

the

serving residents of the Fisher Park Neighborhood

Fisher Parker



MARCH 2006

2005 LUMINARIA DISPLAY SUCCESS

Sunday, December 11 was another chilly but bright night for Fisher Park as our Annual Luminaria display **raised more than \$2,600** for our Neighborhood Association! Special thanks to Todd McCain for organizing this year's event and hosting the Luminaria kit-building party, providing a scrumptious dinner at his home while volunteers scrambled to fill your Luminaria kit orders with thousands of bags, cups, and candles. The Luminaria display is our annual fund-raiser, which pays for neighborhood newsletters and neighborhood social events, and it increases our growing neighborhood endowment fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. Thanks to the 175 generous neighbors who participated in the success of our 2005 Luminaria display!

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Each year our 15-member neighborhood Board rotates five people off allowing five others to join the Board, insuring a measure of consistency as well as engaging new voices. We thank Michael Byrd, Carla Copeland-Burns, Robert Carter, Nina Dabbs, Allison Manning, and George Weldon for their past services. Last year's President always remains on the Board in a non-voting, advisory capacity and chairs the Nominating Committee. Please contact Past President Allison Manning if you wish to nominate yourself or recommend a neighbor for future Board participation. Incoming Board members include:

- Scott Cooper (salesperson with Digital Quickcolor) of 1011 N. Eugene Street.
- Wanda Myatt (Artist/Preservationist) of 213 North Park Drive.
- Dick Rhyne (Realtor®/antiques dealer) of 110 Fisher Park Circle.
- Steve Rubin (chiropractor) of 224 South Park Drive.
- Chris Stanley (Vice President, Euliss Propane) of 1010 N. Eugene Street.

Contact information for all Board members are on the back of every newsletter and <http://www.fisherparknc.org/neighborhood.html>. Our Board members are volunteers. Please encourage their active participation by sharing your neighborhood visions. And remember, you are welcome at all monthly Board meetings!

THE TIES THAT BIND

Neighborhood social events are one of the strongest ties that bind a neighborhood together, where old-timers and newcomers, families, couples, singles, children, and even our pets share common ground. If envisioning and organizing neighborhood-wide social events is right up your alley, contact last year's Social Committee chairperson Michael Byrd at 274-8361 to learn the ropes,

CALENDAR

FISHER PARK CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 15, 11 a.m.

PARK WORK DAY

Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.–noon
272-0999

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Tuesday, August 1

PARK WORK DAY

Saturday, October 7, 9 a.m.–noon
272-0999

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, November 19

LUMINARIA DISPLAY

Sunday, December 10
(Rain Date: December 17)
333-2299

2007 FPNA BOARD MEETINGS

Listed on the back page. Note new meeting time is 6:30 p.m.

GREENSBORO NEIGHBORHOOD CONGRESS

Meetings see www.gnc-nc.org

Add Calendar Events! Volunteer as our 2006 Social Committee Chairperson.

then contact President David Shub to volunteer as our new Social Committee chairperson. This is one commitment you'll thoroughly enjoy!

YOUR LEAVES, YOUR CURB

We're told it's against City ordinances to dump leaves from your property into a City park, and it really disappoints our hard-working Park volunteers who work to clear leaves from ivy and pathways. Park Committee members ask you to please place your fallen leaves at your own curb, rather than "donating" more leaves to Fisher Park.

UPDATE ON 620 NORTH ELM STREET HOUSE

Previous newsletters informed you of the intent of First Presbyterian Church to donate the handsome house at 620 North Elm Street to anyone who will move it; otherwise the church intends to demolish the house to gain parking spaces. We're pleased to hear that several parties in the neighborhood are interested in moving this valuable house to the few vacant neighborhood lots. Although we'll regret the loss of this house – at its original Elm Street location, its replacement with a paved parking lot, and the ever-present concern of loss of historic housing stock along our neighborhood's fragile boundaries and mid-line – moving this house is a reasonable alternative to save it. As plans solidify, we'll do our best to organize a moving day celebratory event. (Here's a Social Committee opportunity!)

