



# Trinity Park news

June 2013

## MAKING YARDS AND GARDENS “CREEK SMART”

BY LARRY TILLEY

In December, the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association, Durham Stormwater Services, and The Green Infrastructure Partnership, which includes ECWA, the City of Durham Stormwater Services, American Rivers, Downtown Durham, Inc., and the Triangle J Council of Governments, conducted field work in the

Ellerbe Creek Watershed to identify opportunities for small stormwater retrofits (e.g. green roofs, rain gardens) with the potential to improve water quality in Ellerbe Creek. The field work identified many yards in Trinity Park with the potential for “creek smart” yard improvements.

During a heavy rain in the 1000 block of Markham, it is easy

to see the large volume of water jumping the curb as it races to the creek at the bottom of the hill.

I was recently inspired to jump on the bandwagon and attend one of ECWA’s workshops to learn how to design a rain garden for my home. Measurements and calculations were made to determine just how much digging  
*(Story continued on page 6.)*

## MOVING FORWARD WITH MCPHERSON HOTEL PROJECT

BY KATHERINE JORDAN

Concord Hospitality’s extended stay Marriott project at the McPherson Hospital site continues to move forward, albeit tentatively. The developer is asking the City and County to extend incentives that would save Concord \$2 million in taxes once the hotel becomes operational. The City has verbally agreed to grant \$1.25 million, leaving a balance of \$755,000 for the County. County Finance Director George Quick projects it would take less than four years for the County to begin recouping the incentives, based on his estimate of approximately \$200,000 in new annual tax revenue from the hotel (it is roughly \$21,000 now as an idle lot).

It is the strong position of the neighborhood that Concord’s public private partnership request

is necessary and justified. TPNA urban planning committee chair John Swansey read a statement of this support at the May 6th Durham County Work Session. Preservation Durham, Downtown Durham, Inc., the Durham Convention Center Authority, and recently retired DDI CEO Bill Kalkhof also spoke in favor of the incentives.

After public comments and a presentation by Concord, the Commission asked several rounds of questions. The Commission seemed most concerned with the developer’s justification for need and the implications of extending incentives outside of the downtown Durham boundary (the site is one block beyond it.) The Board moved to revisit the request June 3rd. If passed, it will then be voted on by the full council later in the

month. In the interim, Concord was instructed to supply additional financial information on expected revenues and documentation of costs attributed to the historic hospital façade.

If Concord does not receive the incentives, they will likely drop the project, since the return on investment would be below what investors and lenders require. Should this happen, the site will remain blighted for the foreseeable future, Durham will miss out on substantial revenue, and quite likely McPherson hospital will be lost to the elements. TPNA is working to avoid such an outcome.

Neighbors are encouraged to attend the upcoming council meetings and contact County Commissioners to respectfully voice support for the project.

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# Closing of Main Street- How Are We Doing?

BY JULIA BORBELY-BROWN

As you read this issue of the newsletter, Main Street from Buchanan Boulevard to Broad Street will have been closed for about three weeks. We will be living with this reality until October, if all goes well with the State Department of Transportation's repair of the bridge at Main Street and Campus Drive.

What can YOU do to improve the situation? Drive more slowly and carefully; watch for pedestrians and cyclists; allow more time for travelling in this part of Durham; be patient as we all deal with this change in traffic patterns, and report drivers who fail to follow the law.

If you witness speeding, red light running, or pedestrians and cyclists at risk, please call the police non-emergency number (919-560-4600) and make a report. If traffic becomes dangerous due to the closure, calling the police could help gain additional patrols. If you note an area where things are not working as well as they could, here are officials to contact:

## **NCDOT:**

Jamal Atkins, E.I., Assistant Resident Engineer  
rjatkins@ncdot.gov  
(919) 220-4680

## **City of Durham Transportation:**

Pete Nicholas, P.E.  
peter.nicholas@durhamnc.gov  
101 City Hall Plaza, 4th Floor  
Durham, NC 27701  
(919) 560-4366

Calling the State and/or City could help traffic and engineering evaluate the timing of lights and

the effectiveness of the detour routes with an eye to making some improvements. The Departments of Transportation expect the first several weeks to be disruptive, and they will be actively making adjustments to calm traffic patterns.

