

A Newsletter of the Duke Park Neighborhood Association

A FRIEND was describing how she and a friend were watching a woman walk past. They turned away for a second and when they turned back she had disappeared. "Where did she go? That's suspicious." The other friend scoffed and refused to cross the street to check it out. Fortunately, checking it out was the thing to do, as she saved the poor woman from being sexually assaulted. "Should I have called the police when I noticed she had disappeared?" she asked. Repeating a familiar refrain from

by Dan Read

Letter from the President

previous newsletters and internet postings, I said "Of course. When in doubt, call the police. Let them decide if it is worth their trouble." "Oh yeah, you're from Duke Park," the friend said, "you guys are SO aggressive about calling the police." "Of course we are," I said, "the police have sat right here in this room and said the same thing themselves. 'You call us, we'll

decide how to handle it.""

A recent incident of apparent assault raised hackles along Washington Street, but prompt response by the police and a prompt explanation of what happened from District 2 Commander Larry Smith avoided a lot of anxious wondering and rumor spreading.

It does not always work well. People have had to wait hours before they get a return call about shots fired. But there is much better communication today than there was five years ago, let alone twenty years ago.

So stay alert, Duke Park. Keep in touch with your neighbors and the police. Everybody benefits.

Our State House representative Larry Hall has said it well at several recent political gatherings. "The candidate we have to worry about the most is apathy," he says. "Apathy is winning, and we cannot afford to let that happen." What is true in the state political arena is true in the neighborhood. It is tempting after a hard day at work to kick back, turn on the tube and zone out But your neighborhood, to be the kind of place we all want to live in, needs your activity. Later this summer we will have a "town meeting" to gather input on the renovation of the old bath house. We need your participation and ideas. (continued on page 2)



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Letter from the President

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The City's pledge to support renovation of the bath house, as opposed to paying for it all out of City funds, is premised on active support from interested neighbors and community groups.

The Durham Central Market recently got an option contract to build a grocery on the vacant lot at the corner of Mangum and Broadway. That's exciting, but we/they will need neighbors to pitch in and contribute time and treasure to make it work. Our energy retrofit program needs interested persons to step up and help canvas houses and implement energy-saving ideas.

The list goes on. Be part of the solution – don't let apathy conquer our neighborhood!

Volunteer today!

* * *



Carta del Presidente

Escrito por Dan Read / Traducido por Gary Rosch

UNA AMIGA me estaba contando de como ella y otra amiga miraban a una mujer pasar. Daban la vuelta por unos segundos y cuando miraban al otro lado de nuevo, la mujer había desaparecido. "¿A dónde fue? Qué raro." La otra amiga se reía y calle investigar. negaba cruzar la para Afortunadamente, investigar fue la cosa más prudente hacer, porque salvó a la pobre mujer de un asalto sexual. "¿Debía haber llamado a la policía en cuanto me di cuenta de que se había desaparecido?" me preguntó.

Repitiendo un refrán común de los boletines y por Internet, le dije, "Por supuesto. Cuando hay alguna duda, llame a la policía." "Pues claro," me respondió mi amiga "vives en Duke Park. Ustedes son MUY agresivos en cuanto a las llamadas a la policía." "Claro que sí" le dije "nos dijeron la policía en esta misma salón que debíamos hacerlo. 'Llamen a la policía y dejen a nosotros decidir cómo actuar.'

Un incidente reciente de un supuesto asalto levantó la cólera por la calle Washington, pero la reacción rápida de la policía, y una explicación en seguida de los hechos en cuestión del comandante Larry Smith del Distrito 2, evitó mucha confusión y también la proliferación de chismes sobre el asunto. No funciona bien *siempre*. Algunos han esperado horas antes de recibir una llamada de vuelta sobre los disparos. Pero la situación es mucho mejor que hace cinco años, y mejor aún de que hace veinte años.

Así que manténgase la vigilancia, Duke Park. Hable con los vecinos y la policía. Así ganan todos. Nuestro diputado de la Cámara de Representantes estatal, Larry Hall, lo ha dicho mejor en sus últimas reuniones políticas. "El candidato de quien tenemos que preocuparnos más es *la apatía*. La apatía nos está venciendo, y no podemos dejar que esto pase." Lo que es verdad para los políticos, también tiene sentido en el barrio. Sería muy fácil, después de un día muy largo, llegar a casa, poner la tele y olvidarse de todo. Pero para tener un barrio en donde todos. *(Seguido la página 5)*

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New DPNA Website!

by Cheryl Summers

IN APRIL, DPNA proudly launched its new website at www.dukepark.org. As vou navigate the pages you will find historical and current information about Duke Park, DPNA and DPPI, recent news and upcoming gallery events, a photo of neighborhood activity, as well as useful contacts and links to helpful resources.

With the addition of PayPal buttons, you can now conveniently make a secure online transaction. These include purchasing or renewing your DPNA Membership, making a



donation to DPNA, and, for *Around the Park* advertisers, purchasing your subscription. Did we mention that the digital version of the ATP newsletter is again available for download? You'll find that and much, much more.

