



THE FISHER PARKER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The Fisher Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) invites all Fisher Park residents to join us for the 2017 Annual Meeting Sunday, November 19, 2017, 4 p.m. in Broome Hall at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. 600 N Greene St. (enter from back of building off Simpson Street).

This annual gathering of neighbors is a key component of the Association’s charter. Residents who attend can hear Board members’ reports on achievements during 2017, have the chance to voice concerns about issues facing the neighborhood, and vote to elect new Board members, each serving three-year terms.

The meeting provides a good opportunity for meaningful exchange about park developments, ongoing City improvements throughout Fisher Park, and events and social opportunities coming up for 2018.

This year’s agenda features a presentation by incoming President Mike Chapman, who will discuss the possibility of expanding the official Historic District boundaries to include more of the neighborhood and address the benefits of the Municipal Service District concept. The tax is currently used by the College Hill and Dunleath (formerly Aycock) historic districts to ensure funds are available for neighborhood improvements. **This would involve a modest increase in property taxes in Fisher Park.** We’ve also asked owners of new condos being built and homes that are being restored or repurposed to provide brief updates.

Refreshments will be served throughout the meeting.

LUMINARIA DISPLAY LIGHTS UP OUR HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

Wrapping up 2017, we offer **Luminaria kits for sale and seek annual donations**, which together fund this quarterly newsletter—delivered to almost 900 neighborhood residences and businesses—as well as entertaining social events in the coming year. Your generosity will be acknowledged in the *Fisher Parker* in the first quarter of 2018.

Your Luminaria kit order form is enclosed. Thanks in advance for participating!

Also, please join Board members and other neighbors on Wednesday, November 29, 6 p.m. for the yearly Luminaria Kit-building Party—a convivial work-supper gathering that serves to start the December holiday season. This year, event coordinator Kay Quinlivan will host this annual effort at her home, 910 Olive Street beginning at 6 p.m.

A “DON’T-MISS” EVENT: THE FOURTH ANNUAL LUMINARIA GATHERING IN THE PARK

On Sunday, December 10, at dusk (around 5:30–6), you’re invited to enjoy the luminaria-lit streets, then head to Fisher Park’s west “meadow” for bonfires, sweets, and hot beverages. (All City permits have been obtained.) The 2016 gathering really lit up the Park, with an estimated 120 attendees, who enjoyed hot cider and cookies, fire pits, and visiting with neighbors. A great way to kick off the winter months, this popular event features a visit by Santa, so bundle up, bring the kids, and join us to make some memories!

2017 CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, November 19, 2017, 4 p.m. in Broome Hall at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. 600 N Greene St. (enter from back of building off Simpson Street).

LUMINARIA DISPLAY—KEY DATES

- November *Fisher Parker*: Order forms delivered.
- Sunday, November 26: Last Day for Orders to Block Captains
- Wednesday, November 29, 6 p.m.: Luminaria Kit-building Party at the home of Kay Quinlivan, 910 Olive St.
- Sunday, December 10, Dusk: Luminaria Display and Neighborhood Park Event
- Sunday, December 17: Rain date. Contact: Kay Quinlivan, Luminaria Coordinator, 336.255.7299.

HOLIDAY GATHERING IN THE PARK

Sunday, December 10, dusk. West Park at King’s Chair; rain date December 17.

REMEMBERING NEIGHBOR HOLT GWYNN

Former long-term Fisher Park resident and supporter Holt Gwynn has died. A nationally recognized construction law attorney and champion of historic preservation, Holt served tirelessly—as both a Board member and advisor—to ensure the original beauty of our neighborhood. Although Holt moved from Fisher Park some years ago, his contributions will long be remembered, and his death has saddened all who knew this dynamic and personable man.

CHURCH UNDERPASS MURAL RIBBON-CUTTING

The murals that feature daisies welcoming pedestrians and motorists to Fisher Park from Downtown are officially complete! A ribbon-cutting on November 5, 2017, recognized the generosity and support of donors, volunteers, and City officials.