The closing impacts Trinity Park, Trinity Heights, Burch Avenue and Old West Durham, as well as businesses along Broad Street, Ninth Street and Main. It also affects Duke University and the growing ridership of the Bull City Connector. Please be mindful of this impact as you walk, bike and drive around.

Many meetings were held with neighborhood leaders, city officials, Duke University and the State to plan for the closing. These actions were put in place to mitigate the adverse impact:

- No Parking Zones along Markham Avenue at street intersections have been expanded to increase sight distances at each intersection.

- Pavement Marking edgeline was installed to delineate the parking zones and tighten travel lane widths along Markham Avenue between Broad and Buchanan.

- The Durham Police Department is prepared to install dynamic speed signs to alert motorists of their travel speeds along Markham.

- City forces have collected vehicle speed and volume data on Markham (between Broad and Buchanan), Buchanan (between Main and Markham) and Broad (between Markham and Main.)

- High-visibility crosswalks and pedestrian crossing signs have been modified/enhanced/added at Onslow and Sedgfield along Markham Avenue.

- Additional "No truck" signage has been added along Buchanan and Markham.

- Street lighting has been reviewed to ensure that the intersections and street links along Green, Buchanan and Markham are properly illuminated.

- Traffic signals were upgraded at Markham and Buchanan, Buchanan and Trinity, Gregson and Morgan, and Duke and Morgan.

- Signal timing will be constantly evaluated (and modified as needed) throughout the Main Street closure.

- General traffic and the Bull City Connector are being rerouted to Hwy 147; other city buses will continue to use Green Street.

- Detour signage has been posted to educate drivers (The prescribed detour map is located at [http://durhamnc.gov/ich/pa/Pages/main\\_st\\_bridge.aspx](http://durhamnc.gov/ich/pa/Pages/main_st_bridge.aspx)).

- Two "Slow Pedestrian" signs have been installed in the center of Markham Avenue to help slow commuter traffic.

It might be a LONG four months, but in the end, the repair of an ancient bridge, on the State's TO DO list for decades – will be complete, and we may all have learned more about traffic safety during the process!

# BACKYARD BEEKEEPING: WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ?

BY MATTHEW YEAROUT

Lately honey bees have been getting a lot of publicity. Unfortunately, most of the conversation is about the trouble they are in. It is true, too: *Apis mellifera*, i.e. the European honey bee, is under tremendous pressure. Honey bees have all but disappeared from the wild. Among beekeepers in Durham and the surrounding area, average losses are 40-50%. One would be hard pressed to find a beekeeper that can't describe Small Hive Beetles with disturbing accuracy, or that hasn't battled a Varroa mite infestation. Worse yet is what we stand to lose without honey bees. One out of every three bites in a typical person's meal is pollinated by a bee. According to the USDA, this translates to about \$15 billion

in crop value each year.

Unfortunately, this is all too often how conversations about beekeeping start. If there is a silver lining, it is that more people are aware and are actively educating themselves. Bee schools offered by local Beekeeping Association in Alamance, Orange, Wake and soon to include Durham, typically a 10-week commitment, are staying booked.

In Trinity Park alone, the number of backyard beekeepers has easily doubled, and possibly tripled, in the last two years.

## Why Urban Beekeeping?

There is something empowering about growing one's own food, and a single hive can help pollinate a two-mile radius. That is a lot of gardens when the

lots are all a tenth to a quarter acre each. Equally beneficial for the honey bee is the biodiversity an urban setting like Trinity Park affords. The Pearl Mill Nature Preserve along Ellerbe Creek has everything from poplars to blackberries, and the neighborhood itself is a bountiful bee buffet of native and exotic plants, which offers them a diverse healthy diet and hopefully translates into healthy colonies.

