

the

serving the residents of Fisher Park Neighborhood

Fisher Parker

AUGUST 2003

DATES TO REMEMBER:

PNC CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 11-13



CITYWIDE STADIUM
REFERENDUM

OCTOBER 7



CITYWIDE
NEIGHBORHOOD
SUMMIT: OCTOBER 10-11



FISHER PARK
HALLOWEEN PARTY
OCTOBER 26



GREEN HILL CEMETERY
TOURS: OCT. 26 & NOV. 9



FISHER PARK ANNUAL
MEETING: NOVEMBER 9



LUMINARIA DISPLAY
DECEMBER 14

NEIGHBORHOOD GREETINGS

Thanks to two new volunteer neighborhood “Greeters”, anyone moving to Fisher Park has the opportunity to receive a neighborhood map, Bylaws, Historic District guidelines, recent newsletters and most importantly, a warm welcome to our neighborhood. If you are new to the neighborhood or know someone who is, please contact:

On the **West** side of Fisher Park ... Rachel Canon-Percival at 273-3365 or

bfb4@cornell.edu

One the **East** side of Fisher Park ... Melissa Ouellette at 273-2036

Meliso1026@msn.com

Please understand, the responsibility for contacting a greeter must rest with all neighbors as greeters can't *patrol* streets looking for moving vans! **Thanks to Rachel and Melissa** for cheerfully providing this generous service.

PRESERVATIONISTS PARTY HEARTY

From September 11 to 13, Greensboro will host the annual conference of Preservation North Carolina (PNC). Fisher Park hosts PNC's concluding Block Party, scheduled for 6 – 10 p.m. on Saturday, September 13. The party will feature dinner and music under tents on the 300 block of Cleveland Street, plus casual tours of several homes nearby. The 300 block of Cleveland Street (between Eugene and Simpson streets) will be closed during this event. Non-PNC members may attend the Block Party for \$35/person or \$65/couple, which includes an annual membership to PNC. To receive an invitation to the PNC annual conference or Block

Party contact www.PreservationNC.org or call 919/832-3652. You must **pre-register with PNC** to attend this event. If you're interested in statewide preservation issues, this is a great group to join.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL DELUGED

Our neighborhood's annual ice cream social – planned in celebration of the 2003 National Night Out Against Crime, August 5 – was cancelled due to a last-minute rain deluge when volunteers were scheduled to set up. Many of us developed an unrequited craving for ice cream that night, taste buds poised and ready. Still, we thank Todd McCain and his volunteer crew for their preparations. If any neighbor is especially interested in activating a **Neighborhood Watch** program for Fisher Park, please contact Greensboro Police Crime Prevention Officer in Operations Bureau 1, Shawn Braswell, at 433-7318.

STREET LIGHTS OUT/ON

If you see a street light out or needing repair, please call 378-9451, one of the service numbers for Duke Power service. Be prepared to report the **street address** nearest the pole, the **side of the street** the pole is on, and the **specific problem**. You will receive an order number and an estimate of the time by which the repair should be complete. If it is not complete by then, please call with a follow up inquiry. And if it is repaired promptly, please consider a “thank you” call.

PLAYGROUND TRANSFORMATION

Finally, after a rain-delaying fall, winter, and spring, the City Parks & Recreation Department removed our older wooden playground structure and plans to replace it with contemporary modular equipment “soon.” As you know, “soon” has many connotations, and weather will significantly affect installation time. A word of sincere thanks is appropriate for the **Hamer** family, formerly of 219 North Park Drive, who donated the original fort-like wooden play structure neighborhood children enjoyed for many years. Their generosity toward generations of climbing, sliding, frolicking children is a mark of true philanthropy. Thanks, too, to our Park Committee for coordinating this conversion.

Allison Manning coordinates a **Youngest Fisher Parkers** weekly play group, encouraging parents and children to meet one another weekly for neighborhood-wide play. Interested? Contact Allison at 275-8833.

NEIGHBORHOOD MATTERS!

