

# NORTHGATE PARK NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of the Northgate Park Neighborhood Association

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## CALENDAR DATES

- June 5th & 12th – 17th Annual BEAVER QUEEN PAGEANT
- June 12th – Northgate Park Clean-Up Event
- June 24th – Food Truck PopUp Series in the park, 5-8pm
- June 27th – NPNA Annual Meeting (watch listserv for details)
- July 15th - NPNA NEW/FIRST 2021-22 Board Mtg via ZOOM (watch listserv)
- July 27th – Food Truck PopUp Series in the park, 5-8pm
- Aug 19th - NPNA Board Mtg via ZOOM (watch list serv)
- Aug 26th – Food Truck PopUp Series in the park, 5-8pm
- Sept 11th – Northgate Park Clean-Up Event
- Sept 16th - NPNA Board Mtg via ZOOM (watch list serv)
- Sept 23rd - Food Truck PopUp Series in the park, 5-8pm
- Oct 15th - NPNA Board Mtg via ZOOM (watch list serv)
- Oct 22nd - Food Truck PopUp Series in the park, 5-8pm

## A CALL FOR NPNA MEMBERS!

Do you live in the Northgate Park Neighborhood? Do you think you are a member of the Northgate Park Neighborhood Association who brings you this listserv? You have probably let your membership lapse due to the pandemic. Our membership numbers are way down. Please join or renew your membership now via PayPal (as little as \$5 a year) at

<https://northgateparknc.org/about/>

Or you can either mail a check (made payable to NPNA) or drop a check/cash off to:

NPNA Treasurer

112 Gresham Avenue, Durham, NC 27704

Why join (or rejoin)? NPNA brings you the neighborhood listserv, the food truck "rodeos" (or pandemic replacements), a quarterly newsletter (paper edition delivered to each house in non-pandemic times) an annual meeting and picnic (maybe we can even get back to that this June) the winter solstice luminaries in the park, speakers on pertinent topics, monthly meetings, quarterly park cleanups, recycling in the park, and other ways to make our neighborhood better. Please join if you live in Northgate Park. Please consider donating if you do not live in Northgate Park but love the listserv.

Thanks!

- Bernie Page, Secretary NPNA



## TUNE IN: BEAVER QUEEN 'WORLD WIDE WOOD' VIRTUAL 17TH ANNUAL PAGEANT

Watch, vote, enjoy!

BREAKING: A 'Seven 'teeth" Smashing Season: Ellerbe Creek Watershed's Celebrated Beaver Queen Pageant has 'floated' their always-GNAWsome 17th pageant season 'streaming' online for 2021!

5 ALL 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 FABULOUS 17th beaver queen of Durham.

You can go online now to check out their initial bios/intro videos - and like, follow and vote digitally for your favorite(s)! Special segments will air on different dates to help you decide who will win your support! Votes for \$5 each will all go to Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association to help them maintain the trails and open spaces we've all been enjoying over these pandemic times, that they own along the creek, along with cleanup, preservation and other vital expenses of their nonprofit operation.

For even more fun and help, you can also be a pageant or specific candidate sponsor (personal, business, for a nonprofit you're with, etc.) and get exposure to the hordes of beaver-lovers checking into the contest daily. (message the creek nonprofit ECWA to make this happen! (link below)).

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

Earlier/Re-stream! online – Kickoff & Shave date episodes from April 25/May 8th  
Saturday, June 5th (6pm) - Talent + Q&A  
Contest segments/episode  
Saturday, June 13th (6pm) – Entertainment, Awards, New Queen Coronation episode

This year's theme: World Wide Wood!!  
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)

[inprep@northgateparknc.org](mailto:inprep@northgateparknc.org).



## NORTH DURHAM MUTUAL AID

# NORTH DURHAM MUTUAL AID



Helping neighbors support each other since March 2020 by building a mutual aid network across Northgate Park, Colonial Village, Braggtown, and surrounding areas.

 <p>OVER \$31,000 DISTRIBUTED</p>	 <p>180+ GROCERY DELIVERIES</p>	 <p>OVER 270 DONATIONS</p>
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## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

**Donate!** Your donation will go directly to a neighbor in need to help pay rent, pay bills, or buy groceries. Monthly sustainers help us maintain consistent donations that your neighbors can rely on.

