

PARADE

SEPT.
2006

THE WATTS HOSPITAL-HILLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

"A good neighbor is a fellow who smiles at you over the back fence, but doesn't climb over it."---Arthur Baer

DUKE AND NEIGHBORS WORK ON CENTRAL CAMPUS REZONING

BY TOM MILLER

This summer, representatives of the Watts-Hillandale, Old West Durham, Trinity Park, Tuscaloosa-Lakewood, Burch Avenue neighborhoods and area businesses, including Northgate Mall, Ninth Street, and Brightleaf Square have been working with Duke University to fashion a development plan for Duke's ambitious 'Central Campus.' Covering the area south of the freeway from Swift Avenue west to the medical center and west campus, 'Central Campus' represents what is potentially the biggest development project proposed in the Durham city center for some time.

The land is now occupied by surface parking lots, Duke-owned student apartments, some recreation facilities, the last remnants of the 19th Century Erwin Mill village, and woods. Duke plans to redevelop the area into new buildings, offices, student dorms, and university staff and faculty housing. The university also plans to include commercial and recreational facilities to serve the larger campus community such as restaurants, a bookshop, other retail shops, and perhaps a theater, bowling alley, or performing arts center. The land is now zoned mostly residential, so to accomplish its plan Duke has applied to the city to rezone the Central Campus property to the UC or "University-College" zone.

Just now this intensification of Duke's use of this property will impact nearby neighborhoods and businesses has been the subject of the university's discussions with its neighbors. The commercial and retail elements of Duke's plan worry area business owners who will have to compete for customers. Because Duke is a nonprofit educational institution, it pays no property or sales taxes, giving its commercial enterprises a competitive edge. Independent businesses on Ninth Street worry that this edge might just push them out of business. Area neighborhoods worry that the destabilization of Ninth Street might spill over into neighboring residential areas, upsetting what Old West Durham representative John

(Continued on Page 8)

FOCUS

Get ALL The Scoop At Our Annual Meeting!

Join the WHHNA Board of Directors and all your neighbors at the Annual Neighborhood Meeting Tuesday night, 7:30 pm October 17 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church 1737 Hillandale Road.

You and your family are invited to attend! Current board members and committee chairs will present brief overviews of ongoing activities and issues, including discussions with the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, status of Duke Central Campus zoning, traffic calming plans on Club Boulevard and details about the upcoming WHH Centennial Celebration. New board members will also be elected at the Annual Meeting. Neighbors are invited to nominate themselves or others for the board. Nominations can be submitted to Marilyn Butler prior to the meeting via phone or email (286-3584 or mkbutler@mindspring.com) or during the meeting prior to the actual election. The board welcomes your participation. Please plan to be a part of WHHNA's grassroots, democratic and non-partisan Annual Meeting! Refreshments will be served!

PARADE is the newsletter of the Watts Hospital-Hillandale Neighborhood Association. It is delivered quarterly to the 1,350 households in the neighborhood. The association is a private nonprofit established in 1984 to preserve and enhance the residential character of the area. Membership is open to every adult who owns property or resides in the neighborhood. **Editor:** Karen Stark. **Art Director:** Candy Webster. **Web Site:** <http://www.whhna.org/>
This newsletter was printed at **Graphics Ink**.



Have you recently moved to the neighborhood? Are you moving away? We would love to

hear from you. Contact annefairchild@nc.rr.com to be featured in the next Comings and Goings.

J


In Memoriam

John McDonald

On Thursday, July 6, John Cameron McDonald died in his Watts-Hillandale home. He was 85. With him died a remarkable bridge between the neighborhood's present and its past.

John's life spanned nearly the whole history of West Durham. His father, Angus McDonald, founded McDonald's Drug Store on Ninth Street in 1914. The family lived on Broad Street in the house where Marie Austin Realtors is now located. John started work in his father's store in 1933 when he was just twelve years old. He attended E. K. Powe School and Durham High. After World War II, in which he served as a naval aviator John studied pharmacy at UNC. He married his wife of 60 years, Frances, and they returned to live in the neighborhood, raise a family and operate the family business.

