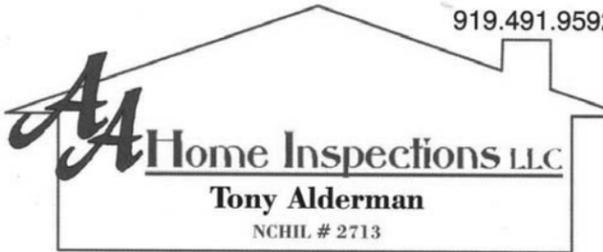


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# newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September Meeting (9/17/09)
- Neighborhood Yard Sale (10/10/09)
- October Meeting (10/15/09)
- Elgin Halloween Street Fair (10/31/09)

**Yard Sale!**

The Northgate Park Neighborhood Association (NPNA) will sponsor a neighborhood yard sale on **Saturday, October 10 from 8 AM - 12 PM.** The rain date for the event will be Sunday, October 11. NPNA will be taking out advertisements for the sale in the local papers and on Craig's List so you can have plenty of buyers without worrying about advertising.

**If you are interested in participating, please phone or e-mail Jennifer Kleckner at 381-9211 or jenjunpr@yahoo.com by Tuesday, October 6 with your name and address.**

## WHAT CAN I DO TO FIGHT CRIME IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD? CHERYL SHIFLETT

Even if you don't read the crime reports in the Herald Sun or the email exchanges at [NPNA@yahoo.com](mailto:NPNA@yahoo.com), it won't take you long to figure out that burglaries have increased significantly this summer—just talk to your neighbors. It seems that everyone is worried and many are fearful that they will be hit next. And it isn't just Northgate Park; the problem of B&E's (Breaking & Entering) has increased throughout Durham, and other cities, such as Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Charlotte, report even higher increases in the crime rate. So you can't run away from the problem to some safer city because it is occurring everywhere. Even gated communities are experiencing burglaries.

A lot of energy is going into these discussions about crime. I'd like to suggest some additional ways to channel your energy that really will make a difference. You will go from feeling powerless to feeling empowered because you are helping make a difference.

The following organizations are all ways that you can become involved in making your neighborhood and your city a safer place to live.

First is your **Neighborhood Watch** program. For many, this is their introduction to making the place they call home more secure. Your commitment may only be as a member of your block's call tree or you could become a block captain on your block

and help organize your neighbors to become a connected group that knows each other and communicates concerns and information to the proper authorities. At this level of participation, you have committed to making a mental shift of continuously being aware of your surroundings and what is happening in your immediate area.

Attending your monthly **Partners Against Crime (PAC)** meeting steps up your participation and will add 2 to 3 hours per month to your schedule. Keep in mind that perfect attendance is not the goal, but rather that you attend the meetings whenever possible and carry neighborhood concerns to the meetings and

*(Continued on page 3)*

  
  
 The 2700 Block of Elgin Street will be holding its **3rd Annual Halloween Street Fair** the evening of October 31, 2009. In the past, this block of Elgin has been closed to traffic so that neighbors can safely enjoy trick-or-treating, games, and wonderful performances from artists such as the Scene of the Crime Rovers and the fire dancer! If you are interested in performing (organizers are seeking magicians, jugglers, stilt-walkers, and the like), helping set up, or running games, please contact **Donald Clary** at [donaldclary@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldclary@yahoo.com). The Halloween Street Fair is a grassroots effort by our neighbors on Elgin Street, who generously donate their time and talents to organizing this fun and exciting event for the whole neighborhood. All ages are welcome and costumes are strongly encouraged! Feel free to bring treats to pass out to trick-or-treaters.  


## ABOUT NPNA

### NPNA Meetings

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association meets the third Thursday of every month (except June) at 6:30 p.m. at the Friendly City Civitan Club at 2510 Glendale Avenue.

### NPNA Board of Directors

President: Line Dempsey

Vice President: Katie Coyle

Treasurer: Dan Singer

Secretary: Alice Kolacinski

Members at Large: Jeff "Boomer" Bakalchuck, Jennifer Kleckner, Ian Pond, Nancy Rizzo, and Cheryl Shiflett

### Join the Discussion!

NPNA has a neighborhood listserv. Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NPNA> and click on "Join this Group"

### Visit us on the Web

Check out [www.ngpark.org](http://www.ngpark.org)



Thanks to all who participated in National Night Out on August 4, 2009. This was a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and some of our police officers.

## Q & A ON PARK RENOVATIONS AND STREAM RESTORATION

PAGE McCULLOUGH

**When will Phase 1 of the park renovations be done?** We have been told it will be done by the end of November.

**What happened to the swings?** The three seat swings, seesaws, and those half circle things in a row have been removed and they won't be replaced. The two seat swings will be refurbished and will remain where they are.

**What about picnic tables?** The old tables will stay in place. We are trying to get them sanded and painted. There will be new tables in the little shelter, which will be repaired by the end of Phase 1.

**What about the walkway that does not go all the way to the Acadia Street parking lot?** That is supposed to be completed by November.

**Is the missing link of the sidewalk on Glendale going to be completed in our lifetime?** We have been told that this is on Public Works list now.

