

the *servicing residents of the Fisher Park Neighborhood*

Fisher Parker

MARCH 2004

ANNUAL LUMINARIA SALES TOP \$1,800

Thanks to more than 135 households – some who bought multiple kits for themselves and neighbors – our annual Luminaria sale in December raised over \$1,800. Special thanks to over 66 generous neighbors who added donations, too! We still have extra Luminaria kits for sale. One idea: dress up your winter parties with Luminaria along your walkway. Proceeds benefit our neighborhood. Call Ann Stringfield at 370-0457; cost is \$5 per kit of 10.



OPPORTUNISTIC THEFT

We continue to hear stories that begin with “I awakened last night and saw someone rifling through my neighbor’s car.” One Eugene Street home was entered at night and the car stolen (eventually found by the police and returned). Two Aycock neighbors have awakened to find an intruder in their bedroom. Fortunately, so far the stories have ended with “but we’re OK.”

Our Greensboro Police ask you to join their efforts to protect yourself and your property from frightening yet sometimes opportunistic theft. Here are some tips: Lock all doors and windows, whether you are in or out of your home. Keep valuables away from windows. Secure garage doors. Turn on exterior lights on nights when you’re home and leave some inside lights on when you’re not there. Don’t leave ladders outside. Keep tools that could be used to break into your home in a locked garage or shed. Don’t keep large amounts of cash or valuable jewelry around the house. Don’t hide a spare key under the doormat or flowerpot.

If someone comes to your door asking to use the phone, offer to make the call, but don’t invite anyone in. To join a Fisher Park Community Watch effort, call Natalie Koeplinger on Wharton Street at 378-0108 or natalie@prisage.com. When you see suspicious activity, please call the Police Dept at 373-2222, or – in an emergency – dial 911. And please lock homes, storage structures, and cars so our neighborhood doesn’t develop a reputation as an easy target.

NEW HISTORIC DISTRICT GUIDELINES AVAILABLE

Greensboro’s newly revised Historic District Guidelines are available in print from our City Hall Historic District office, online at our City’s web site, and online at our neighborhood Website at www.fisherparknc.org. Almost a third of the Fisher Park neighborhood is *outside* the Historic District. Whether you live in the Historic District, or are just curious about it, take a look at the new Historic District Guidelines. (Our Fisher Park Neighborhood Association and this newsletter serve the entire neighborhood, not just the smaller Historic District.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

FISHER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD UPCOMING MEETINGS

Holy Trinity Church

Education Building, 6 p.m.

March 29

April 26

May 24



FISHER PARK CHILDREN’S EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 4,

West Fisher Park

Hosted by Delancy Street

Details: 379-8477



GREEN HILL CEMETERY TOUR

Sunday, May 2, 2–3:30 p.m.,

(Weather Permitting)

Cemetery entrance nearest

Fisher Avenue & Wharton Street

\$5: All Proceeds Go to

Cemetery Fund

Information: 370-0457



SEEKING TAX CREDITS FOR HISTORIC PROPERTY REHAB?

If you missed our City's March 5th/6th **Historic District Tax Credit Workshop**, you can always independently investigate the 10–20% federal and 20–30% state historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Start by visiting www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us or calling 919-832-3652. **Important note:** To receive tax credits, you must apply and receive approval of historic rehabilitation plans **before** beginning your project.

NEW LEFTWICH HOMEOWNER CONVERTS TWO TO ONE

John Venskus of 206 Leftwich Street is converting the duplex he bought in October 2003 back to a single-family residence. After purchase last fall, John approached the neighborhood Board and the Historic Preservation Commission with plans to restore and rejuvenate his new old home. Working with neighbors, his first success was obtaining permission to re-open an old alleyway, renewing back-door driveway access to several neighbors' closely set homes. Neighbors agreed to move fences and sheds so all could enjoy access, while John provided the labor and gravel. Nearest neighbor Lutie Graham's home is a mirror image of John's, and she kindly invited him to visit to visualize the home's original interior plan. John hopes to add a garage with studio above.



Up in his attic, John found the original doors and windows, soon to be stripped and refinished for reuse. An exterior stairwell to the former upstairs apartment will be removed, no longer needed in a single-family home. He hopes to replace a damaged front door glass with new stained glass of his own design, a welcoming flair to go along with the original twist doorbell.

John offers that his experience with neighbors and the Historic Preservation Commission has been fantastic, as each encounter raises good questions and shared experiences. We thank the Venskus family for their renewal investment in our neighborhood.

N.C. NAMED ONE OF 10 MERCURY "HOTSPOTS"

Our Fisher Park neighborhood has a growing number of new babies and toddlers. Many parents of young children are so busy, they often don't keep up with public policy issues in the news, the outcome of which may affect the health of their youngsters. Dr. Debbie Leiner (Fields), a pediatrician who lives in Fisher Park on Carolina St. reminds parents of advisories from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the EPA that pregnant and breastfeeding women, women of child bearing age, and children under age 15 should limit consumption of certain fish that may have dangerously high levels of the neurotoxin, mercury. To discuss local concerns about mercury and its effect on children, contact pediatrician neighbor Dr. Debbie Leiner (Fields) at 378-1352.

ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE OF GREENSBORO IN ITS TENTH YEAR

Architectural Salvage of Greensboro (ASG) is a volunteer project of Preservation Greensboro, Inc. whose mission is: *To support the restoration, rehabilitation and preservation of historic structures in the Greensboro area by rescuing historic, traditional, or significant architectural elements from endangered buildings.* It salvages reusable, historic objects from older buildings being demolished or undergoing extensive restoration, and then sells them from its retail store at 300 Bellemeade Street. Contact ASG to donate items or have a property salvaged. Donors receive a tax deduction!

