

Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood News

April 2009
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Aycock Joins Great American Cleanup Event April 4

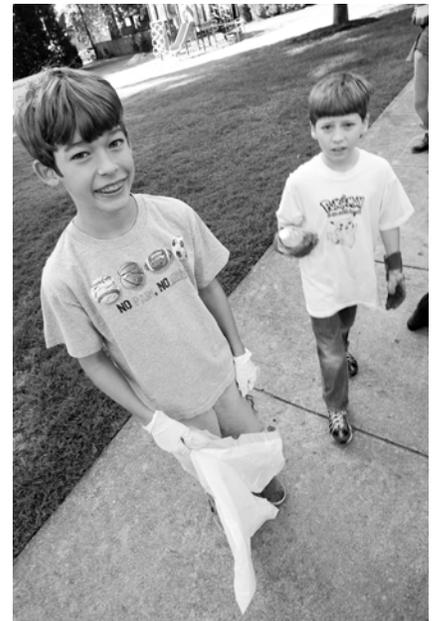
The Aycock Neighborhood Association will participate in Keep America Beautiful's *Great American Cleanup* event on Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. The annual nationwide event is the effort of an estimated 3 million volunteers donating more than 6.7 million hours to clean up more than 17,000 communities in all 50 states.

The local project is sponsored by Greensboro Beautiful and the City of Greensboro, with funding support from the Greater Greensboro Realtors Association. The City of Greensboro will assist participating neighborhoods within the City with special equipment, collection, and disposal. Greensboro Beautiful will provide bags, gloves, and further instructions.

Aycock volunteers are asked to meet at Sternberger Park between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided in the morning; and after the cleanup, volunteers will be treated to pizza and refreshments.

Everyone is invited to the Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch Library for an Earth Day celebration in the afternoon. The celebration will offer music, exhibits, art, guided hikes, garden tours, nature crafts for children, gardening demonstrations, teen challenge events, food samples, hayrides, and more. Admission is FREE.

To volunteer for the *Great American Cleanup* or for additional information, contact resident Mark Townsend: Mark.Townsend@historicaycock.org.



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HCD and Aycock Residents Discuss “Next Steps” for Dunleith

By Christina Cantrell

Aycock residents joined Greensboro Housing and Community Design (HCD) representatives on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 to discuss “next steps” after the Dunleith charrette held in November 2008.

Attending the meeting on behalf of Aycock were residents Christina Cantrell, Betsey Baum, and David Wharton. Mike Cowhig, Stefan-leih Geary, Mary Sertel, and Andy Scott represented HCD. Also attending were John McClendon, Bill Aycock, Jerry Leimenstoll, and John Linn.

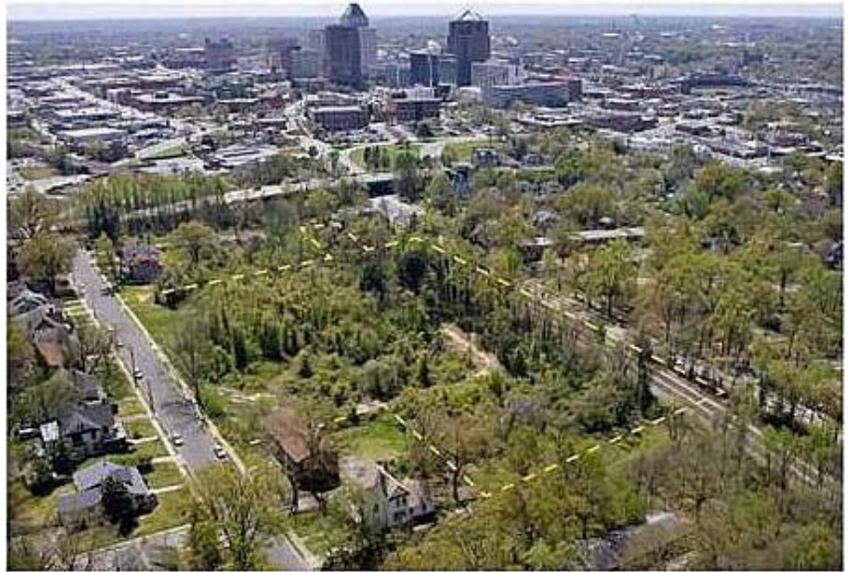


Photo: Birds Eye View of Dunleith with City Skyline in Rear

The discussion revolved around three areas of interest. The first was how to connect Aycock to Fisher Park under, over, or alongside the existing Norfolk Southern railroad tracks. Costs for tunneling and height restrictions for building above the tracks were major concerns.

