

# COLUMNS

**SPRING 2022**

The Lindley Park Neighborhood Newsletter  
[lindleyparknc.com](http://lindleyparknc.com)



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## Message from the Chair

Here we go LP'ers, spring is here, or at the very least it's on the tracks and heading our way. I feel fortunate that Lindley Park didn't experience some of the worse parts of winter this year, and let's hope all our flora friends stored that much needed energy to create the beautiful green environment that we all love so much. With a tinge of the side-eye, I also see some socializing squirrel friends out my window once again relocating every single acorn buried in the fall, leaving behind a battlefield of holes throughout the yard. It is time for some version of reemergence for us all, an acknowledgment of where we've been and what's to come.

Within the LPNA, we value our role in the neighborhood's resurgence and revival. In 2022, the elected board of your LPNA is working hard to provide the neighborhood with ample opportunities for social engagement, volunteering, and reconnection. In the next few months the social team will host incredible events like the Easter Egg Hunt, the Spring Fling Pig Roast, and the community yard sale. Those events will be full of folks who believe similarly in one thing: the value of human connection. Being 'in-place' with others is something we've learned can't be taken for granted. I believe that every one of our events provides an opportunity for an escape from the digital and material distractions that we all sometimes overly

rely upon. I hope that you'll join me and so many other neighbors in celebrating each other and our LP community--I mean we can't just let those squirrels have all the fun!

*-Josh Sherrick*

The COLUMNS is compiled, edited, and published by the all-volunteer Lindley Park Neighborhood Association. Each quarter more than 1,200 copies are hand delivered by your neighbors!

The COLUMNS is posted online at [lindleyparknc.com/newsletter](http://lindleyparknc.com/newsletter) and you can sign-up to receive a copy in your inbox by using the SIGN UP button on our Facebook page, or email us at [lpnago@gmail.com](mailto:lpnago@gmail.com)

For the time being, additional hard copies are not being distributed to local businesses.



## Lindley Park Website

### Have you visited [lindleyparknc.com](http://lindleyparknc.com)?

The Lindley Park neighborhood website is a wealth of information including our neighborhood history, the LPNA bylaws and neighborhood plan; community resources such as "Fix It" (where you can request or report city service needs); local and state government info (such as who your representatives are, and how to contact them); along with a newsletter archive, LPNA member contact page, community watch information, dedicated pages for each of our social events, a neighborhood calendar (in progress)... and even a page where you can DONATE to keep the LPNA up and running!

The website is maintained by a volunteer (just like this newsletter), so please be kind when pointing out errors or outdated information. ☺

**If you would like to help update or contribute to website content, please email us at [webmaster@lindleyparknc.com](mailto:webmaster@lindleyparknc.com)**

Dear Lindley Park Neighbors,  
I am enclosing my annual "dues" to the Lindley Park Neighborhood Association. Even though I no longer live in Lindley Park, I will always consider myself to be a part of the LPNA.

My family moved to 205 Hermitage Road in early 1958 after my father was hired as the executive chef at Starmount Country Club. Lindley Park was a comfortable driving distance from his job. Another reason for choosing the Lindley Park neighborhood was Lindley Elementary School to which I walked in grades 1-6. It was an ideal school as any who attended in the 1960s would agree. There were great teachers and much interest from parents as "grade mothers" (for which I volunteered my mother without asking) and in the PTA. In fifth grade, we had the opportunity for the entire two classes to attend a week of camping in Umstead Park in Raleigh. And there was during those years a beautiful amphitheater with the "Grass Steps" for the audience.

Instead of moving to a larger home in a different neighborhood when I was a teenager, we decided to build an addition to the house. We added nearly the same square footage that was in the original house. We used the large "bonus room" as a master bedroom/sitting room for my parents. Having the addition allowed us to continue to enjoy the home even after I returned from college to live. My father died in 1987 and my mother and I continued to live there until she moved into Friends Homes in 2004. My mother determined that she would like me to have the house following her passing in 2006. I continued to live there until I moved to Friends Homes in May 2021.

It is now time for another family to love the house and to have the pleasure of living in Lindley Park. I did a lot of renovations to the home over the last few years and right before I sold the house. I feel that I left it in good shape. For certain, I know I left my buyers a group of wonderful neighbors.

Best wishes to all, M. Gertrude Beal

**LPNA General Meeting  
April 26, 7:00PM  
Lindley Recreation Center**

Guest Speaker MICHELLE KENNEDY,  
Neighborhood Development Director.  
Refreshments provided.  
If weather permits, the meeting  
will be held outside.

