



# PARADE

*"All the blessings we enjoy are Divine deposits, committed to our trust on this condition, that they should be dispensed for the benefit of our neighbors."*  
—John Calvin

## 2009 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION EVENTS TEN MORE MONTHS OF WHHNA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES

It is hard to believe that we are at the halfway mark of the Centennial Celebration! The first 10 months were packed with outstanding neighborhood activities, including the Preservation Durham Home Tour, Jean Anderson Lecture, National Pawn 5k Run/Walk and *Durham: A Self-Portrait* screening. The next 10 months promise to be just as much fun. Kids at E.K. Powe will study neighborhoods and touch on the WHH Centennial during March, and Kay Michaels and Galia Goodman are getting all the doggie treats ready for the **Wattsminster Dog Show** which will be held at the **North Carolina School of Science and Math on April 18**. Woof!! Woof!!

While you are marking down these important dates in your calendar, please make sure you note the next two events as well: On **Tuesday, June 16**, **Dr. P. Preston Reynolds**, author of *Watts Hospital of Durham, North Carolina, 1895-1976: Keeping the Doors Open*, will share photos, documentation, stories and insights with us at **7pm in the Lecture Hall, NCSSM**. A book review by Kenneth De Ville in *The Journal of Southern History* claims that Dr. Reynolds "clearly delivers more than she promises. . . Reynolds's insight and talent as a researcher and writer make this work one of the best of its genre." This will be an event you won't want to miss.

And **save the date now for the 60th Annual 4th of July Parade** in Watts Hospital-Hillandale. In fact, invite back neighbors who have moved away and your family and friends! The parade is always a major highlight for neighborhood children – young and old, but this year we promise to have a few extra surprises. For example, we've heard rumors that a new and very special neighborhood sign will be dedicated on July 4, 2009 and that the original paraders are planning to attend the ceremony. It should be a wonderful day to commemorate our nation and neighborhood, democracy and traditions.

*For the full ten month schedule, please see the Calender of Events on page 7.*

## FOCUS

### THE 2009 WATTSMINSTER Come One, Come All to The WHHNA 1st Neighborhood Dog Show

Let your dog strut its stuff in the pooch parade and compete for prizes in games like "Musical Sit" and themed contests like "Best Tail Wagger". Most importantly, let Spot rub noses or other not-to-be-mentioned doggie parts with canines from around the 'hood.' And, if your pet is the shy type, meows, or you don't own a pet, please come and be a spectator. What's a dog show without an audience!

To enter your dog in this canine celebration requires **ONLY** a donation of canned or dry dog food and proof of current vaccinations. Donations will be given to Durham area food banks that distribute dog food to families with pets in need. Gently used toys, collars and leashes are also accepted as donations – so please sort through that pooch toy box or closet and do some spring cleaning!

Wattsminster Dog Show Event Schedule Saturday, April 18 at the NCSSM Baseball Field	
9:00am to 10:00am	<b>Registration</b> (For a full list of categories see Registration Form)
10:00am to 11:00am	<b>Pooch Parade (Be creative!)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parade individually</li> <li>• Parade as a group by street, block or canine group</li> <li>• Walk or transport your pooch in strollers, wagons or other wheeled means - like the 4th of July Parade (No oversized or motorized floats allowed)</li> </ul>
11:00am to 1:00pm	<b>Games</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Musical Sit - How soon can you sit?</li> <li>• Weiner Toss - How far can you fetch!?</li> <li>• Doggie Limbo - How low can you go?</li> </ul> <b>Best In Contests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kisser</li> <li>• Jumper/Catcher</li> <li>• Costume</li> <li>• Tail Wagger</li> <li>• Obedience</li> <li>• Owner/Dog Look-a-Like</li> </ul>

*(Continued on Page 8)*

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:** Wendi Gale. **Art Director:** Candy Webster. **Web Site Host:** Joshua Allen — <http://www.whhna.org> To subscribe to the neighborhood association listserv, please go to "<http://www.rtpnet.org/mailman/listinfo/whhna-list>."



