

MORE



NEWS

A Morehead Hill Neighborhood Association Publication

Summer 2006

MHNA Gatherings

Potluck Supper (all are invited)

Sunday, September 10
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Orchard Park

Please bring a dish to share.

Business Meeting (all are invited)

Saturday, October 14
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Orchard Park

Election MHNA Board Members

Sunday, November 12

Time, location and slate of nominees will be distributed in October.

Please try to attend as many of these events as you can! They are informative and are a great way to meet your neighbors and help build a stronger and more involved neighborhood.

MHNA OFFICERS

YOUR VOLUNTEERING NEIGHBORS

Melanie Eberhart (president)
melanie_eberhart@hotmail.com

OPEN (president-elect)

Lynn Kohn (board member at large)
marissa78@earthlink.net

OPEN (board member at large)

Bobbe Deason (INC representative)
bobbe.deason@gmail.com

Paul Cornsweet (INC representative)
pec326@earthlink.net

Jeff Ensminger (QoL representative)
awanderingfeast@mindspring.com

Rochelle Araujo (QoL alternate)
raraujo1@nc.rr.com

OPEN (CAN representative)

Neighborhood College

Durham Neighborhood College — a series of classes that teach residents about the workings of their city and county governments — is accepting applications for the fall 2006 semester.

The program teaches about local government through sessions run by local government officials, according to a press release from the city and county.

There are 25 positions in the program, which begins Sept. 14 and consists of 10 sessions, nine from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday nights and one on a Saturday morning. Students must attend eight sessions to complete the program. The program costs \$25; five need-based scholarships are available.

On the Web:

Applications are available at
www.durhamnc.gov or
www.co.durham.nc.us

Beautiful Orchard Park



ORCHARD PARK, a true jewel in Morehead Hill (corner of Duke and Cobb Streets), offers many FREE amenities: grills, playground equipment, a covered shelter, a water fountain, winding shaded walkways and a "lap" oval, all just a short walk away from any MH home!



Thinking about Home Improvements?

Morehead Hill is a historic district. Consequently, most additions and modifications must receive approval before work commences. Questions should be referred to Steve Cruse in the Durham City-County Planning Department at (919) 560-4137, extension 236. To obtain a pdf of Morehead Hill's specific plan, visit <http://www.ci.durham.nc.us/departments/planning/plans.cfm>



Tips to Prevent Crime

I wanted to pass on something to everyone about making sure you lock your doors and take simple steps to help protect yourself from being victimized

by crime. We are seeing more and more reports where property is being stolen from unlocked residences or garages and sheds left open. Same goes for vehicles left unlocked. I am seeing everything from guns to laptops being left in unsecured vehicles and thieves are preying upon this.

Almost everyone is guilty of the "I live in a safe neighborhood" mentality and we often forget to secure everything. Heck, I lived way out in the country and figured thieves could not even find my neighborhood, so I didn't lock my car. That was until someone went though unlocked cars in our neighborhood late one night. I had nothing taken, but some of my neighbors did. You never know where thieves will strike, and they often prey on "safe" neighborhoods as they are easy targets.

I will give you a recent example here in our District. Back in April and May we had a series of thefts from cars, car thefts and residential B&Es in District 3 and District 4. These thefts were linked to several suspects (juveniles). A search of the suspect(s) homes recovered a volume of stolen property. When the dust settled we had found more than 10 cars they had broken into, 5 they had stolen and several houses they had broken into. They hit streets such as Hamstead Ct., Alpine Rd. and HopeValley Rd. here in our district. They also hit locations in Dist 4, Cary and Morrisville. **The real trend that their crimes had in common was that not a single one we could find involved any forced entry to a car or home.** They were going into

neighborhoods and going through vehicles late at night. They would take property from the vehicles if they found something of value, such as cell phones and computers. They often found keys and valet keys to the cars which they would then steal. They were also able to find house keys and then would go into the homes. They took over \$20,000 in jewelry from one house they were able to get into (most all of this was recovered luckily).

This type of "crime spree" is very common. Here are a few tips to keep in mind to help reduce the thieves opportunity:

- Do not leave keys and valuables in vehicles at night
- Make sure doors and windows are locked
- Do not leave valuables in sight in a parked vehicle
- If you have a garage, park your vehicle inside at night (this is by far one of the most effective ways to protect your car, but like many of you I can't get a car in my garage for all the stuff...)
- Utilize motion lights around your home at night
- Timers to household lights set to go on/off at odd hours. (I have one in my home's front room that comes on briefly - for about 15 minutes - several times in the middle of the night.)