“The credit all goes to the unbelievable perseverance by project leader Cheryl Pratt, whose membership on the Board ends this year,” said Board President Todd McCain. “Cheryl had the vision for the mural, put the project out for proposal, ensured City cooperation and support, applied for and received grants, and rallied neighbors to join her in this highly complex undertaking. She accepted only ‘yes’ as an answer.”

At this printing, an FPNA capital campaign to fund the mural has raised \$5,340 of its goal of \$6,000. There’s still time to donate online at <https://pages.donately.com/fpna/campaign/everything-s-coming-up-daisies>. Your gift will be recognized in the March 2018 issue of the *Fisher Parker*.

PLASTIC BAGS ARE A RECYCLING NO~NO!

Please don’t put plastic bags or plastic wrap of any shape or size into your City of Greensboro recycling containers.

Flexible plastic—whether potato chip or snack bags, grocery bags, plastic wrap, plastic film, candy wrappers, stretch wrap, Saran wrap, and other plastic film—is *not* recycled by our City.

Any plastic bags you place in your recycle bin will contaminate the other recyclables and cost the City time and money to remove. Plastic grocery bags can be recycled at most grocery stores. Please, educate

your family and neighbors that no plastic bag or film should go into your brown City recycling bin.

ENCOURAGING FACTS ABOUT COA APPROVAL

About two thirds of our larger Fisher Park Neighborhood lies within the smaller local Fisher Park Historic District.

Owners of buildings within the Historic District are required to abide by city-wide Historic District Guidelines and apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) prior to exterior work on their building, prior to removal of a tree greater than 4 inches in diameter at chest height, and prior to major landscaping changes.

The Guidelines are easy to follow and statistics show that most applications are promptly approved. Real estate professionals suggest that historic district guidelines are even more lenient than many new neighborhood’s covenants.

In Greensboro’s three local historic districts, most Certificate of Appropriate (CoA) requests are promptly approved.

For example, of the 81 CoA applications submitted in 2015 by property owners in College Hill, Aycock, and Fisher Park historic districts:

- More than 65% were quickly approved by City Historic District staff.
- Approximately 14% were approved at monthly meetings of our City Historic District Commission.
- Approximately 13% were approved with specific conditions added.
- Around 4% were withdrawn by the applicant before consideration, often thanks to City staff’s alternative suggestions.
- Very few CoA applications were denied.

The message is that our Historic District CoAs are typically easy to apply for, and most are approved.

DO HISTORIC DISTRICT GUIDELINES GOVERN HOUSE COLOR?

The most common local historic district misconception is that house color is controlled by guidelines. Not true! House color is not

permanent and never requires a CoA or permission to change. Residents who live in local historic districts appreciate local guidelines that help maintain and often increase property values.

A percentage of every house-buying population seeks out historically interesting architecture, so abiding by historic district guidelines is one way to ensure properties retain property values when sold.

To learn more about Greensboro's three Historic Districts, see examples of recent CoA applications, or inquire about bringing your Fisher Park neighborhood property into our historic district, please visit <http://www.fisherparknc.org/HistoricDistrict.html> or www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=1613

HISTORIC DISTRICT HOMES ELIGIBLE FOR 15% NC TAX CREDITS

The State of North Carolina allows owners of historic district properties a 15% tax credit for the cost of improvements made to historic district buildings when the work is (1) pre-approved by our NC State Historic Preservation Office (NC SHPO), (2) meets U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and (3) meets a minimum \$10,000 expense. Details at www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/tchome.htm.

Since 1998, historic rehabilitation tax credits have encouraged more than \$1.36 billion of private investment in North Carolina's historic properties, especially because rehabilitation projects tend to employ local, skilled artisans.

NC SHPO staff estimate that rehabilitation costs spent on historic tax credit projects in NC since 1998 have created 23,100 new full-time jobs in the construction, service, and retail sectors.

