



Historic Aycock Neighborhood News

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12 Years Later – Where Are We?

By Mindy Zachary

Following the 1984 creation of the locally-zoned Charles B. Aycock Historic District, its designation as a National Register Historic District in 1993, the installation of the Yanceyville medians not long afterward and, later, the Hendrix Street pedestrian bridge, the most important efforts our neighborhood collectively undertook were a series of design charrette activities beginning in 2002.

The first was the commission of *The Aycock Traditional Neighborhood Plan*. There was enthusiastic neighborhood participation for the charrette that took place over the course of a week, held in the Aycock Middle School cafeteria. The final presentation gave us a peek into what our neighborhood could look like if the suggestions were implemented. It was published in January 2003.

We were then told by City personnel that we needed a plan that included implementation strategies, spearheaded by a firm the City endorsed. So we went through a second charrette with the City-selected firm, Glen Harbeck Associates. The *Strategic Plan for the Aycock Neighborhood* was adopted by the City Council in November of 2003. As the Aycock website indicates, it is a blueprint for long-range goals the neighborhood is working toward. Those goals, in order of importance (as determined by neighborhood participants):

1. Redesign/Improve Summit Avenue as a primary gateway to the downtown,
2. Enhance organizational capacity of the neighborhood association,
3. Implement miscellaneous transportation and traffic improvements,
4. Address historic district concerns,
5. Prepare plan for War Memorial Stadium and Veterans Plaza area,
6. Install attractive street name signage,
7. Step up law enforcement and public safety,
8. Enhance/update the existing Master Plan for Sternberger Park,
9. Improve the upkeep of residential properties,
10. Move power lines and overhead utilities when opportunities arise,
11. Install neighborhood entryway markers, and
12. Prepare long range plan for Murrow Boulevard/Aycock Square.



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12 Years Later - Continued from Page 1

Since the improvement of Summit Avenue was at the top of the list, the neighborhood then worked with the City and lead consultant, Haden Stanziale, to develop the **Summit Avenue Corridor Plan**, which was adopted by City Council in 2006. A bit of a misnomer, this plan also includes portions of Yanceyville and the area around War Memorial Stadium. It contains an analysis of physical conditions and design recommendations; a market study; and regulatory analysis and recommendations. Some of the design ideas include planting street trees, installing a median down Summit Avenue, encouraging compatible infill, creating gateway markers to designate entry to the neighborhood (one is coming soon to Bessemer and Yanceyville).

This plan was then packaged with a transportation bond that was approved by Greensboro voters, and we are awaiting its implementation. The bond to actually fund the project will be sold in fiscal year 2018-19. If the City can find a way to fund the design work before then, they would be able to start construction in fiscal year 2018-19. If not, actual construction would begin about 18 months later.

Other updates about our Strategic Plan will follow in subsequent issues. These design plans may be viewed in their entirety at <http://historicaycock.org/planning.htm>.

Green Cleaning Products You Can Make

By Vickie Maness, Kay Heating and Air Conditioning Inc.

The last thing you want to do is dump toxic chemicals into the environment in the name of cleaning, right? These days, you don't have to make a special trip to the natural foods store to seek out environmentally-sensitive cleaning products. You can stock your natural cleaning kit with homemade cleaners—making them yourself is super easy.

Here are a few basic “recipes” and techniques to get you started:

- **Glass:** Mix 1/4 cup vinegar with 1 quart of water in a spray bottle. Spray on glass and wipe clean with newspaper or a lint-free cloth.
- **Countertops and bathroom tile:** Mix 2 parts vinegar and 1 part baking soda with 4 parts water. Apply with a sponge, scour, and wipe away.
- **Floors:** Mix 4 cups of white distilled vinegar with about a gallon of hot water. If desired, add a few drops of pure peppermint or lemon oil for a pleasant scent. After damp mopping the floors, the smell of vinegar will dissipate quickly, leaving behind the scent of the oil.
- **Wood furniture:** Mix equal parts of lemon juice and olive oil. Apply a small amount to a cloth, and rub onto the furniture in long, even strokes.
- **Toilet bowl cleaner:** Sprinkle a toilet brush with baking soda and scrub away! Occasionally disinfect your toilet by scrubbing with borax instead. Wipe the outside of the toilet clean with straight vinegar.
- **Disinfectant:** Mix 2 teaspoons borax, 4 tablespoons vinegar, 3 cups hot water, and 1/4 teaspoon liquid castile soap. Wipe on with dampened cloth or use a spray bottle. Wipe clean.
- **Mold and mildew:** Wipe with straight vinegar.
- **Air freshener:** Sprinkle essential oil on a cotton ball, and stash it in a corner of the room. If you have kids, make sure it is out of their reach, as essential

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oils are very strong and could irritate their skin. Lavender is a relaxing scent that is great for bedrooms, and cinnamon, clove, and citrus oils are great for the rest of the house. You can stash a few in the car too—try peppermint, which may help you to stay alert.

Spring Cleaning & To-Dos

By Vickie Maness

Wash Windows: Be sure to pick a cloudy day to wash windows. If it's too sunny, the cleaning solution will dry too fast and you'll have streaks. For a window-washing solution, combine 1/2 cup of sudsy ammonia (which is a specific type of ammonia), 1 pint of rubbing alcohol, 1 teaspoon of dishwashing liquid, and 1 gallon of water.

Sliding Door Tracks: Sliding glass door tracks probably aren't the first spots you'd think to clean, but you'll appreciate having done it before the outdoor entertaining season gets into full swing. Scrub the tracks with an old, dry toothbrush to loosen debris, then using your vacuum hose to remove it. Finish with a wet sponge.

Overlooked Surfaces: Once a year, scrub down your baseboards, door frames, and walls. Wash them with a sponge and a squirt of dishwashing liquid mixed in a bucket of warm water

Clean Under Furniture & Appliances: Grab a partner and move your sofa and chairs, roll up area rugs, and then vacuum the floors. Move your kitchen appliances away from the wall as much as you can. In some cases you can pull them out enough that a vacuum hose will reach.

Restore Your Furniture: Restore smooth leather using upholstery cleaner and conditioner. Use a suede brush to perk up leather. For wood furniture, cleaner and polish: Mix 1/2 teaspoon of olive oil and 1/2 cup of vinegar or lemon juice in a plastic spray bottle; shake well and spray onto a microfiber cloth.

Refresh Window Treatments: Curtains and draperies aren't typically dirty enough to launder. Instead, go over them thoroughly with the upholstery attachment on your vacuum. To remove dust from sheer curtains, put them in the dryer on low with a fabric-softener sheet.



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and trim.

Power Wash: Having your home's exterior and windows power-washed won't just make your home look sharp, it also will prevent the growth of mold and mildew that feed on grime. If you're not comfortable deciding whether your home's exterior can handle the force that pressure-washing nozzles exert, hire a professional to do the work.

Dumping Yard Waste in Aycock is Illegal

The Dunleith site on Chestnut Street has become a dump for yard waste. Over the last year a pile of debris from neighboring yards is slowly growing and has now become a major eyesore. The pile contains branches, leaves, clippings, and sometimes even trash.

If you are one of the offenders, please stop! Dumping yard waste is illegal in Aycock. The City will pick up yard waste if bundled or bagged according to their guidelines.

We all pay taxes and consider our homes one of our biggest assets. Dumping hurts our property values and blights our neighborhood.

The City is aware of this issue. Let's all do better and not dump illegally on the Dunleith site.

Get Organized: Pick up and eliminate clutter in each room before you start cleaning. Equip yourself with a few designated containers when you are picking up in each room: a box for garage sale items, another for items to donate, and a garbage bag for items to toss. Put away the things you are keeping in their rightful places and rooms.

