

Fisher Parker

March 2011

WELCOME AND THANKS

Please welcome neighbors Elizabeth Knight, Anne Marsh, Daintry O'Brian, Don Smith, and Cate Wineburg who agree to serve on the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) 12-member Board for the next three years. Gracious *thanks* to Angie Smits, David Craft, Jane Jackson, Sonya Lowe, and Connie Usry for their past three years' Board service! All neighbors are encouraged to attend monthly and annual meetings at times and locations listed on the back of each newsletter. If you're interested in volunteering for your neighborhood in any capacity, contact any Board member listed on the back of each newsletter.



OH SOGGY NIGHT -- FESTIVE DESPITE WEATHER

Although light rain persisted beyond weather-guessers predictions for our December 2010 Luminaria display eve, neighbors were easily consoled visiting three neighbor's homes welcome holiday hospitality:

- Susan Hunt of 812 Olive Street
- Molly McDonald of 1013 N Elm Street, Unit-B8
- Robert and Margaret Kantlehner at 306 Parkway Drive.

Thank you to these generous neighbors, to all who helped assemble over 350 Luminaria kits, and to Rob Pope who again organized our Luminaria sales. The 2010 fundraiser generated over \$3800 income, approximately 56% of which were donations. After kits purchase and printing costs, estimated profit is \$2650!

Rob Pope kindly agrees to organize our 2011 Luminaria event and asks you to brainstorm with him to envision ways to reduce the paperwork and printing yet retain participation. (Many neighbors are not in e-contact with the neighborhood.) Contact Rob at 336-638-7706 to facilitate a successful event.

300 DAFFODIL BULBS PLANTED

In the chill of January, a dozen neighborhood park volunteers, primarily Delancey Street residents and Park Committee members, met in Fisher Park to plant 300 daffodil bulbs donated by wholesaler K. Van Bourgondien & Sons Inc. of Virginia Beach, VA, distributed by Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful, and delivered by Greensboro's Parks & Recreation



Department Look for fresh yellow-headed flowers to pop up in the park's northwest natural areas this March.

As an interesting historical note -- 6,000 daffodil bulbs were planted along the Elm Street slopes of Fisher Park by the local Council of Garden Clubs in 1954!



CALENDAR

Park Work Day
Saturday, April 16, 8:30 a.m.
336-273-8286

Children's Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.
Rain date Sunday, April 17, 1:30 p.m.
East park playground
336-273-3365

Three Historic District Social
Saturday, June 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Temple Emanuel lawn
336-373-1051

Park Work Day
Saturday, June 25, 8:30 a.m.
336-273-8286

National Night Out Social
Tuesday, August 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
336-389-9686

Park Work Day
Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.
336-273-8286

Halloween Parade & Party
Sunday, October 30, 4:00 p.m.
333-273-3365

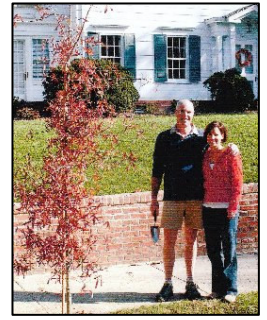
Neighborhood Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 20, 4 p.m.
Broome Hall, Holy Trinity
336-274-4530

Luminaria Kit Building Party
Wednesday, December 7, 6 p.m.
803 Simpson Street

Luminaria Display
Sunday, December 11, dusk
Rain Date Sunday, December 19
336-638-7706

REPLENISHING AN OAK CANOPY ON PARKWAY DRIVE

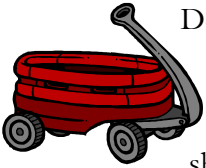
Also in January, the last of 12 young Pin oak trees were planted on the east side of Parkway Drive. These trees were awarded through two grants from Greensboro Beautiful. Delancey Street residents donated the planting efforts. The shared vision is to restore the Pin oak tree canopy along a corridor which transitions from the very busy Bessemer, Eugene, Cridland, Parkway intersection to the more bucolic Fisher Park Circle. A cool green canopy of majestic oak trees will provide the scale, vehicular separation, shade, and color highly sought after in older neighborhoods. Thanks to all who helped bring this vision to fruition.



DO YOU DIG FISHER PARK?

Carl Myatt, Park Committee Co-Chairperson, has discovered evidence of what might be another original set of curved granite stairs and about 20 feet of granite curbing in West Fisher Park off Fisher Park Circle near Victoria Street. Neighbors who envision themselves as amateur archeologists are invited to contact Park Committee Co-Chair persons listed on the back page and pony up with shovels to investigate.

ORGANICS IN OUR FUTURE?



