Durham 150: A Trinity Park History Spotlight

In April 2019, the city of Durham reached its 150th anniversary of incorporation, an occasion that welcomes reflection on the past and celebration of the future. This calendar year, issues of the newsletter will feature memorable individuals and moments in the history of Trinity Park.

Excerpts from the Open Durham History of Trinity Park

(Printed with the permission of Open Durham and Preservation Durham)

The 1891 "Bird's-Eye View of the City of Durham, North Carolina" (below) is the earliest depiction of the area that was to become Trinity Park; it was an open space between the tobacco buildings at the west edge of the city and the Main Building of Trinity College. Until early in the 20th century, Trinity Park consisted primarily of woods and fields, some of them under cultivation, and an occasional house. One of these houses was constructed by Brodie L. Duke around 1880. The large tract, occupied today by Julian S. Carr Junior High School and Durham High School, was Duke's estate. His two-story L-shaped Italianate house with a four-story entrance tower and the characteristic Victorian three-color paint scheme was situated off of what is now N. Duke St., opposite the east end of Lamond St.

Upon moving into Durham in 1869, Duke located his tobacco factory in a two-story frame building on W. Main St. His purchase in the next few years of the property for his home close to his factory marked the beginning of his extensive real estate investments that were to highlight his business career. Although he encountered serious difficulties in his dealings in the commodities market, Duke's real estate ventures were his greatest accomplishments, not only because of the resultant personal financial gains, but also because of the significant role he played in building Durham.

By the turn of the century, Duke had amassed a huge parcel of land wrapping around the northwest boundaries of Durham; it was to become the major portion of the North Durham, Duke Park and Trinity Park neighborhoods.

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Stay in Touch with Trinity Park & TPNA:
- Follow on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/Trinityparknc/
- Visit our website at trinitypark.org
- Join the neighborhood listserv at groups.yahoo.com/groups/TrinityPark/
- Send your ideas or feedback to editor@trinitypark.org
- Attend a TPNA meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at George Watts Montessori
Undoubtedly Duke realized that Durham's rapid growth promised a high return on future development of his real estate. The construction of the Trinity College campus at the west edge of his property and the establishment of a public transportation system linking the downtown and West Durham, both occurring around 1890, increased the value of Duke's land. Duke was, however, cautious with his development plans. He waited to be sure of the success of the trolley system before proceeding with subdivision and sale of his land. Richard H. Wright and Julian S. Carr formed the Durham Consolidated Land and Improvement Company and launched a campaign to sell the building lots they had platted north of Trinity College, as soon as plans were announced for the Dummy Street Railway, Durham's first trolley system. Whatever his reasons for not following suit, Duke may be credited with prudence, for the trolley system failed by 1894.

TO READ MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF TRINITY PARK, VISIT OPENDURHAM - http://www.opendurham.org/category/neighborhood/Trinity-Park

Luminaria: Neighborhood Event and Non-Profit Opportunity

By Diane Amato

Luminaria is an annual event that is sponsored by TPNA as an opportunity and venue for a local non-profit to raise funds for their organization while enabling Trinity Park to participate in a city-wide holiday event in mid-December.

If you are a member of an organization that would like to take advantage of the opportunity, please contact info@trinitypark.org. Organizations are expected to run the event, and will receive all proceeds.

And please read on below about how some of our neighbors have embraced our neighborhood Luminaria night!

Trinity Park Illuminati

By Don Ball

Since 2016, brother and sister duo Owen and Sadie have been lighting up the 1000 Dacian Avenue block during the Trinity Park Luminaria Night. Their neighbor, Don Ball, got the exclusive interview to learn more about how their growing holiday service helps neighbors and contributes to non-profits.

DON: I’m here with Owen, age 11, and Sadie, age 8, to talk about the luminaria service that they’ve been providing for the residents on the 1000 block of Dacian Avenue. When did you begin doing this?

OWEN: We started three years ago, 2016. Really at this time it was just me that was working on it because Sadie was a bit too young. And I was wanting a job or something. You know I’m at that stage in my life. My mom had this idea where we could do a luminaria service and we would buy luminarias for people and set them up at their houses.

DON: So the business has grown year after year, and then you had to start enlisting the help of Sadie because you couldn’t do it by yourself anymore?

OWEN: Yes, on the second year, Sadie started helping. Then on the third year, which was last year, we made her an official partner. The first two years we did about the same amount of houses and then last year we did much more, almost twice as many.

