

NORTHGATE PARK NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of the Northgate Park Neighborhood Association

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CALENDAR DATES

- Sept 11 - NGP Clean Up, NGP 8 AM
- Sept 16 - NPNA Board & Member's meeting, 7 pm
- Sept 23 - Food Truck PopUp Series in the park, 5-8pm
- Oct 9 - Neighborhood Yard Sale, 8:30am-12:30pm
- Oct 21 - NPNA Board & Member's meeting, 7 pm
- Oct 28 - Food Truck PopUp Series SEASON FINALE, NG Park, 5-8pm
- Nov 18 - NPNA Board & Member's meeting, 7 pm

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE INFO:

Shop and sell at the Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale on **Saturday, October 9th 8:30 to 12:30**. It's the perfect time to get rid of things you no longer use or want! Each sale will occur at your individual properties, and NPNA will publicize the event and share a map of participating household locations around the neighborhood. If you'd like to participate, please email Kari at k.b.grace.11@gmail.com your name (this won't be publicized), address, and if you know the items or types of things you'll be selling by Saturday, October 2nd. Volunteers also appreciated to help with preparation! The rain date will be Saturday, October 16th.

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

INTERVIEWS 'ROUND THE N'HOOD: #10, FANTASTIC FOOD TRUCK FACILITATOR FARRAH SANGSOOKWOW SHAPIRO!

For our penultimate interview, this reporter (Deb Hawkins) was excited to 'sit down' for a chat with our terrific street (park!) food coordinator – and 2021 NPNA President's Award Winner for community service excellence. Here's a glimpse into her days as neighbor, careerist, mom, and community treasure!

Can you tell readers a little about yourself?

"Hello! I am Farrah Sangsookwow Shapiro (she/her), a Thai native but relocated to US about 14 years ago. I work in the clinical research professions, am a food enthusiast & a proud parent of two vibrant boys plus one sassy chow chow mix!"

How did NG Park become your home? Have you lived here long?

"My husband, Andy and I, have lived in the neighborhood for almost 11 years. We rented on Shenandoah Ave. for 2 years before moving into our current home on Ellerbe St. We were newlyweds and always knew that we wanted a dog in our lives. So, I found a perfect rental on Craigslist: a cute 2br/1bath, pet friendly, near a dog park. We don't even have a dog at move-in lol! I guess our non-existent pet helped us stumble into this wonderful neighborhood."

What do you like best about Northgate Park Neighborhood?

"I love the sense of community and the kindness of my neighbors."



What inspired you to become Food Truck Activities Coordinator?

"In 2016, Ms. Bernie Page - wonderful neighbor/former NPNA president - asked if I'd consider volunteering. I was interested and wanted to give back to the neighborhood. Plus, being from Thailand, I love food and the atmosphere of street vendors & night markets like in Thailand. So being food truck coordinator was a great match!"

I hear truck organizing can be challenging (though rewarding!) – what's involved in the 'job'?

"Pre-pandemic, the challenge was getting a variety of trucks/cuisines lined-up and their paperwork completed at the beginning of the year, in order to apply for Durham special event permit. ...

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...Once the season started (Mar-Oct), I would follow up with vendors a week prior the event to confirm their line-up; then communicate to my food truck coordinating partner [Deb Hawkins J] so she can create our PR & get it to lists/social media. Sometimes, trucks canceled due to sudden unforeseeables - finding a backup truck in a clutch is quite an adrenaline rush!"

Wow! So yes, the pandemic has required many to make changes in doing things. What challenges & solutions did you find?

"We pivoted from a full scale food truck rodeo (4 trucks + entertainment) to a pop-up (2 truck) event. During the planning stage, we ask trucks about their COVID-19 safety protocols and precautions. We work with trucks that have pre-order capabilities, to enable fast pickup/reduced crowding at the event. The biggest challenges are technical glitches with pre-ordering links. I've learned to try the links on my phone to prevent troubleshooting on the day of the event."

What are you most proud of about your work as coordinator?

"I am proud to be a part of team that helps organize neighborhood events that bring community together and support small businesses. One of my proudest moments is when a couple of vendors shared that Northgate park is one of the few neighborhoods that they visit for public sale (instead of private/pre-paid bookings) during the pandemic. They love our community and can see how neighbors come together to support each other and local vendors during these hard times."

What do you like to do when you're not organizing fun food truck events for our community?

"I am slowly working on a personal food blog called "Thaish" by testing recipes and cooking for my friends and family :) ."

Thanks for spending a little time with us, and for all you do – congrats on your President's Award recognition. We appreciate you!!!

"Thank you!"





