

# COLOWNS

**WINTER 2023**

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



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# We need YOU to join the LPNA and Help Steer the Future of Your Neighborhood!

Our neighborhood is only as vibrant and active as we make it! We need neighbors like YOU to get involved in the steering and governance activities of the Lindley Park Neighborhood Association.

This ALL VOLUNTEER group (not to be confused with an HOA) is responsible for not only fun social activities like the Spring Fling, Chili Cook-off, Luminaries, but also the more mundane (but perhaps more important) activities like staying informed about zoning and development, governmental policies, and safety—all of which directly affect the health and vibrancy of our neighborhood.

Each year at the January General Meeting the LPNA holds elections for the General Council of the Lindley Park Neighborhood Association. These important and rewarding positions can be held by anyone residing in the neighborhood, even if they have previously not been involved with the neighborhood association. New perspectives and ideas are welcome and vital to the vibrancy and desirability of our neighborhood. While all positions are open to nomination at any time, we are specifically looking for new members for the following positions:

- Treasurer
- Government / Community Relations
- Newsletter Distribution

The LPNA is also seeking new members for our Working Groups. Working Groups enable the vision of the LPNA to be achieved and encourage wider participation in the decision making of the LPNA.

- Government & Community Liaison
- Zoning
- Events & Celebrations
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- Communications

Specific duties, responsibilities, and tasks for all General Council positions and Working Groups can be found at [lindleyparknc.com/bylaws](http://lindleyparknc.com/bylaws).

If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact Josh Sherrick, Chair or Patti Eckerd, Vice Chair at their email addresses to the left.

**The LPNA will be celebrating 30 years(!) this year! Join us and help keep Lindley Park the best dang neighborhood in Greensboro!**

See also: *So what exactly is a "District Representative"?* on page 11.

## 2023 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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For the time being, additional hard copies are not being distributed to local businesses.



# Water, water everywhere?

contributed by Stephen Johnson

Water, it's everywhere, except when it isn't. Compared to Perth Western Australia, where I grew up, North Carolina is fertile not only due to the soil but also the quantity and consistency of water in the environment. Here in Greensboro we are at the headwaters of one of the numerous river systems in the state. Many of our neighbourhoods are crisscrossed by streams and creeks that feed into this river system, and Lindley Park was clearly designed by Earle Sumner Draper with this water system in mind. When I first started planting in the



The sad reality of my birdbath.

front yard many decades ago now water and watering wasn't really much on my mind. I typically planted with the idea that the water would be available, consistent, and generally supportive of my growing desires. Strangely enough in the first decade I lived here Greensboro experienced a five year drought which meant that many of my plantings died, and I spent quite a number of years rethinking the plants and landscape and making an effort to capture as much water as I could. That changed when we started to experience more normal rainfall and the ground rapidly became saturated, sometimes oversaturated, and places that I had designed to capture rainwater rapidly became problems themselves, the plants essentially drowning. Then there are the massive downpours we get when a hurricane passes through. This has

changed even more over the last five years as we've seen a rapid acceleration of the impact of climate change where, for example, in 2020 and 2021 I recorded over 60 inches of rain, often experienced as huge downpours followed by a relative dearth of consistent regular rains.

This has meant I've had to change my whole thinking about how water impacts the front yard. For example the fruit trees are all planted on hills rather than dug into the existing ground. This gives them a chance to get established and also have a root system that is above grade to enable them to breathe and hopefully not drown. I also invested in, and I'm continually tinkering with, a misting and drip irrigation system to enable watering when we have those extended periods of limited rainfall. I'm writing this in October 2022 when we've had minimal rain for the month (I've only recorded 1.5" so far, well below average) which means that the ground, while moist, is not as supportive of newer or younger plantings. I've also been more aggressive on the use of ground covers and other ways to shade the ground to reduce the amount of evaporation during dry periods. It is definitely a challenge to have a plant system that can respond to both sudden inundations and then extended dry periods, yet still be productive for food, wildlife, and pleasure.

That's one way to think about water, how it flows through your site and how you can use



A neighbor's flooded construction zone.



