

NORTHGATE PARK NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of the Northgate Park Neighborhood Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Calendar Dates - p. 1
- Birth Announcement - 2
- Mutual Aid - 2
- New Trees in Northgate Park - 3
- NPNA Food Trucks - 5
- 2020 Luminaries - 6
- Gorgeous Public Art, plus safety/restoration projects for Northgate Streets - 8
- Gardener's Corner - 10

CALENDAR DATES

- March 13th – Creek Week Activity (see listserv for more info)
- March 18th – NPNA/Rodeo team presents: Park Pop-up Truck Series Kickoff, 5-8pm
- March 18th – NPNA meeting by Zoom, 7 pm
- April 15th – NPNA meeting by Zoom, 7 pm
- April 22nd – Food Truck Pop-up Pairing in the Park, 5-8pm
- May 16th – (rain date 23rd) NPNA Annual Meeting & Picnic (Zoom?), 4pm – (OR May 21st -- NPNA meeting by Zoom, 7 pm)
- May 27th -- Food Truck Pop-up Pairing in the Park, 5-8pm
- June 5th – 17th Annual (and Virtual) Beaver Queen Pageant FUR the Ellerbe Creek Watershed
- June 17th -- NPNA meeting by Zoom, 7 pm
- June 24th -- Food Truck Pop-up Pairing in the Park, 5-8pm



Tree-planting day in Northgate Park
- Photo by Sue Gilbertson

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Julian Edward Wood was born November 10, 2020 at 1:07pm at Duke Regional Hospital, weighing seven pounds, eight ounces. He looks forward to helping out with future Luminaries, taking his dog, Lila Pancakes, to the dog park, partying down with his friends and neighbors at the annual Halloween gathering, and someday soon finally being able to try hot cocoa from Whiskey & Rye as he strolls the neighborhood waving to everyone in sight.

- Sara Wood



NORTH DURHAM MUTUAL AID

When the pandemic started last March, a group of neighbors in Northgate Park started to organize within the neighborhood to support each other. This all-volunteer group expanded across other neighborhoods in north Durham and became North Durham Mutual Aid. Over the last year, we have collected and redistributed over \$26,000 in small donations to help each other meet needs like groceries, utility bills, and rent, and we also coordinated over 180 grocery deliveries to families in need.

If you'd like to donate to help us continue this work, please visit our fundraiser at chuffed.org/project/ndma. We especially need monthly sustainers.

If you'd like to get involved or would like to request aid you can reach us by email at northgateresponse@gmail.com or by phone/text at (919) 886-4614. For more info, see <https://durhammutualaid.org/north>

- Megan Kratz



NEW TREES IN NORTHGATE PARK

We all love Northgate Park and the trees, open spaces, trails and creek that make it unique. When the City informed the neighborhood in mid-2020 that 29 trees would have to be cut down due to being inflicted with Emerald Ash Borer, the neighborhood kicked in to gear.

Tree expert residents partnered with Forest Hills and the City Forester to identify replacement trees that we could buy at bulk discounts. 105 trees over five species were identified and ordered.

But wait, nothing comes for free! The cost of around \$1800 (the invoice hasn't arrived yet!) was notified to the listserv and within three weeks around year end, the total funds were donated!

Now the heavy lifting. Early February the trees delivered but the weather interfered with plans for planting. No worries, a few residents got a head start and passing residents asked if they could help. Over three planting days, 42 trees made it in to the ground. 63 to go!

Photos by Sue Gilbertson



NEW TREES IN NORTHGATE PARK

(continued from page 2)

Feb 20th was the day. Keep Durham Beautiful published the event to their followers and people came. Northgate Park residents, residents from other parts of Durham and even one family from Roxboro whose teenaged daughters needed to do community work to graduate school (that family was a force to be reckoned with and planted around a dozen trees between them).

The effort is over but not the impact. One of the species planted was Swamp White Oak which can reach 350 years of age! The park will be impacted by this event for many generations to come.

- Ian Pond

WELCOME ALL OUR 'NEW ARRIVALS' WITH BABY TREE CARE

+ TAKE DOWN worm bands this spring/summer!

We ask resident help to foster hard work of small teams to help our cooling canopy and wild animal homes – with two easy things: 1. Welcome with water our new Northgate 'stork' arrivals – 60+ *new* baby tree plantings plus replacement trees in the park and on street easements in the neighborhood; and 2. Take down any cankerworm tree bands by end April/early May at latest, after catching any last new worms trying to get up or down trunks. This substantial investment in donations & planting crew time won't succeed without extra watering during dry weeks these next 3 years while the babies grow their root networks. Just a gallon of water at the base of a park or street sapling when there's less than an inch of rain in a 7-day stretch is all that's needed. An old milk jug or 2-3 liter bottles of water in car, stroller, pack or bike basket, for a tree near you as you enjoy our lucky, verdant neighborhood will help them replace their elders these next several years.