Secondly, the group discussed reworking the Murrow Blvd interchanges to allow vehicular access to Chestnut Street from the downtown area. Since transportation studies indicate that the streets can handle additional traffic without any change, that discussion was tabled.

The third area of discussion involved the architectural designs presented last November. Of the five designs talked about at the original charrette, the one of “managed agriculture” or “urban farm” was the most discussed at this meeting.

Although this option is the least clear to everyone as far as how to do it, it drew the most interest due to its unique concept. Although developers know how to proceed with building residential structures, an urban farm is a relatively new idea that requires a champion with expertise in managed agriculture. It involves a partnership with either an investor or a university to create a working agricultural business on the six-acre site.

Housing for students in the agriculture program would be included, as well as a large building such as a cannery that would facilitate the business and also function as a community center for the neighborhood. As the farm-to-table movement becomes more popular, managed agriculture is becoming a viable business. One example of such is a successful farm at the Biltmore House in Asheville, NC. The farm supplies much of the produce and dairy used at the restaurants within the Biltmore complex.

Completed architectural plans for all five proposed designs are available on the City’s website: www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/hcd/dunleithcharette. All Aycock residents are encouraged to review the documents.

Camara Joins Board of Directors

Aycock resident Fabio Camara recently joined the Board of Directors of the Aycock Neighborhood Association. Fabio will serve as Watch Commander of the Aycock Neighborhood Watch committee.

Brazilian born photographer Fabio Camara started his career at 16 as an illustrator for the advertising agency Luz e Linha. He moved to the US when he was 18 and studied graphic design at Manchester College in Connecticut. Through a merit scholarship he moved to Greensboro and received his Bachelors in Fine Art at Guilford College. He started his photography career at the age of 25.

Through good fortune and networking, Fabio quickly started building his client base outside the local market. In 1999, after only three years in business, Fabio opened his first small studio in downtown Greensboro and worked on several projects for national clients.

Today Fabio Camara Studios (FCS) is a 3000 square foot natural light loft space at the Revolution Mill Studios building on Yanceyville St. FCS produces images for all sorts of industries, including film and video productions. Check out his website at www.fabiocamarastudios.com.



Ryan Shell Unites Community Watch Groups

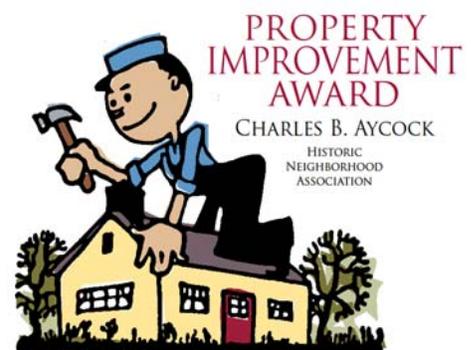
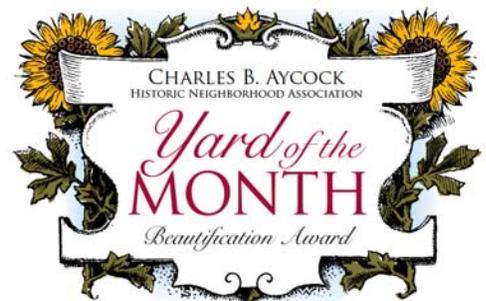
Crime...it doesn't discriminate and it happens in all parts of the city. For years, residents of Greensboro have been proactively taking part in community watches and looking out for the area in which they live. Unfortunately, even the most active watch typically stops once you get to the end of a neighborhood. A new one might start somewhere down the road, leaving a gap in the communication process. Ryan Shell, a community activist, is launching the Greensboro Community Watch (GCW) in an effort to bridge this gap and to create a channel for critical information to be shared amongst residents.

