

the Fisher Park

JUNE/JULY 2002

**FEATURED
THIS ISSUE:**

*Residents Petition for
Historic District Status*



*Fans of the Stadium
Appeal for Donations
to Fund Study*



*Homes Tour a
Huge Success*



*Volunteer
Opportunities*

**DON'T
FORGET:**

*Centennial Celebration:
September 28*



*Greenhill Cemetery Tours
Sunday, September 1*



*Saturday, November 3
2 p.m. - \$5.00*

*Wharton Street near Fisher
Avenue Entrance
Ann Stringfield 273-1393*



**National Night Out
Tuesday, August 6:
Ice Cream Social!**

On August 6, the Neighborhood Association will host our fifth annual ice cream party in observance of National Night Out. It's one of our most popular events, so please join your neighbors in the east side of the park (between Elm and Church streets) at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy the ice cream meet your neighbors, catch a demo from public safety representatives including police and fire fighters, and meet elected officials.



In all, 32 million people participated in National Night Out 2001 in the U.S and Canada. For more information on National Night Out, visit <http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/>.

Mark your calendar now. We'll be in the park from 7 to 9 on August 6, so bring your family! And anyone interested in helping dip ice cream should contact Ann Stringfield at 274-1393.

**September 28:
Block Parties/
Dessert in the Park**

This autumn, Fisher Park will be the scene of get-togethers on every block, with a gala finale in the park with desserts and the Greensboro Big Band.

As our Centennial year winds down, we're celebrating the old fashioned way, encouraging Fisher Park residents to plan block parties, progressive dinners, cook outs, and other gatherings to celebrate our one-of-a kind neighborhood.

Then, when it's time for dessert, everyone's invited to join their neighbors in Fisher Park for dessert and music.

Sponsored by the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, there's no charge for the desserts, which we'll start serving at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 28.

If it rains, we'll gather at the Rypins Building on Florence Street across from Temple Emmanuel.

We hope you and your neighbors will share in the fun planned for September 28, and then join the rest of us in the park as the sound of swing music fills the air. To volunteer or if you have questions, please call Liz Urquhart at 373-1250.

WANT TO ATTEND A FISHER PARK BOARD MEETING?
The board meets the Monday before the last Wednesday every month, 6 p.m., Holy Trinity Church Education Building. We discuss issues facing our neighborhood, consider applications for Certificate of Appropriateness, and hear from board members who are serving to make a difference. Why not plan to attend a meeting soon?


Greensboro College Status Update

Greensboro College recently requested to be removed from the College Hill Historic District, but has tabled its request indefinitely as the Historic District Guidelines undergo review (see page 3).

Our Fisher Park Neighborhood Association Board expressed **unanimous opposition** to Greensboro College's proposed exclusion, because of the precedence it sets for institutions and residents throughout Greensboro's Historic Districts, eroding fragile Historic District boundaries.

The Greensboro College request was denied by the local Historic Preservation Commission, and advised against by the N.C. State Historic Preservation office. A representative of the college is participating on the guideline review committee.

All historic district residents with concerns about such a significant institution seeking removal from a neighborhood Historic District may express them that at public meetings if the college proceeds with appeal of the HPC decision. Stay posted for news related to this issue.

And remember: your attendance makes a difference! 

May Homes/Garden Tour a Great Success

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped make the Centennial Home & Garden Tour a grand success!

Our "official" accounting shows a net profit of \$9,449! Special thanks to:

- More than 500 visitors.
- 150 friends and neighbors who volunteered as hosts, hostesses and ticket takers (some working two shifts to fill in where needed).
- Committee chairpersons **Martha Brown** – Solicitations; **Michael Byrd** – Silent Auction; **Catherine Harrill** and **Mike Stout** – Interiors; **Julie Hatfield** – Lemonade Stands; **Todd McCain** – Exteriors; **Judy Morton** – Publicity; **Kay Quinliven** – Ticket Sales; **Kay Quinliven** and **Susan Seel** – Hosting; **Chris Shuford** – Graphic Design.
- **Katrina Solomon**, tour chairperson; Ann Stringfield FPNA president.
- **Roger Seel**, who did an incredible job designing our ticket/brochures, flyers, signs, and other collateral materials.
- The gracious homeowners who shared their homes and/or gardens.


