourage development that builds sense of community and neighboring into the subdivision. For example, cohousing communities are a type of development where citizens have their own personal residence but a common house and common land are included in the development. A common house typically includes a large kitchen for community shared dinners, exercise facilities, rec rooms, TV rooms, etc. Often on the land are community gardens and children's playspaces. What makes cohousing different than most communities with common areas is that the future residents work with an architect and the developer to design the community themselves. In all, there are a multitude of opportunities for Cary to have a focus on community building.

Conclusion
The present study was undertaken in order to determine the health of two neighborhoods within the downtown Cary area and to compare the results to those of the first implementation of this survey. A variety of variables were measured including neighborhood definition, sense of community, neighboring, citizen participation, needs, assets, and perception of safety.

Results show that the census block groups examined in this study, were lacking especially when it came to neighboring and citizen participation. Sense of community was also somewhat low with an overall score only slightly above 3 on a scale of 1 to 5. There were also a variety of concerns within the two neighborhoods such as litter/trash, lack of sidewalks, and inadequate parking. With careful planning and program implementation, the Town can help the residents begin to connect with one another to solve neighborhood problems and enhance the quality of life within the neighborhoods.

The results of this study along with the first one provide a clear picture of the attitudes and behaviors of residents within the downtown area of Cary. It is yet unclear as to whether they are generalizable to other parts of Cary. In the 2007 State of the Town Address, Mayor McAlister stated "our sense of community is strong" (Town of Cary, 2007[a]). However, results of these two studies show that sense of community within the downtown area is at best only moderate. For both studies sense of community is only slightly above 3 on a scale of 1 to 5. These studies also show that residents do not typically interact with each other, know few people in the neighborhood, and participate in few community groups or community problem solving discussions. In general, results of both studies indicate a need for community building activities either from the Town of other community groups in order to increase sense of community, neighboring, and citizen participation.

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Appendix A: Population characteristics of area surveyed

Variables	Response Options	Survey Area	Total Town
Race	Caucasian	63.8	79.6
	African-American	15.7	6.1
	American Indian	0.6	.2
	Asian or Pacific	10.3	8.1
	Hispanic	7.1	4.3
	Other	2.5	1.7
Gender	Male	50.9	49.8
	Female	49.1	50.2
Homeownership	Rent	51.4	27.2
	Own	48.6	72.8
Children present	Yes	37.7	42.9
	No	62.3	57.1

Appendix B: Census Block Group Maps

A (535.01-1)

B (535.07-1)

