

NORTHGATE PARK NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of the Northgate Park Neighborhood Association

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CALENDAR DATES

- Dec 11th, Park clean up
- Dec 12th, Luminaries in the park
- Jan 27th NPNA meeting, Civitan Club, 7:00pm
- Feb 24th NPNA meeting, Civitan Club, 7:00pm
- February - newsletter produced for month end
- March 12th, Park clean up

NORTH DURHAM MUTUAL AID

This fall, North Durham Mutual Aid has continued to support many people in North Durham. We have several small groups who coordinate grocery deliveries for residents who have trouble getting to the store. We also provide consistent financial support to families to meet their needs, including groceries, rent and utilities. If you'd like to donate to our fund or to find out more info, please visit: DurhamMutualAid.org/north. If you're interested in getting involved or need to request aid, please reach out via email at northgateresponse@gmail.com or by phone/text at (919) 886-4614.

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? 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) an annual meeting and picnic, 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.

- Bernie Page, Secretary NPNA

NORTHGATE HOUSING NETWORK

Are you interested in keeping housing in Northgate Park affordable? Would you like more affordable housing in our neighborhood? Interested in selling your house but not selling to big developers?

Contact our neighborhood-based, all-volunteer group, (the NPNA Housing Committee) at: NorthgateHousingNetwork@gmail.com

LUMINARIES ARE HERE!

Winter is already upon us, which means luminary time is here! NPNA will sponsor luminaries in the park on Sunday, December 12th. Due to COVID-19, the event will be different from prior years. We are asking volunteers to pick up a pack of 20 luminaries prior to the event to assemble and set up in the park. Take the pack home and decorate the bags if you wish. When it's time to assemble them, turn down the tops of the bags, and put the sand and candle inside. On the afternoon of December 12th place them on the sidewalk around the park. Please do not put them out before December 12th! More detailed instructions will be with the packs.

The packs are available in the gazebo behind 2500 Shenandoah Ave. They are free and you will be giving a gift to the neighborhood to assemble them and place them around the park. Someone on the committee will go around the park at dusk on December 12th and light them. Then we can stroll around (6 feet apart) and enjoy the lovely lights giving hope in the middle of the long dark night.

If you or your children want to decorate the luminary bags, that would be wonderful. Decorations should be in the spirit of neighborliness, fun, light and hope. (In the unlikely event that the luminary committee thinks that any decoration might cause offense, we will remove that luminary).

Please feel free to pick up a pack anytime during the daytime. There will be a sheet in the gazebo to sign to help us keep track.

Please contact Kari if you have any questions: k.b.grace.11@gmail.com, (847) 946-8484. If you are able to volunteer to help light the luminaries and monitor the set up on December 12th or help clean up on December 13th, we need your help! Please contact Eric: ericmillerot@gmail.com

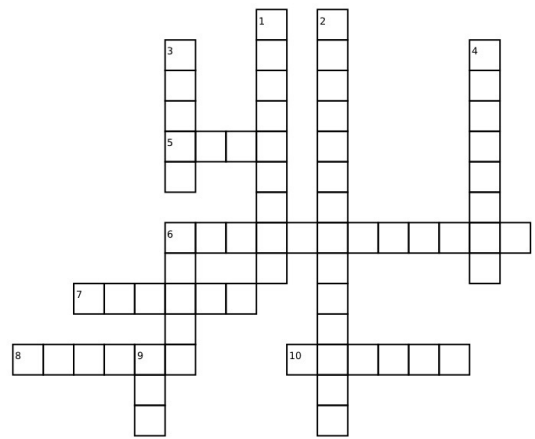


Pictures from last year's Luminaries:

ALSO: If you want a pack of 10 for your house, you can buy them for \$10 per pack (The park packs of 20 are of course free since they are a gift to the neighborhood). You can pay for a house pack using PayPal on the northgateparknc.org website by scrolling down and clicking on "Join NPNA", then click on "donate" and follow directions; or mail a check to NPNA Treasurer 112 Gresham Ave Durham NC 27704. Contact Kari to reserve a house pack and arrange for delivery.