The McDonalds saw a great deal of change in all those years. When John first went to work in the drug store, Ninth Street was very different. It served the Erwin Mill community. Instead of restaurants, bookshops and boutiques, there were banks, grocery stores, Whit's Grill, and Dailey's Hardware. Mill houses lined the west side of the street. Times changed. The mill closed, the old businesses went and new ones took their place but the McDonalds and their drugstore were the one constant that managed to bridge the old and the new, to hang on through decline and rebirth. And in 90 years, McDonald's became an institution. Essentially unchanged, the store was a sort of time capsule with the original soda fountain on the left, bandages, over-the-counter remedies on the shelves and the curious health aids displayed in the window. Mr and Mrs. McDonald continued to dispense drugs, milkshakes and smiles and kind words with the care and devotion that were always the shop's hallmark.

McDonald's closed in 2005, but the store didn't go out of business in the usual sense. There was no half-price, everything-must-go sale. There was no empty store front. Instead, the store sits just as it was when the last milkshake was sold to the last customer. It is as though it is waiting for Mr. McDonald to return in his white smock to turn the key in the lock and slip the "open" sign in the window. Ninth Street shoppers and Watts-Hillandale neighbors prefer to see the store that way, neither open nor closed, but just waiting for Mr. McDonald, the West Durham institution and their constant friend.



Well, there's bad news and good news along Ninth Street. **BOOKS ON NINTH** has closed after nine years on the street, but fortunately two other used book stores are right around the corner on Markham (**Books Do Furnish A Room**) and on Broad Street (**Nice Priced Books**.) Books On Ninth will be taken over by **Blue Corn Caf** which will be expanding into the space this fall.

At least two more restaurants on Ninth Street are supposed to open as well and may have opened by the time this newsletter has arrived on your doorstep.

Some of the good news: A new and used music shop opened in the last year on Perry Street (next to CCI's new location). **CHAZ'S BULL CITY RECORDS** is upstairs with a large selection of CD's and vinyl. Owner **Chaz Martinstein** says he tends to gravitate toward rock, indie rock, punk rock and garage rock but will be glad to special order anything you want. You can also listen to anything before you buy! Hours are 11-5 Tuesday-Friday, 12-9 on Saturday, and 12-6 on Sunday. They're closed on Monday. Call Chaz at 286-9640 or check out their web site bullcityrecords.com

The other good news is of particular interest to neighborhood history buffs. **WALLACE'S AUTO GARAGE** is under new ownership up on Hillsborough Rd across from Food Lion. Since 1926 the brown stone garage has been operated by families from the WHH 'hood. The new owners **Lester and Scott Watkins**, have also been our WHH neighbors for many many decades. Lester grew up on Georgia Avenue and remembers playing at the original Museum of Life and Science when it was in our 'hood just down the street from his house! He and his son Scott really love and care about the WHH neighborhood and really care about cars. So take your car up to these guys for your repairs, oil changes, tire rotations or whatever. They also love to shmooz about neighborhood history! For instance, you might learn about their cute stone building which was made from left over stone at the Duke Chapel building site. The original Italian stone masons at Duke built the Wallace Garage for a grand total of \$85! Check out the good conversation and good car care at Wallace's! Call them at 286-1268.

And all you pizza lovers take note: **RANDY'S PIZZA** has moved from Broad Street up to Northgate in the old Harris Teeter location.

NCSSM Stadium Developments

BY NED KENNINGTON

On May 10, virtually the entire delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly from Durham County (Paul Luebke, Jeanne Lucas, Bob Atwater, Micky Michaux and Winkie Wilkins) signed a letter to NCSSM strongly urging NCSSM "to negotiate in good faith" with WHHNA "over the issues raised by your proposed track and soccer stadium for however long it takes to reach a compromise, win-win solution that meets the needs of the school, the neighbors, and Durham as a whole...." They also called on the School not to begin grading or let any contracts until an agreement is reached.

