

FEBRUARY 2026

Parkwood Press



The Parkwood Association Neighborhood Newsletter

Hello February



**EASTER
EGG HUNT**
March 29th at 2 pm



Sedwick Park

Mark your
calendar for our
neighborhood
events coming up
this Spring!

**Parkwood
Spring Flea Market**

May 2nd - 8 am-Noon



5122 Revere Road



By Mike Brooks

It's the largest edible fruit native to North America, but it's frequently called America's secret fruit. Its flavor might remind you of something tropical. It's a little like eating a papaya, and like many tropical fruits with distinctive and sometimes acquired tastes, it can't be transported very well. You're better off growing it on your own, and in so doing, re-discovering the primordial delight of eating perfectly ripe fruit directly from the tree.

This mystery fruit is the Pawpaw, but it hasn't always been a secret. Pawpaws were cultivated from time immemorial by Native Americans, and George Washington allegedly loved eating them for dessert, chilled. So then why have so many people never heard of, let alone seen (or actually eaten), a pawpaw?

Easy-bruising pawpaws have a short shelf life and don't fit the business model of modern big agriculture: growing adapted varieties of fruits and vegetables which can be picked unripened and shipped across the country and across the globe.

A pawpaw is a little like a green tomato — if you pick an heirloom tomato off the vine before it's started to ripen, it will never ripen correctly (and you don't want to eat one that's hard — it won't taste right). When a pawpaw's texture resembles a ripe peach or avocado, with a little give when you press lightly, that means it's ready to eat, and preferably right away.

The flavor of a pawpaw is comparable to a blend of banana and pineapple, maybe with a hint of melon and mango. While this certainly sounds delicious, it takes some effort to prepare it for eating. First, you have to remove the skin; you can use a knife or a potato peeler, but it's easier to just cut off one end, squish out the fruit and remove the large brown seeds which run through the center — winding up with ready-made pureé, plus seeds to plant. Don't eat the seeds — they're slightly toxic.



Pawpaws grow from the Great Lakes down to portions of the Florida Panhandle. In 1541, conquistador Hernando de Soto's expedition recorded Native Americans growing and eating pawpaws in the Mississippi Valley. The members of the Lewis and Clark expedition ate pawpaws for pleasure, and, for a period in Missouri in 1806, subsistence. John James Audubon painted yellow-billed cuckoos on a pawpaw branch. Early European settlers enjoyed pawpaws for centuries, spreading them as far west as Kansas. And even though they had to clear pawpaw trees to create farmable land, immigrant settlers savored pawpaw fruit — often the only fresh fruit available nearby. There are towns named Paw Paw in Michigan, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Oklahoma.

Continued on page 4

Parkwood Board

2025 - 2026

Marie Dean, President, Dist.8

Janie Long, Vice Pres. Dist. 4

Vickie Wheeler, Secretary, Dist. 2

George Greene, Treasurer, Dist.5

Dist 1: Diane Wright*

Dist 1: OPEN

Dist 2: Chris Classen

Dist 3: Richard Evert

Dist 3: OPEN

Dist 4: OPEN

Dist 5: OPEN

Dist 6: Bobetta Clark-Jones*

Dist 6: OPEN

Dist 7: Felipe Rodriguez

Dist 7: OPEN

Dist 8: Liz Scisco

*Serving At-Large

The PA Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm via Zoom

Parkwood on Social Media

ParkwoodNC Google Group

<https://groups.google.com/g/parkwoodnc>

Parkwood on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ParkwoodNC>

Parkwood on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/parkwoodnc/>

Parkwood's Website

Familiar Parkwood Resources and more can be found at our website,

<https://parkwoodnc.org/>

Advertise in Parkwood Press

Place your Business Card, Quarter Page, Half or Full Page Ad in our newsletter.

Email the Parkwood Association Office for pricing and further details,
pa.office@parkwoodnc.org.