Deep Roots Market, a locally owned co-op grocery store promoting local organic foods, hopes to build a new grocery in the 700 block of North Eugene Street across from the former North State Chevrolet dealership. They've held many public meetings soliciting opinions and gauging interest. A public presentation to our neighborhood was well received, although the projected strip shopping center design, large front parking lot, and increased delivery traffic project a more suburban character than neighbors had hoped. Although these design concerns are not likely to be resolved, neighbors asked the developers (Isley and Kearn) and Deep Roots owners to add significantly more landscaping than is typical for strip shopping centers. Development proceeds only if significant funds are raised by owner-investors in 2011. If you've talked the talk for a nearby grocery, round up your little red wagons and plan to walk the walk!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & YOUR HISTORIC HOME

Many neighbors enjoyed the City of Greensboro's free January workshop providing tips to increase energy efficiency in historic homes. First we were reminded ... "The *greenest* building is one that's *already built*." Every existing building represents energy previously expended: to grow and harvest the trees, process and fashion the bricks, stone, and glass, mine the metals, shape them all into useful parts, transport these materials, and labor to build our homes. Because most original parts can be reconditioned to provide centuries more use, demolition is wasteful of both energy and character. *Sustainability and historic preservation go hand in hand!* Yet within old homes even more energy efficiencies can be found, as gleaned from this workshop. We share a few observations below.

To identify your home's air leaks, walk along the walls inside your home while burning incense and watch where the smoke flows. (Wearing a mumu, going braless, and adding beads may increase the ambience!) Under the house, caulk where ducts and pipes enter the house. High quality silicone caulk is preferred to latex/acrylic. Insulate an unfloored attic as much as possible, up to R-38. Especially insulate the attic door or pull-down stairs, because significant hot air escapes there. When insulating with batts of fiberglass insulation, place the paper vapor barrier against the warm side of the structure. Don't insulate within walls of an old house unless you also install a continuous vapor barrier to ensure insulation doesn't retain moisture. Insulate all ductwork in unconditioned spaces such as attics, crawlspaces and basements. Seal ductwork with mastic. When using expanding foam sealants, choose foams that fill the correct gap size, no larger. Vent clothes dryers to the exterior, reducing interior humidity. Turn down your water heater temperature. Insulate the water heater and hot water pipes.



The greatest energy leaks in a house are through ceilings, walls, and floors, *NOT the windows*. Repeat: *NOT the windows!* Preservationists and sustainability experts recommend that you repair and retain your original hardwood windows and then simply add storm windows at *significantly* less expense than new windows.

Note: In Greensboro's Historic Districts, windows cannot be replaced without a City Historic District approved Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA). NC has some of the best energy efficiency and historic preservation tax credits in the nation! For information on how to use these tax credits, contact the City of Greensboro Historic District staff at 336-373-2349 or Preservation Greensboro Inc. at 336-272-5003.

GREEN HILL CEMETERY ENTRANCES REVIVED



Walking along Wharton Street notice both entrances to Green Hill Cemetery have been revitalized with new camellia, boxwood, grass, pea gravel and signage. And where Battleground joins Fisher/Edgeworth/Spring streets, new crepe myrtles and St. John's Wort groundcover are planted and await new signage. These projects are a cooperative effort of Friends of Green Hill Cemetery volunteers (www.FoGHC.org) many of whom live in our neighborhood, City Cemetery Superintendent Mike Moye, and Project Evergreen (www.ProjectEvergreen.com), a non-profit alliance of "green industry" associations, companies and professional volunteers with a mission to preserve and enhance green space in our communities today for future generations. Volunteers from Syngenta (www.syngenta.com), Nature's Select landscaping firm (www.naturesselect.com) and FoGHC implemented these enhancements in December.

Wander into Green Hill and discover a handsome new "Gathering Area" designed by a FoGHC volunteer and implemented by neighborhood teen Andrew Valitutto of Bessemer Avenue, earning his Eagle Scout badge. As spring unfolds, benches and tables will be installed, inviting everyone to enjoy these enhanced areas for walking and respite within the western boundary our neighborhood.



910 MAGNOLIA STREET FOR SALE -- SUMMER 2011!

In February, Preservation Greensboro (PG) announced the lengthy legal probate process is now complete so 910 Magnolia Street will soon be available for sale and rehabilitation! When the elderly owner died in 2007, her original will could not be found. Over a year's worth of probate documents and processes eventually allowed a copy of her will to be accepted by the Clerk of Court. (There's a lesson here for every mortal!) During this lengthy legal process, the house was afforded a 365-day demolition delay by being within our Historic District!

