

the

serving residents of the Fisher Park Neighborhood

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# Fisher Parker

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AUGUST 2004

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## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME – TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

Our neighborhood's sixth annual National Night Out Against Crime ice cream social is Tuesday, August 3 at 7 p.m. Please join us near the playground in east Fisher Park to meet your neighbors, and public safety representatives, including police and fire fighters. Elected officials and candidates often pop in to shake hands, as well.

National Night Out is an annual opportunity to meet people in your neighborhood while raising community awareness about crime and safety. Our neighbors are asked to turn on their porch lights as a symbol of National Night Out Against Crime, then meet in east Fisher Park. To help dip ice cream or provide other support, please contact Todd McCain at 333-2299.



## IGUANAS AND HEDGEHOGS AND GOATS, OH MY!

Fisher Parkers young and old came out to celebrate the dedication of our new neighborhood playground Saturday, July 10 from 10–12. Our neighborhood's Social Committee Chair, Michael Byrd, furnished cookies and lemonade, and our Young Fisher Parkers Committee organized a portable petting zoo, complete with Jenny the pony, Duckles the duck, Lucy the snake, and goats, bunnies, hedgehogs, and birds. It was a beautiful morning, and the playground certainly was "broken in" by the kids and animals alike.

The Young Fisher Parkers meet at the east Fisher Park playground every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. for a neighborhood playgroup, and we hope to continue seasonal parties – like this playground dedication – for everyone to



Photo: Angie Smits

enjoy. Look for a neighborhood Halloween Party and parade this fall. If you are interested in a neighborhood playgroup, e-mail or call Allison Manning. (Contact information for all Board and Committee members is located on the back page of each newsletter.)

## FOCUS ON: OUR HOUSE TOO

In our June 2004 Fisher Parker, we highlighted the unique **Share-A-Home** on Fisher Avenue, a residential group home for senior adults who enjoy lightly-assisted yet independent living in our neighborhood's residential environment. In this newsletter, we highlight a different group home, **Our House Too**.

*(continued next page)*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**National Night Out**  
Tuesday, August 3, 7 p.m.

**Halloween Party**  
Friday, October 29 (tentative date)

**Neighborhood Annual Meeting**  
**Holy Trinity Church**  
Sunday, November 21, 4 p.m.

**Winter Luminaria Display**  
Sunday, December 12  
Rain Date: Sunday, December 19



For 30 years, 817 North Eugene Street has served as a safe home for up to six teenage boys, aged 12–16. Based on an average stay of four months, 15 boys can be served by Our House Too throughout each year. Residents and staff enjoy being part of the Fisher Park neighborhood. The red brick home is a colonial revival style, built between 1935 and 1940 as the home of W.E. Truelove, owner of Banner-Truelove Wholesale Groceries. The home retains two slightly curved bay windows and both full baths retain the original handsome black and white tiles. And like many of our homes, it too has a leaky basement!

Our House Too is a non-profit group home managed by **Youth Focus**, a United Way agency also located in our neighborhood, just up the street at 715 North Eugene. Youth Focus Executive Director, Chuck Hudierne, says donations of single-bed linens and sturdy towels are especially appreciated. To learn more about Our House Too, contact Chuck Hudierne at 274-5909. (Chuck notes he's a former resident of Wharton Street and has lived or worked in our neighborhood most of his adult life!)

In our next Fisher Parker, we'll focus on the **Delancy Street** group home facility, also in our neighborhood. Community-based group homes have proven to be effective interventions, meeting many societal needs, and we're pleased to highlight these homes within our neighborhood.

## DRAFT DODGING

**D**oug Booth, a Greensboro City Housing Rehabilitation Specialist, recently helped Greensboro's Historic District Division initiate first steps of a multi-phase project to identify and reduce areas of significant air infiltration – and subsequent energy costs – in our older homes.

In July, Doug volunteered to conduct a “**blower door test**” at the Hendrix Street home of Tim Patterson. While creating an air vacuum within the home, Doug, Tim, and Mike Cowhig of the Historic District staff determined many sources of air leaks within the home, common to most of our historic homes and many new homes as well. The team identified **significant culprits** – holes in the building envelope for pipes, outlets, wiring, deadbolt locks, letter slots, loose sashes, gaps between stair treads and risers, and around window and door casings. Doug's technical knowledge of energy and ventilation principles is impressive, equaled by his ability to simplify technical information. Doug anticipates the home's heating and cooling costs can be significantly reduced after small projects such as **sealing, caulking, and weather-stripping**, before approaching major window replacement.

