



# falconbridge alliance

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

January 2016

Each Mon. & Thurs. 1:30pm  
MAH JONGG  
paulaclarke@nc.rr.com

Each Tues. • 1:00pm  
STUDIO TIME FOR ARTISTS  
*Painting, Mixed Media, Collage*  
annnoble@nc.rr.com

Tues. Jan. 5 • 7:00pm  
FCA BOARD MEETING  
jnoble43@nc.rr.com

Wed. Jan. 6 • 7:00pm  
BOOK CLUB  
ronitw1950@yahoo.com  
919-493-8296 (Bill Brown)

Fri. Jan 8 & 22 • 5:30pm  
TRAVELING PUB  
falconbridgepub@gmail.com

Wed. Jan. 13 • 6:30pm  
WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB  
michelle.wolff1@gmail.com

Thurs. Jan. 14 & 28  
9:30am-11:00am  
WOMEN'S COFFEE KLATCH  
judyedholland@gmail.com

Tues. Jan. 19 • 11:30am-2pm  
SPORTING LIFE CLUB  
FOR WOMEN & MEN  
*Pool/Darts/Games @ Bailey's*  
guyhickey@aol.com

Wed. Jan. 20 • 7:00pm  
3rd WED. POKER NIGHT  
jnoble43@nc.rr.com

Sat. Jan. 23 • 7:00-9:00pm  
GAME NIGHT  
RSVP: jimandbarb@nc.rr.com

Tues. Jan. 26 • 6:00pm  
BOWLING AT MARDI GRAS  
lproctor@nc.rr.com

falconbridgealliance.org

falconbridgealliance@gmail.com

## Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new year is traditionally when we resolve to do better, do more (or less), or do something new and different. I have a friend who no longer makes conventional New Year resolutions. Instead, she comes up with a theme for the year—something she wants to focus on as much as possible. It's usually a few inspiring words she can call to mind whenever she has decisions to make, big or small, and then consider her options in light of her theme (e.g., be adventurous, get in shape, practice patience).

I really like this idea. I think creating a theme for Falconbridge for the next year can help us stay focused on our top priorities as we move through 2016. For me, those priorities include growing our community spirit, encouraging more people to get involved, strengthening our connections with each other, and enhancing the already substantial benefits of living in Falconbridge. Although putting these ideas together into a single theme is a bit tricky, I suggest we adopt the theme of "Building Our Community Together."

- **Building** — because we already have a solid foundation on which we can keep adding enhancements
- **Our** — because I'm hoping everyone within Falconbridge will take ownership of making it better

### Message from Our President

- **Community** — because of the feeling of belonging that we are engendering and strive to increase
- **Together** — because we are stronger when more people are involved, contributing their insights, talents, and time toward achieving a shared vision



FCA Board: James Ashmore, Mike Mayo, Karin Kolenberg, Roger Bernholz, Robert Kintz, Harriet Crisp, John Noble, Ralph Wikstrom (Absent: Ed Holland)

We actually have a head start on this theme. Our recent [luminary lighting](#) and [potluck celebration](#) brought out record numbers of neighbors who participated in one or both events, raising just over \$6,000 for the Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill. The collaboration between the Alliance and FHA boards is making long-awaited [Clubhouse renovations](#) possible. Our [Neighborhood Watch](#) program is routinely praised by Durham police. And our many [neighbor services](#) for aging in place, [volunteer opportunities](#), and diverse [calendar of events](#) show

Continued on next page

NOTE: If your group normally meets in the Clubhouse, check with contact person to see if it's meeting elsewhere during Clubhouse renovations.

**INSIDE:** PORCH • Reimagining Falconbridge  
Pool Planning • Property Reappraisals • Cracked Pot • Did You Say Pickleball?

# Luminaries: A Wonderful Experience All Around!

I took on the job of coordinating the luminaries (for the Ronald McDonald House) because I always loved the concept of helping families with seriously ill children. I liked that it is local and is helping people of our state, and that you can just go there any time and see your dollars “at work.”

I did not really consider what I now call the “fringe benefits,” namely that I met so many nice people whose enthusiasm was contagious and who worked many hours to help collect the money, transport the kits, give out the kits, set up the bags for the common areas—all 500 of them—and transport them to the streets; not to mention the much less fun part of cleanup the next day. Also, there were the volunteers who cleaned and decorated the Clubhouse and made sure that everybody had fun.