On May 11, NCSSM presented its latest plans for the stadium, which are essentially identical to the 1998 plans that many people have already seen. These plans include tearing down one of the large smokestacks next to the heating plant during an as-yet-unscheduled future phase when the track facility would be built.

In response to the request of the legislative delegation, David Smith, a member of the NCSSM Board of Trustees who lives in the neighborhood, has chaired several meetings about the stadium between representatives of the School and three representatives appointed by the WHHNA Board (Steve Cohn, Meredith Emmett and Ned Kennington).

WHHNA representatives opened the discussion by offering to compromise on our previous insistence that the stadium not include high intensity lighting at all, so long as the School was willing to adjust its lighting plan so as to create a lighting system that the neighbors could live with. WHHNA representatives tried to establish a cooperative atmosphere by proposing that we work together toward the goal of finding a way to build a stadium that meets the standards required by NCSSM's athletic conference in a way tolerable to neighbors. NCSSM agreed to do this and provide copies of the standards NCSSM must meet. David Smith also assured WHHNA representatives that there would not be pressure to terminate negotiations to begin construction, as long as he felt there was hope that an agreement could be reached.

WHHNA has spent hundreds of hours in developing creative suggestions on lighting the soccer field and in researching illumination engineering. We have done extensive reading in the engineering library at Duke. We have talked with national experts on lighting. We acquired and became proficient in the use of software

(Continued on Page 8)

The Heart of the

Visit Watts Hospital-Hillandale on the Web at <http://www.whhna.org/>

Twenty First Annual Festival Rocks The Park!

Please join your neighbors to celebrate FestOval on Saturday, October 7! Festivities will begin in Oval Park at 2pm with Lil'and Big Kids' Games, including Moon Walk, face painting, three-legged race, bean-bag toss and bubblemania! Two ponies are expected to join us to give kids a ride or two!!!! Don't miss the fun! We're starting an hour earlier this year so we'll have enough daylight for music and food.

Our popular and sumptuous potluck dinner begins at 4 pm along with excellent music and dancing. Oval Park will be hopping! Bring a favorite dish to share with neighbors, friends and family, and bring a lawn chair or two to sit, relax and listen 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 longest neighbors!!! Who's lived in Watts Hospital-Hillandale the longest? Who's moved in recently? Please plan to join your WHH neighbors at FestOval 2006 and meet new friends and see lots of familiar faces!!

We need volunteers to set-up, supervise kid's games and clean the park at the end of the day's events. If you're interested, please contact Anne Fairchild (286-4625) or Eileen Reynolds (286-9030). We love WHH volunteers!!!!

See you at FestOval on Saturday October 7!

Renew Neighborhood Association Memberships!

This is the time of year when everyone in the neighborhood should renew their memberships in the neighborhood association. All memberships expire in October and so the association is kicking off its annual membership drive right now. If you have never been a member, now is the best time to join up. If you own or rent a home in Watts-Hillandale, you are eligible for membership. Everyone is welcome!

And your membership is so important. The Watts Hospital-Hillandale Neighborhood Association was founded to preserve and enhance the residential quality of life here in this neighborhood. Through more than 20 years of advocacy, the association has made this neighborhood one of Durham's best. All of the work is done by your neighbors who volunteer their time and considerable expertise for the benefit of all. Whether it's schools, zoning, traffic, historic preservation, parks and trails, neighborhood watch, FestOval, the Night of Lights or the Fourth of July, your neighborhood association volunteers are there, working to make your neighborhood a better place to live.

4th Annual WHHNA Art Walk On Tap

Mark your calendars for this year's WHHNA Neighborhood Art Walk, Sunday, November 5, 2006—Noon to 6 pm.

This annual occasion has been a big hit for several years. Last year's art walk included 40 adult artists and 3 teen artists, selling and showing their creative work in many different media including prints, painting, pottery, jewelry, photographs, quilts, hand made books, drawings, and many other art forms.