Petition for Historic District Status

by Woodson E. Faulkner II

Residents of the 900 block of Olive Street themselves initiated a petition of residents recently. They unanimously concluded that expanding the historic district overlay zoning to the 900 block would be in their best interest.

With 100% of the neighbors petitioned, the residents choose to act now, to ward off further encroachment by the multi-zoned Bessemer Ave. border to the north. The catalyst was the sale of property at 907 Olive St. Formerly a double lot, 907 was divided into separate lots, and the empty lot with a magnificent oak tree has been bought for development. We have reason to hope the developer is sensitive to the historic nature of surrounding properties and will build a traditional single-family home in keeping with the neighborhood. But hopes are no guarantee, since the historic district does not currently include the 900 block of Olive Street.

For almost 20 years, Fisher Park's Historic District streets have seen many properties return to single-family homes. Significant renovations and improvements have been made by residents, returning grace and beauty to once-neglected homes and increasing property values.


We Olive Street residents are excited about the prospect of inclusion in the Historic District and look forward to working with the Historic Preservation Commission and Neighborhood Association. Many express hopes the Historic District will one day be expanded farther, preventing demolition of cottages and homesites that dot the area and protect our neighborhood from an expanding Wendover area business complex. 

Editor's note: In June alone, on the 1000 block of Olive St., two homes were demolished, another is ready for demolition, and all trees have been removed, as is allowed since those are not in a Historic District. An office building is expected to replace those homes.

Got the Summertime Blues?

This summer, why not consider giving the gift of time to your community? Summer time volunteer opportunities abound for teens, preteens, and adults. Closest to home is the critical need for volunteers to assist with watering the planters around the park. A commitment of only fifteen to thirty minutes a week to water one or more planters is all that is required. Watering cans can be provided. **Please contact Angie Leath, 379-9699, to adopt a planter or for more information.**


(Those of you who travel around the edge of our beautiful park may have noticed two particularly healthy looking planters: thanks to **newcomer Buck Nutt** and his diligence in watering and fertilizing, the corner of Elm and North Park greets travelers with a splendid display! Thanks to our new neighbor for such care and giving.)

Many other volunteer opportunities are available in Greensboro, at our library, YWCA, senior care facilities, and with other nonprofit agencies. Contact the Volunteer Center of Greensboro, 1500 Yanceyville St., Greensboro, NC, 27405, 373-0670 or www.volunteergso.org 

Neighborhood Girl Wins Award

Congratulations to eight-year-old Hannah Nickles of Eugene Street whose school art project to increase awareness of safe school bus stops was tops in a Guilford County school competition.


"Stay back, stay back, from Yellow and Black!" was her theme, reminding us not to tailgate those yellow and black school buses.

Hannah lives with her family on North Eugene St. and eagerly awaits statewide judging of her entry. 

City Maps on the Internet

Hannah's mom, Jane Nickles, is a programmer with the City's Geographical Information Systems Department.

One of Jane's projects this year is integrating city map data with aerial photography. Visit www.ci.greensboro.nc.us/dtf/gis2/IntActMapPage.htm, and browse around our neighborhood to find your lot, the footprint of your home, historic district boundaries, zoning designations, city council districts, parks, city facilities, trails, and streets.

Jane says this is a "work in progress," changing as the public provides helpful feedback. 

Playground Equipment Update

Angie Leath, park committee chair, reports that the City Parks & Recreation Department has provided an update on replacement of our playground equipment and other items in the park:



1. The play equipment replacement may be in September.
2. Existing tables/benches will be replaced with PVC tables/benches.
3. Scattered existing benches will have slats replaced with wood-look recycled PVC slats.
4. Examples of the new tables and benches can be seen at the tennis courts near the War Memorial Stadium. (The new tables for Fisher Park will be six feet in length; the ones at the tennis courts are eight feet.)

Questions? Call Angie Leath, park committee chair at 379-9699. 

For more information on the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, visit www.triadneighbors.com/fisherpark

Guidelines to be Revised


Now is *your* opportunity to affect revision in our cities Historic District Guidelines! Neighbor **Cindy Hatfield** is on a new guidelines revision committee.