The will's copy is now official, and the deceased's brother has optioned the house to PG so PG can arrange for the house to be sold to a purchaser willing to rehabilitate it to PG's standards. As part of the sales process, PG will place *restrictive covenants* on the house to protect it in perpetuity. Several interested buyers are waiting in the wings, and PG will accept purchase and rehabilitation proposals from interested parties within months.

Benjamin Briggs, Executive Director of PG, advises that offers to purchase will be considered not only on price, but also on each buyer's *rehabilitation plans*. A buyer must repair the home in accordance with the U.S. Secretary of Interiors Standards for Historic Preservation, which underlie our local Historic District Guidelines.

To learn more about the process to purchase and rehabilitate this house, which has been declared *structurally sound and character-filled* both by City inspectors and preservation experts, call Benjamin Briggs at PG. 336-272-5003 Ext. 1.

We breathe a collective sigh of relief ahead, thanks to nearest neighbors who extended their patience and Preservation Greensboro volunteers who provided pro bono legal and preservation expertise while the lengthy legal processes unfolded. Upon sale and rehabilitation, the house again will be a point of neighborhood pride.

Built between 1915 and 1920, the earliest known occupant was J. T. Penn, a vice president of Southern Atlantic Lumber Company. The house features extraordinary Craftsman details, including post-on-brick-pier porch supports, multiple-pane upper window sashes, unusual exposed stick-work in the dormer gable, exposed rafter tails, and the original kitchen and baths. Chalk up a *win* for the neighborhood!



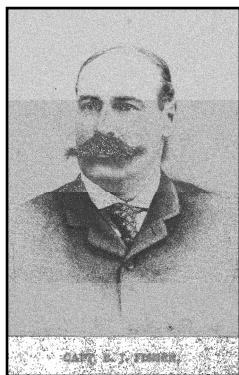
CONSIDER PRESERVATION EASEMENTS FOR YOUR HOME

As new development pressures infringe old neighborhoods, homeowners along our more fragile boundaries and even within may benefit from preservation easements. A **preservation easement** is a private legal right given by the owner of a property to a qualified nonprofit organization such as the **Preservation Greensboro Development Fund** for the purpose of protecting a property's historical and architectural value. In Guilford County, similar easements protect land that have recreational or environmental value and open spaces.



Within the context of the Fisher Park Historic District, preservation easements are most useful to protect against changes to a property that would be inconsistent with preservation, such as demolition of historic buildings that cannot otherwise be denied over 365 days under current state legislation. A recordable preservation easement deed becomes part of the property's title and "runs with the land" so the preservation requirements are binding both on the **present owner and future owners**. In the United States, these easements are often **the most reliable preservation tool available** to maintain historic properties, especially in urban neighborhoods experiencing conflicting uses. The Preservation Greensboro Development Fund currently holds several easements of properties throughout the city such as the Troy-Bumpass House in College Hill and Bowman Bungalow in Southside. For more information on this useful preservation tool and how it might strengthen the Fisher Park neighborhood, please contact Benjamin Briggs at bbriggs@blandwood.org or 336-272-5003.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD NAMESAKE



Basil John Fisher, for whom our neighborhood is named, purchased much of the land which became our neighborhood, intending to develop residences surrounding a park. In 1902 he donated park acreage to the City of Greensboro for \$5 in return for City agreement to pave a road - today's Fisher Park Circle, North and South Park Drive. Fisher died at age 52 before his plans were accomplished. He is buried in Green Hill Cemetery. Did you know that prior to his brief years in Greensboro, Fisher was a Scotsman, a Captain in the British army, and his first home in NC was in Asheboro where he'd arrived with a gold-mining concern? Thanks to architect Doug Spencer and the Asheboro Historical Museum, we now have copies of several photos of Fisher's children, his original home and carriage house in Asheboro, and his handsome dovecote. Love the mustache! For photos of Captain Fisher's residence in Asheboro, visit www.fisherparknc.com and click the **History** tab.

NEIGHBORHOOD TOWNHOMES AND CONDOS

In an ongoing series, one by one, we're highlighting all eight condo and townhome Associations which provide 117 residences throughout our neighborhood. Each Association reflects a different time period and appeals to different audiences. This issue features **Williamsburg on the Park** townhomes through the eyes of their homeowner's association current President Lynn Wooten, who is Vice President of Marketing & Communications at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

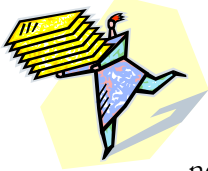
Williamsburg on the Park's 10 townhomes were built in 1976. Although young in years, they represent a historic moment in time for our neighborhood. When the grand Banner family home at this location was demolished, a developer initially proposed a multi-story office building in its place. Neighbors rallied, writing impassioned letters to the editor and speaking so convincingly before city council such that the message was clear: support Fisher Park as a neighborhood or destine us to a commercial district. As the neighborhood gained front page publicity and editorial support, the developer finally was convinced to build a townhome community ensuring Elm Street would not further divide our neighborhood. Rising from those concerted efforts, neighbors formed the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association and the Historic District within. Bountiful newspaper clippings representing those events are surfacing within our inaugural Fisher Park Archives!



