Annual Watts Carnival Raises Additional Funds with Evening Event

By Emily Daly

If you were out and about on Saturday, April 23, you may have noticed that George Watts Montessori Magnet School was taken over by bounce houses, a fire truck, and a make-your-own Snoball counter, not to mention hundreds of happy kids and friends and family enjoying the school’s annual Spring Carnival & Silent Auction. The event was an overwhelming success again this year, and coupled with a follow-up silent auction Friday, April 27, raised a whopping $21,500. The Watts PTA will use funds raised to support school programs such as Writer’s Workshop, science and cultural awareness projects, field trips, classroom technology, Montessori supplies, summer reading programs, and after-school get-togethers.

Watts carnival-goers took part in perennial favorites like face painting, relay races, and carnival games, as well as more recent additions; kids and parents alike lined up to watch as the Poetry Fox crafted personalized poems in minutes, and lines were equally long for hair feathers, temporary tattoos, and fairy hair. For the first time this year, attendees could throw a pie at good humored teachers and administrators and take a turn in the photo booth and go home with a memento from the event.

Attendees also enjoyed a line-up of talented musicians, including a number of Watts parents, teachers, friends, and even alumni. Special thanks to performers Kathleen Gloria, Aaron Lubeck, Anthony Peterson and Billie Feather, and band “Don’t Start with Me” for creating a festive atmosphere and giving kids of all ages a chance to take a break from the action to enjoy live musical entertainment.

In addition to treats from Watts Carnival favorites Dang Good Dogs and Pelican Snoball, this year’s crowd enjoyed smoothies from Smoothie King and yummy eats from Tan-Durm and Mama’s Hot Chicken. As always, watermelon, tamales, and homemade goodies of all sorts from the kitchens of Watts friends and families were a huge hit.

As the event began to wind down, kids collected their hard-earned prizes from the impressively stocked prize and raffle booths, took final turns in the bounce houses, and enjoyed the last of the refreshment stand eats. It was only a short rain shower that started as the event was due to end that convinced attendees it was indeed time to call it a day.

Those who weren’t quite ready for the festivities to end were pleased to learn that this year’s Silent Auction was a two-part affair: Class art projects and special activities with teachers and staff were available for bid at the Carnival itself, raising over $1,600 during the day-time event. Watts parents and supporters then gathered the evening of Friday, April 27,
Watts Carnival, continued from page 1

at Basan Bull City Sushi, where they enjoyed appetizers and beverages compliments of event sponsors and bid on specialty items, including a week at a beach house, photography sessions, summer camps, spa services, DPAC tickets, gift certificates to local restaurants, and overnight stays at Trinity Park’s King’s Daughters Inn, 21c Museum Hotel, and The Durham Hotel. The follow-up event was more than just an excuse for a fun night out—it also raised $12,500 for the school, bringing this year’s combined total to our largest to date.

Photo credit: Eric Guajardo
Farm Church Claims Responsibility for Local Crop Sightings
By Marc Phillips

Many neighbors have been asking questions lately about mysterious goings on in the grass field at the corner of Watts and Green Street. Stakes have appeared. Furrows have been dug. Something is certainly afoot! We recently uncovered the truth, as shared below by Ben Johnston-Krase and Allen Brimer, "Co-Planters" of Durham's Farm Church.

What 3 things would you like Trinity Park residents to know about Farm Church?
1. Farm Church’s mission is to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ by leveraging all of the resources of a farm to address hunger in our community.
2. We do not have a traditional church building. Instead, we gather currently for work and worship at SEEDS (706 Gilbert Street in Durham), and we farm right here in Trinity Park on the corner of Watts and Green Streets.
3. We honor and affirm humanity's God-given diversity, and so we welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of Farm Church.