The project was not easy, it was not always fun, but the results were great, and the great feeling of working together with people for the success of an event like this was price-



December 16, 2015  
Dear Falconbridge Neighbors;

On behalf of the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill, please accept our sincere thanks for your generous support of our 2015 Light-A-Luminary project! Your neighborhood raised \$6,205.00, which is enough to fully sponsor 73 nights for families at the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill. Our House couldn't stay open without our dedicated supporters like you!

...  
Best,  
Chase McBride  
Marketing & Communications Associate  
Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill

less. I cannot thank my neighbors enough for their help, and I am hoping that they (you) had fun working together and enjoyed the results.

—Daniella Gregory



**SPECIAL THANKS** to **Daniella Gregory**, pictured on left, (*Marsha Mayo on right*) and all the Falconbridge neighbors who helped light up the neighborhood this year. It was a wonderful display, not only of the beautiful luminaries, but of what's possible when people work together toward a shared vision.

—Alliance Board

## NEW YEAR LETTER *Cont. from page 1*

that Falconbridge is already a vibrant community where people are engaged with each other and with making our neighborhood a great place to live.

Still, I believe we can do more. There's always room for improvement, right? And the beginning of a new year is the perfect time for each of us to make or renew our commitment to making Falconbridge even better. To make sure new folks feel welcome and are included in our gatherings and groups. To encourage our neighbors, new and established,

to [join the Alliance](#), if they haven't already. To step up and volunteer for one or more of the many events that depend on volunteers to succeed. And to contribute ideas for enhancing our community over the years to come in our [reimagining Falconbridge](#) exercises starting this month. There's a way for everyone to take part, individually and collectively!

Here's to **BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER** in 2016!

— John Noble



[Join Falconbridge Alliance](#)

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

Newsletter Editor:  
Rae Thompson  
Newsletter Designer:  
Mia Prior



# December 6 Potluck Was the Best One Ever

Food and wine, food, and wine, and more food—amid the rising sounds of conversation, laughter, conversation, laughter, and more conversation. This sums up the Luminary Potluck held at the Clubhouse after the wonderful display of neighborhood wonder on December 6. The amount and variety of food choices for those who came was gratifying. Falconbridge certainly knows how to show support for the community and celebrate the season. It was great to see so many neighbors of all ages there. We were even serenaded by **Michael and Kate Neece and family** as their present to the gathering. The food line was manageable, with some people even heading back for seconds.



It's important to note that this would not have been the great event it was without all the volunteers. The same ones show up every time! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

—Harriet Crisp



## 2016 Pool Planning Is Already Underway

It's January, and most of us are thinking about the bundled-up pleasures of winter. But even in these cold days, members of the Recreational Facilities Committee (the committee formerly known as the Pool Committee) are working ceaselessly to prepare for next summer.

"Ceaselessly" is only a partial exaggeration. We are going over all the information we have about Falconbridge residents' use of the pool this past summer. We're checking the attendance logs to get a better idea of when adults and children were using the facilities, and we're examining

the results of the survey we conducted to learn what our pool users would like.

We already know that the Dawn-to-Dusk swimmers and the families with children were the most consistent visitors. People liked the drinks

**"We are trying to make it easier for families in the single-family homes to join."**

and snacks that the Committee provided at a nominal fee, and they hated the difficult-to-use lock on the door in the fence.

We also know that when the Clubhouse renovations are completed next spring, the Clubhouse is going to be used more often, and we expect

there will be more interest in the pool, too. To that end, we are trying to make it easier for families in the single-family homes to join. We're working on an installment-payment plan to ease that sticker shock that can accompany intentions to join the pool. We're trying to change the hours of operation to end confusion about when the pool is open and to extend the availability of Dawn to Dusk at the end of the season.

Our basic goal is to make the pool and the Clubhouse attractive and available to as many Falconbridge households as possible without raising the price.

— Mike Mayo

# Clubhouse Renovations: Bye-Bye Vertical Blinds, Old Kitchen Cabinets — and *Termites!*

On December 13, Recreational Facilities Committee members **Berry Gentry, Marcia Mayo, Linda McElveen, Karin and David Kolenberg, Diane Waggoner, and Lawrence Proctor**, along with FHA Board members **Marese Casey and Conni Rivers**, cleared out the Clubhouse in preparation for the meeting room demolition the following day. After gleefully pulling down the old vertical blinds and carting some things away for use in off-site meetings during the renovations, they piled remaining supplies into the rest rooms for safe keeping. The demolition itself seemed to occur with the speed of light as workers took out cabinets, tore down walls, and uncovered extensive termite damage around the main entrance. As many of us know, termites love it when we put mulch right up to wood trim or siding of our homes. The Clubhouse termites did their own demolition!

