

# Around the Park



An InterNeighborhood Council member neighborhood

## President's Letter

By Dan Read - July 2015

Life is bountiful and hard to repress. It keeps pushing forward despite all the setbacks and losses. A single fish will lay thousands of eggs; most provide food for predators but some make it, to lay more thousands. When I plant trees in my yard I figure that if only 50% die that counts as success.

So some of the trees that were planted in the winter along Washington and Green Streets don't look like they are doing much. But many have leafed out. Their little green leaves are pushing out of the spindly seedlings. It is a wonderful and hopeful sight. When you drive down Washington Street and see them in green this summer, thank the volunteers from Judea Temple and your own neighborhood who planted them, your Neighborhood Association which helped fund them, and the City which provided support through our City Forester, Alexander Johnson, all who helped make this great gift of life come to pass.

Speaking of things wonderful and hopeful, I attended the open house of the Durham Bike Coop on Saturday, April 25. It was a cold rainy day and the old City maintenance sheds down at the end of Acadia Street are in need of a lot of work. But the mood was upbeat, the home-baked cupcakes were delicious, and the enthusiasm of the Coop folks overpowered the bad weather. The lease is approved and fundraising by the Coop is off to a good start. They are hopeful to get all the remodel permits done and finish upgrade work soon. There will be opportunities for volunteers to help with some parts of the site work, as well as to get help with their bikes. For more information on the Coop or to donate, visit their website at [www.durhambikecoop.org/](http://www.durhambikecoop.org/).

It looks like the Coop will be able to use the bigger maintenance buildings. Mr. Bain's old yellow caretaker house is in very poor shape and the cost of moving it exceeds the value of the house, so the City will "deconstruct" it, along with a few lesser sheds. The fence will then be moved back toward the Coop area to make room for overflow parking. Again, the Neighborhood Association has supported the Coop's move both politically with the City Council and financially. I, and hopefully you all as well, look forward to a long and successful partnership.

## Ancestral Black Lives Matter Too

Open the mind and take a new look at Durham's History; don't leave Africans and African Americans out of it. What does the 1970's TV Show "Good Times" have to do with the historic African American Cemetery, "Geer Cemetery" in Durham, North Carolina? What was Durham, before it was Durham? What did Amey's Funeral Home in Durham's history have to do with Stagville Plantation? Who were Nelson Mitchell, Willis Moore, and John O'Daniels in Durham's history? Who built the beautiful decorative brick warehouses that adorn Durham's downtown area? How did an ex-slave survive the Jim Crow era with the skill of brick laying? How did White Rock Baptist Church get its start? Why did African Americans form so many fraternal organizations after the Civil War? Who was Dr. James Shepard's father Dr. Augustus Shepard? Who started St. Joseph's African Methodist Episcopal Church, and what memoir did his wife leave in the WPA Ex-Slave Narratives? Why is there a lone First-World-War Soldier, Stanford Anderson Morgan buried at the north-west corner of Geer Cemetery? Where did Benjamin Newton Duke bury the family's African American servant, Mary Sparkman? What can G.W. Pearson tell us about why W. G. Pearson devoted his career to education? Start your complete U.S. History study in Geer Cemetery, a microcosm of an African American perspective on U.S. History, all in one 4 acre historic cemetery in Durham, NC. You'll never look at U.S. History the same way after you learn about Geer Cemetery.

Sincerely, The Friends of Geer Cemetery Executive Director, Jessica Eustice. For more info, call 919-323-5170 .



Fun times at the annual Fourth of July Picnic.

## Update on the Durham Co-op.

The Durham Co-op Market has been open for nearly 3 months, and we are so thrilled to be able to offer local, natural and organic products at reasonable prices. We are open every day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. We have groceries, local produce, and we are very proud of our Firsthand Foods meat case. We carry their NC Pasture-raised pork and beef, as well as their amazing sausages!

As we have fun new events coming up for the summer. Every Friday evening and Sunday afternoon (starting June 19th) we will be Ponysaurus' Unofficial Tap Room. While their tap-room is under construction, we'll serve their tasty brew in our courtyard- 5-7pm on Fridays, and 1-5pm on Sundays. Also, every Wednesday is Winesday at the Co-op. Our fabulous Wine and Beer Coordinator, Nick Williams, serves wine samples from 5 to 7 p.m. and starting this week, he's selling wine by the glass for \$3!

We have more outdoor seating and a new shade sail to provide more shade while you snack outside the store. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Laura, the Marketing Manager, at [laura@durham.coop](mailto:laura@durham.coop)

## St. James Church turns 50!

By Dan Read

St. James Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, at 1404 Acadia Street, celebrated its 50th anniversary in November with a well-attended worship service. The church building was built in 1939 by the Seventh Day Adventist Church and used by them through the 1960s. St. James started as a small worship group in November 1964 at the home of J.B. and Ruth Edwards. Most of the earlier meetings were in the Mill Grove community (off Horton Road) with some at other locations including the old Few Gardens. As the church grew they began to search for a permanent church home just as the SDA were getting ready to sell, and St. James moved to Acadia Street in 1972.