Why did you choose the Trinity Park lot to start farming?
The vacant lot on the corner of Watts and Green is owned by Trinity Park residents Anne and John Hodges-Copple. When they heard about our mission, they were excited to offer their land to help us get started. In addition, as Trinity Park residents ourselves, we’ve run into many neighbors who’ve expressed interest in food justice issues. A small neighborhood farm dedicated to food security feels like a good fit for Trinity Park, and we welcome all to participate on our work days over the coming weeks and months. You don't have to be a “church person” to help plant, weed, tend, harvest…!

What has been the biggest surprise or unexpected result since you started Farm Church?
About the garden on Watts and Green, we were surprised by the sheer amount of clay in the soil, and are taking steps to remedy that organically and to start composting! And with Farm Church in general, we’ve been pleasantly surprised by people’s genuine curiosity about a church that doesn’t have pews, where we work outside, where children can play with chickens, etc… It’s been such a thrill to reimagine church with people who represent so many different background and experiences.

Are you planning any changes to Farm Church in the future?
Yes. The garden at Watts and Green is our first plot, but we are looking to develop more small city gardens around Durham so that we can expand our capacity to address hunger and nurture community. We also hope to develop a larger farm just outside of Durham, where we can do more large-scale growing and have an even greater impact.

Any additional comments?
Farm Church gathers for work and worship on Sunday mornings, 10:00 am at SEEDS, 706 Gilbert Street. Weather permitting, we start with some outdoor work in the soil and then move inside for a time of singing, teaching, and sharing.

To learn more, visit our website at http://www.FarmChurch.org or find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FarmChurch.org.

- Ben Johnston-Krase and Allen Brimer, Farm Church Co-Planters
Featured Business: The Durham Roots Farmer's Market at Northgate

By Will Wilson

The Durham Roots Farmer's Market at Northgate opened this spring and runs every Saturday from 8:00 am to noon. This market was created as an independent non-profit by Durham County's Farmland Preservation Board. The farm board’s goal of preserving Durham County's farms means we have to provide more opportunities for Durham County farmers and horticulturalists to sell their products.

Our market addresses the two main challenges Durham County faces. First, until very recently, Durham County farming was dominated by tobacco, and its effective termination in the last two decades devastated the local agricultural economy. Reinvigorating that economy serves as a primary mission for our market. Second, without an economically viable path forward, much of the county’s remaining farmland will become urbanized by the rapidly expanding City of Durham. This conversion harms the city’s drinking water supplies, which are reservoirs fed by the watersheds where Durham County's farms sit. Our goal, then, is to create an affordable and accessible venue for farmers market sales in Durham County that lowers the market barriers specifically for beginning farmers, while providing high sales opportunities for established farmers. Our lofty goals include increased agricultural production, increased consumption of local foods, increased variety of agricultural production, and increased promotion of agritourism.

From the vendor's perspective, our farmer's market welcomes small and beginning farmers, as well as established ones, and we also provide an outlet for schools, churches, and community gardens. Our focus on agricultural producers (and their value-added products) means that we won't have arts and crafts or food trucks.

Given the vendors we have now, we'll have a steady supply of plants, dairy and meat products. Meats, eggs, and cheeses are sold by Blue Whistler Farm, Bull City Farm, Green Button Farm, and Prodigal Farm. We have yogurt and milk from Carolina Farmhouse Dairy. We have produce from Dandies Farm and Dig It Farm. There's a wide variety of interesting plants from Architectural Trees. Everything sold at our market is grown or raised in Durham, and that means the offerings change as the summer progresses and different crops ripen. Soon we'll have blueberries and tomatoes.

What's great about our market is the ease of getting in, buying what you need, and getting out. If you're driving, enter Northgate Mall from the Gregson entrance and make your way towards the theaters. You'll see our tents, and drive into the lower parking area. Fast and easy.

As mentioned above, our market's goal is to promote Durham County agriculture, but we have a classic case of the chicken or the egg. Our county's beginning farmers aren't sure where they'll sell their products, so they're hesitant to take the risk of planting a crop. Our market is small (but growing!) because only a few vendors have products ready. However, we already have a stable group of vendors selling a broad range of products each week. Potential new vendors will take their cue from a consistent turnout of buyers at the market and that turnout will convince farmers to plant more crops, like a field of sweet corn, knowing that buyers await their products.

