## **Old West Durham Neighborhood Association**

DIVERSITY • HARMONY • COMMUNITY

Durham, North Carolina 27705





What is the Old West Durham Neighborhood Association?



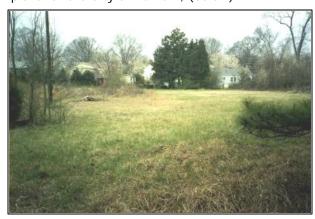
We are a group of neighborhood residents working together to strengthen the sense of community in OWD and to preserve and enhance the quality of life in OWD. Our neighborhood stretches from Broad Street west to Hillandale Road and from Englewood Avenue south to the Durham Freeway. The area around Erwin Mills, Ninth Street and the old mill village is listed on the National Register of Historic Districts.

### What does OWDNA do?

- **Traffic calming**: Worked hard to get traffic circles and four-way stop signs at our busiest intersections,
- **Building a traffic island** at Lawndale & Hillsborough to slow cars coming off Hillsborough,
- Made every residential street 25 MPH.
- Community events: Spring Picnic enjoy good food & good company, OWD Fall Picnic - neighborhood gathering,
- Night of Lights holiday neighborhood luminaries, canned food drive,
- Walking tours introduced OWD to Rep. David Price, Mayor Nick Tennyson and many others,
- **Development issues**: Held 75 meetings and phone calls with the developers and the City on the very exciting plans for "Ninth Street North," (below)



- Worked with surrounding neighborhoods to convince the owner of the Broad Street BP gas station to change his "Interstate" design to the smaller pitched-roof design you see today,
- Sponsored a board member to take a planning and zoning class at Duke,
- Keeping a watchful eye on plans for regional rail and the future development of Erwin Square.
- Quality of life: Succeeded in getting the City Council
  to commit \$150,000 toward the "South Ellerbe Creek
  Natural Area" -- making the creation of a
  neighborhood green space part of the long-range
  plans for the City of Durham, (below)



- Secured funding for a new sidewalk connecting Edith Street with Ninth,
- Added 100 new street lights,
- Working with landlords to protect housing rights,
- Organized five clean-ups of our green space, three clean-ups of the Erwin Mills cemetery, and worked with a number of Duke fraternities to pick up litter along the length of Hillsborough Road and several vacant lots in the neighborhood.
- **Public safety**: Ongoing involvement with Partners Against Crime,
- Received a \$2000 Partners Against Crime grant for flood lights and deadbolt locks (to enhance home security) and for neighborhood t-shirts and bumper stickers (to help build community).
- Neighborhood web site: For a history and old photos
  of West Durham and to find out what OWDNA does,
  check out our award winning web site at
  www.owdna.org. Residents can join the OWDNA
  listserv and message board.

Along the way, our neighborhood association has been honored by the Historic Preservation Society of Durham, Preservation North Carolina, the Library of Congress, the Herald-Sun's "Durham Grit" award, and the Independent Weekly's "Citizen Award" (for "tireless dedication to making our community a better place to live").

# Awards and recognition received by OWDNA

2000

Carraway Preservation Award (statewide)

Pyne Preservation Award (local)

Designated a Local Legacy, Library of Congress (national)

1999

Semi-Finalist, Global Information Infrastructure Award (national)

1998

Citizen's Award from the Indy Weekly (local)



Ninth Street is Old West Durham's business district – home of many eclectic shops and trendy bistros.

## How can I get involved with OWDNA?

If you'd like to be more involved you can attend monthly board meetings, join the OWDNA board, participate in OWDNA events, or get involved in OWDNA activities that interest you.

You can become an active OWDNA member by paying annual membership dues of \$5/person. This membership fee entitles you to vote on issues at board meetings and it helps support the work OWDNA is doing in the neighborhood.

For information, contact us at: mail@owdna.org or 286-6045

#### Join OWDNA!

Fill out this form and send a check or money order, *made* payable to Old West Durham Neighborhood Association, and mail to: OWDNA, c/o Emily Wexler, 1014 Rosehill Avenue, Durham, NC 27705

#### **OWDNA Membership Application**

DUES: Membership is \$5 a year per household adult, renewing in April, and it includes the association's print edition of the newsletter.

Name:	
Address:	
Phone: _	
Email:	
Date:	

## Map of Old West Durham



#### What People Are Saying about Old West Durham

"Congratulations and thank you for helping get useful information to the citizens of Durham! We in the Durham Police Department are proud of your efforts to connect our community and to use technology to continually improve all aspects of our City."

-- Teresa Chambers, Chief of Police

"[OWD website is] a great example of neighbors working together to stabilize and improve an old neighborhood."

-- NC Historic Preservation Office

"Old West Durham a local legacy in Library of Congress. Neighborhood is an American pie slice of life."

-- News & Observer

"Whereas, hit by the horror of hate crimes in their neighborhood, residents came together to support the victims and establish the Old West Durham Neighborhood Association... Now, therefore, I, Nicholas J. Tennyson, Mayor of the City of Durham, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 17, 1998 as "Old West Durham Day" in Durham and hereby urge all citizens to take special note of this observance."

-- Nick Tennyson, mayoral proclamation

The Historic Preservation Society of Durham bestowed the Pyne Historic Preservation Awards to seven exciting preservation projects in Durham which included for the first time an internet web site dedicated to a Historic District in the city (Old West Durham).

-- Denise Barnes, president

"Last Saturday, about 65 people -- many of them descendants of people buried in the cemetery, -- cleared brush and brambles from the historic cemetery... We bestow upon Schelp, the Old West Durham Neighborhood Association and all who cleaned up Erwin Mills Cemetery our Durham Grit Award."

-- Durham Herald-Sun