



# dna news

duckpond neighborhood association • NE Historic District • Gainesville Florida • September 2012



Keep up on happenings between newsletters! Check out our regularly updated website at [HistoricDuckpond.com](http://HistoricDuckpond.com)

## general meeting

Tuesday, September 18, 2012  
7:00–8:30 p.m.  
First United Methodist Church  
419 NE 1st Street  
Bethany Room

## agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS  
Approval of Minutes, May 2012  
Treasurer's Report

CRIME REPORT  
Gainesville Police Department

DISCUSSION  
Ducks and the duck pond  
(see article, page 6)

CANDIDATES FORUM (8pm):  
School Board  
County Commission

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note: Be sure to check [HistoricDuckpond.com](http://HistoricDuckpond.com) for changes and updates to the agenda.

**DNA News** is published four times a year, just prior to general meetings. Meeting dates remaining for 2012 are September 18 and November 13. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings.

## Fall Activities in full swing: October 13th

The morning of October 13th will start out with the Roper Park Yard Sale at 8 a.m., our annual multi-family yard sale where you can set up and sell your own items or donate your items to be sold by the DNA to benefit the park. The DNA pays for the ad in the *Gainesville Sun*, publishes an ad on *Craigslist*, and sets up signs the morning of the sale. The only work for sellers is setting up their items in the park on the morning of the sale.

If you prefer to donate items to the DNA for us to sell, please set them aside until the week of the sale, email [mvbarr@bellsouth.net](mailto:mvbarr@bellsouth.net) or call 377.4217 to arrange a pick up. We prefer that you don't show up with your items on the morning of the sale as there may not be any tables with space to display the items.

If you are a member of the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* the fee is \$10 to set up and sell your own items. For non-DNA members, the fee is \$15 to participate in the sale. Please send checks to P.O. Box 5794, Gainesville, FL 32627.

Our neighborhood becomes even more lively at 9 a.m. when about 2,000 walkers come marching through while *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*. We plan to have a team to represent the neighborhood again, but this year it will be difficult to be in two places at one time! The fund-raising will occur even if our team is smaller. Board member Brian Miller will be the point person for the team members who are able to participate in the walk this year.

We would like to continue to be a Top Ten (or Twenty) team, but if you don't like fundraising you can walk with the team by making your own donation no matter how small your contribution may be. Please look for the Duckpond neighborhood team on the *American Cancer Society's* website at [makingstrides.acevents.org/gainesville](http://makingstrides.acevents.org/gainesville) to join the team or make a donation. It is your decision as to whether you actually want to participate in the march. If you do, please be sure to look for Brian at *Northeast Park*. He will be holding the sign with our team's name.

At 10 a.m., the *Downtown Fall Arts Festival* is open for business! The art show has been presented by the *City of Gainesville Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs* for 31 years now. If you wish to spend the day selling your items at the Roper Park Yard Sale you still have the opportunity to visit the *Downtown Fall Arts Festival* on Sunday. For two days, visitors can leisurely stroll through historic downtown and marvel at works from more than 250 of the nation's most talented artists. Don't forget to visit the non-profit organization's booths in front of and around the Hippodrome theater too.

—Submitted by Melanie Barr



# A message from our president

The purpose of the Duckpond Neighborhood Association is to facilitate communication and exchange of information on issues relevant to the neighborhood. We encourage neighbors to submit articles of interest to our neighborhood, or topics for discussion at our general meetings. Please contact Melanie Barr at 377.4217 or e-mail [boardDNA@google-groups.com](mailto:boardDNA@google-groups.com).

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU . . .**  
to the person who was kind enough to put the dislocated turtle bench in *Roper Park* back together again. THANK YOU!

**Voter turnout** for the primaries on August 14th averaged 22.6% of the registered voters in Alachua County. The Duckpond neighborhood, Precinct 27, averaged 26.32%. We can be proud that our voters turned out at a better than average rate, but 35.5% of the voters in Precinct 24 at the *Gainesville Baptist Church* voted, and Precinct 40 at the *University City Church of Christ* 38.97% of the voters turned out. The most impressive turn out by voters were the Precinct 50 voters who voted at the *Westminster Presbyterian Church* where 41.52% of the registered voters voted. Turn out rates should double in November due to the presidential race. Please vote in the very important local elections on **November 6th**.

