



celebrating 25 years

dna news

duckpond neighborhood association • NE Historic District • Gainesville Florida • September 2014



Keep up on happenings between newsletters! Check out our regularly updated website at HistoricDuckpond.com

general meetings

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
7:00–8:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Fellowship Hall

agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS
Approval of Minutes, April 2014
Treasurer's Report

CRIME REPORT
Gainesville Police Department

GUEST SPEAKER
Candidates Forum:
Attendees to be announced
after results of primary election

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note: Be sure to check HistoricDuckpond.com for changes and updates to the agenda.

DNA News is published four times a year, just prior to general meetings. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings. Meeting dates remaining for 2014 are September 9 and November 11.

Candidate's Forum: Tuesday, September 9th

Some of the Duckpond neighborhood's most well attended meetings are the Candidates Forums. Therefore, we plan to have a Forum as our main program on September 9th. Since the Primary is on August 26th, at press time we don't know which candidates will have won their primaries. Please check the Duckpond Facebook page, and look for the email that will be sent to everyone on our neighborhood list in late August about the specific candidates who have agreed to participate in our Forum.

We plan to invite the winner of the primary for United States Representative, who will be either Thuy Lowe or Glo Smith, Republicans, and Corrinne Brown, Democrat for District 5. However, at press time, we don't know how the districts will be drawn and where our neighborhood will fit into the new districts.

The County Commission candidates for District 4 who will be invited to participate in the Forum will be either Ken Cornell or Kevin Thorpe, Democrats, and John Martin, Republican. We will also invite the winning candidate from District 2, who will either be Lee Pinkoson or Harvey Ward, Democrats, and write-in candidate Harold Patterson.

The Tax Collector candidates who will be invited are Jon Costabile, Republican, and John Power, Democrat.

If you have moved to our neighborhood recently and are not registered to vote in Precinct 27, you can register to vote by October 6th and can do so in the following ways:



RACES ON THE BALLOT

United States Representative, District 5
Governor ★ Attorney General ★ Chief Financial Officer ★ Commissioner of Agriculture ★ State Representative, Districts 10, 20, 21 ★ District Court of Appeal, District 1 ★ County Commissioner, District 2 ★ County Commissioner, District 4
County Tax Collector

Online Registration Form

Complete the online form to register to vote or update your registration. <http://www.votealachua.com/Voter-Information/Register-to-Vote.aspx>

Downloadable Registration Form

You can download the form and fill it out at home. You must mail or deliver your application to the Supervisor of Elections Office located in the Star Garage, 111 SE 1st Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601-6819.

Pick-Up Registration Form

Pick up a Voter Registration Application Form and mail or deliver your application to the Supervisor of Elections Office.

In Person Registration

Register to vote or update your registration in person at the office, at any designated voter registration agency, or at one of the community voter registration drives. 🐾

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@googlegroups.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES

The *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* currently has four active committees: the DNA Picnic Committee, the Holiday Carriage Ride Committee, the Roper Park Landscape Committee, and the Duck and Pond Committee. None of these committees requires attending frequent meetings. Volunteering can be rewarding and fun. If you are interested in joining one of these committees, please email boardDNA@googlegroups.com.

NEWSLETTER REDESIGN

DNA News was last redesigned 10 years ago and is in need of a new design.

If you have the desire and abilities to create a new newsletter design, and/or would like to produce our quarterly newsletter beginning in January 2015, please contact boardDNA@googlegroups.com. The Board will provide the articles to you.

After approval of an initial design template, production responsibilities include: layout and design, corrections after proofreading, prepping files for a commercial printer, approving printer proofs, overseeing delivery. Door-to-door neighborhood delivery volunteers are also appreciated.

Dear Duckpond residents,

I would like to welcome new neighbors to the Duckpond neighborhood and I hope you will enjoy living here. Our neighborhood is very diverse and you may find that you may be living across the street from people who have lived here for 50 years, and next door to people who just moved in last year from another country. Some people have toddlers, others have great-grandchildren, others are childfree but have rescue cats or dogs.

You probably have noticed that living in the Duckpond neighborhood makes for an easy walk downtown, a quick bike trip to the *University of Florida* or to the downtown *Santa Fe College* campus. We can also walk to many activities and events, some of which are discussed in this newsletter. Please participate in Gainesville life so you can love the community as much as the rest of us do.

To keep in touch with neighborhood activities and events, be sure join our email list and our *Facebook* page so you will be up to date with events, lost pets, crime incidents, and more. See the back page of this newsletter for information.

