



THE FISHER PARKER

MARCH 2021

LUMINARIA EVENT GENERATES \$7,729

Thanks to novice Luminaria Coordinators **Mark Lytle** and **Jason Voss**, plus a dozen volunteer Luminaria kit packers in the Lytle driveway; 35 volunteer Block Captains who distributed kits door-to-door; and 167 Fisher Park households who ordered, our December 2020 Luminaria event was *extraordinarily* profitable.

Our neighborhood sold and distributed 330 Luminaria kits for \$8,146, generating a **\$7,729 profit, \$6,460 of that in the form of donations**. Equally impressive is that 20% of orders were submitted online, the first-time that option was offered.

The pandemic didn't stop dozens of residents and friends from venturing out on an unseasonably warm December 13 to view the display and greet neighbors.

The Fisher Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) annual Luminaria event is our major annual fund-raiser and pays for printing and—in non-pandemic years—funds social events that could not be held in 2020 and so far in 2021. Thanks to all Luminaria kit preparers, Block Captains who delivered, and generous donors.

THANKING OUR POLICE AND DELANCEY STREET NEIGHBORS

Although our traditional August 2020 National Night Out Against Crime celebration was cancelled during the pandemic, our FPNA arranged instead to feed 40 police officers at "our" Greensboro Police Department substation on Maple Street. **Cheryl Pratt** arranged delivery of 40 Stamey's BBQ dinners—with cobbler—for police shifts D, E, F, and G over two consecutive nights. According to our Police Community Liaison officer, the evening and night shifts rarely receive such treats. At Christmas, Cheryl arranged to have delivered the identical dinner to 12 residents of Delancey Street, who support our neighborhood through Park cleanups and special events throughout each year. These arrangements exemplify yet another a creative, heartening use of your neighborhood donations—helping others during challenging times.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN . . . SURVIVAL TIPS

Until the pandemic eases, make sure you've signed up on the Fisher Park social media sites, [Nextdoor](#) (around 720 members) and [Facebook](#) (792 members). Links are provided on the calendar above and on the back page. Always looking on the sunny side, **Michelle Felt** solicits your creative ideas for neighborhood events that can be initiated using remote technologies. New in our neighborhood? Please contact her with your name and address so she may bring a welcoming gift from FPNA.

2021 CALENDAR

Most neighborhood events are paused during the pandemic. Please join Fisher Park's [Facebook](#) and [Nextdoor](#) sites for brief neighborhood news between newsletters.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Tuesday, August 3, east Fisher Park.

LUMINARIA DISPLAY

Sunday, December 5: Orders due

online or to Block Captains

Thursday, December 9: Kit-building

Sunday, December 12: Display

Sunday, December 19, Rain Date

Primary Fisher Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) contacts are on the back page of every Fisher Parker. Our neighborhood website is www.FisherParkNC.org

(continued next page)

Michelle also organizes “Helping Hands”—neighbors volunteering to provide crucial support to neighbors who need errands run, food, or encouraging communication during the pandemic. Contact her to request help or to volunteer helping neighbors in need. (Please see page 6 for contact information.)

DOWNTOWN GREENWAY NEWS

Action Greensboro provides these updates.

- Interested in bees, but don’t have time or room to commit to having your own hive? The Downtown Greenway is installing a bee hive at the Edible Orchard at Meeting Place (corner of Prescott and Smith). Cassie and TJ Meyer from Westerwood will maintain the hive. They need several volunteers who want to learn about bees and help on a regular basis with maintenance. Email Laura Lorenz at llorenz@actiongreensboro.org.
- LoFi Park Open House: Stop by on Thursday, March 25, from 4:30–6:30 p.m. to see the renovations to LoFi Park, corner of Smith and Eugene streets on the Downtown Greenway. Talk to Permaculture Designers: David Mudd and Justin Vettel. Stay and grab a drink and/or dinner on your own from Joymongers & a food truck. Meet the Downtown Greenway Running/Walking Group that convenes every Thursday at 6 pm at LoFi Park to walk or run the 4-mile Downtown Greenway loop.

HISTORIC DISTRICT INS AND OUTS

Within the larger Fisher Park neighborhood, about two thirds of properties also are inside our smaller Fisher Park Historic District. To view this distinction, please use this link to confirm whether your property is “in” or “out” of the smaller Historic District. <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=25864>.