## April 19th - Please Join Watts-Busters in National Hanging Out Day... A clothesline movement!

Why Air Dry? The Watts-Hospital Hillandale neighborhood prides itself on a commitment to creating a sustainable place to live for our children and us. Watts-Busters (W-B) is the neighborhood energy conservation group and its members encourage each of you to line dry instead of using electric or gas dryers. We have an enthusiastic group of volunteer neighbors ready to help you in making the transition via installation of a clothesline, or to simply give you information on where to purchase one that will meet your needs. There are many WHHNA clotheslines already in use in the 'hood' that you are welcome to evaluate prior to your own purchase.

Clotheslines can be anything from a rope between two trees to the high-tech more compact umbrella type. Please access the following website for more options in available clotheslines. <http://store.laundrylist.org/>

### WHY LINE DRY? - Top Ten Reasons:

Demonstrate that small steps can make a difference; we don't have to wait for the government to take action. Dryers use ten to fifteen percent of the domestic energy in the United States.

- Preserve the environment through energy conservation and reduction of climate change
- Save as much as \$25/month per household
- Preserve your clothes. Where do you think lint comes from?
- Increase your physical activity, outside or inside
- Utilize sunlight to bleach and disinfect without the use of toxic chemicals
- Use indoor racks to humidify dry air in the winter
- Practice safety: clothes dryer fires account for about 15,600 structure fires, 15 deaths, and 400 injuries annually. The yearly national fire loss from clothes dryer fires in structures is estimated at \$99 million
- Hanging clothes outdoors can be a meditative experience
- Utilize the wind to get rid of wrinkles, reducing the need for ironing

Let's see how many clotheslines WHHNA can implement by April 19th? Call us, we can help. 286-6088 or [mitchcmo@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchcmo@yahoo.com)



### Watts-Busters Is On The Move!

#### We Ask You, PLEASE, Become A Neighborhood Block Transformer

Watts-Busters is collaborating with Clean Energy Durham to implement educational opportunities and mechanisms that help you save energy; help your neighbors save energy; and the provisions to share energy-use numbers that will enable you to learn energy saving strategies from each other. Watts-Busters will network you with other Block Transformers and also train you in some simple Block Transformer responsibilities such as the following:

- Implement a door-to-door survey of households energy-saving implementations on your block
- Network with neighbors who want to be involved with energy-saving activities
- Encourage neighbors to keep track of household energy use
- Serve as a liaison between your block and Watts-Busters

If you are interested, please email [jkincaid@earthlink.net](mailto:jkincaid@earthlink.net).

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To contact the board members as a group, please email:  
**WHHNA\_Board@googlegroups.com**

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

**Mar. 17** Neighborhood Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
at the home of Debbie Kelly  
1105 Alabama Ave.

**Apr. 21** Neighborhood Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
at the home of Tom Miller  
1110 Virginia Ave.

**May. 19** Neighborhood Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
at the home of Joshua Allen  
2417 Club Blvd.

**Jun. 16** Neighborhood Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
at the home of Larry Chapman  
1400 Alabama Ave.

*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.*

## ECWA Acquires Popular 32-Acre Beaver Marsh and 2.65 Acre Parcel on Shoccoree Drive

Tucked uncomfortably between Club Boulevard and I-85, just behind Compare Foods and off Roxboro Road, is an often-overlooked gem of a natural resource that the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (ECWA) has recently purchased as a property to preserve, protect, and make available to the public. If you stand behind Compare Foods facing west, you see nothing but dumpsters, asphalt, and the backsides of big box stores. But if you turn 180 degrees, you see 32 acres of undeveloped land, including a freshwater pond set in a 25-acre floodplain/wetland area and 7 acres of upland forest. The only construction in view is a beaver lodge.