NEIGHBORS' LEMONADE STAND SUPPORTS FOOD PANTRY

Several neighborhood children and adults got an idea to have a lemonade stand at the park in July. They decided early on that all of the money made from the fresh squeezed lemonade would be donated to the food pantry at Iglesia Emanuel on Roxboro St.

On Monday, we cut and squeezed 50 lemons, added simple syrup and water, organized paper cups and napkins, and found a small cash register. The children made signs to announce the sale.

The neighborhood list serve was used to get the word out. Tuesday we set up the stand under the trees and Lou, Collins and Randi flashed the signs to passing cars and park visitors, inviting people to come for lemonade. Neighbors knew the proceeds were going to the food pantry and were very generous, sometimes paying \$10 for a glass!

At the end of the sale, we had collected \$210.

On Wednesday, the day of food distribution at Iglesia Emanuel, the children and adults went to deliver the funds. The volunteers and staff there were delighted and grateful. They gave us a tour of the food pantry, where 500 boxes with bread, veggies, eggs, meat and milk, are given away to families each Wednesday.

- Sue Gilbertson



NORTH DURHAM MUTUAL AID

This summer, 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. When we have funds available, we provide cash assistance to families to meet their needs, including groceries, rent and utilities. Since our inception in March 2020, our all-volunteer group has raised and distributed over \$59,000!

If you'd like to donate to our fund, please visit our fundraiser at 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 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

More info:

durhammutualaid.org/north

TREES IN THE PARK

Emerald Ash Borer killed dozens and dozens of stately old trees in Northgate Park in the last couple of years. Week after week, the tree guys chopped them down, ground them up and carted them away. At times, the saws cutting down the trees sounded like the trees were screaming.

Most are down now. The park looks much barer. Without shade it is hotter to walk the paths. The loss of the trees seems to fit in with the scenario of the pandemic and climate change.

One of our neighbors had the vision of planting new trees. Not just replacements, but more trees. He pushed the idea and encouraged other neighbors and eventually 60 trees were planted. Then he started watering them, dozens a day. With encouragement, many neighbors have adopted a tree to water and are making sure that their tree (or trees) are being watered. The young trees are mostly looking good.

Of course, a few of the young trees died. Skinny little bare sticks surrounded by a small pile of hopeful mulch. Sad, but to be expected. I didn't want to give up on them, but finally put a notice on the list serve asking people who had adopted a tree that still had no leaves to please give up on that tree and adopt another young tree to water. Sad to give up, but pragmatic. There are a lot of young trees that need water.

A week or two ago, I noticed one of the "dead" trees had a small stem right at the base of the tree with a few leaves growing on it. Then another tree. Then two more. At least 4 of the trees that appeared lifeless have sent out new shoots. I don't know if they will make it, but I know neighbors will notice and water them and give them a chance.

Our caring neighbors are nurturing life back into the park, roots to soak up rain, branches to provide shade from the heat and homes for the birds, leaves to make oxygen for us to breathe. During these difficult (and hot) days, those little shoots and leaves show perseverance, resilience, and hope.

- Bernie Page

A CALL-TO-ACTION ACTION/HYDRATION APPEAL!

Dear neighbors, want a super-fast/low-time-footprint way to give back in the community/neighborhood? Notes abound for helpers to toss occasional but vital water on our baby park/street trees. It's as easy as tucking an old gallon jug or couple-liter bottle of water in the trunk/under the stroller/in the hand opposite the dog lead – and finding your special tree to help. It's only needed when we go 7 days without an inch of rain. (geekout: check the map @ USGS (click dot in Durham county) for 7 day accumulation: www2.usgs.gov/water/southatlantic/nc/realtime/rainfall.php)

A huge thanks to all the folx who've kept our future canopy from perishing these many dry patches so far! They'll need our help for at least two more cycles of the seasons 'til they're connected by growing good roots to the silent language & community of the forest from beneath our feet. Our future neighborhood temperature, oxygen output, shade & ecology for animal and human grandchildren/generations to come rely on us now, and the little things we do. Join in if you can & don't pass those little saplings by....thanks!!!

- Deb Hawkins

THE BEST MEXICAN BREAD!