**All Lindley Park residents  
are invited.**

*Thank You to Our  
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**WAYS TO SUPPORT THE LPNA**

**WRITE FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

If you'd like to contribute to the next COLUMNS issue, please email your articles, stories, or photographs to [newsletter@lindleyparknc.com](mailto:newsletter@lindleyparknc.com)

**Story Ideas**

- a topic about which you are an expert, such as gardening or home renovation
- historical anecdotes about Lindley Park
- other social/community topics/issues that you think would be of interest to our neighbors

- **SUMMER NEWSLETTER CONTENT**
- **DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MAY 13.** The summer issue covers events and topics relevant to **JULY, AUGUST, and SEPTEMBER.**

(Note: you may not receive a reply, but that doesn't mean we didn't get your message!)

**DELIVER THE NEWSLETTER**

Contact Joyce Eury at [joyceury@gmail.com](mailto:joyceury@gmail.com) if you would like to deliver the newsletter on your street, or perhaps another!

**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM**

The LP is on IG! Follow us. Tell your friends. [@lindleyparknc](https://www.instagram.com/lindleyparknc)

**DONATE or VOLUNTEER**

The annual social events and upkeep of green spaces—and even this very newsletter—that make Lindley Park special are only possible through the generous donation of money and time of your Lindley Park neighbors.

If you have means to contribute financially, or simply the time to volunteer, please consider supporting the LPNA.

You can donate by completing the adjacent form or online at [lindleyparknc.com/support](http://lindleyparknc.com/support)

**2022 LPNA CONTRIBUTION FORM**

**Contribute online at [lindleyparknc.com/support](http://lindleyparknc.com/support)**

Your generous LPNA contributions fund all of our social activities as well as this very newsletter. Suggested amount is \$15 per household, but any amount is appreciated! Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check to the address listed, or bring it to a monthly meeting!

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Make checks payable to **LPNA** and mail to: LPNA  
c/o Blake Sagar, 2621 Springwood Drive, 27403

# Where happy little bluebirds fly...

## Bluebird Housing in Lindley Park

contributed by Tina Dolan and Elizabeth Link



In 1851, eight pairs of English House Sparrows were released in Brooklyn, NY, by someone wanting to establish birds native to Europe in the city. Forty years later, an admirer of Shakespeare decided to release in Central Park groups of every songbird mentioned in the Bard's works. Of the thrushes, skylarks, and other birds released, only the European Starling survived. Both the Starling and the House Sparrow, originally from Europe, have now spread through 48 states, most of Canada, and into Mexico.

What does this have to do with Bluebirds? The Eastern Bluebird is a native of North America, about 7" long and recognizable from their bright blue back and wings and their orange breast. (Not to be confused with their pointy-headed, blue-and-white cousin, the Blue Jay.) Their main food source is insects caught on the ground, along with seeds

and berries. Bluebirds are secondary cavity-nesters, meaning they like to nest in holes in trees, but their beaks are not strong enough to excavate their own nests. They rely on cavities made by woodpeckers, on naturally occurring holes in trees, or on nest boxes.

Bluebirds like to hang out where there are open grassy areas for catching bugs, with nearby trees to provide nesting places. Before Europeans arrived, Bluebirds were mainly resident along the eastern edge of North America, inhabiting areas around beaver ponds and mature forests lacking undergrowth. Clearing for farms by European settlers removed some nesting trees but also provided their preferred open habitat, and the birds followed settlers from the Atlantic coast into the Midwest.

While the effect on Bluebird populations by early settlers was minimal, the introduction and spread of European Starlings and English House Sparrows changed things. These birds are also secondary cavity-nesters, and compete intensely with Bluebirds for both nesting sites and food. (The House Sparrows also turned out to cause damage to crops and fruit trees.) As a result, the Bluebird population declined precipitously in the early part of the 20th century. In the 1960s and '70s, volunteers began putting up nest boxes with openings small enough to keep the much larger Starling out, and established Bluebird Trails of nest boxes. While still subject to competition from House Sparrows, Bluebird populations gradually have begun to recover as a result of these volunteer efforts.

