

the

serving residents of the Fisher Park Neighborhood

# Fisher Parker

MARCH 2007

## EASTER EGG HUNT MARCH 31



Delancey Street residents again exhibit their generosity by volunteering to prepare games, treats, and a visit from the Easter Bunny for the children of Fisher Park. Weather permitting, please bring your children with their baskets to our Fisher Park children's Easter Egg Hunt at the playground in East Fisher Park, Saturday March 31, 11:00 a.m. Parents, please offer your assistance and share your thanks with Delancey Street residents for arranging this joyful annual event. 379-8477. We also recognize our 2007 Social Committee Chairperson, Michael Byrd, who annually demonstrates his appreciation by providing hair care products and hair dryers to Delancey Street residents. Even if you haven't any children to escort, this event is well worth attending just to hug the BIG bunny! (Someday we really must have a BIG bunny alumni gathering!)

## PARK WORK DAY APRIL 14

Our first 2007 Park Work Day is Saturday, April 14, 9-11 a.m. Come join us with gloves, rakes, and gardening implements in hand. Meet on either side of the park where a Park Committee volunteer will recommend tasks to accomplish. This year, our park clean up event coincides with Earth Day and The Great American Cleanup Day. So Greensboro Beautiful will assist by providing trash bags, additional gloves, and safety information. At 11:00 a.m., neighborhood residents citywide may bring collected trash to the War Memorial Stadium parking lot on Yanceyville Street to witness the total amount of trash collected. Then everyone is treated to pizza and refreshments until noon. To make a full day of it, your family may visit the Kathleen Clay Edwards Public Library branch at 1420 Price Park Road from 1-5 p.m. for Earth Day celebrations including a "species parade", environmental and gardening exhibits, hands-on nature crafts, and family musical entertainment. Call the Library at 373-2923 for details. Call Carl Myatt, FPNA Park Committee Chairperson, for our Fisher Park Work Day details. 272-0999.

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Every year our 15-member Fisher Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) Board welcomes 5 new members, so the Board is never stagnant and continues the opportunity to represent all areas of our neighborhood. Please join us in welcoming our Board for 2007! Their names and contact information are on the back page. Even if you trash the Fisher Parker, keep the back page handy to communicate with neighborhood Board and Committee contacts who seek your input throughout the year. And if you'd care to join the Board, please contact our current President who'll keep your name ready for future nominations.

## CALENDAR

FISHER PARK CHILDREN'S  
EASTER EGG HUNT  
(weather permitting)  
Saturday, March 31, 11 a.m.  
379-8477

PARK WORK DAY  
Saturday, April 14, 9-11 a.m.  
272-0999

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
AGAINST CRIME SOCIAL  
Tuesday August 7, 7:00 p.m.  
389-9686

DOG SHOW-OFF  
Saturday, September 15,  
10-11 a.m.  
272-3498

HALLOWEEN  
PARADE & PARTY  
Saturday, October 27, 4-6 p.m.  
Temple Social Hall  
274-8361

PARK WORK DAY  
Saturday, November 10, 9-11 a.m.  
272-0999

FPNA ANNUAL MEETING  
Sunday, November 18, 4-6 p.m.  
Holy Trinity  
274-0363

LUMINARIA DISPLAY  
Sunday, December 9, at dusk.  
333-2299

ALL 2007 FPNA BOARD  
MEETINGS  
are listed on the back page and at  
[www.fisherparknc.org/news.html](http://www.fisherparknc.org/news.html)

GREENSBORO  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
CONGRESS  
See [www.gnc-nc.org](http://www.gnc-nc.org)

## FIRST CALL 911

Through our neighborhood e-mail listserv, neighbors share experiences of wanderers soliciting money or assistance door-to-door. (Join the e-mail list from [www.fisherparknc.org/communicate.html](http://www.fisherparknc.org/communicate.html).) Aycock and other near-town neighborhoods also are experiencing an increase in door-to-door pan-handlers.

Our City Police Community Resource Officers are clear about the best consistent response. Do not give money, offer work, or anything else, because doing so only encourages and enables panhandling behavior throughout neighborhoods. When approached, call 911 and request the Police come immediately to meet or assist the person. If you can, without risk to yourself, get a photograph, license plate number, physical description, direction of travel, etc. Soon after, please post to our neighborhood e-mail list and call your immediate neighbors who may not have e-mail access. Police want to help yet require immediate notice to locate door-to-door pan-handlers.

