

Neighborhood

NOTABLE HAPPENINGS
IN OUR NECK OF
THE WOODS

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is now a showplace. Theirs is a remarkable accomplishment which only the bravest and most committed preservationist would ever have considered.

The Society bestowed its Neighborhood Conservation Award on Chris Husack for his thoughtful and painstaking restoration of the modest bungalow at 2010 Englewood Avenue and attorney David C. Smith for his rehabilitation of the house at 1218 Broad Street for his home and law office. On Englewood, Chris replaced damaged floors, renovated the kitchen and bathroom, and built closets in the bedrooms where there had never been closets before. What impressed the awards committee the most was Chris's careful use of recycled historic materials. He was careful to keep and restore the interior woodwork and to match the old doors with identical "new" ones he found in an architectural salvage warehouse. The most remarkable thing of all is that Chris never intended to live in the house. His purpose all along was to fix it up in a historically sensitive way and sell it to a new homeowner.

It's hardly surprising that David Smith would save an old house in Watts-Hillandale. He is a graduate of the NC School of Science and Math and currently serves on its board of trustees. He's also a past president of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association and a member of the Historic Preservation Society. David's new office-home began its existence in the early 1920s as the fashionable stone-and-stucco residence of the James Bain family. Over time, however, the houses on broad, this one included, became offices for doctors and lawyers. When David began work, the old Bain house had been badly altered. Its porch had been filled in and a jarring modern window arrangement had been installed between the porch supports. Now the house is restored to its original appearance, contributing once again to the historic character of the neighborhood.

Our thanks goes to all of the award winners for their sensitive stewardship of these important threads in the cultural fabric we

all share. Thanks also goes to North Carolina's historic preservation tax credit program which made all three projects possible. For more information about this program, please contact the State Historic Preservation Office, 733-6545. For more information about the Historic Preservation Society of Durham, call them at 682-3036.

Garden Club Begins New Season of Outings

The neighborhood's club for lazy gardeners has already begun its 2006 season of entirely passive programs with a visit to the lovely Montrose gardens in Hillsboro in May. Other programs in the works are a possible visit to the gardens of Old Salem and visit to some of the specialty garden vendors in the triangle area. Interested? Call Tom Miller, 286-3730, or Dean Michaels, 286-2601 to get on the list. The Watts-Hillandale garden club is dedicated to appreciating the work of others. We promise to avoid serious heavy lifting.

Old West Durham Launches Gold Star Program for Rental Managers

The Old West Durham Neighborhood Association has begun an innovative program to improve the appearance and quality of rental properties in the neighborhood by awarding certain area rental managers a "Gold Star." To qualify for the OWD Gold Star recommendation, a management company has to demonstrate that it uses clear and consistent tenant screening practices and that it maintains the properties in its care in good condition. The manager must also respond promptly and effectively to tenant and neighborhood complaints and must notify tenants about city services and code requirements. So far, one management company, Apple Realty, has qualified for the OWD's Gold Star rating. The neighborhood association expects to award silver and bronze stars as well. Old West Durham is the neighborhood immediately to the south of Watts-Hillandale. It has a thriving neighborhood organization.

Neighborhood T-Shirts a Warm Weather Fashion Must!

Don't go through another summer with those same old dreary togs you've been wearing. With an expenditure of just \$12, you can be hip and with-it. All you need is a genuine, authorized Watts-Hillandale commemorative undergarment. There are many designs to choose from in a rainbow of colors. This year there will be a new design and maybe we reissue an old favorite. There will be a shirt to fit everyone (if you are small, medium, large or XL). All shirts are natural, breathable cotton. Watts-Hillandale t-shirts can be acquired for cash or easy terms at the annual July 4 parade or any other time by calling Tom Miller, our man in underwear, 286-3730.

Kudos To Our Kids!

How quickly they grow up! The following kids in the 'hood have graduated! Congratulations and best wishes to all!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Michael Bare – Durham School of the Arts, attending UNC-Chapel Hill

Matt Ferguson – Durham School of the Arts, taking a year off, hopes to attend NC State

Ross Adam Cohen Goldberg – Carolina Friends School, attending Skidmore College

Max Gottlieb – Durham School of the Arts, attending UNC-Asheville

Ian Michael Hayes – Carolina Friends School, attending UNC-Asheville

Katie Kauffmann – Riverside HS, attending UNC-Charlotte

Elizabeth Liles – NC School of Science and Math, attending UNC-Asheville

Sara Mitchell-Olds – Carolina Friends School, attending Earlham College

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