DON: When do you have to start? Can you start the day before?

SADIE: More like around either 2 or 3 days before. We buy all the bags all in one trip and then we try to set them up on those days. Last year I’m pretty sure that Owen was at his friend’s house, and me and my mom just did a lot of the bags. We have them all over the house.

OWEN: We fold the bag over the top so it makes it much more sturdy when you have 200 bags it takes a long time. Then usually on the morning of the luminaria, we put the candles and sand in and deliver them to people’s porches. We do most of the actual work on that day, but prep the bags with the materials on the other days.

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DON: How long does it take to make the deliveries for the whole block?

OWEN: It took us about two hours, and we use a wagon and pull them up and down the street. Mom is putting the candles in and then we go deliver them to each house.

DON: It's a whole team job! Where's Dad in all this?

SADIE: He's in charge of carrying the big bag of sand. And usually he helps light the candles when it comes time.

DON: How did you know you would make a profit?

OWEN: We charge $1.50 for each set and 50 cents of that is our profit. My mom and I made a Google sheet and that's where we put down all the records.

DON: What's your favorite part about doing the luminaria service?

OWEN: I really like the excitement of the day we put them all out. I also really like the satisfaction- especially last year- of being able to walk down Dacian and all of it is illuminated.

SADIE: I like to help scooping the sand.

DON: Sand scooping is your thing? That's awesome. Are there any rules that you have to follow?

SADIE: We do all the work but we're not allowed to light the candles. But if people need lighting, our parents will help.

DON: Do you have any advice for other entrepreneurial kids in the neighborhood who might want to start a business doing this?

OWEN: The main thing is just don't start too late. We usually take the order sheets to neighbors' houses about two weeks before, and then ask them to put them in our mailbox in about a week so we have them all back. That gives us 3 or 4 days to prepare everything. I suggest about ten to fifteen bags for each yard, that is what most people do and that seems to look pretty cool. And don't go too big to start. Every day after school we would come home and do some bags and do some preparation. So make sure you give yourself enough time. People would be disappointed if we didn't give them their bags.

SADIE: We don't want them to say 'I want my money back'.

OWEN: Not only that, also they wouldn't have their luminarias for their yard because we're late.

DON: Are you going to do it again this December? What will you use your money for?

OWEN: Yes. We might ask some friends to get in on it and do their streets, too. It definitely helps to have enough people- like two people for each block. Having more people makes it a lot easier.

SADIE: I wanna get doll stuff.

OWEN: I'm really into rock climbing right now, and that's expensive, so I'm hoping we'll make $100 each this year.

DON: All right, so you can count me in again for this year, it's just a couple of months away. I'm going to write up this interview so we can put it in the newsletter next month. My hope is that other kids may be inspired by what you all have done.

OWEN: Tell more people because as you know, the whole block looks amazing when it's done. It would be super cool if all of Trinity Park was lit up, especially around the Trinity Park.

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Ever Wondered About the Historic Plaques on Durham Homes?

By Bunmi Fatoye-Matory

Plaques made of solid bronze sit at the entrances of some houses in Durham. On them can be found the logo of the Historic Preservation Society of Durham (Preservation Durham), names of the original owners of the house, the year the house was built, and a number that signifies the order in which the home was accepted into Preservation Durham’s plaque program. Have you ever wondered which homes qualify for these plaques and why? For your house to qualify, it must at least be 70 years old, with well-documented history.

If you are interested in applying for the plaque, you need to do extensive research about the genealogy of your house and submit an application to Preservation Durham. You will need to present information about the year your house was built, the chain of title and occupancy, the original owners and original architects. There are other requirements and you can find resources to help in writing the history on the Preservation Durham website at www.preservationdurham.org.

You can also call them at 919-682-3036, or send an email to info@preservationdurham.org if you are interested in applying for a plaque.

The Historic Preservation Society of Durham was established in 2001 with a mission “to protect Durham’s historic assets through action, advocacy, and education.” It recognizes that growth entails change, but that there is also the need to protect what is beautiful and unique about Durham’s past.