October 10-11 at the Coliseum Special Events center is Greensboro’s **first** Neighborhood Summit, “**Neighborhood Matters!**” organized city-wide by neighborhood volunteers. During the summit, you’ll be able to network with neighborhood leaders from all over Greensboro, initiate neighborhood resource contacts, attend workshops, and hear City representatives promote renewed attention to neighborhood concerns (and then hold them to it)! Registration is \$30/adult (which includes parking), or \$25/adult when two or more attend from one neighborhood; \$10 for youth registration. For more information visit www.gn-nc.org or contact Ann Stringfield at 273-1393.

RENOVATION AT 1007 NORTH EUGENE

Watching the progress of a neighbor’s home renovation at 1007 North Eugene Street reminds some of us what we’ve gone through (and gratefully don’t have to endure again), yet undoubtedly elicits wistful dreams for those who’ve long desired a refurbished old house to call home. Teresa and Tom Bews moved a year ago from their lovely craftsman cottage on Wharton Street to take on a whole new facet of life together: renovating a 1917 Dutch Colonial. The Bewses are the fourth owners and faced basic upgrading to both brace and embrace their home in a new century. (Teresa Bews is a software applications developer, and Tom is self-employed, providing auto dent and paint repair.)

In a brave first step, Tom ripped off all aluminum siding to find surprisingly fine original clapboard underneath. Working from the top-down, the house received a new roof with architectural shingles for enhanced texture, a new skylight replacing a surprisingly large original, new individually crafted concealed copper gutters, and the home’s first-ever air conditioning system. Much exterior trim needed to be recreated as it had been stripped by the aluminum siding installers. In a brief moment of leisure on the front porch, Tom noticed square “paint shadows” near the round front-porch columns, which indicated the round columns were not original. Those were removed and multiple new square columns were made for their original locations. Insulation was blown behind the exterior walls and into the attic. Teresa prays nightly for the home to be scraped and painted a warm burgundy before winter sets in.

Inside, the kitchen was stripped to the studs revealing about 20 square feet of space previously hidden behind an artificial wall. Handsome dark wooden cabinets were installed highlighted by brushed stainless appliances and deep, woody green walls. The ceiling now sports textured wallpaper, painted silver for a tin-ceiling look. Linoleum was removed

and the floor refinished, allowing all former floorboard modifications to show through unashamedly. All red oak floors are being refinished with a quick-dry (24-hour) polyurethane.

This house has the unusual benefit of a full-house-width master bedroom with fireplace and large master bath. With a luscious deep eggplant wall color, textured wallpaper ceiling, re-opened fireplace, and all tiny bath tiles and big tub scrubbed into excellent condition, the true masters of the house (the Bewses' dogs and cats) will enjoy the home for years to come.

Whether you've "been there done that" ... and pledge **never** to renovate again, or are enviously watching the Bewses' progress, it's a delight for neighbors to see this grand home revitalized. One thing the Bewses won't be changing is the 1950s steel-roofed bomb shelter in the basement. Tom Bews jokes that by the time their home is finished, only "the widow Bews" will be there to enjoy it! May they both live long and happy lives in their refurbished home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FISHER PARK, BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.FISHERPARKNC.ORG

STADIUM UPDATE

Attorneys for a group of new stadium proponents (investors and "Bats" team owners) presented their case before a judge to attempt to halt a citywide October stadium referendum. Attorneys for the City of Greensboro along with the Petitioners Committee for Downtown Neighborhoods defend the referendum. Meanwhile the City Attorney has written the October 7 Stadium Referendum wording which will be ...

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING STADIUMS IN THE GREENSBORO CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. Shall an ordinance prohibiting stadiums in the Greensboro Central Business District be approved? A vote "For the Ordinance" will prohibit stadiums in the Downtown Business District. A vote "Against the Ordinance" will continue to allow stadiums in the Downtown Business District.

City voters will place an (x) in one square to vote FOR or AGAINST the ordinance. The actual wording was determined by law, not by proponents of either position. Our voting precinct is at St. Benedict's Catholic Church on 504 North Greene Street. With North Carolina's "No Excuse Voting" concept, you can participate in early voting or obtain an absentee ballot. For details, contact the Guilford County Board of Elections at 336/641-3836 or www.co.Guilford.nc.us/government/elections. Whatever position you hold, we hope you'll be an active voter in the October 7 primary and November 4 election!

