



# Newsletter

Member of the Inter-Neighborhood Council



## Upcoming Neighborhood Events

- June 13 — Park Cleanup
- June 13 — Annual Beaver Queen Pageant Online
- June 25 — Food Truck Rodeo (Virtual TBA)
- June 28 — NPNA Annual Meeting, 4 pm (Rain Date July 12)
- July 16 — NPNA New 2020-21 NPNA Board Meeting via Zoom
- July 23 — Food Truck Rodeo (Virtual?) TBA
- Aug 20 — NPNA Board Meeting via Zoom
- Aug 27 — Food Truck Rodeo (Virtual?) TBA
- Sept 12 — Park Cleanup
- Sept 17 — NPNA Board Meeting via Zoom
- Sept 24 — Food Truck Rodeo (Virtual TBA)
- Oct 6 — National Night Out Celebration, 5-7pm
- Oct 15 — NPNA Board Meeting via Zoom
- Oct 22 — Food Truck Rodeo Finale (Virtual?) TBA

## NPNA Annual Membership Meeting June 28

The NPNA Annual Membership Meeting originally scheduled for May, has been moved to 4 p.m. on June 28. We will plan to have it in the park, not in the picnic shelter, to allow for social distancing if needed. We do not plan to have a picnic with the annual meeting this year, also due to social distancing. Maybe later. Obviously, these plans may also change if there are new directives because of Covid 19. (Rain Date: July 12 in the park.)

As always, we need more people to serve on the board. If you will have a couple of hours free a month, love our neighborhood, and would like to know more about what being on the board entails, please email [secretary@northgateparknc.org](mailto:secretary@northgateparknc.org). Thanks!

## Beaver Queen Pageant Turns Virtual for 16th Annual Event

Ellerbe Creek Watershed's Celebrated Beaver Queen Pageant has gone online for 2020! Six new contestants for the crown will display their panache, talent, and Q&A skills on the internet to gain your votes (and bribes!) in their bid to become the sixteenth Beaver Queen of Durham.

This year's theme: Beavers in the Stream (LIVEstream, that is indeed!)

You can go online now to check out their initial bios and like, follow and vote "by mail" for your favorite(s)! Special segments will air on different dates to help you decide who will win your support! Votes for \$5 will all go to Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association to help maintain the trails and open spaces we've all been enjoying during these pandemic days. Donation money will also be used for clean-up, preservation and other vital expenses of the nonprofit operation. You can also be a candidate or pageant sponsor (personal, business, nonprofit organization) and get exposure to the hordes of beaver lovers checking into the contest daily.

Special programming dates to watch the contest online at [www.beaverqueen.org](http://www.beaverqueen.org):

- Saturday, May 30th (6 p.m.) - Intro Episode
- Saturday, June 6th (6.p.m.) - Talent Episode
- Sunday June 7th (6.p.m.) - Q&A Episode
- Saturday, June 13th (6 p.m.) - CORONation Episode

Thanks and tune in for a great show and season! Peace, Love, Beaver!

[www.ellerbecreek.org](http://www.ellerbecreek.org) & [www.beaverlodgelocal1504.org](http://www.beaverlodgelocal1504.org)



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## Northgate Virtual Community events

Since mid-March, NPNA activities have gone virtual — with much resident participation and assistance, bearing witness to our strong mutual connections to one another and volunteer spirit. The association board has been holding meetings online via Jitsi & Zoom, and event committees/volunteers have been busy. The March & April food truck rodeos online featured vendors and musicians that were scheduled to participate. Northgaters had the opportunity to order takeout or delivery, and watch/listen to online performances. The annual Spring Egg Hunt turned into a safe-social-distance scavenger day, with over 30 households providing findable objects and even more households turning out to search, making the whole neighborhood from end to end the hunting grounds!

Most recently, the Garden Club E-Potluck engaged residents to share pictures of their yard and garden successes and go-to potluck dishes they count on for gatherings. There were ID-the-plant games and a special tribute to Garden Club member Jeanine Tregay, who passed last spring, but was a regular garden club member. In the neighborhood, her glorious yard full of rose blooms can still be viewed on a stroll down Elgin street.