The importance of this site, affectionately called "the beaver marsh" by those in the local naturalist community who have long hoped it could be protected, is evidenced by the community's stewardship and concern for it. Over the years, ECWA, the Durham County Soil and Water District, Duke University, the Duke Park and Colonial Village Neighborhood Associations, and the Boy Scouts have facilitated many volunteer clean-ups. In addition, ECWA has hosted nature walks and organized removal of invasive plant species such as garlic mustard.

According to a preliminary report on the conservation value of the site by Kathi Beratan, an ECWA board member and Research Assistant Professor at the NCSU's Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, a significant amount of the water feeding the wetland and the ten-acre freshwater pond is perennial groundwater not dependent upon precipitation patterns. The pond drains directly to Ellerbe Creek (though most of the water is held in by the beaver dams) and provides one of the few sources of high-quality fresh water entering the creek.

The beaver marsh is essentially in downtown Durham, and non-native plant species such as mimosa, Japanese honeysuckle, and garlic mustard are common, but the site also has a diverse array of native plants. These include crossvines, lizard's tail, buttonbush, marsh mallow, elderberry, goldenrods, thoroughworts, jewelweed, red maples, and river birches, as well as the less common and more unusual native plants like devil's walking stick, netted chain fern, and sensitive fern.

Wetlands provide a wonderful habitat for birds and over 75 species of migratory and resident birds have been spotted at the beaver marsh. Hooded mergansers, ruby-throated hummingbirds, barn, tree, and rough-winged swallows, prothonotary warblers, green and great blue herons, brown thrashers, gray catbirds, northern flickers, red-winged blackbirds, white-throated sparrows, red-headed woodpeckers, red-shouldered hawks, belted kingfishers, common loons, feral ducks, and ring-billed gulls have all been spotted at the site.

A variety of mammals also seek food supplies and shelter at the beaver marsh. This includes wild turkey, white-tail deer, and of course the beavers whose dams created the pond and wetland. Visitors have also identified at least 10 species each of dragon and damselflies, as well as five species of frog.

So how did ECWA acquire the land? The landowner, the Dilweg Companies, had seen various plans for developing

the property fall through, including a plan to build 120 apartment units on the upland area. So ECWA approached Anthony Dilweg about conserving the land by selling it to ECWA as a "bargain sale" that provides tax benefits to the seller, and Anthony agreed to make the sale for well under half of the assessed value if ECWA could find the funds to make the purchase. The main funding for the purchase was provided by North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund (NWMTF), with the City of Raleigh's Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative (UNCWI) also providing a significant contribution.

The list below includes just a few key partners and supporters to whom WHHNA and ECWA offer a giant round of applause for making this success possible:

- Anthony Dilweg, the landowner, for agreeing to an incredible bargain sale;
- NWMTF and UNCWI for contributions of purchase funds;
- The tireless board and wonderful members of ECWA;
- The City of Durham's Parks and Recreation and Stormwater Departments for their concern for protection of the beaver marsh and provision of letters of support to the CWMTF; and
- Every one of the countless individuals, businesses, and organizations that braved heat and cold and ticks and trash to invest in the future of the beautiful site of the beaver marsh.

At present the best access to the middle of the marsh is from the large City sewer pipes that run through the property. ECWA hopes eventually to provide access to the beaver marsh through newly constructed boardwalks—in fact, one suggestion is to make use of two parallel sewer pipes to support a boardwalk, if the City staff will allow that.

ECWA has also purchased a beautiful 2.65-acre floodplain parcel on Shoccoree Drive, with a conservation easement on the adjoining 2.12-acre parcel. The floodplain parcel contains what ECWA members often refer to as the "Ellerbe Creek Gorge": the lovely cascading reach of the creek that graces the front of ECWA's brochures. This land will not

be open to the public since the landowners will continue to reside in their home on the easement parcel, but the water quality benefits offered by the intact floodplain and mature hardwood forest will now be protected in perpetuity. WHHNA and ECWA thank the owners, Mary June and Gyula Mago, for their patience with a slow negotiation and acquisition process, and the Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative for purchase funds.