The two-to-three-month renovation is being overseen and implemented by three Falconbridgers. Alliance president and experienced contractor **John Noble** is managing the project in cooperation with the FHA and Talis Management. **Nathan Galie**, and his company Dado Design Build, is handling the demolition, carpentry, framing, trimming, and installation of the new kitchen, as well as rebuilding the entrance destroyed by termites. And, **Bob Baxter** has volunteered to do the pre-wiring for future entertainment and sound equipment.

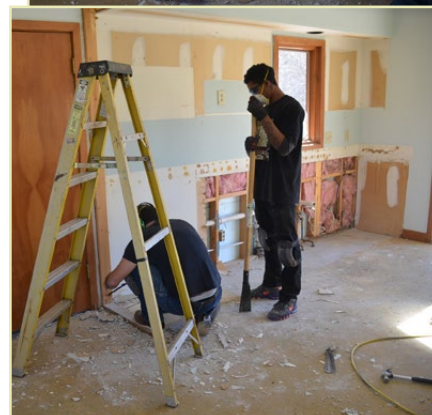
— *Rae Thompson*



*Everyone worked hard to get the job done!*



**Termites!  
Ack!**



*Extensive termite damage found around main entrance.*



## We Need More Stories!

The recent newsletter feature, "How Well Do You Know Your Neighbors?" has been put on hold while we collect more stories. If you're willing to share a story from your life as a way of connecting with fellow Falconbridgers, please contact **Rae Thompson** at 919-768-7122 or [rthompson1970@nc.rr.com](mailto:rthompson1970@nc.rr.com). She will interview you and compose a draft for you to approve. See if you can stump your neighbors. It's easy and fun! Just ask those who have already graciously volunteered.

## ANSWERS TO DECEMBER CHALLENGE

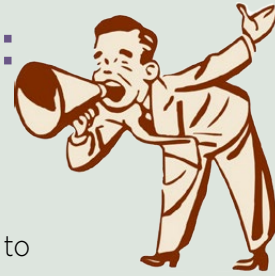
*Accosted by a Hugger:* Larry Charny  
*Liberian Rice Revolution:* Jan Richmond  
*Unlocking Math:* John Noble

## How Important Is Community?

In previous generations, people tended to raise their families in the areas where they grew up. Aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents visited frequently. Social gatherings with neighbors were common. Technology occupied a small part of daily life, which seemed slower somehow. Contrast that with today's fast-paced, over-scheduled, and technology-driven lifestyles and scattered families. It's easy to see how we can lose the sense of community that our predecessors enjoyed.

Fortunately for us in Falconbridge, that doesn't have to be the case. We live among neighbors whose vision of community has created a lively neighborhood filled with opportunities to engage with each other, provide support to those in need, and build something really special. In turn, each of us has an opportunity to take part, in big or small ways. We can join the Alliance, meet with others to reimagine the future of Falconbridge, volunteer to help at an event,

## Alliance Membership Drive: It's Time to Join/Renew!



The new year brings a time to make a fresh start and to renew old associations. January also begins the annual membership drive for the Falconbridge Alliance, a chance to renew your membership and help us add to our number by encouraging your friends and neighbors to join also. The small price of membership brings a wealth of benefits—**CONNECTIONS** to neighbors through this newsletter, the directory, and updates about activities and events; **ACCESS** to the many groups and activities sponsored by the Alliance for members and to the services of the Falconbridge Village Association; and **INFLUENCE** through electing board members, participating in the annual meeting, and having an active role in determining how our neighborhood works.

**WHAT: For single family homes** Alliance membership dues are \$50/individual and \$75/family.

**For townhomes,** Alliance membership dues are \$20/individual and \$30/family.

**WHEN:** Beginning in January. Why wait? The sooner, the better.

**WHO:** Everyone! If you live in Falconbridge, you can be a member of the Alliance.

**HOW:** It's easy! Just print out the [membership form](#) in this newsletter or go to [www.falconbridgealliance.org](http://www.falconbridgealliance.org) and click on **Falconbridge Alliance** to download it; then mail it to 21 Charrington Place, with your check for the dues.

**WHY: CONNECTIONS, ACCESS, and INFLUENCE!**

— Jamie Ashmore

*Community is not something for you, but rather by you. The health and future success of a community depends upon all of its members. For the balance to work, everyone must take responsibility within the bounds of their abilities. To be a member of a community implies that you will help the group, bringing your gifts to the table.*

— Sandy Atkins

attend the Traveling Pub, join various groups, or become a member of the Welcome Committee or Friends.