If your property is in the Historic District, you’ll need to plan ahead for exterior renovation projects and apply for a City of Greensboro Historic District **Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA)**. Many CoAs are quickly approved by City staff. More than 90% of CoAs are approved, and most others are revised and then approved thanks to review by historic preservation volunteers who offer their expertise,

free to you. It’s wise to remember that routine maintenance of your early 1900s sturdily built, character-filled historic home is what separates your property from about 130,000 other homes within Greensboro’s housing inventory.

HISTORIC DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

The FPNA was formed in 1978, when neighbors joined ranks speaking out against demolition of several old homes being replaced by large office buildings along North Elm Street. By 1982, a smaller, two-thirds inner core of neighborhood property owners sought and received City of Greensboro Historic District designation. Then in 2003, concerned about demolition of multiple homes in the 1000 block of Olive Street and fearing commercial rezoning of a vacant lot, Olive Street neighbor **Kay Quinlivan** successfully engaged more than a dozen property owners on her street, East Bessemer Avenue, and Magnolia Street to successfully join the Historic District. Soon afterward, a historic district advocate built a handsome, Craftsman-style house on the previously vacant lot.

If any Fisher Park property owners currently outside our Fisher Park Historic District want to inquire about gaining Historic District designation, any Board member (listing on page 6) can help with contacts. Positive considerations about the historic district designation include:

1. Local Historic Districts only concern *exterior* changes—never interiors. Exterior paint colors are not regulated.
2. The State of North Carolina allows properly documented Historic District renovation projects that meet The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, and that exceed \$10,000, to deduct up to 15% of pre-qualified rehabilitation expenses directly from the bottom line of North Carolina income taxes. (Many Fisher Park neighbors have enjoyed this North Carolina tax deduction.) Additional federal tax deductions are available for income producing renovations in historic districts.
3. In the State of North Carolina, Historic District buildings secure *365 days of demolition delay* to investigate alternative solutions or buyers—invaluable time when the property facing demolition is adjacent to your home. Homes

outside a historic district have no formal demolition delay.

4. A 2007 study by Jonathan Mabry, then a historic preservation officer in Tucson, found that historic districts saw property values increase by 5 to 35 percent per decade over similar neighborhoods that weren't designated as historic districts.

Historic Districts do not suit everyone and can be expanded to include blocks only where *most* property owners seek the protections offered. Benefits go hand in hand with associated Historic District responsibilities. Learn more at

<https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/planning/learn-more-about/historic-preservation/greensboro-historic-district-program> or call City Historic District staff at 336.373.2144.

Remember, all FPNA events and *Fisher Parker* newsletters are for all neighbors, both in or out of the Historic District.

DR. GARRARD'S LEGACY

An April 3, 1979, Greensboro News & Record article introduced a prominent person of our neighborhood's past, then semi-retired neuropsychiatrist, Dr. Robert ("Bob") Garrard (1905-1989).

According to the article—after medical school, WWII Army hospital psychiatric services in England, France, Belgium, Philippine Islands, and Japan, and hospital psychiatric services in Maine, Rhode Island, New York, and North Carolina—the Garrards listed 18 features they wanted in a community. In 1948, they moved to east Fisher Park where they found the community they'd sought. Dr. Garrard worked at Moses Cone, Wesley Long, Greensboro Humana, and L. Richardson Hospitals.

They first bought the original Edmond Harrison house at North Elm Street and North Park Drive. (Later demolished, that property is now occupied by Williamsburg on the Park townhomes.)

After cultivating many areas of *east* Fisher Park, the Garrards moved westward to the red wooden home—contemporary for its time—at 811 Simpson Street (see photo) with his basement psychiatry office separately numbered as 301 Victoria Street.



The doctor promptly focused on west Fisher Park in his spare time. Over 22 years, Garrard planted and tended Fisher Park plants for blooms February through November. Neighbors indicated he spent thousands of dollars sowing grass seed, fertilizing the west park's meadow, planting blubs, shrubs, and trees. A member of many national and local conservation organizations including the Audubon Society, Garrard stressed the importance of natural habitats for birds. He installed several bird houses, fed and housed stray cats of which he was especially fond. At his own out-of-town farm, Garrard grew an orchard, vineyard, bamboo groves, and vegetables — feeding many neighbors with his harvests.