To read more interesting facts and to see photos of the beaver marsh and other ECWA sites, go to: [www.ellerbecreek.org](http://www.ellerbecreek.org). If you would like to join ECWA on a tour of the wetland this spring, or if you have questions or comments, please contact Larry Brockman ([larry@ellerbecreek.org](mailto:larry@ellerbecreek.org)). Finally, please consider joining ECWA as a member and/or supporting ECWA financially, to help this local organization continue to advocate strongly on issues such as land preservation, water quality, and connecting people to the outdoors. To donate to ECWA or join as a member go to [www.ellerbecreek.org](http://www.ellerbecreek.org).



# The Heart of the

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

## Billboard Industry Targets Watts-Hillandale and Other I-85 Neighborhoods

Fairway, the biggest billboard operator in the Durham area, is leading an effort to press city and county governments hard to lift the ban adopted 25 years ago. They want approval to upgrade and/or relocate the 89 billboards left in the community to new locations along I-85, Hwy 147, and US 15-501. If they get their way, as many as 25 signs will be the brightly lit digital variety that flash a new message every eight seconds. Neighborhoods along these corridors have reason to be concerned.

In an effort to beautify the city and arrest decline, Durham banned new billboards back in 1984 when nearly 200 of the giant signs cluttered our highways and business districts. Under the ban, existing signs could remain only for their amortized useful life and then had to be removed. The industry fought back, but after a nine-year legal battle and a litigation cost between 1-1.5 million dollars, Durham won and the signs came down. Thanks to the ordinance, abandonment and attrition caused by highway expansion, very few billboards exist along I-85 or the Durham Freeway.

However, the industry also fought in the legislature, thereby successfully stopping billboard removal through amortization.

Now, About half of the town's remaining billboards are aging structures scattered along thoroughfares and business strips. As many as ten of these may come down in the next couple of years because of road widening projects.

All other North Carolina Triangle cities have either banned billboards like Durham or have very tight regulations in place. None allows digital billboards.

The billboards that remain in Durham are badly placed to take advantage of Durham's expansion to the south and its revitalized downtown. The changes sought by the industry will allow them to gather up their scattered old signs

and replace them with new ones, many digital, oriented toward the traffic on the highways that skirt established neighborhoods like Watts Hospital-Hillandale, Northgate Park, Morehead Hill, Duke Park, St. Theresa, and East Durham. As if the stress of having homes right up against the interstate was not enough, these neighborhoods may soon be asked to bear the additional burden of brightly lit digital signs flashing ads for everything from car insurance to adult entertainment right into the windows of neighborhood houses.

Unfortunately, the billboard industry offers little to Durham. In 2008, Fairway paid less in property taxes for all 46 of their Durham billboards than the average homeowner pays for a single family home, and none of the industry's major operators employ Durham residents. In return for dismantling the billboard ban, the industry has offered to landscape upgraded signs and also to donate a certain amount of time on their digital billboards to public service messages and non-profit groups. Ordinary citizens landscape their homes as a matter of respect for their neighbors and civic pride, not as payback for special treatment. And while it is laudable for billboard owners to donate advertising for worthy causes, the city and county cannot enforce an ordinance purporting to require such donations. These industry enticements are simply not worth new billboard blight in Durham.

The WHHNA board of directors has adopted a resolution to oppose any lifting of the billboard ban; and the neighborhood's delegates to the InterNeighborhood Council have argued strenuously in that body against the industry proposal. It remains to be seen whether the city council and board of county commissioners have the will to withstand the industry's intense lobbying effort.

## 100 Years Ago

One hundred years ago, workmen at the new Watts Hospital were busily pouring concrete and laying tile to ready the modern complex for its opening later

in the year. At the time it was being hailed as the finest medical facility south of Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. The hospital, along with the extension of the streetcar line down Broad Street and the creation of the new country club, provided the stimulus for the development of the Watts Hospital-Hillandale neighborhood.

