

the

serving residents of the Fisher Park Neighborhood

Fisher Parker

FEBRUARY 2005

ANNUAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 21, 2004

Our neighborhood's annual meeting was Sunday, November 21, 2004. Although turnout was light, the discussions were lively, particularly regarding the ever popular topics of **park maintenance, dog poop, our interface with downtown, and participation in neighborhood issues.** We normally rotate one third of our board (five Board members) each year, but several board members were not able to complete their terms, so we have seven new board members this year! Board nominees approved were: Carla Copeland Burns of 1015 Wharton Street, Robert Carter of 208 Isabel Street, Eric Adamson of 312 Isabel Street, Jim Jeffries of 710 Magnolia Street, Cheryl Poole of 601 Magnolia Street, Carol Stoneburner of 5 Magnolia Court, and Ann Stringfield of 1005 North Eugene Street. (See back page for Board contacts.)



Retiring board members are: Russ Clegg (who serves in 2005 as Past President and Nominating Committee chair), Lawrence Cox, Carol LaJeunesse (Secretary), Rich Richards, Weston Hatfield (Treasurer), Anne Daniel, and Genie Schwartz. Many thanks for the generous time and services that these volunteers donated to our neighborhood!

Each year, the Nominating Committee seeks representation on our Board from people who: live in different parts of the neighborhood, represent a balance of ages, gender, interests, skills, and length of residency in the neighborhood, and are interested, committed neighbors willing to work with other board members and the neighborhood in a positive way. Please don't wait to be asked to participate in neighborhood efforts or Board positions. Call any FPNA board member, and step up to the neighborhood table. There's always room!

THOUGHTFUL GIFTS

Our 2004 *Fisher Parker* newsletters highlighted three group/shared residences within our neighborhood. We remind you of their modest wishes for the new year.

- **Our House Too** at 715 Eugene Street, where teenage boys make their home, can always use single bed sheets and towels. 274-5909
- **Delancey Street** at 811 North Elm Street, for adults changing their life patterns, only requests increased interaction with neighbors, including an open invitation to Sunday brunches at their home. 379-8477
- **Share-A-Home** at 211 West Fisher Avenue, which provides older adults with a cost-effective alternative to living alone, enjoys visitors bringing fresh flowers, a song, or special small treats at their home. 272-3226

2005 CALENDAR (PROPOSED EVENT DATES)

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 19, 11:00 a.m.

Green Hill Cemetery Tour

Sunday, May 15, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Welcome Summer Party

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m.

National Night Out Against

Crime Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, August 2, 7:00 p.m.

Halloween Party/Parade

Saturday, October 29, TBD

Green Hill Cemetery Tour

Sunday, October 30, 2:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 20, 4:00 p.m.

Luminaria Display

Sunday December 11, dusk

(Rain date Sunday Dec 18)

WINTER PANSIES, SPRING DAFFODILS

Our October 2004 Park Work day involved significant digging in the dirt, assisted by Angie Leath, Todd McCain, Michael Byrd, Roger Seel, Allison and Matt Manning with their two little girls, Rachel and Blair and baby Cole Barton-Percival, Carl Myatt, Rob Payne, and Ann Stringfield. We planted 15 leather-leaf viburnum shrubs, added white pansies to the concrete planters near major park entrances, and tucked-in over 1,000 daffodil bulbs in natural areas on each side of our park. Materials were purchased using Fisher Park funds, as well as a generous donation from Geoffrey Wall on North Park Drive and memorial gifts for Dr. Dick Spencer of West Bessemer Avenue. A crew of neighbors gathered at Todd McCain's home in mid-December to create fresh greenery holiday wreaths for granite walls at Parkway, Elm, and Church streets. All were stolen, replaced, and stolen again, but the happy evening we shared while making the wreaths is ours to keep.



Carl Myatt will chair our **Park Committee in 2005–2006**. Please contact Carl to suggest Park improvements and volunteer your participation. Other Committee members are Don and Marti Digby, Angie Leath, Todd McCain, Wanda Myatt, and Rob Payne. Long-time chairperson Angie Leath is our ombudsman to the City, having spent countless hours cultivating a good relationship with City Parks & Rec. Todd McCain continues dedicated service as Board liaison for the Park Committee. Bounteous applause to Angie, Todd, and Geoff Wall for accomplishing so much in our park with so little funding or assistance, especially in the east park and around our new playground.

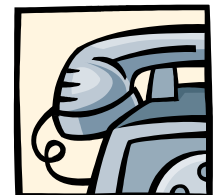
We schedule Park Work Days twice a year – wonderful occasions to improve Fisher Park while forming friendships with neighbors from different parts of the 'hood. The Park Committee is setting goals based on the Board's adopted "Fisher Park Next Generation" survey of 2004, including stream enhancements and path improvements. Next Park Day, consider joining us to enhance Fisher Park and meet your neighbors!