The nice thing about this particular art walk is that it's truly "neighborly". This event is organized by artists living and working in our neighborhood. You probably know many of them. You can stroll along the streets, enjoying the autumn day with friends and family, stopping here and there to see beautiful art and have delicious snacks. Look for the signs, and balloons, or pick up a map at any of the various locations to find this or that artist. Or stop at the house of some artist you don't know. You never know what you might find! Many of our neighbors do their holiday shopping during this fun, fall Sunday event.

Another time to catch a glimpse of what our artists have to offer is at the Silent Auction held during Festival. This Silent Auction helps to benefit the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association. Many of our

WHHNA Art Walk artists will be donating works to be auctioned in the late afternoon and early evening at the FestOval celebration in Oval Park. By purchasing an art piece at this Silent Auction, you help support creativity in two ways: aesthetic and environmental creativity ...and it's all right here in your own neighborhood.

Energy-Busters/Watts Busters Come To WHHNA

BY SHERRI ZANN ROSENTHAL

Did you see "An Inconvenient Truth," and feel motivated to do more to preserve our planet? Whether due to concerns about global warming or growing bills, lots of us with lovely old homes are interested in making them more energy efficient. Here's your chance to join with neighbors to take simple, practical steps to promote energy efficiency and learn more about basic energy-saving strategies for your home.

On Tuesday, September 26, a first program on energy efficiency and energy audits will be presented by the "Watts Busters." The program starts at 7:30 pm at Yoga in the Hood, 2205 Wilson Street. Come hear about strategies you can use to lower your bills and your impact on the earth.

To participate in the Watts Busters group, get on the contact list by contacting Mig Little Hayes, 416-0922, or e-mailing mhayes7@nc.rr.com.

Garden Committee Plans Fall activities

BY SHERRI ZANN ROSENTHAL

Fall is a time of renewed ambition, and so it is with the Garden Committee. Two activities are planned for fall, the Plant Swap and a tour of our own Watts-Hillandale gardens.

We have not had a garden tour of our own neighborhood's gardens in a long while. The garden tour is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 starting at 10 am from 1110 Virginia Avenue and ending around noon. Gardens currently on the tour illustrate

(Continued on next page)

Neighborhood

NOTABLE HAPPENINGS
IN OUR NECK OF
THE WOODS

(Continued from Page 4)

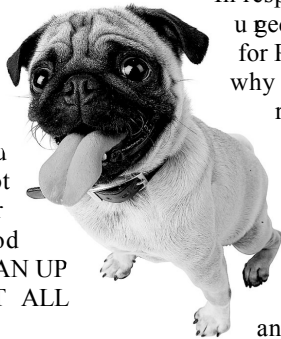
perennial borders, edible landscaping, and a perennial garden that entirely displaces front lawn. Let's add more! If you have a garden that is noteworthy in some regard, or you know of a neighbor's garden that is particularly nice in some way, please let us know. Give Sherri or Tom a call at 286-9929 or 286-3730, respectively.

The Second Perennial Plant Swap will be held on Saturday October 14. Fall is the time to divide those perennials and spread some joy. Last year's plant swap was a great time, with neighbors-meeting-neighbors, sipping bubbly libation and telling stories about the vigorous plants they brought in tow. The swap starts at 10 and ends at noon in my front yard, 2205 Wilson Street between Virginia and Oakland.

Rain dates for the above events will be on the next day, Sunday, at the same time and place. While fall is a time of renewed ambition, one of the delights of the WHHN Garden Committee is our commitment to avoiding being overly ambitious. So saunter over for fellowship and libation, to sniff a few flowers and indulge in the gentle fellowship of your neighborly gardeners. We look forward to seeing you.

You Love Your Dog?

Great! How about Gloving the rest of us?!!! And we'd love you if you would simply not leave dog feces in our yards and neighborhood walk areas. In fact, CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG AT ALL TIMES!!



It was reported recently that dog droppings were even on the public paved walkway along Ellerbe Creek between Albany and Maryland. And guess what? ALL grassy areas in our 'hood are places where people walk. NO PLACE is a good place to let your dog poop!