C (535.13-2)
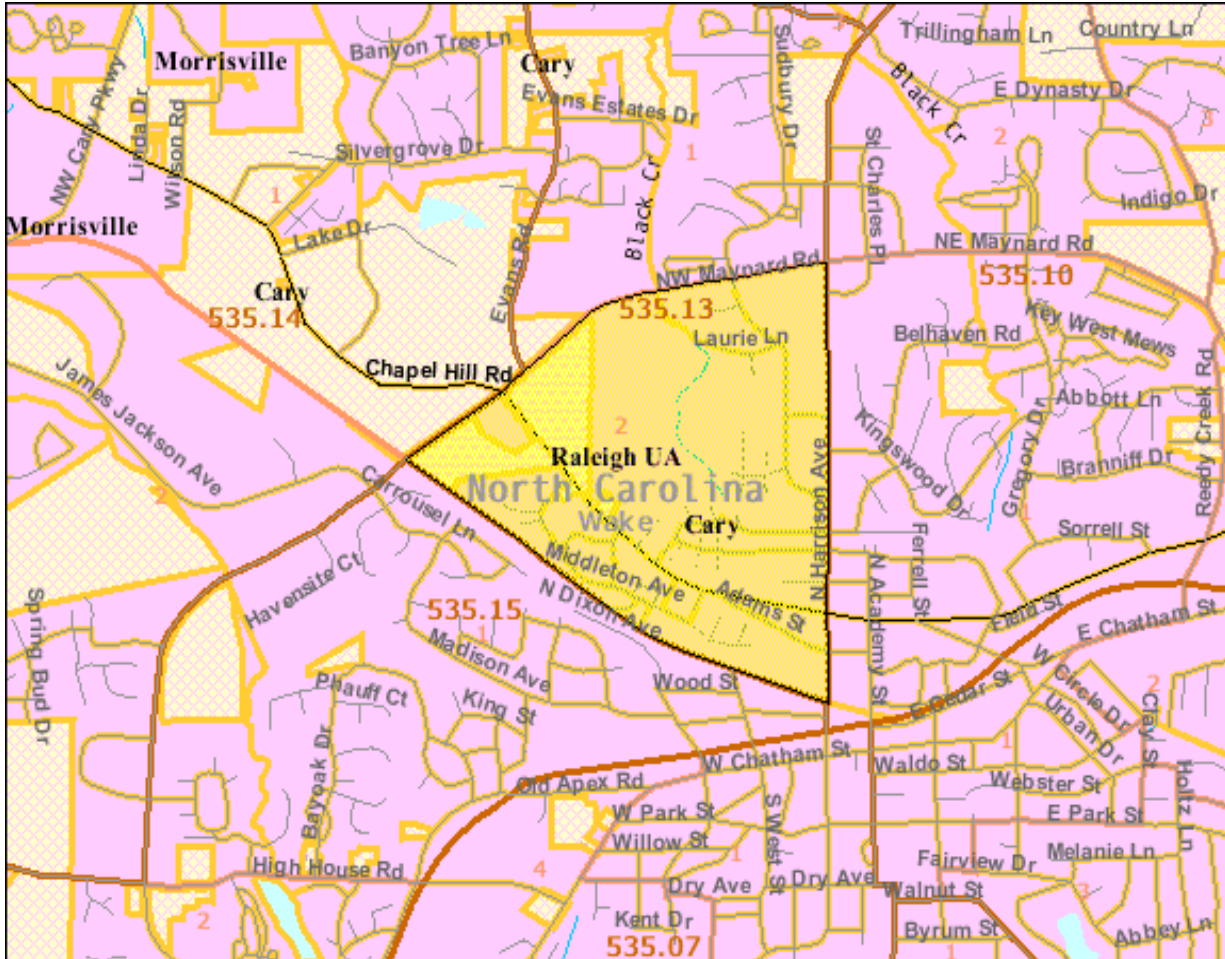
D (535.10-1)
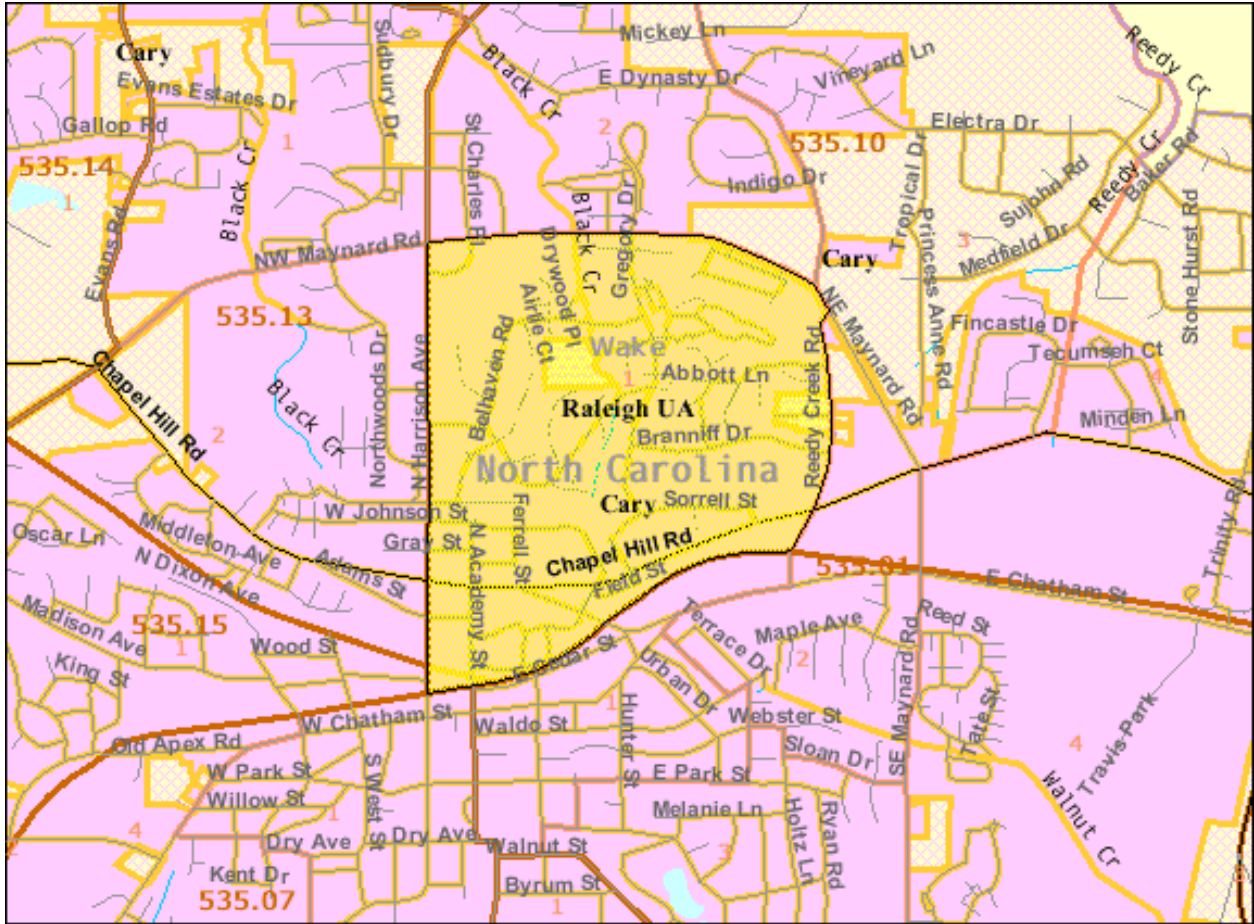
TOWN *of* **C**ARY
Neighborhood Survey