Research shows that people of all ages who feel a sense of belonging tend to lead happier and healthier lives, and strong communities create a more stable and supportive society.

In an article in *Generations: Journal of the American Society on Aging*, Sandy Atkins states, "Community is about sharing our gifts with each other—giving and receiving, reciprocity, and value. Each individual brings something to the community and the community as a whole contributes to the well-being of the individual." She goes on to talk about the importance of community in filling our inherent

need for connection. And while she focuses on aging baby boomers, it seems her concepts—like interdependence, paying it forward, and broadening the definition of giving—can apply to all generations, especially in today's highly mobile society.

— Rae Thompson

NOTE: Sandy Atkins is vice president of the Institute for Change/Research Center at Partners in Care Foundation in San Fernando, California. Check out her full article: "[We're Better Together: The Gifts, Responsibilities and Joys of Aging in Community.](#)"



## 2016 Membership Application/Membership Renewal Form ANNUAL DUES

### Single-family homes:

One Person: \$50

Two or more: \$75

### Town homes:

One Person: \$20

Two or more: \$30

Please mail or deliver your check along with this form for new and renewal membership

*(Your information might have changed from last year)*

**Mail checks to: Falconbridge Alliance, 21 Charrington Place, Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

Questions? Contact **James Ashmore** at **919-699-3263** or [jashmore1@nc.rr.com](mailto:jashmore1@nc.rr.com)



*Please print clearly—this information will be included in the Neighborhood Directory (provided ONLY to residents who are Alliance members)*

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

Landline/Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Adult Resident 1:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Adult Resident 2:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount enclosed** *(please make membership check payable to Falconbridge Alliance):* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*

[Falconbridgealliance.org](http://Falconbridgealliance.org)

**\*** *If you would like to make an additional tax deductible donation for neighborhood improvements or in support of aging-in-place activities, make your check out to the FVA and send it to 21 Charrington Place, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. Thank you!*

# Reimagining Falconbridge: Back to the Future

You may or may not have seen my emails inviting you to participate in the new “Reimagining Initiative” that I have agreed to spearhead under the auspices of the Alliance. I am grateful that the Board trusts me with this project and am honored to take on this worthwhile work. Here are the details.



I will be convening groups of five or six participants at a time, over the next few months, starting in January. Each group session will last approximately two hours and result in a list of possibilities and priorities. Once the groups are wrapped up, we will convene a follow-up committee to sort through and report on the ideas proposed. That report, with a set of actionable recommendations, will go to the Alliance Board for consideration.

We have been significantly enriched as a community by the outcomes of the “Imagining Initiative” that took place in 2009 (and before)—from the Traveling Pub to the work of the Friends, to various clubs, and Clubhouse events, luminaries, and everything in between. The purpose of this 2016 exercise is to envision the future while preserving what we have already. I’m looking for fresh thinking from Falconbridgers of all ages, especially from new arrivals (since 2009), as well as those who have lived here longer.

Just to be clear: participating in a group will be a short-term brainstorming/blue sky adventure, involving the

## HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

Calling forth all “gray matter” (and blonde, brunette, and au-burn matter). Now is the time to ensure your voice is heard. If you’re interested and willing to bring your ideas to this important and exciting adventure, please contact **Marese Casey** ASAP at **919-493-3836** or [marese.casey@gmail.com](mailto:marese.casey@gmail.com).



sharing of ideas and wishes. You will not be required to do anything other than offer your thoughts about how you want to see our community grow. No heavy lifting!

As project lead (i.e., ring leader) I have benefitted, and will continue to benefit, from the advice and guidance of the Alliance Board (**Ed Holland** is my liaison), **Jan Richmond, Rae Thompson, Bolton Anthony, and Paula Clarke**. Thanks to them and, in advance, to all of you who volunteer to help reimagine the future of Falconbridge.

— Marese Casey



## Health Benefits of Volunteering

There is a growing body of research indicating that volunteering provides individual health benefits in addition to social benefits. It shows that those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer. Some of these findings also indicate that volunteers who devote a “considerable” amount of time to volunteer activities (about 100 hours per year) are most likely to exhibit positive health outcomes. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Don't forget to contact me for all your Real Estate needs & be sure to ask for the PERKS of listing with me!**

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- Homeowner Since 1988
- Falconbridge Specialist
  - Competitive



**Robbie Davis**

**Broker Associate**  
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[rdavis@fmrealty.com](mailto:rdavis@fmrealty.com)



# How *You* Can Help Build Our Community

It takes lots of people to make our Falconbridge neighborhood great! Consider joining many of your neighbors as a volunteer in any of the areas listed below. Or, if you have other ideas for helping our community or are willing to be on our list of Volunteers on Call (to help with short-term or one-time projects), please contact any Alliance Board member. Your participation is most welcome and deeply appreciated!

