

MORE



NEWS

A Morehead Hill Neighborhood Association Publication

Fall 2002

FALL BACK!

October 27th marks the end of daylight savings time! So, you can get an extra hour of sleep on Sunday morning!

We hope that you will remember to attend our Fall Social that afternoon! See the article at right for time and location.



CURRENT MHNA OFFICERS

POSITION:	HELD BY:	TELEPHONE:
President:	Lynn Kohn	683-2069
Pres.-Elect:	Angel Redoble	688-2342
Secretary:	Liz McGuffey	683-8567
Treasurer:	Melanie Eberhart	667-0532
At-Large:	Blaine Butterworth	683-3285
At-Large:	Michael McGuffey	683-8567
At-Large:	Janice Stroud	682-8292

Sunday, October 27th Fall Afternoon Social & Meeting: 3-5pm!



The Fall 2002 MHNA afternoon social will be held **October 27th** at the Camelot Academy (809 Procter Street) on Sunday from 3:00-5:00 pm. Note the time! Because of the hour, this will not be a potluck supper, but an afternoon social. People are invited to bring their favorite snacks, desserts, or Halloween treats. Beverages will be provided.

The meeting agenda includes plans to make Durham more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists, Orchard Park update, local historic district news and the rezoning hearing.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet your neighbors, visit the Camelot Academy and voice your ideas and concerns.



Get Involved!!

The neighborhood is looking for two representatives to donate a little of their time in support of Morehead Hill. We need a **president-elect** to serve in 2003. Primary responsibilities include helping the president with pressing issues, attending monthly board meetings, and becoming acclimated to the responsibilities of the President. The following year (2004), they will become president, where their duties will include planning and co-ordinating 2-3 neighborhood socials/meetings over the course of the year. They will have the support of the incoming president-elect, the secretary, the treasurer and the at-large members (see list at left).

The second position, that is open now, is an alternate delegate to the Inter-Neighborhood Council (INC). Duties include attending monthly INC meetings and report to the Morehead Hill Neighborhood Association board.

A note from Spring Davis, the editor: I have served as president in the past and have produced the newsletter for the past 8 years. Community service feels good! I hope that those in our neighborhood will come to the upcoming Social and step up to the plate!

Working with the Neighbors



Morehead Hill is one of six neighborhoods which make up the Southwest Central Durham Neighborhood which stretches from #147 to Chapel Hill Boulevard and is bounded by Duke Street to the east and the cemetery to the west with a bit of a jog down Kent Street beyond Lakewood. People of all sorts and kinds live in this neighborhood and this diversity presents a good many challenges. What can improve the quality of life for us all? Safety, well-kept houses and yards, opportunities for our children, help for our elders, recreational facilities, - what do you want to see?

There are several groups in SWCDN which are working to make life better for us all. One is the Quality of Life project. Carol Childs represents us on this committee with Angel Redoble as alternate. Paul Cornsweet usually represents us as the PAC meetings on the 2nd Saturday morning of each month. The Southwest Central Durham Neighborhood Council meets the third Monday of every month at 6 pm. Pat Page has been chair of this committee and will continue to work with this committee. Now we need a new live-in representative of this neighborhood in this group. This Council's main purpose is to find ways to bring together the people in these six neighborhoods - to help us move beyond racism and other isms and celebrate the different gifts we bring. A major project will be hospitality to and with the many Hispanics in our wider neighborhood.

PLEASE LET LYNN KOHN KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND CAN REPRESENT MOREHEAD HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC. ON THE COUNCIL. Call 683-2069.

Neighborhood Transitions



When **Pat Page** moved to the Croasdaile Retirement Community in the fall of 2002, More-

head Hill lost a long-time, dedicated activist. Pat came here in 1990, relocating from Berkeley, California, where she had taught at the Christian Divinity School at the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley. She was planning to retire and thought that North Carolina would be a good midway point between her native New England and Florida. Pat also had fond memories of the Tarheel State as the scene of her first job. After finishing graduate work in Christian education at Harvard and NYU, she was sent to Bessemer City, where she organized a congregation that built their own chapel. Between Bessemer City and Berkeley, she taught in Africa, England, China, and Hong Kong and was Episcopal chaplain at Smith College.

After living in an area of Berkeley, in the hills just outside of town, where she literally "never saw" her next-door neighbor, Pat was ready to live in a "real neighborhood." She found that in Morehead Hill. After moving into her house at 715 Shepherd Street, she became involved in the community. She was president of the Morehead Hill Neighborhood Association from 1994-1996. She was also one of the founders of the Southwest Central Durham Neighborhood Council, a group begun by local activists who wanted to address the common problems of inner city neighborhoods. She has been Morehead Hill's representative to the council for several years. In that capacity she organized a successful walking tour of Morehead Hill. Recently Pat was on the steer-

ing committee of the Duke-Durham Quality of Life Project. Pat plans to stay involved in Morehead Hill activities and attend neighborhood association meetings.

