



Newsletter

Member of the Inter-Neighborhood Council



Upcoming Neighborhood Events

- Dec 14 – Park clean up 8:30 am-noon
 Dec 15 – Luminaries/Durham Festival of Lights, Northgate Park, 2-6 pm
 Dec 22 – RAIN DATE for Luminaries/ Durham Festival of Lights, Northgate Park 2-6 pm
 Jan 16 – NPNA meeting, Civitan Center, 7 pm
 Feb 20 – NPNA meeting, Civitan Center, 7 pm
 March 19 – NPNA meeting, Civitan Center, 7 pm
 March 26 – Food Truck Rodeo Season TEN! Opener, 5-8:00 pm

Luminaries and Posadas!

It is a Northgate Park tradition to have luminaries in the park in December. Neighborhood volunteers gather at the large picnic shelter around 2 pm on a Sunday to assemble the luminaries. At dusk, volunteers light the candles. It is a magical sight to see the candlelit path stretching into the dark.

Usually, there is some music, a fire in the fireplace, snacks and drinks from 2 pm till dusk. If you want to buy candles and bags to make luminaries for your house, you will be able to buy 10 candles and bags for \$10 (\$8 if you are a NPNA member).

This year Northgate Park's first ever posadas will occur that same evening. Posadas are an annual event with roots in Latin America that originally celebrated the solstice, but are now most strongly associated with the story of the journey of Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay (a posada) when they went to Bethlehem. They were told "no" over and over and finally were allowed a place to stay. The participants of posadas go singing from house to house asking if they can come in. After they are refused admittance multiple times, finally a house will let them in and everyone is treated to drinks and food and friendship.

Please come and join us Sunday, Dec. 15 for whatever part you would like: making the luminaries between 2 pm and dusk, singing from house to house at dusk with the posadas, and finally walking around the candlelit park after the sun has gone down. — Bernie Page

NPNA Listserv

As many of you are aware Yahoo Groups has seen a significant decrease in functionality eliminating most of the features including Message Digest - a feature especially important to many of you - and Message History. Despite assurances there is no guarantee the basic Yahoo listserv won't be going away next.

The NPNA Board investigated possible service replacements and settled on [Groups.io](https://groups.io). Similar in functionality to Yahoo Groups but with no ads or tracking and the ability to join with whatever email you currently have and use. The NPNA listserv was in the queue and has now been automatically transferred to [Groups.io](https://groups.io) - those of you subscribed to Yahoo listserv will now be on the NPNA [Groups.io](https://groups.io) listserv and the YahooGroups listserv will be discontinued.

If you aren't on the NPNA listserv you can go here - <https://groups.io/g/npna/> - to join.

— Keith M. Cochran

President's corner

As I write this, the weather has drastically switched from mid August temperatures to January bitter cold.

The changing of the seasons can be quick around here.

It is my hope that during this season of change that each reader of this corner of the newsletter will take time to reflect and focus on the good things in our lives while working to minimize those things we have little control over and of lesser importance.

Halloween is passed, Thanksgiving a welcomed change and the Holidays are in front of us. In the neighborhood, volunteers are working hard all year round to make the community a place you will treasure living in and enjoying good times with. The Festival of Lights is just another example of the many opportunities you have to enjoy yet another season here.

If you've never come to it, please consider doing so on Sunday December 15th as dusk arrives to enjoy a stroll around the park among the soft glow of the luminaries placed by your neighbors and volunteers.

Let's all look forward to the coming year with positive enthusiasm and keep those good memories in the forefront of our minds during 2020.

Your neighbor, Mike

Chopstix Restaurant

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Consider "Trying Transit"--Riding the Bus

As a Northgate Park resident who's been using Durham's excellent bus system regularly for years, I'd like to encourage others to give "transit" a try.

Our neighborhood, especially the area east of the park, has an easy, reliable connection going south on Roxboro Road toward downtown, and north toward North Duke Crossing via Route #4. Other routes running relatively close to Northgate Park are Route #1 (stops at Northgate Mall) and Route #9 (stops at Compare Foods),

If you're looking for a way to reduce your carbon footprint, eliminate the hassles of traffic and parking, get in a few more steps a day, spend less on gas, try riding the bus!

For more information, see [GoDurham](#) Or feel free to contact me at brookssnc@yahoo.com. I'll be happy to answer questions, give advice, and help you navigate our local public transit system.

--Susan Brooks



Dr. Amber Meade
205 Broadway St
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(919) 973-0292
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Located in the Central Park District
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behind the police substation

Interviews ‘Round the Hood: #8 of a continuing series

(see NPNA’s Facebook ‘Notes’ page for earlier editions!)