The Church is currently pastored by Elder Cynthia Crumel. She lives in Bailey NC and makes the long haul to Durham every Wednesday and Sunday. Having heard her speak many times, I know why—she is overflowing with Spirit! She really puts a charge into the congregation, week after week. If you think Church is boring, you need to come to St. James to get fired up! Services are at 11:00 every Sunday (except the 5th Sunday) (Sunday School at 9:30) and Wednesday evening Bible study at 7:30. All are welcome. Church phone is 919-682-2052.

Deacon Sylvester Brown joined the Church in 1972 and is the longest serving current member. He is the one in charge of keeping the church grounds clean and if you pass by and there is raking going on Deacon Brown is sure to give a friendly greeting.

Happy Birthday, Saint J! Glad to have you in the neighborhood.

## How to Report a Street Light Outage (from the City of Durham website):

Street lights within the Durham city limits are owned, operated, and maintained by either Duke Energy Company or Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation.

To report street light outages in Spanish or English to the Duke Energy hotline, call 1 (800) 777-9898 and follow the prompts to "outdoor lighting." Make the report for street lights along public, neighborhood streets not security lights found in parking lots or on private property.

You can also submit an online outage report to <https://www.duke-energy.com/north-carolina/products/lighting/request-light-repair.asp>. Be sure to collect as much information as possible on exact location of the street light in question prior to reporting the outage. The online outage reporting tool includes a map that asks for exact location information based on plotted street lights along any given street. You can search the map by "address nearest to light," then pinpoint the exact light in need of repair.

To report street light outages in Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation's area: Call 1 (800) 449-2667. Make the report for street lights not security lights. (Online reporting not available)

**Please consider supporting Duke Park by placing a business ad in our quarterly newsletter! Interested? contact Ian Kipp - [ian.kipp@pruysu.com](mailto:ian.kipp@pruysu.com) (919) 229-3533**



**I'm Selling Duke Park!  
I'm Selling Durham!**

**Ian Kipp, Real Estate Broker/  
REALTOR**  
(919) 229-3533 [ian.kipp@bhhsysu.com](mailto:ian.kipp@bhhsysu.com)  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

### **2015 Duke Park Listings**

**SOLD:** 213 E Markham Ave, 416 & 418 Macon St.

**UNDER CONTRACT:** 609 E Markham Ave. & 827 Nancy St.

### **DANIEL F. READ**

Attorney at Law  
General Law practice

\* \* \* \* \*

Areas of concentration include:

Criminal law and traffic, real estate and wills, workers compensation, personal injuries, and domestic law

Home: 1424 Acadia St. (since 1986)

Office: 115 E. Main St.

Phone: 919.683.1900

Email: [readlaw@aol.com](mailto:readlaw@aol.com)

## New Trees on Green & Washington Streets!

This Spring DPNA gave the city matching funds to purchase 58 new street trees for Washington and Green Streets. Thanks to an incredible volunteer work force from Beth El Synagogue, organized by Jason Koweek, and Duke Park neighbors, these trees were planted in a record 2 hours on Jewish "Arbor Day" (Tu b'shevat). Thanks also to City Forester Alex Johnson, who selected and purchased the trees, with the financial assistance of the Neighborhood Association. The varieties include Natchez Crepe Myrtles and Lacebark Elms. Enjoy watching them grow and bloom as you drive down Green and Washington streets this summer.

## Meeting on Siting Dog Park, August 11 by Cameo Edwards

Dear Neighbors:

We are working towards finding the right spot for our dog park. We have received overwhelming support from the neighborhood (as well as the city) for this project. We are still hashing out the details and making a final decision on location. This location will be determined by what makes the most sense in terms of traffic and parking, drainage, availability of water and electricity, maintenance, best use of resources, overall cost, shade, planning for future phases of the park including tennis courts and bathhouse renovations, etc.

The city determined that the initial area we thought may be a good option will likely have drainage issues. The city then proposed two different locations near Bike Co-op's new home. One next to the caretaker's house or one in the lower parking lot. After touring the area and weighing the pros and cons, the board prefers the area next to the caretaker's house for many reasons. The proposed piece of land is about 150' from the street, set back behind the trees (three or four buildings wide to put it in perspective). The dog park would also have a 6' high privacy fence reducing visibility even further.

If you have questions, we would like to invite you to our board meeting at 7pm on August 11 at Dan Read's house, 1424 Acadia St. Before the meeting, please take a few minutes to walk through the caretaker's property and the lower parking lot. If you want to see how a small dog park functions within a neighborhood, you could also take a walk by Cleveland-Holloway's park off Roxboro. I do property management for a house very close to the park on Elliott St., and from what I know, the dog park doesn't present issues there (noise or otherwise). Two Durham City representatives who we've been working with will be at the meeting to answer questions- Beth Timson and Rosetta Radke. Please feel free to join the discussion.



Ephraim Israel and Eddie Maldonado, who live on Green Street, helped plant trees



**Bill Dandridge**

REALTOR®, GREEN, ABR, GRI

Certified EcoBroker®

My Duke Park listings  
are advertised to sell  
in below market time.