**What's the status of Phase 2 of the park renovations?** No one got money this year for any park work. Next year looks bleak as well, but we are going ahead with making decisions about what we want, should Phase 2 get funding. (Can't get money we don't ask for.) At the November NPNA meeting, after the Phase 1 work has cleared away, and everyone has had a chance to walk around the park and think about the next part, we will make a list of priority items for Phase 2. At a meeting of neighbors in December 2008, we came to consensus that we don't want the proposed new picnic pavilion (which would be in addition to the one we have now at the tennis courts.) We prefer that the tennis court shelter be repaired and maintained. We also agreed that we don't want the parking areas in that area to be realigned in between the tennis courts and the shelter as proposed for Phase 2; instead, we want the current parking lot repaved. We also agreed that we want the stone entranceways repaired.

But we have several items for discussion: Do we want more swings? Do we want a second toddler unit? If so, where would these things go? Do we want a walkway from Club Boulevard School to the park? Some people want additional ways to get into the park, others fear the loss of trees for walk way and grading, and feel the current entry ways, if fixed up, would suffice.

These are the questions up for discussion in November. At each NPNA meeting I will bring small maps that you can take to use in thinking about these items.

One more thing: We are trying to get a meeting with the city and state staff about the large "no mow" zone on the greenway side of Ellerbe Creek that was put in as part of the stream restoration. We will post developments on the neighborhood listserv (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NPNA>).

*Page is chair of the NPNA Park Renovations Committee and has worked tirelessly to improve our park.*

### HELP THE STUDENTS AT CLUB BOULEVARD ELEMENTARY!

Micah Copeland, Principal of Club Boulevard Elementary School, is asking Northgate Park neighbors to link their grocery cards to the neighborhood school so that it can earn points when you use your cards. Mr. Copeland writes, "In the past we have used points from grocery stores to purchase maps, playground equipment, and art supplies. Club Boulevard Elementary Kroger Plus Card number is 80259 and our Harris Teeter VIC number is 2281. Thank you for sharing with us!" (See customer service at these stores to link your cards.)



### FIGHT CRIME (Continued from page 1)

contact information back to the neighborhood for problem solving. You'll learn how to determine when to call 911 and when to call the police non-emergency number 560-4600. Programs each month vary and run the gamut from conversations with our judges to sharpening our observation skills. City and County department staff are always on hand to provide reports of their progress with your issues as well as take new information for problems that need addressing. (Meetings held the second Monday of each month at the DPS Staff Development Center, 2107 Hillandale Road, 6pm)

**Neighborhood Watch Workshop** is a half-day seminar held once a year that will help to improve your awareness skills, learn what services are available and how to contact the departments and organizations providing them.

**Project Safe Neighborhood** is a scheduled series of events that allows citizens to assist the Durham Police Department with door-to-door canvassing after a major crime incident has occurred. Individuals

accompany police officers to homes in the surrounding area of a crime scene and have conversations with residents about what they think occurred, observations about the individuals involved and what they might have noticed. Project Safe Neighborhoods also conducts special programs from time to time for gang awareness and other areas related to helping families and preventing crimes.

**The Citizens Observer Patrol** is comprised of a group of individuals that have received special training in becoming the 'ears and eyes' for the police department. You've probably seen these 'Observers' riding around in a refurbished police car that has blue and yellow lights and striping. Here are some of the activities they perform: educate the public about keeping valuables out of sight whether in vehicles or through an open front door, checking on the elderly as requested by concerned relatives and through a written request, do house checks for individuals on vacation or out of town, report vehicles that appear to have been either abandoned or possibly stolen, patrol parking lots to help citizens feel safer as they walk from vehicle to building, patrol neighborhoods that have been experiencing increased episodes of

vandalism or B&E's. Time commitment for this organization includes 2 four-hour 'rides', per month in addition to a one-hour monthly meeting where strategies and additional training take place. District 2 COP member Frances Brown (cell - 614-7122) does a great job of explaining the organization, the application process and what members generally do when out on 'rides'.

Safe neighborhoods don't just 'happen'. They are the result of successful partnerships, neighbor with neighbor and neighbors with our police officers. To some these suggestions are new actions to consider and new actions can sometimes make us feel uneasy about getting involved.

You may just be delightfully surprised to learn that stepping up and saying, "I'll help to keep my neighborhood safer" is a rewarding experience and you have gained new friends and new skills in the process.

*Cheryl Shiflett is a longtime Northgate Park resident, NPNA Board Member, and dedicated participant in NPNA and all of the activities listed above. If you are interested in getting involved with Neighborhood Watch, please contact Cheryl at [scjdurham@aol.com](mailto:scjdurham@aol.com)*

## Membership Form

Join or renew your membership today!

Make checks payable to: "NPNA"

Mail check and this form to:  
Singer/NPNA  
311 Greenwood Drive  
Durham, NC 27704

Individual Household \$10     Business/Institution \$15

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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I'm interested in helping with the following:

- Winter Luminaries
- Creek Cleanup
- Newsletter Distribution
- Administration
- Neighborhood Watch
- Park Clean Up

# Bronto's Been Re-Capitated!



Thanks to Nancy Rizzo, Sebastien Florand, Richard Milward, and many others who have been so active with the Save the Bronto Campaign! Bronto looks better than ever, but the Campaign is still raising funds for additional repairs and fencing.

Please visit [www.savethebronto.com](http://www.savethebronto.com)