

the

serving residents of the Fisher Park Neighborhood

Fisher Parker

JUNE 2004

SUMMER THURSDAY NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT – FREE AT THE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM JUNE 24

The Greensboro Children’s Museum hosts **free Thursday** “Neighborhood Nights” this summer, June 10 – August 15, from 5–8 p.m.. Storybook character “Clifford the Big Red Dog” or other Scholastic Book characters will be there! You may attend any summer Thursday night for free, but neighborhoods in our section of town are especially invited to meet one another at the Museum on **Thursday, June 24, 5–8 p.m.** (Note: For everyone’s safety, children must be escorted by adults, and adults must be escorted by children. No unescorted individuals are admitted unless on tour.) For details call the Children’s Museum at 574-2898, and to inquire about increasing opportunities for our own neighborhood children’s activities, call neighbor Allison Manning at 275-8833.

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE JUNE 26

Not enough closet space? Too much “stuff” cluttering your basement, attic and garage? Want to recycle items and make them available to others? Consider a Fisher Park Neighborhood yard sale! Individuals would benefit from their own sales, at their own homes, coordinated on the same day and jointly promoted **Saturday, June 26, 2004, 7:30 a.m.–Noon**, rain or shine. Interested? Contact Blair Barton-Percival at 273-3365 or bf4@cornell.edu.

CELEBRATE OUR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT DEDICATION JULY 10

On Saturday, July 10, 2004 join neighbors old and young for a new playground equipment dedication party, from 10 a.m. till Noon in EAST Fisher Park. A special petting zoo, including a pony, ducks, rabbits, and an iguana (oh my!), will be available from 10:30–11:30 a.m. Refreshments provided. No rain date. For details, contact Michael Byrd at 274-8361.

TOUR GREEN HILL CEMETERY JUNE 20

Several Sundays each year, Ann Stringfield shares tours of Green Hill Cemetery that forms a western boundary of our neighborhood. The next scheduled tour is Sunday, June 20 (see *Dates to Remember* box, this page). Tours are \$5/person with all proceeds going to the City Cemetery fund. Wear comfortable shoes. Join us to learn where our neighborhood’s namesake Captain Basil J. Fisher is buried, appreciate the hardy Chinese

DATES TO REMEMBER

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress

Thursday, June 13 7–9 p.m.

Green Hill Cemetery Tour

Sunday, June 20
2:00–3:30 p.m. \$5

Children’s Museum Gathering

Thursday, June 24, 5–8 p.m.

Neighborhood Yard Sale

Saturday, June 26, 7:30 a.m. – Noon

Playground Dedication

Saturday, July 10, 10:00 – Noon



Pistache tree, locate headstones with photographs and signatures of the deceased, and learn the best spot for watching July 4th fireworks! (Cancelled if the weather is bad.)

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD E-MAIL GROUP

Our neighborhood now has an Internet e-mail group (a.k.a. a “Listserv”) for those who want to share neighborhood news and events **promptly and directly** with one another.

In 2003, we gathered several hundred neighbor’s e-mail addresses to send infrequent neighborhood e-mail news. But this becomes tedious for one person to maintain. So Past President Genie Schwartz investigated and created an e-mail list on Yahoo.com. This technology, used by many neighborhoods, allows you to subscribe (i.e., join), submit e-mails to the group yourself, and/or unsubscribe at will. Use this group e-mail capability to share information that can’t wait for a neighborhood newsletter, such as a significant neighborhood issue or a lost or found pet.

The e-mail group is NOT moderated, so anything submitted goes to all who joined. Civility is appreciated! We’ll continue our printed *Fisher Parker* newsletter, but this e-mail group allows neighbors to communicate quickly and directly with neighbors, removing the responsibility of a “middle-man”. **FIRST**, learn about this capability at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fisherpark>. Then . . .

Subscribe: fisherpark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe at any time: fisherpark-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Submit e-mail to the group:..... fisherpark@yahoogroups.com

Please note: This Listserv is available to anyone, so you should be aware that non-Fisher Park individuals and organizations are also subscribed. This includes local government employees, elected officials, nearby neighborhoods, and local foundations.