One neighbour's dream... another's nightmare...

it to support your plantings. But it misses another important piece of water, how we can use water in our gardens for enjoyment, for a different experience. I admit to not having really thought about this very much except for the occasional pathetic attempt to maintain a bird bath. However, in looking at other gardens and ideas from lots of other writers and thinkers on gardening I realise that I would like to add something a little more interesting with water into the front yard, rather than just think of it as a problem or a tool. Sitting on the front porch I'd like to have two things with water, one would be some way to use it to help break or mask the sound of the human environment around us, the second would be a way to support wildlife. I'd love to see dragonflies, birds, even the occasional raccoon, hanging out the front yard. It's also an interesting challenge because it's not only a small somewhat shady space, but also a public space. So a large pond would make no sense as that would be a potential hazard for young ones passing by. A large fountain would be inappropriate as the spray would just be annoying, a big loss of water, and probably not that enjoyable to listen to or talk over. I'm also not sure that a small bubbling fountain or some trickling bird bath really fits the bill either; it seems to me a sad, lonely and somewhat wee addition to a front yard. I'd like something with a bit more visual appeal, focus, and impact. Finally, because of the shade any pond would have to be actively maintained and couldn't really function as a tool to mirror the environment or cast those wonderful light reflections. So I'm not sure, it's still a blank in my mind, a potential, an idea, a way to think about water differently.

## Keeping Our Furry Friends Safe

contributed by Anne Embrey

Pets are amazing. Our cats bring us joy every day. Keeping them safe can be a challenge. One afternoon while I was at work, I got a text from my son that some guy had kidnapped our cat, Sid. I almost died. I was working as a cashier at Harris Teeter and was ringing up a customer. I quickly responded to him asking for more information and luckily my next customer was someone I knew, and she didn't mind waiting while I figured out what was going on. One of our neighbors had come over and said she saw a guy acting suspiciously and then he appeared to grab Sid and speed off in his car. After back and forth about what to do, my son texted that Sid was safe! I may never know exactly what went down that afternoon, but I am so thankful Sid is still with us thinking he's the mayor of our street.

Pet kidnapping does happen. Keeping pets inside when you're not at home and keeping tabs on them while you are at home can be effective ways to keep them safe. Make sure your pets are microchipped and consider a GPS tracker if they really like to wander. I haven't noticed many reports about pet kidnapping in our neighborhood and I'd like to focus on situations that are more likely to happen.

Keep your pet safe by keeping them active and healthy! Make sure they are up-to-date on their shots, they maintain a reasonable weight, and have room to roam. Get them pet- and age-appropriate toys (no string for cats!) and remove worn, broken, or defective playthings. If you walk your pet for exercise, keep them on a leash, especially around other people. We are lucky to have several parks and open green spaces in our neighborhood where dogs especially can run free (while being supervised) to their heart's content.

Keep your pets away from dangerous foods, plants, and chemicals. Ask your vet for a list of things harmful to your specific pet. There are sources online that list items, and two that I've used are the Best Friends Animal Society at resources.bestfriends.org for a list of harmful items and City Vet at cityvet.com for a list of harmful plants (among other things.)

Cat owners, you can skip this part. Train your pet to understand basic commands and general obedience. Stop, no, sit, stay, who's a good boy? are all examples of things to teach your pet(s).

Keep your living areas pet-proofed by checking for loose wires (zip ties can work wonders!), things that might be ingested accidentally, and other hazards specific to your pet. For example, our cats love to be inside of folded up comforters. Two problems



Sid the Cat, chillin' in his hammock

can happen—we don't know they're there and dump them on the floor or they roll over and everything slides off to the floor! Another thing to consider is safety around other people. If you walk the neighborhood with your pet, be prepared for excitement (oh, a ferret!), nervousness (that's a big dog!), or allergies (I'm allergic to cats, please ask him to stop following me!) You know your pet well, but others don't. People and situational awareness can help everyone (people and pets) feel comfortable and ready for any encounter.

When you walk your pet at night, wear reflective gear or get them a lighted collar—so festive!

While you are creating or updating your family emergency plan, don't forget about your pets and their needs.

We love our pets. We love most of the pets in our neighborhood. One of our neighbors frequently suggests we take their rambunctious (and loveable) dog off their hands. Just remember, if we do take him, it's with permission!