## Dear Duckpond residents,

A big welcome to the people in our neighborhood who are joining us for the first time since moving during the August rental/new house season. UHauls and moving trucks could be seen on many of the streets and avenues in the neighborhood during July and August. I know that was a stressful time for the newcomers, but that is now a dim memory and you can relax and enjoy sitting on your porch or in your yard, or walking downtown to partake in the many activities or restaurants and other establishments that are located just a few blocks from your house.

You made the right decision when you selected the Duckpond neighborhood for your home. So often I hear from people how much they like our neighborhood and wish they could live here. The *Chamber of Commerce* and city officials know that our neighborhood is one of the best neighborhoods in the area too. When they were courting *MindTree* in an

effort to get them to locate to Gainesville, the Duckpond neighborhood was one of only two neighborhoods in the county that were shown to the corporation's executives. Also, the May issue of the *U.S. Airways* magazine led off a 24-page section on Gainesville with a picture of the *Thomas Center*.

I think that most of us enjoy the diversity here too. We have 20-something-year-old new renters who live across the street from 80 something-year-olds who have lived here for decades; small one bedroom cottages adjacent to stately Victorian homes that can be considered mansions; and people who are from Europe live next door to fifth generation Floridians! We really are a mix of races, nationalities, and backgrounds. We live in a great neighborhood which is why so many people wish they could live here.

Sincerely,

**Melanie Barr, President**

**Duckpond Neighborhood Association**

## Candidates Forum: September 18th meeting

**The DNA has invited** the winning candidates from the primary election on August 14th to speak to us at our meeting on September 18th. This is your opportunity to meet the people running for County Commission. Even though we live in the City, the decisions made by the County Commissioners do impact our lives. For example, it is actually the County Commission and not the City Commission that is supposed to take the lead on assisting the poor and homeless. The looming water shortage will be dealt with by the County Commission as well. Please come and meet the candidates and be prepared to ask questions about their positions on the issues that interest you. We will have the Candidates Forum as the last half of our meeting, from 8 p.m.

to 9 p.m., after we finish our business meeting and discussing Muscovy ducks and the Duckpond itself.

The candidates who will be present at our meeting on September 18th are:

### County Commission District 1

- Mike Byerly
- John Martin

### County Commission District 2

- Jean Calderwood
- Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson

### County Commission District 3

- Dean Cheshire
- Chuck Chesnut

### School Board of Alachua County

- Leanetta McNealy
- Barbara Sharpe 🐦

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

# Welcome to the Duckpond neighborhood

Every Fall there are lots of new neighbors who move into the Duckpond neighborhood. Welcome! Here is a little introduction to what the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* is, and how you may want to get involved.

The *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* is a group of neighbors who are involved in making our neighborhood a better place to live. It is open to any resident to join; DNA is not a “homeowners association”. We are eager to have more renters join and get involved. There is also no such thing as mandatory fees; DNA membership is completely voluntary and only \$15 per calendar year (the form and address is on the back page of this newsletter). We don’t get involved in what color your house is painted, but we do get involved in issues that enhance living in the Duckpond neighborhood.

Some of the projects and activities we work on are listed below:

- **Social Activities:** Bringing the neighbors together, sometimes to benefit a good cause. It is more fun and brings a better sense of community when we all get together for an event. Our next events are: the DNA team in the *American Cancer Society’s March Against Breast Cancer*, the *Roper Park Yard Sale* (both are on October 13), and the *Holiday Luminaries* (December 1st). We welcome volunteers and/or participants. Other activities include periodic cleaning and maintenance of the pond, and in early summer we’ve been having a pot-luck picnic in *Roper Park*.
- **Safety:** A local police officer often attends our DNA meetings. Come hear what he has to say, and ask questions if you like.
- **Ducks:** We are looking to form a Duck Committee (attend our general meeting on September 18 for details).
- **Roper Park:** We have been looking after *Roper Park*. We just put in new

plantings in the circle, and they are doing well. Our *Roper Park Yard Sale* raises funds for the park. It will be held during the *Downtown Fall Arts Festival* on October 13. There is a *Roper Park* committee, in case you are interested in caring for and enhancing the park.

