

Read any good books about Northgate Park and the NPNA lately?

What? A book about Northgate Park and the NPNA?

Yes, Mike Little wrote and self-published a book entitled The Northgate Park Parkview Baptist Church Partnership which is available at www.scribemd.com. And in November, Alice Kolacinski, a long-time resident of Northgate Park published a perpetual calendar/history of NPNA (the association) and Northgate Park. Alice's perpetual calendar provides a history of Northgate Park through pictures, reprints of NPNA newsletter articles, and webpage information, and other information about the park and NPNA.

If you'd like to purchase the book or more information, contact Alice at apkolacinski@yahoo.com or come to any NPNA Board meeting at the Friendly Civitan Club House on the 3rd Thursday of the month. (The NPNA Board has not endorsed this history of NPNA, she's just a member of the Board and will be in attendance.)

Halloween Thanks

The folks from the 2700 block of Elgin Street would like to thank our neighbors and NPNA for helping us achieve another successful Halloween festival. We would not be able to do it without your generous support and participation. A special shout-out to our neighborhood aerialist, Amy Godfrey, for the fabulous and entertaining performance. Another shout-out goes to Only Burger, the "official food truck of the Elgin St Halloween Festival." By the way, both have committed to next year's festival so yes there will be a 12th festival if the creeks don't rise. A great deal of work goes into the festival with the intent being our block's gift to the neighborhood, making a safe environment for children to enjoy the evening.

Thanks again for helping to make it a fun event for all.



Newsletter

Member of the Inter-Neighborhood Council



Upcoming Neighborhood Events

- Saturday Dec 8 Northgate Park clean-up 8:30 am in the park
- Sunday Dec 16 Luminaries/Festival of Lights
2 pm-dusk: assemble and place, picnic shelter in park
dusk: light luminaries, stroll in Northgate park
- Sunday Dec 23 Rain date for Luminaries
- Thursday January 17 NPNA meeting, Civitan Club, 7 PM
- Thursday February 21 NPNA meeting, Civitan Club 7 PM
- Thursday March 21 NPNA meeting, Civitan Club 7 PM
- Thursday March 28 Food Truck Rodeo Season Opener in the park 5-8:30 PM

Northgate Park Luminaries Dec. 16

It is an annual tradition in Northgate Park to enjoy a night with luminaries all around and through the park. It is a wonderful event, enjoying chatting with long-time and new neighbors, and the magical feeling when we walk along the long dark paths lit by tiny candles on one of the longest darkest (sometimes coldest) nights of the year. This is not a religious event, although this year it is about a month after Diwali, shortly after Hanukah, slightly before posadas, the winter solstice, Christmas and Kwanzaa. We hope it is inclusive of all of us representing how we are tiny lights lighting the paths of our neighbors through cold dark winter days. Every year, so many neighbors show up and help out! It is an event that truly draws us together.

Please come to join your neighbors for the luminary event. Around 2 PM on December 16 some of us will gather in the large picnic shelter (by the tennis courts). There will be a fire in the fireplace, hot drinks, snacks, lots of talk and some music while volunteers drop in and out to say hello and help assemble the luminaries from 2ish to 5ish pm. At dusk volunteers will put the luminaries around the park.

All are welcome to drop by at any time, have a hot drink, stay for a minute or a couple of hours, and join the fun while we are assembling and placing the luminaries around the park usually from around 2 pm-5 pm.

At or after dusk, please come and walk through the park and see the magic of hundreds of tiny candles flickering along the dark paths. Sometimes a musician or two will play on the paths.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, please let me know brpage@yahoo.com or 919-943-5907. I will also put up a sign up sheet on the NPNA listserv with more information closer to the event. Stopping by the park is a great way to meet new neighbors or catch up with old friends while enjoying our lovely park in its stark dark winter beauty.

There will also be sets of luminaries for sale if you want to put them up around your house. They are 10 candles for \$10, including sand and bags. If you are a member of NPNA, it is a bargain at 10 for \$8.