Our kids/grandkids, and generations of wild creatures, will say we did something right! For our elders, bands help in fall/winter to save them from worm munching and terminal stress – but can hurt under-bark respiration & nutrient transport if left up spring/summer. So help remind friends to take them down wherever you see bands lingering after April. A BIG CHEER to all the dedicated community planters, garden club stalwarts, NPNA tree committee team + our city arborist & crew who've dedicated so much time & effort. We will show our thanks with our pitchers, for your service! - Debra Hawkins

SAVE DATE: NPNA FOOD TRUCK PARK POP-UP PAIRING KICKOFF, WITH FAVES JOE & BO'S BULKOGI TRUCK!

Thursday March 18th 5-8pm

The busy-bees at NPNA's Food Truck Committee & Rodeo team are ready to ROLL-OUT a new edition of last Autumn's Food Truck Pop-Up-Pair Series in Northgate park on March 18th, then on our traditional 4th Thursday of the month time slots as conditions permit. We'll be kicking off the sequence with returning & beloved mobile cuisine gurus Joe and Bo of Namu fame, with the BULKOGI TRUCK! Wow, I'm eager for bibimbap, dumplings and kimchi already! Plenty of vegan/vegetarian, and allergen-free options to savor in their snack & meal offerings. We're working to pair one of our new or regular dessert truck vendors for the event for dog/kid-strollers & folks who want a sweet finish to their feast or just a treat-on-the-street to celebrate Spring! Watch our NPNA event space on Facebook, NextDoor & the list serve for dessert vendor reveal, safety guidelines, online ordering links, weather updates & more (like/follow/subscribe for future event notices in the series!) – Thanks and come hungry on March 18th! – your NPNA FT Committee & Rodeo team

- Debra Hawkins

INC UPDATE: WELCOMES NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING SPEAKER

by Zoom, March 22, 7pm

Interneighborhood Council has continued its advocacy for residents on key concerns including development, transit, UDO revisions, safety, community-building & more. Topics in the Dec-Feb quarter included the upcoming DCCO Comp Development Plan update, the NIS Equitable Engagement blueprint, and a presentation from Durham Mutual Aid groups.



Picture of Bulkogi Food Truck via [RoamingHunger.com](https://www.RoamingHunger.com)

Next Month, Key Guest: INC's March meeting features an outside-Durham speaker on Affordable Housing issues. Meeting by Zoom is open to the public! Come hear & discuss concerns & solutions for Affordable Housing matters in Durham with this well-versed visitor. Go to INC on the web or Facebook for details on how to join the Zoom call March 22 @ 7pm (see links below).

INC meets monthly in 2021 with new guest speakers on 4th Tuesdays by Zoom, 7-8pm.

See INC's website www.interneighborhoodcouncil.org, Facebook page or list serv for link to join (free/open to all). Concerns/questions for your delegates? Email increp@northgateparknc.org or president@northgateparknc.org.

2020 LUMINARIES BRINGS NORTHGATE NEIGHBORS TOGETHER... FOR A BRIGHTER WINTER INTO 2021

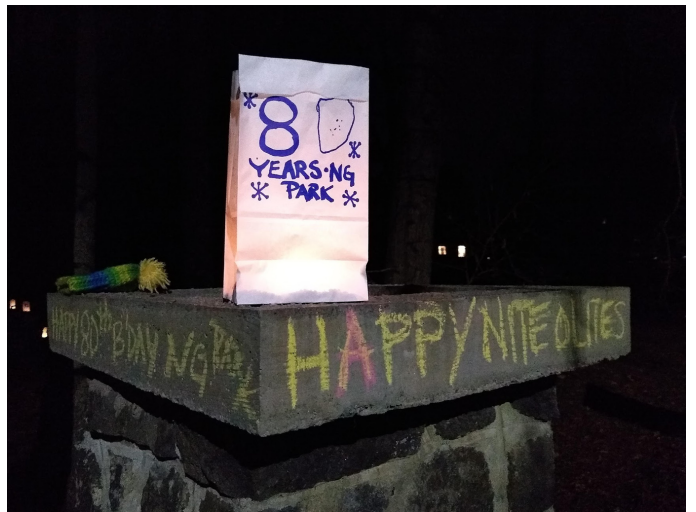
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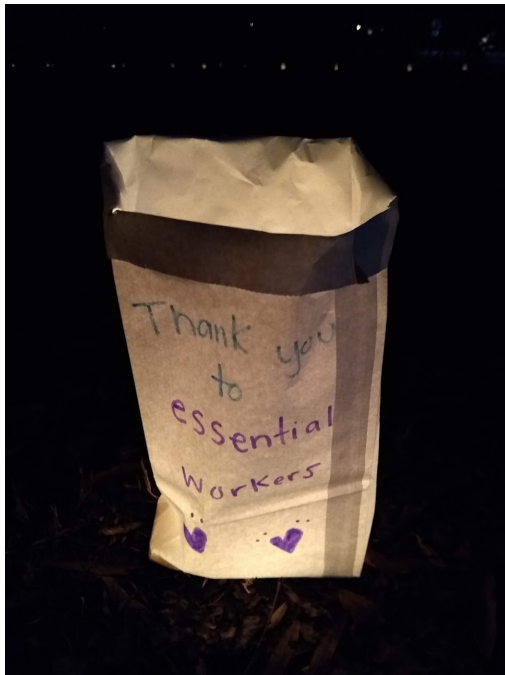
Thanks to the determination & careful, consistent effort of the planning committee, Northgate Park's Luminaries Celebration 2020 did go on, creating safe, serene, brilliant and beautiful night of glowing hope & inspiration. Scores of households took up the call to gloriously decorate and place groups of luminary bags & candles provided by the neighborhood association around stretches of the park perimeters and pathways in socially-distant mode, which the project team then lit for residents – and nearby-neighborhood visitors! – to stroll and enjoy in the mild early winter evening.

