



# COULUMS

**SUMMER 2022**

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



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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

- **FALL NEWSLETTER CONTENT**
- **DEADLINE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 19.** The fall issue covers events and topics relevant to **OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, and DECEMBER**

*(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)

*Thank You to Our LPNA Supporters!*

## 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!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Be a Part of Share the Harvest**  
 contributed by Deborah Pelli

Share the Harvest, an all-volunteer organization, works closely with community gardeners, church gardens, farmers, and individual gardeners who donate their fresh produce. Donations are distributed to agencies that either have a food pantry or prepare a meal for the hungry.

The need continues for your donations of fresh produce, especially during this time of rising food costs.

Share the Harvest will begin distribution on May 23 and will continue accepting donations of your fresh produce through September.

Be a part of Share the Harvest!

**1) Donate produce from your garden.**

You can bring the produce to any of the following collection sites:

Greensboro Children's Museum  
 220 N. Church St., Greensboro  
 Monday-Friday 9:00-noon

Interactive Resource Center  
 407 E. Washington Street, Greensboro  
 Monday - Friday 9:00-2:30

First Christian Church  
 1900 W. Market Street, Greensboro  
 Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30-2:30

First Lutheran Church  
 3600 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro  
 Saturday - Wednesday anytime

NC Agricultural Extension Office  
 3309 Burlington Rd., Greensboro  
 M-F 9:00-4:00

Triad Food Pantry  
 1311 Johnson St., High Point 27262  
 Mon, Wed & Fri 10:00-1:00

**2) Volunteer to pick up donations** from collection sites in the Greater Greensboro area and take it to the Interactive Resource Center (IRC).

**3) Volunteer to help distribute the produce** from the IRC to our partner agencies. For more information and/or to volunteer, please visit our website at: <http://sharetheharvestguilfordcounty.org> or email Linda Anderson at [landersonsth20@gmail.com](mailto:landersonsth20@gmail.com).



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**Tuesday-Friday 8AM-6PM**  
**Saturday 7:30AM-2PM**

*At your service:*  
**Frank Dorrity, Ben Ma, Jim Nelson, Joseph Reynolds, John Ma**



# The Most Forgiving Season

contributed by Stephen Johnson

Spring is pretty forgiving. So we made pretty good progress during a difficult spring. One moment hot, then back to winter weather, periods of heavy rain, then a drier than normal April. It all made for garden challenges, such as finding the right moments to actually do the work outside, worrying about whether the new seedlings or seeds would be washed away (which happened), and dealing with confused plants and animals that didn't know what season it was. Thankfully spring can be pretty forgiving and you can quickly replant, resow, or change your plans.

One of the other joys about spring here in North Carolina, is that there is plenty of free organic material. Mid to late spring people are often taking down winter killed or damaged trees, and that means plenty of available wood chips. Best of all the tree companies love to have a place to drop them off as they're often charged if they use a place like the landfill or have to use the limited space of their own to dump the chips. It's not always fun to

move a couple of tons of wood chips with a wheelbarrow but you can always get family and friends involved or hire a willing hand who loves nothing more than to haul chips around your yard (yeah Baker!) I mostly use the wood chips for paths, it provides a way for them to hold some moisture around the beds, and over time the chips will break down and I can then shovel the remains of that material onto the beds and fill the paths with fresh wood chips.

The other free material is leaf mulch. All those leaves that are generously vacuumed up by the city are taken to the White Street landfill, shredded, put in a huge pile, and composted. This material, if you take a pick up truck or a trailer, they will happily load up and you can spread it on your beds. It makes a great mulch, a little dry for direct planting, but useful for adding organic matter, and when sifted I add to DIY potting mixes for seedlings or transplants.

You can see the end result of our spring burst. The horticultural students from A&T really hit

the nail on the head by recommending a lot of flower plantings. We re-orientated the beds and seeded quite a number of sunflowers out front along the sidewalk. Unfortunately on one side of the yard the sunflower seeds were rapidly eaten by the birds, and since sunflowers are tricky to transplant there's much more limited growth on one side of the yard, which is a little sad. The concrete pavers are in a diamond pattern for a bit of difference and planted in between them are thyme and chamomile. They also make a great place for children, or adults with a young sensibility, to leave chalk drawings.

The next part of the project is to flesh out more on the south side of the front yard, and the beds close to the house, particularly along the foundation.

It definitely feels a more accessible front yard, a little less crowded, and it actually looks like there is a plan to it.