**Seek Support!** Are you in need of resources? Our network would like to help you. We believe that everyone deserves support.

**Volunteer!** Help us redistribute funds, deliver groceries, and share other resources or personal skills (such as tutoring, gardening, pet sitting, home repair) to help neighbors in need.

More info:

[durhammutualaid.org/north](http://durhammutualaid.org/north)

Over the past 3 months North Durham Mutual Aid has continued to provide help to families in North Durham. We have several small groups who coordinate grocery deliveries for residents who have trouble getting to the store, and when we have funds available we provide cash assistance to families to meet needs like groceries, rent and utilities. If you'd like to donate to our fund, please visit our fundraiser at [chuffed.org/project/ndma](http://chuffed.org/project/ndma). Signing up to give recurring monthly donations helps us be a reliable source of support for families in need.

If you're interested in getting involved in our work or need to request aid, please reach out via email at [northgateresponse@gmail.com](mailto:northgateresponse@gmail.com) or by phone/text at (919) 886-4614. We currently need help with our communications work, and particularly need people who can speak spanish. We also have teams that focus on fundraising, finances, and supporting our network of grocery delivery groups. - Megan Kratz

## SPRING = REMOVE CANKERWORM BANDS, ADOPT & WATER NEW BABY TREES

SPRING = REMINDER: Don't forget to remove any cankerworm bands on trees! Durham's urban forester & our agricultural extension remind that mid/late May is the latest time to keep them up – it can hurt the tree's bark & vital upper layers if left on longer. Also, don't forget to give at least a gallon of water to any street/park/yard tree under 3 years old (and \*please\* adopt/water any of our 60+ February-arrival fleet of new sapling babies!) if there's been less than an inch of rain for 7 days these hot months.



Our new babies especially need help while growing their roots, to not die this season. Thank you all community planters and water-sherpas to help rebuild the tree canopy we're losing with our elder oaks. You rock!

-Deb Hawkins

## HELPING WILDLIFE



Spring Alert! For any helping wildlife in need/distress – Did you know? By law, only licensed wildlife rehabilitators may work with wildlife in need in NC. Also, if you think an animal is in need/distress, there are many things to know to prevent further harm, as well as help them. Here are three links to go to first, to:

- \* find all local rehab professionals (these are the only places to work with wildlife now in NC)
- \* see guidelines about when and how to understand and address wildlife concerns you may encounter.

Fun fact, two of our NC licensees are right here in our own Northgate Park! Thanks & happy Spring enjoying sighting our local fauna in our great Ellerbe ecosystem! More info:

[NC WRC Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com) – contacts to help injured/orphaned animals

[Injured and Orphaned Wildlife \(ncwildlife.org\)](http://ncwildlife.org) – FAQ on what/how to help (or not help) animals

[CLAWS Inc - Home \(nc-claws.org\)](http://nc-claws.org) – Chapel Hill nonprofit doing licensed rehab, worthy of support!

- Deb Hawkins

## AN INTERVIEW WITH KIM SNYDER, OUR NORTHGATE HOME-BAKER ENTREPRENEUR!

Our intrepid interviewer 'sat down' – virtually! - for a fun chat with this local businesswoman & chef extraordinaire, from her cozy kitchen on Leon street.

*How did you become a baker - how long have you been baking?*

"I never grew up wanting to be a baker - I fell into it purely by accident! My true passion is cooking & party planning. 8 years ago, I brought a pumpkin cheesecake to my Duke tailgate party -- and received 4 orders for Thanksgiving! I then brought a piece of the cake to Bennett Pointe Grill (where I was/still am a server) - after sampling, they asked me to be their in-house dessert baker!"

*What was it like setting up to become an at-home entrepreneur?*

"After those first orders, I had no idea what to charge or how to package them. I was just shocked that people wanted to buy my creations! I'd never made a layer cake from scratch...had no family recipes for reference...so Google and I became fast friends. So much trial and error. So many errors. (Lol)!"