KAY CASHIONS DISTRICT 6 COUNTY COMMISSIONER

When our former County Commissioner, Jeff Thigpen, was elected as Register of Deeds, the local Democratic Party appointed Kay Cashion as our new District 6 County Commissioner. She owns Cashion's Furniture and Decorating, has long been politically active in Greensboro, and invites your communication. Contacts for our City and County representatives are listed on the last page of the newsletter.

NEW CITY/COUNTY CONTACTS

- **911** is now shared for emergency calls in both Greensboro City and Guilford County.
- **373-2723** is a new city-wide City Customer Contact Center, directing your questions to appropriate City departments.
- **373-2486** reaches our own Police Department Central Division Community Resource Officer, Demetrius Johnson.



RECENT REZONINGS

After many years of maintaining protective zonings, our neighborhood and Historic District experienced **three "up-zonings" or changes in zoning use and/or density (for residential and commercial uses):**

(1) City Council voted to **up-zone** the former Fisher Park Academy commercial lot plus a vacant single-family lot behind on Magnolia Court, to Residential Multifamily-26, the highest residential multifamily zoning allowed. Nearest neighbors consistently indicated they are not opposed to new development or multi-family development, but opposed up-zoning the single-family lot on Magnolia Court to RM-26, the highest density zoning available.

After RM-26 rezoning was granted, Stratton Development combined 624 N. Elm Street and 2 Magnolia Court into one property and anticipates construction of 15 condo/town home residences. Expected to sell for over \$150,000 per 800 sq. ft. unit, these will share a new private property association, named Magnolia Place. Everyone who participated in these discussions, including Stratton Development, acknowledges that the many multiple neighborhood/developer meetings inspired significant improvements in the building's design, sighting, lighting, landscape and parking plans. We thank the local Design Review group and Historic Preservation Commission for their valuable guidance.

(2) Also in November, a property southwest of the Church/Leftwich street intersection (the former Carlson Antiques and Architect Gary Price) was up-zoned from Limited Business to General Office Moderate, allowing a significant variety of future businesses for that property. (3) In October, the southwest corner lot home at N. Church and E. Bessemer was up-zoned from Single to Multifamily.

These three rezonings make it clear our neighborhood and our Historic District are no longer protected from up-zoning. Near-town neighborhoods are increasingly envisioned primarily as tools for downtown redevelopment. Everyone living along the more fragile edges of our neighborhood is advised to increase your awareness of redevelopment activities and their effects on your home. Initiate **proactive** neighborhood discussions about land use near your property. Attend neighborhood Board meetings and public meetings, sharing input about density, design, access, etc. Your participation will improve the quality of new development in our neighborhood.

ECONOMIST DONOVAN RYPKEMA ON HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Economist Donovan Rypkema studies the economics of historic preservation. He recently shared long-standing observations from his research. "Here is what has been learned: In most cases, properties in local historic districts appreciate at rates greater than (a) the local market as a whole and (b) similar neighborhoods that are not designated. With almost no exception, the worst-case scenario for properties within a local historic district is that they will have appreciation rates equivalent to the overall local market. There seems to be a pattern of properties within local historic districts being less volatile in the downside of real estate ups and downs. They have that impact because of the [local] protections typically provided. . . . [Local] protections are central to the value enhancements." Note that recent City Council up-zonings have reduced the local Historic District rezoning protections we have depended on for more than 20 years.

NEW HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT APPLICATION FEE

As of November 2004, the State Historic Preservation Office instituted a new fee for properties requesting tax credits for approved historic rehabilitations. The fee is due to an increasing number of tax credit applications without any corresponding increase in staff to review the applications. The new fee is 1% of your projected renovation cost, a minimum of \$250 since the minimum rehab project is \$25,000. For details contact State Historic Preservation officer David Christenbury at 919-733-6547 or david.christenbury@ncmail.net or www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us. If you live in a Historic District, and don't mind the paperwork, your home rehab can generate 30% tax credits.

GREEN WITH ENVY

What can a master carpenter, an autism counselor, and their 2-year-old son do for a neglected Simpson Street home, rented for decades to college students? Walk by the newly painted **vibrant green** house at 612 Simpson and watch Matthew and Allison Butwinski transform their new historic home from a rented ramshackle to the envy of the block. Four working fireplaces, hardwoods, French doors and pocket doors, are all returning from grubby to glory. Five years of 30% Historic Preservation tax credits will eventually ease Matt and Allison's significant



initial investment pains. Our thanks to this young family for envisioning and returning elegance to their new yet historic Simpson Street home, which was built in 1918.