"I've headed up the Southside Community Watch for just over a year now and have had the opportunity to see how neighbors can successfully work together to reduce criminal activity," said Shell. "The one gaping hole that I've noticed is that a line of communication between the various watches is virtually nonexistent. There is a clear opportunity to take our fight against crime one step further, and I believe that GCW is that answer."

Initially, Shell is urging neighborhood leaders and current community watch leaders to sign up for the program. Aycock's Fabio Camara will spearhead Aycock's participation in the program. Shell plans to distribute emails as needed to watch leaders, alerting them to crime trends that are being seen around the city. Watch leaders will in turn notify residents connected through local listserv groups. Shell emphasized, "Crime tends to go in waves; and if we can get ahead of those waves, then a real difference could be made."

Residents are also invited to sign up for the program at GreensboroCommunityWatch.com. Shell says users will receive email alerts about incidents happening in their neighborhoods on a weekly basis. To be clear, the GCW will not replace current community watches. Instead, it will connect watches throughout the city in an effort to help monitor and control crime.

Nominate Someone!
See www.HistoricAycock.org
for Details



Nominate Someone!
See www.HistoricAycock.org for Details

Downtown Digs

Reprinted with permission of *99 Blocks* (See Ad on Page 8)



Robert and Christina Cantrell had never lived in an older home until they moved to Greensboro from Atlanta in 2005, but there was something about the Southern Colonial Revival in the Aycock Historic District.

There were all kinds of reasons not to buy the home at 706 Fifth Ave., built in 1904. It had been neglected. They are not handy people, and they had five other homes they were considering that were in better shape; but

the Cantrells had friends in Greensboro who were steering them to the Aycock neighborhood, and they loved the character of both the community and the house.

So they moved in the week of Christmas, and they've spent the last few years painting and refinishing floors and hiring others to fix the plumbing, restore the windows and re-do closets -- they are all cedar now. They even converted one of the bedrooms...into a California closet for the master bedroom.



They keep a list on the refrigerator of the other tasks they want to tackle. Renovating the upstairs is up next on the list, especially their bathroom which is unusable because of major leaks.

They've been surprised at how well it has gone. "I knew we'd have issues with this house, but ... it is not nearly as bad as I thought," says Robert, who is a credit manager for the mid-Atlantic region of Mayer Electric Supply. Christina is a data modeler for Wells Fargo. She works from home some days, with cats Zoe, Bela and Louise keeping her company. Other days, she works in Charlotte.

Despite the areas in the house that needed work, it came with many great features such as the dark pine wainscoting and flooring and the expansive front porch that spans the entire front of the home. There was one little glitch. Most of their furniture

was contemporary and didn't look right in the home. Christina was able to trade some of it with a sister-in-law, getting some pieces that seem to fit the era of the home better.

Editor's Note: Robert and Christina are a welcome addition to the neighborhood. Christina serves as Secretary of the Aycock Neighborhood Association. To be featured in *99 Blocks*, contact Bill Hancock at (336) 271-8110.



The Giving Tree

By Bert VanderVeen

I am coming up on my ninth anniversary of living in Aycock, and my house turns ninety-nine this year. Considering how drafty it is, it was probably built in the summer. I have always felt that my house is a bit like "*The Giving Tree*" from the Shel Silverstein book of the same title.

We moved in with my brother living in the side apartment and paying part of the bills. Later we put a business in the parlor rooms up front. When #1 was born my brother hit the road, and then #2 pushed the business out (mostly). While I am thrilled to have the business out of the living room, I do miss seeing people at the house.

So I was glad we could host the Winter Potluck on the night of the Big Snow. There were so many people I hadn't seen in forever and many new faces I had just seen in passing. If you missed it, don't worry. I hear the next big one is already in the planning stages.

This neighborhood is also like "*The Giving Tree*." It is a changing, fluid organism, never the same year to year. New people, new ideas, new projects! Coming up is the big Spring Cleanup event. We'll all come out of our winter cocoons and rediscover a leafy, green Aycock.