Once I got better/more confident, I started doing private orders & created a very simple website – [www.kakingbykim.com](http://www.kakingbykim.com). This led to more research, equipment & space requirements. Also a high level of organizational skills, which thankfully I inherited from my mother (along with a great palate and an open-minded, adventurous approach to food)."

*Things were quite extraordinary this past year. How did the pandemic affect your work/business?*

"I really had to pivot to stay afloat. I advertised on neighborhood list serves vs. relying on word of mouth. Online supply ordering was a nightmare, so I had to be very creative with dry good and perishable acquisitions...and I learned to make small cakes and cheesecakes to accommodate more limited gatherings. This meant still more equipment! - and adjusting my recipes...there were quite a few "fingers crossed" moments.



I also started doing gluten free, dairy free, sugar free and even vegan baking. I left my comfort zone! And I added PayPal, Venmo and Zelle as payment options.

Thankfully, I've also been back working at/for the restaurant for a while now -- so don't have to solely rely on baking for my income as I did then."

*What safety guidelines did you set up for/during the pandemic?*

I wore/wear a mask and gloves while baking, and did/do contactless pick-ups for clients – I've even started shipping orders throughout the country - 18 states and counting!

*Thanks for the window into your world of cuisine!*

"My pleasure! -- If you have baking needs, please visit [kakingbykim.com](http://kakingbykim.com) (It's a funny story how we came up with that, but full disclosure, wine was involved!)."

- interview by Deb Hawkins



## GARDENER'S CORNER SPRING 2021: OUT OF THE WOODS...

The warm season returns, along with the glory of flowers and winged wanderers of welcome (or less so) varieties. We'll see the 7 year cicadas in all their brief glory joining our hummingbird, butterfly & bumble/bee visitors -- and other feathered & scaly/slippery friends -- in July/August. Perhaps you've planted (or will plant) a tree or bush to observe Earth/Arbor day, or just adopt one of our 60+ new park/street tree babies to water in the dry weeks so it will survive while its roots establish.

Maybe you'll grow caterpillars inside or out, or foster and release tadpoles with a club or solo. Hummingbirds might enjoy your simple sugar-water feeder, or birds your seed, suet or dry mealworms for their babies, or make a home in your birdhouse, nearby tree or even flowerpot. Or perhaps like us, preying mantids will spend their infancy in your pimento pepper plants! Or possibly you'll just adopt and keep a storm drain to Ellerbe creek near your rental open & clean for summer storm water flashes.

Either way, nature's heading into the peak celebration of life, and you can help keep & restore the balance of the beauty in many (and easy) ways...then relax in the yard or park with a sense of peace and satisfaction at the way your choices can foster good for creatures and community.

It's a magical time....don't miss out on making a difference, even if it's only a few moments. Extra credit: help a kid or friend grow a little of that engagement and wonder in themselves. It will foster the next generation of givers and growers to join the flora and fauna. Enjoy!

- Deb Hawkins



## TOMATOES: NOT JUST FOR SALSA ANYMORE

by Mollie Moses

You tried your hand at tomatoes this year, and... You have a bumper crop!! Now. What can you do with them other than giving them away or make salsa or the usual tomato-based foodstuffs? You can try this recipe!

[Please note, I gleaned this recipe from the wilds of the forgotten corners of the interwebs - the latest entry having been in 2006 <ahem>, so the measurements are highly uncertain. One could presume that "a part" of sugar might mean a teaspoonful - or a half-cup. Also, oven temperature is not mentioned. I would say very low and possibly use a cast-iron pan. But it's up to you. Use your imagination.]

Tomato Candy

1. Wash, blanch and peel the ripe tomatoes, cut crosswise into halves and remove seeds. (Don't squeeze the tomatoes, just press gently).
2. Dry the tomatoes. Put 1 part sugar for every part of tomato halves, let stand overnight.
3. Boil slowly in the pan until tomatoes are semi-transparent. Drip off the syrup.
4. Spread the pieces on a single layer in trays. Sun dry or put in oven until semi-dried.
5. Roll in fine granulated sugar. Dry further, wrap in cellophane, then pack in plastic bags.

