



Newsletter

Member of the Inter-Neighborhood Council



Upcoming Neighborhood Events

TBD – NGP Holiday Egg Hunt

Mar 19 – NPNA meeting, Civitan Club, 7 pm

Mar 26 – Food Truck Rodeo Opener featuring HOT RACOONS! Northgate Park, 5-8:00 pm

Apr 16 – NPNA meeting, Civitan Club, 7 pm

Apr 23 – Food Truck Rodeo, Northgate Park, 5-8:00 pm

May 17 – NPNA Annual Meeting and Picnic, Northgate Park, 4 pm (Rain Date May 31)

May 28 – Food Truck Rodeo, Northgate Park 5-8:00 pm

June 1 – The 16th Annual Beaver Queen Pageant, Duke Park 5-7 pm

June 13 – Northgate Park Clean Up, NGP 8 a.m.

June 18 – NPNA meeting, Civitan Club, 7 pm

June 25 – Food Truck Rodeo, Northgate Park, 5-8:00 pm

2020 Rodeo/Food Truck Season Starts Thursday, March 26

Warm weather will soon be here, which means it's food truck time at Northgate Park! Come to our season opener for great eats and fun free music on the lawn with our special guests Tom Merrigan's The Hot Raccoons Band for some uniquely Durham roots tunes & performer antics sure to get the crowd on their feet!

New vendors, music and activities are all in the works – so watch for features & dates for fabulous rookie and favorite returning trucks & cuisines! Check – and like/follow/subscribe to events – at the NPNA Facebook page to see roster, entertainers, weather updates, and other special rodeo activities and collaborations. See you at the park!

Neighborhood Association picnic May 17

Please join us for our 33rd picnic in the park on Sunday, May 17. (Rain date May 31.) Your neighborhood association brings picnic faves like dogs/burgers, chicken, or BBQ, + beverages and tableware; you bring a side or dessert to share.

So many great NG activities couldn't happen without our members, Board members/officers, and event volunteers – so it's time to say thanks to them and encourage other residents to take part! We'll give out awards (find out who to!) choose new board members, celebrate the year's achievements, and reveal some new fun things that are being planned. See you at the park for a great time!

Annual Beaver Queen Pageant

The 16th Annual Beaver Queen Pageant for Ellerbe Watershed Association's is June 6.

The beloved Durham-grown BQP, a FREE family-fun event, will be Saturday, June 6 at Duke Park (Acadia at Knox Street). Pre-pageant activities start 4pm; Pageant 5-7 pm.

The BQP is rich in community history & culture. Begun in 2005 by Duke Park residents to protect beavers from a road construction project, it now attracts 1,000+ merrymakers to celebrate & preserve our local creek. It's a free for all ages 'beaver beauty pageant' and creative festival for audience & contestants alike. Celebrity judges are anything but impartial – audience 'bribes' them (and votes multiple times!) to support their chosen contestant for queen. Many Northgaters have competed, judged – even won!

Indigenous People in the Northgate Area

One Northgate Park resident who lived here as a child remembers her friends saying they had found arrowheads in our neighborhood. Where did they come from? What is the Native American history of this area? Here is what I could find about the very early history. According to local historian Jean Anderson, there were no native Americans living in what is now Durham County when Europeans began to settle here in the 1740s. In fact, the title of the first chapter of her book, *Durham County* (2nd ed. 2011) is “Land for the taking”.

It is worth noting however, that the land on which we live became available just before the first settlers arrived. Seventeenth century explorers, surveyors and other travelers reported a thriving native population. Virginia governor, Francis Yardley referred to the Eno (Oenochs) as a “great nation” in 1654, with a village called Eno Town, which was located in or near what is now the Stagville Historic District. In the 1670s John Lederer described the Eno as having 3 crops a year, houses that were generally round, a separate little building to store corn and mast. They had cleared fields, supplied grain to and worked as porters for neighboring villages. The Eno diet included bear, venison, turkey, acorns and they “had plenty of provisions”, thanks to the delightful rich land. “Their government is democrattick and the sentences of their old men are received as laws, or rather oracles”. In 1709 John Lawson, a surveyor general of the Carolina colony, also mentioned the presence of Eno people living in this area. The Eno played a game with a staff and a bowl on a flat area.

At some point after 1670, a people called the Occoneechi moved to this area, having been displaced from their land along the Roanoke River by other native groups arriving from the east, just ahead of advancing settlements. European sources mention an Occoneechi Town near the Eno River; a probable location has recently been excavated in Hillsborough.

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Durham County was also bisected to our north by a heavily travelled Indian trading path, the Occoneechi Trail. Another shorter trail, Old Fishdam Road, appears to have passed very close to Northgate Park, according to a map at the Durham Amtrak Station.