A chat with Rhonda Loraine Jones, owner, 2018 National Dessert Truck of the Year: Chez Moi (www.iloverumcake.com: taking delivery/online HOLIDAY orders (USA & overseas) now!)

At a recent N’gate Park Food Truck Rodeo, we caught up with Entrepreneur & Dessert Maven Rhonda L. Jones, creator of the Chez Moi dessert truck, to talk about the origins of her fantastic enterprise - and her crowning as Dessert Truck of the Year by Mobile Cuisine Magazine!

You’re so anticipated every visit to our rodeo, with your melt-in-mouth offerings! How did you get started - and when? “I’ve been mobile 7 years as of March! – The journey started on a last-minute Caribbean cruise – a rum tasting event included a visit to a rum cake bakery. After bringing a few bottles back, I decided to try making a cake. A lady in Philadelphia used to always make a rum cake for me. It ended up being something spectacular! I baked at home to sell during the holidays, then at one point, began selling to Southern Season (now Cocoa Cinnamon and NAMU). I ship orders as well all across the USA – and one time, to troops in Afghanistan!”

What made you decide to be a food entrepreneur? “Well, my mom was an amazing home baker...and my Dad was an entrepreneur, owning a travel-by-bus business, selling things door to door...even had an ice cream truck operation at one point! So, I guess it’s in my DNA!”


Things you’re proud of? “My truck is a certified sustainable operation with local biz Don’t Waste Durham! We do many recycle/reuse practices, have compostable table wares plus use local CompostNow for organic disposal.”

What’s your most memorable moment? “I got a message from entertainer Madeline Stowe (daughter’s at Duke) needing to order a cake!”

Thanks & BIG congrats on your Dessert Truck of the Year win last fall - and Top 10 in the Triangle in 2019 too! “Words can’t express the thanks I have to my loyal customers for all their support and daily votes during Mobile Cuisine’s contest!! Especially fans in Northgate. NGP is so special – people really want to have community and meet neighbors here.”

— Deb Hawkins





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Be Safe Out There

We’re fortunate to live in such a walkable neighborhood. It’s important to stay safe, though. Here are a few safety reminders:

Always walk on the side of the street that faces oncoming cars. That’s the only way you’ll know if that oncoming car or bicycle is about to hit (or hopefully, avoid!) you. Distracted or impaired drivers are all too common. Also, seeing pedestrians can be especially difficult when the sun is in that sweet spot of rising or setting – the place when it’s right in a driver’s eyes, making it almost impossible to see what’s ahead.

Wear reflective clothing when walking after dark. Consider wearing a flashing safety light that’s visible from all directions. At the very minimum, wear light-colored clothing.

— Nancy Sowa

NPNA Receives Grant to Improve Rock Quarry Park Nature Trails

The Northgate Park Neighborhood Association recently received a Neighborhood Improvement Services grant to improve the nature trails that are directly behind Edison Johnson Aquatic Center and are a part of the Rock Quarry Park System.

The grant was for \$2500 and included rerouting two sections of highly eroded trail, creating a new entrance to the trail system off of the Ellerbee Creek trail, and adding trail marking and signage. Over 15 volunteers showed up for the first trail work day on Nov. 16th. Two new sections of trail were rerouted to improve the grade and prevent erosion while many logs and brush that crossed the trail were cut and removed. The next phase of work will be to flag and create a new section of trail off of the Ellerbee Creek Bike Path to will allow for more ease of access



to the trails. The next work day is planned for Saturday Nov. 23rd with more workdays to come in the near future. If you are interested in helping out or want to know more please contact Chris Huggins at ChristopherSHuggins@gmail.com

Cankerworm banding time is near

Put up your bands anytime this month, BUT apply sticky material on the bands mid-Dec, when most leaves have fallen so they don't catch & make bridges for egg-laying moths who will soon after start climbing up. QUESTIONS/NEED HELP? Check NPNA @ yahoo OR NPNA on Facebook (notes tab) for banding & application FAQ, or contact DCO extension service at 720 Foster Street (or see <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/fall-cankerworm> on the NC state extension website) for more info.



Scott Bono
Agent

1429 Broad Street
Durham, NC 27705-4142
Bus 919-286-9120 Cell 919-423-3748

scott@scottbono.com



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

****NPNA Membership Form****

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

Join or renew your membership today!

Make checks payable to NPNA, mail check and this form to:

**NPNA, 112 Gresham Av
Durham, NC 27704**

Individual Household \$5-\$15, pay what you can

Business/Institution \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Apply membership to year beginning April 1st,

You can also pay your membership via PayPal!
Go to northgateparknc.org





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Julie H. Soles
REALTOR® / Broker
(919) 317-1115
Julie@SeagrovesRealty.com