- **Newsletter:** The newsletter you are reading is one way we keep in touch. You may submit an article, or submit ideas for articles.
- **City/County Issues:** including candidate forums. How do the policies and votes of our elected officials affect you and Duckpond neighborhood? Our next meeting (September 18th) is a good way to find out. Come hear the candidates, and ask questions if you’d like.
- **List Serve, Facebook, Web Site:** Duckpond residents may join either (or both) of these groups. To join the list serve (called *DNA Updates*), send an email request to [boardDNA@googlegroups.com](mailto:boardDNA@googlegroups.com). Our web site is [historicduckpond.com](http://historicduckpond.com).
- **Other Topics:** Every so often, something else comes up for us to get involved. It can be an urgent issue, or an upcoming fun event, a good cause, or something else.

If you have questions or comments, or if you are interested in getting involved in a particular area, please let us know. The Board of DNA can be reached best by e-mail: [boardDNA@googlegroups.com](mailto:boardDNA@googlegroups.com). Also: please join (or renew) your membership! 🐦

—Submitted by Brian Miller



## HELP FIGHT BREAST CANCER

*Waste Corporation of America* is partnering with the *American Cancer Society* to “Roll Breast Cancer To the Curb.” Be the first in the neighborhood to take your trash to the curb in a **pink trash cart** and show your support for *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*. For a yearly donation of \$50, you can be a part of Breast Cancer Awareness. To order your pink trash cart call the *City of Gainesville* at **334.2330** (Monday–Thursday until 6 p.m.) or write to: WCA/Debbie Hall, 5002 S.W. 41st Boulevard, Gainesville, Florida 32608. Please let her know whether you want a pink 35- or 64-gallon cart. Checks should be made out to the *American Cancer Society*.



## UPCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD VISIONING SESSION

The *City of Gainesville* will be hosting a Neighborhood Visioning Session regarding the future of the U.S. Army Reserve property located at 1125 NE 8th Avenue. The date, time, and location have not yet been finalized but the event is expected to be held within the next few weeks. Gainesville District IV City Commissioner Randy Wells will host the Visioning Session. The City Commission has endorsed Commissioner Wells’s interest in holding the Visioning Session to gain input from nearby communities on potential opportunities for future use(s) of the property. The City expects to gain ownership of the property this fall. The City will send notification through neighborhood associations once details of the event are finalized.

## UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

### Let's Go Downtown!

From May to October, local and regional bands perform at the *Bo Diddley Community Plaza* located on the corner of SE 1st Street and East University Avenue every Friday night from 8–10 p.m. For more information please call 352.393.8746. All events are free to the public.

### September 2012

21 Impostors: Beatles Tribute Band

28 Tropix: Latin-fusion

### October 2012

5 The Relics: Woodstock Tribute Band

12 University of Florida School of Music Ensembles: World Music/Jazz Combo/Sunshine Steelers



### 24th Annual Family Literacy Festival: September 29th

Celebrate literacy and reading at the 24th Annual Family Literacy Festival! The *Alachua County Library District* and the *Matheson Museum* present a morning filled with fun, awards, and entertainment in honor of the love of reading. This year's festival will feature local performance groups, displays, Million Minutes of Reading and literacy awards, free books for children and much more. The festival will be held at the Alachua County Library Headquarters courtyard and the *Matheson Museum* from 10 a.m. to noon.

## The return of the state butterfly to Gainesville

On January 9, 2009, a hard freeze killed off the delicate Zebra Longwing butterfly, *Heliconius charithonia*, in northern Florida. In the past, this butterfly has been familiar to homeowners in the Duckpond neighborhood, with its black wings accented with bright yellow lengthwise lines. Unless disturbed this butterfly flies slowly, shimmeringly, making its way into and out of shaded areas, flying fast only when crossing open places or reacting when frightened. There are usually plenty of opportunities to get a good look at it. But its range has been limited to the southern half of the Florida peninsula for over three years. Until now.



