

Around the Park



An InterNeighborhood Council member neighborhood

PARK

Neighborhood

Association

President's Letter

By Dan Read - January 2015

The holiday season is over. The Christmas ornaments have been taken off the tree and the tree has been unceremoniously loaded into a giant waste bin at the City shred day out at the Stadium. Cold and rain alternate with sunshine. Crowds of cardinals, nuthatches, and sparrows flock around our feeder looking for food. Winter has come. The beginning of this new year is a time for reflection on the past year, even as we look ahead.

First a huge THANK YOU to our neighbors who helped make the holiday season special. Ed Hubbell and Karen Behling once again hosted our annual Christmas party, yet another successful and fun event. Their generosity and hospitality are what is best about our neighborhood. Sadly, they are going to retire so if you like the party and have not hosted yet, think about taking over for holiday time 2015!

In the more than able hands of Esther Bent, Sandi Grey-Terry, and Nancy Nye, our luminaria sales were also a big success (thanks also to those of you who helped set up the park). The perfect weather—cold but clear and calm—made for a spectacular evening and reminder of what the season is about—a time to share and enjoy the light in quiet gratitude, even in the darkest winter. I do not think we have ever covered Acadia Street quite as well since I have lived here! Thank you ladies!

And thanks to our many other loyal volunteers—buying gifts for our Share Your Christmas family (Lia Gilmore), serving on the Interneighborhood Council (Bill Anderson), laying out this newsletter (Jeff Sell), and many others.

And if your neighbors on your street have looked out for you and helped you out in the past year, give them a thanks too! Especially in an older area like Duke Park, community is not built from the top, but from ground up, one neighbor to another, bit by bit. Let's keep those connections strong in 2015, and continue to make more new ones. Make sure you know the people on your street, share contact information, and spread and build your connections. If we don't do that we will lose much of what makes our neighborhood great.

And how about volunteering for your Neighborhood Association? Right now we need help delivering the newsletter (an hour or so 3 to 4 times a year), helping write it, and with Internet issues related to the list serve. Let one of your Board members know.

City's plan for renovating Duke Park Bathhouse

The Duke Park Pavilion Feasibility Study is now posted on-line on the DPR/City website:

<http://durhamnc.gov/ich/op/prd/Pages/Home.aspx>

Information from this study will be used in determining the request for CIP funding that DPR includes in the budget process for FY 2015-16.

Stakeholders, thanks for your assistance in gathering the information for this project!

Beth Timson
Assistant Director, Park Planning and Education
Parks and Recreation, City of Durham
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701
919-560-4355 x 27215

Green Street (and Washington) will be getting a little greener!

The Duke Park Neighborhood Association is partnering with the City of Durham to bring another planting of new street trees to the neighborhood. In 2011, DPNA worked with the city to plant street trees on Markham Avenue between Washington and Mangum. Those trees have grown well and looked particularly lovely as their leaves turned red and gold this fall. Now DPNA is chipping in funds to plant street trees on the 1200- 1300 blocks of Washington, and the 400- 600 blocks of Green. These are highly visible areas where many people can enjoy the trees on their daily drives. The city will plant a mix of "Natchez" crepe myrtles, lacebark elm, and overcup oaks. The city plans to plant them in late December or early January.

Christine Westfall



Durham Cinematheque

If you are on the neighborhood listserv you have probably noticed my Durham Cinematheque posts. What is a cinematheque, and why is there one in Durham? A cinematheque is a film museum, with collections of equipment and films, that presents curated screenings with an emphasis on film history. I am a film maker and a film historian, have been forever. It's not a full time job but it is a full time passion. I create and present film programs, and Durham Cinematheque is just me – it's a one person organization. By the way, cinematheque rhymes with wreck, not teak.

Durham Cinematheque began in the small theater in the basement of the Durham Arts Council Building in 1991. Since then there have been close to 100 shows in a wide variety of locations, including last year at Motorco, the History Hub, and outdoors at Golden Belt. Most people know the cinematheque these days from the Movies in the Park series in Durham Central Park in the early summer. This will be the seventh season, programs are 1930's/1960's on May 22, Durham Again on June 5, and Hollywood History and Musical Mix-ups on July 3. You will not see these shows anywhere else!