We assume that you don't let your dogs foul your own front yard and home, so

please don't foul ours! Take along a plastic bag on your walks and be responsible. And more than responsible, you will be committing an act of kindness toward our noses and shoes!

Suggested consequences:

1. Depositing fouled shoes on Offender's doorstep
2. Depositing collected droppings on Offender's doorstep
3. Enforcing mandatory corking of Offender's dogs

Rather than resorting to extreme measures, be as loveable as your pup and CLEAN UP!

Info About Enclosed ECWA Brochure

BY STEVE COHN

The June PARADE included a long article about the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association and its roots in our neighborhood. In that article I described both the history and the current activities of ECWA, which is now looking to expand its membership significantly in those parts of Durham that the creek runs through, including especially Watts-Hillandale.

In response to my article several people urged me to find a way to make it easier for PARADE readers to join up. That's why you will find an ECWA brochure riding along with your PARADE this month.

Your membership will be warmly appreciated, even if you just want to pay the modest membership fee to support a good cause, receive some information, and otherwise be left alone. And of course we would dearly love to find a few more people with the time and enthusiasm to become actively engaged in ECWA's programs and activities. As a member, in addition to getting the quarterly ECWA newsletter and being invited to various ECWA activities, you will also be invited to the annual membership meeting in October 2006—a great way to learn about what ECWA is up to these days and

meet the people who are making all this happen—and your membership will then run through the next annual meeting in October 2007.

In order to accomplish its mission of stream restoration and land preservation, ECWA needs the support of everyone in our part of Durham who cares about things like walking trails and water quality. So please use the brochure to consider joining a terrific organization that has a vision of how to make some real improvements in the natural and recreational environment of our part of Durham. Using the form in the brochure, you can join at whatever level seems right to you, in terms of both level of contribution and level of active participation.

A Perfect Fourth

This year's July 4 parade and celebration was as lovely an occasion as anyone could have wished. It was warm, but not too warm, and a gentle breeze lifted our flags and our spirits. About 500 neighbors and friends participated this year. The marchers were led by the Walker's original flags and Mike Woodard led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The noisy crowd became instantly silent as David Dodson and his friends in the O K Chorale stuck up the Star Spangled Banner. Then, softly at first, everyone joined in the singing.

Our neighbors at the Ninth Street Fire Station brought a real fire truck and as the parade returned to the park, they let loose a delightful spray of water. Every so often the jet arched playfully over the crowd. Then there was lemonade. Not just any lemonade, but the world's best lemonade—Mr Holmes's Ideal Sundry lemonade. It's a secret-recipe, one-source, get-it-here-only kind of thing that makes a Watts-Hillandale Fourth a very special treat indeed.

Thanks to all the folks who helped out this year. There were flag putter-uppers and taker-downers, t-shirt sellers, and lemonade dippers. Fortunately, in this neighborhood there is never a shortage of volunteers so everything went smoothly. Of course, we've only had 57 years to practice.

(Continued on page 7)

These businesses are sponsoring this newsletter. Please support them as they support us.

Be a guitar player*

**Or at least play one on TV*

- Nationally touring singer-songwriter-teacher since 1987
- Convenient location in the neighborhood
- Patient teacher who's taught at the Durham Arts Council, the ArtsCenter and privately
- Adults and kids (seven and up)
- Many styles
- Beginners welcome

Jamie Anderson

416-3206, jamie@jamieanderson.com

Looking for a good hairstylist?

You have a stylist with 10 yrs. experience who lives here in your neighborhood and is building a clientele right down the street.

Bring this add in for **25% off** your first visit with **Anne Fairchild** at Wavelengths salon, **416-9705**

- . precision cuts for the whole family
- . great problem solving and listening skills
- . color of all kinds, special occasion styling
- . participating in ongoing classes and education
- . conveniently located on 9th St. next to Francesca's



sandwiches • great salads • unique pizzas • Angus burgers • homemade desserts

NOSH
eclectic foodstuffs

Free WiFi

NOW OPEN!