GREENSBORO NEIGHBORHOOD CONGRESS

It only takes a meeting or two to realize that neighborhoods throughout Greensboro share similar concerns, hopes, and dreams! And perhaps together we can achieve some of the dreams. The Greensboro Neighborhood Congress meets monthly to discuss issues of city-wide importance. Recent meetings remind us of local grants available, neighborhood effects of drug abuse, and healthful neighborhood walking programs. To participate in monthly Greensboro Neighborhood Congress meetings, please contact Ann Stringfield 370-0457 or visit www.gnc-nc.org. Next meeting is Saturday March 12, 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the Central Public Library.

PILATES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Monday and Wednesday night groans and giggles emanating from in the Temple Social Hall at 713 North Greene Street invite us to Pilates exercise classes. Cost is \$15-20/class. Classes begin at 8:15 p.m. All are welcome. Call Michael Byrd 274-8361 for details.

NEW BLOCK CAPTAIN VOLUNTEERS

Do you know your Block Captain? Visit www.fisherparknc.org/communicate.html, click to view a Block Captain map, and wiggle your mouse over your Block to find your Block Captain. Here are our newest Block Captain volunteers:

- **Chuck VanDeZande** of 912 Wharton Street is the new Block Captain for the Wharton, Victoria, Eugene, Cleveland block.
- **Natalie Koeplinger** of 1014 Wharton Street is the new Block Captain for the Wharton/Victoria/Eugene/West Bessemer block.
- **Allison and Matt Butwinski** of 612 Simpson Street are the new Block Captains for the Simpson/Florence/Greene/ Fisher block.
- **Anne & Pete Schroth** of 219 North Park Drive are the new Block Captains for the N. Park, Magnolia, Isabel, Church block.
- **Rhonda Cranford** of 1013 N. Elm is the new Block Captain for the Dolley Madison Condos.

Thanks to all Block Captains for delivering December Luminarias and our Fisher Parker newsletters throughout the year. Our neighborhood's sense of "place" is enhanced by the efforts of every Block Captain. A few blocks northeast of Bessemer/Elm are Captainless! Call Ann Stringfield (370-0467) if you can volunteer there.

LUMINARIAS RAISE \$2,800

Our annual December Luminaria fundraiser generated more than \$2,800, including generous donations from over half the participants. This is our neighborhood's only annual fundraiser, which funds our newsletter, park projects, special events and increases our neighborhood endowment. **Many thanks to all who participated!** Ann Stringfield has enjoyed organizing our Luminaria fundraiser for many years, yet is overjoyed that Board Member Todd McCain accepts responsibility for this project for December 2005!

CITY AND COUNTY LEASH LAWS

Our east-side volunteer Neighborhood Greeter Melissa Ouellette reports her dogs were on leashes when attacked by other unleashed dogs. Greensboro City and Guilford County have laws requiring us to restrain our animals in a safe and humane fashion by “leash, bridle, cage or similar device” or in a vehicle or, when on our own property, by a secure fence or enclosure. Invisible fence systems require a “visible and permanent sign” noting its use. Interestingly, cats are specifically excluded from restraint.

(Just ask any cat, or see Ordinance Article I. Sec. 5-7.1) For answers to local animal control questions, contact the Guilford County Animal Control offices Monday – Saturday at 641-5990.



JOIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD E-MAIL LIST

Whose cat was lost, then found up a tree? Where were there multiple attempted break-ins one afternoon? What property is threatened by up-zoning? Which neighbor is offering to share free “pass-along” plants? Receive up-to-the minute neighborhood news and share neighboring viewpoints by joining our neighborhood e-mail list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fisherpark>. There you can: (1) read about e-mail etiquette, (2) then join the e-mail list, and (3) direct neighborhood e-mails to your own e-mail address.

Don’t know how to join? Never fear, call Board members for assistance. The entire process only takes five minutes. Then all neighborhood e-mails will come directly to your e-mail address. When replying to neighborhood e-mail, **please reply directly to the specific sender** unless your reply clearly profits the entire group. This reduces e-mail overload and, if your reply is approaching gossip, it may save you some embarrassment, too!

ENJOY WRITING/EDITING/SHARING?

Would you like to contribute to our neighborhood’s Fisher Parker newsletter or our Web site? We’re always looking for responsible folks who will commit the significant time required to produce this newsletter or update our Web site. Contact Ann or Liz (see “Newsletter,” back page).