Times are always tough for new farmers, but we're hoping our market helps make selling products easier and brings neighbors together for a helping hand.

Let me also put in a hearty thanks to the folks at Northgate Mall! Ginny Bowman and Brian Wilkerson have been wonderful, generous, and committed partners in helping our market get started. You can also help support the market financially through a community membership, which commits you to volunteer with setup, sales, and cleanup. Email durhamrootsfm@gmail.com for more information.

We post vendor updates and weekly offerings to Facebook (like us), and you can join our email list at: bit.ly/1VfDSPZ.
The George Watts PTA Leo Bortiri Memorial Fund subcommittee has been hard at work developing a plan for the renovation of the playground. As many will remember, this project started about two years ago after the tragic death of a beloved student and neighbor. With the Memorial Fund as a seed, the subcommittee decided to enhance the George Watts playground with some elements that would honor Leo and benefit all the children. Since then, the project has grown through grants and donations. In the past year, the PTA has received a second grant from Durham Open Spaces and Trails Commission and has partnered with the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association in a grant targeting storm water mitigation throughout Trinity Park. With these new grant opportunities, the scope of work on the playground has increased, particularly in areas related to storm water management. The runoff from the school playground is considerable, and the PTA is excited for the school to participate in the larger initiative in Trinity Park to reduce erosion and sediment flow.

Last fall the committee decided that we needed the help of a landscape architect to create a masterplan for the playground. The PTA hired Katherine Gill of Tributary Land Design + Build, who had done previous design work on the playground and has worked with Durham Public Schools (DPS) on the Hub Farm. Katherine has helpfully connected us to DPS officials who, this winter, had coincidentally identified the school as a site for improvements to the playground, using money from a past capital campaign. As a result, DPS will be partnering with the PTA, contributing both funds and project management. Through Katherine’s leadership, we anticipate that this unique collaboration of the PTA, DPS, and community partners will serve as a model for other schools in their school improvement efforts.

This spring Katherine has been hard at work creating a site plan for the playground and navigating the city permitting process. This project is currently on track to begin this summer, with a focus on the playfield, half-basketball court, and rain garden excavations being completed by the time school starts in late August. We expect that some work, like planting in the rain gardens, will be completed in the fall. Given the complexities of working with grant funding, some of the work may occur in phases. Additional elements of the playground to be installed over the course of 2016 include a pirate-themed fossil-digging area and play space, an embankment slide, and a permeable hard surface classroom/play area adjacent to the playfield.

In addition to funding from grants, DPS, the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association, and the Leo Bortiri Memorial Fund, the school has received a generous donation from its alumni group, Friends of Watts, to help finance this ambitious project. The playground is open and accessible to neighborhood and community members when school programming is not in session. The PTA will be conducting additional fundraising in order to cover anticipated budget shortfalls. If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation to support this project, you can write a check to the George Watts PTA, subject line “Playground project,” and deliver it to the school or mail it to 700 Watts Street, Durham, 27701. Online donations are also accepted at georgewattspta.org/playground (please identify the playground in your donation), where you will also find a current version of the site plan. If you would like more information about this project or ways to help, please contact Sarah Musser (sarah.musser@duke.edu or 919-688-1722). We are excited for the wonderful changes that should be coming to the playground in the second half of this year!
TPNA Seeks Volunteers for South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands Committee
By Paul Cardile and Kevin Davis

The TPNA is looking for several interested Trinity Park residents to serve on a new board committee to monitor progress on and provide neighborhood feedback to the proposed new wetlands to be developed on the northeast corner of Trinity Ave. and Duke St.

The City of Durham recently acquired the site, which was formerly home to the Duke Diet and Fitness Center, and before that the home to the Durham YMCA. City staff have proposed an $8 million project to demolish the aging facility and replace it with a constructed wetland that could provide natural treatment of stormwater from downtown and southern Trinity Park before it reaches the South Ellerbe Creek and ultimately Falls Lake.