Doug Booth and Mike Cowhig will prepare a preliminary report and make it available to the Historic Preservation Commission and interested homeowners later in July. After making the suggested preliminary improvements, homeowner Tim Patterson will evaluate changes in energy use and consider next steps. Stay tuned for results and further progress as this project continues.

## INTERIOR STORM WINDOWS

**R**obb Baxley and David French considered replacement windows/storm windows after moving into their home at 1001 North Eugene Street, at the corner of Eugene and Victoria. The windows seemed drafty, besides offering little relief from traffic noise. They came across a great alternative that was much less expensive than window replacement: they **installed interior storm windows**, truly a do-it-yourself job.

The panes are of ¼-inch acrylic – significantly more energy-efficient and sound-deadening than glass. The acrylic is edged with a magnetic strip, which “snaps” onto a narrow metal frame attached to the interior perimeter of the windows, forming an air-tight seal. They can be installed as a single pane or split panes -- easily removable when opening the original windows. They did the entire job of **31 windows** themselves using metal frame and edging supplies, with acrylic cut-to-order from Windshield Glass, for about \$2,500! They'd be delighted to show any Fisher Park neighbors who are interested. ~ Submitted by David French. 272-3422.

## UPDATED HISTORIC DISTRICT GUIDELINES

If you own property in the Fisher Park Historic District, remember that Greensboro's **Historic District Guidelines** were updated in 2003. Copies of the new Guidelines, and the Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) application form to request permission for exterior modifications, are always available from our city's Historic District office at 373-2349 or our Web site <http://www.fisherparknc.org/>

## RODENT RESEARCH

East Fisher Park neighbor Helen Ullrich brought her concerns about rodents in our neighborhood to the attention of our neighborhood Board, then volunteered to research the situation. She met Ken Carter of Guilford County Environmental Health Department for a quick walk-about on the east side of Fisher Park.

Carter detailed things neighbors can improve, such as **not leaving pet foods outside** and **proper storage of grains and grass seeds**. Ken agreed to provide educational materials about reducing the rodent population around our homes and is willing to talk at a monthly neighborhood Board meeting. Also, Ken will place some bait boxes around east Fisher Park, deep in plant growth areas, away from where humans likely go. He described bait boxes as having small holes rodents poke their heads into to feed from poison bait block (rodent-specific) inside. He will check the boxes periodically to note any activity, and remove boxes if there is no activity. ~ submitted by Helen Ullrich 307 Isabel St. 272-8497.

## UP YOUR PUP'S REPUTATION

Improve your dog's reputation. Please **clean up pet poop** during your walks. Pet poop in public places was a consistently high-ranking concern in our 2003 neighborhood survey, and one that all pet owners can easily improve. Thanks!

## RAINY DAY YARD SALE

As the rain poured during our scheduled June 26 neighborhood yard sale, most folks pulled up the covers and slept in. A few diehards sold from covered porches, and together **donated over \$145 of sale proceeds** to our Fisher Park Neighborhood Association. Thanks to Michael Byrd, Mike Cowhig, and Ann Stringfield for donations we know of. Thanks also to **Blair Barton-Percival and wife Rachel Canon-Percival** for organizing the yard sale. Blair reports he learned a good deal about planning such events and will organize this event again another time, with hopes for better weather.



## TREASURER MOVING – NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD POSITION OPEN

Having accepted a new job in Virginia, our Board treasurer, Weston Hatfield, and his family are moving, so a position is open mid-year on our neighborhood Board. If you are interested in serving, please contact Russ Clegg now. We encourage neighbors in the northeast quadrant of our neighborhood to volunteer, as the Hatfields depart that section of our neighborhood. Our thanks and good wishes follow Julie and Weston, who both contributed to our neighborhood through Board service and Julie's organization of a previous successful Fisher Park home tour.

## MCMILLAN HOME PARTIALLY BURNED

The home of **Jim and Paula McMillan** at the corner of Isabel and Church streets was partially burned in the morning hours of July 10.

Paula was treated for smoke inhalation, and sadly their pet cats were lost in the fire. Yet the home remains, standing tall, giving hope for repair and return. The home is listed on historic homes inventories as a 1920 colonial style with a full two story Corinthian-columned portico, originally home to C.P. Carmichael, a manager of J.W. Jones & Co. It is constructed of terra cotta tile hollow bricks, as are several other homes in the neighborhood, so the home's structure may be sound enough to repair. You may write to the McMillans at another Fisher Park home, 231 North Park Drive, Greensboro, 27401.