In Lindley Park, some of our neighbors have put up Bluebird nest boxes in the park. Tina Dolan has worked to repair and

upgrade some boxes that were installed earlier by an unknown resident, and to install some new ones. She has established this set of nest boxes as the Lindley Park Bluebird Trail. The NC Bluebird Society ([ncbluebird.org](http://ncbluebird.org)) has helped Tina's efforts by providing a \$200 grant, for building new boxes and repairing old ones, and for putting up guards to keep predators such as raccoons and snakes from climbing up the poles and raiding the nests. The Piedmont Bird Club ([piedmontbirdclub.org](http://piedmontbirdclub.org)) has also provided a grant of \$250 for providing nest boxes and nest box monitoring equipment. These funds will help keep a viable trail of bluebird houses, but they also come with a responsibility to monitor the nest boxes and report findings to the Bluebird Society.

### Bluebird Box Monitoring

We are looking for volunteers to help with monitoring the Bluebird boxes during the spring and summer breeding season. The breeding season starts in March, and birds can have multiple broods through the summer and as late as September. Monitoring involves walking through the park once a week and observing the status of nesting in each of the 10 boxes. You can volunteer to do one or two weeks, or multiple weeks as your schedule allows.

Monitoring the boxes is a method of observing what is happening within the nest box, while creating minimal disturbance to the resident Bluebirds. If the birds are disturbed too frequently or in the wrong way, they abandon the nest box, along with any eggs or young that happen to be within. Observations include whether other birds such as Chickadees or Nuthatches or House Sparrow are nesting in the box, how many Bluebird



Hatchling: very recently hatched ("Put me back in!")



Nestling: between 3-13 days old.



Fledgling: ready to leave the nest

continued...

eggs or fledglings are in the box, whether there have been invaders such as snakes or ants that may have caused the birds to abandon the nest. If you are interested in volunteering for a stint as a nest observer, please call or text Tina Dolan at 336-937-1834 or contact Elizabeth Link at elizlink04@gmail.com.

For those people interested in participating in the monitoring program, we will provide a training session, showing the methods for observing what's going on in the boxes while minimizing disturbance to the nesting birds, and what information to record. All observations will be reported to the NC Bluebird Society.

If you are not participating in the monitoring program, please be aware of the location of the nest boxes, and try to avoid getting too close or otherwise disturbing the nest boxes during the March-September breeding season. Human activity nearby can keep the birds away from the nest boxes or cause them to abandon nests. Never open the boxes, unless you are participating in the monitoring program and have been trained in the correct way to do it. Bluebirds are a protected species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so it is illegal to interfere with the nesting of the birds.

Many thanks to Tina Dolan, the Bluebird Society, the Piedmont Bird Club, and all of our neighbors who have or will volunteer to help with the project, for making our neighborhood a safe home for these delightful birds!

*Images of male bluebird on house courtesy Lee Capps; images of hatchlings, nestlings, and fledglings courtesy Jessica Beamon.*



# Where are Mortgage Rates Heading?

Contributed by Leslie Stainback

Mortgage rates have increased significantly since the beginning of the year. According to the latest weekly survey from Freddie Mac, the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage has risen from 3.22% at the start of the year to 3.55% in recent weeks. This is important because any increase in mortgage rates changes what a purchaser can afford. To give you an idea of how rising mortgage rates impact your purchasing power, see the table.

## How Can You Know Where Mortgage Rates Are Headed?

While it's always difficult to know exactly where mortgage rates will go, looking at the 50-year history of the 10-year treasury yield, and then following its path is key. Understanding the mechanics of the treasury yield isn't as important as knowing that there's a correlation between how it moves and how mortgage rates follow.

## Where Will the Treasury Yield Head in the Future?

With this information in mind, a 10-year treasury-yield forecast would be a good indicator of where mortgage rates may be headed. In a recent survey of financial experts,

the Wall Street Journal asked them to forecast the treasury yield over the next few years. The consensus was that it will climb to 2.84% by the end of 2024. Based on the 50-year history of following this yield, that would likely put mortgage rates at about 4.5% in three years. While the correlation between the 30-year fixed mortgage rate and the 10-year treasury yield is clear in the data, it isn't an exact indicator. They're both hard to forecast, especially in this unprecedented economic time driven by a global pandemic. Yet understanding the relationship can help you get an idea of where rates may be going. It appears, based on the information we have now, that mortgage rates will continue to rise over the next few years.

## Bottom Line

Forecasting mortgage rates is very difficult. If you're a current homeowner thinking of moving into a home that better fits your changing needs, understanding what's happening with the 10-year treasury yield and mortgage rates can help you make an informed decision on the timing of your move. Interest rates are on the rise but remain historically low.

