

SEPTEMBER
UPCOMING
EVENTS

September 2014



NEIGHBORHOOD **NEWS**

falconbridgealliance.org

falconbridgealliance@gmail.com

Mon. Sept. 1,8,15,22,29

2:00 pm

MAH JONGG

paulaclarke@nc.rr.com

Fri. Sept. 5 & 19 • 5:30pm

TRAVELING PUB

falconbridgepub@gmail.com

Sat. Sept 6 • 7:00pm

WINE TASTING GROUP

roseron61@gmail.com

Tues. Sept. 9 • 7:00pm

ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING

jimcarrollnc@gmail.com

Thurs. Sept. 11 & 25

9:30am

WOMEN'S COFFEE KLATCH

nrlaney@gmail.com

Wed. Sept. 17 • 7:30pm

POKER NIGHT

jnoble43@nc.rr.com

Wed. Sept. 23 • 6:00pm

BOWLING NIGHT

lproctor12@nc.rr.com

(See story p. 2)

Sat. Oct. 11 • 6:00pm

GOURMET CLUB

jnoble43@nc.rr.com

Sun. Oct. 12

ANNUAL MEMBERS

MEETING,

BOARD ELECTIONS,

POTLUCK SUPPER!

Neighbors: We want your input!

This month look for a **neighborhood survey** so we can hear from you. The Alliance board wants to know your interests, hopes, and dreams for activities to add to our quality of life here in Falconbridge. Toward the last week in September, expect to receive an e-mail asking you to complete a survey—easily, online, via Survey Monkey. There'll even be a chance to win a **\$50 gift certificate!** So....keep watching for this in your e-mail!



Who runs the Alliance?

Message from the president

The simple answer is: Those who care to. All of the Alliance members who receive this newsletter can influence how the organization is run. The nine members of the Board make the month-to-month operational decisions, but we are strongly influenced by what we hear from members. That's why we will be conducting an email survey of members around the end of September. We'll be asking you what programs, events and projects you consider the most important for Falconbridge. The results of the survey will be used by the new board to plan our work for the coming year. So please respond to the survey when you get the invitation. It's one way to show you care about our community.

The Alliance fiscal year starts in October when we conduct the annual members meeting. This year the meeting will happen on Sunday, Oct. 12. All Alliance members are welcome to attend and give their input on how

the organization should be run. To make it more inviting, we will hold a potluck dinner right after the meeting in the clubhouse. If you care about what happens in Falconbridge, please plan to attend.

And if you really care about our community and want to have a hand in running the Alliance, consider joining the board. We look for people who want to make a difference and can add to our inventory of skills. There are posts available in landscaping, communications, architectural review, financing, government liaison, security, neighbor services, recruiting and event management. Meetings are once a month and the standard board member term is 3 years. If you'd like to discuss joining the board, please contact Nancy Laney at nrlaney@gmail.com or 919-378-1457.

— Jim Carroll

INSIDE: • Night Out photos
• How to find a contractor
• French & Indian Cuisine
• Our right to protest zoning

Coffee Klatch

If you are interested in meeting other women in the neighborhood, consider coming to Coffee Klatch. We meet every other Thursday in someone's home for coffee and good conversation. You never know how many will be there—it might be only three or as many as a dozen—but you can count on learning something new about what is going on in the neighborhood and beyond. We keep things very informal and low key with just coffee, tea and a light snack.

Coming to Coffee Klatch is a great way to expand the circle of people you know in the neighborhood. If you want to join our email list contact **Nancy Laney, nrlaney@gmail.com** or call **919-945-4102**.



COMING IN OCTOBER:

Hallowe'en party for kids at the Clubhouse—before trick-or-treating! Watch for October announcement about this event for kids—pizza included!



Bowling for Dollars...

...but not many dollars. Lawrence Proctor's recent introduction to a very reasonably priced night of bowling was a great success, met



with great enthusiasm. And so another bowling event is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 23, at 6:00 PM**. The prices are reminiscent of Happy Days: \$2.79 a game, \$2.79 for shoe rentals. And if you really want to get into the mood, \$2.79 for the Snack Combos (small drink & fries OR a small drink & hot dog). So, put a spin on that ball, send those pins flying, try for a "Brooklyn" and hope for a "turkey." Contact Lawrence at lproctor12@nc.rr.com no later than September 20 so that he can make reservations at Mardi Gras Bowling Center, Falconbridge Shopping Center, 6118-A Farrington Road, Chapel Hill, NC.