Durham presently has 197 plaques that mark historic sites and homes. Trinity Park has 70 of these plaques, with 21 of them located on Watts Street.
Neighborhood Street Tree News
By Shelley Dekker

Most would agree that one of the most attractive features of Trinity Park is our tree-lined streets. In 2003, recognizing that the City of Durham was not replanting street trees after removing them and that there were a significant number of “empty spots” along our streets, the TPNA reformed the neighborhood street tree committee with the goal of working with the City of Durham to replant trees along our streets. The effectiveness of this partnership can hardly be overstated. Since that time, with significant financial and volunteer support from the Trinity Park Foundation, the City has planted hundreds of trees along Trinity Park streets. However, just as many beautiful, mature large-canopy willow oaks have been and continue to be taken down by the City, and replacement is no longer a guarantee, as the City dissolved their formal partnership with the neighborhood in early 2018.

The City IS still planting in Trinity Park, however, and in order to increase the chances of tree planting and replacement, please follow these steps if you would like a tree in the City Right-of-Way adjacent to your property:

1. Google Durham Urban Forestry and click on the link (or go to their website: https://durhamnc.gov/799/Urban-Forestry)
2. On their home page, you will see a link in red for the Tree Request Form. Click on that link.
3. Complete and submit the short Google Form “Request for a new street tree.”
4. Give it some time, but if you do not hear anything a few weeks after submitting your form, follow up with Urban Forestry manager Glenn Slaton, glenn.slaton@durhamnc.gov or 919-560-4197 (ext. 21279) to let him know you would love a new tree. Be kind and positive!

If your efforts fail, please contact me (smdekker@mindspring.com) so that the Tree Committee can strategize about other ways to have City trees replaced/planted in our neighborhood. Thank you!

South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands Project
By Paul Cardile

The Public Works Stormwater & GIS Services Division is currently looking into excavating and hauling off excess soils and material prior to starting the wetland construction. As part of this effort, project staff is coordinating with other City Departments to determine if there are any potential upcoming project sites that can use some of the excess material as fill.

There are no updates to report on the permitting process as the consultant and staff are still coordinating with the various regulatory agencies on the permits.

A. Vicente, U.S. Forest Service
Transportation
By Beth Emerson

- MoveDurham.org is conducting a Central Durham Transportation study for nine major transportation corridors in Durham – Duke and Gregson Streets being one of them. Find out more, or sign up to stay connected at movedurham.org.

- GoDurham is studying changes to bus routes that affect our neighborhood and buses you may use! Some service lines will run more frequently and/or have extended operating hours. Some routes are proposed for consolidation or changes. Input was collected until mid-August and changes will go into effect January 2020.

- The Club Boulevard Safe Streets grant project is complete. There is a new pedestrian crosswalk connecting the bus stops on the north and south sides of club between Dollar and Gregson, with original artwork accenting the median. The project not only has been successful in improving safety (see summary graphic above) for pedestrians crossing Club, but was exemplary in its efforts to include a diverse stakeholder group in the planning and feedback. Find out more, here: https://smartgrowthamerica.org/category/complete-streets/

- The long anticipated completion of the East End Connector project has been delayed over the past year due to the extraordinary wet winter and spring. The latest schedule anticipates opening the existing NC147 to traffic in August and the new connector in November 2019. Work on landscape will continue through spring 2020.

- The students are back at our local schools, so pedestrian and vehicular traffic are at their peak. Drive (and walk!) with caution and obey the new pedestrian signal that has been installed on Gregson St., near DSA.

Expanding Housing Choices (EHC) Update
By Stacy Murphy

On June 11th, 2019, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the EHC (with Subcommittee recommendations) by a vote of 12-1.

EHC appeared on the Thursday, Aug. 22nd City Council Work Session Agenda, followed by a public hearing at the Monday, Sept. 3 City Council Meeting. At the hearing, around 40 community members shared a mix of support and concern with the EHC proposal, and the City Council voted to approve the zoning amendments 6-1.

The recommendation will now be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing on September 23rd, 2019 at 7 p.m., 2nd floor, Commissioners’ Meeting Room, 200 E. Main Street.

You can view a recording of the City Council EHC discussion at youtube.be/bAb4ZWHv-dg, starting around the 02:15:00 mark.
Block Party Grants Available for TPNA Residents
This fall, get to know your neighbors and take advantage of TPNA’s block party grants. The block party reimbursement program benefits our neighbors by providing support for block parties to:

1) foster camaraderie and neighborliness;
2) enhance awareness of the TPNA;
3) increase membership in the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association.

The program works like this:

- $1 per attendee may be reimbursed for paper goods, plastic goods, or soft drinks, up to a value of $25 per block party.
- Grants will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis, not to exceed the expense allocation in the annual TPNA budget.
- Blocks may be considered for grants every other year.
- The block party contact will provide copies of TPNA membership applications and present to attendees so that new members of the association may be recruited.