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# FE-LINE FINE

contributed by  
Renee Skudra

## THE CATS OF LINDLEY PARK

An artist friend of mine in Liberty, North Carolina has a Maine Coon cat she calls her familiar. When she begins work on a drawing, he stays close within range, mewling animatedly while darting his green eyes around the room in hopes of scoring a little field mouse that may have crept in



Millie

between some open beams of flooring in her antiquated wood cabin. "The smallest feline is a masterpiece" is what Leonardo da Vinci said my gal pal avers in a knowing tone. She tells me her pet is a witchy, spooky cat who exemplifies James Herriot's observation that "cats are connoisseurs of comfort" and indeed he likes to repose, splayed out and regal-looking, on a velvet crazy quilt that has come down to her through generations of her New England-going-back-to-the Mayflower family. In my estimate, her pet has a lot of spiritual kith and kin in the Lindley Park neighborhood where I live—creatures that slink through the bushes, fleet and lightning-quick, now-you-see-'em, now-you-don't felines keen on trapping small birds and animals, moving through long grasses with their own symmetry and intention. Some of these cats end up on my porch or backyard, eyeing me with skepticism, but still moving in close for a dish of offered food or an occasional friendly pat. Being a "dog person" with a Bichon Frise ruling our home roost, I cannot claim to really understand cats but I know they are wily, mystical creatures—I can FEEL that. A guy named Terry Pratchett remarked that "In ancient times cats were worshiped as gods; they have not forgotten this." I think Terry has got something there because, as many cat

owners have told me, you don't own cats, they own you, and I'm beginning to believe that this is true.

This morning I awoke to find Scheherazade reclining on my front steps, utterly impervious to my dog who was howling furiously at him behind our front door. He is a huge black and white tuxedo critter who looks sharply at me as I emerge from the house with a small plate of Petsmart-purchased cat food. Some people say he is a stray, no family seemingly laying claim to him but nevertheless he seems to do just fine on his own. I read a comment somewhere by a veterinarian with the chain Veterinary Emergency Group named Anna Foster who says "Cats don't need you to have a good time. The ability to think and act independently? Cats have this. They wait for you to walk away before they do their stuff." Sure enough Scheherazade gives me nary a backward glance as he rises and delicately regards the culinary repast offered to him and takes a deliberate bite or two. In his presence I feel that other-worldly sensation I always have when in the company of cats—that he is up to his own solitary, secret machinations, which his unknown but clear intelligence is underwriting and which I cannot possibly have any comprehension of. When he finally slinks off, after imbibing his full, he throws me a conspiratorial look which bespeaks a note of thanks but has something in it of an "I may be back to visit if you're lucky" attitude in it as well.

## Time spent with cats is never wasted.

*-quote attributed to several highly intelligent humans, so sayeth The Cat*

Throughout the week I mentally take note of all the cats I see that apparently call Lindley Park home. I've given most of them names. There's Dempsey, named after the heavy-weight champion, who has a plumped-up, on-steroids type of appearance along with a gruff demeanor. When my Bichon Frise and I walk by, he stands his ground, looking derisively at my dog who is quivering with anxiety. Jackson is a Southern dog, born and bred, as probably is this cat. The food historian Alton Brown has pointed out that "real Southern is spooky business. We're haunted, we're spiritual. We are sinners and saints." Looking at Dempsey this is exactly how I feel, he's spooky and



the sentinel

haunted and we are not going to walk away without that understanding. I'm hoping the dog is not going to have a seizure because admittedly I'm not sure what to do in that kind of case. At the end of the street, heading towards the Arboretum, Jackson's composure recovered, we chance upon two more felines, whom I recognize and have named Cat Ballou and Copernicus. They are chasing a pair of squirrels and it is difficult to ascertain who has the upper hand. The cats are unremitting though in their attempts to divide and conquer while the squirrels run helter-skelter, heading for some trees. I'm waiting to see the outcome of this situation, but Jackson is pulling on the leash because the hackles of one of the cats are now raised at seeing Mr. Powderpuff, and we walk hastily away lest he falls victim too to a sudden take-down or kamikaze attack of threatening paws.