C

I. NEIGHBORHOOD

1. In your opinion, what 4 streets serve as boundaries to your neighborhood?

Street A: **Street B:**   **Street C:**   **Street D:**

2. Does your neighborhood have a name? **____YES   ____ NO   ____ DON'T KNOW**

3. **IF YES**, what is it? _____

II. SENSE OF COMMUNITY
Please rate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements by circling the appropriate number:

	strongly disagree	disagree	neither agree/ disagree	agree	strongly agree
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
1. There are people I can rely on among my neighbors	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
2. People trust each other in my neighborhood.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
3. I feel I belong in my neighborhood.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
4. I care about what my neighbors think of my actions (e.g., how I dress, how I treat my child)	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
5. I feel close to some of my neighbors.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
6. People in my neighborhood are usually warm and friendly	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
7. We help each other out in my neighborhood.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**

III. NEIGHBORING
Please rate how often you participate in the following behaviors by circling the appropriate number:

	never	rarely	sometimes	often	everyday
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
1. I visit with my neighbors in their homes	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
2. I have neighbors over to my house to visit	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
3. I stop and talk with people in my neighborhood	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
4. I meet with my neighbors to spend some time doing things together	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
5. I exchange favors with my neighbors	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**

6. How many of your neighbors would you recognize if you saw them? _____

7. How many of your neighbors do you know by name? _____

8. How many of your neighbors do you consider as your friends? _____

9. How many of your neighbors would you have no problem asking to borrow little things? _____

IV. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Please rate how often you participate in the following behaviors by circling the appropriate number:

	never	rarely	sometimes	often	everyday
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
1. Informally talk with neighbors about a community problem	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
2. Participate in neighborhood related activities (e.g. neighborhood dinners, festivals, etc.)	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
3. Personally participate in community problem solving when a problem arises	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**

4. In which type of community do you participate in community problem solving? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

___ **Within your block**   ___ **Within your neighborhood**   ___ **Within your town**   ___ **None**

5. To your knowledge, is there a Homeowners Association in your neighborhood?

___ **YES**   ___**NO**   ___ **DON'T KNOW**

6. **If YES**, what is the name of the association? _____

7. Are you involved with any of the following? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

___ Neighborhood groups/associations

___ Town-wide community groups

___ Informal neighborhood groups

___ Homeowners associations

___ None

8. If you **ARE NOT** involved, is there a particular reason you are not involved with these groups?

_____

_____

_____

9. If you **ARE** involved with one or more of the groups, please give the name(s) of the group(s):

_____

_____

_____

V. NEEDS AND ASSETS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

1. Do you see any problems with you neighborhood? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

___ Litter/Trash	___ Noise
___ Graffiti	___ Houses/yards not well kept
___ Drug addicts	___ Lack of common spaces
___ Alcoholics & Public Drinking	___ Lack of recreation facilities
___ Vacant/Abandoned store fronts	___ Lack of sidewalks
___ Burned down buildings	___ Inadequate sidewalks
___ Unemployed people hanging out	___ Street pavement in poor repair
___ Traffic	___ Curb and gutter in poor repair
___ Inadequate parking	___ Other