The Lavender house 'ruins' were also decorated with rows of luminaries including some legacy ones previously decorated & displayed by neighborhood children in the last few seasons of this fun event. A stroll along sidewalks or winding interior paths revealed a vast array of artistic creations, from stenciling to decoupage to thoughtful sayings and memorials on the luminaria. Many delightful creations from Northgate children were represented in a range of seasonal festive traditions from all faiths and cultures.

Northgate made community history in welcoming light into our lives as we said a farewell to 2020 and looked ahead for a brighter New year. Anytime you need a little glow as winter melts into spring, you can enjoy pictures of the artistry, light and hope of the event in the news feed of Northgate Park Association on Facebook. Here are a few of the many images to inspire!

- Debra Hawkins





COMING SOON: GORGEOUS PUBLIC ART, PLUS 3 COMPLETED SAFETY/RESTORATION PROJECTS FOR NORTHGATE STREETS

Much is going on in the streets of Northgate park! These last 7 months, advocacy with the State DOT, City of Durham DOT, and City of Durham's Arborist & General Services has resulted in 3 improvements, and more excitement is yet to come this spring/summer:

* In January, City DOT approved a request and installed new I-85 directional signage at the Northbound approach & the Westbound egress from the Club Boulevard & Washington Street intersection, to better direct large truck traffic seeking I-85 on-ramp entrances from driving North on the Washington St. overpass by mistake, and ending up in a drive-over situation with our Glendale Traffic Circle (and other concerns exiting back to the freeway on our NW residential streets adjacent to Duke).

* In December, NC DOT approved and executed a request for replacement of the damaged guard/perimeter chain-link fencing on the South border of Ruby Street along the I-85 Westbound off-ramp which was destroyed in the Halloween night truck roll-over accident of 2019 (no serious injuries resulted). New fencing restores an important safety backstop to the raised earth berm meant to restrict vehicle accidents from Ruby street.

* In February, City Arborist & General Services team on request completed a re-inventory of the 5-year street easement plantings on Ruby Street, replacing 6 trees that were not thriving or had been knocked down in the 2019 Halloween truck rollover accident. Native NC trees were selected for the project. No taxpayer funds were used (accident insurance funded) for the Ruby Street projects and no expenses for Northgate residents were incurred for any of these three improvements!



* BEST FOR LAST: Coming this Spring/Summer: Gorgeous Groundplane Public Art from community selected local artist will grace our NG Streets! On Feb 23 the review board members & City of Durham announced that local artist Candy Carver was selected to provide the artwork for the Bloomberg Foundation grant won by DPR for the Club/Glendale intersection & crosswalks. This exciting project will enhance safety compliance with pedestrian walkway access, speed limit observance, and create artistic connection to site-specific features including the Ellerbe Creek Watershed, Club Magnet School, our 80-year-old park & the designated segment of the East Coast Greenway.

Ms. Carver, a local & Centerfest People's choice 2019 award winning artist will engage with the community to finalize the project design in March, with expected on-site completion this summer. View of the design concept, news and ways to participate can be found at this link (and watch NPNA list serv & internet spaces for updates): <https://durhamnc.gov/4382/Candy-Carver>.



GARDENER'S CORNER SPECIAL GUEST COLUMNIST: GOING GREEN- ON-LEON! (STREET, THAT IS)

This quarter, welcome a Special Guest columnist from a fab curb-appeal property familiar to those heading to the Leon/Duke entry to NGP. Enjoy her compelling story about garden explorations gone wrong...and the ease of renewal!

Starting Over ~ By Kim Snyder on Leon Street

Eleven months ago, I was laid off from the restaurant business due to COVID19. This gave me unlimited hours to reflect and focus on all things home and garden. I realized I had fallen out of love with my front garden beds and admitted to some mistakes I had made.

Two years ago, I veered off path of my "manicured" aesthetic and randomly threw sun-loving perennial seeds throughout my front beds. The first year they were beautiful...so cottage garden-like, whimsical and colorful. Then last year they were a nightmare.

Although beautiful for about a month, they multiplied, were invasive and overtook some of my favorite and of course, quite expensive plants. This led to disease and dwarfed perennials, as well as copious amounts of weeds.

Last fall and over the winter, I removed all the diseased plants, transplanted the "keep-ables" to my back yard (this time, with a plan) and started with pretty much a blank slate for this spring. It might take me a few years to design it to my satisfaction, but I will stick with a plan, focus on my point of view, and be careful, considerate and calculating with my next garden.