Trudy Garrard wrote that her husband Bob disliked wasting time, yet while gardening in the park, "his ability to listen and to put people at ease has turned Fisher Park into an informal consulting room, with many people seeking him out to share problems and concerns." Dr. Garrard also contributed to the *History of Neuropsychiatry in Guilford County*, now available in UNCG Special Collections. Garrard's historical record is available online from UNCG Libraries at <http://152.13.18.9/cdm/compoundobject/collection/Cone/id/16190/rec/6>.

Today, we ask everyone to obtain FPNA Park Committee permission prior to park planting, after which they gain City permission to plant. Thank you, **Mona Wright** of North Eugene Street, who saved and shared the 1979 newspaper article.



ADOPT A FISHER PARK TREE

The FPNA Park Committee encourages neighbors to “adopt a tree” from which you promise to remove invasive ivy vines. Simply snip ivy vines near the tree’s base; upper vines will gradually die off. Check back semi-annually to remove new vines. (Do not remove a tree’s bark—which is its protective layer. Avoid trying to remove poison ivy if you are allergic or if children are helping.)

As winter continues, park volunteers will spread piles of wood chips in northwest Fisher Park to reduce springtime weeds. East park overgrowth will be trimmed. Ask the Park Committee how you can help enhance this unique city park, near which we are fortunate to live. Contact Tom Hyde, 203.505.4882.

THE VALUE OF CONVENIENCE

From the National Association of REALTORS® 2018 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, we read, “*In urban or central city locations ... convenience to entertainment or leisure activities and convenience to parks or recreational facilities, were more important factors than in any other location.*” Our neighborhood is well positioned for this. Increasingly, our challenge is to maintain historic housing stock, ensuring the neighborhood’s appeal through sustainable value.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

From *An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Greensboro, NC* jointly published in 1976 by the City of Greensboro and NC Department of Cultural Resources, directed and edited by Ruth Little-Stokes, we read on Page 54 that Fisher Park itself is described as “an informally landscaped floodplain.” Is it any surprise that sump pumps are our favorite gadgets?

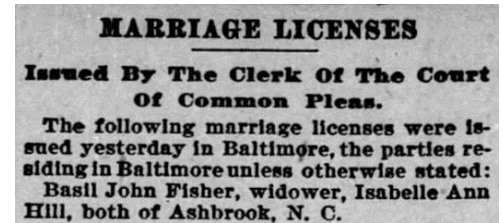
The Fisher Park neighborhood is referenced as a “second ring of subdivisions,” developing after 1902 when B. J. Fisher set aside land as a park, setting a precedent that continued as other near-town subdivisions were developed.

So, we’re not the first neighborhood in Greensboro, but the first Greensboro neighborhood planned around a park. A clever admonishment on page 5 of that book adds “About 1925 the arcades of trees which lined Elm and Market streets were cut

down, an unfortunate loss which occurred according to Greensboro historian Bettie Caldwell when ‘the town took on city airs.’”

OUR ELUSIVE CAPTAIN BASIL JOHN FISHER

The *Baltimore Sun* of Tuesday, April 24, 1900, informs us that on *April 23* Captain Basil John Fisher, widower, married Isabelle Ann Hill. Although the notice indicates they lived in Ashbrook, North Carolina, they lived in Asheboro. Other articles suggest that Captain Fisher married Isabella Anne Hall—not Hill—in 1876 not 1900. Perhaps it’s time to join Ancestry.com and get our Fisher facts straight.



STAIRWELL TERMINOLOGY

Front hall stairwells make an impressive welcoming statement in many of our old homes. When we slip and fall on stairs, we utter a few choice oaths. But do you know proper names for stair parts and stair patterns? The banister is the handrail—and what youngsters slide down with glee when you’re not watching. Balusters are the vertical posts.

Together they form a balustrade, especially on a fancy porch, terrace, or balcony. A dogleg stair is one in which one flight ascends to a half-landing, then turns 90-degrees and continues up. Winders are steps narrower at one side than the other, used to change the direction of the stair without the need for landings. Just hang on!

MORTAR MIXES AND SHAPES

Most of our old homes and foundations are made of brick manufactured between 1902 into the 1930s with a lime-sand mortar mix between bricks. In years thereafter, masons often used mortars of equal parts lime and Portland cement. Modern mortars are Portland cement—much harder than historic lime-sand mortars. Unfortunately, the modern Portland cement mortar forces moisture into and damages inherently softer historic bricks.

The mortar in older homes needs to be softer and more permeable than the old brick.