## What Can I Do?

Become a beekeeper. Like the bees, we need all the help we can get. I budget \$300 for each hive and one afternoon a week for each apiary. It requires time, money and energy, but it is worth it had worked

*(Story continued on page 7.)*



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# TPNA Adopts New Guidelines for Charitable Giving

BY JODY WHITE

For many years, The Trinity Park Neighborhood Association has been making annual charitable donations to endeavors that align with the mission of the Association. TPNA's Board of Directors has recently adopted new guidelines by which interested parties may apply:

1. To request funding, visit [trinitypark.org](http://trinitypark.org) to download the donations policy and the application form.
2. Complete the application form.
3. Contact a current association board member (contact info should be found on the same website) and ask them to consider the application. If the board member finds the application of funds a legitimate cause, that member will

then submit the application at the appropriate time on the entity's behalf.

4. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, but the deadline for the year is September 1st for funding the same year.
5. At the September meeting, board members will share all applications for consideration.
6. At the October meeting, a vote will determine which applications will be funded so that those donations can be used as an estimate for the projected budget for the following year.
7. Any entities requesting funding for a short-term project and whose project timeline occurs after the September deadline are still welcome to apply. Just be sure to notify the board member you contact about what the funding deadlines are and that this is a

special consideration. The purpose of this new policy is to allow time to consider fully all the requests for funding and to appropriate funds in a considerate and fiscally responsible way.



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# TRINITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Summer Events

### JUNE

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

### JULY

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

### AUGUST

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

### PLAYDATE MEETUPS AT THE PARK

10:30 am- noon, June 8, July 13, and August 10. Activities are geared toward kids ages five and under, but all are welcome to join in the fun. Email [emily.daly@duke.edu](mailto:emily.daly@duke.edu) for details. See the listserv for inclement weather updates.

### Have You Checked Out Our New Website?

*Find upcoming neighborhood events, photos from past events, links to local businesses and history, maps, and other Trinity Park information. This is your best source for everything going on in and around Trinity Park. Featuring easy access to the neighborhood listserv and TPNA announcements, the site now enables residents to sign up for TPNA membership via PayPal.*

<http://trinitypark.org>

## Want to get involved in Trinity Park?

- Attend TPNA meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at George Watts Montessori Magnet School.
- Visit <http://trinitypark.org> and join one of the TP email listservs.
- Join the Community Building Committee and help with one or more neighborhood events.
- Join a TPNA committee and meet more of your neighbors!

## “The Fridge List”

If you see something suspicious or have an emergency, please call 911.

#### Police/Non-emergency

Northgate Substation 560-4582  
Main Phone Line 560-4600

#### Prevention & Citizens Patrol

Dial 560-4582, then \* 29400.  
(Home checks and inspections.)

Durham One Call 560-1245  
(Questions about city services)

Duke Off-Campus Affairs 684-6859

Poison Help 800-222-1222

Fire Station #2 560-4251  
(Ninth Street/non-emergency)

Animal Control 560-0630

Nuisances 560-7800

Tree Maintenance 560-4185

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[http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/transportation/streetlight\\_report.cfm](http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/transportation/streetlight_report.cfm)

## TPNA

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Treasurer, Germaine Brewington  
Secretary, Berry McMurray

#### Board Members

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Tempe Morgan  
Marc Phillips  
Jeff Porter  
John Swansey 682-5778  
Pam Swinney  
Heather Wilson 749-3622

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Julia Borbely-Brown

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Community Building  
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Membership  
Jody White 308-0851

PERC Clean-up  
Philip Azar 491-6002

Urban Planning  
John Swansey 682-5778

Traffic  
Martin Steinmeyer

Trees (Call to order street trees!)  
Shelly Dekker 680-2855

## Creek Smart Yards

(continued from page 1)

needed to be done to capture water from the front downspout.

The point is to contain it for several hours to a day so that it can slowly evaporate and drain away. The clay soil made the digging part of the job the hardest. After the added effort of hauling away that soil came the easy part of bringing in bags of mulch and new plants that love to have their feet wet.

As our mailman navigated around my project in progress, he nodded, commenting that he had worked around the sunken gardens on Trinity at Gregson as well.