But something worries me--and it should you too. Look around and see how many empty houses are on your street. Some are just sitting there, quietly biding their time, while others seem actively abandoned. We cannot keep going if we keep losing our people. Each empty house is a drain on the neighborhood. It's hard to fight crime if you are missing people to watch. Empty houses lead to tall grass and unkempt lots. Less people equates to less services, stores and businesses.

So our next big plan must be to fill those houses up and bring in more people to keep our neighborhood vibrant. Some of this plan is spelled out in a neighborhood analysis that was put together in 2005. If you recall, the analysis called for a marketing and branding effort to increase the awareness of our neighborhood. Hopefully we will fully implement the plan this year and involve local realtors and others in the community to help.

Board of Directors 2008-09

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Treasurer: Justin Smith

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Maliq Culbreath Shawn Patch
Charlie Connor Shawn Wriede
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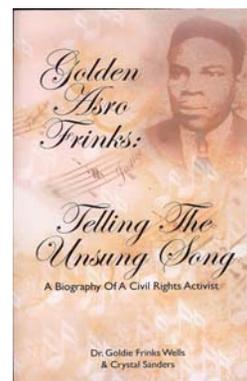
- Community Development: Laura Wall
- Historic Preservation: Shawn Patch
- Newsletter Editor: Linda J. Fusco
- Technology: Shawn Wriede
- Neighborhood Watch: Fabio Camara

District 2 Councilwoman Goldie Wells Publishes Father's Biography

District 2 Councilwoman Goldie Wells has published a biography of her father, civil rights activist Golden Asro Frinks.

The book, entitled *Golden Asro Frinks: Telling the Unsung Song*, tells the behind-the-scenes story of Frinks, an unsung hero of the civil rights movement.

Wells and co-author Crystal Sanders detail his story of a man who was as dedicated as Martin Luther King Jr. He was arrested 87 times for civil rights causes he championed. The book is available online.



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Anne with an "E" Finn Remembers a Different Aycock

By Anne Finn



My name is Anne Finn. My great grandfather, C. A. Hendrix, built my house at 415 East Hendrix St. in 1912. He and his wife Katy lived in the big white house on the corner of Yanceyville and Hendrix. Hendrix Street was named after him. C.A. and Katy had four children - Edward, Clara, Mamie and Fannie. Clara Hendrix Hartsook was my grandmother, and she lived in the pretty two story house that backs to the back of Aycock School and is now the Children's Home Administration office. My great aunt, Mamie Fleet, lived with her family (including her son, Jimmy Fleet, who still lives in the house) in my great grandfather's house. My father and his parents and siblings lived at 415 for a short period of time when he was a child.

My mother and father, Charlie and Lucille Hartsook, moved into 415 after they got married in the 1930's. I grew up in this house with my two brothers, Charles and Alan, and my sister Gail. I moved away when I got married in the 1960s, and I returned in 1989 when my children moved out and went to college. I built a guest house in the back yard of 415. Roy Carroll Jr., the contractor who is transforming the old Wachovia Building built the guest house when he and his father first started their contracting business.

Moving back to the neighborhood was wonderful. My mother and I spent most of our time together working in the yard, working jigsaw puzzles, sitting on the front porch visiting with neighbors and passersby, and rooting for the Duke basketball team!

My father worked at Cone Mills as head of the Order and Billing Department at White Oak for 45 years. He passed away in the late 1980's. Mother was a piano teacher, avid volunteer and homemaker. She passed away in 2004 and left the house at 415 to me.

Mother and I always said that we would just have to move out of the neighborhood if anything ever happened to the giant pin oak tree in our front yard. In the 1980s it was proclaimed the largest pin oak in Guilford County. Unfortunately, in the late 1990s the tree started dropping huge limbs and was dying. The City Arborist and almost every tree person in the county were consulted. We were told that the tree could not be saved, despite Mother's valiant efforts. The tree came down and we cried for weeks; but our roots were too deep and we stayed on.

Growing up in this neighborhood was magical. I had friends up and down Percy and Chestnut Streets as well as in Fisher Park. The Cones owned all the property where the car lots are now and all the office buildings on Yanceyville, and there were ponds and forests and lots of places to play and roam around. There was a beautiful field beside our house where the apartments are now, and when it snowed we would build forts and snowmen and climb trees. There were trees and wooded areas everywhere. The foot bridge was open for car traffic back in those days. We would walk downtown every Saturday and go to the music store and sit in the closed booths and listen to music. Then we would eat at Franklin's drug store - the best hot dogs ever, go to the Carolina Theater, get peanuts from Mr. Peanut, wander around Ellis Stone and Myers Department Stores, and window shop at Mason Joline (my Aunt Mamie's store) and Montaldo's.