2812 Erwin Rd (in Erwin Terrace) Mon-Fri 7am-9pm
1/2 mile from Duke Hospital Sat 8am-9pm
383.4747 Sun 8am-3pm

noshfood.com

breakfast • lunch • dinner • Sunday brunch • catering

French toast • eggs • biscuits • really good coffee • wraps
wine • beer • espresso drinks • smoothies • milkshakes

CREATIVE CUSTOM CARPENTRY LLC

919.667.4131- Matt Rawlings
2302 Albany St. Durham NC 27705



Design/Build: decks, porches, gazebos, remodeling



Affordable, reliable, High-quality work
3 year warranty on all workmanship

JAMES R. DYKES, M.D.
INTEGRATIVE HEALTH CARE, PLLC
Serving Durham since 1987

112 Swift Avenue
Durham, NC 27705

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
(919) 286-7755

Rx:

- Duke educated & board certified family physician
- 1-hour physical exams; 30-minute follow-up visits
- Careful, empathetic listening; deep respect for patient
- Conventional and complementary treatments

James R. Dykes M.D.
Dispense as Written

YOGA
in the Hood

Imagine being able to walk to yoga class and walk home.

It's in the neighborhood!!



YOGAintheHood@earthlink.net
<http://home.earthlink.net/~yogainthehood/>

Daya Breckinridge
286-9929

Board Members, 2004–2005

DIRECTORS

President

Gus Beck gusbeck@mindspring.com

Vice-President

Meredith Emmett meredith@thirdspacestudio.com

Secretary

Debra Kelly debrakelly@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Marilyn Butler mkbutler@mindspring.com

Immediate Past President

Guillo Rodriguez guillo@nc.rr.com

AT LARGE MEMBERS

Joshua Allen allen.joshua@gmail.com

Larry Chapman larry.chapman@pgnmail.com

Steve Cohn stevec@duke.edu

Anne Fairchild jackandanne@nc.rr.com

Rick Hanford rickster2207@verizon.net

Ned Kennington nkennington@juno.com

Tom Miller kimberly.miller1@worldnet.att.net

Gene Moser

Sherri Rosenthal szrcoho@mindspring.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Durham C.A.N. Update

Our neighborhood continues to support Durham C.A.N. (Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods) through the volunteer work of more than 10 neighbors.

Recently, Durham CAN's Housing and Public Safety team hosted a Civilian Housing and Public Safety Academy at El Centro Hispano. The training session focused on the process for identifying and reporting unsafe housing conditions and then getting those issues addressed. Trained CAN members conducted an audit of several apartments in East Durham at the conclusion of the July 29th training, and will follow up with ongoing audits to augment the city's housing inspection team and help improve the safety of Durham's neighborhoods.

Also, Durham CAN's Health team is seeking to enroll children who are eligible and uninsured in Medicaid or Health Choice. Toward that end, a number of volunteers have been trained in assisting with the enrollment paperwork and will engage in outreach activities this fall. If you have a child who does not have health insurance, feel free to contact neighbor Shanon Schuster at shanon@alumni.cmu.edu or 416-1585, and she will help you determine whether your child qualifies for Medicaid or Health Choice and assist with enrollment.

Finally, from all of CAN's 22 member organizations come together to ask local politicians and figures to pledge to accomplish specific tasks. The October assembly will likely focus on health care and youth commitments. A strong turnout is necessary to motivate politicians, so attending a CAN assembly is very helpful, even if you don't have time for CAN activities during the rest of the year. Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 pm at Judea Reform Temple.

If you are interested in learning more about C.A.N., please contact either Rae Jean Proescholdbell (286-5007, raejean@nc.rr.com) or Theo Luebke (824-5156, theoluebke@gmail.com), and we will make it easy (and fun!) for you to get involved.