Elections to the Board will be held at the Annual Meeting Sunday, Oct. 12.

Current board members will present an annual report of what has been accomplished in the past year as well as a summary financial report. The voting will take place during the meeting. More details will be in next newsletter.



ALLIANCE-SPONSORED SOCIAL GROUPS

TRAVELING PUB

For all neighbors
Every other Friday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Barb Carroll: falconbridgepub@gmail.com

BOOK GROUP*

Monthly
Karen Fitzhugh: fitzhugh.karen@gmail.com

GAME NIGHT GROUP*

Quarterly
Barb Carroll: jimandbarb@nc.rr.com

GOURMET DINNER CLUB*

Every other month
Liz Hallgren: Lhallgren@nc.rr.com

MAH JONGG*

Every Monday, 2 p.m.
Paula Clarke: paulaclarke@nc.rr.com

THIRD THURSDAY POKER*

Monthly
John Noble: jnoble43@nc.rr.com

WINE TASTING GROUP*

Every other month
Ron Hutchinson: roseron61@gmail.com

WOMEN'S COFFEE KLATCH*

Every other Thursday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Nancy Laney: nrlaney@gmail.com

** Must be a member of the Alliance to participate*

Join Falconbridge Alliance

The Falconbridge Alliance newsletter is distributed monthly to all Falconbridge Alliance members.

Newsletter Editor: Larry Charny
Newsletter Designer: Mia Prior
Copy Editor: Lisa Anthony

● ● **UPDATE:** Alliance-Sponsored **Events & News**

Welcome New Neighbors

Teresa and Greg Janda, new arrivals on Shallowford Lane, are looking forward to exploring Durham and its urban neighbors in the months to come, while Dr. Greg completes his one-year fellowship in urology at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill. Dr. Teresa, a veterinarian, is a stay-at-home mom this year.

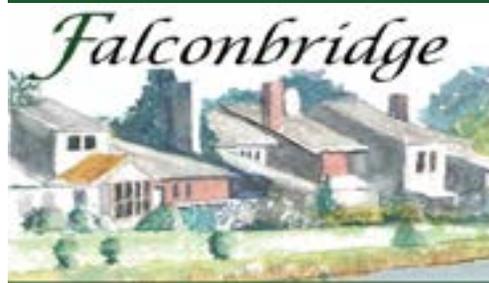
The adult Jandas moved here in July from Buffalo, New York, with their daughters, Olivia, 4, and Sophia, 1; their cats Max and Lenny, and two guinea pigs.

Teresa likes how much more friendly Falconbridge neighbors are than were their neighbors up north while Greg was a resident doctor.

The family is already involved in the neighborhood, enjoying the Fourth of July festivities at the community clubhouse and becoming pool members. The Jandas have begun exploring the American Tobacco Trail and are enthusiastic about activities at the Museum of Life and Science.

Teresa said, "There's so much to do here, and Durham and Chapel Hill are beautiful."

**WELCOME
TO**



Ice Cream Social/National Night Out **Rocked!**

The National Night Out ice cream social on August 5 was a hit. We had about 100 Falconbridge neighbors attend, which exceeded our expectations.

For those who missed it, there was lots of great Maple View ice cream and toppings for all to enjoy, great weather and free swimming for all.

It was a great chance for residents to meet new neighbors and increase our wonderful sense of community in Falconbridge. One of the big benefits of getting to know one another is a greater sense of security, which is why this was sponsored by the Alliance Neighborhood Watch committee. Due to the success of the event, this may become an annual Ice Cream Social. Thanks to all on the Alliance who did the publicity, made the arrangements and got all that great ice cream! (See photos on next page!)

— Mike Mayo & Mia Prior



Children's Corner

Our *Grand* Grandparents' Adventure!

Our six-year-old granddaughter Quinn lives in Oregon, about as far away from North Carolina as you can get without leaving the continental U.S. We want very much to have a strong relationship with her so we have come up with a plan—she spends a block of time with us each summer. This year she was here for a full month. Fun, tiring (exhausting), challenging and very rewarding. Since we are relatively new to the area, we did not have personal experience to draw on for things to do with her. After a lot of trial and error we came up with a pretty good list of things to do with her and I wanted to share that with neighbors who have kids to entertain.