The "zebra" is easily identified by its long black wings striped with yellow. Zebra Longwings feed on nectar and pollen. They are our only butterflies known to eat pollen which is probably why they have a long lifespan of about six months. If denied pollen, they live a more typical lifespan of about one month.

Last year a colleague reported one Zebra in the Southwest suburbs of Gainesville—tantalizing. I thought that would signal the butterfly's return. But there were no more local sightings—until April 29 this year. Kathy Malone, a "butterflier" in High Springs, recorded a Zebra in her yard. No more reports until July 12, when I saw one in our Duckpond back yard—my first in more than three years. Other reports soon followed: July 19 behind the *McGuire Center* at the museum; July 21 at *Gainesville Country Club* golf course; July 25 a report from Joanne Auth on NE 7th St.; August 2 again behind the *McGuire Center*; and August 4 again at the *Gainesville Country Club* golf course. Now I hereby declare: "It's baaaack!"

This butterfly is the only *Heliconius* species to extend this far north from the American tropics, where it is common. There are several dozen other species there, a few of which can be seen at the Butterfly Rainforest at the *Florida Museum of Natural History*. Its larval foodplant is

.....  
Passion Flower, *Passiflora*. Our local species is *P. incarnata*, often considered a weed (albeit a lovely one). It is a vine which grows up over other plants, especially bushes. Another butterfly, the Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*), is also in the same tropical butterfly family, and also feeds on this plant as a caterpillar. Bright orange with silver spots on the underside, it is one of our most common butterflies. It is more hardy than the Zebra, and became common again soon after the January 2009 freeze and others since then. It ranges much farther northward—as far as Connecticut and South Dakota, though rare in the North.

The Zebra Longwing was named Florida's state butterfly in 1996 by Governor Lawton Chiles.

Today, August 9, I had a report of another Zebra in the Duckpond, and then saw another in our yard. So welcome back the Zebra—flagship butterfly in our semitropical Florida habitat. 🦋

—Submitted by Charlie Covell

## Campus of the First United Methodist Church of Gainesville

**First United Methodist** Church of Gainesville faces west at 419 NE First Street, backs onto NE Second Street, starts north of NE 5th Avenue, and stretches south to NE 4th Avenue. The first “campus” land was purchased in 1857, with additions through 1960, for a total of 1.83 acres. Four sanctuaries were sequentially constructed on the property. The first wooden building was completed in 1859, became unusable by the end of the civil war in 1865, and was torn down in 1871. A second, larger wooden sanctuary was built in 1874 and around 1895 it became a private home after it was moved to 204 NE 3rd Avenue.

The campus presently consists of seven buildings. From north to south:

1. **Selle Hall** (detached), 509 NE First Street, built in the 1920s as an apartment building, was purchased in 1960. In 2003, it was converted into the Gainesville District Superintendent's offices, where staff provides support to about 70 Methodist churches in North Florida.
2. **Joseph F. Bell Hall** was completed in 1956 as the education wing.
3. **Epworth Hall** was completed in 1884 as a replacement for a burned building of the East Florida Seminary, purchased, renovated, and renamed in 1911; renovated again in 1942 and 1956 and accepted onto the *National Register of Historic Places*. It serves as a multipurpose building like Bell Hall.
4. Our **Fourth Sanctuary** was built in 1941–42 during World War II and renovated in 2007–08.
5. **Fellowship Hall** was completed in 1887 as the third sanctuary; converted in 1942, and is now being renovated and expanded.
6. The **Christian Workers' Chapel** was created in 1954 by separating the south transept of the third sanctuary with a wall. The chapel presently is being renovated.
7. The **Bert Ames Scout Cabin** (detached) was completed in 1948 and has been dedicated to scouting for its entire 64 year history. Three private homes were purchased for the campus over the years and converted to church use. One was torn down, and two were moved elsewhere.