Don't know anyone? This is a great chance to meet some neighbors.

-- Bernadette Page



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For Emergency Road Service, call 877-627-5757.

NPNA Membership Form

The membership year of the Northgate Park Neighborhood Association runs from April 1st to March 31st

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 \$5-\$15, pay what you can
- Business/Institution \$25

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or use PayPal at our website Northgateparknc.org



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Join the NPNA listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NPNA> click "join this group" OR send an email to npga-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Why join NPNA?

Northgate Park Neighborhood Association (NPNA) is an active group focused on bringing information, support, entertainment and improved quality of life to Northgate Park residents. Really, you ask.

Absolutely! Here's a sample of community enhancing/activities that took place in 2018:

- 8 Food Truck Rodeos with entertainment providing hang out opportunities for families



Northgate Park resident Terry Burtyk arranged these pumpkins at the site of the old museum.

- 4 Newsletters with Spanish translations delivered to every household in Northgate Park.
- Annual picnic in May
- National Night Out celebration in August
- Annual Yard Sale in October
- Provided financial support to the ever popular Elgin Street Halloween festival
- Luminaries arranged for December
- Engagement of City Councillors in addressing Ellerbe Creek bank erosion issues
- Provision of the listserv

Past achievements include Striping on Murray Avenue to provide pedestrian walking lanes, Creek restoration contribution to retain accessible park area, Lavender House partnership with Parks and Rec, Information kiosk at the park and so much more!

Difficult to get better value for \$5-\$15! See the membership application on the back page.

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Interviews from Around the Neighborhood: Don Javier Becerra

A chat with Don Javier Becerra, owner: Don Becerra Taqueria + Tienda/Carniceria (2301 N. Roxboro Street/corner of W. Club Blvd, Durham 919-220-0525; open 7 days, 8am – 9pm)



Many Northgaters have discovered the delights of the Becerra family Taqueria (restaurant) and Tienda (market & deli) at Roxboro/W. Club corner. Owner-proprietor Don Javier Becerra took some time from his busy day to tell us about his enterprise and his own inspiring story.

Please tell us about your business. “We have been here 17 years. There was a smaller Hispanic grocery on this site, which I purchased & developed for my existing operations. We employ 17 staff; my eldest daughter (I’m a father of 5!) works with me. Altogether, we serve over 2,000 customers every week!”

What do you like best about your work? “My great customers – I’m fortunate to have many regulars from all backgrounds in our community. Everyone who visits receives (and gives!) a warm welcome. We are as glad to serve all, as they are glad to come. This is the thing that makes me happiest!”

What specialty you are you known for? “Our quality meats – certified prime, aged Angus beef and many more. Always sourced fresh (not frozen) and in traditional cuts & preparations. Also, we provide the same quality at meat counter/deli as in our Taqueria dishes.”

Can you share a special memory as proprietor? “Yes – the way that all my efforts & hard work have blossomed – moving from small beginnings to each success. My heritage is from Michoacan, Mexico. I crossed the border with only \$200 in my pocket, and started out working in construction and as a tobacco farmer. When this was fading in NC, I built my current business and it has prospered into what you see today. My customers have helped me to realize this good fortune – that is

why I am always happy to give back to the community whenever possible.”

Anything else you’d like us to know? “We welcome special requests and feedback from our customers – we are here to serve them the best way that we can!”

-- Interview by Deb Hawkins

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About Your Association

NPNA Meetings: Northgate Park Neighborhood Association meets the third Thursday of every month (except June and December) at 7:00 p.m. at the Friendly City Civitan Club at 2510 Glendale Avenue. All neighbors are welcome to attend!

NPNA Board of Directors: President: Bernie Page; VP: Jeremy Jorgensen; Treasurer: Dan Singer; Secretary: Ian Pond; INC Rep: Deb Hawkins; Members-at-large: Sue Gilbertson; Alice Kolacinski, Tom Melby, Mike Shiflett, Keith Cochran

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