SHARE-A-HOME

There are several **shared or group homes** within our neighborhood, each serving different purposes. We hope to write a brief article about each in upcoming issues of the *Fisher Parker*.

The southern-most group home in our neighborhood is appropriately named **Share-A-Home** at 211 West Fisher Ave., a private, non-profit residence providing older adults a cost-effective alternative to living alone. Share-A-Home is located immediately behind Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and is managed by an Executive Director and volunteer Board of Directors affiliated with Holy Trinity. Residents do not need to be affiliated with the church.

Physically, Share-A-Home consists of a Craftsman Foursquare home beside a bungalow and joined in the middle. Share-A-Home is designed for older adults who enjoy living with others in a non-structured family-like setting.

Residents maintain their own room, yet share public spaces and expenses through a monthly fair-share payment covering their room, meals, laundry, and around-the-clock on-site managers.

Residents must be ambulatory, able to care for themselves, and not require professional nursing care. They may be retired or still working. One stairwell has been modified with an elevator seat, making it easier to get up and downstairs. Their oldest resident will celebrate her 99th birthday in June!

Share-A-Home is a 501c3 organization, so contributions are fully tax- deductible. For more information about Share-A-Home, or to make a contribution, call 272-3226.



TIMING EXTENDED TO 1 A.M. FOR DOWNTOWN EVENTS

On May 18, 2004, the Greensboro City Council voted to amend Ordinance Chapter 30, Section 30-3-3.5 to allow celebrations and events in the downtown business district to run until 1:00 a.m. (formerly 11:00 p.m.) **on any national holiday and any Friday and Saturday night until 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning.** The amendment was proposed to City Council by Action Greensboro, Downtown Greensboro, Inc., and Grassroots Productions, Inc. LTD.

If you have concerns about the Ordinance amendment, you should contact City Council **now**. You may send a group e-mail to City Council at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/newfronts/asp/talkbackform.asp> or call them at 373-2396.

NEARBY CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Perhaps you've passed by *Our Children's House*, a non-profit, parent-run childcare center in Fisher Park at 1105 Magnolia Street, near the intersection of Bessemer and Magnolia. Sophie Adamson, an Isabel Street neighbor, whose son attends *OCH*, submits "it is a luxury to have such a unique and wonderful childcare center with its home-like setting in our very own neighborhood." *Our Children's House* is a small center with a 4-star child-care license serving no more than 29 children, ages 12 months (and walking) to 5 years. It offers full and part-time childcare from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., year round. Call *OCH* at 272-8882 or visit their Web site at <http://www.ourchildrenshouse.com/index.htm> ~ submitted by Sophie Adamson

WINDOW REPAIR – NOT REPLACEMENT – PRESERVES HOME VALUE

An article in *Fine Homebuilding* magazine suggests that "**other than lighted match, nothing destroys the value of a home more than replacing its windows.**" Architectural Salvage of Greensboro (ASG) recently held a free workshop on restoring old windows, with expertise provided by David Hoggard, whose business "Double Hung" restores old windows. David is Vice President of the nearby Aycock neighborhood. Notes taken during the workshop include the following:

- Very few old home windows are beyond repair. Original windows were often built of solid yellow pine (not today's pine pieces commonly spliced together) and tend to show no warping even after 80–100 years. Once repaired, windows easily last another 80–100 years.
- Per-window repair typically requires 2 to 8 hours time, depending on the condition and extent of repair requested. Materials required are few and inexpensive: Dap glazing, nylon roping, and sometimes a replacement pane of wavy glass. [*Hint*: You can purchase salvaged wavy glass window sashes at \$15 from Architectural Salvage of Greensboro (200 Bellemeade Street) to harvest old wavy glass for your repair project, then have them cut to size. Otherwise, buying new wavy glass is \$35–\$90/square foot!]
- Window repair is often half the cost of new replacement windows and, properly sealed with bronze weather stripping and storm windows, old windows provide a similar "R" value (insulating value) as new windows yet retain the original character of our homes. Our old windows don't have to be drafty!
- When considering historic renovation/repair projects such as this, remember that qualifying State and Federal tax credits of 20–40% provide financial encouragement to retain historic features of your home for future generations.