Tuesday, August 2, Lindley Rec Center

Stay tuned to social and email for more information!

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[www.daileyrenewalretreat.net](http://www.daileyrenewalretreat.net)

# Are you a wishcycler?

contributed by Elizabeth Link

I recently did a shift as a volunteer “Recycling Educator”. I rode in a car with an employee of the City of Greensboro’s Solid Waste division, drove through a neighborhood first thing in the morning on recycling day, stopping at each recycling container and rummaging through the contents. We left a sticker on each container rating how much the recycling was contaminated (or not) by non-recyclable items.

The kinds of non-recyclables found in the cans ranged from interesting to icky. Clothes, lamps, an electric fan, aluminum serving trays half full of food, electric engine parts & wiring, Styrofoam meat trays covered in blood, clothes hangers, tree limbs, all of them not recyclable.

Some of this is confusion as to what is and isn’t currently recyclable, some of it is “wishcycling” – a term for throwing stuff in the recycling bin in the hope that it will be recyclable. The confusion is understandable – things have changed in the recycling market in the last few years, and sometimes it’s hard to keep up. I thought I was pretty well informed on what could be recycled but learned a few things while volunteering.

When recycling first started in Greensboro in the early 1990’s, there was a limited number of things that you could recycle – paper, glass, metal cans, plastic bottles. Then the types of plastic items accepted grew over the years. But most of the plastics weren’t being recycled in the USA - we shipped them off to Asian countries, mostly China. China eventually found that a significant portion of the material that it was getting was not recyclable, or was so contaminated that it was unusable, and was just going off to their landfills. They were becoming the world’s garbage dump. So in 2018 they announced that they would no longer be taking recyclables from other countries. While the pivot to recycling our stuff at home in the United States has caused some changes, we are now finding more local outlets for recycling, and recyclables are becoming more in demand in the US.

Before items to be recycled can be shipped to a company that will transform them into another product, they have to be sorted, so that all of the same type of material is together – no plastic in with the metals & vice versa. The recycling sorting is done by a combination of large machines and hand-sorting by staffers. A few of the limits on the type of items accepted have to do with avoiding items that will tangle up the machinery or endanger the staffers.

## So here’s what you should put in your recycling can:

- **Plastic bottles, tubs and jugs**  
This includes water/soda bottles, shampoo bottles (as long as they don’t have a sprayer attached) milk and laundry detergent jugs, butter and yogurt tubs, and similar cylindrical or square containers. For bottles and jars with screw-on caps, attach the caps. For yogurt and butter tubs with a snap-on lid, throw the lid away, as it will just come off when the load is compressed.
- **Metal drink and food cans**  
From soup to soda to cat food, your metal cans can be recycled. Do not put the metal lids in as they could cut the people who are sorting.
- **Paper**  
(But not shredded paper.) Newspaper, office paper, envelopes (you don’t have to remove the little plastic windows), paper bags, even paperback books and hardback books with covers removed.
- **Cardboard**  
From cereal boxes to large appliance boxes, white or brown, as long as it’s not coated in plastic, such as juice boxes or milk cartons. Please break down cardboard boxes before putting them in the can.

All items should be empty, clean and dry. That peanut butter jar or yogurt tub doesn’t have to be dishwasher clean, but do rinse out the remains of the food and let it dry.

Do not put your recyclables in garbage bags. These bags and their contents will just be pulled and sent to the landfill for safety purposes.

**wishcycling:**  
*putting something  
in the recycling bin  
and hoping it will  
be recycled*

## Things that should NOT go in the recycling bin:

- **Plastic bags**  
These can tangle the machinery, causing the processing to stop until someone can climb in and clear it. Recycle plastic bags at grocery stores that take them.
- **Glass**  
Glass can be recycled at a number of locations around town. There’s a list of

locations on the City website at <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/field-operations/recycle>.

- **Styrofoam**  
This can be recycled at Tiny Houses Community Development, 1310 W. Gate City Blvd., and at First Presbyterian Church, downtown at the corner of Elm and Fisher. Items accepted include packaging (except for “peanuts”), egg cartons, and takeout containers and cups. Soft foam such as cushions is not recyclable.
- **Clothes, rags, or other textiles** These can also tangle the machinery. If in decent shape, consider donating clothes to Goodwill or the Salvation Army. If not, put them in the trash.
- **Electronics**  
Including microwaves, toaster ovens, sound equipment, computers. These should be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste facility at 401 Patton Ave.