Our new website would not be possible without the talents of DPNA member Brad Simpson, owner of Swashbuckler Interactive (www.swashbucklerinteractive.com). The Board wishes to extend its appreciation to Brad, who volunteered his time and effort to design and develop the site. Brad also has agreed to stay on as webmaster and train a volunteer among you to undertake that role. We're counting on you to step up to the plate.

IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE GO TO <u>WWW.DUKEPARK.ORG</u> OFTEN

HAVE FUN EXPLORING THE SITE !!







Duke Park Bath House Update

by Bill Anderson

For as long as I've lived in Duke Park, about 30 years, we've begged the city for attention to the park bathroom facilities. I can remember addressing the city council, saying: "the condition of those bathrooms doesn't exactly encourage the kids to get out of the pool to use them." The pool is long gone while the bathroom problem remains, but for the first time ever, a real solution has begun to develop.

Clearly it's a different city council, and even more so, a new city government that has brought us to this point, along with a very persistent group of citizens from Duke Park, not the least of which is our President, Dan Read, together with the other Duke Park neighbors who attended the Coffee with Council in March. The President of Old North Durham, Steve Graff, and many other residents of our sister neighborhood, and even Walltown leaders joined in while Dan expressed, for all of those attending, our collective desires for saving the bath house and converting it into a community center.

Dan Read asked the critical question, "What will the city contribute toward the effort?" We received an answer that evening, in the form of an offer: **\$150,000**. During this tight budget cycle, that's a pretty generous offer.

The ball is now in Duke Park's court, and we have yet to reply. The reply we hope to make,



one day, will be the signing of a lease that we've been working on for four years. The lease terms would include requiring the Duke Park Preservation Initiative (DPPI) to renovate the bathhouse into the community center of our dreams, agree to maintain it for the next two decades... *and* pay the City \$20 per year for the privilege.

I'll sign that lease for DPPI, our neighborhood, Old North Durham, and everyone else who may plan to visit Duke Park for the next 20 years, as soon as it's clear we can accomplish (continued on page 6)

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Durham Central Market Update *By Robin Arcus*

DURHAM CENTRAL MARKET is very pleased to announce a pending location for its cooperative grocery store – at the corner of Mangum and Broadway Streets, which is currently a vacant piece of land. Over the last several months the board has been actively negotiating for an option to purchase this property and now that option is in hand. The option allows twelve months for gauging owner support, for community development, and for fund raising.

Plans include working with the city on community development plans for the surrounding area and determining how the site will meet city requirements. Additionally, Durham Central Market will be working with neighborhood churches, community groups and local leaders.

Durham Central Market aims to be your neighborhood grocery store with fresh local produce and products, seven days a week. If you would like to learn more or to join for \$100 per share, visit www.durhamcentralmarket.org

* * *

Carta del Presidente

continuación de la pagina 2

queremos vivir, hay que participar. Más tarde en el verano vamos a tener una "reunión del barrio" para escuchar sugerencias sobre la renovación del baño viejo del parque. Necesitamos su participación y Thanks For Your Generosity! The DPNA Board

THE DPNA BOARD extends its genuine thanks to recent contributors: Carol Bond, Jehanne Gheith & Sam Need, Angelina Schiavore.

sus ideas. La promesa de la ciudad de soportar la renovación, en vez de pagarlo todo de los fondos municipales, presume la ayuda activa de vecinos interesados y organizaciones comunitarias.

El *Durham Central Market* recientemente logró la opción de construir una tienda en la esquina de Mangum y Broadway. Es emocionante, pero necesitamos vecinos para ofrecer dinero y tiempo para hacerlo un éxito. El programa de modernización energética también necesita voluntarios para visitar casas e implementar ideas para conservar la energía.

Y la lista continúa. Hágase parte de la solución. ¡No deje que la apatía conquista nuestro barrio!

¡Apúntese como voluntario hoy!

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Duke Park Bath House

(continued from page 4)

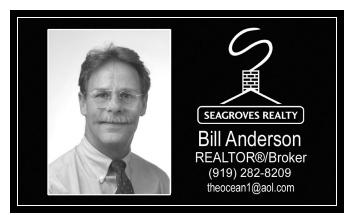
the renovation, and the 20-year maintenance plan, with whatever funds we can find. We should be encouraged by the \$150k start. However, in order to even guess at what it will take - in terms of total dollars and effort, we need to know what constitutes the "community center of our collective dreams." I have a few ideas, and Angelo Abbate has volunteered to organize planning meetings to allow community input towards the center's design. That's step number one.

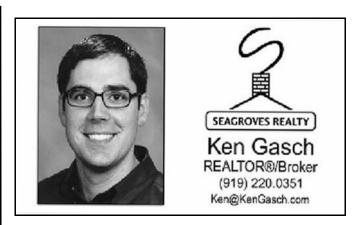
I'm not asking you for money. <u>Yet.</u> However, DPPI needs your creativity, your ideas your input, to design something that you believe you would use for more than just a restroom. We already know there will be great public bathrooms in the design, but what else would YOU like to do with that 2800 square feet? The ball is in our court, but before we can reply - we will need to design a community center that will suit <u>all</u> of our needs.