*Photo: Carl Myatt*

## GET-AWAY BY BIKE

Police note that along with bicycle theft, it's not uncommon in high-density neighborhoods for **thieves themselves to be riding bicycles** as they scope out what's available or take small items they can carry away. Last year, a car in a West Bessemer Ave. driveway was entered and a witness saw the thief riding a bicycle. Two weeks ago, a rear kitchen window was smashed with a brick at a North Park Drive residence, and the thief reached in, snatched a purse, then bicycled away. Bikes provide casual, quiet ingress and speedy retreat, day or night. If you don't recognize a bicycle rider who enters your or your neighbor's driveway, keep an eye out and don't hesitate to call the police. If the rider is simply one of our biking friends, they surely will understand! We can help reduce some "opportunistic theft" by securing our home and cars and keeping tempting valuables out of cars.



## DOWNTOWN EVENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT DISCUSSIONS

The June *Fisher Parker* and listserv e-mails alerted readers to a new downtown event Ordinance Amendment 30-3-3.5, which allows events to cease at 1:00 a.m. rather than 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings and the eve of any national holidays. In response to inquiries, City Attorney Terry Wood organized a meeting among several downtown neighborhood representatives, the initiators of the amendment (Action Greensboro, Downtown Greensboro Inc., and Grassroots Productions LTD.), and a city facilitator.

Initiators suggested they were uncomfortable limiting potential downtown events in any way. So it was suggested that such events be allowed any day of the year, assuming that *event noise* is the primary concern, not the *number of events* themselves. Neighborhood representatives then asked that Greensboro's **noise ordinances be significantly reevaluated, improved, and enforced.**

Finally, it was determined that the new 1:00 a.m. event cease time was intended for the larger Central Business District, not the smaller Downtown Business District as written, so the amendment will likely be re-written anyway.

Whatever issues bring these discussions to the forefront, resulting discussions serve to better clarify noise ordinances, noise abatement, and boundary issues that need to be addressed. If you have opinions about this issue and/or want to share your thoughts about Greensboro's noise ordinances, please contact neighborhood President Russ Clegg or our neighborhood e-mail listserv.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONGRESS UPDATE

Any neighbor interested in serving on the city-wide **Greensboro Neighborhood Congress** is welcome to attend monthly Congress meetings and ask our Fisher Park Board if you may serve as one of three voting representatives from

Fisher Park. Upcoming discussions of the Neighborhood Congress include bylaws, noise ordinances, and developer-neighborhood relationships. The next meeting is **Thursday, August 12, 7-9 p.m. at 414 Martin Luther King Drive**. We'll learn a bit about current redevelopment activities in southeast Greensboro, and our guest speaker will be Dick Hales of our City Planning Department. For further information, contact [Ann Stringfield](mailto:Ann.Stringfield@nc.org) 370-0457 or visit [www.gnc-nc.org](http://www.gnc-nc.org).

## WHO'S YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN?

Thanks to volunteer Natalie Kopelinger of Wharton Street, you can now more easily locate your Fisher Park Block Captain's name and phone number via on our Web site. Visit [www.fisherparknc.org](http://www.fisherparknc.org), click on the Neighborhood tab, and click on "Mouseover Map of Block Captains" (The traditional Excel spreadsheet with their names, addresses, phone, and e-mail also remains on the Neighborhood page.) Block Captains volunteer to deliver flyers and our Fisher Parker newsletters, and help with December Luminaria orders. Natalie is our new Neighborhood Watch volunteer coordinator, and we recommend everyone get to know their Block Captain to increase the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch efforts.

## NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PHONE TREE

During Neighborhood Watch meetings, police and emergency staff often recommend a "**telephone tree**" as most effective in communicating with neighbors during times of concern or emergency. On several occasions, various Board members have attempted a neighborhood-wide directory, but the response has been minimal in each attempt. Nevertheless, as individual homeowners, you are encouraged to **gather names and phone numbers on your own block**, and share them with those who wish to participate in your block's telephone tree for use in emergencies. We leave this up to individuals and simply share the helpful idea.

## THIRSTY PARK PLANTERS

If you live near any of the attractive concrete planters gracing our park entrances, the Park Committee requests that you please water those planters weekly. With your help, annuals and perennials planted by Park Committee volunteers will survive, and maybe even flourish, welcoming all to Fisher Park.