## Other stuff that’s NOT recyclable:

- Paper milk and juice cartons
- aluminum foil
- aluminum food trays
- plastic berry containers
- plastic trays from boxes of cookies
- plastic takeout containers
- plastic utensils
- metal clothes hangers
- plastic dishes and utensils,
- plastic wrap
- anything not on the list of recyclables above

Some people have expressed irritation with the City for not recycling more things, but the City does not actually turn these items into other products. The city pays to take these items to a Recycling Center. The items are then sorted and sold to manufactures who want to turn the items into something new. If there is no market for an item the Recycling Center can’t sell it, and so it sits around or goes to the landfill.

I’ve had to adapt to throwing things away that I used to recycle. That’s where our “wishcycling” comes in. You can feel good that something will be used again somehow instead of being buried in a landfill - but putting items in the recycling that can’t be used again causes problems and expense for the recycling operation. I’ve started thinking about how I might be more sustainable by trying to avoid non-recyclable items, especially plastics, at the front end. This is way harder than just throwing an item in the recycling can, and has made me realize how the use of plastics is entrenched in our lives. But that will have to be the subject of a future article.

## See City Resources on next page.



City of Greensboro Recycling Resources  
www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/  
field-operations/recycle

- **GSO Collects App** (available on GooglePlay and in the App Store)
- **GSO Collects** - info hub  
www.greensboro-nc.gov/  
departments/field-operations/gso-  
collects
- **Waste Lizard** - Search to see if items are recyclable, or not
- **Waste/Recycling Pick-up Schedule**
- **Service Information**
- **Report an issue**
- **Education Programs and Events**  
www.greensboro-nc.gov/  
departments/field-operations/  
recycle/education



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# Urban Farming

contributed by Blake Sagar, CPA



It was never my intention to be an urban farmer. My wife found a free chicken coop online, and she just HAD to have it. Unfortunately for me, it was Mother's Day

of 2019 and I wasn't in a position to argue. After researching how to care for backyard chickens, we took the plunge and brought home four Rhode Island Red pullets (toddler chickens).

When they first arrived, we felt bad leaving them locked up in their run/coop all day as it was about 60 square feet. We let them roam our (unfenced) backyard for a few weeks and they seemed to really enjoy exploring and eating our bugs. However, once they began to lay eggs, all bets were off. They suddenly had the urge to scratch our mulch and basically destroy the yard. After seeing notifications being posted to the neighborhood social media app Nextdoor because they wandered into a neighbor's yard, we decided they needed some better containment. So, I enclosed their coop and gave them about 200 additional square feet that was all their own. I had read that the fence didn't need to be any higher than four feet as they won't fly over it. Turns out that wasn't the case. So, I again built onto their coop and they now have a fence about seven feet tall!

We've learned that while chickens require a diet of a high-quality poultry pellet to make sure they receive the calcium and other nutrients to help with egg production, you can also supplement their diet with just about anything from the kitchen. We do meal prep on Sunday, and it's a weekly feast for our ladies. They love the scraps from strawberries, celery, bread crust, etc. They

are also resourceful in finding their own supplements. For example, our girls took out a chipmunk a while back, and it was quite a sight.

It took our chickens about 3 months to begin laying eggs, but by far that has been the most rewarding part of owning chickens. The yolks are brighter than store-bought eggs. Being a numbers guy, I had a running calculation on how much I had invested in each egg. At one point, we were at \$40 per egg, which doesn't sound like a wise investment. By the end of the summer they were collectively laying four eggs a day, so I gave up my calculations.

Now that we've lived through the seemingly never-ending pandemic, we were grateful for the distraction that the chickens have provided. This summer, we decided to grow our flock, and at one point it grew to seven chickens. The neighborhood raccoons have since exploited the weakness in our chicken fortress, and we now have five lovely ladies.

Once it got colder, we thought egg production might slow down, but that hasn't been the case. They have continued to produce eggs regardless of the weather. On a typical day, we get 3 or 4 eggs. I hope my kids continue to enjoy raising chickens. They may not realize the uniqueness of our situation, but I know they are making memories.

Fun fact: chickens "clean" themselves by taking dirt baths.

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# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

contributed by Anne Embry

Late last year my son's mobile phone was shut off when the carrier stopped supporting his brand of phone. It took several hours to get it operational again and during that time we started talking about what we would do in the case of total cell phone interruption. That led us to developing a family emergency plan so everyone would know where and how to meet.