The original Watts Hospital campus included the main administration building facing Broad Street and two patient pavilions (one for men and one for women), all connected by brightly lit arcades. The new facility replaced the original hospital built only 13 years earlier at the corner of Main Street and Buchanan Boulevard. That Durham should have a state-of-the-art medical facility was the desire of George Washington Watts, tobacco magnate and partner with the Dukes in their American Tobacco Empire, whose wherewithal turned his desires into realities. He gave more than \$50,000 in the 1890's to build the first hospital. Within a decade, however, Durham's population more than tripled and the hospital needed more space.

The grounds, buildings, and equipment for the new Watts Hospital on Broad Street cost nearly a quarter of a million dollars – a fabulous sum in 1909. It was all underwritten by Watts. Within two years, Watts gave the hospital money and property worth another \$110,000 to pay for a nurses' dormitory and to fund an endowment. By the time of his death in 1921, Watts had given the institution nearly \$2,000,000, a fortune in the days when a bungalow in the surrounding neighborhood cost less than \$2,000.

Watts stipulated in the hospital charter that its trustees always provide unlimited charity care. Although Watts never fully explained why he poured so much of his personal fortune into the welfare of his fellow citizens, there is no doubt that Durham's reputation as the "City of Medicine" was born in the boundless generosity of George Washington Watts.

The new hospital attracted Durham's

# Neighborhood

**NOTABLE  
HAPPENINGS  
IN OUR NECK OF  
THE WOODS**

medical profession to buy homes in the neighborhood. In the late 1910s, Dr. Bitting, Dr. McCracken, Dr. Adkins, and Dr. Arena all had fine new homes near the corner of Club Blvd. and Carolina Avenue. Their presence attracted other professionals to the new Durham subdivision. The hospital's operations were eventually taken over by the county. It remained on Broad Street until 1976 when the new Durham County Hospital opened on Roxboro Road. The old Watts Hospital buildings became the campus of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) in 1980.

## **Ninth Street North Project Headed for Approval**

At its meeting on January 13, the Durham Planning Commission voted to approve the rezoning for the Ninth Street North project proposed by developer Glenn Dickson. Representatives of the Old West Durham and Watts Hospital-Hillandale spoke in favor of the project. The proposal is slated to go before the city council for final approval this month. The project is the first to be designed with the new Ninth Street Plan specifically in mind and, in its final form, represents the culmination of about eighteen months of intense negotiations between the developer, Ninth Street merchants, and nearby neighborhoods.

The project is located at the northernmost edge of the Ninth Street "compact neighborhood tier," an area marked in Durham's zoning ordinance for intense development surrounding a future public transit hub. Although the building bounded by Green, Ninth, and Iredell Streets will be as much as six stories tall at its highest point; the detailed development plan negotiated by the neighbors requires it to step down to be no more than three stories at the corner of Ninth and Green Streets. The developer and the neighborhoods also agreed that most of the project's new commercial space would be concentrated near Hillsborough Road. There will be some retail and office uses along the Markham-

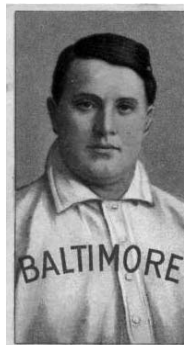
to-Green stretch of Ninth, but by far the largest part of the building will be taken up by approximately 145 residential condominiums. Under the zoning ordinance, the residential phase of the project must be constructed first. This arrangement provides a reasonable transition between the business district to the south and the neighborhoods to the north in terms of permissible intensity and use, while also serving the city's mandate for increased density in the area.

The development plan also contains committed elements requiring the developer to plant larger than the minimum size street trees, and further confines him to a palate of materials and colors for the new building that emphasizes earth tones and reduces the amount of reflective surfaces.

To complete the regulatory separation of the Ninth Street compact neighborhood tier from the older, more traditional neighborhoods to the north, the Old West Durham neighborhood association is studying the idea of a neighborhood protection overlay zone. This additional layer of protective regulation will prevent Ninth Street dominos from spilling north into the neighborhood.