## STUDIO OPENS AT 909 N. ELM STREET

**H**eroy Studio—Old Photo Specialists recently moved to 909 N. Elm Street. Bill Heroy has been a photographer in Old Greensboro for 27 years. Last October, a fire broke out in the building next to his, destroying his building on South Elm. This made him decide to move North! Fisher Park has always been special to Bill. He and his wife Anna (Robinson) lived at 100 Fisher Park Circle as newlyweds. Also, Anna grew up at 211 W. Bessemer Avenue, so both feel right at home in the "Old Berry House."

Heroy has done extensive work for the Greensboro Historical Museum as well as businesses and individuals throughout the Piedmont. He specializes in restoration and reproduction of old photographs and artwork, oil portraits, photography, and commercial photography. Other services include portraiture, custom framing, and advertising design.



The Grand Opening is planned for Tuesday, August 7 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. If you can't make that date, a Fall Open House is planned for Saturday, September 18 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, call 271-6960 or on the Web, [www.oldphotospecialists.com](http://www.oldphotospecialists.com).

**FISHER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 2043, GREENSBORO, NC 27401-1612  
CONTACTS – 2004**

<b>Board of Directors</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>President</b>	Russ Clegg	574-1879	russang@aol.com
<b>President-Elect</b>	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol LaJeunesse	272-5564	opexcel@aol.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Weston Hatfield	272-0380	weston_hatfield@uncg.edu
<b>Past President</b>	Genie Schwartz	456-7594	eschwartz@triad.rr.com
<b>Board</b>	Blair Barton-Percival	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
<b>Board</b>	Michael Byrd	274-8361	michaellbyrd1@aol.com
<b>Board</b>	Lawrence Cox	274-6322	lcox@haganproperties.com
<b>Board</b>	Nina Dabbs	230-0422	nsdabbs@aol.com
<b>Board</b>	Anne Daniel	275-4050	annerdaniel@aol.com
<b>Board</b>	Todd McCain	333-2299	stmccain@aol.com
<b>Board</b>	Cheryl Poole	275-0333	cherylpoole@triad.rr.com
<b>Board</b>	Rich Richards	275-5506	r.richards@firstpresgso.org
<b>Board</b>	Roger Seel	275-3470	rseel@triad.rr.com
<b>Board</b>	David Shub	274-0363	shubb99@yahoo.com
<b>Board</b>	George Weldon	379-0902	george_weldon@vfc.com
<b>Other Contacts</b>			
<b>Newsletter</b>	Ann Stringfield	370-0457	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
	Liz Urquhart	373-1250	liz.urquhart@ugcorp.com
<b>Webmaster</b>	Ann Stringfield	370-0457	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
<b>Park Committee</b>	Todd McCain	333-2299	stmccain@aol.com
	Geoffrey Wall	274-2915	ghwall@infionline.net
<b>West Side Greeter</b>	Rachel Canon-Percival	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
<b>East Side Greeter</b>	Melissa Ouellette	273-2036	Meliso1026@msn.com
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	Natalie Koeplinger	378-0108	natalie@prisage.com
<b>Young Fisher Park Playgroup</b>	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
<b>Social Committee</b>	Michael Byrd	274-8361	michaellbyrd1@aol.com
<b>Design Review Committee</b>	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
<b>City Council Rep.</b>	Claudette Burroughs-White	379-0050	burroughswhite@prodigy.net
<b>County Commissioner Rep.</b>	Jeff Thigpen	316-1983	jthigpe@co.guilford.nc.us
<b>Schedule</b>	Monthly neighborhood association meetings are held 6:00 p.m. the Monday before the final Wednesday of each month. Call Russ Clegg, president, to confirm dates. Meetings are open to all residents. Meetings are currently planned for July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, and November 22, 2004.		

<b>City of Greensboro and Other Contacts</b>		
<b>Department/Company</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>City Historic District Staff</b>	Historic district guidelines, application for certificate of appropriateness, <b>free</b> advice	373-2349
<b>Zoning Enforcement</b>	Parking in front yards, historic district guidelines enforcement	373-2630
<b>Ordinance Enforcement</b>	Housing inspections, abandoned vehicles, lot cleanup	373-2111
<b>Duke Power</b>	Streetlight outage	378-9451
<b>Police</b>	Help for emergencies and non-emergencies/enforcement	Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 373-2222
<b>Fisher Park ListServe</b>	Subscribe: <a href="mailto:fisherpark-subscribe@yahoo.com">mailto:fisherpark-subscribe@yahoo.com</a>	Submit e-mail: <a href="mailto:fisherpark@yahoo.com">fisherpark@yahoo.com</a>