During natural disasters, cell access often gets jammed due to overuse. It's important to know what to do when your primary source of communication is gone. We didn't have mobile phones when I was growing up and the only emergency plan we had was for the power going out. But times are different and weather events have been bigger and more frequent over the last several years. There hasn't been a major cell phone outage in Greensboro in recent years and hopefully it will be something we never have to deal with. But take a minute and think about how you would get in touch with your family without cell access. Some might be at work,

at school, running errands, or at a friend's house.

Imagine another tornado and this time it hits Lindley Park. For my family – my two kids go to school on the campus of Guilford College. My husband works in McLeansville. From our house that's 5 miles and 13 miles respectively. If something happened that caused our house not to be safe, we'd meet at Lindley Elementary. If our neighborhood was not safe, we agreed we'd meet at the Harris Teeter at Friendly. But how would we know? And how would we know people were on their way? Initially we'd plan on meeting at our house and then we'd assess the situation from there. And we'd go to one of our safe locations and we'd wait. And pray.

Luckily, there are Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) from authorized emergency communicators broadcast from cell towers and are not stopped due to congestion. So, keep your phone charged and on! You may remember seeing these alerts during the initial phases of Covid19. They may have come across your phone as "Government Alerts" or "Emergency Alert Messages." It's also a good idea to write down everyone's mobile phone number and email address because in the heat of the moment,

you may forget the information if you need to call someone from a landline. Also choose a friend or relative who lives somewhere else and keep their contact numbers handy. Choose one person and have everyone reach out to that one person – they can serve as your point person and main communicator if necessary.

There are other things to consider: shelter, evacuation route, emergency preparedness kit, and emergency plans from the CDC. Check out [ready.gov/plan](http://ready.gov/plan) for resources and print outs!

Friends, please stay safe. Have a plan and if you need help, check in with a neighbor or feel free to reach out to me, Anne Embrey [aeembrey@gmail.com](mailto:aeembrey@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.

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Melissa Michos  
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## HEY LINDLEY PARK!

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the corner...



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# Dog Days

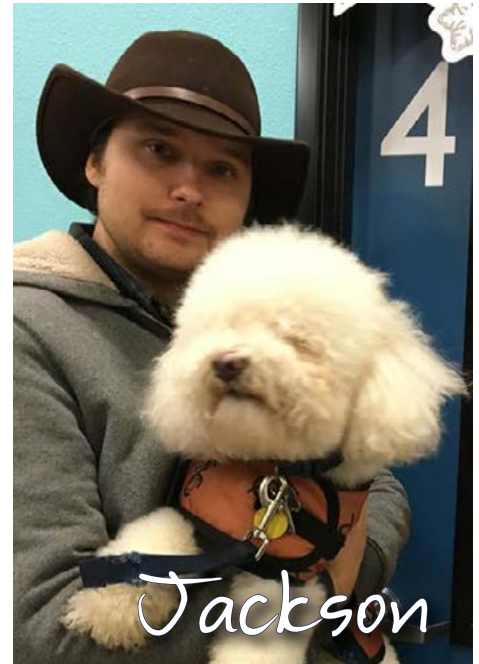
contributed by Rene Skudra

They are everywhere, the dogs of Lindley Park, populating our beautiful neighborhood with their myriad breeds, conventional or unconventional behaviors, different gaits (some trotting, others bounding forward, ready to leap into any possible fray), and variegated vocalizations. Some, like the pair of gorgeously groomed white and black standard poodles walking regally down Walker Avenue, their noses high up in the air with possible conceit, their owner clearly aware of the reverent effect they produce in the onlookers. Even seems to square his shoulders a bit and proudly meet their curious gaze. One day as I'm driving down the street I suddenly spot a medium-sized dog, a candidate for rising star in a possible dog world who I think might be a flat-coated black retriever. As I'm trying to ascertain the certainty of the breed for my own satisfaction, my son suddenly yells "Mom, WATCH THE ROAD!!" Just blocks earlier I swear that I spotted a Chinese

crested and a Cavalier King's Spaniel out of the corner of my eye on Elam Avenue and just barely missed hitting a bowed over tree. It is true, as I navigate around Lindley Park, I am regaled and

delighted by all the different dog folks stirring about, some happily trotting along, others rambunctious, maybe even oppositional, pulling at a leash or trying to engage a beleaguered cat or wary squirrel. I love them all for their canine-ity (like humanity) and the goodness and generosity they inspire in we humans who often require a jolt of humor to help us let go of our own self-absorption and stress. The reality is that dogs do funny things in our little neck of the city such as leaping up and grabbing that piece of pizza from Sticks and Stones that was originally destined for your mouth or tearing Duke Energy utility bills into smithereens (my dog, here) without the slightest bit of regret. We NEED that humor now especially in a world fraught with chaos and uncertainty with so many things missing – baby diapers to say the least ...