Parkwood Office

Parkwood Association

1417 Seaton Road

Durham, NC 27713

Phone: (919) 544-2161

Email: pa.office@parkwoodnc.org

Website: parkwoodnc.org

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30 - 5:00 pm

Laura Denny, our office administrator, is available by email or phone. Please allow 24 hours for a reply.

Mailing Payments

If you mail payments for Parkwood Association dues, including via your Bank's Bill Pay, please take note of these critical reminders:

- All payments go to PPM, not to our Parkwood Office.
- Mail checks to PO Box 1379 Commerce, GA 30529
- Do not mail payments to PPM's physical office. Doing so will delay processing, which can result in late fees.
- Make checks payable to Parkwood Association. Do not make checks payable to PPM.

These are important to avoid delays and to serve you more efficiently.

Customers can sign up for automatic draft by visiting PPM's website, <https://ppmral.com/ppm-automatic-draft-form>

Continued from Page 2: Our Secret Fruit

It's also important to understand that pawpaws don't propagate very well naturally — very much the opposite of an invasive species. According to the National Park Service, "Pawpaw is self-in-compatible, which means that pollen produced on a plant cannot pollinate flowers on the same plant. Instead, to produce fruit, a pawpaw flower must receive pollen from flowers on another tree," which may be some ways away. "(Wild) pawpaw trees in a patch are often genetically identical and connected underground by roots (and thus, in biological terms, are a single plant)." It takes two genetically different trees to cross-pollinate, and thus, grow fruit every year.

So if you find a patch of fruit-bearing pawpaw trees while in the woods, it's a sign that sometime in the past, they were planted. There's a patch of pawpaws in Parkwood's Old Growth area, and another, just east of Parkwood along Northeast Creek, which might date back to Native American settlement.

If you're interested in planting and eating pawpaws, now's the time to start some online searching. There's been a resurgence of pawpaw fans, producing frozen pulp, selling seedlings, brewing beer (yes, pawpaw craft beer!), lots and lots of recipes, and fruit available at farmer's markets during the short harvest period around September (not all fruits on a pawpaw tree ripen at the same time). Newer pawpaw cultivars are producing better flavor, fewer seeds and larger fruits.

As a small landscaping tree, there's a lot to recommend pawpaws: seasonal color, deep burgundy flowers from March to May, dark green leaves that turn bright yellow in the fall. Reading up on some of the information links below may give you ideas about bringing this "obscure backwoods" tree and its fruit out into the open, so to speak.

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.southernliving.com/garden/trees/paw-paw-tree>

<https://www.ourstate.com/queen-of-the-pawpaws>

<https://farmflavor.com/lifestyle/what-are-pawpaws>

<https://uplandbeer.com/?s=pawpaw>

<https://www.serioouseats.com/what-are-pawpaws-wild-fruit-midwest-how-to-prep-and-eat-pawpaws>

<https://www.starkbros.com/products/fruit-trees/pawpaw-trees>

Clermont Culvert

The Parks & Lawns Committee would like your help encouraging the City of Durham to fulfill their agreement to address the concerns about the Clermont Culvert, (which runs below Clermont Rd between the Lotus Pond (Lake Forebay) and Parkwood Lake).

Currently Parkwood funds are being used to contract to remove accumulated debris biweekly from the inlet to help reduce storm-induced flooding. Please refer to the front page of the July 2025 Parkwood Press for more information.

To express concern or ask for updates or information, please contact Greg Smith, P.E., with Durham City Public Works Department. 919-749-8785.

Parkwood Homeowner Dues for 2026 are \$290

Payments are due January 1, 2026
Dues not paid by March 31st will have
an additional late fee applied on
April 1st.



Durham
ONE CALL
919.560.1200

How to pay:

Mail a check:

Parkwood Association
c/o Professional Property Management, Inc
PO Box 1379
Commerce, GA 30529

Pay Online:

Visit parkwoodnc.org/payments
Click on "Make an Online Payment" link.
Enter required information on the form.

**Dues not paid by 3/31/2026 will incur
additional fees.**

If you cannot pay your entire assessment, please contact PPM to set up a payment plan to avoid additional fees.