As many neighbors may know, Falls Lake is the manmade lake on the northeastern side of Durham along our border with Granville County that serves, among other purposes, as the primary source of drinking water for large portions of Raleigh and Wake County. Falls Lake has been classified as an impaired body of water by state and Federal environmental officials; high nutrient levels, algae blooms and other challenges—many exacerbated by development and sewer plant outflows from Durham and other upstream communities—increase the cost and challenges of using Falls Lake water.

Unlike new subdivisions, which are generally required to have stormwater BMP structures on-site to provide initial natural treatment of stormwater to reduce pollutant (pet waste, fertilizer, etc.) levels before water heads to streams and creeks, the 485 acres of the downtown basin and Trinity basin have no such structures. The proposed South Ellerbe Creek Wetland would provide a much-needed way to offset our area’s run-off; City staff have estimated that as much as a quarter of the City’s Falls Lake Stage I obligations could be met through the project.

Besides the environmental benefits, City staff are considering opportunities to provide amenities on-site that will be of interest to Trinity Park neighbors and other residents. Viewing areas, benches, educational signage, and a realigned South Ellerbe Creek trail and other amenities are possible, though much of the final outcome here will depend upon the feedback the City receives as it goes through the request for proposals process and receives cost estimates for the project.

We are looking for committee members who would be interested in helping to monitor the project’s progress, communicate updates and issues to residents, and engage the TPNA and (with board approval) the City to provide or escalate feedback.

This ad hoc committee will be a light time commitment with the bulk of the work required around key decision points, such as RFP issuance and responses, City Council work sessions and meetings, and occasional communication with City staffers.

The results of this project will certainly help improve the water quality and environmental conditions for all. If we are able to engage creatively and consistently with City staff and elected officials, the TPNA can also work to advocate for ways to make this structure an aesthetically pleasing amenity that makes Trinity Park, downtown and other nearby neighborhoods a better place to live, work and play.

For more information about the project, visit: https://durhamnc.gov/1616/Duke-Diet-and-Fitness-Wetland. If you’re interested in joining the new TPNA committee, please contact Paul Cardile at pecardile@gmail.com and Kevin Davis at ksdavis@gmail.com.

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Foundation Focused on Park Improvements
By David Smith

The Trinity Park Foundation remains strongly committed to overall improvements throughout the neighborhood, but having our Park be both a good neighbor and a vibrant, safe and fun part of what binds us all together, takes work.

This summer and fall, we will be replacing trees, improving drainage and reducing leaf accumulation on the side of the park that abuts the Park’s neighbors on Trinity and installing the initial element of a planned decorative pebble mosaic path from the Trinity Avenue sidewalk. The first section of the path would run approximately nine feet and include a dragonfly design piece.

Building upon work completed in the last two years, including the installation of a gate on the alley side of the park to dramatically improve safety for both children and the residents along that alley, the Foundation has adopted a five-year plan around maintenance and enhancements to the Park, as well as other capital improvements throughout the neighborhood.

If you have ideas or want to assist the Foundation in our work, please contact Julia Borbley-Brown at 919-599-9593. Remember that the Trinity Park Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation and contributions, which make up a sizeable portion of our annual budget, are tax-deductible.

Put a Lid on It! - Recycling Plastic Caps and Metal Lids
By Jody White and Matt Todd

Are caps and lids recyclable? Should you attach them to the container before placing in the recycling bin? What does our county recycling facility request?

Durham’s roadside bin recycling program is “single-stream,” meaning lots of different recyclable materials are recycled together in the bin. (Remember to not put recyclables in a plastic trash bag; let your recyclables sit loose in the bin). Junk mail, newspaper, and plastics can all co-mingle as long as they are clean and dry. Lids and caps are often questioned, as they are small and may be made of different materials than the container. The industry recommendation is to replace caps on both plastic bottles and glass jars after removing the contents. The lids and caps will "ride" along with the container and get captured and separated later on down the line at the glass plant or plastics recycler. This is the best chance the cap/lid has of making it through the MRF (material recovery facility) without getting lost in the processing or ending up in the residue (trash). Durham county recycles resin codes #1-#7 which means if a bottle is a #2 and a cap is a higher melt-temperature #5 they can both be recycled.

