

## Thoughts from the Chair

I was asked by a good friend, what do the words "Quality of Life" mean to you?" I immediately answered, "having good solid loving relationships and enough money to live on and to share with others."

My answer was not exactly what my good friend was looking for. He asked the question because he lives in Asylum Hill and he said, "The quality of life where I live is not good. The standards that I have set for my family do not line up with my living environment."

I asked him "what is the problem?" and he said, "let's take a walk." So I did.

The street on which he lives was filled with all kinds of liter, fast food wrappers, bags and cups, cigarette butts, etc. Children were on the streets playing while cars raced down the street, conversations were being held that children should not be exposed to, the stench of marijuana and cigarette smoke filled the air. As we walked down the stairs to his apartment complex, people were sitting on the steps smoking marijuana, refusing to move as we walked in. He said to me "I can't take this another day, I have to move." I couldn't say a word that would change his mind. I wouldn't live under those conditions either.

As residents of Asylum Hill we have to ask ourselves what are we doing to make our neighborhood a better place to live for our elders, our children and our families. What does quality of life mean to you? It is defined as the general well-being of individuals and societies, outlining negative and positive features of life. It observes life satisfaction, including everything from physical health, family, education, employment, wealth, religious beliefs, finance and the environment. We may all have different answers defining quality of life based on our perception of life and/or our cultures; yet could we together make an effort to ensure that our streets are clean and safe for all to enjoy? Let's love our neighbors as well as we love ourselves and be considerate of one another. Let's keep the air clean for the sake of our children and the generations to come. Let's work on keeping our houses, apartment complexes and streets clean, safe and welcoming that others may want to live in Asylum Hill and become a part of our beautiful neighborhood.

Please join me at our Neighborhood Association meeting June 5, 2017 at 224 Farmington Avenue at 6:15pm

Have a good month...Happy Birthday to all who are born during the month of June.

Blessings...

Yvonne Matthews

Chair