The swim lessons at the Levin JCC were reasonably priced and well staffed. The Falconbridge pool was a great place to practice in between lessons. **Wheels in Durham** has an enormous climbing structure and a roller skating rink to work off excess

energy. **Marbles Kids Museum** in Raleigh is worth the drive, but be sure to take ear plugs! The **playground at Forest Hills** has a nice water feature for hot summer days. **Durham Public Library** has good activities and programs for kids, not to mention great kids' books and DVD's to borrow. For a wonderful day camp experience, consider **Schoolhouse of Wonder at West Point** on the Eno River Park. It is an outdoor nature camp and Quinn had a fabulous time. All outdoors and no electronic anything! If you belong to the UNC Wellness Center, they offer free childcare while you are at the gym. And if you need a babysitter there is a great drop-off childcare service called **Green Kids** next to Southpoint Mall. Best of all, try to find other kids in the neighborhood to play with and share the fun!

— Nancy Laney and Tim Dennehy

Police Impressed with Neighborhood Watch Turnout

On July 30, the Neighborhood Watch Commanders' Tour was well attended. We had 20-30 people in the clubhouse. The police were quite impressed with the turnout. Questions concerned harassing telephone calls, gunshots heard near Falconbridge, and the possible theft of Freon from an air conditioner.

Did you know that Falconbridge is part of Partners Against Crime-District 3 (PAC3)?

Chief Addison addressed the telephone calls; a report was filed on the gunshots, though nothing more was done; doubts were expressed that the Freon had been stolen. (According to the officers, the gas difficult to store and not that valuable.) All of the other comments were in support of the police who, by the way, really like Falconbridge.

Falconbridge is part of Partners Against Crime-District 3 (PAC3). Mike Mayo and Conni Rivers attend monthly meetings and bring back

information which we share with our neighbors in the monthly newsletters produced by Falconbridge Alliance and Falconbridge Homeowner's Association.

Several times during their presentation, the police referenced PAC3 list serv. To join the list serv, please go to PAC3's website pac3durhamnc@weebly.com There you will find instructions on how to join the list serv along with other valuable information.

— Mike Mayo

August 5 national Night Out Ice Cream Social images



Mike Mayo (left) and Conni Rivers (right, middle) with police officers at Night Out



Neighbors enjoying ice cream and socializing at the clubhouse.

Everyone in Falconbridge is invited to attend PAC3 (Partners Against Crime) monthly meetings. They are held the second Saturday of each month, from 10 am to noon at the Lyon Park Center, 1309 Halley, Durham. It is a wonderful way to meet other community leaders as well as city and county officials - all working together to make our neighborhoods safer. Contact [Conni Rivers](#) or [Mike Mayo](#) with questions.

TIP

Lock the door.

It may seem obvious, but the reports say that more than 40 percent of burglaries don't include forced entry — meaning people are leaving doors and windows unlocked.

● ● *Architectural Review Committee:* Tips

Building Our Dream House . . . Some Helpful Advice



BEFORE you hire a contractor, planning is the most important step, as it determines scope of work, cost, inconvenience and time. All a contractor does is execute the plan.

Take your time planning and solicit expert advice until you are convinced it is the right way to go and you have a plan on paper with specific instructions and payment plan.

Once you have a complete plan you solicit several bids from approved contractors following the FTC advice. Keep in mind the low bidder may not be your best choice.

You also want to be a named insured on the contractor's policy. You do this by contacting his insurance company directly.

Also, it most likely will take longer and cost more than you thought. Be prepared for concealed conditions that pop up during construction and require extra effort and cost more.

Once you have finished your construction project and are mentally, financially and physically exhausted, don't do it again.

— John Noble

From a Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Information posting:

Who to hire, depending upon the size and complexity of the work to be done:

- **general contractor:** manages all aspects of a project, including hiring and supervising subcontractors, getting building permits, and scheduling inspections
- **specialty contractor:** installs particular products like cabinets and bathroom fixtures
- **architect:** designs homes, additions, and major renovations — especially ones involving structural changes
- **designer or design/build contractor:** provides both services

Do Your Research

- Check with friends, neighbors, or co-workers who've used a contractor.
- Take a look at the work done and ask about their experience.
- Look at sites you trust that post ratings and reviews, do people seem to have similar experiences, good or bad?
- Check out a contractor's online reputation by searching for the company's name with words like "scam," "rip-off," or "complaint."
- Find out how long they've been in business.
- Look for an established company whose record and reputation you can check out.
- Check for qualifications, like licensing.
- Many states, but not all, require contractors to be licensed and/or bonded. Check with your local building department or consumer protection agency to find out about licensing requirements in your area. Licensing can range from simple registration to a detailed qualification process. If your state or locality has licensing laws, make sure the contractor's license is current.