## Buyer's Purchasing Power

Monthly Mortgage Payment (Principal and Interest)

		Home Loan Amount (P&I)				
		\$440,000	\$420,000	\$400,000	\$380,000	\$360,000
30-Year Fixed Mortgage Rate	5.00%	\$ 2,362	\$ 2,255	\$ 2,147	\$ 2,040	\$ 1,932
	4.75%	\$ 2,295	\$ 2,191	\$ 2,086	\$ 1,982	\$ 1,878
	4.50%	\$ 2,229	\$ 2,128	\$ 2,027	\$ 1,925	\$ 1,824
	4.25%	\$ 2,164	\$ 2,066	\$ 1,968	\$ 1,869	\$ 1,771
	4.00%	\$ 2,101	\$ 2,005	\$ 1,910	\$ 1,814	\$ 1,719
	3.75%	\$ 2,038	\$ 1,945	\$ 1,852	\$ 1,760	\$ 1,667
	3.50%	\$ 1,976	\$ 1,886	\$ 1,796	\$ 1,706	\$ 1,617
	3.25%	\$ 1,915	\$ 1,828	\$ 1,741	\$ 1,654	\$ 1,567
	3.00%	\$ 1,855	\$ 1,771	\$ 1,686	\$ 1,602	\$ 1,518

Principal and interest payments rounded to the nearest dollar. Total monthly payment may vary based on loan specifications such as property taxes, insurance, HOA dues, and other fees. Interest rates used here are for marketing purpose only. Consult your licensed Mortgage Advisor for current rates.

Leslie Stainback, Broker/REALTOR™

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# A front yard that's lost the plot

contributed by Stephen Johnson



For the south side, which is a little bigger and connects to the garden at the side of our house, it has been changed dramatically by a large Riverbirch that I'm not allowed to remove, despite my eloquent arguments. So my initial sun loving plantings like raspberries are struggling. Here we are going to focus on vegetables and flowers that can deal with the more dappled shade. The rebuild will involve less transplanting more bed building.

**W**inter is traditionally described as the time that many gardeners look back on their successes and failures for the year. I wonder if it's because in the northern hemisphere gardens look a little ragged, and without all the greenery you can see the bare bones that underlie your garden.

Over the last year I've reassessed my front yard, not too difficult when you walk through it almost every day. It looked fine for parts of the year, but I realised this winter it had become a little too crowded, it had somewhat lost the plot. So I decided to re-focus on the front yard and rethink a lot of the plantings, including some of the perennial plantings, that I had made over the years.



I've gone back through my gardening library and reacquainted myself with a number of my inspirational materials such as *Edible Landscaping* by Rosalind Creasy, *Vegetables Love Flowers* by Lisa Mason Ziegler, and there's always Bob Flowerdew's *The No Work Garden* at the core of my thinking.

I'm also working with two students from A&T's urban horticultural program who are helping me at the start of this year rethink and do some of the major ground work for rebuilding the front yard. For the north side of the yard we are going to focus on fruit trees and small fruits with some herbs. This will initially involve removing some of the existing trees and shrubs.



I will easily find a home for all the plants we move. For example, I'm going to move some of my climbing roses and have them climb through some of my larger apple and peach trees out the back. Thankfully February and March are good times to move dormant trees and shrubs so that they can settle in before the spring growth period.

I've taken lots of photographs from all different angles, mostly in the morning when the light is better and you can actually see details. This way I can document the changes over the year and hopefully share them with you through this newsletter.