DALTONS ON BESSEMER AVE. ENJOY HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

Our house at 307 East Bessemer Ave. (now a green Dutch Colonial) had been a rental and a college fraternity house, and the front yard was a parking lot. Our real estate agent tried to steer us to a newer, cookie-cutter neighborhood, but we fell in love with this house as soon as we walked in, despite the garish 1960s wallpaper

and the hideous kitchen. We renovated a bathroom and the kitchen soon after moving in but did nothing else “big” until I read about state historic tax credits, with which we decided to undertake many renovation projects all at once.

I called the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office at 919-733-6547 and the helpful folks there told me I'd need to fill out a few forms, spend at least \$25,000, and maintain the integrity of the original structure. (See <http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/tchome.htm>)

Nothing we'd done before state approval counted toward the tax credit, but we still had no problem meeting the \$25,000 required expenditure! An architect could be hired to fill out the forms, but we completed the forms ourselves, answering as simply and as honestly as we could. Everything we listed was approved, from removing a free-standing oil storage tank in our backyard, repaving our driveway and sidewalk, installing the new heating and air conditioning system, replacing the roof, refinishing floors, having the house painted inside and out, repairing woodwork, and replanting shrubs and trees to have a front yard in place of the formerly paved yard. (No problem spending that \$25,000!) We wanted to have our chimney lined so we could use our fireplace, but decided that \$7,500 price tag would be better spent having our house painted. (We installed gas logs later.)

Thirty percent of what we spent is a tax credit, which goes toward our state income tax and means we won't pay much state tax for five years. Now we have a beautiful house and a fat tax refund check each spring! I highly recommend this program. ~ submitted by Susan Dalton

GREENSBORO NEIGHBORHOOD CONGRESS

The Greensboro Neighborhood Congress is a relatively new city-wide alliance of neighborhood representatives, “seeking to improve the quality of life within the City of Greensboro by addressing issues of city-wide importance and empowering neighborhoods to resolve neighborhood-specific concerns.” Our Fisher Park neighborhood has joined this Congress, and has the opportunity to send several voting representatives to every monthly Congress meeting.

If you're interested in meeting people from neighborhoods throughout Greensboro, learning from and helping other neighborhoods, please visit www.gnc-nc.org or contact Ann Stringfield at 370-0457. Next meeting is Thursday, June 10, 7–9 p.m. at the downtown Public Library.

*[Note from Ann: I do not endorse public positions the Neighborhood Congress takes, because I do not presume to know the wishes of our neighborhood on topics that come before the Congress. I do, however, believe there is value in diverse neighborhoods **bearing and discussing** city-wide neighborhood issues, mentoring one another when there are experiences to be shared (like how to speak before City Council, how to compose newsletters/websites, etc.) and meeting people from other neighborhoods throughout Greensboro.]*

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

You're encouraged to participate in Fisher Park neighborhood opportunities. The last page of our newsletter always provides contact information for many neighborhood-wide endeavors, from children's events, to neighborhood watch, to greeting, to working on our Web site or this newsletter, or joining our neighborhood Board. (**Our Board rotates 5 of 15 positions each year**, to encourage wide participation!)

Much information about our neighborhood always is available via our Web site at www.fisherparknc.org. There you'll find neighborhood bylaws, a map, minutes of recent Board meetings, a list of Board members and Block Captains, a short history, upcoming events, previous issues of the *Fisher Parker* newsletter, results of a 2003 neighborhood survey, Historic District guidelines, links to other neighborhoods and city services, and other information. There's also a small photo gallery, which will be expanded if you'll send a digital photo of your home plus a brief description of the home and family to Ann Stringfield. And now you may send/receive e-mails to/from

neighbors by subscribing to our new Fisher Park group e-mail listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fisherpark>. There is no lack of neighborhood participation opportunities in Fisher Park! Just schedule time and volunteer!