This is the first of a series of articles we will periodically include in this column that impact on your homes: improvements, maintenance, safety and aesthetics.

The content of the Alliance Newsletter is greatly shaped by its readership. Let us hear from you. Ask us questions, suggest topics for future issues, contribute material.



French or Indian? Let the JOURNEY Begin!

Two years ago when I first read that Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey were co-producing a film about two restaurants that are one hundred feet apart, separated by a road, that enter into a rivalry grounded in cultural differences. Later they come to find common ground based on exposure, learning, acceptance and respect for what is noble in the human experience, my first assumption was that it would be about a soul food restaurant and a kosher delicatessen.

I was wrong. It is the story of the owner of a long established French restaurant with a one-star Michelin rating and her disdain for the culture and cuisine of a family of restaurant owners and chefs that are forced to emigrate from India and providentially end up near Provence. The story line of the film is absolutely predictable, and for that I loved it even more. Every so often it is nice to surrender to

a vision of a world in which decency triumphs, where those with special gifts are recognized and acknowledged, and those with special gifts that are acknowledged do not lose perspective of the sources that feed the soul. And no, the producers did not rely solely on the strength of the actor Om Puri bring to in the audience. Helen Mirren makes her contribution as well – almost as much as that star performer, food. *One Hundred Foot Journey* is an homage to food and the total engagement of the senses. There are moments in the film in which the only thing more breathtaking than seeing the sun rise over the setting of the French village is seeing an egg broken and the yolk slide into the mixing bowl.

Speaking with Bob Jackson about the film, I asked if he would lease me some space in his Foodies column to talk about the marriage of movies and

menus. Cleverly I left him with the more challenging task of recommending some French and Indian restaurants that are not terribly much more than one hundred feet away from Falconbridge. These are his suggestions:

THE FRENCH RESTAURANTS:

Rue Cler • [401 E Chapel Hill St, Durham, NC 27701]

Vin Rouge • [2010 Hillsborough Road, Durham, NC 27705]

Provence • [203 W Weaver St, Carrboro, NC 27510]

THE INDIAN RESTAURANTS:

Vimala's Curryblossom Café • [431 W Franklin St Chapel Hill, NC 27516] - very casual and very "Chapel Hill" located behind Kipos

Cholanad • [308 W Franklin St, Chapel Hill, NC 27516] - a small neat bistro on Franklin Street

Mint • [504 W Franklin St, Chapel Hill, NC 27516] - a more formal place, with live sitar

– Bob Jackson & Larry Charny

● ● ● ● Cook's Corner ● ● A Few Favorites from Trader Joes

Trader Joe's has been a welcome addition to the Chapel Hill food shopping scene. It has the rare ability to offer quality products at a competitive price.

We have found some favorites which we would like to share with you.

If you want to make Eggs Benedict for a weekend brunch but don't want to make the Hollandaise Sauce, then the Hollandaise Sauce from Trader Joe's is for you. It tastes great and is easy to heat in the microwave for a few seconds. If you like Steel Cut Oatmeal for breakfast they have one that is quick to prepare and delicious topped with brown sugar, dried cranberries and almonds, all products from Trader Joes.

stews is Trader's Mirepoix, already chopped onions, carrots and celery. If you are in a hurry, the Organic Tomato and Roasted Pepper Soup is good for a quick lunch with a spinach or arugula salad on the side.

We like all things with Truffles in them, so Italian Cheese with Truffles is a must buy for us. There's even an English Cheddar Cheese with Truffles. Also Mushroom and Black Truffle Flatbread makes a great appetizer. We have just discovered the Porcini Mushroom Triangoli Truffle Ravioli which makes a quick tasty meal or starter.

For an afternoon tea break their plain crumpets or cinnamon are delicious toasted with butter, with a cup of their Irish Breakfast Tea.

For appetizers there is a cheese sampler with Iberico, Cabral Vino and Manchego Cheese, which is already cut into manageable pieces. Of course there a lot of crackers to go with them, Rosemary Italian Style Crackers and Raisin & Rosemary are favorites. Chicken Cilantro Wontons from the freezer section are a favorite quick appetizer at the moment.