New for 2015 is a Drive-In. It has been quite a few years since the screen at the Starlite burned down, and Durham is ripe for a revival of this unique screen experience. As yet unnamed, the drive-in will premiere this July. This is a collaboration with Skip Elsheimer of Raleigh's AV Geeks and the fabulous Scrap Exchange. We are still in the planning stages but it is definitely happening. The parking lot in the loading dock area behind the Scrap is a great location. Skip and I both re-use and recycle both film and gear, and we've both done shows at the Scrap before, it's all just a perfect match. We will probably do three shows; details will be announced this spring.

Durham Cinematheque does have a home, my studio in the Durham Arts Place at 305 E. Chapel Hill Street downtown. I have occasional microcinema shows there, usually geared more towards serious art and the more obscure corners of film history. Seating is limited to ten. That's where the collection is housed – projectors, films, editing gear, magic lanterns, glass slides, chromatropes, stereoscopic viewers and images, lots more. The cinematheque is only open a few times a year, the rest of the time it's my studio and it's pretty messy. So when you see a post saying that Durham Cinematheque will be open, that means I have cleaned things up and you should come on down! And if you have any questions about home movies or any other film history concerns I'll be glad to help with that. For more information contact DurhamCinematheque@gmail.com.

Tom Whiteside, Acadia Street.

Durham's first puppet troupe!

Durham's first puppet troupe for kids is now enrolling! **Scrappet Nation**, a puppet troupe for kids, by kids and with kids, will start on January 20th. We are looking for creative and fun 4th and 5th graders who want to learn how to make puppets, build sets, write shows, create videos, and play drama games. The troupe will take their original shows to elementary schools to show in 1st grade classrooms and give out books they write of their puppet tales to the first graders.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:30,
January 20-March 26

Where: The Scrap Exchange, The Shoppes at Lakewood,
2050 Chapel Hill Road, Durham

Cost: \$62/2 weeks or \$300/10 weeks. Some scholarships are available.

For more information, go to scrappetnation.org or contact Mesa Somer at 919-490-5134.

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Durham Co-op Grocery + Cafe Update

Construction has progressed by leaps and bounds over the past two weeks thanks to the unseasonably warm weather. Keep your fingers crossed for more sun and no snow! If all goes according to schedule, the Durham Co-op Market will open its doors on Wednesday, Feb. 18th! Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for updates on our opening date.

Once we do open we will have local produce, groceries, meat from First Hand Foods, as well as a hot bar, salad bar, and made-to-order sandwich counter. Everyone is welcome at the Durham Co-op Market, but we do encourage you to become an owner, if you can. You can sign up to be an owner (durham.coop/membership), so please help us reach our goal of 2,000 owners by opening!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email our Marketing Manager Laura Pyatt at laura@durham.coop. We are excited, and thanks for your support!

New Neighbors in Duke Park

My husband, dog and I (Greg, Lauren & Bruiser Svitak) just moved to Durham this month and our renting a house in Duke Park on Edgevale. I'm a graphic designer and I refurbish furniture and Greg is with his startup company at American Tobacco on Main. The growing tech community and DIY District is truly what brought us to Durham.

We love the neighborhood and we were completely humbled by our sweet neighbors that we have had a chance to meet. We moved from Ohio City in Cleveland, Ohio, a similar urban neighborhood. We are excited to explore Durham and I love reading the listserve on all the happenings around town and places to check out :)

Our favorite thing about Duke Park is the the park! We love that we are so close to it. Bruiser and I are the ones running through the park chasing the squirrels too - lol. He loves it!

Mitzvah Day Graces Duke Park

The morning of December 25th, a group of dedicated volunteers from the Jewish Foundation of Durham-Chapel Hill arrived at our Duke Park for a day of action. While most of us were probably at home in our pajamas, a group of community-minded families and individuals came to our park to continue a project that began two years ago.

In January 2013, Alex Johnson, Durham's urban forestry manager, met with Duke Park neighbors, volunteers from the Rescue Mission, and Durham city employees to plant much-needed trees to provide soil stability and aesthetic beauty. About fifty trees were planted two years ago, and the volunteers from the Mitzvah Project came to further the greening of Duke Park that began in 2013.