As teenagers, my friends and I would sneak out at night during slumber parties and go over to the donut shop on Summit next to the radiator place. That was considered wild in those days.

It was just a very different time. My father's sister, Jean Murphy, and her husband Kermit and their 5 kids lived on what is now Yanceyville next door to my grandmother Clara (Cissy). There was always a huge group of kids to play with and sled down Hendrix Street. We all walked to Aycock from first through ninth grades. I was a cheerleader at Aycock and in the May Court. Things are different now some 65 years later, but Aycock is still the best place to live in Greensboro.



Editor's Note: Anne Finn's house was the recipient of the first Aycock "Yard of the Month" Award.

Sustainable Gardening Is About Stewardship

By Maliq Culbreath

“Sustainable gardening” is a term not fully understood by many. It may invoke terms such as composting, mulching, organic gardening, or even native plantings. What about double digging, rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, or IPM (Integrated Pest Management)?

Besides the techniques mentioned above, “sustainable gardening” more deeply infers a lifestyle change that would lead to healthier living. Simply stated, sustainable gardening means that we replenish our soil and water resources at a faster rate than we utilize them. The more techniques that we employ in an effort to recycle, repurpose, or reuse, the more we reduce our carbon footprint. Sustainable gardening is about stewardship.



Sustainable gardening is about reducing/eliminating the use of outside sources needed to maintain your local environment. We have all heard some of the “green” buzzwords and phrases, but this is where the rubber meets the road at home. Everything from converting your yard waste and kitchen scraps (no meat or dairy products) to utilizing house plant foliage and sawdust from untreated wood helps in the process. As I think about it, you would not travel as far for food if you would grow much of your own food. In addition, buying locally further reduces the volume of food that has to be shipped.

Use of beneficial insects, like the ladybug that loves the destructive aphid, could help to eliminate the use of most or all insecticides. Did you know that a single toad can eat between 10,000-20,000 critters a year?

The use of rain barrels and cisterns to collect rainwater runoff is of particular interest here in the Triad, where water supply is limited. Identifying areas of your property that may collect water that could be converted to a rain garden could provide a natural way to effectively dissipate runoff. To minimize or eliminate maintenance, the use of mulch greatly reduces the need to weed and also reduces the need to water. Mulch also provides organic nourishment naturally, eliminating the need to use chemicals to control or eradicate diseases and pests.

An edible organic garden is also sustaining in that it is indeed organic, without the use of synthetic fertilizers that compound the runoff problem and stream contamination. Organic gardening provides you with food that is by far the freshest that you can obtain. You pick it fresh and eat it fresh. What you cannot eat you can freeze, can, pickle or dry when fruits, vegetables, and herbs are at their peak flavor. When choosing what to plant, it would be wise to grow items that are otherwise the most expensive to purchase at a market.

Raised beds are an efficient way to facilitate a productive yield. By raising the soil, good drainage is permitted. Somewhere between 8 and 18 inches high is sufficient for most plantings. Raised beds should be roughly 2 to 4 feet wide. The length of the bed is up to you. Eight to 12 feet allows one to comfortably travel around the bed with minimal effort. I recently was involved with a project that used beds that were 20 feet long.



They had the space to do it and the beds were shared. A location that gets at least six to eight hours of sun, access to tools and water resources are other considerations for placement of raised beds.

The Aycock-Summit neighborhood has been considering locations for a community garden. Community gardens are a way to bring people together where knowledge of the earth and soil is passed on, while providing sustenance to all involved. If you have an interest in participating in a community garden, please write to maliq@historicaycock.org with comments or suggestions.

Photo: Community gardens are popping up everywhere. This one, the Steelman Park Community Garden in Greensboro, was a result of a partnership between the Guilford County Health Department, the Agricultural Extension Service and the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Dept.



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