- ◆ **Advertising Manager:** Our monthly newsletter and directory have fairly substantive costs associated with them. We need someone (our own Mad Man) to market and sell ad space in both publications to local businesses to help defray the costs. Contact **John Noble** at **770-313-0194** or [jnoble43@nc.rr.com](mailto:jnoble43@nc.rr.com).



- ◆ **Luminaries Program Coordinator and Helpers:** The Luminaries program is very popular and a wonderful way to work with each other to usher in the holiday season. The job includes work in November and the first two weeks in December to send notices to residents, collect orders, recruit block captains, and order supplies from Ronald McDonald House. The reward comes on that magic night in December when the streets of Falconbridge glow. Contact **Daniella Gregory** at **919-401-9599** or [falconbridgeluminaries@gmail.com](mailto:falconbridgeluminaries@gmail.com).



- ◆ **Neighbor Services/Falconbridge Friends:** The Friends teams respond to requests from neighbors recovering from surgery or with illnesses who need a variety of non-medical assistance, especially meals, transportation, social visits, and help around the house. This is the most direct form of neighbors helping neighbors. Contact **Paula Clarke** at **919-489-0133** or [paulaclarke@nc.rr.com](mailto:paulaclarke@nc.rr.com), **Nona Saling** at **919-419-7888** or [nsaling@gmail.com](mailto:nsaling@gmail.com), or **Ronit Weingarden** at **919-489-9975** or [ronitw1950@yahoo.com](mailto:ronitw1950@yahoo.com).



- ◆ **Neighborhood Watch (NW) Block Captains:** The Falconbridge Neighborhood Watch (NW) program is supported by the Durham Police Dept. Its purpose is to monitor our neighborhood for potential criminal activity and to educate residents concerning crime-prevention strategies. Block captains are the communications link between NW and the residents of individual streets. Contact **Mike Mayo** at **973-722-4772** or [mikewmayo@gmail.com](mailto:mikewmayo@gmail.com).



- ◆ **Outdoor Maintenance Manager and Helpers:** The Alliance hires a professional landscaper to mow and do basic maintenance on the two entrances along Farrington Road. But we need volunteers' help with minor landscaping and maintenance at those entries, as well as with other neighborhood issues. The work is occasional, yet we need someone who cares about how the neighborhood looks. Contact **Ed Holland** at **919-489-9809** or [edholland@hotmail.com](mailto:edholland@hotmail.com).



- ◆ **Social Event Helpers:** The Alliance sponsors many social events each year, but they only work when volunteers take charge of decorating, shopping for supplies, hosting and cleaning up. It's a great way to meet new neighbors and contribute to the neighborhood. Contact **Harriet Crisp** at **919-490-2080** or [hwcrisp@gmail.com](mailto:hwcrisp@gmail.com).



- ◆ **Welcome Committee Members:** This group keeps track of home sales in Falconbridge and welcomes new neighbors with a warm smile and a packet of information. Members explain the many social organizations and resources in the community and help new residents find their way. Contact **Michelle Wolff** at **919-401-6609** or [michelle.wolff1@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.wolff1@gmail.com) (for single-family homes) or **Marcia Mayo** at **919-908-6984** or [marciasmayo@gmail.com](mailto:marciasmayo@gmail.com) (for townhomes).





## Reflections from the Mind and Heart of a Falconbridge Friends Volunteer

Did you know that more than 64 million Americans volunteered for an organization at least once in the past year, clocking in more than eight billion hours, for an estimated value of nearly \$169,000,000,000? These are the numbers reported in "Volunteering and Civic Life in America," which was issued by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the National Conference on Citizenship in September 2015.

I am just a grain of sand represented in these statistics, but I know I make a difference. Here are ten reasons why I volunteer:

10. It feels good.
9. A helping hand makes the recipient feel good or better.
8. I meet new people and make new friends.
7. I learn from those I help because they have so much to impart.
6. I see things from a different perspective.
5. I feel a part of a community.
4. I want to be the smiling face at the door like so many smiling faces that came to my door during a time of great need.
3. I know I make a difference, as small as it may be, in someone else's life.
2. Volunteering is a small investment of time with huge returns.
1. I help others because they inspire me.