The satirist Jonathan Swift once wrote "Every dog must have his day." I believe that



anyone who has ever owned a dog knows the implicit truth of this statement. In my pre-North Carolina life the first dog I ever owned -- a Bichon Frise named Beauregard, after a Confederate general by my Civil War historian son – taught me a new meaning of relationship, one where

continues on page 10



## Stem Cell Success Stories

Since August, University Animal Hospital has been using nonsurgical derived amnion stem cells to treat kidney failure, soft tissue injuries, intervertebral disc disease and degenerative arthritis.

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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Dog Days continued...

a form of unconditional love rose between a non-human creature and myself. Nothing was too good for that dog! – twice-monthly grooming appointments at the priciest spa, expensive food, treats and outfits, velveteen throws to lie upon. I didn't even do these kind of things for myself! When he died of renal failure/diabetes at age 11, the grief my family felt eviscerated us, the pain was so immense it felt like some hugely physical weight was sitting on our chests and leaning in. I remember reading Psalm 34:18 in the Old Testament: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" and weeping as I read it. I turned to these words for solace, irrevocably changed by the death of my beloved pet. For two weeks I barely ate (yogurt and peanut butter sandwiches or worse) and lost at least ten pounds. One night I awoke and saw Beauregard sitting on the end of my bed on his favorite log cabin quilt with a slight smile on his face. I am still not altogether

sure if this was his ghostly apparition or a product of my anguished imagination. I do know that grief can play tricks and one can never underestimate its power. I do know that I often felt him riding with me in my car or hanging out by my son's piano bench as he so often did. My gentle and funny boy was in my head and embedded firmly in my heart which would forever skip a beat when someone's Bichon Frise might amble by. Remembrances of how huge a



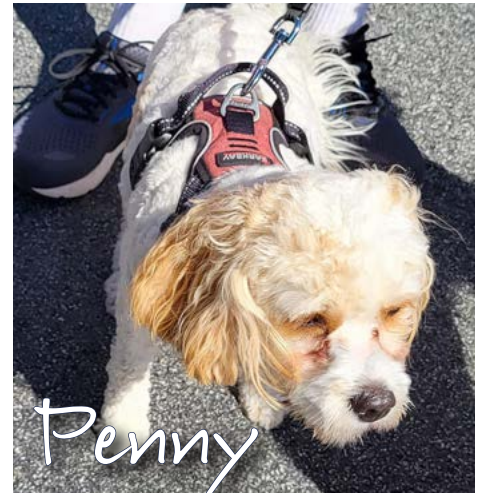
part Beauregard played in our lives, now memories of things past.

We also know the benefits of having a dog. I know it more than ever as we traverse our lives, at times with equanimity, at others with trepidation, our second Bichon Frise in tow. The truth is that he is almost always with us, he is undeniably an extension of ourselves. The joy we derive from Jackson is bigger than that in itself – it extends to delighting in watching others having a similar relationship with their beloved pets and rejoicing in that not-always intelligible bond. I get a

kick out of watching my neighbors walking their dogs, some struggling like myself to keep him on a leash when truth be told, as a rather brusque neighbor said to me "he's walking you – where's the control?" When people ask me "why do you have a dog?" I sometimes fall back on the American Heart Association's chapter and verse that dog owners are 54% more likely to get the recommended amount of exercise than their non-dog owning counterparts. In their company our stress levels decrease and they do other good things too like fostering social situations. I conveniently forget all the blankets that Jackson has torn and the furniture he thought was meant to be a part of his diet, chairs that are broken from his chewing and books that no longer sport



dustjackets in untattered form. We already know how chatty North Carolinians are but factor in the presence of a dog, and even the most reticent of individuals will make an approach and ask you a question about your fur baby. Still, I focus on the good things about dog ownership. A gentleman named Roger Caras once remarked "If you don't own a dog, at least one, there is not necessarily anything wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your life." The truth is no one needs a justification for having a dog because it may come down to simply this: the pleasures of creature comfort and being critically



important to another living being. We can always buy another blanket or a chair but who could possibly replace this one, this precious dog? Perish that thought ...

