

The Heart of the

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Save the Date for FESTIVAL 2006

Celebrate FestOval with old and new neighbors on Saturday, October 7! Festivities will begin in Oval Park at 3pm with Lil' and Big Kids' Games, including Moon Walk, face painting, three-legged race, bean-bag toss, and bubblemania! Ponies will be on site to give kids a ride or two or three or four!!!! Don't miss the fun!

Our potluck begins at 5pm along with lots of music and dancing. Oval Park will be hopping! Bring a favorite dish to share with neighbors, friends and family, and put on your dancing shoes to boogie to the sounds of FestOval's annual musical centerpiece, Durham Jazz, an eighteen-piece jazz and swing band!

So come on out and enjoy the day's games, merrymaking and surprises! This year's theme is celebration of our newest and oldest neighbors!!! Who's lived in Watts Hospital-Hillandale the longest? And who's only just moved in? Please plan to celebrate with us at FestOval 2006 and meet them all!!

If you'd like to help set-up, supervise a kid's game or tidy the park at the end of the day's events, please contact Anne Fairchild 286-4625 or Eileen Reynolds (286-9030).

See you at FestOval on October 7!

Neighborhood Tree Inventory Findings Are In

By MEREDITH EMMETT

With financial assistance from the Duke Durham Neighborhood Partnership, the neighborhood association commissioned Sharon Yeh, a graduate student at the Nicholas School of the Environment, to inventory the location and status of the trees along W. Club Boulevard from Broad Street to Hillandale Road and along Broad Street from Club Boulevard to Guess Road. Sharon presented her very comprehensive inventory to the Tree Committee in March.

Here are a few of Sharon's findings:

- Photos taken by Duke Forest's first direc-

tor Clarence Korstian of the city street planting effort on Club Blvd on May 1, 1938 show that the trees were planted on both the north and south side of Club at the same time. Drive down the street and you will notice that the trees on the north side are bigger and healthier. The trees on the south side have been heavily pruned to accommodate the overhead power lines, severely stressing the trees and making them more susceptible to fungus and trunk decay.

- Of the area surveyed far on West Club and Broad St., 78% of the street has trees present while 22% of the area doesn't have trees. Sharon did some GPS mapping of the location of each tree and found 313 points where there might be a tree. The number of absent trees was recorded by looking at the appropriate spacing between existing trees.

- The majority of the trees (77%) are Willow Oaks. The next most frequent tree is Water Oaks at 7%. Some replanting has been occurring with young crape myrtles, dogwoods, and ginkos.

- Many of the trees are in poor health. Indicators of poor tree health such as heavy pruning, epicormic branching, and tree decay were present in 72% of the trees. In an urban environment with air pollution, heavy pruning, pavement restrictions, and degraded soil conditions, willow oaks have a life expectancy of 70 to 80 years.

Our trees are an important part of our neighborhood. Like the background of a painting, the presence of the willow oaks along the streets and in our yards forms a cohesive whole out of a wonderfully eclectic collection of houses. Furthermore, research in the value of urban forestry has shown that trees have a positive economic effect on real estate values. One front yard tree can equate a 1% increase in home sales price; and, landscaping increases the speed at which a home sells by up to 4-6 weeks. Trees shade our houses in the summer and improve our air quality. The US Forest Service estimates that 100 trees remove about 1000lbs of pollutants per year. In addition, 100 trees remove five tons of carbon dioxide annually, reducing the total amount of greenhouse gases.

The Tree Committee is actively working to maintain and enhance the tree canopy as an important part of our neighborhood. We are using the data compiled by Sharon to identify a list of trees that will thrive under the utility lines and contribute to the overall beauty of Club Boulevard and Broad Street. We will recommend this list of trees to neighbors and ask the City of Durham's Urban Forestry Department to promote these trees as part of their cost-share program that pays for the cost of a seedling and provides planting services.

For more information on the tree inventory and the Tree Committee's next steps, look on neighborhood association's web site at www.whhna.org or contact Joshua Allen, chair of the Tree Committee. And thank you to Sharon Yeh, the Nicholas School of the Environment, and the Duke Durham Neighborhood Partnership for contributing your expertise and resources to this project.

Help Plan Our Artwalk

By ANNE BOGERD

An organizational meeting for this year's Watts-Hillandale Neighborhood Artwalk will be held at Galia Goodman home, 1301 Alabama Ave., June 6 at 7PM. Please attend and help us make it the best one ever.



Neighbors Win Preservation Awards

At its annual meeting in June, the Historic Preservation Society of Durham bestowed its coveted George and Mary Pyne award to Deborah and Ted Attix for their wonderful rehabilitation of their home at 2401 West Club Boulevard. It's hard to believe that only a year ago this 1920s era house was slated to be demolished by the city. Working within the strict guidelines established by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Durham Historic Preservation Commission, Ted and Deborah took on this huge project and brought this house back from the brink. Thanks to them, what was once an eyesore

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