Contact PPM by phone, 919-848-4911

Bulky Item Pickup

Residents can submit a request online at www.durhamnc.gov/durham-one-call or call Durham One Call at 919-560-1200.

Generally, 3 items can be picked up for Free.

When disposing of appliances, all food and debris must be removed prior to collection. Remove or secure doors to eliminate potential hazards to children. When disposing of lawn equipment, gasoline, oil and any other fluids must be removed before collection.

Prohibited Items

There are items that are excluded from Bulky Item curbside service. These items should be disposed of at the City's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center, located at 2115 East Club Boulevard.



See list of prohibited items on durhamnc.gov, scan the qr code.

Update on Changes to Parkwood Press Newsletter Delivery

- In January and December we announced that the opt-in delivery copies of Parkwood Press would no longer be delivered. We decided to step back a bit and reassess the need for opt-in delivery.
- This issue, February 2026, as well as the upcoming March and April issues, is being delivered to the approximately 130 opt-in homes as a paper booklet, while other Parkwood households will access the newsletter digitally via the link shared via email and social media. Every household in Parkwood will be delivered the July 2026 issue and subsequent January and July issues.
- **We need to hear from those opt-in households that wish to continue paper delivery.**
 - If you are currently receiving the paper copy and want to continue, please email pa.office@parkwoodnc.org or call the office (919) 544-2161 at your earliest convenience to let us know. Be sure to share your name and address so we can keep you on the list.
 - If you are not currently receiving the paper booklet on opt-in months and want to start receiving these, you can also reach out to pa.office@parkwoodnc.org or call (919) 544-2161.



Parkwood United Methodist Church

Sundays

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship in person and online

Souper Bowl Chili

February 1st 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
or until the chili runs out
Eat In or Take Out
pints and quarts available.

Listening Circles

February 14th at 10 am
We will play "My Neighbor's Voice,"
an active listening game.
Light snacks provided.

Rise Against Hunger

February 21 at 9 am

Food packing event in partnership with Christus Victor Lutheran Church
and All Saints United Methodist Church.

Carolina Roller Derby - An Introduction

On a recent Sunday morning, athletes begin to arrive at their practice warehouse in Apex to prepare for tryouts for Carolina Roller Derby's 22nd season.

Skaters don their gear — quad roller skates, helmets, wrist guards, elbow and knee pads, and mouth-guards — sitting in a series of plastic chairs that line a plain white wall. Above them, the wall is adorned with posters from game days past, some from as early as 2004, featuring venues like Dorton Arena, Jelly Beans, and Wheels. The current league comprises athletes and volunteers from across the Triangle, including here in Parkwood, and as far away as Pittsboro, New Bern, Fayetteville, and Wake Forest.

In the ensuing two hours, the athletes are tested on their abilities — stops, sprints, skating form, stance, communication, teamwork, gameplay, and drive — with coaches and captains taking notes at the center of the venue. Nearly 40 skaters showed up for their chance to make one of the league's competitive rosters, making it the largest group of skaters to try out since Carolina Roller Derby (CRD) made its return to the track in 2022, following a pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the founding members of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), CRD is a volunteer-driven 501(c)3 nonprofit. CRD seeks to empower individuals to expand their physical and mental strength, create an inclusive environment, and give back to the local community.

The league is composed of four teams. Two travel rosters, the All-Stars (A team) and the Bootleggers (B team), compete across the southeast and beyond to advance in the WFTDA rankings. Two home teams made up of just CRD players, the Dogwood Destroyers and the Box Turtle Bruisers, face off regularly in an exhibition-style matchup for bragging rights.

How does roller derby gameplay work? It definitely doesn't look like the roller derby you might remember from the 1970s and 80s! Think of it like NASCAR meets rugby.

This type of roller derby happens on a flat surface, with the track in a shape of an ellipse. The game is played in two, 30-minute halves. Each team fields five skaters during a jam (the period of play), which can last up to two minutes. There are four blockers and one jammer, who is the only player who can score points. A jammer scores one point for every person they pass after their initial lap.