Want to know more?  
Give me a call:

**(919) 323-0271**

[BillDandridge@bhhsysu.com](mailto:BillDandridge@bhhsysu.com) • [www.BillDandridge.com](http://www.BillDandridge.com)

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices



Your **DUKE PARK**  
REAL ESTATE EXPERT

[www.DukeParkHomes.com](http://www.DukeParkHomes.com) / [Info@DukeParkHomes.com](mailto:Info@DukeParkHomes.com)

**Bill Anderson, REALTOR®**  
919.282.8209



Better Carolina Homes Real Estate



## A Message from the Queen Bee and reigning Beaver Queen

Mz Polly Nator would like to say Thanks! to all of her Duke Park supporters. Mz Polly's heart (and house) has been in Duke Park for over ten years. Even though she and Swarmi are creating pollinator friendly lands just across the tracks in OND, she still considers Duke Park her home of homes. Mz Polly knows that Duke Parkers care about bio-diversity and the health of pollinators. She wants to encourage all Duke Park residents to keep working to provide healthy habitat - more plants, less toxins. We are all here together and together we need to make a healthy environment!"

whats on your mind? want to start a discussion? email your thoughts or ideas to [wmrdrandridge@gmail.com](mailto:wmrdrandridge@gmail.com)

My wife, Pam, and I were walking our dogs in the neighborhood a couple of weeks ago and were greeted by a friendly male pit pull. The dog was trotting along, devoid of collar or any other means of owner identification. Pam sent out a notice via the list serve and we let the dog stay with us overnight. Fortunately, the owner was identified the next morning and I returned the dog to his home.

One thing about this otherwise happy ending that was not so positive is that the dog was intact; i.e. fully capable of fathering untold numbers of offspring. Given the frightening pet overpopulation problem we have in this country, this is not something you want to see on a routine basis. But, we see it all the time. Responsible pet owners should have their pets spayed or neutered, right? Sure, but not everyone can afford the expense of surgical alteration. Is there anything we, as contributing members of the DPNA community, can do to help? Maybe.

My proposal is this: Each year, when neighbors pay their DPNA dues, they will be presented with the option of donating additional money to a spay/neuter fund (SNF for simplicity). People in the neighborhood who would like to have their pet(s) altered can apply for funds from the SNF to have the work done. The money would be paid directly from the SNF to the veterinarian or clinic that will perform the service. The proposal will need to have some details worked out but that's basically the idea. I appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

Mike and Pam Campa  
105 E Markham



## Neighborhood Hero, Dan Read!

by Bill Anderson

Dan gave me a hug at the podium right after his presentation. here's what I had just said:

The term, Blood, Sweat and tears comes to mind when looking at our next Hero. Would Dan Read of Duke Park kindly come forward.

In truth, it wasn't the gallons of Blood Dan has donated over the years, nor the \$10,000 he's raised for the Crop Walk that have endeared Dan to his neighbors.

It isn't even his ten years of service as Duke Park's President, and I'm speaking from experience here. I've had the pleasure of calling Dan "Neighbor" for close to three decades. Dan Read isn't just the President of Duke Park. Most Presidents of Neighborhood Associations are darned good at getting folks to volunteer, but in our 'hood, it's Dan's hand that's first to go up. He doesn't ask, who will do this, or who will do that, Dan asks, Who will join me? Perhaps that's why everyone wants to be part of the fun. But that's not the only thing that makes Dan such a quintessential neighborhood leader. Since the early 1980s, Mr Read has taken an extremely active role in Democracy in general, and that has served him well in carrying out his role as Duke Park's President. While Dan most assuredly leads us, it isn't in his chosen direction. Duke Parkers vote to decide what we'd like to do, and where we'd like to go, but much of our unity we owe to Dan's style of leadership.

Like so many of our heroes tonight, there is a long list of other volunteer efforts that would properly be included, such as also serving as Secretary and Treasurer of Duke Park Preservation Initiative since 2007. In Dan's case, a complete list would keep us here all night.

I hope our hero doesn't feel slighted, as we all appreciate those too. But it's his friendly waves from his Elf vehicle, and his endless offers to volunteer that make Dan the guy who just can't keep his hand out of the air.

Blood, Sweat and tears. The Red Cross might know Dan as the guy who's donated 20 gallons of the red stuff, and the Crop Walk folks refused to attempt to quantify just how much sweat Dan's produced over the years.

Certainly my fellow neighbors see Dan as our President, but more importantly we see our most caring neighbor. And that's why Duke Park sent this nomination with love. To Dan Read, the Duke Park Neighborhood Hero for 2015.

The logo for Turnlight Partners features a stylized 'T' with a square cutout containing a circle, followed by the word 'TURNLIGHT' in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters, and the word 'partners' in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font below it.

Ken Gasch  
General Contractor

407 Oakwood Avenue  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.475.8866  
[Ken@TurnlightPartners.com](mailto:Ken@TurnlightPartners.com)