I will go so far as to say that I also prefer the company of people who own dogs. Once, when I still lived in the San Francisco Bay Area (and you could actually afford to do so), a kindly friend offered to introduce me to "a good-looking and successful single man" who however I was told "hated dogs (and cats too)". On that basis alone I told her "not interested, what kind of person hates animals anyway?" I thought about this today as my son and I, with our Bichon Frise Jackson in tow, visited the Farmer's Market in (or near) Lindley Park and recalled how many folks really DO love dogs as they hurried over to show their interest and affection in our white and wooly boy, a gesture which was duly noted and appreciated by him. No one asked if he had pedigrees although several inquired as to where they could buy a dog like our pup. Admittedly dogs are natural conversation starters and the real treat of this morning was looking at all the dogs who were onboard, just clearly enjoying their lives and the unrequited attention of numerous others. We were thrilled to meet a beautiful



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4-month-old Sheepadoodle named Grady and his owner Beth. An Australian cattle dog/German shorthair pointer mix named Quinn in company with "T" (full of good info about the breed) merited several photos and a bevy of compliments. So happy to cross paths with a Bernadoodle named Babka, 1 ½ years old and born on December 25th, hanging out with his better half, a Cavachon named Penny, both owned by Brooks. Avery, a 5-month-old part Burmese Mountain Dog, clearly had claimed the heart of John, its owner and a wee bit of ours as well. One cannot forget Cooper, the



sweet dachshund from the local Doxie by Proxy rescue organization. His owner, Kathy Mabe, said that he's so intent on meeting and greeting everyone he runs across that her neighbor has fondly called him "The Governor". I'm touched by the story of Lincoln, a 2 ½ year old mix owned by Fran Sandridge, who takes a great and simple pleasure in watching neighbors and their dogs walk by. Top marks for every dog at the market, wishing that we had had the chance to interact with them all in an inter-species embrace of gallantry and goodness.

Every now and then I run into someone who asks me about my dog's bloodlines as if any dog really needs to be AKA-enhanced. Since he's a rescue, I could only guess if his dad was a purebred or his mom fell a bit short on the standards of the breed. For all I know Jackson's mommy could have been "a woman of the night" in doggy form. Some of these dogs out here, truth be told, have more degrees than me (and I have 2 ½). Louis Sabin once remarked "No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich." I don't have big money but I do have a dog that makes me feel infinitely well-heeled (intentional pun) -- when I come home, he's barking up a storm and jumping up and down and flooding me with doggy kisses. In recent memory I can't remember when any man in my life was THAT happy to see me. But there's always hope (right?) that I can find a guy that loves me as much as my Bichon Frise. And Jackson can clearly teach him those behaviors that incontrovertibly impress ...

"pick your battles" and forego expressing any frustration. I say my mantra quietly to myself: "always choose love." You see in my opinion my dog cannot do any wrong. When I sing him the song my Polish/Canadian dad always sang to me as a child -- "How much is that doggy in the window, the one with the waggly tail, how much is that doggy in the window?/I do hope that he is for sale"), Jackson listens intently and then moves closer for an inevitable hug. There may be some point where that narrative changes and our Bichon Frise realistically needs a time-out but for now our destinies are inextricably stitched together. He makes me happy and I am so grateful for his presence in our lives. Once you really take a look, you cannot help but notice the unexpectedly large abundance of dogs in Lindley Park, all seemingly bent on bringing out the best in their peoples' lives, simply sharing their lives with alacrity, knit in a self-same web of closeness and dependency as the one we have with our dog. We all shine for that effort and are grateful for every the dog-day afternoon we can get. Belly rubs to all you canine rock stars out there- I think I can say this with confidence: you are each inestimably loved.

In passing, a shout-out to my Lindley Park neighbors that I love ALL of your dogs, whether they are mutts or have the canine bloodline equivalents of a Secretariat or Man of War, whether they are Chihuahuas or Great Danes or are not-quite-sure what they are in your personal estimation. I wish I could photograph each of them so some measure of posterity is rightfully assured. I know that having a dog, beyond a doubt, has made my own son a better man and expanded my emotional repertoire of what it means to love without the expectation of return. "Be the person your dog thinks you are", a guy named C.J. Frick reputedly said. That means always sharing what you have and caring about others. If Jackson knocks over a quart of milk on the brand-new rug from Macy's, I take a breath and say





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