There are many ways you can reduce your yard's impact on our local stream, including rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, downspout disconnection, tree planting, and soil amendment to name a few. These are all approaches that help you collect, store and use free, clean rainwater to green up your yard while keeping stormwater runoff from hammering the creek. Using rain water in your yard also helps reduce our consumption of treated drinking water.

The Ellerbe Creek Watershed

Association (ECWA) offers three ways to create a "creek smart" yard:

1. Attend a short, evening rain garden installation class (ECWA will schedule a class in Trinity Park if there is enough interest).

2. Attend an upcoming "Creek Smart Yard" workshop and get hands-on experience that will show you how to make your own rain garden, install your own cistern, or improve your soil's ability to hold water.

3. Have ECWA install a rain garden or cistern in your yard—they can install a limited number by summer's end, and probably more in the fall. Contact them to see if they identified your yard!

The more "creek smart" yards in Trinity Park, the better. To register for a class or workshop, or to request an assessment of your yard, contact Katherine Meehan with ECWA at 919-698-9729 or [katherine@ellerbecreek.org](mailto:katherine@ellerbecreek.org).

\*\*\*\*\*



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## Beekeeping (from page 3)



Another way to help is to buy local honey, which helps beekeepers recoup their costs. If you do not know a beekeeper, look for the "Certified by the NC State Beekeepers Association: label. Evidence suggests local honey may help abate regional specific pollen allergies.

### Fear Not

Before it became common knowledge that bees are in trouble, it was common knowledge that bees have stingers. Everyone

should understand that bees die when they sting, and they prefer to live. Unlike wasps, yellow jackets and hornets, European honey bees are not aggressive, and will not chase you and cannot bite or sting repeatedly. It is also important to know that allergic reactions to stinging insects are extremely rare. Reactions such as swelling, redness and even soreness are unpleasant but normal. Allergic reactions such as shortness of breath, hives and rapid heartbeat are serious but very uncommon. Mistakenly claiming an allergy gives the false impression that severe reactions are more common than they are and paints bees in an unfair and inaccurate light.

### Gardening and Landscaping

Honey bees do not pollinate everything. In fact they are not even native to this continent. But of the more than 3,000 species of

bees in North America, honey bees are the delegated representatives. In some ways, their presence is an environmental indicator.

Offering natural space such as a rain gardens and planting fruits, vegetables and pollinator friendly plants all help in encouraging native pollinators and in particular, honey bees. Also, it is important to remember that pesticides do kill bees, even if there is a different insect on the container, and herbicides can kill plants that bees find useful, such as golden rod and dandelions.

Anyone interested in beekeeping is welcome to join the Durham County Beekeepers the third Monday of each month, 6:30pm, at Sarah P Duke Garden, or visit us online at [DurhamBeekeepers.org](http://DurhamBeekeepers.org).

**Matthew Yearout is Vice President of the Durham Beekeepers Association.**



Triangle Pets Alive is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to ending the killing of healthy and treatable shelter pets in the Triangle region of North Carolina. The rescue was formed in April of 2012. In the span of six months, Triangle Pets Alive rescued and adopted out almost 70 dogs who were listed to be euthanized. We are committed to saving companion animals who enter our shelter systems, as well as provide education to the public regarding the care and welfare of animals, the importance of spaying and neutering pets, and the necessity to vaccinate against preventable diseases. For more information, visit [trianglepetsalive.org](http://trianglepetsalive.org).

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# CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS



## by Bunmi Fatoye-Matory

*“Conversations with Our Neighbors” highlights the people and history of Trinity Park. This issue: an interview with Gil Wheless, Junior, a third-generation Trinity Park resident and true “Renaissance man.”*