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**2000 Avondale Dr Unit U
Durham, NC 27705**

GARDENER'S CORNER: FALL FRIGHTS & GHOSTS OF THE GARDEN

Lazy days of summer grow shorter...leaves already color & fall...harbingers of the Autumn approaching. As I walk in the changing yard that's been my whole world for 540 days, reflections turn to the archaeology of this space & those who lived in this house & yard before me. It's clear they were gardeners; our fledgling efforts at landscaping have revealed traces of extensive brickwork and edged beds, grown over and forgotten in a quarter-century of vines & new topsoil. We salvage the bricks for new ventures. Living remnants of their presence in the enormous trees, legacy azaleas, and volunteer perennials continue to speak of what they loved and planted. Odd mysteries, like an out of place concrete patch of unknown purpose, leave a quiet mind to ponder. With half-closed eyes, you imagine what that busier, more structured yardscape, with lawn and bed and saplings, might have been like. You see a person, or two, moving about with tool or watering can, caringly tending the now vanished plants and blooms – much like you do now. It's easy then to wonder if their essence is lingering, or returning, to smile upon new people who've been bitten by the gardening bug after seasons of neglect – perhaps a spell that they left behind to catch the unwary?

I walk in the spooky & brambled outer yard, Ellerbe's true domain, that she has reclaimed. I gaze at the place where my fur family, 10 years gone, has its resting place. A sweet little dogwood shades it; severed in a gigantic tree limb fall last summer, new leaves struggle out from the small trunk. I think of my partner's Pyrenees mix littermates, who spent their youth here in a continual grand romp, before their old age in Holly Springs – and about the memorial mosaic stones I hoped to make and leave, for a future excavating gardener to find.



Braggtown Baptist Church

...for we are all one in Christ Jesus

Galatians 3: 28

Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Eric Miller

919-220-1166 bbcdurham.com



CHILDREN'S CLOTHING CLOSET
Summit North Durham and Braggtown
Ministry

Located at 3218 N. Roxboro St

Clothing sizes - newborn thru size 16

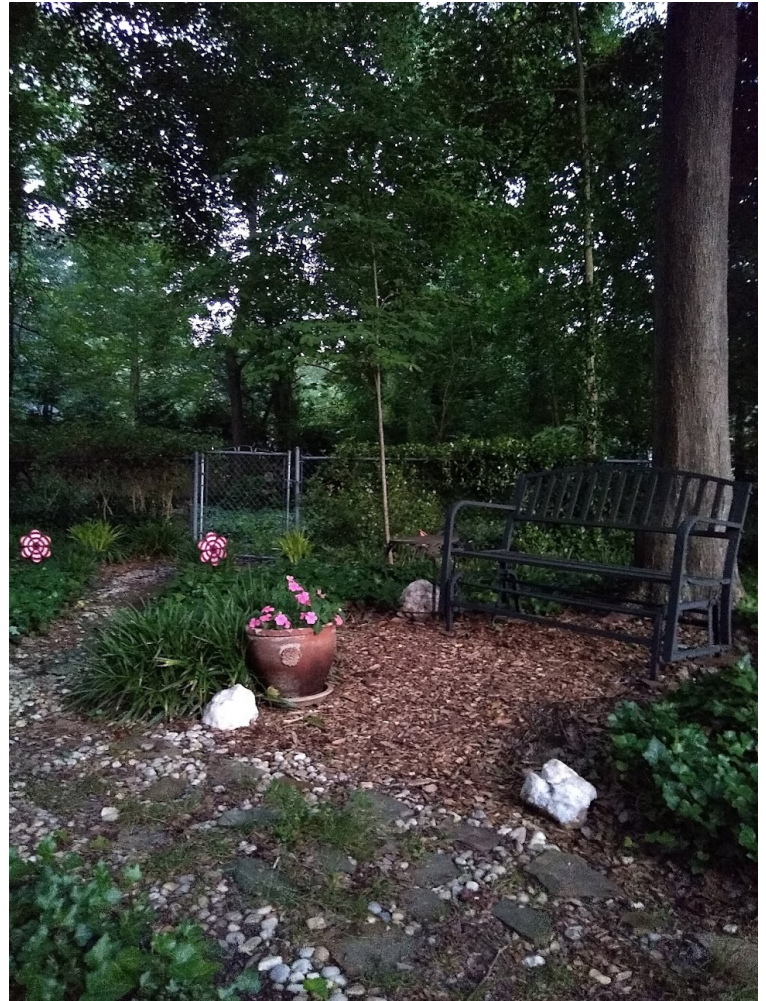
For clothing pick up or to donate email:
fbeardart@mindspring.com

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More and more in these last quiet seasons, I've sensed the signatures of all their past presence around me, and walked or run where they would have, soaking in the beauty of it all. I think of nearby neighbors of the generation leaving – some of them keen gardeners - as new ones arrive with their first raised beds. And I think of my own forebears whose gardening wisdoms now live on only through my hands.

I feel a little chill – but from a late summer breeze, and I think about a time when someone else will be here, and catch a glimpse of my own gardening ghost in this space through the channels of time...and the growth and signatures of what I leave behind.

- Deb Hawkins





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