Exterior Paint: Spring is the perfect time to freshen the face of your home with a new paint job. An updated color scheme can take your house from forgettable to traffic-stopping. The average exterior paint job lasts 10 years, so make sure it's done right. If your house doesn't require a full paint makeover, consider a touch-up, which can prolong the life of your siding

Gutter Maintenance: When you consider that your roof's drainage system diverts thousands of gallons of water a year from the exterior and foundation walls of your house, you can see why it merits a semiannual inspection. Clean and repair gutters and downspouts every spring before heavy rains begin and late in autumn after leaves have fallen.

Outdoor Furniture: Clean and repair furniture for your deck, porch, or patio. Use outdoor spray enamel to touch up chips on painted outdoor furniture.

Clean Bedrooms: Rotate and flip mattresses. Wash blankets and comforters, or take them to be cleaned. Wash mattress pads and bed skirts. Have pillows professionally cleaned, hang them outside in the fresh air, or fluff them with the air (no heat) cycle of your clothes dryer. Wash or dry-clean rugs.

Clean Bathrooms: You may scrub your bathroom every week, but now it's time to battle clutter and refresh old products. Go through your medicine cabinets and safely discard any outdated products. Replace worn bath mats, shower curtains, and liners, or wash and dry shower curtains and liners.

Clear Kitchen: Take time to clear out your pantry, kitchen cabinets, and drawers. Wipe them out and install fresh shelf paper. Store or donate equipment you don't use, such as small appliances or cookware. Discard stale spices or dated items such as baking powder. Clean the refrigerator and freezer. Vacuum the cooling coils under or behind your refrigerator.

Create a Sensual Summer Flower Garden with Bulbs

Contrasting Colors Create Drama

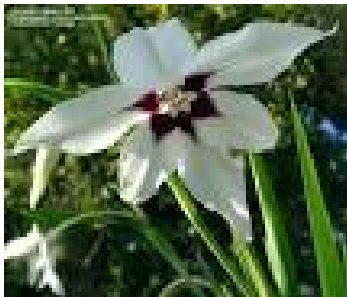
By Diana Gardner-Williams

April is the time to ponder, plan and plant. If you find pleasure in cutting flower bouquets, attracting hummingbirds, bees and butterflies, or just having a place in your garden to admire, these tips are for you. This particular garden incorporates deep velvety purple, white and hints of yellow for contrast.

Fluff up your area to make planting easier. Adding compost will help with this task. Dig holes three times the diameter of the bulb. Add bone meal or blood meal for optimal flower production. Dahlias can be planted in pots and placed within your sensual garden for ease in storing at the end of the season.



Because many summer flowering bulbs may tip over due to their height, I would recommend adding garden stakes or support cages to those that grow the tallest.



Here is a scrumptious list of bulbs for your sensual flower garden. The tallest varieties planted in the rear could be yellow "Morning Gold" gladiolus, "Golden Splendor" trumpet lily, white "Sophie" gladiolus, "Purple Prince" or "Landini" Asiatic lily, white double "Serene Angel" oriental lily, purple "Belle de Nuit" gladiolus, white "Mount Everest" allium, and white "Ermine" canna lily.

Suggestions for the middle are "Queen of the Night" or "Black Forest" calla lily, white "Lady Liberty" dahlia, white, "Peacock Orchids", purple and white "Seduction" dahlia, and "Sunshine" dahlia with purple foliage and yellow blooms.



Annuals in the front of the border would be the icing on the cake and could include yellow marigolds, white periwinkle, purple wandering jew, white or yellow "Profusion" zinnias, or yellow and purple "Phantom" petunias. If there is space in the rear, try planting "Italian White" or "Coconut Ice" sunflower seeds. Have fun creating your sensual summer garden and enjoy the blooms and butterflies.