### **TPN: How long have you lived in Trinity Park?**

**Gil:** My parents bought the house in 1950. They bought it because Mother was pregnant with my brother. I was eight years old. Mother grew up right here with her parents on West Trinity Avenue, five houses away. My father surprised my mother with the house when he bought it for her as a gift. Sam Anger owned the house. He was the son of Sam Anger who owned a lumber company and had a house on Buchanan. My house (then my parents’ house) was built with the finest materials. My parents repainted the house Williamsburg green with white trim and got rid of the dining room wallpaper. Until my mother passed away at the age of 91, she was always proud of the house. In her last years, she would ask us to pick her up in the car and drive her around the block so she

could see the green house. The house was a source of creativity for me. I was a frustrated designer when I was young. One day, when my parents left for New York, I took out a wall between two closets. I was 12. I always wanted to redesign something in the house. My father wouldn’t allow any changes to be made inside, so I started on the outside, planting beautiful gardens. I attended the School of Design at North Carolina State University. During my second year in the School of Architecture, I won the Brick and Tile Competition in Architecture. The head of Landscaping Department came to see me and said my architecture was okay, but that I had won because I knew how to put things together. Frederick Law Olmstead, the landscape architect who designed New York Central Park and the Biltmore in Asheville as well as the Duke University campus, was my inspiration. The School of Design at North Carolina State University was then considered the best in the country, better than Berkeley’s or Harvard’s.

Upon graduating, I went to Connecticut to work for landscape architect A.E. Bye. He was a visiting professor from Cooper Union in New York for two weeks at NCSU. He told me to come and work for him after graduation. Without any interview, Mr. Bye gave me a job after I graduated. I formed my own company a year and a half later with two colleagues from the company. We started Environmental Design Associates in 1969 in Stamford, Connecticut. I stayed until 2006 when I retired.

### **TPN: What brought you back?**

**Gil:** My father asked me to come

back and take care of the family. I bought a townhouse in Durham. My parents were still living in the house on Trinity.

### **TPN: What was Durham like when you came back?**

**Gil:** It had come out of a deep depression and it was refreshing to see the synergy that had been created. My father died shortly after I moved here, and Mother died two years later. Another family member was living in the house for about three years, and after they moved, we put the house on the market. At the Open House, ten couples came to see the house, and six of them asked why I was selling the house. They said it must hold so many memories for me. I got into my car, drove around the block, and a sentimental song came on the radio. The dam burst, and I drenched my shirt with memories flooding back. I decided I wanted to keep the house. We started renovating it in September 2012 and hope to finish by this June. Many people here still remember my parents, and this makes it very special to me. I have traveled all over the world for work and leisure, and I can say there is no place like home.

### **TPN: What was life like as a young person in Trinity Park?**

**Gil:** Trinity Park was like a movie set when my parents moved here. The house reminded me of the houses in “Little Women,” with June Allison coming down the staircase. There was a formality to the living. Women belonged to special clubs such as Women’s Club, Garden Club and church groups. Mother worked with Hands downtown,

# AN INTERVIEW WITH GIL WHELESS (cont'd)

helping in relocating others to new surroundings. She was very involved with her community. There was a large house at the corner of Trinity Avenue and Watts, and I used to take piano classes there. One day, the house burnt down. It was a terrible sight. It left a vacant lot and the owner of the property, the Teer Company, was going to develop the site or sell it to a developer to build several houses. My mother, Max Rogers, Nancy Scott, and Linda Wilson all convinced Mr. Teer to sell the property to Trinity Park so we could have an identity called Trinity Park. Some residents of Trinity Park raised \$25,000 to buy the lot. Now we have a park called Trinity Park. Mr. Teer and his wife also contributed a lot to the Durham Performing Arts Center, DPAC. My grandfather, Don Carlos

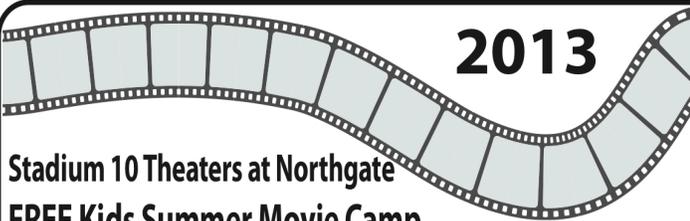
Barbee, Mr. Freeman, and Mr. Council, along with a few others, started the Watts Street Baptist Church. Church services were held in my grandparents' home on West Trinity Avenue while the church was under construction. Their house had a large dining room and living room. My brother, Don Wheless and his wife owned 1020 West Trinity Avenue before they moved to Croasdale, and my aunt Becky Hamlet owned the beige house at the corner of Gregson and Trinity. With all this family history, how could I not have restored 1021?