One event you may not be prepared for is Halloween. Some people bring their children to our neighborhood because they consider it a safe and prosperous area where they will get good candy. Depending on the location of your house you may go through 15 bags of candy, while others will give away one bag.

Generally, the areas close to NE Boulevard, *Roper Park* and the *Thomas Center* and the avenues running through it will be subject to a lot of outside people who drive in with carloads of children. You may want to set some guidelines as to how much candy each child will receive, and the age limit for trick or treaters. Some of the older children and adults may also ring doorbells after 9 p.m. if your lights are still on.

I look forward to seeing neighbors new and old at our meeting on September 9th, at the *American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* walk on October 25th, and the Roper Park Yard Sale on November 8th.

Melanie Barr, President
Duckpond Neighborhood Association

Join us in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Do you know many people who have had breast cancer, or have you had it yourself? If you would like to help fight breast cancer please join the Duckpond Neighborhood team in the *American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* event that will begin at the Hippodrome and come through our neighborhood on **Saturday morning, October 25th** starting at 9 a.m. Our neighborhood has had a team since the mid 1990s and we have been a top fundraiser team in several previous years.

The purpose of the walk is to honor breast cancer survivors, raise awareness about reducing breast cancer risk, raise money to help the *American Cancer Society*

fight the disease with breast cancer research, information and services, and provide access to mammograms for women who need them. You do not need to walk to make or raise donations too.

To join the team or make a donation please go to http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=62525&pg=entry or look online for "Making Strides of Gainesville." If you don't want to use your credit card to make a donation, or join the team online, please call 377.4217 or write to mvbarr@bellsouth.net. You can also send a check to P.O. Box 5794 Gainesville, FL 32627. We appreciate a donation in any amount and you never know whose life you may save due to your donation. 🐦



Florida Friendly Landscape Duckpond Tour

Want to learn how to have a yard that is more distinctive, less costly to maintain, requires less maintenance, conserves water and reduces or eliminates fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide runoff into the aquifer? If so, please join us on September 20, 2014 when the Alachua County Master Gardener's annual Florida Friendly Landscape tour comes to the Duckpond neighborhood.

The tour highlights nine principles that comprise a Florida Friendly Landscape and will offer participants a closer look at several yards in our neighborhood that have incorporated these principles.



The free tour will begin at 8:15 a.m. at the *Thelma Boltin Center* with a short presentation by Alachua County Extension Agent, Wendy Wilbur. Maps and descriptions of each tour yard, with plant lists, will be distributed and several vendors including the *Audubon Society*, the *Native Plant Society* and landscape designers will be available with displays and to answer questions. Participants will receive materials on Florida Friendly Landscapes and related topics such as plants that thrive in shade, drought resistant plants, ground covers and more.

We are still finalizing the yards for the Duckpond neighborhood tour but hope to make this year's tour walkable or bikeable for those who wish to do so. More information will be forthcoming, and pre-registration will be recommended, so please mark your calendars for September 20 and plan to join us for a fun and informative morning. 🐦

—Submitted by Greg McGann,
Master Gardener

HELP NEEDED FOR DNA HOLIDAY EVENTS 2014

The *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* plans to participate in our usual winter holiday activities. We are looking for volunteers to help with the events on **Saturday, December 6th**. Help is needed with the following activities:

- putting up flyers on light poles to inform neighbors about the event
- placing provided sand into the paper candle bags
- placing provided tealight candles in the candle bags
- lighting candles prior to the evening event
- collecting money for carriage rides at the *Thomas Center*
- helping people enter/exit the wagons
- picking up the bags on Sunday morning

Roper Park Yard Sale: Saturday, November 8

The **Roper Park** Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, November 8th, beginning at 8 a.m. It is always held on the first day of the *Downtown Fall Arts Festival*. It is a our annual multi-family fundraiser yard sale. Sellers set up and sell their items and keep the money. If you are a member of the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association* it is \$10 to set up and sell, and the \$10 is your donation to the fundraiser. You may invite your friends and relatives to join in the sale too. For non-DNA members, the charge is \$15 to participate in the sale.

The DNA pays for the ad in the *Gainesville Sun*, publishes the ad on *Craigslist*, and sets up signs the morning of the sale, so 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, and 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 because there may not be any tables with space to display the items.