Contact Sonya Lowe, 389-9686 [srlowe@triad.rr.com](mailto:srlowe@triad.rr.com), our volunteer Neighborhood Watch coordinator, if you would like to attend a Neighborhood Watch meeting. With enough interest, Sonya will organize a group meeting with our new Community Watch Officer Melanie Daniel, [melanie.daniel@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:melanie.daniel@greensboro-nc.gov) 373-4645.

## THEN CALL 211

211 is a new local phone number we can call anytime to find assistance for those who honestly want help, not a temporary handout. **Call 2-1-1** any time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to link to vital health and human resource services in our community. 211 service is free and multilingual. A call to 211 helps locate counseling for mental health or consumer credit issues, emergency shelters, transitional or permanent housing for individuals, families, victims of domestic violence, pregnant women, children, youth, substance abusers, or the disabled, as well as financial assistance, a food pantry, and free meals. Please visit <http://partnersforhomeless.org/community.html> for a comprehensive review of locally available services. Our community is extremely fortunate to have 211 service.

## JOIN THE HUMAN RACE

Our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator volunteer, Sonya Lowe, encourages us to join her in walking The Human Race to raise funds for Greensboro Urban Ministry. The Human Race is an easy 5K walk/run for individuals, families, and organizations like our Fisher Park neighborhood to raise money for local nonprofits. Sonya envisions that, walking together, our neighborhood can raise funds to enable Greensboro Urban Ministry to help those who ask door-to-door for our assistance if they are truly in need of food, shelter, or



financial assistance. Urban Ministries may provide a more effective, skilled, long-term solution for those who want to help. In 2006, the ministry served 138,675 meals at Potter's House kitchen, 33,840 breakfasts and 37,500 dinners at Weaver House, housed 202 adults and 127 children at Pathways Family Shelter, 25,163 individuals were given emergency food, and 299 adults and children were housed at Partnership Village, all supported in part by Greensboro Urban Ministries. Visit [www.greensborourbanministry.org](http://www.greensborourbanministry.org) to

learn what our neighborhood-wide support can provide, then sign up to participate. (Neighborhood dogs may enjoy the walk, too!)

There are two ways to support the Human Race: 1) Walk with Sonya and Fisher Park neighbors and collect money from friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers willing to sponsor your participation in the Human Race. 2) Or simply sponsor by sending your tax-deductible contribution directly to Greensboro Urban Ministry. Make checks payable to *The Human Race* and note your donation is from Fisher Park neighbors. For details on The Human Race, contact: Sonya Lowe 389-0686 [srlowe@triad.rr.com](mailto:srlowe@triad.rr.com) or Gail Gore-Lewis, Director of Volunteer Services. 271-5959, ext. 305, [lewis@guministry.org](mailto:lewis@guministry.org) (There are many worthy causes supported at The Human Race! Sonya's suggesting this joint neighborhood effort as a mutual response to neighborhood concern for neighborhood wanderers.)

## FISHER PARK NEIGHBOR VOLUNTEERS

We're a hard working neighborhood. Yet our neighbors carve out time to volunteer within the larger community. We asked neighbors to share examples of their volunteerism, knowing you might wish to contact a neighbor with similar interests. Here are a few examples of neighborhood volunteerism recently shared.

**Judy Morton** of Fisher Park Circle recently agreed to join the UNCG Jackson Library Board of Directors where her creative talents will be used to market and raise funds for library resources. She's also a member of the Greensboro Bicentennial Commission Arts & Culture Subcommittee, encouraging arts and cultural groups to participate in our City's 2008 bicentennial. And Judy's a member of a United Arts Council Public Art Work Group advocating for the creation of a Public Art Commission and creating policies for City public arts. 336-379-0821 [jmorton@actiongreensboro.org](mailto:jmorton@actiongreensboro.org)

**Chuck Van deZande** of Wharton Street is a 12 year member of a K-9 search and rescue team, and devotes about 18 hours a month performing rescue operations with his well trained dog Scot. Chuck's also a 17-year member of the Greensboro Concert Band in which he plays clarinet, volunteering lots of practice time as well and public performances. [cvandy2@earthlink.net](mailto:cvandy2@earthlink.net)

**Lara Katz** of Canon Court condos on Elm Street volunteers about 20 hrs/month with the North Carolina Therapeutic Riding Center (NCTRC), a nonprofit that teaches children and adults with disabilities to ride horses both for therapy and fun. In operation since 1977, this is one of the oldest therapeutic riding programs in NC. Lara has been volunteering with the NCTRC for 14 years and served in most every capacity and currently is President of the NCTRC Board of Directors. [www.nctrcriders.org](http://www.nctrcriders.org). Lara is [sunshine9@usa.net](mailto:sunshine9@usa.net) 202-9050.