Please call **Cindy at 272-6472** and give her specific examples of Historic District Guidelines you'd like to see revised.

We hope Guidelines can be (1) revised to ensure architecturally significant features are better preserved and (2) clarified so it is easy for residents to understand what is required vs. what is only recommended.


Whether you feel current Guidelines need to be tightened, loosened, or clarified, Cindy and all members of this volunteer committee request **your input now**.

The Historic Preservation Guideline Review Team is made up of approximately ten people. Three representatives are (or will be when fully appointed) from the three existing historic neighborhoods, three are from the Historic Preservation Commission, one is from Greensboro College, one is from First Presbyterian Church, one is a non-resident property owner (who is soon moving to Fisher Park). Also, Aycock Middle School has been invited to appoint a representative.

The group has met five times, most recently June 17. 

Successful Home History Workshop

Forty folks from around town joined us as we organized our first-ever **Home History Workshop** at the Central Library in May. A city librarian, an archivist, a preservation planner, and our neighborhood president reviewed sources to research the history of your own home. We'll schedule a **repeat performance for the fall**. Please consider researching your home's history, then submitting a summary page or two to the

neighborhood association for compilation into a Fisher Park Centennial Home History book, to be stored at the library. Your Spring Fisher Parker provided a simple step-by-step method to research Fisher Park homes. Lost your copy? Visit www.triadneighbors.com/fisherpark to print a copy or call Ann Stringfield at 273-1393 to request another copy. Thanks for participating in our neighborhood's **Centennial Home History** project! 

Aycock Appeals for Stadium Feasibility Study Donations

Submitted by Tracy Lamouthe

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association


Since 1926 Greensboro's remarkable War Memorial Stadium has seen some exciting baseball:

- Mickey Mantle once patrolled its outfield.
- 19-year-old Don Mattingly drove in 100 runs in a single season.
- Derek Jeter made the spectacular seem routine at shortstop.

Indeed, War Memorial has a legendary past; and we believe it has an even brighter future as Greensboro's home for minor league baseball.

But we need your help. The Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association is raising \$90,000 to conduct a feasibility study and develop a master plan for the neighborhood and its historic stadium. To date, we've raised \$30,000, and your donation will help us show that renovating War Memorial is a viable alternative to new construction, and that a revitalized neighborhood coupled with a state-of-the-art stadium will serve as an asset to the entire city.

In his initial assessment, Phillip Bess, architect and urban ballpark expert concluded that: "Renovating War Memorial to meet the programmatic needs of the Bats can be done – and done well – at considerably less cost than the construction of a new stadium and to the financial benefit of the Bats and the experiential benefit of their fans."

Please send your tax deductible check – made out to Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association FOS – to Preservation Greensboro, Inc., P.O. Box 13136, Greensboro, NC 27415. **All contributions are tax-deductible. Tax ID no. 58-1574635.** If you need more information or wish to volunteer, call Tracy Lamouthe at 274-5134. 

ADVERTISEMENT
HERE

FOR THESE CONCERNS,
PLEASE CONTACT:

Community Development Program

Historic District Staff 373-2349

- Certificate of Appropriateness
- Historic District Guidelines
- Historic District Design Manual
- Technical Advice

Housing/Community Development Web

Address: www.ci.greensboro.nc.us/hcd/

Zoning Enforcement 373-2630

- Historic District Regulations Violations
- Zoning Violations

Local Ordinance Enforcement 373-2111

- Minimum Housing Standards Violations
- Lot Clean-Up Violations

Traffic Violations 373-2757

- Parking in Yard
- Parking in Right-of-Way

Creek Water Quality/

Concerns About Pollution 373-2055

FISHER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2002

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 Steve Price 378-1812
 Katrina Solomon 370-1628

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Park Committee Chair: Angie Leath 379-9699
 Historian: Mary Lee Copeland 274-7826
 Newcomer Welcome: Connie Usry 279-8383
 Newsletter: Liz Urquhart 373-1250
 Ann Stringfield 273-1393

Block Captain Coordinators:

Jim Willis (Northern Fisher Park) 275-5092
 Cheryl Poole (Southern Fisher Park) 275-0333