HELP us produce *that*. Attend the meetings when we announce them, and don't hesitate to make suggestions that will help create a center that will serve your needs. In addition to the upcoming meetings, you can share your ideas over the neighborhood listserv, or directly with me at theocean1@aol.com.

Your neighborhood needs you - NOW. We need your <u>dreams</u>, and if you are reading this in Old North Durham, we need yours, too.

Bill Anderson, *President* Duke Park Preservation Initiative 282-8209





DPNA Record-Breaking Membership by Cheryl Summers

WE ARE 156 Members strong! Thank you new and existing residents on becoming a DPNA member. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to join DPNA or renew your membership. Use the form on the back cover to send your dues by mail, or you may now join online though the DPNA website (http://dukepark.org/membership). We look to your continued support this year. Let's now welcome our new and renewal members since the last issue of *ATP*.

New/Renew DPNA Members:

Joanne Abel & Rama Mills, Jim & Betty Bailey, Steve Phillip Bobbitt, Carol Bond, Ruby Brown, Greg Dunnegan, Anne Everitt, Maxie Figgs, Jehanne Gheith & Sam Need, Brian Green, Robyn Gunn & Will Dean, Randall McLeod, Evelyn Overby, Joel Page, Angelina Schiavore, John Sideris, Yvette Thomas, Erin & Joel Weant, Loren Webster.

PICNIC IN THE PARK!! When: Saturday, July 3 11 A.M. to 2 P. M. Where: Duke Park (of course!) DPNA provides hotdogs/hamburgers/ veggie burgers and drinks Bring your side dishes and get ready for lots of games and competition!

Duke Park Babes Corner

by Laurie Siegel



MATEO NAHUEL ESTIGARRIBIA was born to parents Ellen Anne McLarney and Bruno Estigarribia (and brother Nicolás) on October 10, 2008. Mateo, meaning "Gift of God," is learning two languages at once, due to his bilingual household! His favorite activities at the moment include school bus spotting around town and playing with his favorite school bus toy, a prized possession from the wonderful Museum of Life and Science. Mateo is able to discern buses, trucks, school buses, and excavators and knows their names in both English and Spanish. He also loves favorite to sing his songs Itsy Bitsy Spider and Frère Jacques.

Mateo es un chancho loco que come todo!

His first food ever was Toblerone! He is a chocolate lover like his papí, a pasta lover like his brother, and a corn lover like his mamí. Mateo's family loves living in Duke Park for so many reasons, not the least of which is that huge, beautiful park right down the street. The fun and friendly kids, babies, dogs, and neighbors make it such a welcoming neighborhood and the fig trees and mulberry bushes make it such a beautiful place to be.

We won't even mention that one very special trampoline, because if that secret got out, <u>Mateo would never get to jump again!</u>



PARENTING SOS PROGRAM AVAILABLE

THE Parenting SOS Program, through the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, is reaching out to parents of preschool-age children. The SOS program helps parents by assisting them in developing new skills to better manage their many responsibilities and to manage stress, which can help parents create home environments that foster healthy lifestyle behaviors in their children.

If you would like to talk with a member of the team, please call them at 843-0603 or you can email them at <u>myparentingsos@unc.edu</u>. Additional details about the project can be found at the website: <u>www.myparentingsos.org</u>.

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Duke Park Neighborhood Association

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2009-10 DPNA Board of Directors

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Sara Chase, Editor Laurie Siegel, Columnist Gary Rosch, Spanish Translator Carol Donin, Distribution Manager Cheryl Summers, Advertising Manager

Volunteers Needed!!!

We need **YOU** to serve Duke Park. Volunteer your service today as a DPNA officer or Board Member. Contact us at **dukepark@yahoogroups.com**.

> Next Assn Meeting: TBA Next Board Meeting: TBA

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Thanks a Million!

A MILLION THANKS are extended to our Duke Park Newsletter Delivers, who hand-deliver this newsletter to every home in Duke Park each quarter, including: Bill Anderson, Esther Bent, Peggy Brown, Gary Butler, Pam Campa, Chris Crochetiere, Cindy Current, Jesse Eustice, Cari Furiness, Kathleen Gagnon, Brian Green, Andy Henry, Stewart Kennedy, Aura LaBarre, Dave Milkereit, Scott Mitchell, Jenni, Carter & Macey Owen, Lori Pistor, Dan Read, Donna & Jeff Sell, Calvin Sheppard, Barb Smalley, Deborah Wallace, Carl Weisner.

Thanks also to our back-up delivery volunteers: Richard Hart & Sally Hicks, Marty Jarrell, David Negrotto, and Sandi Gray-Terry.

We especially thank **YOU**, our **Members**, and the **Advertisers** who, together, make this publication possible! Please be sure to patronize our advertisers. And, don't forget to take time out to join DPNA or renew your membership today.

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