Dr. Harold Henderson served five and a half years as our Senior Pastor, relocating on June 30th. His replacement is Dr. Sara McKinley, our first woman Senior Pastor in the history of the church. A new Associate Pastor, David Averill, has joined her. The church had nearly completed a second major renovation during Dr. Henderson's tenure, each costing about \$1 million in member donations above the annual budget. The first renovation in 2007–08 improved the sanctuary and the pipe organ, creating another fine hall for musical performances in Gainesville. The second renovation, for Fellowship Hall and the chapel, began in 2011. The architect is Jay Reeves. The anticipated opening date is October 13th. Insulation and internal ceiling and walls are new, and the old heart pine floors have been exposed and refinished. New stained glass will be added to five western windows, and the old bell tower on the west roof rebuilt. The old kitchen was converted into a food serving room, new kitchen, storage room, and loading dock were added on the east side, the bathrooms expanded and improved.

After continually increasing for almost a hundred years, church memberships peaked at 2,153 in 1971. Westward sprawl took most of the life out of Gainesville's urban core. The congregation finally stabilized during Dr. Henderson's tenure at about 500 people. Thankfully, all through the last forty years, the Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians at Gainesville's three oldest Protestant churches never gave up hope that full vitality would return to Downtown. Finally, this is happening! 🐦

—Submitted by David Auth

## LOCAL SEASONAL EVENTS

### Great Halloween Costume and Garage Sale

Sat., Oct. 6; 8a.m.–1p.m.  
Sponsored by *Pofahl Studios* and *Dance Alive National Ballet*.  
1325 Northwest 2nd Street.  
For information, call 373.1166.

### Micanopy Fall Harvest Festival Downtown Micanopy

Sat., Oct. 20; 9a.m.–5p.m.  
Sun., Oct. 21; 9a.m.–4p.m.  
Local artists and crafters represent works from all over the southeast. The main stage plays host to a variety of good-time music throughout the festival. An old-time auction of items donated by participating vendors is held on Saturday afternoon.

### McIntosh 1890s Festival McIntosh, Florida

Sat., Oct. 27; 8a.m.–5p.m.  
Set among Victorian and Florida cracker homes and century-old live oak trees, residents of the small town welcome visitors to the popular arts and crafts festival dressed in 1890s clothing.

### Florida Museum of Natural History (UF Campus)

Wed., Oct. 31 6:30 p.m.  
Join the museum for this family-friendly, candy-free event featuring a screening of the 1966 classic “It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown”.

### Halloween Carillon Concert Century Tower (UF Campus)

Wed., Oct. 31; 9 p.m.  
A special Halloween-themed carillon concert performed on the 61-bell carillon housed in Century Tower on the University of Florida campus.



# Muscovy ducks in our pond: to relocate or not to relocate?

In July, fourteen Muscovy ducklings hatched in the duck-pond basin. The initial decision of the DNA Board to relocate the ducklings and the three adult Muscovy ducks generated a lot of discussion on the Duckpond Facebook page and the *DNA Update* mailing list. The board's initial decision to remove the ducks was motivated by previous discussions during DNA meetings and requests from neighbors. Those in favor of removing the Muscovies put forth the following arguments:

1. Muscovy ducks are considered an invasive species.
2. Muscovy ducks are extremely prolific, aggressive, and messy. Their excessive droppings contaminate water, creating a potential health hazard.

Before the 2003 renovation of the basin and the Sweet-water creek, the pond was inhabited by more than 80 Muscovy ducks. Neighbors complained about the smell and mess that these ducks generated. The Muscovies were therefore relocated as part of the basin renovation plan (see *DNA News*, March 2010\* for a brief history). Most people in favor of removal want to avoid returning to the pre-renovation situation, and would rather have native duck species in the pond.