## **Baseball Star Settles in Durham**

The baseball season will be starting up before you know it, so here's a little Watts-Hillandale baseball trivia to wow your friends. Back in 1908, Merle T. "Doc" Adkins had his best year as star pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles with 29 wins and 12 losses. Adkins began his career in 1902 with the Boston Americans (later the Red Sox). He switched to the red-hot New York Highlanders (later the Yankees) in 1903 and then to the Baltimore Orioles later that season. He pitched for Baltimore



for ten years amassing a 165-111 win-loss record. Adkins was a remarkable man. Not only was he a winning professional pitcher, but he was a physician as well. While in Baltimore, he enrolled at Johns Hopkins University medical school and graduated in 1907 and then developed a relationship with Trinity College (now Duke) newly relocated to Durham. From 1908 until 1914, Merle T. "Doc" Adkins, doctor and ballplayer, coached the Trinity college baseball team posting a career record of 108-67-4.

And here's the neatest bit. Doc Adkins retired from the Orioles after the 1913 season and moved to Durham. He opened a general medical practice downtown and bought a stylish new home at 2101 West Club Boulevard in 1915. There he settled with his wife, Florence, and raised a family. His neighbors, whom he cared for in their kitchens and living rooms, loved him. He was a big man, weighing in at 220 lb. when he was in fighting trim. But as a family man, Atkins grew to immense proportions, hardly any wonder since Florence was a grand cook famous for her biscuits! Florence used milk that was fresh as the Adkins kept a cow in a shed in the back yard and pastured it in the open field north of Woodrow Street. Doc Atkins died in 1934, but the family lived on in the house until 1968. Today, it is the home of Baltimore native and Orioles fan Steve Schewel, and his wife, Lao Rubert.

## **Night of Lights 2008 Big Success**

In 1985, Caron Mayo of Wilson Street, organized the first WHHNA Night Of Lights. Twenty-four years later, in December 2008, Night of Lights was again a big success! Thanks for this year and many years past go to Gus Beck and a band of volunteers for their hard work. This year the air was cold and crisp and the evening was clear; a great night for holiday parties and evening strolls.

In addition to making the neighborhood

*(Continued on Page 8)*

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into your neighborhood. It's been  
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many of you. We look forward to  
seeing you soon at Watts Grocery!

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# Community NEWS

## Please Meet MRS. ADELE UNDERWOOD

When Adele Underwood walked through the doors of Watts Hospital on Broad Street in 1941, she was glad to have arrived at her destination – finally! It had been a long overnight train trip from Jefferson City, Tennessee and she was looking forward to starting her studies early the next morning. She remembers, unfortunately, that she did not have a very good first impression of Durham. The only establishments open early in the morning at 8 a.m. were two downtown bars – a bit of a shock for a young woman who grew up in Tennessee; the state that passed the first Prohibition law in US history and where temperance sentiment still endured! Nonetheless, she ventured on the bus, disembarked at Watts Hospital, picked up a list of housing options and quickly found accommodations on 8th Street between 9th and Broad.

After taking pre-med courses at Carson Newman College for three years, Mrs. Underwood was eager to study Medical Technology at one of the few facilities in the South that offered such a program. She liked to perform laboratory procedures and was interested in pursuing a professional career in health care. She was very interested in biology and chemistry and excited about life in a new town. Facts & information about Durham had won out over her other two considerations, Atlanta and Louisville.

Mrs. Underwood looked forward to her experience at Watts Hospital and it didn't take very long for her to know that she had made a very good choice. Watts Hospital had a barn with rabbits, goats and sheep that the medical technologists used for testing, and she and her fellow students were immediately put to work in their care while also attending classes.