The fine print: Grant applications will be approved in advance of events by the past-president of the TPNA. Reimbursements will be made by check from the treasurer of the TPNA. Reimbursement for expenses will be made post-event with the submission of receipts. Find the application online at: http://trinitypark.org/tpna/block-party-grants.

How To Get Involved With TPNA
TPNA provides a conduit for Trinity Park residents to bring about and/or to prevent change to the neighborhood and in Durham, depending on their particular ambitions and points of view. The TPNA Board, elected at the annual meeting each January, consists of 4 officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), a Past President, and 9 Directors. Officers and Directors serve 2 and 3 year terms, respectively, on a rolling basis to ensure openings for new neighbors to join each year. What would you like to see different in Trinity Park, and in Durham? What would you most like to see not change? What are you doing to bring about (or prevent) these changes?

For information on any of the roles or TPNA in general, please contact info@trinitypark.org.

Trinity Park Foundation Updates
By Don Ball, President, The Trinity Park Foundation, Inc.

It’s been an active few months of projects around the neighborhood!

In July, the Al Frega sculpture in the median at Buchanan and Main received a top coat of paint by Jeff Scott and his crew. To further welcome folks, the lettering “Trinity Park, est 1891” is due to be painted in the coming weeks. The colors on this piece are reminiscent of the Chesterfield factory on the other end of the neighborhood, where the steel was salvaged. You may also have noted the reappearance of the Michael Waller sculpture in memory of Marie Austin! Originally installed at the King’s Daughters Home, this artwork has been lovingly restored by the artist and now resides in the Markham median, just a few blocks from Marie’s former residence on Green Street. A more subtle improvement has been the painting of the park fence and railings- no more peeling paint!

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A bunch of volunteers spearheaded by the invincible Julia Borbely-Brown have worked tirelessly to rid the medians of weeds- and a thick layer of mulch has been added that is particularly pleasing on Trinity Avenue. Soon to come, the art committee is working with local artists to get a sign back in The Trinity Park, after vandals absconded with our old sign last winter. We’re also planning to replace some of the wonderful perennials in the Park that took a beating during that difficult dry spell this summer. And we’re working on adding signage to the various artworks so that neighbors and passersby may be informed about the beautiful things in the neighborhood. It’s never a dull moment for the Foundation board and volunteers, and I want to give a big round of applause to all who give of their time to make our neighborhood more attractive.

Salon Series 2019-2020 Plays On in November

By Mark Moskovitz

On Wednesday, November 13th, at 7:30pm, the Trinity Park Salon Series will present its second concert of the 2019–2020 season. The performance will feature the Second Piano Trio of Dmitri Shostakovich, a cynical, soulful and searing powerhouse, among the gems of twentieth-century chamber music. The concert will feature two long-time friends of the series, violinist Marjorie Bagley from UNC Greensboro and pianist Danielle Deswert Hahn of Raleigh, along with series founder and artistic director, cellist Marc Moskovitz. As always, more information, including venue, can be found on our website: salonseries.org.

What’s Not to Like? – Yiddish Songfest Returns!

By Gary Berman

One of Trinity Park’s distinctive cultural offerings is the annual “What’s Not to Like?” Yiddish songfest. This year’s songfest—the tenth in the series—will be on Sunday, November 10th, at 3:00pm, at the Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church.

The concert features local singers. The songs are in Yiddish, with English subtitles. As always, there’ll be free food after the music. And as always, the proceeds from the event will go to Urban Ministries of Durham. Suggested donation is $15 in advance or $20 at the door. But you are welcome to attend, whether or not you choose to donate.

For information or reservations, write yiddishsongfest@aol.com or call 919-682-7468.

Good music, good food, good cause—what’s not to like?

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As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we would like to extend a special THANK YOU to you, our neighbors and friends, who have supported us all these years!

1969-2019

Please mark your calendars for:

Saturday, Nov 2 from 1-6 pm as we will be hosting our 50th Anniversary Celebration Party
with giveaways, drawings, snacks, champagne and more!