As for the metal cans where a can opener is needed, make sure to not put those can lids into the recycling bin. The sharp edges pose a safety hazard to humans and machinery. Please dispose of metal can lids with sharp edges in the trash.
**Street Trees 101**  
By the Trinity Park Tree Committee

There have been several instances in the past few years of Trinity Park homeowners having their City-owned street trees "pruned" by landscaping companies without first requesting permission of the City. Street trees are owned by the City and should not be pruned by anyone, even the homeowners themselves, without permission of the City. A City-owned street tree is any tree situated between the sidewalk and the street. In cases where there is no sidewalk, any tree within approximately 8-10 feet from the street is owned by the City. If you are unsure, call the urban forestry department or consult your deed.

If you have a City-owned street tree adjacent to your property that you wish to have pruned or inspected for any reason, you simply need to call Durham One Call (919-560-1200) and make the request. Perhaps the branches are drooping too low. Perhaps there are dead branches that need to come out or the tree appears to be dying. Maybe there is a strange fungus at the base of the tree that has you worried. Simply call Durham One Call.

Crape myrtles are trees, too, and these should not be topped ("crape murder") by any landscaping company. If you have crape myrtles in the City right-of-way adjacent to your home that require pruning, please call Durham One Call to have the City prune them.

There are many ways you CAN help care for City trees. If a tree has recently been planted in the right-of-way adjacent to your home, please water it for the first three years during periods of hot, dry weather. Five gallons of water a week can keep a tree alive during the summer. If you have an oak tree adjacent to your property, you should band it for cankerworms in the fall, and take the band off again in the spring. Information about tree banding can be found on the TPNA website, as well as on the Trees Across Durham website.

Maintain the City-owned right-of-way along your property—show your neighbors you care about them and your neighborhood! But when it comes to the trees, water them but please call the City to prune them.
Save the Date! Trinity Park National Night Out!
Tuesday, August 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 6:00 pm

By Steve Falzarano

Every year since 1984 the National Association of Town Watch has sponsored National Night Out, (NNO). The city of Durham has participated for many years with National Association to support and sponsor local community events and activities. This year’s National Night Out date is \textbf{Tuesday, August 2}, and the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association, in conjunction with the City of Durham Police Department, is sponsoring a NNO community event and activities in Trinity Park.

The event is meant to increase awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, town watch, neighborhood watch, and other anti-crime efforts. But the event is so much more for our Trinity Park community. It is a chance to come out and meet your neighbors and friends for an evening of socializing and to meet new and old neighbors, form friendships, and to support and promote efforts to improve our Trinity Park neighborhood!

This year’s Trinity Park NNO event will take place in Trinity Park beginning at 6:00 pm. All are invited to join us for activities and to meet local officials. We are planning to have a “Dessert” event and ask everyone to bring a favorite dessert to share. Beverages and some desserts will be provided by the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association. There will also be a “Decorate your own Dessert” for kids of all ages. Music will also be provided.

We are looking for volunteers to help organize events, setup and take down tables, help with activities, and cleanup. Ideas for events are welcome! Please contact Steve Falzarano at falzos8077@aol.com for more information. Please look for additional information on the Trinity Park listserv and website as the date approaches.

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Update on 2016 TPNA Home Tour

By Mimi Kessler

The Home Tour committee is thrilled that a whole new set of neighbors are helping us prepare for the Home Tour, which will be on \textbf{October 16, 2016}. Mark your calendars, and we welcome everyone to join in.

Our theme is “A Place for Everyone,” and the homes are spread from the southern border (Gloria) to the northern border (Englewood). A few slots are still available, and we are seeking a few more homes and we are encouraging people with smaller homes or apartments to participate. Your home does not need to have been renovated nor does it need to be “perfect”! And you do not have to have the whole house open for the Tour; for example you can close a door and put a sign up that say “this room not on the tour,” or only the first floor and not the second, and we will have docents to monitor compliance.