Please mail checks to P.O. Box 5794 Gainesville FL 32627, or you can make arrangements to drop off a check in person by calling the phone number previously mentioned or writing to the email address. 🐦

—Submitted by Melanie Barr



LOCAL CONCERTS

Free Fall Concert Series
at the Downtown Bo Diddley
Community Plaza
11 East University Avenue
Friday evenings, 8–10 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
Tribute
by Other Voices
- 12 Heavy Petty
Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers
Tribute
- 19 The Impostors
Beatles Tribute Band
- 26 Tropix
Latin Fusion

OCTOBER

- 3 GramFest
Gram Parsons Tribute
by various artists
- 10 Relics & Erasables
Woodstock Era Music
& Originals
- 17 Dixie Desperados
Southern Country Rock
- 24 UF School of Music Ensembles
World Music

• • •

NOVEMBER

- 7 Downtown Blues Festival
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Downtown Plaza
The Downtown Fall Arts Festival
kicks off a blues
concert presented by the
North Florida Blues Society.
Free and open to the public.

Neighborhood inhabitant: The Eastern Mole



For those of us who lovingly cultivate a beautiful lawn, few situations are more aggravating than the appearance of a wandering raised trail created by the foraging tunnels a few centimeters under the grass by the Eastern Mole. Along the “trails” you will see “molehills,” holes with raised edges where the mole has come to the surface. *Scalopus aquaticus*, named in 1758 by Carolus Linnaeus, the great Swedish “father of scientific nomenclature,” was given the species name “aquaticus” mistakenly because the specimen on which the name was based was found in water. While it is able to swim, our furry friend is basically terrestrial, and spends almost all its time in the ground.

The Eastern Mole, 8 to 9 inches long, inhabits most of the eastern half of North America, and is common in Florida. It can move through lightly to moderately compacted soil at the rate of about 6 meters per hour. It uses “permanent” burrows at about 25 cm below the surface, where it nests; but it finds much of its food just a few cm beneath the surface, eating earthworms, beetle grubs, snails, slugs, centipedes and other soil critters. In a pinch it eats grass seeds and other vegetable matter. It can change direction in the burrow by doing a “partial somersault or doubling back on itself.” It can be active at all hours of the day, but peaks in activity are at dawn and dusk.

Moles make an underground nest of grass or leaves, usually under a rock or

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“While we think of the mole as a pest, disfiguring the lawn and eating plant roots, they also do much good in aerating the soil and eating large numbers of insect pests.”

.....

near a stump or bush. In Florida they may not need to do that. They have two to five babies that are born in spring and are blind and naked at first. The gestation period is only 45 days. Their weak eyes and ears are present but hidden by the fur as they grow, and the eyes are underdeveloped. The snout and tail are the main sensing areas, and the front feet are broadened and the toes sharp and hard to enable the fossorial (digging) ability for which moles are beautifully adapted.

While we think of the mole as a pest, disfiguring the lawn and eating plant roots, they also do much good in aerating the soil and eating large numbers of insect pests. Their enemies include dogs, cats, coyotes and foxes that prey on them, and they also harbor several kinds of parasitic mites, fleas and lice. Special spring-loaded mole-killing devices have been used for many years, placed into the tops of their burrows. I remember my Dad employing “mole traps” when I was young—a long time ago. Recently we had an “outbreak” in our lawn here in the Duckpond neighborhood. This time I “let them be,” and eventually their raised trails went away. 🐹

—Submitted by Charlie Covell

GPD alerts residents on several recent scams

Below is a list from the Gainesville Police Department regarding ongoing scams involving preloaded Green Dot cards. Please share this information with those you know.

Utility Bill Scams

Since the end of March, there have been 16 reported incidents of utility bill scams in the region. The victims are contacted by phone and are told their power will be shut off if they don't pay their past due amount, immediately. The majority of these calls are made to businesses. The suspects are representing themselves as power company workers and direct the victims to purchase Green Dot cards to pay for their past due bills.

IRS Scam

Since April, there have been 7 reported incidents of IRS tax scams in the Region. The suspect contacts the victims and informs them he is an IRS agent and there is a warrant for their arrest for unpaid taxes. He tells the victims they need to pay immediately with a Green Dot card to avoid further tax proceedings and possible arrest.

Officer Impersonation

Since April, there have been 11 reported incidents of victims stating they're receiving calls from "Officers" stating they have an active warrant for their arrest for missing jury duty. The caller tells the victim they can "take care" of the warrant by purchasing a Green Dot card.

Online Loans

Since April, there have been 11 reported incidents of victims reporting they've applied for loans online and are approved. The catch to getting the loan is the victim has to send a "good faith" payment or a processing fee in order to receive the loan. Victims are instructed to purchase Green Dot cards to begin the loan process.