Calendar of Events

- Sept. 19** Neighborhood Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. at the home of
Sherri Rosenthal
2205 Wilson Street
- Oct. 17** WHHNA Annual Meeting
7:30 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1737 Hillandale Rd.
- Nov. 21** Neighborhood Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. at the home of
Tom Miller
1110 Virginia Ave.
- Dec. 19** Neighborhood Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. at the office of
Steve Cohn, Duke University Press
905 WestMain Street, Suite 18B



All meetings are held the evening of the third Tuesday of the month. If you need a ride, please call one of the board members and s/he will be glad to pick you up and take you home.

CENTRAL CAMPUS—continued

Schelp calls “the fragile symbiosis of West Durham.”

Duke’s neighbors have asked the university to include restrictions in the development plan for the Central Campus to place some outside limits on the project. The neighbors would like for the eastern portion of the property to be used exclusively for low to medium intensity residential uses. They want the beds of three streams that traverse the property to be preserved as natural areas. Existing single-family residential property in and adjacent to the central campus area should be protected with a vegetative buffer and the historic character of the few remaining Erwin Mill houses should be preserved. The neighbors have also asked for building height limits ranging from 65 to 80 feet in the non-residential portion of the campus. Finally, the neighbors have asked Duke to consider limiting the size, number, and arrangement of commercial and retail uses to be included in the Central Campus. The point in these restrictions is not to stop Duke’s plans, but to guide the development of the project in a way that respects the surrounding community while giving Duke considerable freedom to develop its property to serve the needs of its students, faculty, and staff.

At the time of this writing, Duke has not responded to its neighbors’ concerns. In the past, however, Duke has shown itself to be a reasonable negotiating partner. Watch PARADE for more news on Duke’s Central Campus.

NCSSM Stadium—continued

for lighting design. We followed discussions in illumination engineering chat rooms on the web. We even did extensive fieldwork at sites that currently use the type of lighting fixtures that NCSSM proposes to use.

As we go to press, intense pressure to begin construction has developed, even though there are a number of issues outstanding. Among these are stadium lighting, public address systems, vegetative buffers, parking, pedestrian access, seating capacity and rentals to outside groups. Let us hope that by the time you read this you will have heard from other sources that a win-win solution that meets the needs of all parties has been achieved.

St. Clair Williams Remembers “Hester Heights”

BY DEB KELLY

(Editor’s Note: The centennial anniversary of the Watts Hospital- Hillandale neighborhood is coming up in 2008. Leading up to then, the next issues of PARADE will feature the stories and histories of longtime residents.)

St. Clair Williams and her family have owned Hester House, the pre-1880 farmhouse located at **1107 Alabama Avenue**, for over 75 years. St. Clair’s parents, Daniel McGregor and Anne St. Clair (nee Talbutt) Williams, bought Hester House in 1935 after their children were born at Watts Hospital. They also had lived in two other houses on Club Boulevard and on Alabama. You may even recognize the family name from one of our most cherished neighborhood landmarks: the Williams Water Treatment Plant at Hillandale Reservoir. The Williams Water Treatment Plant is named after St. Clair’s father who made important engineering contributions to Durham including equipping homes with water meters and designing the hydro-electric generators and hydropower water pumps at Lake Michie.

St. Clair has a wealth of information about Watts Hospital-Hillandale. For instance, she remembers when Lawndale in Old West Durham used to be called Williams Street and how Georgia Avenue used to be called Hester Street. She can vaguely remember trolley cars on Club Boulevard (the tracks are still under Club in some places!) and how John Sprunt Hill in 1940 acquired Hester Heights (the area surrounding Hester House on Alabama Avenue) and how he started to develop homes between Club and the golf course.

St. Clair attended E.K. Powe through ninth grade (at one time Powe was a high school) and graduated from Durham High School (now Durham School of the Arts) in 1946. She attended Duke, then known as a “coordinated college” because of the separate campuses for men and women, and lived at home like most students from Durham. Tuition was roughly \$1000 per year which made Duke an expensive college even in 1950.

Longtime neighbors like St. Clair with many contributions and passions for the WHHN have made life richer for us all!