The most exciting and difficult part about roller derby is that teams are essentially playing offense and defense at the same time, trying to help their jammer get through the pack of skaters, while preventing the other jammer from making it through.

It's one thing to read about it, and it's a completely different thing to see it in person. See our 2026 season schedule to the right.

Our strength is in our community: We are always looking for new and veteran skaters, officials, volunteers, fans, sponsors and partners! If you are interested in attending a game or learning more about how to participate with our league, visit www.carolinarollerderby.com or follow us on Facebook and Instagram, @CarolinaRollerDerby.

We hope to see you trackside in 2026!

Ashley Teatum

aka #47 Beverly Crusher

Sponsorship Director, Carolina Roller Derby

2026 SEASON		
FEB 7	HOME TEAMS	HOME
MAR 21	HOME TEAMS	HOME
APR 25	ALL STARS VS. PANHANDLE BOOTLEGGERS VS. RICHLAND CO.	HOME
MAY 16	ALL STARS & BOOTLEGGERS VS. CHATTANOOGA	@CHATTANOOGA
JUN 27 - 28	ALL STARS & BOOTLEGGERS @ BODYARMOR STATE GAMES	@GREENSBORO
AUG 15	HOME TEAMS	HOME
OCT 17	ALL STARS & BOOTLEGGERS VS. DUTCHLAND	@LANCASTER
OCT 18	ALL STARS & BOOTLEGGERS VS. BUX MONT	@HATFIELD
NOV 7	ALL STARS & BOOTLEGGERS VS. GHOST FLEET	HOME
DEC 12	HOME TEAMS	HOME

CAROLINA ROLLER DERBY

Summary of Minutes from January 8, 2026 Board Meeting

Guest: Steven Berkowitz, present

Call to Order 7:08 pm

Attendance: Vickie Wheeler, Chris Classen, Richard Evert, Janie Long, Bobetta Clark-Jones, Felipe Rodriguez, Marie Dean, Liz Scisco

Minutes from previous Meeting of the Board of Directors

Motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting of the Board of Directors. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Committee Roundtable

Executive Committee - M. Dean

01/07/2026 Executive Committee Meeting

Marie Dean, President

Janie Long, Vice President

George Wheeler, Treasurer

Vickie Wheeler, Secretary

The Executive Committee met at 5:30 on Thursday, January 7, 2026. Attending this month's meeting were Janie Long, George Greene, and Marie Dean. Visitor, Laura Denny.

1. The next EC meeting will be held virtually at 7:30 on Thursday, Feb 5.
2. For the first half hour the committee met with our administrative support, Laura Denny, to review procedures we'd ask her to follow when answering questions, inquiries, and complaints in a timely manner from homeowners as well as tracking them to share with our committee. It was agreed she'd compose a list to share with this committee prior to each month's meeting.
3. Laura was asked to contact Spectrum to see if they're willing to negotiate our contract at a lower rate or we'll look to use AT&T for our internet, phone service.
4. RLC grounds & planting contract(s) is pending final edit(s) before we sign.
5. Action items for this month were to follow-up on procedures/actions for cars still parked on lawns after the letter went out, and this is still pending action.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30

Submitted by Marie Dean, President

Finance Committee Report - F. Rodriguez

Parkwood Finance Committee Agenda
January 5, 2025.

1. Review November 2025 Financial Report from PPM.
 - a. Transactions of interest:
 - b. Collections status from 2025.
 - i. 11 accounts with collections attorney.
 - ia. Notable accounts.
 - ii. 1 account being held.
2. Collections attorney invoices: Two invoices received.
 - a. Motion to pay 2 outstanding invoices, totaling \$484.55, from collections attorney Bagwell, Holt, Smith, PA, for services rendered. Passed in committee.
3. Collections attorney report.
 - a. Accounts 70259.67, 108447.01, 108447.02, 108447.04 108447.07 have paid balance in full. Motion to release lien on accounts 70259.67, 108447.01, 108447.02, 108447.04 108447.07
 - b. Account 108447.03 has a balance of \$686.61. Motion to proceed with foreclosure on account 108447.03.
 - c. Account 108447.05 has a balance of \$686.61. Motion to proceed with foreclosure on account 108447.05.
 - d. Account 108447.08 has a balance of \$697.05. Motion to proceed with foreclosure on account 108447.08.
4. Discuss transition of Committee Chair for March-April, as George Greene needs to temporarily step down.
5. Motions to Board:

Motion to pay 2 outstanding invoices, totaling \$484.55, from collections attorney Bagwell, Holt, Smith, PA, for services rendered using GL-00529 Legal General. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion to release lien on accounts 70259.67, 108447.01, 108447.02, 108447.04 108447.07. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion to proceed with foreclosure on account 108447.03. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion to proceed with foreclosure on account 108447.05. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion to proceed with foreclosure on account 108447.08. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Parks, Lawns and Ballfield - L. Scisco

The monthly meeting of the Parks, Lawns and Ballfield Committee was rescheduled due to illness. The January Meeting will be held January 12th at 7:00 pm.

Motion for Board Consideration:

Motion to Continue Clermont Culvert cleanout with RLC for next 12 months (Jan-Dec 2026): \$380/mo GL Code #05072 Lake Maintenance. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Garden Committee - C. Classen

No report from the Garden Committee for January.

Parkwood Press & Social Media - L. Denny

Reminder, the deadline for the February issue of Parkwood Press is January 15th. This issue is not going to be delivered as paper copies. A limited number of printed copies will be available at the Parkwood Association office.

The link to the digital newsletter will be emailed to all registered Parkwood homeowners accepting mass emails, linked via social media posts to Facebook and Instagram as well as linked in a message in the ParkwoodNC Google group.

Parkwood on Social Media

Facebook

Our Facebook presence stands at 842 Followers. Our posts were viewed by 168 individual viewers and we had 255 page visits in the past 28 days. There was 1 post of original Parkwood Association content. We also shared several posts from our Parkwood neighbors.

Instagram

Our Instagram account, parkwoodnc, now has 75 followers. We've recently shared our January newsletter and a few neighborhood holiday decorations

ParkwoodNC Google Group

Our group has 883 members. There have been 4 new posts/conversations since our December Board of Directors meeting.

Parkland Planning Committee - P. Eisenmann

**Parkland Planning Committee (PPC)
Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 16, 2025, 7:00 PM EST

Participants: Mike Brooks, Steven Berkowitz, Rob Shoaf, Marie Dean, Wray Dean, Pete Eisenmann, David Sokal, Chris Classen

Duration: 56 minutes

Overview

- Entrance Signage: DOT approval obtained for revised drawing; City/County Planning Department review pending. Funding approved in 2025 may be carried over to 2026 pending PPM approval. Vendor documentation required prior to payment.
- Trail Maintenance: Gravel replenishment for five trails approved, with work anticipated to begin in January. Two bridges between Newhall and Revere identified for assessment.
- Trail Development Feasibility: Committee discussed potential future trail connections and agreed to evaluate existing right-of-ways before new construction.
- Playground Survey: Brief review of survey results; further discussion needed before prioritization.
- Traffic Calming: Continued efforts to change emergency-route designation for Revere Road.

Notes

- Meeting Overview
 - Meeting opened with approval of November meeting minutes. Janie Long noted as out of town.
- Entrance Signage Update
 - Revised drawing approved by DOT and forwarded for city review.
 - Vendor W-9 and insurance documentation required before payments.
 - 2025 funds may be carried over to 2026 pending approval.
- Trail Maintenance and Assessment
 - Gravel replenishment approved for five trails.

- Two bridges between Newhall and Revere identified for inspection.
- Pete and Steven to conduct a trail walk in early January.
- Trail Development Feasibility
 - Subgroup to assess potential trail connections and existing right-of-ways.
 - Discussion on prioritizing playgrounds vs. new trail construction.
- Traffic Calming – Revere Road
 - Recent police enforcement observed.
 - Emergency-route designation change requires cross-department review.
 - Look into school zone speed cameras as noted by Steven. He saw information about a new State law allowing these that became effective October 2025.
- Playground Survey
 - 43-response survey reviewed.
 - Concerns noted regarding representativeness.
- Next Meeting
 - January 20, 2026, 7PM

Events Committee - V. Wheeler

No report submitted. The committee will meet January 20, 2026.