It is fun being back in the neighborhood, particularly in Durham. I feel like I am 23 years old again. All of the improvements that I have ever dreamed of for Durham are happening. As a landscape architect, I have had

projects around the country. I find Trinity Park quite exciting with the extent of restoration going on. Trinity Park is on an upswing, and it's attracting a lot of very fine people. Everyone that moves to Trinity Park is proud to be here. People are bringing it to where it was and in some cases, beyond. It is by far the healthiest and most desirable neighborhood to live in, whether you have a young family or you are a retiree. It is close to everything; the vibrations you get from downtown and Duke University energize the neighborhood.

**TPN: About what time did Trinity Park start turning around?**

**Gil:** I think around the end of the 70s or early 80s, when Trinity Park was founded. The reason was that a lot of the original homeowners who lived here were passing.



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|---|--------------|
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| Rise of The Guardians                   | Jul 2-4      |
| The Pirates! Band of Misfits            | Jul 9-11     |
| Ice Age 4: The Continental Divide       | Jul 16-18    |
| Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted      | Jul 23-25    |
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# AN INTERVIEW WITH GIL WHELESS (CONT'D)

Most of these houses were built in the 1920s and 30s, so there was a turnover. Things started turning around with the housing development around Martin Luther King Boulevard. I used to bring friends to visit from the Northeast, and they were always surprised to see the very nice housing stock and to see people getting along. Duke University bought some houses and renovated them. Residents who did a lot for the revitalization and preservation of Trinity Park include Eugene Brown, Linda Wilson, Anneh Rogers and many others.

**TPN: The neighborhood has changed a lot since you grew up. There is a Southern way of life that no longer exists. How do you feel about this?**

**Gil:** Growing up here was wonderful. We had Cub Scouts, Boy Scouta and the Demolet. When I was young, my friends and I would fashion our swords and played at the vacant lot where we now have the park. Medieval movies were popular then. We visited the churches and synagogues in Trinity Park. We used to go to Carolina Theater where they raffled and gave away bicycles on Saturdays. Television was just coming into the scene when I was young. The little green building on Watts Street, between Minerva and Trinity used to be Piggly Wiggly. I would save my money to buy a popsicle and sit with my grandfather on the porch to savor it. Mrs. Lawrence, our neighbor, always made chess pies (similar to pecan pie) and they would sit at the window to cool, just like in the movies. She would always offer me some. There was a time when Durham hosted the

Demolet ( a masonic order for high school boys). A conclave was held at the old Washington Duke Hotel, and all of the orders from all over the state attended. My mother was the President of the Durham chapter. When she got up to speak, a couple of guys sitting in front of me said, "Whose mother is that?" and I was so proud to say she was my mother. We started dance lessons downtown, and that was when we met kids from other neighborhoods like Hope Valley, Watts Hospital and Forest Hills, and we started dating outside Trinity Park. We had grand parties for the Cottillon. Claudia Wright had a debutante party in her house on Roxboro and invited Ann Southern, an actress. It was fun meeting celebrities.

People in Trinity Park now come from every part of the country and have brought the best qualities with them to make this

place vibrant and exciting.

**TPN: What changes would you like to see in Trinity Park?**

Gil: The most important is that the city responds to our concerns, like safety and repair of sidewalks and alleyways. These should be as important as Main Street. We should encourage more people to participate in the Spring and Fall clean-up. My step grandmother used to sweep her porch and steps every day. It created pride, and pride is contagious.