About Green Dot cards

Green Dot Corporation is an issuer of prepaid MasterCard and Visa cards in the United States. These products are available at more than 60,000 retail stores. The cards may be used like normal debit or credit cards, but they are not backed by a checking account or line of credit. Purchases are deducted from the balance stored on the card. The user can add more money to the card by paying cash at a retail store's point of sale, or in certain cases from their paycheck. In this sense, these cards have some of the features of a bank account.

Publishers Clearing House

Since April, there have been 5 reported incidents of victims reporting they've received phone calls from Publishers Clearing House stating they've won a prize. The caller tells the victims that in order for them to receive their prize, they must send money on a Green Dot card.

Secret Shopper

Since May, there have been 4 incidents where complainants have been victims of personal shopper scams. The victims state they sign up to be secret shoppers on line. A few days later, they receive a priority mail package with a check. The victims are instructed to cash the check at their local bank and then purchase Green Dot money cards. The victims are then to email the Green Dot 14-digit secret pin number.

Treasury Department

Since April, there have been 3 reported incidents where the victims receive calls stating they've received a grant from the Department of Treasury. The caller states that in order for the victims to receive the grant, they must pay a fee. The victims are instructed to purchase Green Dot cards and call back with the identification number on the card. 🐦

—Submitted by Ofc. Ernest Graham
Gainesville Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit

LOCAL EVENTS

About Face

Portraits with Presence
Thomas Center Galleries
302 NE 6th Avenue
Through September 20, 2014

Curated by Anne Gilroy, the exhibit reaches broadly in defining "portraiture." The collection of work combines classical and traditional work with unexpected interpretations of portraiture in the artist's enduring quest to capture the presence of a person in both two- and three-dimensional media. Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, 1–4 p.m.

Kyle Kinane

Boca Fiesta,
232 SE 1st Street
September 25, 2014, 8–11 p.m.

Kyle Kinane, a comedian seen on *Comedy Central* and *Conan*, appears live at The Backyard @ Boca Fiesta & Palomino on Thursday, September 25th. \$14.

Downtown Fall Arts Festival

Downtown Gainesville
November 8–9, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Presented by the City of Gainesville Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, the festival celebrates its 33rd anniversary. For two days, visitors can stroll through historic downtown and marvel at works from more than 250 of the nation's most talented artists, who display their original oils and acrylics, watercolors, sculptures, jewelry, ceramics and photography, and more.

ADDITIONAL DUCKPOND NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNAGE

Our neighborhood borders are marked by two signs now and one more is needed. There is a large sign on NE 10th Avenue just north of CVS that indicates to people they are entering the Duckpond neighborhood, and there is a smaller sign on NE 9th Street and NE 3rd Avenue that denotes an entrance to the Duckpond Historic District. There should be a sign near the Chamber of Commerce building on NE 3rd Street and NE 2nd Avenue. Please contact mvbarr@bellsouth.net or call 377.4217 if you are interested in researching how we can get a sign placed at this edge of the neighborhood and what the sign should look like. The two we have now look very different from each other.

—Submitted by Melanie Barr

Roper Park Picnic, April 2014

This past spring on April 27, Duckpond residents enjoyed another successful and well-attended annual picnic in *Roper Park*. Beginning at 5 p.m. and lasting until 7 p.m., the neighborhood party combined great food, conversation, and for the second year in a row, great musical entertainment thanks to DNA resident and well-known local musician Monica Leadon Cooper and her acoustic band. Monica's band draws a variety of regular and guest musicians and her *Y'all Stars* are regulars at the *Bo Diddly Plaza* during the Free Fridays concert season.

The annual picnic is a potluck and covered dish event for which the DNA board provides serving tables, dinnerware, drinks, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers. The party was also an opportunity to celebrate the *Duckpond Neighborhood Association's* 25th anniversary and a large sheet cake was served much to the delight of all attending.

Many thanks go to the volunteers who helped plan and coordinate this event. Included in this group are Jill Dumas, Edith Kaan, George Papadi, Mary Rhodes, Gayle Wheeler, and Roy Stahley. 🐦

—Submitted by
George Papadi



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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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Charles Covell 336.0127

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Edith Kaan 379.7948

Treasurer

Brian Miller 379.7948

Directors

Jill Dumas 317.1516

George Papadi 373.1296

Dennis Tracy 941.468.6247

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. With your help, we can continue to make the Duckpond a great place in which 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. Your submissions are appreciated, and are a great way to share information with your neighbors!

Stay Informed: Join the DNA Update email list!

To join, e-mail your address to 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