DODGING THE DRAFT

We choose old houses and the drafts that come with them. Our mailboxes bring repeated advertisements to replace old windows with new, with tempting suggestions of lower HVAC bills. Whether you live in the Fisher Park neighborhood, or the smaller Fisher Park Historic district within, you should know that several studies indicate many heating and air conditioning losses are from places other than windows. And installation of storm windows, weather-stripping, caulking, and closing other gaps produces significantly greater energy efficiency than replacing our old, original windows. *Mike Cowbig of the City Historic District Staff* shares the following information:

"In Greensboro's historic districts a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) is required to replace windows. The guidelines for historic districts recommend against replacement of original windows because windows are simply too important to a building's historic character. People inquire about replacing old windows that are sporting layers of old paint, broken sash ropes, brittle glazing putty, and drafts. But stop and think a minute about what you have.

Your windows may be 100 years old or older. They were constructed by craftsmen using old growth wood, which is very stable, resists warping, and is easily repairable. Even windows that appear beyond hope can be reconditioned and made to last another hundred years or more. It is hard to imagine replacement windows will last anywhere near that long or even be repairable when the time comes. (Certainly their salesmen won't be around!)



Replacement windows never match the character of original wood windows. They may have the same windowpane pattern and overall size, but that's about it. Look closely and notice that your double-hung windows are ingenious devices: the sashes operate in concert with gravity, unlike modern windows that resist gravity. A properly working counter-weighted window operates smoothly. Upper and lower sashes can be opened independently for ventilation. Old window details are essential to your home's historic character. When original windows are replaced, the blind stop, the parting bead, and other subtle aspects of window elements are lost forever.

Repairs to wood windows are relatively uncomplicated and within the ability of most do-it-yourselfers. So window repair is an area where old house owners can actually save money. Repaired and combined with a weather-stripped storm window, old windows can actually be more energy efficient than new replacement windows. Today there are wood storm windows available specifically designed for restoration projects, some with a storm/screen combination.

If your original wood windows are rotted beyond repair, you will need new windows. But know that the replacement window industry spends millions trying to convince the public that old windows are a liability. Nothing could be further

from the truth. A recent test case by Greensboro's Housing and Community Development Department demonstrated that energy costs are significantly reduced through inexpensive fixes like caulking and weather-stripping. The real energy culprits turned out to be gaps in the building envelope for pipes, outlets, wiring, deadbolt locks, letter slots, loose sashes, and gaps between stair treads and risers and around window and door casings. All of these deficiencies were corrected with low cost measures rather than replacing the windows."

In 2004, owners of a Fisher Park home on East Hendrix Street agreed to participate in this local study to identify air-leaks of their home and repair rather than replace original windows. They already report significant energy savings! We'll share their full draft-dodging success story in another newsletter. Until then, learn how you can reduce drafts in your home, while retaining your irreplaceable old windows, by calling Mike Cowhig at 373-2755.

TURNING WORDS INTO ACTION

In 2003, a handful of our neighbors joined to create a neighborhood-wide survey, *Forward Fisher Park: The Next Generation*. Over 800 surveys were mailed to every property in our neighborhood, stretching from Wendover to Wharton to Smith to Church streets. Hundreds of responses were received, categorized, and evaluated at two public focus group sessions, and the results were compiled into a straightforward document that's been available on our Web site since 2004. Please visit www.fisherparknc.org/neighborhood.html and click the link for Next Generation Committee findings. (Also, please print copies for neighbors without Internet access.)

Conservation and beautification, neighborliness and community, traffic issues, and planned growth were issues in 2003 and remain today. Energy and action are required to address any concern and fulfill visions. Who will bring the energy and action? Mahatma Gandhi is often quoted as having said "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Your neighborhood is a great place to start. Contact any Board member to volunteer.