—Falconbridge Friends Volunteer

*I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.*

— Helen Keller

*You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.*

— Winston Churchill

### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

is available for loan to Falconbridge Alliance members through the Falconbridge Friends.

Supplies include **walkers, bedside commodes, shower chairs, and more.**

Please contact **Claudia Stephens at 919-490-1397 or 919-593-5828.**

## Need Help? Please Ask!



What do you do when you're told you need surgery and won't be able to drive afterward while taking pain medication, and you live by yourself? Or if you suddenly find yourself unable to do things around your home? Or if you're a caregiver who needs a break? And what if you are alone with young children and there is a sudden situation requiring you to leave?

**Contact: Paula Clarke (919-489-0133)**

**Ronit Weingarden (919-489-9975) or Nona Saling (919-419-7888)**

They will work to find neighbors who will help you discreetly. You can also get practical support via social visits, and grocery and medicine runs.

P.S. If you need transportation services, go to the [Falconbridge website](#) and click on Neighbor Services to find volunteers.

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# 2016 Property Reappraisals: What You Need to Know

By now you should have received your 2016 property reappraisal notice, along with brochures designed to help you with financial assistance or an appeal, as appropriate.

Durham County is responsible by statute to reappraise all properties within the county at least once every eight years. This process of taking a market value “snapshot” of all real property in the county, as of January 1 of the reappraisal year, applies to all vacant and improved land, whether residential, commercial, agricultural, or industrial. That market value becomes the tax value for every year until the next reappraisal occurs, with a few important exceptions (such as new construction or a change in zoning).

When one of the exceptions occurs to an individual property, its market

value will be adjusted using the rates developed for the most recent reappraisal. For example, if a house is built in 2018 on a lot that was vacant in 2016, the new house and lot will be appraised using 2016 market values.

According to the county website, market value is not determined by the tax office; rather, market value is determined by the actual activity in the local market. Not surprisingly, property values in the county change at different rates. For example, there might be a lot of growth in one area that causes market values to increase faster there than in other parts. Since property taxes are based on property values,



unequal changes in values means some property owners pay more than their share, while others pay less. The purpose of the reappraisal is to reset all property values back to market value, so that the property tax burden is spread fairly across all taxpayers.

To find out more about how reappraisal works, how your tax value is determined, what market value is and is not, when you will be notified, and how to appeal your 2016 appraisal plus much more, go to the [Durham County Tax Administration website](#). You might also check with your neighbors or share ideas or concerns on the Falconbridge listserv.

## CHIPS FROM A CRACKED POT: Don't You Just Love New Year Resolutions?

There's something about making New Year resolutions that fires one up! "This is the year I WILL \_\_\_\_\_." You can fill in the blank as you wish, but may we offer a resolution for all? Get involved!



Get up close and personal with your dirt. Yes, get to know your soil—its composition, nutrients, wants, needs, and already has(es). North Carolina offers free soil analysis at the Blue Ridge road facility in Raleigh (although not during high-demand

periods). The Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill will send your sample in for you, if you get it to them. Results are sent to you electronically, and the explanation of results as well. For example, did you know that soil contains a lot of air? This provides the room for roots to grow, and for water and nutrients to move through. Your neighbors' trees will love your loving care of your soil too!

Yes, you can love getting involved with your neighbors as a gardener. There are so many stories to share about which plant succeeded, which one did not. You can enjoy participating with others when you are passionate about something. I happen to think that gardening is as interesting as wine! Both have helped me meet people I might not have met, make

new friends, and broaden my education. Sharing knowledge, tips and techniques, sources and tools, helps to make our community just that much better.

This year, also resolve to: Mulch! Mulch! And more Mulch! A three-inch depth of mulch around a tree is a wonderful thing to give a tree and all of us who enjoy your trees. Not more than that or you'll suffocate the roots.

And finally, resolve to: NOT plant anything invasive! Plenty of lists and websites abound to advise you. A competent sales clerk at a garden center and at least one big box store can advise.

Oh, and, this year, resolve to plan before you plant! Keep 'em growin'!

— Mary McClure

# Strike Plates Can Help Prevent BREAK-INS

We recently experienced another break-in. It followed the familiar pattern for these crimes. It appears that our perpetrators are on the lower end of the burglary/thuggery spectrum. This is how they work: After knocking on the front door and finding nobody home, they either kick in the front door or go around to the back and break a door or slider. Police theorize that privacy provided by the dwelling design, shrubbery around the door, or distance from neighbors is the key factor in which entrance the thieves decide to use.