In addition to the powerful economic benefits of historic preservation, NC rehabilitation tax credits encourage the reuse of existing buildings—such as schools, textile mills, and warehouses reclaimed for housing, retail, and offices—reducing expansion of expensive public infrastructure and saving taxpayers' dollars.

Simply put, reusing North Carolina's existing structures supports both historic preservation and environmental sustainability principles while making great economic sense.

FPNA PRESIDENT TODD MCCAIN: RECAP OF AN EVENTFUL YEAR

In December, six FPNA Board members will complete their three-year commitment to serve our neighborhood. I personally will pass leadership of the Board to incoming President Mike Chapman, who will serve a one-year term in that capacity.

It has been an honor to work with this capable group of volunteers during a year that included significant progress:

- The annual Luminaria event and gathering in the Park—our most successful to date.
- A new events agenda led by Michelle Felt and Susan Lowe that included a new picnic in the Park in June; monthly Curbside Cocktails, Let's Roll, and The Accidental Gardener events; and a Park camp-out in September.
- A successful campaign led by Cheryl Pratt to brighten and enhance the Church Street underpass at Murrow Boulevard.
- Funding and installation of new granite steps into the West Park, overseen by Park Committee Chair Kay Quinlivan.
- Successful collaboration with new owners of the McAllister-Leftwich property to preserve its historic integrity and ensure the safety and comfort of neighboring homes.
- On-time delivery of three *Fisher Parker* issues to more than 900 homes and businesses by Block Captains and Block Captain coordinators throughout the neighborhood.
- Coordination with Downtown Greensboro, Inc. and local merchants to boost awareness of the exciting LoFi (Lower Fisher Park) entertainment and residential district.
- Increased participation in all events by the next generation of Fisher Park residents and their children.

As I say farewell, I want to remind all readers that the enduring appeal of this wonderful neighborhood is due to involvement by volunteers. As I noted in a previous issue of the *Fisher Parker*, your work on events and committees results in friendships and successes that last for years to come. In the end, what we all do makes our unique part of this city a place where everyone wants to live.

FISHER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (FPNA)

P. O. BOX 2004 • GREENSBORO, NC 27402

Mission: To preserve the historic and residential character of the Fisher Park neighborhood, and to work with the City of Greensboro to help maintain the scenic park for the benefit of the general public.

2017 FPNA Board of Directors

Term Ends	Name	Phone	Email	Address
2017	Todd McCain, President	336.339.4089	stmccain@aol.com	318 West Bessemer Avenue
2018	Michael Chapman, President Elect	336.324.5805	mpchapman4739@gmail.com	818 North Eugene Street
2017	Susan Lowe, Events Co-Coordinator	336.402.0647	susanlowe4673@gmail.com	305-B Parkway Drive
2017	Katy Bess, Children's Event Coordinator	478.714.4228	demanigold@yahoo.com	305 East Hendrix Street
2017	Lara Katz, Treasurer	336.558.5067	laramkatz@gmail.com	828 North Elm Street
2017	Cheryl Pratt, Social Media Chair	336.202.6543	cprratt3@att.net	910 Magnolia Street
2017	Liz Urquhart, Communications, Secretary	336.373.1250	lizurquhart@yahoo.com	403 West Bessemer Avenue
2018	Michelle Felt, Events Co-Coordinator	336.509.1708	michellefelt@yahoo.com	403 Victoria Street
2018	Jim Brady	336.382.9636	jimbrady6301@yahoo.com	225 Florence Street
2018	Sue Hunt	336.681.7313	sue@susanhuntlaw.com	812 Olive Street
2018	Steve Rubin	336.509.8225	d0crub1n@earthlink.net	224 South Park Drive
2018	Ashley Meredith	336.202.4964	ashley@ashleymeredithhomes.com	206 Leftwich Street
2018	Kay Quinlivan, Park Co-Chair/2017 Luminarias	336.255.7299	kayequin@aol.com	910 Olive Street
2018	Yvonne Cousino, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator	336.312.8605	ycousino@gmail.com	917 North Eugene Street
2018	Beverly Wyland	412.952.9374	unabella83@aol.com	404 West Bessemer Avenue