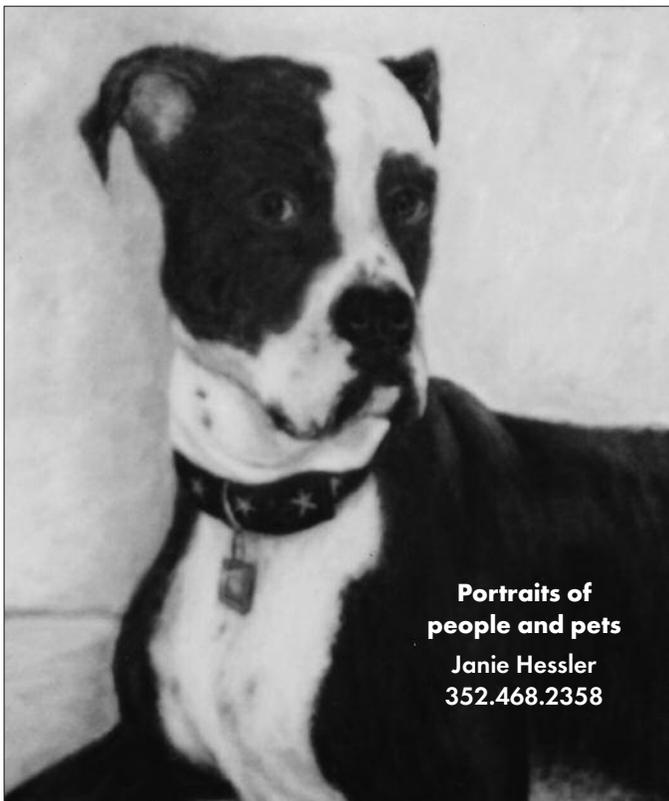
On the other hand, those in favor of keeping the Muscovy ducks bring forth the following arguments:

1. The presence of ducks and ducklings of any kind will add to the attractiveness and character of the neighborhood. Recent attempts to introduce native species of ducks into the pond have failed. The Muscovies at least stay.
2. Removing the ducks is a waste of resources: even if we remove the present Muscovies, more ducks may arrive.

On the basis of the reactions we received, the DNA board postponed taking any measures regarding the removal of the ducks. We would like to invite you all to take part in the discussion at the upcoming Duckpond neighborhood meeting. If we decide on removal, the ducks will be caught in a way that will not harm them and they will be relocated to a humane home. More details will be provided at the meeting. No matter what the outcome of the discussion, it is essential that we keep a close watch on what is happening in the pond. We would therefore like some neighbors to form a duck committee. This committee will keep an eye on the pond, organize regular clean-up sessions, recommend DNA policies regarding ducks, and inform the board and other neighbors about duck-related issues. If you are interested in joining the committee, please come to our meeting, or contact [boardDNA@googlegroups.com](mailto:boardDNA@googlegroups.com). 🐥

—Submitted by Edith Kaan

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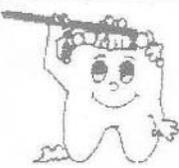
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**COMMERCIAL HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL**



Please fill out and return the form below with your annual membership dues (\$15 per household.) Make your check payable to:

**Duckpond Neighborhood Association**  
**PO Box 5794**  
**Gainesville FL 32627**



# duckpond board

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Melanie Barr 377.4217

**Vice President**

Charles Covell 336.0127

**Secretary**

Mary Rhodes 375.2616

**Treasurer**

Brian Miller 379.7948

**Directors**

David Auth 371.1991

Edith Kaan 379.7948

David Maren 381.1985

*If you are curious about the responsibilities and time commitment for being a Board member, please contact any of the Board members listed above by calling, or email [boardDNA@googlegroups.com](mailto:boardDNA@googlegroups.com). With your help, we can continue to make the Duckpond a great place to live.*

Do you have an announcement, story, article, or advertisement that you would like to share? If so, please submit your information to [boardDNA@googlegroups.com](mailto:boardDNA@googlegroups.com). Your submissions are appreciated, and a great way to share information with your neighbors!



Are you or do you know an artist (or performing artist) who lives or works in our neighborhood? We would like to highlight Duckpond artists in future issues of DNA News. Please contact [boardDNA@googlegroups.com](mailto:boardDNA@googlegroups.com) for more information.

**Stay Informed: Join the DNA Update email list!**

To join, e-mail your address to [boardDNA@googlegroups.com](mailto:boardDNA@googlegroups.com). DNA updates are typically sent out once or twice a month. DNA will never use your email for solicitation or political purposes.

## duckpond neighborhood association membership form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Interests:**

- Board Member  Crime Watch  Holiday Events  Newsletter Distribution  Parks  Schools  Yard Sale

**Skills and/or resources I would like to make available to the Duckpond Neighborhood Association:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I would also like to contribute to the following:** *(optional)*

- Duck Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Roper Park Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Holiday Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

▶ DNA News occasionally lists the names of paying members. Permission to list your name:  yes  no