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*TPNA extends its appreciation to Gil for this interview. If you know of a Trinity Park resident who would like to be interviewed, please contact Bunmi Fatoye-Matory at [bunmifm@gmail.com](mailto:bunmifm@gmail.com) or Meredith Newlin at [meredith.newlin@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.newlin@gmail.com).*

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## Watts Carnival a Spectacular Success

BY ANNIE AMBROSE

George Watts Montessori held its annual Spring Carnival this year on April 27, a spectacular sunny, 70 degree day. Families from the school, Trinity Park, and other nearby neighborhoods came out to play games, jump in the four bounce houses, bid on more than 75 silent auction items, and hang out with friends. The carnival was a huge success, raising over \$15,000 for the PTA. The funds will be used by the PTA to support school programs including writer's workshop, science and literacy projects; field trips; classroom and Montessori supplies; the edible garden; parent and student get-togethers, and more.

New this year were four food trucks, which were set up in the school parking lot and catered to carnival goers and neighbors alike. We had ice cream from The Parlour, hot dogs from Dang Good Dogs, Latin fare from Captain Poncho's Tacos, and bistro food from Liv's Food Truck. Kids enjoyed face painting, nail painting, hair decorating, and tattoos at the "spa services" area. We also had a craft table with wallet and bracelet making, a photo booth, and colorful balloon animals from Ted's Twisted Balloons.

And what's a carnival without games? Among others, we had knock-down-the-cans, a ring toss, Bozo buckets, croquet, a wet sponge toss, and another in which kids made and decorated paper airplanes and then flew them through a rocketship target. And of course after winning all their tokens at these games, kids were off to the prize booth to cash in on the loot.

Kids and parents also enjoyed visiting with six Durham-area vendors who shared information, free gifts, and fun activities. These included American Red Cross, Brush Dental, Recyclique, The Nasher, The Eno River Association, and EK Powe art teacher Malcolm Goff. Thank you to all the sponsors, vendors, teachers, volunteers, parents and kids who helped make Spring Carnival a great success. We hope to see Trinity Parkers again next year!

## Rid Trees of English Ivy

BY SHELLEY DEKKER

English Ivy, seemingly planted with abandon in Trinity Park's past, is often a maintenance challenge and a nuisance. More important to know, however, is that it is a quiet killer of mature trees. It obscures any trunk defects, which makes risk and hazard assessment difficult, and as it amasses on infested trees, it decreases vigor and increases chances of wind-throw. It also serves as a reservoir for bacterial leaf scorch that infects oaks, elms, and maples. It consumes rainwater and soil nutrients that would otherwise benefit the tree. The fruit of English Ivy is mildly toxic to birds.

Homeowners are urged to control or rid property of English ivy from the trunks of trees before it can compromise the health and longevity of these assets. Cutting and pulling the vines is labor-intensive, but it can hold the plant in check for years. If you spot English Ivy growing on a City-owned street tree, please call 560-1200 to report it.



photo credit: : Susie Post Rust



photo credit: Susie Post Rust

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The Trinity Park Neighborhood Association, with assistance from Trinity Park-based design firm Indigo Envelope, has opened a shop on Cafe Press. Check out all the great items available for showing your neighborhood pride by visiting [www.cafepress.com/thetrinityparkshop](http://www.cafepress.com/thetrinityparkshop) or <http://trinitypark.org>. There's something for everyone, including kids and pets! A small percentage of the proceeds will support your TPNA.

## **You love Durham. You love Trinity Park.** ***Renew your Trinity Park Neighborhood Association membership!***

You love Durham. You love Trinity Park. But have you joined your Trinity Park Neighborhood Association? For just \$15 per year (or \$25 for two years) you will be supporting the initiatives that make living here so wonderful. Most neighborhoods require its residents to pay homeowners association fees. Since Trinity Park is in the heart of the city, it does not collect required fees. But we encourage all residents—homeowners and renters—to join.

The TPNA supports our neighborhood with donations to neighborhood schools and organizations and by sponsoring great community events—Durham Symphony's Pops in the Park, Halloween party, Easter Egg Hunt, clean-up days and more. TPNA and its residents are the reasons for the success of this neighborhood and we need you to help us keep Trinity Park as one of Durham's finest neighborhoods.

We continue to make progress and improvements for our neighbors and your membership will assist us in doing so. Remember you can also join online at <http://trinitypark.org>. If you have not paid your dues this year, please consider joining today.

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