On this auspicious day last month, another fifty trees were planted in our eponymous park. There was much more variety

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with this planting, and Alex gladly listed the varieties, sounding like a proud father. There are "black gum, bald cypress, redbud, red maple, tulip poplar, American hornbeam, American persimmon, burr oak, chinkapin oak, overcup oak, and shumard oak," he told me.

The Duke Park Neighborhood Association would like to greatly thank the volunteers from the Charlotte and Dick Levin Jewish Community Center for making our neighborhood, and the City of Durham, a healthier place to live!



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DUKE PARK REAL ESTATE RECORD

	2013	2014
SALES	18	16
PRICE RANGE	\$72,000- \$440,000	\$120,000- \$474,500
AVG PRICE	\$239,800	\$269,875
AVG COST PER SQ FT	\$121.78	\$138.89
AVG SIZE (SQ FT)	1,969	1,821
AVG DAYS ON MARKET	48	60

CURRENTLY ON THE MARKET

ACTIVE LISTINGS – 2
AVG LIST PRICE - \$282,400
AVG SIZE - 2,094 SQ FT
AVG DAYS ON MARKET – 112

UNDER CONTRACT – 1
LIST PRICE – \$108,800
SIZE – 900 SQ FT
DAYS ON MARKET - 548

what our neighbors are talkin' about...

If Duke Park neighbors feel more connected to each other than most Durhamites, then part of the reason is our listserv. We use our listserv in so many ways, from locating lost pets, recycling items we no longer want with our "Curb Alerts", choosing the best contractors or restaurants, determining how we collectively feel about impending changes to the park, and many, many more.

Some of our new neighbors are already familiar with our listserv, but when you explain it to someone who isn't currently signed up, they imagine a slew of emails flooding their in box. We collectively prevent that from becoming a problem with a few common sense practices. (Notice I avoided the term "rules")

When neighbors have tickets to a great show they can't use, they'll post an offer on the listserv to sell them. They will usually include this suggestion: "Contact me offline if interested". That means you need to copy and paste their email address, because hitting "Reply" will automatically send it to everyone. We all do that by accident on occasion.

Even the older Duke Parkers enjoy watching the next generation arrange play dates for the kids, and we appreciate the opportunity of that free piano just like everyone else. But making arrangements to see the free piano really only require the two neighbors involved.

By being mindful that DukePark@yahoogroups reaches about 900 people, we keep our in boxes from over flowing, and our neighborhood close knitted.

Bill Anderson

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

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

DUKE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

A North Carolina Non-Profit Community Organization

Letter of support for:

“South Ellerbe Creek Water Quality, Habitat, and Public Education Enhancement Project”

Dear Mr. Dreps,

On behalf of the Duke Park Neighborhood Association, and the approximately 950 households we represent, we would like to express our heartfelt support to the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association’s South Ellerbe Creek Water Quality, Habitat, and Public Education Enhancement Project.

It is commendable that Duke Energy has established a Water Restoration Fund, and the Pearl Mill Nature Preserve that abuts our neighborhood is an ideal application of this fund and its goals.

The residents of our neighborhood have always embraced the mission of ECWA, and lend our support in a multitude of ways, especially hands on volunteering during creek clean ups and other events. The Duke Park area drains into Ellerbe Creek and some wetlands are actually in the neighborhood; the Pearl Mill stream runs along one edge of the neighborhood. Our interest is thus not merely academic-we have recently made a significant contribution to ECWA ourselves and are working with the City to fund tree plantings that will help green up the area.

The Pearl Mill Preserve is the perfect place for that good work to expand and continue, and we applaud the good work of ECWA and Duke Energy’s participation.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Read, President
Duke Park Neighborhood Association



Yet another reason to join your neighborhood association!

Duke Park Neighborhood Association

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Membership is \$10/year per household. \$5/year for seniors and singles.

Please send your dues with this coupon to:

Brian Green, DPNA Treasurer, 401 W. Markham Ave, Durham, NC 27701

For your records: YES! I Paid my Duke Park Neighborhood Association dues for 2014

Date paid _____