If OTHER, Please Explain: _____

2. What are the assets of your neighborhood? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

___ Large lot sizes	___ Religious organizations/resources
___ Friendly people	___ Cultural organizations/resources
___ Pedestrian friendly	___ Close proximity to restaurants
___ Child-friendly	___ Citizen/neighborhood associations
___ Attractive landscape	___ Historic buildings
___ Available recreational facilities	___ Attractive homes
___ Close proximity to resources (e.g. grocery store, laundromat, bank, library, etc.)	___ Other
___ Locally owned businesses	

If OTHER, Please Explain:_____

VI. SAFETY
Please rate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements by circling the appropriate number:

	strongly disagree 1	disagree 2	neither agree/ disagree 3	agree 4	strongly agree 5
1. This neighborhood is more dangerous than other parts of the town.	1	2	3	4	5
2. People are afraid to go out after dark in this neighborhood.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Friends/Relatives don't visit this neighborhood because of safety concerns.	1	2	3	4	5
4. This neighborhood has become more dangerous since I moved in.	1	2	3	4	5

5. Please tell us how safe you feel in your neighborhood? Circle the appropriate number using a 9-point scale where 1 is extremely unsafe and 9 is extremely safe, 5 is average.

Extremely Unsafe				**Average**				**Extremely Safe**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

VII. DEMOGRAPHICS

1.   May I ask your race?
___ European American/Caucasian/White
___ African-American/Black
___ Native American or Alaskan
___ Hispanic
___ Asian or Pacific Islander
___ Other: Please Specify: _____

2. May I ask your household income?
___ 0-$20,000
___ $20,001-$30,000
___ $30,001-$50,000
___ $50,001-$70,000
___ $70,001-$100,000
___ $100,001-$120,000
___ $120,001-$140,000
___ $140,001-$160,000
___ Over $160,000

3. What is the highest level of school you completed?
___ High School/Equivalent or Less
___ Some College or Technical
___ College Degree
___ Graduate Degree

4. What is your gender?   ___ Female ___ Male

5. What is your age?   ___ Years

6. Do you rent or own your home?   ___ Rent ___ Own

7. How long have you lived in your neighborhood?   _____ Years _____ Months

8. How long have you lived in Cary?   _____ Years _____ Months

9. How long would you say most of your neighbors have lived in the neighborhood?

_____ Years   _____ Months

10. How long would you say most of your neighbors have lived in Cary?

_____ Years   _____ Months

11. What best describes your living situation (excluding children)? PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE.

___ Live Alone or Widow/Widower
___ Live with Roommate (non-relative)
___ Live with Relative (e.g. sibling, cousin, mother, father)
___ Live with Significant Other or Married
___ Other: Please Specify: _____

12. Do you have children under the age of 18 living in your household?   ___Yes ___No

13. If **YES**, how many children under the age of 18 live in your household? _____

VIII. OPEN-ENDED:

If you need more space to answer, please use the back of this sheet.

1. If you could change **ONE** thing about your neighborhood, what would it be?

2. What is the **ONE** best aspect of your neighborhood?

3. What is **ONE** thing that could increase your sense of community with your neighborhood?

4. What is **ONE** thing that could increase your level of interaction with your neighbors?

5. Where do you obtain the majority of information about issues/events in your neighborhood?

Appendix D: Responses to Other Options for Needs and Assets

Needs:

- sex offender
- speeding
- more affordable recreation needed for teens. Low cost or no cost team sports, after school programs, Boys/Girls club
- rental houses have too many tenants
- registered sex offender
- rooming house-transits
- sex offender living in neighborhood
- Townhouses-painting, cleaning gutters
- Sex offender living just a few doors away! Also, too many apartments bringing criminal/illegal types!
- Overdevelopment with new business and apartments
- Chapel Hill Rd between Harrison and Maynard-sidewalks need repair, trees need trimming and garbage needs to be picked up. Trashy house section
- poor street lights
- steep driveways
- registered sex offender lives here!
- too many rentals!
- pit bulls
- racing cars through neighborhood
- minor: dogs left outside suring workday BARKING. Weird: old cars parked on street=devalues neighborhood!
- people allowing pets to use our yards for pet waste and they do not clean it up!
- Cars always exceed speed limit on Gregory Rd and there are children playing close by at risk
- cars parked on street in dangerous curves/hills
- abandoned houses
- Playground
- drivers ignore stop signs
- unfriendly people
- STREET LIGHTS!!! Town said we had enough lights but street is UNSAFELY DARK

- a sex offender

- general apathy

- public swimming pool needed

- no clubhouse/pool area

- the apartment complex is not adequately maintained

- Where I live need two street bumpers sooner the better. 409 Kingswood Dr

- I would like to know who's living in the rooming houses that abound on Chapel Hill Rd

- need more street lights

- traffic noise from busy Harrison and NW Maynard Ave. And registered sex offender juts a few doors away!

- speed limit too high

- neighbor runs commerical business uses HUGE amount of water for screenprinting business in purely residential neighborhood. Is this legal? His employees also use the fenced area as a toilet outside on a regular basis. OSHA? Health?

- Nuisance Barking-dogs left out when owners not home. Recent vandalism;theft

- Too many renters-where no one cares about home upkeep of yards. Poor yard maintenance. A lot of mosquitoes due to city not maintaining drains

- streets not well lite

- crime-car break-in's. Vandelism on cars, theft in car

- no speed bumps, cars drive kinda fast through the neighborhood

- not enough street lights and excessive speeding on my street

- I see parks and some are limited to what they provide. One recommendation is to mail out brochures to everyone. Giving direction to park and what they entail. We are looking for somewhere to jog or ride bikes

- school crossing guard that acts like a clown

- illegal immigrants, people speeding on the street

- speeding on Chesterfield Drive and other safety issues

- speeders, pollution and too much parking on street

- Common lot maintained by Town of Cary only mowed sporadically.

- Neighboring communities using our private street to access adjoining streets & our dumpster

- speeding in neighborhood

- people don't clean up after their pets!!!

- sex offender living in neighborhood causing friction among neighbors
- Convicted child molester - 300 Arden Crest Ct.
- rental houses are not kept up by owner (same owner for all problem houses). trashy!!!
- a couple police officers to slow speeders down, after hours.
- speeding through neighborhood
- Cars driving too fast
- petty crimes and vandalism - shattered car windshields
- Street are very noise. I always see strange people in neighbourhood fee like drug trafic is going on

Assets:

- convenient to work
- location-easy to get everywhere in RTP area
- great access to greenway
- pet friendly neighborhood
- great commute to work, close to our church
- Everybody works or is retired. No welfare single moms!
- good community
- single family units-family oriented
- Access to greenways
- Nice dog walking neighborhood, not a lot of traffic
- The location is conventient to so many things-plus as a widow I can't afford anything else-prices are too high on real estate in Cary!
- close to work and NC State Sports Complex
- secluded/not high traffic
- (trash can dumpster) Debris around trash smells bad
- quiet (except for barking dogs)
- I live in the only condo no there's one more but the outside of the buildings are maintained by Fincher and Co and so is the yards and surrounding areas. So it
- practically no jet noise. Very quiet neighborhood
- near greenway
- downtown
- close to work

- quiet/safe

- Staples, Kinkos, ESC

- quiet, not a lot of traffic

- close to all conveniences ie: airport-downtown Raleigh

- nice older neighborhood

- can walk downtown

- The advantage of being close to downtown Cary and having a new home and new neighborhood

- no HOA

- low crime, no "welfare" mothers raising children without dads!

- reasonably safe!

- close to work

- older neighborhood

- nice weather

- location near I-40

- close to park and dog park

- We have made friends with a family a block away because they had a social

- Close to downtown Cary if ever truly "revitalized"

- Wide street on the main road (Kingswood), sidewalks on newer section only

- Fenced in backyard

- I can only say that neighbourhodd in cary.

- Easy to get out, easy access to major highways