



Winter on Washington Street

The Gatherings

The Washington Street Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Remembering Washington Street

By Dr. M. Burdell Knight

The energy, the smells, the aromas, the chatter, the vitality, the vigor, the action, the walks to and from school, the pride, even the power are indelible imprints of Washington Street during my subteen and teenage years (the 40s and 50s).

There was Leon Sharpe's taxi, the drug store, Ballinger's Sport Shop, Dr. Davis' and Dr. Wilson's offices, the Kilby Hotel, the Ritz Theatre to name some of the businesses located along its route. First Baptist Church and St. Mark Methodist Church were the religious pillars that sustained and guided us from one week to another. Interspersed were residences, a few of them still standing; and even fewer, still occupied.

Looking down on all of us, on the hill "we loved so well" was a beacon of light

— William Penn High School. Marian Anderson, Roland Hayes sang there. The North Carolina Symphony Orchestra played there. The first time I heard Handel's "Messiah" was in the Burford Auditorium. I can still see the wave of students, starting at Garland Street, moving east to Downing Street. I truly loved the action and low hum of conversation, discussion, debate mixed with laughter, jokes, effervescence, exuberance. The height of my walk was when my best friend and I came to the parting of the way. We would stand on the corner of Downing and West Streets and recount, review, analyze, and edit the entire day.

Every Saturday, we all met at the Ritz Theatre (my friends and I). In addition to being a cinema, it was a place for social gathering. After seeing the motion picture, we proceeded to the drug store, located further down the street (east). Not only did we get ice

cream (just like Mayberry's) and sodas, but we could see the boy that we "kind of liked", and maybe get a chance to say something to him. I was quite shy so it was not easy for me to do.

Halloween nights brought children of all ages, teenagers to adults to Washington Street for the annual party given by the City. Various activities, vendors, food, performers, costumes, and music came together to mark a celebration that I have, sometimes, wanted revived.

I will always remember the old Washington Street with a feeling of pride, elation, delight, ebullience, respect, and, yes, even reverence. When I look at it now, I see it through my mind's eye and, like the phoenix, I believe it will rise again.



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To promote the revitalization of Washington Street and organize residents to work as a single unit to bring about social, economic, and political change.

Introduction to The Gatherings

The Gatherings is a newsletter written **by** the residents **for** the residents on Washington Street. The purpose of the newsletter is to connect the residents of the neighborhood and to foster community.

So, we need your input! Send us your stories, poems, recipes, and more to pharman@elon.edu. No experience necessary. Don't have a computer? We will take submissions in long-hand. Drop them off at the Changing Tides Cultural Center at 613 Washington Street.

Making a Wish for Our Community



4th Annual Unity Festival



A Poem from Our Neighborhood Association President

Many Voices Becoming One!

How can this occur in the self-absorbed
way we start our day?

How can issues be resolved if no one
wants to get involved?

How do we make a change when we have
no ideas to re-arrange?

How do we create new goals without
considering the days of old?

Oh, there is a way today to take the
old ways and days – mix it with
new ideas,

Carve our new tomorrows.

You know, the way we were, a
strong vibrant, productive commu-
nity.

One VOICE focused, the resound-
ing sound of constant change for
the betterment of community.

Aretha Pugh-Robinson, President

*I can't do everything but I can do
something to help somebody. And
what I can do, I will do. I wish I could
do more.*

- Oseola McCarty

Recent Events Recap

Did you know that the Washington Street Neighborhood may have more communi-
ty events than anywhere in High Point!

We had a successful National Night Out
event in August. Target provided clothes
and school supplies to the community.

In November, we held our 4th Annual
Unity Festival. At the festival, Chase
Sheffield, a young man who is becoming
an Eagle Scout, blessed the community

by distributing 24 bikes to our children.

There have been several storytellers and
craft days. Movies have been shown
once a month at the Ritz Theatre.

D-Up has conducted "Let's Move in the
Park" once a month at the new park. Sig-
nature by Design held a back to school
event in September.

A local farmer set-up his stand once a

week at the new park. He will be back
again in the spring to sell his excellent
produce.

Glenn Chavis has provided his historic
Washington Street tour to visitors. The
High Point CVB toured Washington
Street for staff from the North Carolina
Welcome Centers.

We encourage everyone to come out and
enjoy these wonderful events!

“There is No Greater Love” A Poem by Carolyn Morgan

There's no greater love than God's love and the love of a friend; God's love is pure and has no end.

God sends us friends to love and share our blessings and praise His name.

Friends are not bought with silver nor gold, nor special gifts; they are sent to give you a lift.

Friends are true, honest, and trustworthy and from God's love above.

Laughter, joy, and smiles and will go an extra mile.

Friends don't always agree; respect and discussion with a smile; will not talk about one another; talk to each other; enjoy being friends to the end.

Christmas Craft Day



National Night Out



Calendar of Events for the Winter

January

- ◆ 11th - “Let's Move in the Park”, 738 Washington Street
- ◆ 12th - Family Movie at the Artz @ the Ritz Theatre
- ◆ 28th - Washington Street Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6pm, 201 4th Street

February

- ◆ 8th - “Let's Move in the Park”, 738 Washington Street
- ◆ 23rd - Family Movie at the Artz @ the Ritz Theatre
- ◆ 25th - Washington Street Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6pm, 201 4th Street

March

- ◆ 11th - “Let's Move in the Park”, 738 Washington Street
- ◆ 23rd - Family Movie at the Artz @ the Ritz Theatre
- ◆ 25th - Washington Street Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6pm, 201 4th Street

Easy Red Beans & Rice Recipe from the Kitchen of Linda McQueen

Ingredients:

1 package (12-16 oz) smoked sausage, sliced
1 can (16 oz) kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1 can (10 oz) diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained

2 Tbsp chili powder

2 cups white rice, uncooked

8 oz shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions:

Cook sausage in large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat for 5 minutes until lightly browned, stirring occasionally.

Add beans, tomatoes, and chili powder; mix well. Stir in 2 cups water. Bring to boil.

Stir in rice and shredded cheddar cheese, cover. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 to 7 minutes or until water is almost absorbed. Stir until cheese is completely melted. Then Enjoy!

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A NEW CITY PARK ON WASHINGTON STREET?

Like any City park, it is open from sunrise to sunset. Parks and Recreation staff mow the grass, empty the trash, and water the plants.

Bring your kids and grandkids and come out and enjoy this new amenity! There are tables where you can picnic, play board games, and talk with your neighbors.

There is a playground for climbing, sliding, and playing tic-tac-toe.

There are also two musical instruments where you can play “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”. Bring a friend along and play a duet!