LITTER: A NEIGHBORHOOD BLIGHT

It becomes more noticeable as the days get warmer. People pulling up to the park or under shady spots to have lunch. Pedestrians at all times of the day. Simply more folks visiting and riding through our neighborhood . . . and leaving their trash. Soft drink bottles, fast food bags, beer bottles, beer cans, cups, cup caps, straws, discarded cigarette packs, discarded cigarettes, candy wrappers, snack bags . . . you name it, they drop it. It’s a blight, all right, but it’s up to us to stop it.

Okay, we know it’s not Fisher Park citizens leaving the litter, but when we don’t pick it up – sometimes even when it’s in our own front yards – we perpetuate it. It stays our problem. Not “theirs.” Not “someone else’s.” Ours.

We’re encouraging Fisher Park residents everywhere to take a minute whenever they can to gather what careless visitors leave behind. A lot of us already do it, but we need more commitment from everyone to keep our beautiful neighborhood free of unsightly litter. When you walk, take a bag with you, and pick up what you can. Be aware of what is discarded in the gutters and public areas around your home, and help to remove it. We’ll all benefit.

STREET-SIDE TREES

Though many of us aren’t aware of it, Fisher Park neighborhood has a **street side tree plan created by Chip Callaway**, a respected landscape designer who lives in our neighborhood. The plan takes into account, for example, trees appropriate for planting under overhead power lines. If you’d like to know what is suggested to plant in front of your property, please call the Park Committee at 272-0999, and ask Carl Myatt to unroll the “Master Plan” showing suggested planting along your street.

**Fisher Park Neighborhood Association
P. O. BoxX 2043, Greensboro, NC 27401-1612
CONTACTS – 2005**

Board of Directors			
Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
President (2005)	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
President-Elect (2006)	David Shub	274-0363	shub99@yahoo.com
Secretary (2006)	Roger Seel	275-3470	rseel@triad.rr.com
Treasurer (2006)	Blair Barton-Percival	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
Past President ExOfficio	Russ Clegg	574-1879	russang@aol.com
Board (2007)	Erick Adamson	272-9515	eadamson.mail@earthlink.net
Board (2005)	Michael Byrd	274-8361	michaellbyrd1@aol.com
Board (2005)	Robert Carter	378-1974	abandrobert@triad.rr.com
Board (2005)	Carla Copeland-Burns	274-4095	carlacopelandburns@hotmail.com
Board (2005)	Nina Dabbs	230-0422	nsdabbs@aol.com
Board (2007)	Jm Jeffries	691-8981	jimjeffries@mvlaw.com
Board (2006)	Todd McCain	333-2299	stmccain@aol.com
Board (2007)	Cheryl Poole	275-0333	cherylpoole@triad.rr.com
Board (2007)	Carol Stoneburner	379-9193	no e-mail address
Board (2007)	Ann Stringfield	370-0457	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
Board (2005)	George Weldon	379-0902	george_weldon@vfc.com
Other Contacts			
Newsletter	Ann Stringfield	370-0457	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
	Liz Urquhart	373-1250	liz.urquhart@ugcorp.com
Webmaster	Ann Stringfield	370-0457	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
Park Committee	Carl Myatt	272-0999	cmyatt3363@aol.com
West Side Greeter	Rachel Canon-Percival	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
East Side Greeter	Melissa Ouellette	273-2036	mouellette@triad.rr.com
Neighborhood Watch	Natalie Koepfinger	378-0108	n/a
Young Fisher Park Playgroup	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
Social Committee	Michael Byrd	274-8361	michaellbyrd1@aol.com
City Council Rep.	Claudette Burroughs-White	379-0050	burroughswhite@prodigy.net
County Commissioner Rep.	Kay Cashion	274-6272	kcashion@co.guilford.nc.us
Schedule	Monthly neighborhood association meetings are held 6:00 p.m. the Monday before the final Wednesday of each month. Call Allison Manning, president, to confirm dates. Board meetings are open to all residents; currently set for February 21, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 26, October 24, and November 28. (December meeting is typically not set this early in the year.)		

City of Greensboro and Other Contacts		
Department/Company	Purpose	Phone
City of Greensboro City Customer Contact Center	Directs citizen calls to appropriate City departments.	373-2723
City Historic District Staff	Historic district guidelines, application for certificate of appropriateness, free advice.	373-2349
Zoning Enforcement	Parking in front yards, historic district guidelines enforcement.	373-2630
Ordinance Enforcement	Housing inspections, abandoned vehicles, lot cleanup.	373-2111
Duke Power	Streetlight outage.	378-9451
Police Central Division	Help for emergencies and non-emergencies/enforcement.	Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 373-2222
Police Central Deivison– Community Resource Officer	Demetrius Johnson	373-2486 demetrius.johnson@ greensboro-nc.gov
Fisher Park ListServ	Subscribe: mailto:fisherpark-subscribe@yahoo.com	Submit e-mail: fisherpark@yahoo.com