FPNA Board 2017 Meeting Schedule
 2017 Board meetings for September through December are at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 North Greene Street. Dates are September 25, October 23, and December 4 (this combines the November and December meetings). The annual neighborhood-wide meeting is Sunday, November 19, 2017, 4 p.m. in Broome Hall of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 North Greene Street (enter from back of building off Simpson Street). **Call any Board member to confirm dates and times.**

Additional Neighborhood Volunteers:

Children's Events	Katy Bess	478.714.4228	demanigold@yahoo.com	305 East Hendrix Street
Social Media	Cheryl Pratt	336.202.6543	cprratt3@att.net	910 Magnolia Street
Neighborhood Watch	Yvonne Cousino	336.312.8605	ycousino@gmail.com	917 North Eugene Street
Newsletter	Liz Urquhart	336.373.1250	lizurquhart@yahoo.com	403 West Bessemer Avenue
Webmaster	Ann Stringfield	336.370.0457	InfoCrofters@triad.rr.com	1005 North Eugene
Block Captain South Coordinator:	Cheryl Poole	336.275.0333	cherylpoole@triad.rr.com	601 Magnolia Street
Block Captain North Coordinator:	Jim Willis	336.275.5092	galoot00074@att.net	307 East Hendrix Street

Find your volunteer Block Captain's contact information at www.fisherparknc.org

Helpful Contacts and Organizations

City Council	Justin Outling, City Council District 3	336.373.4638 or justin.outling@greensboro-nc.gov
County Commission	Jeff Phillips, County Commissioner District 5 Kay Cashion, County Commissioner At Large	336.337.2955 or jphilli1@co.guilford.nc.us 336.274.6272 or kcashio@co.guilford.nc.us
City Customer Contact	Directs your calls to the appropriate City department 336.373.CITY = 336.373.2489	
City Historic District Staff	Historic district guidelines, applications for Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA), plus free design review advice. 336.373.2144 directly or simply call 336.373.CITY	
City Zoning Enforcement	Historic district guidelines enforcement, property owner housing concerns, signage concerns, etc. 336.373.2753 directly or simply call 336.373.CITY	
City Code Compliance	Rental housing inspections, abandoned vehicles, overgrown property cleanup, and other issues. 336.373.2111 directly or simply call 336.373.CITY	
Duke Energy	Streetlight outage or electrical power outage. 1.800.POWERON (1.800.769.3766)	
Police Central Division	Police assistance during emergencies and non-emergencies such as suspicious activities or noise abatement Emergency: 911 Non-emergency: 336.373.2222	
Police Community Resource Officer (CRO)	Officer Randy Dixon: 336.373.4643 (desk phone) or randy.dixon and p@greensboro-nc.gov. For emergency, call or email Randy. NextDoor is not routinely monitored by police. To report homeless people using the park: call 911, and police will come OR call or email Officer Dixon.	
Social Media Options	Fisher Park E-mail Listserv 1. Visit www.fisherparknc.org/communicate.html and follow directions. Create your own Yahoo! user name and password.	2. Then send e-mails to: fisherpark@yahoo.com . To unsubscribe, send a blank e-mail to: fisherpark-unsubscribe@yahoo.com
	Fisher Park Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/70093789136	
	Fisher Park Next Door Visit https://fisherparknc.nextdoor.com , and follow NextDoor instructions to join.	
Historic Homeowner's Contractor Referrals	Positive referrals to contractors, provided by neighbors and hosted by Preservation Greensboro Inc. (PGI) PreservationGreensboro.org/about/preservation-resources/	
Greensboro Neighborhood Congress	Greensboro alliance of neighborhoods meeting monthly to address city-wide issues and empower neighborhoods to resolve neighborhood-specific concerns. www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org	