

Dear Neighbors:

We are so grateful to be together in the neighborhood during these times. It had been our hope that by this time the worst of the Coronavirus/Covid menace would be over. Unfortunately, it seems to be getting worse. Out of concern for everyone's safety, our 71st annual July 4 Parade and celebration will happen, but will be dramatically pared down. We hope you understand. Here's how it will work:

The Parade

Marchers

Marchers in the parade will be limited to two groups of no more than 25 persons, and **all marchers will be required to wear a mask and stay six feet apart**. Persons marching in the parade will be chosen through a lottery (more below). The marchers will carry the original 48-, 49-, and 50- star US flags and the NC flag that have led the parade since its early days. Marchers may also carry other flags of their choosing if they wish. We suggest flags that mean most to those who carry them – the flag of a home state or home country, for example.

To involve more people in the parade as marchers and as spectators, the parade route has been expanded. The first group of 25 marchers will start at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Oakland and West Club and march along the sidewalk to Alabama Avenue where they will turn north and march to Sprunt Avenue. There, they will turn east on Sprunt and march to Oakland Avenue. At the intersection of Oakland Avenue and Sprunt, the first group of marchers will hand off the original flags to the second group of 25 marchers who will carry them along the second half of the route. Of course, we will wipe down the poles at the hand-off. The first group of marchers will disperse. The second group of marchers will then proceed further east along Sprunt to Carolina Avenue where they will turn south and march to Club Boulevard. At Club, they will march along the sidewalk back to Oval Park where they will disperse. This route is reasonably accessible, passes a lot of homes, and avoids significant hills and major street crossings.

Spectators

This longer route will allow more spectators to watch the parade at a safe social distance. **We ask everyone, including spectators, to please wear a mask.** We encourage folks who do not live along the parade route to come to the parade route and cheer their marching neighbors along. **Spectators should avoid gathering into crowds.** Spectators are also encouraged to display flags.

Pledge of Allegiance and Singing - Together, But Apart

In addition to the parade, we have always recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sung songs. We usually do this in Oval park, but this year we cannot gather safely in the

park and city officials have asked us not to do so. Instead, at 11:00 a.m., we ask everyone who wishes to recite the pledge to do so on their own front walk in family groups. After the Pledge, we invite the disinhibited among us with strong singing voices to sing "This Land is Your Land." Of course you may sing other patriotic songs as well if the spirit moves you. If recitation and singing on your doorstep seems a little strange to you, we can only agree, but it could be pretty cute with the right participants. Share your videos.

A Cold Soft Drink

Our July 4 event has always closed with an ice-cold soft drink. Usually we share it together in the park, but this year we ask you to have a soda or lemonade at home.

Giving Generously

This year, we encourage everyone to celebrate the Fourth by making a contribution of food and money through our neighborhood Mutual Aid effort. The food and money will be used by two community food pantries ([Believers United for Progress](#) in Hayti, and [Iglesia Emanuel](#) in Colonial Village) that help our Durham neighbors especially hard hit by the Coronavirus shut-downs. Read below to find out how! And if you have any questions, you can reach out to Tom Miller at tom-miller1@nc.rr.com or Betsy Barton at bb3579@frontier.com.

Starting right now, you can drop off donations at any of these three homes of our neighbors. (You can also look for a food collection wagon, which will be pulled along the parade route!)

1. Rachel Holtzman: 2136 Sprunt Avenue
2. Betsy Barton: 2018 Woodrow Street
3. Marian Abernathy: 2221 West Club Blvd

Wondering what type of things to drop off? You can donate any non-perishable food items (plastic, cardboard, and other non-glass containers preferred). Boxes of cereal and pasta are especially helpful! Masks (home-made or store bought) and diaper donations are also welcome. Any items you drop off will be taken inside for safe keeping. During the week of July 6th, we will gather all the donations and divide them among the two food pantries.

Wondering what to do if you don't have physical items to donate, but would like to donate money? You can do any of the following:

1. Send money to Betsy Barton's Paypal (paypal.me/bb3579). All money donated will be used to go buy groceries for the two community food pantries.
2. Donate directly to Believers United for Progress, [here](#) (the donate button is on the right hand side of their homepage)

3. Donate directly to Iglesia Emanuel, [here](#) (the donate button is on the upper right hand side of their homepage) [or send a check to "Iglesia Emanuel" with memo "food pantry/despensa" to 2504 N Roxboro Rd., Durham, 27704)

The Parade Lottery

All persons who wish to march in the parade are asked to submit their names to Tom Miller, tom-miller1@nc.rr.com , not later than July 1. Please put "PARADE LOTTERY" in your subject line. By submitting your name for the lottery you agree to wear a mask and maintain strict social distancing at all times during the parade. **Persons who have tested positive for Covid 19, who are running a temperature, or who have been exposed to someone who has COVID are asked not to participate in the lottery.** You may submit a single name or up to five names for a group living in the same household. We will draw the names of participants and let you know who will be marching.

Thanks

We know this is a lot of rules for an event that is traditionally sort of free form and just fun. **But if we cooperate together and follow all of the safety rules, we can maintain our tradition, be safe, and have fun!** July 4 will come around again next year. Let's hope by then we will have overcome the circumstances that constrain our celebration this year.

Tom Miller

July 4 event coordinator