AUTUMN CEMETERY TOURS

Affectionally described as "The Plants and the Planted," two tours of Green Hill Cemetery along our neighborhood's western edge will be held this fall. Mr. Bill Craft and Mr. Tommy Ravenel originally developed tours of Greensboro's three cemeteries. Ann Stringfield of North Eugene Street enjoyed the tour so much, she volunteered to learn and repeat the tour for others. Green Hill was established in 1887, the first of three Greensboro City-managed cemeteries. Although Greensboro only had 2,000-3,000 residents then, there are now over 18,000 gravesites plotted with almost 100 still for sale. Many former civic leaders as well as some unusual plants rest in Green Hill, which serves as a safe walking area and lovely botanical garden for our neighborhood. Join us for Sunday afternoon walking tours October 26 and November 9, 2:00 p.m., weather permitting (duration is approximately 1.5 hours). Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. Tours are \$5/person, and all proceeds benefit Greensboro's Cemetery Fund. Call Ann at 273-1393 if you'd like to arrange a tour for a special group another day.

A WALKER'S THOUGHTS

Thoughts from a neighbor while walking through the Fisher Park Neighborhood this summer: "How lucky we are to live in a neighborhood with sidewalks and parks. How pleasant if all dog walkers would carry and use scoops or plastic bags to pick up their dog's waste. How much easier walking would be if property owners would clip their hedges, ivy, bushes, trees to leave a full sidewalk width and a tall person's height for walking. How surely we need to work with the City to create more pedestrian-friendly crossings, particularly along the edges of our neighborhood. How great it is to visit with neighbors, meeting and greeting new neighbors as we walk throughout our neighborhood. Happy walking to all!"

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Blair Barton-Percival of 921 North Eugene Street joins our neighborhood Board filling an unexpired term. Blair and his wife Rachel moved in two years ago and jumped into neighborhood activities by attending Board meetings, volunteering as Block Captains, delivering flyers, speaking before City Council, and expressing interest in joining the Board.

Blair has an undergraduate degree in Social Work from Cornell and Masters in Community Organizing & Focus with a specialty in Gerontology from the University of Michigan. Working for the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, Blair is the Aging Program and Caregiver Specialist, specifically advocating for services for aging populations in seven counties in the Piedmont Region (more than 165,000 residents aged 60 and older). Blair can be reached at 273-3365 or bfb4@cornell.edu.

Contact Ann Stringfield at 273-1393 if you wish your name to be considered for nomination for future Board openings, of which there are five each year.

FOR THESE CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Community Development Program
Historic District Staff.....373-2349
 Certificate of Appropriateness
 Historic District Guidelines
 Technical Advice
Housing/Community Development
Web Address:
www.ci.greensboro.nc.us/hcd
Zoning Enforcement373-2630
 Historic District Regulations Violations
 Zoning Violations
Local Ordinance
Enforcement373-2111
 Housing Standards, Lot Clean-Up
 Violations
Traffic Violations.....373-2332
 Parking in Yard or Right-of-Way
Creek Water Quality/Pollution
Concerns373-2055

FISHER PARK BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003

Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
President	Genie Schwartz	456-7594	eschwartz@triad.rr.com
Pres. Elect	Russ Clegg	574-1879	russang@aol.com
Secretary	Heather Seifert	274-1047	sheath64@aol.com
Treasurer	Kat Quinlivan	272-3758	Kayequin@aol.com
Past Pres.	Ann Stringfield	273-1393	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
Board	Blair Barton-Percival	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
Board	Michael Byrd	274-8361	keithhyler@aol.com
Board	Mary Lee Copeland	274-7826	mcope13@juno.com
Board	Lawrence Cox	274-6322	lcox@haganproperties.com
Board	Anne Daniel	275-4050	annerdaniel@aol.com
Board	Cindy Hatfield	272-6472	hattette@aol.com
Board	Sandy Hurt	274-3864	cchurt@triad.rr.com
Board	Carol LaJeunesse	272-5564	opexcel@aol.com
Board	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
Board	Todd McCain	333-2299	stmccain@aol.com
Board	George Weldon	379-0902	George_Weldon@vfc.com
Newsletter	Ann Stringfield	273-1393	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
	Liz Urquhart	373-1250	liz.urquhart@ugcorp.com
Greeters	Rachel Canon-Percival (W)	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
	Melissa Ouellette (E)	273-2036	Meliso1026@msn.com