- Kari Grace

Luminaries



Down:

1. state known for luminaries
2. the shortest day of the year
3. opposite of dark
4. the warmth of the sun in winter
6. Danish coziness
9. Spanish for light

Across:

5. optimism
6. a warm winter drink
7. shining
8. a cylinder or block of wax or tallow with a central wick that is lit to produce light as it burns
10. a season of the year



KEYSTONE CHURCH

There's been a lot happening around Northgate Park lately. Food trucks, talk of a new coffee shop, pumpkin carvings, renovations, neighbors coming and going, and new life at the old Parkview Church. This community is full of life and I want to take a moment to highlight what has taken place in the past year with one of the fixtures of this community – Parkview church.

The church started as a house fellowship in 1955, before becoming a permanent fixture across the street from the park in the 1960s. Parkview has been an integral part of the community over the years. However over the past several years, the church saw a decline in membership which has impacted their role within the community. It was in need of new life!

Along came Keystone, who brought new opportunity and freshness to the corner of Acadia and Ellerbee. Through the assistance of Yates Baptist Association, Parkview and Keystone saw potential in a church merger. The two churches developed a plan and in January of 2021, the potential turned into reality. Keystone joined the congregants at Parkview and the transformation took place.

Pastor Josh Cox, a Durham native, started Keystone as a house church in south Durham, in June 2017. The church grew quickly and moved into Southwest Elementary to accommodate the growth. They called the school home until COVID shut down many aspects of life. The school closed down, forcing Keystone to figure out what to do next. As they explored possible options, they found Parkview. The opportunity was perfect. Parkview needed help and Keystone needed a new, larger location.

Josh knew the moment he visited Parkview the Lord had opened a great opportunity for them. He immediately fell in love with the park across the street, the community feel around the church, and the ethnic and generational diversity within the Northgate Park area. Now he had to convince his congregation it was worth the drive for many of them to come to north Durham. One year in, the merger has proved successful for Keystone. Their members made the shift and they have settled into the new location. Renovations to the 60 year old building have been ongoing and the inside looks amazing.

Keystone is excited to be part of the community that is thriving and full of life. They look forward to forming relationships and getting to know their neighbors.



The members had a blast on Halloween, where they decorated tents and passed out candy. It was a great time of fellowship and offered the opportunity to meet many families in the area. Josh hopes to continue to work within the community to share the love of Christ. His goal is to break down potential walls that exist within the community and the church. He wants the church to be an integral part of the community and hopes that everyone will give them a chance to be their neighbor.

Plans to reach into the lives of those in Northgate Park include supporting Club Blvd Elementary, providing assistance to those in need, and participating in community events as an active member in the neighborhood association.

The doors are open and an invitation extended. They would love for anyone and everyone to stop by and visit. Worship is every Sunday at 10:00am and all are welcome. Come and see what is happening!

- Eric Miller

CANKERWORM BANDING TIME

IF YOU BAND – Will they stop coming? CANKERWORM prevention time is soon!

Put up your bands anytime this month, BUT apply sticky material on the bands mid-Dec, when most leaves have fallen so they don't catch & make bridges for egg-laying moths who will soon after start climbing up. QUESTIONS/NEED HELP? Check NPNA @ yahoo OR NPNA on Facebook (notes tab) for banding & application FAQ, or contact DCO extension service at 720 Foster Street

(or see <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/fall-cankerworm>) for more info. - Deb Hawkins

A CARING NEIGHBORHOOD

Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.
- G.K. Chesterton

I've been thinking about our neighborhood recently, and I am writing this article to thank the many people who work to make Northgate Park a delightful place to live. Here is a short and incomplete list of caring actions I've seen in our neighborhood in recent months:

- Volunteers helped plant 95 trees in the park
- People hand carried buckets of water throughout the summer to keep those trees alive during the heat
- Neighbors held Aztec Dances in their back yard, honoring St. Jude
- Neighbors helped organize park and Ellerbee Creek clean up days
- Some are organizing support for Afghan refugees arriving in Durham
- Members of the NPNA Board provide structure for food truck events
- The NPNA Board is already making plans to light the park up with luminaries during the holidays, ordering supplies and inviting volunteers to help
- Neighbors worked on several Saturdays and planted flowers and shrubs in the traffic circle on Glendale Ave.
- Children from Murray Ave. held a lemonade stand and raised \$210 for the local food bank
- Many volunteers edit the Northgate Park newsletter, while others deliver them to our porches
- One neighbor held movie nights, inviting children to watch movies on a screen he hung on the side of his garage.
- Another neighbor created a puppet show in her front yard and invited us all to come see the magic

All these things and many more that happen behind the scenes, make Northgate Park special. I'm sure readers of the newsletter can create their own lists! I'm grateful for the spirit of this neighborhood that I call home.

Sue Gilbertson on Murray



A child looking at books in the little library in front of Club Blvd. school (photo by Sue Gilbertson)

A CALL TO ACTION ON I-85 SAFETY ISSUES

By Joel Ross

Hi Neighbors,

I think we all have concerns about the unacceptably high rate of collisions in the I-85 corridor, specifically at the Roxboro and Duke interchanges. These interchanges fall under state jurisdiction, so contacting anyone at the city or county level will have minimal (but not zero) impact.

There are a few ways to address these issues. We can start at the bottom and work our way up which is what I am currently going to suggest. We can also work from the top down which is something I am working on. The key point is to identify the correct agency and person to whom you should address your concerns.

I have spoken to the bottom up person and clarified more than once in my conversation that he was the point person for the public to contact. I have explained to him that this was an issue of growing concern and that many neighbors may want to express their opinions. Lacking (at this point) anyone else to whom comments should be directed, it would be:

Mr. Grooms ecgrooms@ncdot.gov

I would suggest that all comments be respectful and detailed. I believe that if enough neighbors express their concerns, then change can happen. Here is the email I sent for context:

(Continued on page 4)

A CALL TO ACTION ON I-85 SAFETY ISSUES (CONTINUED)

Dear Mr. Grooms,

Thank you so much for taking time to chat with me this afternoon. I have previously tried to email and call NC-DOT safety and risk management offices, but have not heard back as of yet. I understand you are the NC-DOT representative for this district to whom safety issues should be addressed. I just want to recap a few points from our discussion, and please correct me if I have anything wrong.

- 1) everyone is aware there are safety concerns around I-85 and Duke St. and I-85 and Roxboro St.
- 2) design and construction of those interchanges were done by contractors not the state or local engineers.
- 3) any modifications to those interchanges would take time and money.
- 4) all safety concerns should be addressed to you, and you will pass them up to your management.



A few more points you don't need to comment on since you're a state employee.

- 5) the state actually has plenty of money in it's coffers to deal with these things if they so choose.
- 6) collisions resulting in death and serious injury on at the current frequency are totally unacceptable
- 7) traffic enforcement and calming measures are not that expensive.
- 8) knowledge of an unsafe situation without remediation carries a certain amount of culpability.

I really don't want your inbox flooded with responses, but if it's a numbers game, then local residents are probably willing to do that if it pushes things towards a solution.

Please do pass my comments on to whomever, and I would be happy to voice my concerns directly (as I am sure many other people would be too).

Thanks, Joel

GARDENER'S CORNER: THE BIG SLEEP

Much happens ahead of the long apparent quietness of winter in the garden. Hummingbirds quietly absent themselves early, as other birds begin to flock ahead of their journeys to more southerly spaces. Monarch butterflies follow them, and the late bloomers among other Lepidoptera surprise you by exiting their chrysalis when you thought they'd overwinter; you release them into the early-autumn sky.

Herps (amphibians & reptiles) make their last surprising appearances on cooler evenings as they find their best burrows for the layover. Insects diminish, their work setting down next year's progeny completed. Late blooming plants wrap up their efforts as pollinators dwindle, and late fall/winter berries start to appear. Tomatoes, pepper, lettuce & herbs revive from late summer heat and produce in one last burst, while trees, shrubs and vines turn inward, slowing or losing foliage and raining down acorns by the thousands. Squirrels & mice scurry busily to lay aside this bounty in caches and holes.