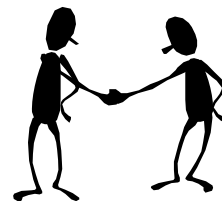
**Katrina Solomon** organized our successful 2002 FPNA house tour, and currently volunteers at the Women's Resource Center (WRC) on Summit Avenue, facilitating Self Esteem workshops.

[katrinasolomon@aol.com](mailto:katrinasolomon@aol.com). **Sonya Lowe** of Magnolia Street, our Neighborhood Watch volunteer, also volunteers with the Women's Resource Center, sharing her office and computer skills and facilitating special events such as a Women's Health Screening. [srlowe@triad.rr.com](mailto:srlowe@triad.rr.com) 336-389-9686. Both Katrina and Sonya encourage neighborhood women to engage in events and resources at the nearby WRC, nestled in the Aycock Neighborhood. [www.womenscentergo.org](http://www.womenscentergo.org)

**Rick Luebke** of Virginia Street, **Kay Quinliven** of Olive Street, and **Ann Stringfield** of Eugene Street all volunteer with Architectural Salvage of Greensboro (ASG), salvaging worn architectural features from buildings scheduled for demolition, then offering them for resale at ASG's retail salesroom at 300 Bellemeade Street, three blocks from our neighborhood. Ann also volunteers with the ASG Board, UNCG School of Library Science Advisory Committee, Guilford County Animal Shelter, Greensboro Neighborhood Congress, NC Special Libraries Association, and Society of NC Archivists; an admitted volunteer-a-holic. To share your volunteer efforts with neighbors, please send your volunteerisms to Ann at [infocrofters@triad.rr.com](mailto:infocrofters@triad.rr.com).

## AFTER OURS

Your home, like ours, likely is brimming with items you've enjoyed yet would be pleased to donate to appreciative neighbors. Chuck Van deZande of Wharton Street envisioned and facilitated a way for Fisher Park and Aycock neighbors to do just that, by setting up a group named After Ours at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/afterours/>. The concept is, after you've enjoyed something, like a book about historic preservation or a music CD that you've listened to enough, then donate it for another neighbor to enjoy. Join the group online, post a brief description of what you're willing to donate, and await contact from someone who'd like to have that item. What was "yours" becomes "ours", hence the clever name "After Ours". While browsing, if you see items you'd like, contact the donor neighbor and arrange to pick up the donated item. The net effect is that items are shared throughout our neighborhood and nearby Aycock neighborhood, and we're likely to meet others with similar interests. Log on to Chuck's **After Ours** group and give it a try. For questions, Contact Chuck Van deZande at [cvandy2@earthlink.net](mailto:cvandy2@earthlink.net) 574-1919.



## RENTERS ASK ABOUT RUCO

According to the 2000 U.S. Census information, our Fisher Park neighborhood consists of well over 40% absentee owned rental property. So it's especially important for Fisher Park residents to know that beginning July 1, 2007, all rental property in the City of Greensboro must be inspected and meet a minimum housing code before it can be rented. Once a rental property passes inspection, a **Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy (RUCO)** will be issued, good for 5 years.

For rental units out of compliance, the City initiates a series of 45-day periods for correction and reinspection until housing code problems are corrected. If not corrected, the owner is fined and prohibited from renting the property. Full **RUCO** details are available at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/Departments/Engineering/resident/renter/RentalUnitCertificate.htm>

Many Fisher Park homes were remodeled into multiple apartments in the 1950's-70's, and remain so today. And we have several large old apartment buildings that grace our neighborhood. If you live in a rental property in the neighborhood, your landlord should have your unit inspected for minimum housing standards and receive a **Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy (RUCO)** by **July 1, 2007**. Tenants may call the City Local Ordinance Enforcement office at 336-373-2111, Monday-Friday from 8 am - 5 pm, to request a **RUCO** inspection.