The Native American population plummeted across the state of NC during the 18th century. Historian Peter Wood estimates NC’s native population east of the mountains numbered 10,000 in 1685. By 1790, there were only 300 Native Americans remaining east of the mountains. By midcentury, the once vibrant native population of Durham County had effectively disappeared. The great Eno nation was decimated mostly by European-borne infectious diseases. Most of those who survived left this area to join the Catawba in South Carolina. By 1738, when Mosely, a surveyor general wrote, the Occoneechi, like the Eno were all but gone.

—Bernie Page

Work Cited:

Peter H. Wood, et. al. eds., *Powhatan's mantle: Indians in the colonial Southeast* (University of Nebraska Press, 2006 rev ed.), page 38

Anderson, Jean Bradley, *Durham County: A History of Durham County NC* (Duke University Press, 2nd ed.



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President's Corner

As I write this, an issue has risen to prominence in the neighborhood that's caught the attention of many. Its importance is relative to both homeowners of standing in the neighborhood and renters alike.

To some, it's as important as the crime statistics that come out each month to the dangers we face with other communities that are trying to combat speeding and reckless driving on streets criss-crossing our homes.

But this issue is one that has taken caught the attention of the city's planners, elected officials and investors who want to take advantage of what used to be the historically reasonable cost of housing in Durham.

It's affordable housing and its grinding affect on those who've lived here for decades and those just new to Durham. Howard Clement (honorable past City Council member, deceased) referred to it as "Been Heres vs Just Been Heres").

Across Durham, the results are causing deep divisions. Neighbors are seeing the homes next door being bulldozed and replaced by new larger houses with some lots getting more than just one! Renters are seeing their monthly bill going up upon renewal, if offered at all. Public housing neglect has forced hundreds from their domiciles for lack of basic maintenance and safety. Gentrification is forcing seniors on fixed incomes to face similar hardships in finding solutions to huge increases in their property tax burdens with recent increases exceeding 25-40% in just one year!

So, you ask, what can WE do about it? Where can we take a position that can work for each of these and avoid unintended consequences?

The answer is to work to understand how and why this city and this neighborhood got to this point. And as an important impactful and critical point, should the Neighborhood Association take a position that might affect one side of the issue for its benefit that doesn't for the other.

And finally, if it's not us (in singular or communal terms) then who should make those choices for us?

For me, sitting here at home writing this after living here in Durham over 36 years and seeing it from each of these perspectives, I don't have the answer(s). But I'm willing to listen.

This is listening to you and each of your concerns, not just housing this time but also crime, speeding, the shooting of a child in the neighborhood...all of it. I want to learn and respect those

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feelings. Maybe somewhere in this process we CAN come up with these solutions by working together without pre-judgements. That, my fellow neighbors, is my hope.

With these and many more thoughts in my mind, close with the invitation again to come to our next monthly meeting let us hear you. We meet the third Thursday of the month in the Civitan Club on Glendale at 7 pm. Do you think the neighborhood could come up with something? Do you think we should work with other neighborhoods to "mind meld" to find solutions? What would you like the Northgate Park Neighborhood Association to do, right now?


So, again, where does the President stand on this? I take the advice of a Frenchman who once said

"It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it."

--Joseph Joubert

I think it's pretty good advice

— Mike Shiflett

	<p>Classes for people of all shapes and sizes!</p> <p>Ballet • Hip-Hop • Tap Modern • Lyrical • African Belly Dance • Bhangra • Salsa Swing • Tango • Pilates • Nia Toning • Kids' classes • More!</p>
<p>Dance is for Every Body!</p>	<p>1920 ½ Perry St, Durham • 919-286-6011 www.ninthstreetdance.com</p>

Gardener's Corner

It's clear Northgate is home to a lot of avid gardeners, with raised bed veggies, mountains of flowers and doughty oaks wherever you turn. Not long before this atmosphere turned some long-black thumbs green! Growing up with a Crockett's-victory-garden-fanatic dad and mum who could make a dead branch bloom, it felt sad not inheriting such DNA....but that proved untrue in the end!

Visits to NGP Garden Club inspired a range of (retrospectively insane) efforts to grow things under the full shade of a house in the Ellerbe 100-year floodplain. But some seasons later, our 'bohemian' gardening has nourished 20 aging Azalea varieties, established mulberry & persimmon trees, and rejuvenated brick walkways with lariope and hosta borders. Butterfly bushes and



lilacs make progress, and vincas, daffodils and irises add blooms. Even day lilies have finally burst into stunning show, after four years of gathering their breath. Herbs & Peppers on the deck get some sunlight – and tasty enjoyment!

Best is the Zen-benefit of a space full of growing things lovingly nurtured and re-appearing each season. And the fitness that comes from exercise, sunlight and fresh air.

We, and our shaded yard, are proof that anyone can garden with some success! (Now, if we can just figure out how to keep that new resident doe from nibbling on our results!). Can't wait to hear your story or adventure – send it in for the next edition of Gardener's Corner!

— Debra Hawkins



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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

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