In the Know: Certificates of Appropriateness

By Christina Cantrell

Let's talk top and bottom of home restoration and renovation, that is, chimneys and foundations! Many, if not all of the structures in Greensboro's Historic Districts have some form of masonry material as part of their construction. Brick, brick veneer, and stone construction can make up the exterior walls of a building, and are almost always the material chosen to construct chimneys and foundations.

Chimneys are often significant architectural features of a historic structure, and the foundation anchors the historic structure to its building site, raising the body of the building above ground level. Consequently, their preservation is essential to retaining the character of the building's exterior.

Proper maintenance of chimneys, foundations and other masonry/stone surfaces may include re-laying of any loose brick or stone, careful re-pointing of deteriorated mortar joints, and proper replacement of metal flashing where the chimney meets the roof or wall. The most important goal in masonry/stone preservation is to keep out water. Techniques such as sand blasting and high-pressure washing erodes the brick exterior, causing moisture to get inside, and waterproof coatings such as a silicone-based sealant will actually trap moisture inside. These techniques should be avoided. The best preventive measure is to provide regular maintenance and select a good mortar when re-pointing.

- Water-repellent coatings are the recommended treatment for protecting masonry surfaces, as they are different from waterproof coatings, and are formulated to be vapor permeable, or "breathable". They do not seal the surface, but act as a barrier that continues to allow the appropriate level of moisture to pass through the surface.
- Low pressure cleaning at garden hose pressure using water or detergents is the best way to clean brick and stone.
- Allow for proper ventilation in foundations, as covering vents can trap moisture and lead to deterioration.
- Previously painted foundations should be painted in darker colors that reflect the colors of masonry or stone.
- Re-pointing is filling in the gaps that already exist in masonry joints with mortar to match the original. Tuck Pointing is the process of cleaning out crumbling and deteriorated mortar and then "tucking" new mortar into the cleaned joints.



GUIDELINES FOR CHIMNEYS and FOUNDATIONS

- Preserve the shape, size, materials, and details of character-defining chimneys and foundations and other masonry/stone features. Significant chimney details include features such as brick corbelling, terra cotta chimney pots, and decorative caps. Decorative grilles and vents, water tables, lattice panels, access doors, and steps are character-defining features of foundations that should be preserved as well.
- Clean soiled, discolored, or painted masonry and stone surfaces using the gentlest methods possible to avoid damage to the brick and mortar. It is not appropriate to use high pressure cleaning methods such as sandblasting.
- Maintain the integrity of masonry/stone features by re-laying loose bricks or stones and repairing deteriorated mortar joints as necessary. When re-pointing or tuck pointing masonry surfaces, match the dimension, composition, color, profile, and design of the old mortar joints as closely as possible.
- Painting or applying coatings such as cement or stucco to exposed masonry/stone is not appropriate, because it will change the historic appearance of the masonry/stone feature, and can accelerate deterioration. Previously painted surfaces may remain painted.
- It is not appropriate to introduce features such as access doors and vents in locations that diminish the original design or materials of a building's foundation.
- It is not appropriate to shorten or remove original chimneys when they become deteriorated. Chimneys and furnace stacks that are not essential to the character of the structure, or that were added later, may be removed if it will not diminish the original design of the roof, or destroy historic details.
- Construct new or replacement chimneys and foundations of historically appropriate materials such as brick or stone. It is not appropriate to use substitute materials that simulate brick or stone.
- If metal chimney caps or other covers are necessary, install them so they do not diminish the original design of the chimney or damage historic materials.

The following projects DO NOT require a COA:

- Re-pointing masonry and stone surfaces
- Installation/removal of metal chimney caps

The following commonly requested projects require a COA:

- Tuck pointing masonry and stone surfaces
- Chimney removal
- Rebuilding original foundation
- Removal of original chimney caps

As always, consult the Historic Design Guidelines when considering renovation of the exterior of your home. The guidelines can be found on www.historicaycock.org website – look under Historic Preservation. The document contains information and suggestions to help you navigate your options to retain the historic character and beauty of your home. In addition, city staff is always a helpful resource. Contact Mike Cowhig (Mike.Cowhig@greensboro-nc.gov) for specific questions and for a copy of the Certification of Appropriateness (COA) application form.