## OFFICE DEPOT SIGN

The Aycock and Fisher Park Neighborhood Board's jointly signed a letter to Office Depot headquarters requesting that the large illuminated sign at the corner of Bessemer and Church streets be removed, either replaced with a less obtrusive mutually agreeable sign, or no sign at all. Although that sign meets all City zoning ordinances, both Boards felt it was unnecessarily obtrusive. We'll report results of these efforts when we know more.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION ORDINANCE (NCO)

Greensboro's City Council tentatively anticipates discussion and voting on a new ordinance that would allow property owners that do not have Historic District protections to write and negotiate their own guidelines to prescribe the character of future development along their own block(s).

A Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO) is a potential new zoning layer that a block(s) of neighbors could develop to protect unique features and facilitate compatible future development on their block. Neighbors write their guidelines, along with City Planning staff.



Why might Fisher Park neighbors care about NCO's? If a single block face or multiple blocks of neighbors, that do not have Historic District protection, wish to discuss and negotiate with one another, then City Planning staff could help them create their own guidelines more likely to insure that new development on their block compliments and is compatible with their existing block's character. Whether a block's property owners request, for example, new development no higher than 3-stories tall, or require trees in the grassy median, or allow more shallow setbacks, etc., all would be guidelines set by the owners themselves, then enforced by City Zoning for all who wish to purchase or develop on that block(s) in the future.

The option to have a NCO is not yet available, but we expect the City Planning Board to discuss this option March 21 at 2:00 p.m. followed by City Council discussion and vote April 17 at 5:30 p.m., both in the Municipal building downtown. Neighbors along the fragile perimeter of our neighborhood, without Historic District protections, may want to initiate block discussions now to envision if a NCO might protect your block from uncomplimentary future development. Proactivity beats reactivity most every time. For further details, contact City staff Ben Woody at 433-7258 or [ben.woody@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:ben.woody@greensboro-nc.gov).

## PROPERTIES OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We understand that several committees of First Presbyterian Church members are evaluating the Church's long-range plan for property acquisition and use, as well as use of their more recent acquisition of two 4-unit apartment houses near the corner of Fisher and Greene streets. (Tenants were evicted from the corner white wooden apartment house, and were allowed to remain in the adjacent red brick apartment house.) Several Fisher Park neighbors who are members of the Church are on the committees.

Part of our neighborhood's mission statement is "*to preserve the residential character of the Fisher Park neighborhood*". Our neighborhood Board's Vice President, John McLendon, has agreed to engage communication with these Church committees and report to our Board along the way. You are encouraged to contact John McLendon with your questions, observations, and creative ideas. Share your thoughts with neighbors, our Board, and Church members.

One point should be clear. If our neighborhood wishes to support our stated mission "*to preserve the residential character of the Fisher Park neighborhood*", then it is our neighborhood's mutual task to present viable ideas and support alternatives to outcomes we've observed in the past; outcomes such as housing removal and/or parking lot development. Neighborhood-initiated action, such as funds to stabilize endangered properties, or application of protective covenants, or convincing the Church of mutually satisfactory uses for their properties, will be necessary to affect a neighborhood-friendly outcome. Please contact John McLendon to share solutions.

## ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK?

Two houses are for sale on North Church Street (907 and 909 Church Street) across from Office Depot's parking lot. The Realtor suggested that much of that block (Cherry, Zev, and Church) could be marketed as one parcel for \$720K, even though there are multiple landowners. If one developer purchases all the parcels, expect the loss of two houses on Church Street, the mechanic's shop on the corner, and two houses on Cherry Street. The home at 908 Cherry Street is pictured in the book **Greensboro: An Architectural Record**, page 285, about which is written "One of Greensboro's oldest buildings, the Cummings House, appears to have been built in the 1850's. Said to have been moved from Church Street ... it has stood at its present site since prior to 1919." The Cummings house was vinylized or aluminiumized several years ago, but deep underneath, the original home still stands.