In spite of all the good people who have volunteered to help the committee, we are looking for more arms and legs. We specifically need someone who can do some “administrative” tasks related to our advertising prospects where the work will be done by mid-summer!

We will also be having the Street Festival—the artist-and-vendor gathering that goes on in Watts Street next to the park on the day of the Tour. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Festival on the day of the Tour, contact Mimi Kessler (919-599-2892, mimikessler1@gmail.com). If you know an artist who has a studio in the neighborhood or a suggestion of artists to participate in the Festival, please contact Pam Swinney (704-236-0708, pamswinney@nc.rr.com).

If you would like to be a volunteer only on the day of the Tour, please contact Jody White (919-308-0851, jaws28403@gmail.com). We think this will be a really great Tour because it shows the diversity of our neighborhood, which we all believe to be an asset. We hope you will want to join us to make it be the best Tour ever and we hope you will plan to do the Tour yourself on October 16! If you have any questions, feel free to contact the committee: Mimi Kessler (contact info above), Linda Wilson (919-264-7395, lindabwilson@nc.rr.com), or Pam Swinney (contact info above).
Contest Announced For New Trinity Park "Tagline"

Trinity Park has seen many changes over the years. And some things remain the same. Striking a good balance is a critical challenge for any human endeavor. But one aspect of Trinity Park whose time has come for renewal is our tagline.

Visitors to http://trinitypark.org are greeted by our bold header stating: "Trinity Park - one of Durham's oldest central neighborhoods."

Friends and neighbors, can we do better? Trinity Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA) is taking suggestions for new taglines through **July 31, 2016**. The winner will be selected at the August meeting of TPNA on Wednesday, August 3rd at 7:00 pm in Media Center at Watts Montessori. Please note that we are already considering "Neighborhoody McNeighborhoodface," and duplicate entries do not increase your chance of winning...
You love Durham. You love Trinity Park.

Become a member of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association!

Have YOU joined the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association? For just $15 per year (discounts available for multiple years!) you will be supporting the initiatives that make living here, in the heart of the city, so wonderful.

Some neighborhoods require residents to pay homeowners association fees, but Trinity Park Neighborhood Association is a voluntary group that relies on your financial and personal support for its activities. We encourage all residents—homeowners and renters—to join.

TPNA supports our neighborhood in many ways—with donations to neighborhood schools and organizations and by sponsoring great community events, like the Durham Symphony’s Pops in the Park, the Halloween party, the Spring Egg Hunt, a biennial Home Tour, and clean-up days.

In addition to paying dues, please consider signing up to help with one of our events and efforts, or consider joining a TPNA committee. Some efforts require only a couple volunteer hours each year. Simply complete the form below and the committee chair will contact you!

TPNA and its residents are the reasons for the success of this neighborhood. We continue to make progress and improvements and your membership and involvement will assist us in doing so.

We encourage neighbors to become actively engaged with our community—take the first step today by becoming a member!

To join or renew your membership, make checks payable to TPNA and send with a completed form to: TPNA Membership, P.O. Box 725, Durham, NC 27702. You can also join online at: http://www.trinitypark.org.

If you have questions about your membership status, email tpnamembership@trinitypark.org.

Name(s): ____________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Durham, NC 27701
Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Select a Membership Payment Option

☐ One Year = $15
☐ Two Years = $25
☐ Five Years = $50
☐ Lifetime Membership = $200

Please contact me about volunteering – check all that apply:

☐ Community Building (Event organization)
☐ Association Membership
☐ Urban Planning
☐ Traffic/Pedestrian Safety
☐ House Tour/Garden Tour
☐ Communications (newsletter, website, social media)
☐ Safety/Neighborhood Watch
☐ Finance/Budgeting
☐ Newsletter Delivery
☐ Contact me as needs arise