

Around the Park



An InterNeighborhood Council member neighborhood

PARK

Neighborhood

Association

President's Letter

By Dan Read

There is lot going on this spring:

Opening of the new Bathroom at the Park: The City has installed the new bathroom building near the play area. It should be opening in late March. It is designed with all the fixtures set in the walls so it should be fairly vandal-proof and easy to clean. Hopefully this will make conversion of the old bath house into a pavilion easier.

Historic District Application: An application is in the works to expand the existing Old North Durham Historic district to include Duke Park. See the article inside for what this would mean. The DP contribution would be about \$4,000. We are looking for 20-30 homeowners to agree to kick in \$100 (or more) each. The application deadline is in April so if you are interested please contact me right away. 919-683-1900 or readlaw@aol.com.

Duke Park Outbuildings: Across from the 1600 block of Acadia Street is a set of buildings that have been used as a parking and maintenance yard by the City Department of Parks & Rec. P&R has moved out to newer and bigger facilities. DPNA and DPPI, the 501(c)(3) organization, have offered to lease them from the City for \$1 a year with the hope that they could become a long-term home for outdoor recreation groups. If you know of a group that might be interested please contact the Board.

Bathroom Pavilion Remodel: Pushing off from an idea floated by Joel Reitzer, an architect who is head of City General Services, DPNA asked the City Council at Coffee with Council in February to fund the remodel of the old Bath house into an open air pavilion. It appears the Council is interested in the idea. If you see your council members around remind them to "Fund the Duke Park Bath House."

Elections: Don't forget that this is an election year. State legislative races are happening as well as US Congress and the battle for the Kay Hagan seat in the Senate. Locally it looks like the hottest race will be for Durham DA. Be sure that you are registered and that you get out and vote. **Early voting begins April 24, primary is May 6.**

Duke Park Improvements!

By Beth Timson

The new restroom building in Duke Park The new restroom building that was set in place in Duke Park on Jan 24 will be open for use by the end of March. To be completed in March are final utility and electric connections, accessible walkways connecting the building to the existing sidewalks, and fine grading and seeding in the construction zone. The building is a pre-fabricated fully concrete structure from CXT Inc. – 4 inch thick steel reinforced walls and 5 inch thick steel reinforced roof – with all stainless steel appliances inside. The pipes are entirely within the center plumbing chase, so protected from vandalism, and are warmed enough to prevent freezing so that we can keep the restroom building open year round. Even the mirror is stainless steel, and each restroom has an electric hand drier to eliminate towel litter. The building and installation cost \$137,026; D. W. Ward Construction managed the project. The project manager worked with the City's Urban Forestry unit to cover and protect the surface tree roots during the installation. Once the restroom is on-line, it will be maintained and serviced by the DPR Park Maintenance staff (who can be contacted at 919-560-1701) – Beth Timson, City DPR

Note: The main recent holdup has been electrical–Duke Energy is very short handed what with sending crews to snow disaster areas and shoveling coal ash.



Mardi Gras at Duke Park

The annual Mardi Gras party hosted by Sally Hicks and Richard Hart on March 1 was a big success. The weather, which had been foreboding, was pleasant. Led by Queen Marie Antoinette (Sally) and reigning Beaver Queen Furbella (Paola Kipp) masked revelers were serenaded by the Madison Elite Gospel Band and then marched to the park for the official cutting of the toilet paper at the new bathroom building.



April 22 is
Earth Day-
& Emma Sell
Goodhand's
birthday!
yahoo!




Save your trees!!! The ivy is coming!!!

By Pat Peterson



It's that time of year! Spring is on its way, the earth awakens, and the English ivy coiling around your trees yawns, stretches, and like a lazy boa constrictor begins squeezing your poor majestic trees oh, so slowly. Now is a great time to rescue your favorites from the crippling effects of competition for sun, water and nutrients in the soil, let alone the extra weight on the branches--especially dangerous in our ice storms. All you need to do is cut through the vine stems all around the base of the tree. The ivy will die and fall off in time, and your tree will breathe easier!

To keep the ivy from starting its inexorable crawl back up the tree, remove it to a distance of 6 feet from the trunk (ivy will grow toward shade), and/or carefully treat the cut stems with herbicide. But even if you don't do that, you will have discouraged it for a few years!



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Spate of break ins

By Bill Anderson

Duke Park is such a wonderful place to live. But if there's one thing that can ruin our quality of life, in this or any other neighborhood, it's coming home to discover you've had a break in. We can replace the stolen items in most cases, but our sense of security may be permanently affected.

While Duke Park is a relatively safe place, all too often one break in seems to lead to a few more. Frequently the methods seem similar, perhaps all the break ins were to sheds, and the items stolen seem to match as well. Many times it's because they were committed by the same individuals.

Besides remaining vigilant, our best defense is also the most enjoyable. It's getting to know your neighbors a little better! It's also being observant enough to notice suspicious activity, like a strange vehicle parked in a neighbor's driveway. Maybe you shouldn't call 911, because it might just be an out of town guest. And maybe you realize you should have called 911, when you see them loading up the flat screen TV! It can be hard to decide what to do in that moment, so the time to decide is now, while you can think about it calmly. It's actually quite simple. All you have to do is ask yourself how you'd feel if your out of town guest mentioned that the Police had knocked on the door because of a strange car in your driveway. Would you think, "Damned nosy neighbors!" or would you think, "I love this neighborhood!" As DPD Sgt. Green said, **"If it looks suspicious to you, it looks suspicious to us!"**

Crime Solved by Duke Park Neighbors

By Bill Anderson

There's been some discussion recently about Duke Park using social media like Twitter and Facebook. Some have thought, "We have the Listserv, what else do we need?" Maybe what we old timers need to do is listen to the next generation!