Neighbors Sarah Jordan and Suresh Nagappan of 836 Olive St (at the corner of Olive and Hendrix) organized a meeting to review the situation and discuss strategic responses. They seek neighbor's opinions. Please contact [sarahtjordan@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahtjordan@yahoo.com) 574-3680 who will bring recommendations to your neighborhood Board. Your time and assistance can be effective toward influencing a positive, neighborhood-friendly outcome to inevitable change along our more fragile neighborhood boundaries. Many creative and committed voices, working together, can often affect a positive outcome. Sarah and Suresh look forward to hearing yours!

## STREET SIGN TOPPERS

Mary Lane-Smith of Parkway Avenue, along with Marty Digby of Fisher Park Circle, are working with City of Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT) staff Chris Spencer on the possibility of creating Fisher Park street sign toppers -- signs that sit on top of existing street signs and indicate entrance into the Fisher Park Neighborhood. If the project is of interest to neighbors, and is allowed to proceed, our neighborhood would need to fund this project. Pricing details will be worked out once the City approves the concept. For questions or to help with this project, please contact Mary at [mlanesmith116@yahoo.com](mailto:mlanesmith116@yahoo.com).

Fisher Park Neighborhood Association P. O. Box 2043, Greensboro, NC 27401-1612 CONTACTS – 2007			
Board of Directors			
Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
President (2007)	David Shub	274-0363	shub99@yahoo.com
President-Elect (2009)	John McLendon	545-5543	jmclendon@sbaal.com
Secretary (2007)	Cheryl Poole	275-0333	cherylpoole@triad.rr.com
Treasurer (2007)	Jim Jeffries	691-8981	jimjeffries@mvalaw.com
Past President ExOfficio (2007)	David Shub	274-0363	shub99@yahoo.com
Board (2007)	Erick Adamson	272-9515	eadamson.mail@earthlink.net
Board (2007)	Catherine Feeney	451-5588	cfeeney@triad.rr.com
Board (2007)	Ann Stringfield	370-0457	infocrofters@triad.rr.com
Board (2008)	Vicky Saunders	272-7661	vvanstory@gmail.com
Board (2008)	Wanda Myatt	272-0999	wjmyatt@triad.rr.com
Board (2008)	Dick Rhyne	230-1887	R2002r@aol.com
Board (2008)	Steve Rubin	271-8086	docrub1n@earthlink.net
Board (2009)	Michael Byrd	274-8361	michaellbyrd1@yahoo.com
Board (2009)	Rick Luebke	273-5080	richardluebke@email.msn.com
Board (2009)	Rachel Canon-Percival	273-3365	purplepercival@yahoo.com
Board (2009)	Robert Pope	638-7706	Rpope10@triad.rr.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
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	Prudence Strong	379-7209	
Northwest Side Greeter	Rachel Cannon-Percival	273-3365	purplepercival@yahoo.com
Neighborhood Watch	Sonya Lowe	389-9686	srloew@triad.rr.com
Young Fisher Park Playgroup	Allison Manning	275-8833	abdmanning@yahoo.com
Social Committee	Michael Byrd	274-8361	michaellbyrd1@yahoo.com
Traffic Committee	Wanda Myatt	272-0999	cmyatt@triad.rr.com
Block Captain Coordinators			
Southern Coordinator	Cheryl Poole	274-0333	cherylpoole@triad.rr.com
Northern Coordinator	Jim Willis	275-5092	willis7468@bellsouth.net
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 FPNA Board meetings are at <b>6:30 p.m.</b> the Monday before the final Wednesday of each month. <b>2007 meetings</b> are March 26, April 23, May 29, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 26. November 18 is the FPNA Annual Meeting. The December Board meeting is usually cancelled due to holidays. See <a href="http://www.fisherparknc.org/news.html">www.fisherparknc.org/news.html</a> , or call Board members for updates.		

City of Greensboro and Other Contacts		
Department/Company	Purpose	Phone
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, <b>free</b> 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	Officer Melanie Daniel	373-4645 <a href="mailto:melanie.daniel@greensboro-nc.gov">mailto:melanie.daniel@greensboro-nc.gov</a>
Fisher Park ListServ	Subscribe: <a href="mailto:fisherpark-subscribe@yahoo.com">mailto:fisherpark-subscribe@yahoo.com</a>	Submit e-mail: <a href="mailto:fisherpark@yahoogroups.com">fisherpark@yahoogroups.com</a>