It would be much easier if we could predict crime and know where it was going to happen (I'd be out of a job!!!) but we can't. No neighborhood is immune to random acts. Please keep this in mind and try to take steps to help us reduce the opportunity for crimes to happen.

Thanks
Sgt. Hampton
District 3 Investigations

Sidewalk Cleanup

Last year, MHNA sponsored an Adopt-a-Corner program. The goal was to improve the appearance and accessibility of our sidewalks and park.

Adopted sites include:

- The Vickers Avenue bridge over Highway 147, southeast corner.
- The Vickers Avenue bridge over Highway 147, northeast corner.
- The Vickers Avenue bridge over Highway 147, northwest corner.

If you'd like to adopt an area, the following steps should be performed:

Identify potential sites. Notify Chris Boyer from Durham City General Services. She will schedule a risk assessment of all proposed sites. We must make our own arrangements to dispose of greenery (compost heaps, individual yard waste carts) and brownery (soil cannot go into a brown cart, so disposal is limited to neighborhood yards and the dump). We need to notify any nearby neighbors of our plans. We need to be sure that we don't stray onto private property. We must not block traffic or improperly dispose of debris. Remember that all debris must be removed from the street.

MHNA encourages selection of many small areas. A single yard waste cart could handle the greenery and a single yard could handle the dirt. A small site could be managed by 2-3 people, whenever they found time.

If you have identified a potential site, or if you'd like to adopt a site, but you will not be able to attend the neighborhood meeting, please call Bobbe Deason at 682-9074.

We can also use many occasional helpers in Orchard Park. Flower beds need to be weeded. Boston ivy is scampering up tree trunks and poison ivy is rampant: "beware leaves of three".

Lastly, litter patrol is always appreciated.  If you're a walker, please travel with a trash bag.

Neighborhood News Tidbits

Do you have questions about Durham?

- www.ci.durham.nc.us has information on Durham City services.
- www.co.durham.nc.us has facts about Durham County services.
- Dial **560-1200** (Durham One Call) and you will get an answer or a referral to the appropriate department.

My House's History

Want to investigate the history of your old house? Fill your pockets with quarters and dimes, then head to the Register of Deeds Office located in the basement of 200 E Main Street; open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Research begins with the current deed, which contains a reference to the prior deed. Proceed backwards, one deed at a time, until you find the original deed, or exhaust the deed books. Deeds from 1962 to present have been computerized. Deeds prior to 1962 are in fabulous deed books. Xerox copies cost 25 cents. After collecting your deeds, head over the main public library at 300 N Roxboro Street. Hill's City Directories for Durham are available on microfilm at the second floor audiovisual desk. The directories contain the usual listings by name and a reverse listing by street. Frequently you'll find names and occupations of the head of the household as well as names of other occupants including spouses and children. Copies cost ten cents. For a small investment of time and cash, you'll gain a surprising understanding and appreciation of your piece of Durham.



The Hill House, lovingly maintained by the Durham Junior League, is a National Historic Landmark near Orchard Park.

Partners Against Crime

District 3 Partners Against Crime meets the second Saturday of each month at the Community Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park, 1313 Halley Street at 10:00 a.m. Police officers and members of other city and county departments are available for information exchange and problem solving and all are invited to attend. If you want to join the PAC 3 list serve, send an e-mail to PCLoninger@nc.rr.com.

Poop Scoop

Dog poop is believed to be a causative factor in pollution of urban creeks with coliform bacteria. Children in public parks are at risk for hookworms. Please, just scoop it! Biodegradable bags are available at www.ecosafeplastics.com.

Trash Talk

Did you know that there is a city ordinance requiring residents to store trash carts and recycle bins in their side or back yards? Carts or bins left on the sidewalk, in the right-of-way or near the street can obscure drivers' view and pedestrians' paths. In the near future, after warnings are issued, \$50.00 fines will be levied for wayward carts and bins.



Slowing Speeders

If you would like to participate in an informal traffic calming initiative, simply drive 35 miles per hour whenever you're on Duke or Gregson Streets. Your neighbors will appreciate it... and it IS the law.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to support my neighborhood!

Our household realizes that this small membership fee to the Morehead Hill Neighborhood Association helps pay for: (1) this newsletter, which keeps us informed about the current issues that affect our community, (2) neighborhood meeting essentials (paper plates, utensils, beverages, etc.), and (3) reserve funds for important updates and unforeseen emergencies.