NOTICE**PROPERTY OWNERS: Be Aware of New Penalties for After-the-Fact COA Applications**

The City of Greensboro is now enforcing penalties for after-the-fact Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications. Please note that exterior alterations to homes in the Aycock Historic District usually require such applications. The penalty for not filing is \$250.

Always consult the Historic District Guidelines on the Aycock website to see if your home improvement project requires a COA application (most exterior renovations require one.)

What's the Big Deal with Plastic Bags?

By Allison Rose

Do you know what happens to plastic bags you use at the store? Have you noticed them flying about on the road or in the trees? Where should they be? They should be in the landfill or at the recycle center; otherwise, they might go into the ocean, where 10% of our plastic bags go.

Once they are out there, what happens next? If you didn't know already, sea turtles are omnivores. They eat coral, seaweed, kelp, and jellyfish. Jellyfish's transparent bodies and tentacles look almost exactly like a soggy plastic bag out in the ocean. If some people can't tell the difference, then how can an animal with an extremely tiny brain covered in several bone deposits tell them apart? If and when a turtle eats the plastic bag, it clogs up the turtle's digestive system, slowly starving the animal to death.

My name is Allison Rose. My Girl Scout Troop, Troop #1714, has been working with your neighborhood for three years. We helped during the Big Sweep last fall and the Great American Cleanup on Saturday, April 5.

This article is part of my Silver Award education program. I picked this topic last summer when we visited Kure Beach for a "Turtle Talk," and I learned about how sea turtles suffer from the use of plastic bags. If you would like to learn more, please email me at: jbmelody@bellsouth.net.

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Allison, our newest and youngest newsletter contributor. Allison will be a regular contributor to our newsletter.





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Green Living Arts Festival Is Sunday, May 4

By Zora Medor

Imagine a world where people hold the keys in their own hands to make themselves healthy and strong and to live in balance with their planet and their communities. Imagine a place where people who envision a better world have brought it to life. Imagine visiting there and sampling amazing and delicious healthy foods, where you learn how to make healthy products yourselves and then get to take them home with you. Well, that's what Aycock has been doing!

Join the Greensboro community for the Green Living Arts Festival on Sunday afternoon, May 4th, at Greensboro Festival Park (next to the Cultural Arts Center on Davies Street). Event hours are 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The Aycock Neighborhood Association is delighted to be one of the sponsors of this Green Living Arts Festival.

This will be the fourth Earth Day festival of its type, whose sponsors are committed to creating and learning about healthier, happier ways of life for all. And we are eager to share these practices with everyone. This festival promotes ways of green & healthy living all the way around - for the environment, for your personal self and for community. Everyone gets in on the healthy act!

At the festival, you'll find:

- Vendors selling and giving out samples of healthy and green products
- Instructors teaching green and healthy living practices - such as yoga methods, organic gardening, solar-powered machines, and green cleaning methods
- Artists with nature art
- Musicians playing music to praise the earth and get you dancing.

Express your creativity with:

- Body expression through dance (to some great live bands) and yoga
- Musical expression - make your own drums and flutes and participate in an impromptu concert
- Visual arts and craft: Make pottery, and recycled art creations (includes mask-making, instrument-making, crafted plates and cups; collage decor, scrap-booking, decorated tote-bags, etc.)

Or just sample all the healthy foods and supplements on display. Zora Medor, event developer and Park Avenue resident, will be there all afternoon to welcome fellow neighbors and guide them through their visit. This event is sponsored, in part, by a Building Stronger Neighborhoods grant.

GREEN LIVING ARTS FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH

1:00 - 5:00 PM

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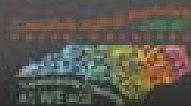


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