Mrs. Underwood remembers not having much time to have fun during World War II. In addition to working and studying at Watts Hospital, she performed many preliminary laboratory work-ups for draftees training at nearby Camp Butner. In her very spare time, she was courted by her future husband, Anthony, and enjoyed the USO groups that came to Durham to entertain the troops. She remembers that the character of Durham changed significantly during World War II, primarily because of the thousands of service personnel who yearned to take liberty from the huge, sprawling army base. As Jean Bradley Anderson describes in her book *Durham County*, "... Camp Butner soldiers poured into town swamping the movie houses, the telegraph offices, the ice cream parlors, the skating rink on Rigsbee Avenue, the bowling alleys, the train and bus stations, and the ABC stores where the supply of whiskey had vanished by noon."

When the war-related hoopla in Durham settled down, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Underwood bought their house on Wilson Street

in 1949. Their children attended E. K. Powe and graduated from Durham High School, and Mrs. Underwood remembers Watts Hospital-Hillandale as a great neighborhood for raising children. The Children's Museum was a favorite place for her girl and two boys – kids could spend half the day there playing, having lunch, taking classes and going to stamp club. She misses the associations formed in the neighborhood when people lived there for years and years and knew all of their neighbors. For example, she recalls her lack of fear for her children in October 1954 during Hurricane Hazel, one of the worst hurricanes of the 20th century. As the storm center became extra tropical as it passed over Durham and gusts measured 90 mph, she knew her family would be safe with neighbors when she returned from work. Even though there were no phones, electricity or warnings about the hurricane, and schools let the kids out at noon, Mrs. Underwood trusted her WHH friends to make sure her little ones were safe and sound.

She still thinks WHH is a lovely place to live – if only certain things could come back. She has such fond memories of when Club Blvd. had far fewer cars and the sidewalks were even. She remembers how she used to spend \$5 a week for all of the various services such as the paperboy, dry cleaners, milk delivery, egg delivery and vegetable delivery! Wow! Some things really have changed! Do you remember the last time your mail was delivered twice each day Monday through Friday?

Mrs. Underwood always said she had moved to the best part of Durham! We can't agree more!

## Calendar of Events

- APR 18** \_\_\_ WHHNA Wattsminsters 1st Dog Show, NCSSM Baseball Field (see details on page 1)
- APR 19** \_\_\_ WHHNA & National Hanging Out Day (see details on pg. 3)
- JUN 16** \_\_\_ Preston Reynolds Lecture; NCSSM Lecture Hall at 7 p.m.
- JUL 4** \_\_\_ Annual Fourth of July Parade, Oval Park
- AUGUST** \_\_\_ 2nd Annual Golf Month, Hillandale Golf Course
- SEP 26** \_\_\_ FestOval, Oval Park
- OCT 31** \_\_\_ Halloween, Watts Hospital-Hillandale
- NOV 8** \_\_\_ ArtWalk, Watts Hospital-Hillandale
- DEC [TBD]** \_\_\_ Centennial Dance & Social, NCSSM
- DEC [TBD]** \_\_\_ Luminaries, Watts Hospital-Hillandale
- DEC [TBD]** \_\_\_ Caroling, Watts Hospital-Hillandale

## FOCUS — continued

To register your dog(s), please print, fill out, and bring to the event, a copy of the registration form found at the WHHNA website at [www.whhna.org](http://www.whhna.org). You may also register on the day of the event. All owners of entrants must show proof of current vaccinations. Ask your vet for a printout.

To volunteer or for answers to questions, please contact Kay Michaels at [kdmichaels@verizon.net](mailto:kdmichaels@verizon.net) or 919-286-2601. Ruffffffff...can't wait to see and watch you strut your stuff!

### Special thanks to our event sponsors:

**Westside Animal Hospital,  
Northgate Mall, and  
Pampered Pooch.**



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## To Burn Wood Or Not To Burn Wood; That Is The Question

Walking around the Watts-Hospital Hillandale Neighborhood on any given night, one may smell or see smoke emanating from neighbor's chimneys. As a close-knit and caring neighborhood, it is important that we be aware and mindful of health risks and energy concerns caused by wood smoke.