Please check any that apply:

- \$10.00 for individuals \$15.00 for families \$25.00 for businesses
 I/We would like to make a donation to the MHNA: \$ _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PREFERRED CONTACT PHONE _____

DATE _____

This information will NOT be shared with ANYONE outside the Association. Please fill out this coupon and return it with your dues to: **Melanie Eberhart, 807 Shepherd St., Durham, NC 27701 OR bring it with you to one of the Fall Gatherings** (see front page). Make out your check to: **Morehead Hill Neighborhood Association.**

Home Invasion: The Moldy Truth

by Lynn Kohn

In recent years much attention has been focused on the damage to persons and property caused by such gigantic forces of nature as hurricanes, fires, floods, and earthquakes. However, other aspects of nature though less spectacular, can be destructive or even deadly.

One prime example is mold. The term mold covers tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of species of microscopic fungi, which produce spores that are carried by air, water, and insects. Some of the more common molds are: alternaria, penicillium, and aspergillus.

What causes mold? Moisture—from such sources as: leaks, seepage into basements, inadequate drainage, and blocked ventilation of appliances such as air conditioners and clothes dryers. Older houses, especially if not well-maintained, are particularly prone to mold.

Once inside a house, mold can do major damage to the building and anything in it—furniture, carpets, books, paper, clothes, shoes, etc. Even more disturbing is the fact that molds can produce serious allergic reactions in people exposed to them. Early warning signs of health problems caused by exposure to mold include: sore throat, coughs, nasal congestion, shortness of breath, headaches, and skin rashes with no apparent cause.

More general indications of the presence of mold in a building are: a musty smell, water stains, surface discoloration, and wallpaper or paint separating from the wall.

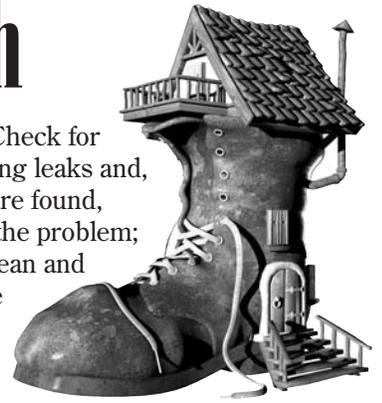
Because mold thrives on moisture, the best way to eliminate it is to remove excess moisture and its sources from the house. Keep the humidity level low (from 30% to 60%) and install dehumidifiers if necessary. Make sure that any hidden, moisture-prone places such as crawl spaces, basements, bath rooms, and laundry areas are adequately venti-

lated. Check for plumbing leaks and, if any are found, repair the problem; then clean and dry the affected area.

Insulate features such as windows and pipes that produce condensate when cold.

There are professional inspectors who can measure levels of mold and moisture in a house. If the damage is too extensive for the residents to repair themselves, they can retain the services of a professional “mold remediator.”

For more information contact: U. S. Environmental Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, Indoor Environments Divisions, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Mailcode: 6609J, Washington, DC, 20460.



SWCD Quality of Life Project

ENERGY TASK FORCE by Jeffrey A. Ensminger

Mission Statement of the Energy Task Force

The mission of the Energy Task Force is to assist Durham neighborhoods in Southwest Central Durham transition to cleaner, cheaper, and more efficient energy technologies in both their buildings and their vehicles. The Energy Task Force promotes home weatherization, solar technologies, energy-efficient equipment and lighting, Energy Star appliances, and energy-efficient transit modes. It also promotes policies and regulations, funding sources, and educational efforts that help its neighborhoods reduce the use of fossil fuels.

How Does the Task Force Meeting Structure Work?

As a subcommittee of the Southwest Central Durham Quality of Life Housing Committee, the Energy Task Force reports to the Housing Committee.

The Energy Task Force is open to all Southwest Central Durham neighborhoods. Each is urged to have at least two representatives. Local environmental leaders are also welcome to join as non-voting members.

Meetings will be held six times a year. Meeting locations will be rotated. A Chair, to be elected for a one-year term, will chair the meetings.

The Energy Task Force will generally operate by consensus, but if a vote is needed, then a majority will carry. Each neighborhood will have one vote regardless of the number of participants.

If you would like to help make Southwest Central Durham a better place to live, work and play, please contact Jeff Ensminger at awanderingfeast@mindspring.com