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# LINDLEY PARK BAPTIST CHURCH NEEDS OUR HELP

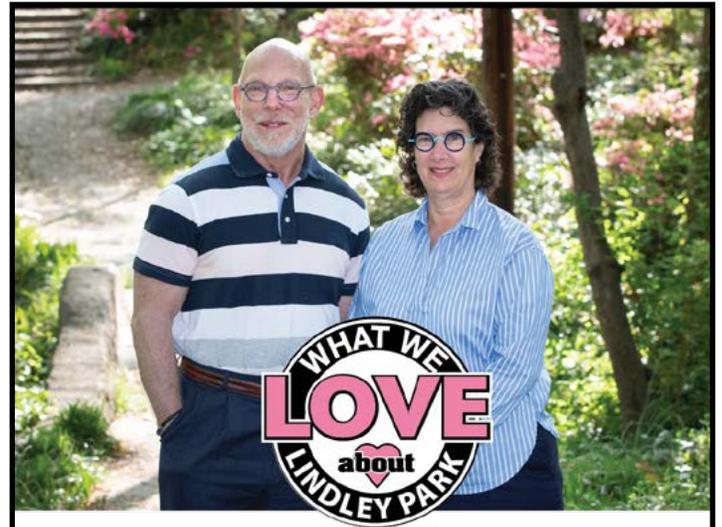
Contributed Abigail Hart

Since 1948, Lindley Park Baptist Church has anchored the corner of Walker Avenue and Holden Road. Begun as a mission of First Baptist Church, we are a progressive Baptist Church and are affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We have interacted with the Lindley Park neighborhood over the years by providing Vacation Bible School, huge yard sales, and ice cream and music festivals. For over 10 years we have partnered with Lindley Elementary School, helping to provide teacher supplies and weekend and holiday food bangs for food-insecure children. We are a very "mission minded" congregation with local, national, and international projects.

Despite the good we accomplish, our small congregation is struggling to keep our doors open. Culturally, fewer people are attending and supporting a home church, older faithful members are dying out, and the costs of maintaining a building and budget are rising. The COVID pandemic has further reduced our attendance and resources with fewer visitors and members unable to attend in-person.

We are currently working with the Center for Healthy Churches to determine our options and our future.

The Lindley Park neighborhood is teeming with creative and innovative folks. Might there be any non-profits or another church who would want to share space or form some kind of partnership? We are open to new possibilities so that a church or entity with community roots can remain at the corner of Walker, Holden, and the world. Please call Jan & Steve Hart at (336-292-9976) or email us at hartfamily79@gmail.com.



## Our fabulous neighbors.

We see you on the sidewalks, at the Corner Market, walking your pup, stopping for coffee or a chat. You're next door and down the block. You make Lindley Park special. And we're glad you trust us with your business.

Bill Guill  
336/549-0410  
bill.guill@allentate.com

Melissa Michos  
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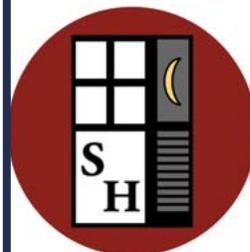
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# The Chair Heard Round the World

contributed by Renee Skudra

There are stories everywhere if you just look closely enough – this one is ours. It concerns a chair – but not just any old chair – one that is attached to fifty years' worth of memories and has met in its travels innumerable interesting people and held court in eight different States ranging from California's coast to the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Along the way that chair has suffered the slings and arrows of accidental human destruction, the antics of two Bichon Frise puppies who whet their growing teeth on its stalwart legs, leaving visible marks as mementos on the white quarter-sawn hundred year old oak, and inclement weather (both outside and in) which produced permanent creaks and moans, sometimes in the dead of night, disturbing the usual general nocturnal equipoise. I remember reading somewhere in an article by a writer named Jim Dodson that memories reside in objects such that these objects take on a life of their own and I think that this idea is true. When I thought about leaving the chair back home in Berkeley in anticipation of what felt like circumnavigating the globe all the way to Greensboro, almost 3,000 miles away, some part of me held stubbornly to the fact that this chair was an intrinsic part of my life and simply couldn't be abandoned on the grounds of inconvenience or contributing to an already overburdened bunch of stuff that was tagging along for the ride in an expensively procured Atlas Van Lines truck. As I helped to pack it up with plastic and newspapers, I felt an emotional weight rise up in its sturdy and possibly beleaguered frame and an almost palpable whisper which said "don't forget to take me along, I am needed there."

If chairs could talk, this is one that certainly could. I bought it for a mere song (\$30.00 maybe) in an old warehouse sale in west Berkeley, a city whose name was rife with implication and political purpose. It was the 1970s then and everyone was supporting some cause, loudly and enthusiastically. I had just entered UC Berkeley, bent on becoming an author, in awe of the university's reputation and in need of a chair for the dilapidated apartment I had just rented on the second floor of a 1920s or so building at 2214 Channing Way. I remember that the living room had a circular shape with creaking wooden floors and robin's egg-blue walls and the neighbor with shoulder-length hair next door was always playing his Rolling Stones' music at a fevered pitch. In those days music was everywhere and I never minded hearing it whether it came in the form of hard rock, gospel, opera or the strains of Chopin drifting in from the window