TRAFFIC CALMING TECHNIQUES – DIY

Every year it seems neighborhood talk focuses on traffic calming – slowing or reducing traffic on neighborhood streets. Our Board responds by inviting Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT) staff to hear concerns and seek methods to calm traffic through our neighborhood. At the February neighborhood Board meeting, GDOT staff heard our recent yet recurrent traffic concerns and agreed to report in 30 days with suggestions for any improvements they might offer. Every neighborhood experiences traffic concerns, so we don't expect miracles or special treatment. And while we ask GDOT's help, it's helpful to recognize there are some creative, free, effective do-it-yourself (DIY) solutions within our own grasp.



Investigate Greensboro's "Pace Car" program and "Speed Watch" program (373-4920 Noland Tipton). Both programs acknowledge that we may be part of the problem and can facilitate solutions by driving responsibly within neighborhoods. Another surprisingly simple, effective and rather enjoyable DIY "Folk Traffic Calming" method is to actively engage with drivers on your street. Just do something unusual to catch a driver's attention, so they attend to the fact that they're driving in a neighborhood. Start with simple examples. Walk along your sidewalk, smile, and wave to speeding drivers. Or organize a lawn chair "sit 'n chat" with neighbors along your sidewalk during rush-hour. Or place "Burma-Shave"-style signs along your street, with humorous verses encouraging drivers to slow down in our neighborhood.

Think it's too simple to work? Several neighbors are trying these DIY "Folk Traffic Calming" tactics and are astonished at the immediate success. After a genuine smile and wave to a speeder on Eugene Street, a speeder stopped, inquired about the wave, which allowed our neighbor to smile and say "Oh hi, just hoping you'll slow down in our neighborhood." The method is imaginative, positive, and effective. Try it! Fisher Parkers can set the trend. So while GDOT routinely reviews our complaints and suggests minor improvements, let's take back our neighborhood streets for our families, our children, our pets, and ourselves. For additional examples of neighborly traffic calming techniques, visit <http://www.mentalspeedbumps.com/> or <http://www.traffictamers.com/>.

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Board of Directors			
Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
President (2006)	David Shub	274-0363	shub99@yahoo.com
President-Elect (2007)	Vacant		
Secretary (2006)	Roger Seel	275-3470	rseel@triad.rr.com
Treasurer (2006)	Blair Barton-Percival	273-3365	bfb4@cornell.edu
Past President ExOfficio	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
Board (2007)	Erick Adamson	272-9515	eadamson.mail@earthlink.net
Board (2008)	Scott Cooper	373-0375	scooper10@triad.rr.com
Board (2007)	Jim Jeffries	691-8981	jimjeffries@mvalaw.com
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Board (2008)	Dick Rhyne	230-1887	R2002r@aol.com
Board (2008)	Steve Rubin	271-8086	srubin@earthlink.net
Board (2008)	Chris Stanley	389-9752	cstanley33@triad.rr.com
Board (2007)	Ann Stringfield	370-0457	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
Board (2007)	Vacant		
Other Contacts			
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	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
Northeast Side Greeter	Cara Medina	275-9268	Carat78@hotmail.com
Southeast Side Greeter	Janet and David Craft	274-3420	chsyhkr@bellsouth.net
Southwest Side Greeter	Jacqueline Oliver	273-0097	JacquiMM@aol.com
Northwest Side Greeter	Rachel Cannon-Percival	273-3365	purplepercival@yahoo.com
Neighborhood Watch	Sonya Lowe	389-9686	srloewe@triad.rr.com
Young Fisher Park Playgroup	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
Social Committee	Vacant		
City Council Representative	Goldie Wells	375-4123	wdistmissy@aol.com
County Commissioner Rep.	Kay Cashion	274-6272	kcashion@co.guilford.nc.us
Board Meeting Schedule	Monthly neighborhood association Board meetings are at 6:30 p.m. the Monday before the final Wednesday of each month. 2006 meetings are: January 23, February 20, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 19. The December meeting is usually cancelled due to holidays.		

LITTER: OUR 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, and unfortunately it's up to us to help control it.

Okay, we know it's not those who live in Fisher Park who leave 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.

This is a reminder to 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 remove it regularly. We'll all appreciate it.

– Liz Urquhart