Later that day on Elam Avenue, I spy a Persian cat sitting in the lap of an enthralled child who is combing him and murmuring sweet endearments. I recall a sentiment by Kelly St. Denis, the current president of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, about cats' independence overbearingly trumping that of dogs. "Dogs have masters. Cats have staff." The subtext of that sentence suggests that cats are smarter, seeming to require that we mold ourselves to THEIR plans—not ours. I can tell that this particular cat is holding court, most probably spoiled



Prince Harry

and entitled and definitely the master and commander at this particular residence. The little girl is only too happy to indulge this fur baby while the cat looks at the two of us with a wary and practiced eye. Suddenly, around the corner what seems to be a Russian Gray appears and for no good reason at all I think about Ernest Hemingway's saying that "One cat just leads to another." Now there are two felines who reign supreme on the street and have no compunction about letting you know it. Jackson has begun wailing so we fly down the street, passing the UPS man who says "your poodle is SO cute"! Normally I would blurt out that "he's not a poodle, he's a Bichon Frise," but Jackson is running wildly, like some structure on fire, so I shut my mouth and just run with him.

On the way home I tell Jackson that he has to

## If cats could talk, they wouldn't.

*-attributed to Nan Porter*

"dog up" and stop cowering every time a kitty crosses his path. He is moaning now, still racked with the anxiety that overcomes him whenever we run across a feline. Finally at my house I open the gate and let him into the yard. There, resting under a pine cone-laden fir tree is Prince Harry, the ginger cat who is a frequent visitor. He's made an apparent kill, now dangling from his mouth, a tiny animal, who, unfortunately for it, has had its last rites behind my home. Jackson is going ballistic, barking and jumping, and still—still—the cat sits there, keeping the high ground and not yielding to our pup's left flanking movement. I'm thinking about something that Albert Schweitzer said about there being two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats. And I'm wondering how this particular cat is a refuge from ANYTHING.

I take a peanut-butter banana Trader Joe's treat out of my pocket and thereby quickly lure Jackson back inside our digs. The treat smells good enough to eat and for a moment I consider this. He's clearly still miserable, so I turn on some Garth Brooks' country western music which he has always seemed



Dempsey

to like. Now on the couch, with refrains from "Standing in the Fire" filling up the room, safe from the outside cat overlord, he gazes deeply into my eyes as if to say "I am SO DONE with cats! Please mom, no more!" I give him a big hug and let him know everything is now okay but that cats do have their place in the world too. The sunlight is pouring in through the blinds and I get up to raise them. The living room is sheathed with light, everything illuminated in fine detail when, in that moment, I spot the huge calico, Kit-Kat, huddled at the base of the now-naked dogwood tree. She looks at me defiantly as if to say "what's YOUR problem?" I grab some more cat food from the kitchen, laying it at her feet as she looks down her nose at the human caught in the feline sphere of her absolute and unimpeachable influence. Jackson, shaken from his tranquility, is yelping, bouncing up and down the couch, an old faded flower-printed thing, still beloved, that I bought at the Red Collection. It seems that the felines of Lindley Park are everywhere, with their 'attitude', cunning, grace, and posture of terrestrial sovereignty, and we'd best be making our peace with them. They aren't going anywhere folks, and I'm guessing that they mean to leave footprints in your hearts, as well as at your doors, as they do mine.



Rowan & Fergus

*While not featured in this article, we would be remiss to not include a photo of the COLUMNS contributing editors! 🐾*

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# How's the Market?

contributed by Leslie Stainback

One of the biggest questions people are asking right now is: What's happening with home prices? There are national headlines about ongoing price appreciation, but at the same time, some sellers are reducing the price of their homes. That can feel confusing and makes it more difficult to get a clear picture.

Part of the challenge is that it can be hard to understand what experts are saying when the words they use sound similar. Let's break down the differences among those terms to help clarify what's actually happening today.

- **Appreciation is when home prices increase.**
- **Depreciation is when home prices decrease.**
- **Deceleration is when home prices continue to appreciate, but at a slower or more moderate pace.**

Experts agree that, nationally, what we're seeing today is deceleration. That means home prices are still appreciating, just not at the record-breaking pace we saw over the past year. In 2021, data from CoreLogic tells us home prices appreciated by an average of 15% nationwide. And earlier this year, that appreciation was upward of 20%. This year, experts forecast home prices will appreciate at a decelerated pace of around 10 to 11%, on average. This means, while moderating, home prices are still far above the norm, and we'd have to see a lot more deceleration to even fall in line with more typical rates of home price growth. That's still not home price depreciation.