beneath which sat the classical music pianist across the way. It was all good and I was madly in love with an Irish-American 26-year-old Vietnam veteran named Charles Alva Corey from Boston. I was sitting in that antique chair when he first showed me the famous photo of him on "Life" magazine, lying on a gurney, surrounded by medics from injuries he sustained at the battle of My Lai, gasping for life in the arms of his fellow Marines of the First Division. As I sat comfortably ensconced in my bargain-store find, he pulled out the Purple Heart and Silver Star he had been awarded and his ruddy complexion increased its hue in



the emotional opulence of that moment. That chair became a part of us and our shared lives in the apartment, two unlikely people somehow thrown together, a Jewish daughter of German and French Holocaust survivors and an Irish boy whose family left the shores of Ireland during the Great Potato Famine for an unknowing fortune abroad. Chuck used to quote the lines from an English poem about having a tall ship and a star to sail it by, all that was needed for his forbears to make land in America. Years later I accidentally came upon them in a book of verse by its creator John Masfield, the poem titled "Sea Fever", and keep them in mind whenever I consider the implications of fate.

However, as much as I loved that chair, I never accorded it much significance or any particular great valence in the general scheme of things. Only until I almost lost it, in its architectural power and purity, did it then take on the mantle of a holy relic. On October 2nd, 2021 my son's best friend and Civil War historian colleague-in-arms, a

big charming and erudite man weighing in at about 270 pounds, sat down firmly in its wooden embrace when its seat suddenly cracked loudly and gave way, with the result of Steven tumbling to the floor. At that moment, I had the sense of seeing all the past lives of the chair hurling by. I had been sitting in that chair when I found out that my stories had been published, been the recipient of two different marriage proposals from my partner and his best friend, been called by my OB-GYN and told I was indeed pregnant with a man who had told me that he was infertile, nursed my child and later read so many beloved books while he sat in my lap and threw his blue-eyed gaze across their fanciful writings.

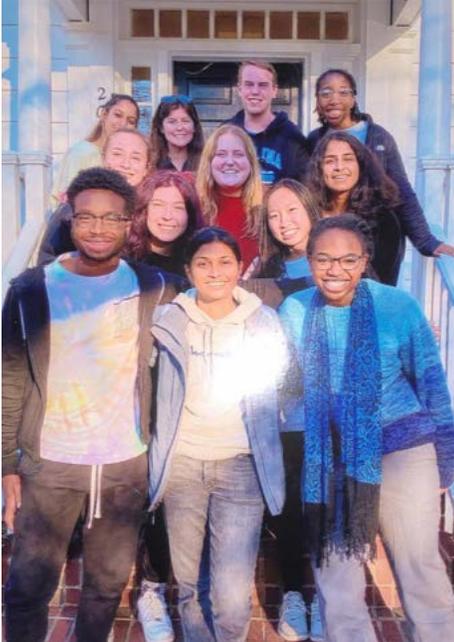
I have found that when the mind can be moved into a moment of repose, of silence, that solutions can appear. One unwitting and unintentional move had brought down the chair but it was not apparently going down so lightly. Now disfigured, it seemed to issue some kind of visceral protest which needs must be remediated. That afternoon, I wrote a post on a neighborhood community forum (Nextdoor.com), full of lament and distress, for the broken heirloom, asking for help on how to continue its life and just moments later, witnessed an outpouring of concern. Numerous people sent me the names of furniture restoration experts, woodworkers, handy family members and friends. Overall the quotes for repair came in around \$200.00, a pretty penny at a time of two pandemic-caused job losses in our home. Someone put in their opinion that if I just had faith, the universe would deliver me a miracle: simply a very small price to bring the chair back to its former grandeur. I could swear I could hear the refrains of "Keep Your Hand on the Plow" with Mahalia Jackson's singing it, in the background. Deliverance indeed came in the form of one Cam Conover, a former Methodist minister, who contacted us with the news that a good friend, Michael Bissell, wanted to fix the chair, if I couldn't afford that, even for free.

Several days later Cam came over and my son and I drove with him to the Tate Street United Methodist Church where we met Michael and the chair passed over to his knowledgeable hands. Days later we got the call that the repairs were complete. Once again in our possession, the chair had returned to its visually finest hours. Together Michael Bissell and Cam Conover had delivered us a marvel! Understandably, perhaps, my eyes filled with tears for this

continues on page 12

# Won't you be my neighbor?

Contributed Palmer McIntyre



Families and individuals assigned to Greensboro arrive by plane, are greeted by welcoming members of the community, and are taken to temporary housing until more permanent housing can be found. Local resettlement agencies, including African Services Coalition and Church World Services, assign case managers to each family or individual and help them adjust to their new lives. A critical part of this orientation is finding sponsors for each family, a caring group that will help with transportation, shopping and other basic needs until the family is more fully settled. The government provides some cash assistance for these families until they can find jobs and become financially independent.