The new owner of Pat Page's house is **Robert Knebel**, who moved to Durham from Fort Collins, Colorado. Before living in Colorado, he had made his home in Winston-Salem, and wanted to return to North Carolina. Mr. Knebel, whose background is in the arts, is currently Executive Director of the Eno River Unitarian-Universalist Church. When asked why he chose to live in Morehead Hill, Robert Knebel responded that he liked the neighborhood's proximity to downtown and the many interesting older homes in the area. The house on Shepherd Street, a 1906 Carolina "T" style, is a prime example of the turn-of-the-century vernacular architecture found in the neighborhood.



Michael Kohn, a long-time resident of Morehead Hill, received the National Institute of Environmental

Health Sciences Director's award for his contributions to enhancing the techniques of computer modeling and its application to estimating the risk of adverse health effects consequent to exposure to industrial chemicals. The award was bestowed last December 14. More recently the Research Triangle Foundation nominated Michael "Commuter of the Year," in recognition of his long commitment to using public transportation to help reduce highway congestion and air pollution. The award was presented in a public ceremony in Research Triangle Park on October 4.

Efforts To Expand Boundaries of Morehead Hill National Historic District

You may recall, there have been several "good news" items in the past year or so. Last fall, the City Council approved spending \$9,000 to fund a contractor who would take the next steps to revise our current National Historic District boundaries. In spring 2002, the city contracted with the Historic Preservation Society of Durham (HPSD) to manage the money allocated to accomplish several things. The contract with HPSD actually was for \$31,000 and was to cover similar applications from Lakewood and Trinity Heights neighborhoods in addition to Morehead Hill.

First, an application is to be submitted to the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office so Morehead Hill will be added to the State's Study List.

The President of HPSD committed to have this application submitted prior to the September 16 so it can be considered in the next cycle. By the time you read this article, that should have happened and we should be already on the State Study List.

Once the State Historic Preservation Office approves this first application, the larger job of gathering complete details and information for a submission to the National Historic District can be undertaken. Here again, HPSD will enter into a contract with a consultant to perform the analysis, gather historical information, complete the application documents and submit the nomination to the National Park Service.

This effort, if successful, will add approximately 175 homes to the Morehead Hill National Historic District. Owners of "contributing homes" within National Historic District boundaries can submit their restoration plans to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office in hope of gaining tax benefits at the federal or state level once their plan is approved and work completed. More information can be obtained from: <http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/>

Once the NC State Historic Preservation Office approves our intent to submit an application, the consultant bringing that application together may need your help. There may be details about the history or architecture of your home that only you can provide.

Please be ready to provide this information, if you are called.



Hoofing & Peddling

On Saturday Sept. 28 the Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC), comprising representatives of Durham city and county and some environmental groups, held a "forum" for public discussion of practical means to improve accessibility of our streets to bicyclists and pedestrians.

Unfortunately, so much time was taken up by a presentation of what was done in another city that there wasn't sufficient opportunity for citizen input.

To overcome this deficiency go to the BPAC web site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/durhambikeandped/> and submit one to three suggestions each for improving access to bicyclists and pedestrians.



REMINDER:

Don't Forget to VOTE on Tuesday, November 5





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Zoning Issues

In June, 2002 Craige Motors Company, located at 1102 South Duke Street, requested that their property be rezoned from NC and R-8 to GC. On October 8th the case came before the Zoning Committee. The Zoning Committee is an advisory body consisting of seven individuals appointed by the City Council and the County Commission. After a public hearing, the Zoning Committee recommends to the City Council that a request for a zoning change be approved, denied, or deferred.

At the October 8th hearing, an official from the Planning Department expressed concern about the absence of a development plan to show that the change could be compatible the surrounding historic, residential community. A Morehead Hill representative asked that the committee deny the request, citing the negative effects of more commercial intrusion on the residential character of the community.

Finally, the decision was deferred until December 10th (two cycles) because the applicant did not file a development plan for the property.

Morehead Hill Must Wait for Orchard Park Improvements

After assurance from the City in August that the Orchard Park project was moving forward toward approval before the October 7, 2002, City Council meeting, the Morehead Hill Neighborhood Association has just learned that the entire bid process for this project must begin again. New bid materials are being prepared. The new 30-day bid period is set to begin the week of October 14th, barring what can only be called at this point foreseen circumstances causing yet another delay.

During the June bid period, McQueen Construction was the low bidder for the Orchard Park project, and the City started the process to finalize the contract for Council approval. The City failed to meet a crucial deadline to have this matter placed on the agenda for the September City Council Meeting. This deadline was crucial because the City had

only 90 days from the time McQueen Construction won the bid to return a contract approved by Council.

Because the City missed it's opportunity to present this matter before the September Council meeting, in order to proceed to the October Council Meeting, McQueen Construction would have had to approve an extension of the 90 days terms, which it chose not to do. Now the City must begin the bid process for the entire project a second time.

At this point the absolute best time-frame scenario would have a new contract ready for consideration at the December City Council Meeting. Many obstacles stand in the way, not the least of which being that the City requires the winning bid to be at or under budget. During the June bid period, only one of seven bids, McQueen's bid, met this requirement.