So, when your brick home or foundation needs repointing of mortar, ensure your brick mason first reads about *appropriate mortar mixes*. Several companies — such as www.Limeworks.us — can analyze the content of your historic mortar and recommend specific mortar mixes available to match your sample—closer to an original lime-sand mix.

Use a cold chisel, hammer, or angle grinder to remove old mortar to a depth of 2 to 2.5 times the width of the mortar joint to ensure an adequate bond. Vacuum off mortar debris. Thoroughly mist old bricks with water prior to applying new mortar joints so the mortar doesn't cure too quickly, causing cracks and failure. Match your home's original mortar shape: beaded (also called grape-vine-mortar), concave (the most common), weathered (inclined outward to shed water), vee joints (which also directs water away), or "raked" (offering the lowest weather resistance, as it leaves masonry exposed). Tips are from [*Old House Journal*, April 2020, p. 40-43.](#)

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

What a joy to discover "Little Free Library" boxes along our neighborhood streets. Even if only browsing titles, we get a taste of neighbors' interests. Now you can borrow from and contribute to Little Free Libraries in several locations along the Downtown Greenway at Woven Works Park (Lindsay & Murrow), Meeting Place at Tradition Cornerstone (Smith & Prescott), and Douglas Park (Bragg Street at MLK Boulevard).

Have books you'd like to donate or a Girl Scout or Boy Scout who would like to help

maintain the libraries? Contact Laura Lorenz at llorenz@actiongreensboro.org



MAKE YOUR PET PROUD

Make your pet proud by being as considerate as you expect your neighbors to be of you. We consistently remind *dog owners* to leash walking dogs, and to bag and dispose of dog poop. While it's not a law, increasingly we're asked to remind *cat owners* to corral their cats. Neighbors find cat poop in their yards (most dogs don't run free to make such deposits, and most homeowners would complain if they did) and are upset when roaming cats kill birds.

Birdwatchers can make minor adjustments, too. Relocate birdfeeders to a *wide-open space* so birds more easily see an approaching predator. Reposition birdfeeders higher than cats can vertically jump—at least 5 feet above ground.

If a confirmed stray cat is significantly bothersome, for a small fee local [Feral Cat Assistance Program \(FCAP\)](#) volunteers can work with you to gradually have feral cats trapped, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped—an international sign that a cat has been sterilized — and *returned to where it was trapped*. Two FCAP volunteers live in our neighborhood. (Please note: Stray cat relocation, euthanasia, and solving human problems are **not** within FCAP volunteers' mission!)

TRANSITIONING FORWARD

We annually thank outgoing FPNA Board and Committee volunteers and welcome new ones, recognizing the importance of planned, routine transitions in neighborhood leadership. Former and current members mentor future leaders to share lessons learned. New neighbors—especially those who plan to stay several years—are encouraged to contact any FPNA Board or Committee member whose assignments match their interests and contribute time to support these efforts.

To illustrate, the long-time *Fisher Parker* editors are looking for a neighbor to apprentice with us on the newsletter, learning about news sources, editing, design, and printing and distribution throughout our neighborhood. If communication is your talent, **Ann Stringfield** and **Liz Urquhart** welcome your interest, promising a worthwhile learning experience.

**FISHER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (FPNA)
P. O. BOX 2004 • GREENSBORO, NC 27402**

Mission: To preserve the historic and residential character of the Fisher Park neighborhood,
and to work with the City of Greensboro to help maintain the scenic park for the benefit of the general public.