FREE REVIEW OF HOME DESIGN CHANGES

If you own property within a **Historic District** in Greensboro (which two thirds of Fisher Park neighbors do), and you hope to make exterior changes, you are always invited to bring your designs to free monthly meetings of Greensboro's Historic District Design Review Committee. Doing this before you submit your plans to the monthly neighborhood Board and before you go to the monthly Historic District Commission meeting, you'll be ahead of the game. Volunteers with expertise in local Historic District guidelines will review your plans and share guidance before you approach the Historic District Commission. This **free, experienced advice** can save you a great deal of planning time, money, and mishaps. The Committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month, Plaza Level Conference Room, City Hall, 4:00 p.m. Alison Manning, our neighborhood's President-Elect, serves on the Design Review Committee along with architects, landscape designers, and other volunteers.

Please take advantage of these **free design review meetings offered by volunteers** before you begin exterior construction/renovation projects. And remember, many exterior projects within our Historic District require approval from the Historic District Commission, too. To review the process and examples of exterior projects that do and do not require approval, call City Historic District staff at 373-2144 or visit <http://www.fisherparknc.org/HistoricDistrict.html>.

RODENTS AROUND

Rodents thrive in any place inhabited by humans, and all cities have more toothy rodents than desired. All neighbors are asked not to leave any food in our parks, because all those tidbits you hope the squirrels will enjoy, are equally enjoyed and support the broad rodent population. Rats also eat other animals' feces, yet another reason to clean up dog/cat waste from our parks and lawns. Poisons are rarely used for city rodent control as those same poisons harm people and pets alike. If you are concerned about a growing rodent population in urban areas of Greensboro, please share your specific concerns with our City Manager, City Attorney, Department of Sanitation, Parks & Recreation Department, and County Public Health Department.

PARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Park Committee received approval for a 2004 City capital improvement program grant for additional trash cans and path improvements in our park. They've also requested increased pickup of park garbage cans, to reduce rodent problems. Please volunteer some time to assist with the many tasks the Park Committee handles on our behalf.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Several Fisher Park residents have begun joint meetings with the Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT) to address our many traffic issues, compiled in our 2003 neighborhood survey. In addition to our improved traffic light providing "protected left turns" at Bessemer/Parkway/Eugene, GDOT is also considering a protected left turn light at the Elm-Bessemer intersection, and a four-way stop at Hendrix and Olive streets. Contact neighborhood **President Russ Clegg** for details or to participate in these traffic concern discussions.

FISHER PARK CONTACTS – 2004			
Board of Directors			
Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
President	Russ Clegg	574-1879	russang@aol.com
President-Elect	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
Secretary	Carol LaJeunesse	272-5564	opexcel@aol.com
Treasurer	Weston Hatfield	272-0380	weston_hatfield@uncg.edu
Past President	Genie Schwartz	456-7594	eschwartz@triad.rr.com
Board	Blair Barton-Percival	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
Board	Michael Byrd	274-8361	michaellbyrd1@aol.com
Board	Lawrence Cox	274-6322	lcox@haganproperties.com
Board	Nina Dabbs	230-0422	nsdabbs@aol.com
Board	Anne Daniel	275-4050	annerdaniel@aol.com
Board	Todd McCain	333-2299	stmccain@aol.com
Board	Cheryl Poole	275-0333	cherylpoole@triad.rr.com
Board	Rich Richards	275-5506	r.richards@firstpresgso.org
Board	Roger Seel	275-3470	rseel@triad.rr.com
Board	David Shub	274-0363	shubb99@yahoo.com
Board	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	Todd McCain	333-2299	stmccain@aol.com
	Geoffrey Wall	274-2915	ghwall@infionline.net
West Side Greeter	Rachel Canon-Percival	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
East Side Greeter	Melissa Ouellette	273-2036	Meliso1026@msn.com
Neighborhood Watch	Natalie Koeplinger	378-0108	natalie@prisage.com
Young Fisher Park Playgroup	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
Social Committee	Michael Byrd	274-8361	michaellbyrd1@aol.com
Design Review Committee	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
City Council Representative	Claudette Burroughs-White	379-0050	burroughswhite@prodigy.net
County Commissioner Representative	Jeff Thigpen	316-1983	jthigpe@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 Russ Clegg, president, to confirm dates. Meetings are open to all residents. Meetings are currently planned for June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, and November 22, 2004.		

City of Greensboro and Other Contacts		
Department/Company	Purpose	Phone
City Historic District Staff	Historic district guidelines, application for certificate of appropriateness, 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