Here's what happened: Friday afternoon, a very special bike was stolen during a shed break in. The victim reported it to police and alerted the neighborhood via the Listserv, and included a great photo of the stolen bike. That was passed to the Partners Against Crime Listserv, so at least a couple thousand folks were looking for that bike! In addition to putting that photo on our Listserv, the victim also shared it on her Facebook page! Next, a teacher friend of hers posted it again on her own Facebook page. A former student of that teacher (from another state) was visiting Durham, and happened to see two people with the stolen bike at the corner of Washington and Club. Being the younger generation, they took a photo of them with their phone.

You really don't want a photo of yourself with stolen property in police hands, because that's all they need to issue warrants for your arrest. Between our Listservs and Facebook, the detailed information was passed to Police at speeds unimaginable a few years ago. By Monday afternoon, the victim had her treasured bike back, and the criminals were in jail charged with eight felonies. That will keep them off the streets for awhile, and hopefully will also end the recent rash of area break ins.

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Sculptures are coming to Durham!

The Bull City Sculpture Show will be opening with a bang in May, so mark your calendars (if anyone does such a thing anymore).

Beginning May 2nd twelve large outdoor sculptures will be lining the streets of Downtown Durham for the next six months. One will be purchased and become a permanent part of the Durham cityscape. Another, the People's Choice Award, will be decided by public vote, and stay on loan until May, 2015.

Opening festivities kick off with a celebration in Durham Central Park on Friday, May 2.

Here's the schedule:

May 2nd (Friday) 6-10 pm. Opening Night Party in DCP

- * Boogie with 4 bands
- * Feast from local food trucks (including one gluten-free)
- * Meet the Artists

May 3rd (Saturday) 11 am. – Bronze Pour at Liberty Arts Foundry in DCP

- * Yes, liquid bronze is very sexy 1-5 pm. Bull City Sculpture Show Tours
- * See the art works up close
- * Talk with the artists about their work
- * Vote for your favorite to stay in Durham for a year

For more information about the show, the artists and upcoming events go to bullcitysculptureshow.org

The Bull City Sculpture Show is presented by Liberty Arts Sculpture Studio and Foundry, a Durham-based non-profit arts organization.

Thanksgiving in Spring is May 3.

By Ian Kipp

This place making event celebrates the uniqueness and fun of Durham and includes many of the things we love; food, community, bikes, and (new this year) lantern making, and the event's finale, from 8 to 10PM, **Illuminate Durham**. Last year approximately 700 people came to the 3/4 mile long dinner table. The City Urban Innovation Office is leading the event.

Events this year will take place around the Farmers Market and on Roney Street behind it. Highlights will be a bike parade from 2 to 3 and a community potluck from 3 to 6. For more details and to donate go to <http://neighbor.ly/projects/thanksgiving-in-spring>. Point of contact at the City is Wanona Satcher at 919 560 1647 X 34227, wanona.satcher@durhamnc.gov and in the neighborhood is Ian Kipp, Ian.Kipp@bhhsysu.com.

DANIEL F. READ

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Areas of concentration include:

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

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Snow days around the neighborhood!



now, lets get on with spring.

Historic district designation—why?

Historic district designation has become an important tool for state and local governments in efforts to preserve the character of central-city neighborhoods. Designations convey more prestige to an individual property or historic district, deter unsightly new building, and make federal and state tax breaks available to owners of individually listed properties.

Higher property values and rates of appreciation are the most important economic benefits of historic district designations of residential neighborhoods. Studies show that historic district homes can appreciate 15 percent higher than the average in similar nearby neighborhoods. There is lots info on line—look up “historic district benefits.” (There is a good general article by Jonathan Mabry.)

Being part of an expanded Old North Durham National Register Historic District would not entail any limitations on what property owners can do with their property. But it does currently provide Federal and State tax credits for qualified renovations. Federal credits generally apply only to income-producing properties. State tax credits are broader, but have lapsed several times in recent years only to be renewed.

OND recently started a new application which (as we go to press) has been tabled for now. But this will come up again so we want to find out how much real support it has in Duke Park. It costs about \$20,000 to hire a consultant to prepare the documentation for the historic district expansion (which would include identifying the HD boundaries with precision). The state had (and probably will have again) grants that will cover about 60% of that or \$12,000. That leaves \$8,000 that needs to be raised. The City does not have funds for this, but they would administer the grant if the neighborhoods can raise the remaining \$8,000. Old North Durham was willing to commit \$4,000 if Duke Park could commit the other \$4,000.

Upcoming events

Anytime now You can take the bands off your trees!

History Hub Tuesday, April 1 5:30 to 7 p.m. Brick Exhibit party at the Hub on Great Jones St on the loop (old bus station).

CROP walk Sunday, April 6 at 2:30 p.m. CROP walk starts at Duke Chapel Info: Dan Read 683-1900 <http://durhamcropwalk.org> (To donate go online or checks to Dan made out to Church World Service).

DPNA Board Meeting Tuesday, April 8 @ 7 p.m. Dan Read's house 1424 Acadia St. Board meets every month (except July and December) 2nd Tuesday at 7 at Dan's.

Thanksgiving in Spring Saturday, May 3, 2-10 p.m., Farmers Market/Roney Street area. Food, community, bikes, lantern making, parades. Information <http://neighbor.ly/projects/thanksgiving-in-spring>.

Primary Election Is May 6—early voting begins April 24. Early voting sked is at the Durham Board of Elections website under “Current Elections.”

Beaver Pageant: First Saturday in June—June 7 at the Park!

July 4: Duke Park party.

New Board Elections September 2014.

Duke Park Neighborhood Association

Name _____
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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

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

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