On Facebook, listserv, NextDoor & other social media (as well as house-by-house for the Spring Egg hunt) the NPNA saw more engagement, posts, likes, views and participation than ever before — by orders of magnitude!!

NPNA is aiming on a safe social-distancing Annual meeting also. Now more than ever NPNA needs new volunteers to step up and join the board-at-large for 2020-21, and bring their creativity & sense of fun for a few hours per year to keep our connectivity vibrant. Send a message to [secretary@northgateparknc.org](mailto:secretary@northgateparknc.org) if you can help out!

## InterNeighborhood Council (INC) Update

After a hiatus at the start of the pandemic in March, INC held a virtual delegates meeting at the end of April with guest speaker and chair of the County Commissioners Wendy Jacobs, who gave an excellent update on many aspects of the pandemic and stay-at-home order in our county and answered questions. Residents can check at the INC website and Facebook page for posting of minutes/details, as well as from the February meeting which focused on water resources and pending development/comp plan concerns.

INC's website is at [www.interneighborhoodcouncil.org](http://www.interneighborhoodcouncil.org) . The meetings are open to public. They will be held as Zoom virtual meetings till further notice on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. Questions: contact the Northgate Park delegate at [increp@northgateparknc.org](mailto:increp@northgateparknc.org).

# Seen in the park in the days of Covid

Families on bikes

A great blue heron standing immobile in the creek

A young couple holding hands

Squirrels

The creek high and muddy and swift

Tadpoles in the ditch by Acadia

Bluebirds

Thousands and thousands of buttercups

A family with a toddler on a scooter, a baby in a front pack, a dog on a sit-down strike

Oak flowers

A mom and her son playing in the creek

Kids on scooters

Robins

A tiny frog

Spikes of lavender flowers

An older man feeding squirrels

The creek low and clear and gurgling



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Tulip tree flowers

A couple picnicking on a blanket

Two young people walking on a tightrope

Tree leaves changing from fine lace to full deep shade trees

An older couple holding hands

-- Bernie Page



# What is “cohousing”?

In August 2017, INDY Week published the article How the Triangle Became Ground Zero in the Cohousing Movement. I’ll come back to that in a moment. Cohousing is a type of cooperative living that includes: members owning their own homes; shared commons spaces; emphasis on engagement, participation and community. Most cohousing communities are semi-urban to rural, with freestanding homes or townhouses, and shared community house, gardens, and laundry facilities. Some are urban and built as condominiums. They are not communes. Each is unique and makes their own rules. And it is not for everyone!

Back when the INDY article was written, there were about six cohousing groups in the Triangle, which put the Triangle near the top of per capita cohousers per urban areas in the US. Now there are at least two more. I’d expect there’d be more such communities, except they are difficult to form due to logistical hurdles and need for significant initial capital — requiring either a developer or individuals who already have accumulated assets enough to fund the project.

One of the oldest examples of cohousing in the Triangle is Solterra on Erwin Road between Durham and Chapel Hill, a spread-out community of 37 families with a two-acre garden. More recently constructed is Village Hearth Cohousing near N. Roxboro Street and Infinity Road, geared toward 55+ and LGBT-focused. At the north end of downtown is Durham Central Park Cohousing (DCPC), a five-story condominium on Hunt Street including 24 living units with ample commons space and two guest rooms.

I’ve lived in Durham for about 30 years, and Northgate Park has been my home for almost 26. But, I’ve also been interested in cohousing for most of that time. I’m now a member of Bull City Commons Cohousing, which will break ground soon on Trent Drive in Old West Durham. It will be a five-story condominium similar to DCPC mentioned above.

I’d love to tell you more about cohousing in the Triangle, but space is limited. If curious, take a look at the Resources page at [www.bullcitycommons.com](http://www.bullcitycommons.com), or give me a shout.

— Dan Singer



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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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