Greensboro has welcomed more than 350 Afghans since October, which is a huge influx, stretching an already stretched system of refugee resettlement. Sponsor groups have stepped up to help in huge ways. From churches, to groups of friends, to groups of neighbors, these teams have helped our new arrivals navigate the incredibly complex process of setting up life in a completely different place.

I have had the incredible honor of leading a team helping a wonderful Afghan family settle in our neighborhood. While we can't pretend to understand their experiences, and there are enormous language barriers, we can relate at a very human level, with kindness and support at a time when that is needed most. But it's been like drinking water from a fire hose, so much to learn for all of us! But we all work together making it work and checking things off the list. Slowly and gradually, things are starting to settle down.

Our sponsor team was super lucky to engage with a group of UNC Chapel Hill students that spent several days in Greensboro in December through the UNC APPLES Alternative Break program, volunteering at local agencies that assist new arrivals, including the New Arrivals Institute housed in Peace United Church of Christ on Market Street, African Services Coalition, and more. On one of their free afternoons, they helped move all the furniture that had been collected for our Afghan family into their new apartment in Lindley Park and raked up a mountain of leaves in their yard.

Our new Afghan neighbors have had very interesting and varying backgrounds. I

had the great honor of meeting one Afghan woman who settled in Greensboro who founded a women-led recycling factory in Kabul in 2016, converting waste paper into toilet paper. She was recognized as one of BBC's 100 women for 2021 (this is an international list). There are so many stories and so many experiences. Get to know our new neighbors if you see them out and about, or better yet, volunteer to serve as a sponsor – either gather friends and neighbors to form a team, or volunteer directly. You can call either Church World Services (336-617-038) or African Services Coalition (336-574-2677) for more information about getting involved. Or donate to one of the many organizations serving these new arrivals, including New Arrivals Institute [newarrivalsinstitute.org](http://newarrivalsinstitute.org), Faith Action International [faithaction.org](http://faithaction.org), or Center for New North Carolinians [cnnc.uncg.edu](http://cnnc.uncg.edu).

"I think one thing I've taken away from working with a newly settled Afghan family is that the language barrier is no joke. Although not being able to communicate verbally is intimidating there are so many other ways to communicate. In working with the young children of this family I've learned that playing, dancing, and laughing are some of the greatest tools to create a sense of connection and community! I hope to take what I've learned into other spaces and use it to build more inclusive communities."  
-Kara Toole, 11th grader at Grimsley, and volunteer through College Park Baptist Church's sponsor team.

In all your comings and goings around the neighborhood and throughout Greensboro in recent months, you might have noticed we have a number of new neighbors, particularly recent arrivals from Afghanistan. A few Afghan families have settled in our neighborhood, and now attend our neighborhood schools and shop in our local stores. Their journey has been harrowing and traumatic, and for most, started with a desperate, dangerous and last minute escape from the Kabul airport last August, where they fought through panicked crowds with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Many of us witnessed these events and watched them unfold on television. They lived through it. From there, many were flown to Germany or Qatar or other countries, then sent to military bases in the United States, where they stayed up to two months before being sent to a community for resettlement. The United States has settled more than 68,000 Afghan refugees across the country as of January 31, with plans to continue to evacuate individuals escaping the Taliban regime.

Families and individuals fled fearing for their lives, having worked for the US military or the US Embassy in Afghanistan. Most had to leave their extended families behind, and, in some cases, even their wives and children, due to the chaotic and rapid nature of the evacuations, causing tremendous stress and worry, particularly as Afghanistan's economy collapses, sparking fears of widespread famine.

**2022 Park Work Days**

**Saturday, May 7**  
**Saturday, June 25**  
**Saturday, August 6**

**9:00 - 11:00AM**

**Contact Elizabeth Link at**  
**[beautification@lindleyparknc.com](mailto:beautification@lindleyparknc.com)**  
**with questions and for more information.**

# S-A-F-E-T-Y

Contributed by Anne Embry

One Friday, I called my mechanic to see if they could work on my son's car. They said not until Monday. I asked if I could drop it off beforehand and they said sure, but recommended I not leave it over the whole weekend because they were not responsible if someone stole the catalytic converter. Wow. What's going on with these thefts?