Volunteers are the backbone of ASG. There are volunteer opportunities in retail, behind-the-scenes work sessions, and salvaging. Everything from front doors to back doors, carved wooden brackets, stained glass windows, glass or brass doorknobs, chandeliers, claw-foot tubs and, yes, the proverbial kitchen sink pass through ASG.

Visit ASG, only two blocks beyond Fisher Park at 300 Bellemeade Street, open every Friday from 10 to 6, plus the first and third Saturdays of the month from 8:30 am until noon. For information call 389-9118.

NEW NEAR THE 'HOOD

Those of us fortunate enough to walk now have a few new dining spots within walking distance. Block Captain Wendy Levine encourages everyone to try the new **Smith Street Diner** (formerly Robinson's) at Battleground and Smith, serving breakfast and lunch "comfort food" from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m. – 7 days a week! Wendy notes "It was great during the snow to walk over and have a hearty meal and enjoy my neighbor's company." Prudy Strong's walks have taken her by the new **Quizno's Subs** at 121 North Greene Street where she notes the food is good and service friendly. And for more exercise than walking, a new exercise facility, **Downtown Fitness** at 601 North Elm has opened next to Fisher's Grill and the **Avalon Salon & Spa** at 111 West Wendover opened near the Wendover overpass.

If you are a new homeowner or business owner in the neighborhood, please contact our volunteer neighborhood **Greeters** listed on this newsletter's back page.

PARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Park Committee goals for 2004 include new planting of trees, shrubs, and bulbs, requests for 16 additional litter receptacles using City funds, planting spring and fall annuals in park entrance planters, park work days in May and September, removing invasive ivy from tree trunks, unique identifiers on park lights to accurately report light outages, identification and evaluation of existing trees needing treatment or trimming, and generating grants for various park planting projects.

One multi-year grant-writing project has been initiated for future work on the stream that flows through Fisher Park, opening parts of the stream that are underground, stabilizing stream beds, and preventing further erosion. To participate in any Park Committee efforts, please contact Todd McCain 333-2299 or Geoff Wall 230-1445.

EUGENE STREET SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT

All the pounding, digging, and dirt along North Eugene Street are evidence of a new polyethylene sewer pipe replacing the old terra cotta sewers under the grassy strip right of way. Using contemporary technologies, the old pipe is busted underground, then pushed aside by new block-long plastic pipes forced in its place. Since grassy strips are torn up in the process, our Park Committee is considering the possibility of adding new trees along North Eugene Street. Contact the Park Committee for details.

NEW HOME ON OLIVE STREET

Ray Armstrong, Construction Contract Administrator for an architectural firm, The Freelong Group, had been eyeing the opportunity to buy a home in Fisher Park for some time. To find a vacant lot in a block where homeowners were requesting Historic District status, plus having the opportunity to build a new home for himself, was an opportunity Ray says "I could not pass up." The style of the home is "shed bungalow," a predominate style within the 900 block of Olive Street. Ray offers, "Working with the Historic District staff was a pleasure. When people come together trying to achieve the same goals, you can't ask for a better working relationship." Neighbors are relieved the vacant lot is adorned with a new home, not parking lots which now dominate the 1000 block of Olive. Of his new home, Ray notes, "Our block has some of the best examples of homes built during the era. It was the right thing to do." Ray looks forward to moving in this spring. Thanks to Ray Armstrong for your respect and vision for our, and now your, neighborhood.

MAGNOLIA STREET GARDEN FEATURED IN BETTER HOMES & GARDENS

Lynne Lee recalls home in England, the climate perfect for intensive gardening. Creating a flower garden in Greensboro was a challenge. Lynn and husband Billy have met the challenge, and you can read about their garden in the Spring 2004 issue of *Better Homes & Gardens Ideas and Outdoor Living* magazine. Billy generates the structures and art forms. Lynn enjoys the planting. The mutual outcome is a series of "garden rooms" that create a sense of larger space within the typical Fisher Park 50-ft. x 150-ft. properties. A benefit we can all appreciate is that the "garden rooms" minimize the effect of downtown noises. It's early yet, but perhaps as spring arrives in Fisher Park, you'll finagle a visit to Lynn and Billy's garden at 707 Magnolia Street.

FISHER PARK NEXT GENERATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Last year, a neighborhood committee formed to survey all neighbors and gather neighborhood likes, dislikes, concerns, and desires. Surveys were mailed to all homes and apartments and business owners in the neighborhood. Two neighborhood forums were announced and held at the Temple Social Hall and at our annual neighborhood meeting. Thanks to many volunteers and participants, volunteers compiled results and presented them to our neighborhood Board in February. Although there is much more detailed data available, you may view the final report at www.fisherparknc.org/communicate.html or request a copy from Genie Schwartz at 456-7594 or eschwartz@triad.rr.com. When you see an area of responsibility that appeals to you to accomplish our neighborhood's shared goals, please contact neighborhood President Russ Clegg, 574-1879 or russang@aol.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD LISTSERV COMING SOON

Thanks to the 2003 stadium controversy and a neighborhood planning survey, we've gathered hundreds of Fisher Park neighbor's e-mail addresses. Past President Genie Schwartz plans to create an e-mail ListServ so those of you with e-mails can share information directly with one another. A ListServ allows anyone in a group to send e-mails to everyone in the group, without knowing all the individual e-mail addresses. Many neighborhoods use ListSers for speedy communication within a neighborhood. The ListServ will be un-moderated, which means anyone can write anything, and all are asked to keep the communications civil. We'll share details when the ListServ becomes available.

FISHER PARK CONTACTS – 2003			
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	srogerbcl@cs.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@greensboro.com
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
Schedule	Monthly neighborhood association meetings are held 6:30 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 January 26, February 23, March 29, and April 26, 2004.		