Internationally, there is growing concern about the negative health effects resulting from burnt wood smoke and many states and/or municipalities have enacted stringent laws against burning. Believe it or not, components of wood and cigarette smoke are quite similar and many of both are carcinogenic. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that one hour's use of a fireplace burning 10 lbs. of wood generates 4300 times more carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) than 30 cigarettes!

It is well documented that smoke particulates from neighboring chimneys are so small that windows and doors do not keep them out, often causing eye, throat and lung irritation, as well as cardiovascular problems. Wood smoke interferes with normal lung development in infants and children, increasing the risk of lower respiratory infections. Likewise, it can cause damage to adult lung cells and may depress a healthy person's immune system. Particulate pollution from chimneys is especially dangerous in winter when stagnant air and temperature inversions trap pollution close to the ground where they linger in our outdoor breathing space or continuously seep into homes. Please read the following link for more information about the dangers of wood smoke: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/92046.pdf>

## Hope for the WHH Wood Burners

The internet offers several excellent links to enable WHH wood burners, whether in a fireplace or a wood stove, to learn about emissions related to particular wood types. Please take the time to read information provided on the following websites:

[http://www.arb.ca.gov/cap/handbooks/wood\\_burning\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/cap/handbooks/wood_burning_handbook.pdf)

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/ResearchCenter/Publications/General/eMDE/vol1no7/burnwood.asp>

## Heart of the Neighborhood

— continued

glow with twinkling lights, Gus and co. collected two pickup truck loads of canned goods and an additional dollar donation of \$1,425 for the Community Kitchen of the Durham Urban Ministries Center. As a recent two-year twist to the Night of Lights, Watts-Busters, an energy saving WHHNA group led by Mig Little Hayes at [mhayes7@nc.rr.com](mailto:mhayes7@nc.rr.com) or 416-0922, demonstrated and sold compact fluorescent bulbs at bargain basement prices to multiple neighbors.

## A Stronger Neighborhood Protection Ordinance

In 2006, the city adopted regulations allowing a neighborhood to petition the council for a neighborhood protection overlay - a tailor-made set of zoning rules designed to arrest neighborhood decline and promote revitalization. While the overlay idea is a good one, it cannot protect neighborhoods from the threat they fear most, that of unwanted rezoning. In fact, it is much easier to undo a neighborhood protection overlay through rezoning than it is to create the overlay in the first place. So far, only the Tuscaloosa Lakewood neighborhood has successfully petitioned the city to create this level of protection. However, Old West Durham may also ask the city for a protective overlay since the approval of the Ninth Street North Project.

At its February meeting, the WHHNA board reviewed a proposal to amend the Durham city charter to strengthen the city's ability to protect neighborhoods from unwanted and intrusive rezoning. The proposed charter amendment will correct the overlay's weak spot in ordinance by providing that for a period of time following the creation of a neighborhood protection overlay a rezoning in the protected area will require a three-fourths vote of the city council to pass. If the idea meets with approval, the neighborhood board may promote it at the InterNeighborhood Council and among elected officials.

## Weak Economy May Delay Area Projects

The weak economy has definitely caused the developers of the Hilton Garden Inn's plan for the grassy area of Erwin Square to be put on hold. Officials at the Olympia Group have advised the neighborhood that they have by no means abandoned the hotel project and are only concentrating their efforts elsewhere until things look a little better. Rumor has it that the proposed relocation of Whole Foods to a new building one block north on Broad Street may be similarly on hold.

On the other end of the neighborhood, the Loehmanns' Plaza shopping center is emptied of most of its tenants in preparation for the planned demolition and redevelopment of its site for a new grocery store tenant. Whether or not this project will move forward is still unknown.

Finally, the recent closing of Couch's Car Wash on the corner of Markham and Iredell Streets is the sorrowful end of one longtime area business. However, it also signals the possibility of the redevelopment of that site into something new. The potential for new projects on Broad and Iredell Streets and at Erwin Square, and the lull in the economy offers Durham an excellent opportunity to get to work on implementing the recently adopted Ninth Street Plan.