Memories of the rhythm of ecology in more equatorial places I've known (where cold is but a light guest, and activity persists all year) surface as I too scurry against the shortening light and warmth to harvest, pack away yard/deck gear, keep walkways clear of the astounding biomass of our many elder-trees as their leaves drop in all sizes and colors. (Their shed glory nestles gently in the wilds of the untamed lower yard). With a weary smile, I re-hang the feeders for winged friends who choose to remain here...or arrive from further north, and plant bulbs & prepare the terrarium where the last swallowtail chrysalis will lie dormant.

For even in its winter somnolence, much is happening in the world of the backyard, as its creatures more quietly in burrow, forest and below the soil continue to grow, change, rest, and gestate... anticipating the time that nature's slumber will end, and all will re-awaken into spring. My preparations done, I will welcome those quiet days, crisp nights and the renewal we all may need, and seek.

- Deb Hawkins

NEWSLETTER WAYBACK MACHINE

Ten years ago this edition – RETRO recipe delight!

Here's a lovely dessert offering for chilly holi-daze: From NPNA's 2011 newsletter archive (with thanks/attribution to long-time board member and NPNA historian A. Kolacinski – missing their family's garden club & holiday open house bounty, this dish will bring a little of it home to us!)

Seasonal Recipes—Sweet Potato / Eggnog Pie Submitted by: Alice Kolacinski

(Modified from Mama Dips Sweet Potato Custard Pie from Mama Dips' Family Cook Book when we had Eggnog approaching the drink-by-date. –Alice Kolacinski)

1--Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

2—Make pie shell (or use 2 thawed frozen shells)

3—Mix together the following ingredients:

2 cups cooked fresh mashed sweet potatoes

16 oz. (2 cups) of eggnog

½ cup brown sugar

½ stick (4 tablespoons) of butter

½ teaspoon pumpkin or apple pie spice 4 eggs

4—Pour into pie shells and bake until tester comes clean from middle (probably 40–60 minutes.) Note: This will also cook well as a custard (no pie shell needed.)

See the original (+ the edition!) here:

<https://northgateparknc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/NPNAWinter2011.pdf>

- Deb Hawkins

ONE YEAR AGO THIS EDITION: SEASONAL SHOPPING REMINDER!

Helping good causes on a tight budget: Giveback programs do it FOR you, when you shop!

Seasonal re-post: Want a FREE, no cost/work/hassle way to give to schools or nonprofits this season + in 2022? A few clicks online or quick phone call will raise money with these community give-back programs:

* BOXTOPS FOR ED APP: download this FREE app at www.boxtops4education.com and scan receipts for purchased goods that qualify – schools receive cash each time! A fun one to do! (NOTE: any cut-out type boxtops 4 Ed coupons can be dropped at the foyer of West Club Blvd. Elementary during school hours to be redeemed).

* AMAZON: Log in to Amazon Smile and select your designated charity/school, then shop as usual. Amazon Smile will donate a small percentage of your purchase to them. You can bookmark the page so every time you shop Amazon, you'll be supporting your cause or school of choice!

* TARGET: If you have a Red Card (Debit or Visa), you can link your Target Red Card to a school. In addition to receiving the standard 5% discount on all items, the school will also earn 1% cashback from your total purchases.

* HARRIS TEETER loyalty cards can be linked every school year for up to 5 local schools, and they donate money to the value of a % of your purchases. See www.harristeeter.com, or go to customer service in-store or dial 1-800-432-6111 to link/re-link. (some Durm schools are getting 50-100K!)

* FOOD LION has a school benefit program. See customer service while in-store to connect your Food Lion MVP card to your local school of choice.

See this and other activity features from our past pandemic year here:

<https://northgateparknc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/NPNA-Newsletter-Winter-2020.pdf>

- Deb Hawkins

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...for we are all one in Christ Jesus
Galatians 3: 28

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Pastor Eric Miller
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