New Business

Parkwood Press

Motion to reinstate 130 existing printed Parkwood Press recipients for the next 3 months with an insert stating that they will be required to renew by notifying the Parkwood office if they want to continue to receive printed copies past April. Also to add a note in Parkwood Press that if any resident has interest in receiving a paper copy of Parkwood Press, please contact the office, this will use GL-00549 Newsletter. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Note: the Board will reevaluate and discuss the printed options in May.

Minutes Review

Motion to Adjourn the meeting. Second. Motion passes unanimously.

Board Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

The next meeting of the
 Parkwood Association Board of Directors
 is scheduled for February 12, 2026
 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

If you would like to attend as a guest, please email the office, pa.office@parkwoodnc.org no later than February 10th.

Openings on the Parkwood Board of Directors

We are seeking candidates to fill vacant seats on the Parkwood Association Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 term.

Candidates elected now would serve in an at large capacity through September 2026. It is not required that you live in the district you represent if you are elected "at large".

See the bylaws and district map at parkwood-nc.org for more information.

To serve on the Parkwood Board of Directors you must be

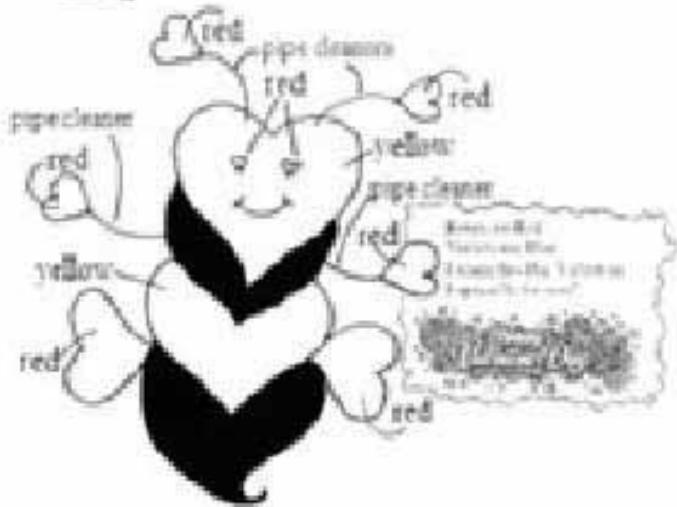
- A resident and homeowner in Parkwood
- Current on all assessments and payments to the Association
- Available for Board meetings - 2nd Thursday of every month - 7 pm

BUILD A BEE VALENTINE

by: Isabel Cruz Rodriguez

Kicks 'N' Catches

Tools needed:
2 black pipe cleaners
Color paper:
red, yellow, black
Scissors and Glue



Contact the Board

All Board Members: board@parkwoodnc.org
 President & Officers: executive@parkwoodnc.org
 District Reps: district1@parkwoodnc.org
(be sure to use your district number)



Parkwood Association Committees

Events Committee, events@parkwoodnc.org
 Finance Committee: finance@parkwoodnc.org
 Garden Committee: garden@parkwoodnc.org
 Parkland Planning: possibilities@parkwoodnc.org
 Parks Lawns parksandlawns@parkwoodnc.org
 & Ballfield

Visit our website at parkwoodnc.org

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1 10 am Community Garden Mtg	2 7 pm Parks, Lawns & Ballfield Committee Mtg.	3	4	5	6	7
8 10 am Community Garden Mtg	9	10	11	12 7 pm Board of Directors Mtg.	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day
15 10 am Community Garden Mtg Deadline for Parkwood Press	16	17 7 pm Parkland Planning Committee Mtg.	18	19	20	21
22 10 am Community Garden Mtg	23	24	25	26	27	28