Of course everyone has their favorite wines — some of ours are: Portico Daria Albarino, Primitivo Epicuro from Puglia, Pouilley Fume Savignon Blanc and Salice Salentino.

We would love to hear your favorites from Trader Joe's. Perhaps post them on Falconbridge list serve?

– Rosemary Hutchinson

A short cut for making soups or

Falconbridge Voices Heard: Will NC Legislature budge?

The Falconbridge Alliance represents the neighborhood on the Inter-Neighborhood Council (INC). This important organization works primarily with the city and county to represent the interests of all Durham neighborhoods. It has been influential in the creation of many city/county services and regulations which have improved life in Durham.

Tom Miller, a board member of INC monitors state legislation which may affect neighborhoods. It was his warning about the proposed removal of citizens' right to protest zoning changes that we passed along to you in July. Many Falconbridge residents responded with emails to our state legislators. Evidently those emails, and thousands of others, had the desired effect. Here is Tom's report on the result. Thanks to all of you who helped speak up for neighborhoods.

—JimCarroll

Will we have right to file a Zoning Change Protest Petition?

On Friday, the House and Senate conferees on Senate Bill 734 presented a proposed committee substitute for the bill which made a number of significant changes. Among these was the removal of the provision which would have repealed the right to file a zoning change protest petition. The conferees' proposed committee substitute was passed by both chambers and ratified. It has been sent to the governor for his signature.

I wish I could say with certainty what caused the conference committee members to remove the protest petition repeal provisions from the bill. I have no inside information. I cannot help but believe that your e-mails to your representatives

caused them to have a change of heart which they communicated to their leaders and to the conference committee members. This is as it should be. When the people communicate with their elected representatives, those representatives should listen and then act with the people's wishes foremost in their minds.

I am grateful to all of you who have suffered to receive so many e-mails from me and to those of you who communicated the importance of this issue not only to your representatives and senators, but to your neighbors as well. In the coming days, you may wish to thank your representatives and senators for protecting your zoning protest petition rights.

The General Assembly has not adjourned and it is still possible that some action adverse to the protest petition right may be proposed and adopted. I will do my best to observe and to keep you informed.

— Tom Miller, Durham

Interior Design

Carol E. Charny Interiors

- Carol lives/works right here in Falconbridge
- Interior design with New York flair
- Works with vetted craftsmen, painters & upholsters
- First class work delivered on time
- Reasonable hourly rates



"Let's have coffee and get creative together."

Carol Charny • 914.260.4964
carolcharny@yahoo.com

You can now buy advertising in the Falconbridge Alliance Newsletter!

Low cost, and a great way to promote your business to the Falconbridge neighborhood. Advertising proceeds help to support the Falconbridge newsletter. Email Larry Charny for details thecharnygroup@gmail.com

\$25- FOR AN 8TH PAGE

\$50- FOR A QUARTER PAGE

CLASSIFIED AD: 25 words or less: \$10,

FREE if under 18 years old

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS!!



WHY JOIN THE ALLIANCE?

With your Alliance Membership you can:

- Stay up to date on neighborhood news with our news-letter and website
- Share information with your neighbors via our listserv
- Look up a neighbor in our Falconbridge directory
- Meet your neighbors at our numerous social events
- Pursue your interests with a variety of sponsored social groups
- Participate in special members-only events
- Feel more secure knowing that Neighborhood Watch is on the lookout
- Be reassured that trained neighborhood volunteers can help your family with transportation, meals and other services if you have a short-term health or other crisis

CLICK HERE TO JOIN TODAY

Single family homes = \$50/year

Townhomes = \$20/year

WEB ACCESS

www.falconbridgealliance.org

(Falconbridge Alliance) - [Newly launched, constantly being improved, an increasingly vital source of information - progressive and historical. Do visit often.]

talismangementroup.com (Town Homes)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/falconbridge> (Listserv)

www.FalconbridgeAlliance.org/pool.html (CCF - Pool and Clubhouse)

2014 Falconbridge Alliance Board of Directors

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Nancy Laney, Vice President, Membership Chair • nrlaney@gmail.com • 919-378-1457

Lisa Anthony, Secretary, Social Co-Chair • LisaMAnthony@frontier.com • 919-402-1814

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Ed Holland, Architecture Review/Landscaping Chair • edholland@hotmail.com • 919-489-9809

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