Now comfortably settled into the corner of North Park Drive and Elm Street, Williamsburg on the Park offers tranquil residence for those who enjoy living in close proximity to downtown – yet when relaxing on back

patios surrounded by trees and chirping birds, you truly have no sense that the edge of downtown begins only a few blocks away. Williamsburg is completely occupied with a wide range of residents. "We have a number of seniors who live here, and a growing number of younger people. A year or so ago a young mother with small children moved in, and the infusion of their youthful energy really has been nice."

Williamsburg townhomes all offer three bedrooms and 2½ baths, although most owners turn the downstairs master suite into a den or library, enjoying substantial space for daily living and entertaining. In recent years residents have made great strides working together toward notable exterior improvements including sensitive landscaping, parking and lighting. The original Mt. Airy granite retaining walls reflect original residential character. Wooten remarks, "I have lived at Williamsburg on the Park for three years, and love it. We can walk to Fisher's Grille, The Corner Slice, or The Iron Hen. With the park immediately adjacent, it's wonderful for our two dogs. And my house is only 1.1 miles to work. You can't beat that!" Thank you, Lynn, for sharing enthusiasm for your townhome Association. Summer's newsletter will highlight yet another neighborhood Association.



AWAKEN YOUR INNER ARCHIVIST

Do you enjoy learning about original homes, homeowners, and events in our neighborhood? Angie Smits of Magnolia Street and Ann Stringfield of Eugene Street volunteer to begin sorting and filing nearly six boxes of archival information gathered about our neighborhood and neighborhood Association. Much of the information was donated by the family of Mary Lee Copeland, one of several neighbors instrumental in forming our neighborhood Association and the smaller Historic District within. If there's an Archivist in you awaiting an opportunity to volunteer with this project, please contact Ann Stringfield at 336-370-0457.

JOIN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD EMAIL LIST

Keep abreast of current happenings by joining our extremely informative neighborhood e-mail list. Enter your e-mail at www.fisherparknc.org/communicate.html. If asked for a username and password, concoct *your own*. Neighbor Genie Schwartz can guide you. schwartzgenie@gmail.com. The information shared is often invaluable – to locate wandering pets, alert to crimes, and share recommendations. And if you're *new* to the neighborhood, or have a *new* neighbor, *please* contact volunteer Greeters listed on the back page. Greeters briefly visit, delivering information to acquaint you with your new neighborhood -- maps, guidelines, newsletters and a friendly face. All yours for asking! Well informed new neighbors are more likely to be good neighbors from the start.

PRESERVATION GREENSBORO TOUR OF HOMES MAY 21-22, 2011

Six Fisher Park and five Aycock neighborhood homes will host a 2011 Preservation Greensboro Tour of Historic Homes Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 22, 1-5 p.m. Tour information and early ticket purchase are available at www.PreservationGreensboro.org/HomeTours or by calling 336-272-5003.

UPCOMING SOCIALS FOR ALL AGES

Revisit the front page to see and save dates for upcoming springtime events. The Easter Bunny anticipates meeting children as Delancey Street again hosts our annual Egg Hunt. Adults and children equally enjoy our springtime social when neighbors from all three local historic neighborhoods -- FPNA, College Hill, and Aycock -- converge on the front lawn of Temple Emanuel for pot luck supper and rousing music. Fisher Park Neighborhood Association events are open to **ALL** who live or work within our neighborhood, from Wharton to Wendover to Church, to Smith Streets. This **IS** your invitation so we hope to see you there!



SHUTTER HUNT

Youngsters old enough to walk and match patterns may enjoy our Fisher Park Shutter Hunt -- matching up window shutters with house addresses. Call Ann Stringfield to ask for a copy of hunt instructions which she created when walking; noting that our western neighborhood homes have more shutters while our eastern neighborhood homes have more decorative windowpanes. Children who develop neighborhood pride surely will be good stewards for our neighborhood's future.