So what does this mean for our area? Realtor.com set out to find the cities that are defying price expectations with prices continuing to go up and up. Greensboro ranked #5 on their list of top 10 metros where housing prices continue to rise and sellers are still ruling the roost, at least for now. According to the article, the median home list price in Greensboro is \$319,000, and the percentage list price increase, year over year is 25.1%. The area continues to be attractive to people looking to relocate, with North Carolina adding 112,000 residents between April 2020 through July 2021, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. We have seen the market locally continue to have low inventory and high demand, so this trend will likely continue even with rates slowly rising.

### Bottom Line:

The big takeaway is that home prices haven't fallen or **depreciated** nationwide, they're just **decelerating** or **moderating**. And our area is still appreciating at record levels. Inventory remains low and demand remains high.

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## A sense of community.

That's just one of the many reasons we love Lindley Park. The connection with our neighbors and schools, the beautiful surroundings and unique homes. We're so happy to be part of this vibrant neighborhood.

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## So what exactly is a "District Representative"?

contributed by Dyan Arkin

The Lindley Park neighborhood encompasses around 645 acres and includes more than 1200 households. To ensure that all residents have a voice in the Lindley Park Neighborhood Association (LPNA), the area has been divided into four districts, each with its own representative.

The vision of the LPNA is to advocate and support the development of a vibrant, sustainable, and healthy Lindley Park that reflects both its history and potential, and District Representatives are key to its success.

Representatives work with their neighbors to identify issues impacting their district and work with LPNA Working Groups to come up with strategies to address them, then report back each month to the Executive Committee. They support the LPNA commitment to a built environment compatible with the following goals:

- Maintain the 2004 Lindley Park Neighborhood Plan;
- Achieve a sense of community and security by encouraging responsibility, involvement, and pride among all residents and owners;
- Promote healthy and active relationships with other neighborhood groups, civic organizations, and government agencies;
- Manage change while ensuring livable density, a diversity of architectural styles, and a well-maintained neighborhood;
- Preserve and promote public and private green spaces;
- Respect, recognize, and maintain ethnic, family, socio-economic, and cultural diversity;
- Provide safe, walkable streets;
- And support local businesses and services.

Please take a moment to locate your residence on the Neighborhood District Map and contact your district representative— **listed on page 2**— with suggestions for ways to make Lindley Park an even greater place to live!

**... and if you'd like to represent District 1**, please contact Josh Sherrick or Patti Eckard! (email address listed on page 2.)



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## Park Work Days

**Saturday, January 7  
Saturday, March 4**

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

**Contact Elizabeth Link at  
beautification@lindleyparknc.  
com with questions and for more  
information.**

## Your Ad Here!

Contact Melissa Michos to  
advertise in THE COLUMNS  
newsletter!

336-707-4652

advertising@lindleyparknc.com

SPRING (April, May, June)  
deadline:

**FEBRUARY 11**

Four ad sizes and three  
frequency options available.

View rates, deadlines,  
and specs at

**[lindleyparknc.com/  
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advertising](http://lindleyparknc.com/newsletter/newsletter-advertising)**

Hard copy distribution: 1275

Email distribution: 440

+ social media distribution:

Facebook: 3250/Instagram: 1115

Keep an eye on social and your inbox for upcoming Lindley Park events! FOLLOW US at @lindleyparknc and sign-up for the newsletter at lindleyparknc.com >> click "Signup" on the menu bar.

## "Let's Run, Jump & Play Again!"



After 14 month of Amnionic Stem Cell Therapy in both dogs and cats, we are pleased to report excellent results. Our IV stem cell infusion has slowed the progression of renal disease in dogs.

Joint and soft tissue injections have successfully treated degenerative arthritis, autoimmune arthritis, interverbral disc disease and soft tissue injuries such as bicipital tendonitis and muscle atrophy.

It can be used in dogs and cats. The only anesthetic time required is for the joint injections and soft tissue treatments. Please contact our hospital for more information about our regenerative medicine program. Let's work together to rejuvenate your aging pet.

*University Animal Hospital*  
— of Greensboro, PLLC —



**CHRISTINE HUNT, DVM**  
1607-B West Friendly Ave. • Greensboro • 279-1003

[www.DrChristineHunt.com](http://www.DrChristineHunt.com)

(At the corner of W. Friendly Ave. & Westover Terrace ext.)



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