Sunday, Nov 10 12-6 pm Morgan Imports Annual Open House!
Trinity Park had another great National Night Out evening on Tuesday, August 6th. We had a tremendous turnout of neighbors and friends who all joined us in Trinity Park to celebrate an evening of community building and friendship, and to meet and chat with our local law enforcement partners. And despite an earlier thunderstorm, things went off without a hitch.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

And what a great time we had! We all enjoyed seeing our friends and neighbors, and meeting new ones as well. Kids, adults, and a few pets too. We all enjoyed hot dogs and pizza, and some desserts and refreshments. And the kids enjoyed, frisbees, sidewalk chalk art, beach balls, bubbles, yo-yo’s, and other fun stuff. But most important, we all just enjoyed some neighborly camaraderie in a safe and secure environment!

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association for sponsoring this event. The Trinity Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA) is one of the oldest and most active neighborhood associations in Durham. TPNA has been integral in building community, preserving historic architecture, working with the city on smart development, and keeping the neighborhood safe and enjoyable for all neighbors. We encourage all residents to join TPNA, and to contribute to our vibrant community.

It’s also impossible to put on such an event without the support and help of our community and neighbors. We graciously thank Austin Mitchell, owner of Domino’s Pizza on Main Street, who donated the pizza for our event. We encourage our neighbors to support our surrounding businesses to help keep our community vibrant.

We also had a tremendous team operating the grills this year. Special thanks to the guys from The Steve Gunter Team - Coldwell Banker HPW Midtown-Falls, Steve Gunter, Chuck Ottaway, Charles Kay, and Taylore Leggett - who kept us well supplied with grilled hotdogs. Thank you for a fantastic job!

We also were joined by members of Durham’s finest from the Durham Police Department and the Sheriff’s Department who stopped by to meet and speak with our neighbors and kids. On behalf of our neighborhood, we thank you for your service and dedication in helping to keep our community safe.

Finally, a special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this a successful event! Mimi Kessler and Becky Williams who provided coolers, Julia Borbley-Brown who coordinated the kids table and collected school supply donations. Also, Philip Beal, Diane Amato, and Alanis Sabates who helped set up and run the event. Additionally, Luke Murphy and members of the TPNA Board and others who helped clean up afterwards.

And a shout out to Larry Apple, our resident photographer, who took many pictures of the event! Larry has posted the photos online and they can be found at - https://www.yogile.com/l789db1eyaz #51m – password tpnno
Trinity Park Halloween!
Thursday, October 31st
4:30pm-6:30pm
By Steven Falzarano

We are fast approaching one of Trinity Park’s favorite celebrations…HALLOWEEN! This year Halloween falls on Thursday, October 31st, and once again, the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association will sponsor the annual Halloween Party and Costume Contest.

This year the event will take place as usual in Trinity Park. Festivities begin at 4:30pm and will end at 6:30pm, just in time for everyone go Trick or Treating! The Park will be decorated, and treats will be handed out. A craft table will be set up for kids to decorate and personalize their Trick or Treat bags. Also, brown craft bags will be available for decoration, or you can bring your own. And don’t forget to come and get your Glow Stick.

Last but not least…the Halloween Costume Contest! All kids are invited to participate in our Halloween costume contest. Judges will be on hand to select the most original costumes and many prizes will be given out. We encourage the entire family to get in costume and join in for the fun, and don’t forget your pets too!

We will also have a free raffle of great prizes for the kids.

So, plan to come on out and celebrate with your neighbors and friends. Last year we had an amazing turnout and we hope to top that this year! And if anyone has any ideas for an activity, we welcome you to contact Steven Falzarano.

We are also looking for some volunteers to help with the events as well as set up and take down. If you would like to help, please contact Steven Falzarano at falzos8077@aol.com.
TPNA BOARD MEETINGS
7pm on 1st Wednesdays, monthly. All Trinity Park residents are invited and encouraged to attend monthly TPNA board meetings, typically held on the first Wednesday of each month in the George Watts Montessori School Media Center. Come join us to greet your neighbors and learn about events and issues important to our neighborhood.

2019 MUNICIPAL ELECTION
Don’t miss the upcoming election to vote for Durham Mayor, three at-large council members, and an affordable housing bond.
Primary - Tuesday, October 8
Election - Tuesday, November 5
Find the complete election schedule including early voting dates at dcovotes.com.

TPNA HALLOWEEN
Thursday, Oct. 31st, beginning at 4:30pm at The Trinity Park. See page 10 for more information. Also, look out for more details on the listserv and on Facebook.

YIDDISH SONGFEST
Sunday, Nov. 10th, beginning at 3:00pm at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church. See page 8 for more information.

TRINITY PARK SALON SERIES
Wednesday, Nov. 13th, beginning at 7:30pm. See page 8 for more information and the venue location can be found at salonseries.org.
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