Catalytic converter thefts are not new. But in the last few years, thefts have increased as the going rate for the precious metals skyrocketed. According to thehustle.com, an experienced thief needs only 30 seconds to saw off your catalytic converter. The most popular converters to steal are from Priuses and large Ford trucks – all of which contain more metals and command a higher price on the secondary market (\$500-\$1,000 each). There are steps you can take to safeguard your car. If you have a garage, use it. Park in well lit areas. If you have a car alarm, set it so vibration makes it go off. Consider installing motion activated lights in your driveway and a camera. You can have the VIN engraved on the catalytic converter for identification purposes if it's stolen. There are security devices to secure the converter to your car. You may not realize your vehicle has been tampered with but if the catalytic converter has been removed, your car will be loud! Report the theft to the police and contact your insurance company.

As a member of the Lindley Park Community, if you notice suspicious activity – report it. Together we can keep our neighborhood safe.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Easter Egg Hunt + Visit with the Easter Bunny

When: Saturday, April 9th

Where: Springwood & Lindell

Who: three age categories/golden eggs: 0-4, 5-9, 10-12 yo

## Spring Fling Pig Pickin'

When: Saturday, May 7th

Where: Springwood & Lindell

Pig and main fixins provided, neighbors can bring a side dish (personal or to share)

+ Mother's Day gift basket raffle

## Lindley Park Neighborhood Yard Sale

When: Saturday, May 21st

What: A great way to clean out that clutter and meet your neighbors!

Just set up out front of your house and wait for the people to come!

Yard sale sign and map detailing other participant will be provided.

For more info and to sign up to participate, contact Patti Eckard, [patti.eckard@gmail.com](mailto:patti.eckard@gmail.com)

**Keep an eye on social media and your inbox for more details to come!**



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## Stem Cell Success Stories

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Here is an update on our patients (dogs and cats) who have received Stem Cell therapy for the musculoskeletal injuries listed above. We have treated many patients that have responded beautifully to the amnion injections. Our success rate is approximately 95% with most patients off their pain and anti-inflammatory medications.

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— of Greensboro, PLLC —



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chair that might have suffered a breaking in form but seemed not to have undergone a breaking in spirit. Looking at it, I recalled a touching song, "The Shirt" by Mary Chapin Carpenter about a beloved old shirt which witnessed so many important events in the life of its owner and almost was lost in a train station near Buffalo, New York, the city of my own origin. Its plangent words return to mind:

This shirt is a grand old relic  
With a grand old history  
I wear it now for Sunday chores  
Cleaning house and raking leaves  
I wear it beneath my jacket  
With the collar turned up high  
So old I should replace it  
But I'm not about to try

That shirt was luckily recovered and continued its inanimate but emotionally critical life just as my wooden four-footed beauty has done in our 1954 Greensboro home. As soon as it made land in our dining room, fronted by a huge glass window looking over a newly autumn-burnished red dogwood tree, Jackson the Bichon Frise, jumped onto its seat, barking animatedly and rolling over for a tummy rub in its welcoming embrace. I knew somehow that he too had missed the chair which he had frequented daily, a huge cotton puff of a dog, its supernaturally white fur set in relief against the well-etched grain of the wood. I rushed to post a photo of him reposing in his throne

on Nextdoor, head jauntily turned to the left, canine grin captured by the camera.

Although on its surface, this story is about restoration of a broken chair, it is most importantly about how our Lindley Park community in Greensboro, North Carolina came together in a wide arc of concern with ideas and intentions, determined to make sure that the life of a beloved heirloom would continue over time, safe in a harbor of loving attention. I cannot help but feel that we received a large community hug. Somehow the idea of an old and broken chair had resonated with our neighbors and the journey of helping someone else became a general campaign for pure out-and-out goodness. I look at the chair now and see the unexpected love of a community, a testament to the notion that there is worth in so much of what is around us, not measureable in dollars but on the calculus of sentiment and its intendments.

As I write this story, I am sitting in my captain's chair, the sunlight streaming into the windows, grateful for its being back in action. I know that it will participate in many more life events and with any luck perhaps in the near future I will receive a call, saying that this story will be published, while leaning back against its age-old frame with my inimitable Bichon Frise in hand. A small miracle occurred here in my community and we (chair included) intend to pass it on.

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