You can strengthen or harden your entry door by replacing a conventional strike plate with a security strike plate that's thicker and held in place with longer (3"+) screws. Over the past couple of years, we have had two programs where we contracted a home repair firm to replace strike plates for a large number of Falconbridge single-family homes and townhomes, thereby reducing the cost. It's probably time to have another round of replacements. If you're interested, contact one of us.

In the most recent case, however, a heavy-duty strike plate had been installed. It was the wooden door itself that failed. (See picture.) So, should you consider replacing your entire door?

It's not an inexpensive proposition, and it's not a job that most home handymen—or should that be handypersons?—can handle. For openers, you'll probably want to replace both the door and the frame. Then you've got to decide on the material. The most popular are steel, fiberglass, and wood. Generally, prices range from \$150 to more than \$1,000. Professional installation can add as much as another \$1,000. And, do you



want to spend that much money on the front door while you may have a back door or patio door or window that is equally vulnerable?

If you'd like to get a more experienced evaluation of your home's security strengths and weaknesses, contact PAC-3 Community Resource Officer **Lawanda Mock**. She will conduct a walk-through of your home and tell you how to lessen your property's "curb appeal" to the would-be criminal. Her assessment focuses on physical security, electronic security, procedural security and CEPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). You can contact her at **919-560-4404** ext.29417 (Office) or [Lawanda.Mock@durhamnc.gov](mailto:Lawanda.Mock@durhamnc.gov).

For more information about entry doors, check [Consumer Reports](#). You might also check Angie Hicks' recent article, "[Should I Fortify My Front Door Frame?](#)" in the *Raleigh News & Observer*.

— Mike Mayo,  
[Mikewmayo@gmail.com](mailto:Mikewmayo@gmail.com)

— Conni Rivers  
[riverstilbury@yahoo.com](mailto:riverstilbury@yahoo.com)



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2016 PORCH pick-ups/food sorts will occur on the following Mondays:

**January 25, February 22, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 8, September 19, October 17, November 14, December 5.**

Please consider donating to this all-volunteer grassroots organization that assists local families in need. For more information, visit the [PORCH WEBSITE](#) or feel free to contact **Judy Ray** at [judy.a.ray@gmail.com](mailto:judy.a.ray@gmail.com).



## Mark Hewitt: A Local Potter and Great “American” Master

It is a delight to attend the kiln openings that Mark Hewitt holds at his pottery studio just outside Pittsboro, usually three times a year. The next opening will be toward the end of April.

Born in Stoke-on-Trent in England (he still follows the soccer team!), Mark is the son and grandson of directors of Spode, fine china manufacturers. Whilst at Bristol University he decided that, rather than enter into a management role as family members before him had done, he wanted to become a studio potter. After a three-year apprenticeship with Michael Cardew, and later Todd Piker in Connecticut, Mark came to Pittsboro with his wife Carol in 1983.

They bought a rundown farmhouse, remodeled it, and built a very large kiln using local clays and blends.

Mark is well known for his distinctive wood-fired, salt, and alkaline glazed stoneware, which he makes using local North Carolina clays and glazing materials. His pottery ranges from tableware, mugs, bowls, pitchers, and jars to very large garden planters, vases, sentinels, and tall jars. He has won many awards and been featured in many prestigious magazines. Recently he was chosen for the United States Fellows Award for 2015, which he considers a great honor.

Check out Mark’s website for more information. And do make sure you get on Mark’s mailing list so you don’t miss his future kiln openings, where you can enjoy North Carolina pottery at its best!

—Rosemary A. Hutchinson

### Mark Hewitt Pottery

424 Johnny Burke Road

Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-542-2371

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



## Pickleball: A Fun Game with a Funny Name

Two years ago I read an article in the *News and Observer* about Pickleball, a game that was becoming increasingly popular in the United States. Invented in the state of Washington by parents who wanted to keep their kids busy (their dog Pickles would chase the balls, hence the name), it became popular with adults as well.





Pickleball has elements of ping pong, badminton, and tennis. It’s played on a badminton-sized court (similar in size to the inside lines of a tennis court) with paddles similar to ping pong but larger, and with heavy-duty wiffle balls. The game can be played by people of any age and skill level. You can play a social, easy game, or competitive game. I started playing last February and love it!

The closest place to play is at the Estes Community Center in Chapel Hill (across from University Place). There is a great group of people eager to introduce the sport to new players. It costs nothing (Yes, it’s FREE, and they even provide a paddle!). Plus, since it is played in the community center’s gym, you can play all winter in comfort.