2021 FPNA Board of Directors

Term Ends	Name	Phone	Email	Address
2021	Jim Halsch, President	336.302.3728	jhalsch1@triad.rr.com	812 Olive Street
2021	Michelle Felt, Events Liaison	336.509.1708	michellefelt@yahoo.com	403 Victoria Street
2021	Mark Lytle, Streets & Sidewalks, & Luminaria	734.625.5331	marklytle7@gmail.com	207 West Bessemer Avenue
2021	Ann Stringfield, Newsletter	336.370.0457	ann@infocrofters.com	1005 North Eugene Street
2022	Sue Hunt, Secretary	336.681.1313	susanhunt501@gmail.com	812 Olive Street
2022	Keisha Hadden, CoA Reviews	229.326.3944	khadden2@gmail.com	404 West Bessemer Avenue
2022	Nancy Schmidt, Block Captains, & Park Pot Tenders Coordination	314.941.0319	schmidtwhite@gmail.com	901 Magnolia Street
2022	Tom Hyde, VP & Park Committee	203.505.4882	thomaslhyde@gmail.com	202 Fisher Park Circle
2022	Jason Voss, Webmaster & Luminaria	202.294.8178	jvoss6592@gmail.com	1009 North Eugene Street
2023	Caroline Walsh, Children's Events	860.836.0154	cwalsh1492@gmail.com	105 West Hendrix Street
2023	Cheryl Pratt, COA/Zoning & Neighborhood Watch	336.202.6543	cpratt3@att.net	919 Magnolia Street
2023	Tyler LoGrippe, Treasurer	215.360.5008	tylerlogrippe@gmail.com	805 North Church Street
2023	Jennifer Schwarz, Social Media	336.202.1838	jennifer@schwarzproperties.net	108 Fisher Park Circle
2023	Vacancy			

2021 Board meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. via virtual meeting (subject to change) on January 25, February 22, March 29, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, and November/December (combined) on December 6. **Call any Board member to confirm dates and times. All remote log-in details and applications for Certificates of Appropriateness will be posted prior to each Board meeting.**

Additional Neighborhood Volunteers:

Social Events	Annemarie Dickey Michelle Felt (Board Liaison)	336.419.6061 336.509.1708	dickeyae@guilford.edu michellefelt@yahoo.com	404-D Fisher Park Circle 403 Victoria Street
Children's Events	Katy Danford Caroline Walsh (Board Liaison)	478.714.4228 860.836.0154	demanigold@yahoo.com cwalsh1492@gmail.com	305 East Hendrix Street 105 West Hendrix Street
Newsletter Editors	Ann Stringfield Liz Urquhart	336.370.0457 336.373.1250	ann@infocrofters.com lizurquhart@yahoo.com	1005 North Eugene Street 403 West Bessemer Avenue
Block Captain South Coordinators: Nancy Schmidt and Jim White		314.941.0319	schmidtwhite@gmail.com	901 Magnolia Street
Block Captain North Coordinator: Jim Willis		336.202.0586	galoot0077@twc.com	307 East Hendrix Street

Helpful Contacts and Organizations

City Council	Justin Outling, City Council District 3	336.373.4638 or justin.outling@greensboro-nc.gov
County Commission	Jeff Phillips, County Commissioner District 5 Kay Cashion, County Commissioner At Large	336.337.2955 or jphillips@guilfordcountync.gov 336.274.6272 or kcashion@guilfordcountync.gov
City Customer Contact	Directs your calls to the appropriate City department	336.373.CITY (336.373.2489)
City Historic District Staff	Historic district guidelines, applications for Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA), plus free design review advice.	336.373.2144 directly or simply call 336.373.CITY (336.373.2489)
City Zoning Enforcement	Historic district guidelines enforcement, property owner housing concerns, signage concerns, etc.	336.373.2753 directly or simply call 336.373.CITY (336.373.2489)
City Code Compliance	Rental housing inspections, abandoned vehicles, overgrown property cleanup, and other issues.	336.373.2111 directly or simply call 336.373.CITY (336.373.2489)
Duke Energy	Streetlight outage or electrical power outage.	1.800.POWERON (1.800.769.3766)
Police Central Division	Police assistance during emergencies and non-emergencies such as suspicious activities or noise.	Emergency: 911 Non-emergency: 336.373.2222
Community Resource Officer (CRO)	Police Officer L.M. Pierce: 336.373.2287 (desk phone) or lm.pierce@greensboro-nc.gov For a non-emergency, call or email Officer Pierce or call 336-373-2222. Nextdoor.com is not routinely monitored by police. To report homeless people camping in the park: call 911, and police will come. OR call or email Officer Pierce directly.	
Social Media Options	Fisher Park Nextdoor page: Visit Nextdoor.com and follow instructions to join the Fisher Park neighborhood. Fisher Park Facebook page: Visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/70093789136	
Contractor Referrals	Positive referrals to contractors, provided by neighbors and hosted by Preservation Greensboro Inc. (PGI) PreservationGreensboro.org/about/preservation-resources/	
Greensboro Neighborhood Congress	Greensboro alliance of neighborhoods meeting bimonthly to address city-wide issues and empower neighborhoods to resolve neighborhood-specific concerns. Meetings are currently suspended due to virus concerns. www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org	