Fisher Park Neighborhood Association • P. O. Box 2004 • Greensboro, NC 27402

Board of Directors

Position (term ends)	Name	Address	Phone
President	Robert Kantlehner	306 Parkway	336-274-4530
Vice President	vacant		
Secretary (2011)	Sherry Rogowski	227 North Park Drive	336-275-2174
Treasurer (2012)	Angie Smits	706 Magnolia Street	336-574-1879
Board (2011)	Sally Atwood	802 Simpson Street	336-273-8286
Board (2011)	Nicole Crews	605 Magnolia Street	336-373-1051
Board (2011)	Cate Wineburg	902 Magnolia Street	336-272-2390
Board (2012)	Sarah Jordan	836 Olive Street	336-574-3680
Board (2012)	Judy Morton	102 Fisher Park Circle	336-387-8351
Board (2012)	Angie Smits	706 Magnolia Street	336-574-1879
Board (2013)	Elizabeth Knight	225 Florence Street	336-382-1829
Board (2013)	Anne Marsh	1 Magnolia Court	336-314-0526
Board (2013)	Daintry O'Brien	801 Simpson Street	336-273-9488
Board (2013)	Don Smith	308 Parkway	336-362-1511

Other Contacts in the Neighborhood and Beyond

Children & Youth Event Coordinators	Rachel Cannon-Percival & Comer Wear	336-273-3365 678-429-5250	purplepercival@yahoo.com cwear@centuryfurniture.com
Events Coordinator	Nicole Crews	336-373-1051	ncrews2@triad.rr.com
Greeter Coordinator	Rachel Cannon-Percival	336-273-3365	purplepercival@yahoo.com
Southeast Greeter	Janet Craft	336-274-3420	JWolfeCraft@gmail.com
Southwest Greeter	Carla Burns	336-327-5019	cecopelan@gmail.com
Northwest Greeter	Todd McCain	336-339-4089	stmccain@aol.com
Northeast Greeter	Jane Jackson	336-271-6705	jjackson1@triad.rr.com
Neighborhood Watch	Sonya Lowe	336-209-5525	lowesonya@gmail.com
Newsletter Editors	Ann Stringfield & Liz Urquhart	336-370-0457 336-373-1250	infocrofters@triad.rr.com liz.urquhart@ugcorp.com
Park Committee	Carl Myatt & Sally Atwood	336-274-3554 336-273-8286	cmvatt3363@aol.com skda1@aol.com
Streets & Sidewalks	Sarah Jordan	336-574-3680	sarahtjordan@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Ann Stringfield	336-370-0457	infocrofters@triad.rr.com

Block Captain Coordinators

Southern Area	Cheryl Poole	336-275-0333	cherylpoole@triad.rr.com
Northern Area	Jim Willis	336-275-5092	NA

Civic Representatives of the Fisher Park Neighborhood

City Council	Zack Matheny, District 3 Councilman	336-232-1900	zack.matheny@greensboro-nc.gov
County Commissioner	Kay Cashion, District 6 Commissioner	336-274-6272	bwllia1@co.guilford.nc.us

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are 6:30 p.m. in the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church education building, Haywood Duke Room or Roe Library. Board meetings in 2011 are Mondays, January 24, February 21, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 26, October 24, and December 5. The Neighborhood-wide Annual Meeting is Sunday, Nov 20, 2011 at 4 p.m in Broome Hall of Holy Trinity Church.

Fisher Park Neighborhood Association Mission

To preserve the historic and residential character of the Fisher Park neighborhood, and to work with the City of Greensboro to help maintain the scenic park for the benefit of the general public.

Department/Company	Other Helpful Contacts	Phone
City Customer Contact Center	Directs citizen calls to ANY appropriate City department.	336-373-2489 = 336-373-CITY
City Historic District Staff	Historic district guidelines, applications for Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA), plus free design review advice.	336-373-2349 directly or simply call 336-373-CITY
Zoning Enforcement	Parking in front yards, historic district guidelines enforcement.	336-373-2144 directly or simply call 336-373-CITY
Ordinance Enforcement	House/Apt. inspections, abandoned vehicles, lot cleanup.	336-373-2111 directly or simply call 336-373-CITY
Duke Power	Streetlight outage.	1-800-POWERON (1-800-769-3766)
Police Central Division	Help for emergencies and non-emergencies.	Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 336-373-2222
Police Central Division-Community Resource Officer	Officer Melanie Daniel	336-373-4645 melanie.daniel@greensboro-nc.gov
Fisher Park E-mail Listserv	Visit www.fisherparknc.org/communicate.html and follow directions. YOU make up your Yahoo username & password. For help, contact Genie Schwartz at schwartzgenie@gmail.com	After joining the e-mail listserv, simply address e-mails To fisherpark@yahogroups.com