If you are interested in seeing the game in action, Google “pickleball” or simply go to the Estes Community Center to check it out. Pickleball is played Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Visitors (and new players) are always welcome!

— Barb Carroll

**Falconbridge Calendar: January 2016**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<p><b>NOTE: If your group normally meets in the Clubhouse, check with contact person to see if it's meeting elsewhere during Clubhouse renovations.</b></p>				<p>1</p> 	2
3	<p>4 MAH JONGG 1:30pm</p>	<p>5 ARTISTS STUDIO 1:00pm</p> <p>ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING 7:00pm</p>	6 BOOK CLUB 7:00pm	7 MAH JONGG 1:30pm	8 TRAVELING PUB 5:30-7:30pm	9
10	<p>11 MAH JONGG 1:30pm</p>	12 ARTISTS STUDIO 1:00pm	13 WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB 6:30pm	14 COFFEE KLATCH 9:30-11:30am	15 MAH JONGG 1:30pm	16
17	<p>18</p>  <p>MAH JONGG 1:30pm</p>	19 SPORTING LIFE 11:30am-2:00pm	20 POKER NIGHT 7:00pm	21	22 TRAVELING PUB 5:30-7:30pm	23 GAME NIGHT 7:00pm
24	<p>25 MAH JONGG 1:30pm</p> <p>PORCH PICKUP</p>	26 ARTISTS STUDIO 1:00pm	27 BOWLING 6:00pm	28 COFFEE KLATCH 9:30-11:30am	28	30/31

**ALLIANCE-SPONSORED SOCIAL GROUPS**

**FOR ALL NEIGHBORS:**

MARDI GRAS BOWLING Lawrence Proctor: [lproctor@nc.r.com](mailto:lproctor@nc.r.com)  
 SPORTING LIFE CLUB Guy Hickey: [guyhickey@aol.com](mailto:guyhickey@aol.com)  
 TRAVELING PUB Barb Carroll: [falconbridgepub@gmail.com](mailto:falconbridgepub@gmail.com)

**FOR ALLIANCE MEMBERS:**

BOOK CLUB\* Ronit Weingarden: [ronitw1950@yahoo.com](mailto:ronitw1950@yahoo.com) / Bill Brown: **919-493-8296**  
 GAME NIGHT GROUP\* Barb Carroll: [jimandbarb@nc.rr.com](mailto:jimandbarb@nc.rr.com)  
 MAH JONGG\* Paula Clarke: [paulaclarke@nc.rr.com](mailto:paulaclarke@nc.rr.com)  
 STUDIO TIME FOR ARTISTS\* Ann Noble: [annnoble@nc.rr.com](mailto:annnoble@nc.rr.com)  
 THIRD WEDNESDAY POKER\* John Noble: [jnoble43@nc.rr.com](mailto:jnoble43@nc.rr.com)  
 WOMEN'S COFFEE KLATCH\* Judy Holland: [judyedholland@gmail.com](mailto:judyedholland@gmail.com)

**FOR SPECIFIC CLUB/GROUP MEMBERS** (size/space constraints: additional chapters possible):

DINING CAR CLUB\* Liz Hallgren: [lhallgren@nc.rr.com](mailto:lhallgren@nc.rr.com)  
 WINE TASTING GROUP\* Ron Hutchinson: [roseron61@gmail.com](mailto:roseron61@gmail.com)  
 WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB Michelle Wolff: [michelle.wolff1@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.wolff1@gmail.com)

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



### WHY JOIN THE ALLIANCE?

With your Alliance Membership you can:

- Stay up to date on neighborhood news with our newsletter 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 interests with a variety of sponsored social groups
- Participate in special members-only events
- Feel more secure with our Neighborhood Watch
- 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, \$75 (2 or more)  
 Townhomes = \$20/year, \$30 (2 or more)

## WEB ACCESS

[www.falconbridgealliance.org](http://www.falconbridgealliance.org)

(Falconbridge Alliance) – [Constantly being improved, an increasingly vital source of information – progressive and historical. Do visit often.]

[FalconbridgeHOA.org](http://FalconbridgeHOA.org)  
(Town Homes)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/falconbridge](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/falconbridge)  
(Listserv)

[www.FalconbridgeAlliance.org/pool](http://www.FalconbridgeAlliance.org/pool)  
(Pool and Clubhouse)

## 2016 Falconbridge Alliance Board of Directors

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