TRINITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Durham Complete Streets

by Erik Lanfried

Durham Complete Streets is an organization that believes that all Durham streets should be safe for everyone, regardless of whether they are walking, biking, taking transit, or in a car. While this may not seem like a radical concept, it runs counter to the way most streets have been designed in Durham for the past 70+ years. Most streets in Durham have been designed with the goal of moving cars and trucks as fast as possible through the city, often to the detriment of our neighborhoods and commercial areas.

Complete Streets is an approach to street design that many communities throughout the United States have embraced, including several in North Carolina. It is not a one-size-fitsall approach. Rather, it recognizes that each street is different and needs to fit within the context of the larger street network. Stakeholder input is thus an extremely important component of Complete Streets, ranging from City departments to neighborhood groups to advocacy groups.

A Complete Streets approach can lead to fewer traffic-related deaths and injuries. Why? Because speed kills. Pedestrians struck by vehicles traveling 25 mph only have a 5% chance of dying. At 35 mph, that percentage rises to 45%. At 45 mph, it's 85%. When roads are designed with all users in mind, traffic speeds should be lowered and lane widths narrowed in areas where lots of people are traveling on foot, on a bike, or on a bus. Not only can Complete Streets help prevent fatalities and severe injuries, they can also lead to healthier communities by encouraging people to walk and bike more.

The Complete Streets approach can also lead to a more equitable community by allowing those without cars to participate more fully in the social and economic life of the city, which in turn, enhances economic vitality. Commerce



happens at 3 mph, not 30 mph, and there are several national studies that have shown improved sales at local businesses after streets became more friendly to people on foot, on bikes, and on transit.

The good news is that Durham is starting to make some progress. The recent conversion of Main Street in front of Duke's East Campus is a good example of a Complete Street makeover. There, a four-lane road was reduced to three lanes to allow for bike lanes in each direction. A crosswalk and sidewalk were added near Campus Drive, and a Bull City Connector shelter was installed. All of this was done without creating any significant travel delays for motorists.

Other projects have moved Durham in the right direction, but have fallen short of becoming a Complete Street. Anderson Street near Duke's West Campus had neckdowns installed to narrow the street but, these neckdowns interfered with the many bicyclists who use to street to commute to Duke University, so some had to be removed at additional expense. More recently, a project on West Club Boulevard *Continued on page 2*

Complete Streets, continued from page 1

that was ready to go out to bid for construction is being redesigned because it, too, did not accommodate the needs of cyclists.

A similar project here in Trinity Park to install additional neckdowns along Duke Street and Gregson Street is a step in the right direction but will fall well short of a Complete Street project because the highway nature of the neighborhood streets will remain intact once it is completed.

Sadly, the majority of streets in Durham remain incomplete, and this leads to disturbing trends. From 1997 to 2012, there were more pedestrian crashes per capita involving children in Durham than any other community in North Carolina. Sixty percent of pedestrian crash victims in Durham are African-American. There have been many fatal crashes in the past year in Durham, several involving pedestrians or cyclists. These deaths are not inevitable.

Durham Complete Streets is building a coalition to advocate for a change in strategy for how Durham's streets are constructed. This change will require a commitment at all levels of Durham's government, from City Council and the County Commissioners to City staff. But most of all, it will require a dedicated group of citizens who demand better outcomes. If you'd like to join us, or just learn more, please visit http://www.durhamcompletestreets.com or follow us on Facebook or Twitter (@DurhamComplete).

Main Street/Campus Drive was redesigned with Complete Streets in mind



- 4 travel lanes
- No room for people on bikes
- Sidewalk on one side only
- No safe place to cross on foot
- No pad or bus shelter



- 3 travel lanes
- Bike lanes
- Sidewalks on both sides
- Pedestrian signal
- Bull City Connector shelter

Thank you for letting us help make your Christmas Merry

and your New Year Happy!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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YELLOWBIRD BAKING

Featured Neighbor: Interview with Jenny Leinbach

by Marc Phillips

What 3 things would you like Trinity Park residents to know about Yellowbird Baking?

1. I guess the most important thing to know is that **Yellowbird Baking bakes cakes.** I describe them as old-fashioned cakes with flair.

Old-fashioned meaning they are made from scratch cakes that I remember from childhood--delicious, unpretentious, round, layer cakes. A good example is the yellow cake with chocolate icing that I always had as a little girl for my birthday, but better because I use French chocolate buttercream instead of my mother's confectioners sugar icing (although that was good too). Old-fashioned cakes should taste really, really good. *Flair* meaning that besides tasting really good, my cakes are pretty.

I enjoy decorating with edible flowers and herbs from the garden, maybe some candied citrus peel or fruit, when appropriate, and just a little piping. Sometimes the occasion lends itself to something more dramatic, and I'll compose an edible still life of sorts on top. I had fun this past summer with figs, scuppernongs, and hops.

I make a lot of wedding cakes. I make birthday cakes and shower cakes and cakes for the office. I bake cakes just because you feel like eating some really good cake today! And I make cupcakes.

2. Yellowbird Baking is only 3 years old. In my previous baking life I gained lots of experience working in restaurants and bakeries—and for awhile in a macrobiotic lunch counter in Austin, New York, and New Orleans. I was lucky to have learned from some inspired chefs and bakers in the big world out there, but having my own business has allowed me to explore my own cake vision. One of the really fun things about Yellowbird Baking is working with other small downtown Durham businesses when they need cake.

There is such great food culture in Durham right now, and it's terrific to feel like I'm contributing to that.

3. Practical stuff. I have a website

(www.yellowbirdbaking.com) with some basic information, as well as a lot pictures and a Yellowbird Baking facebook page with lots more pictures. Be in touch if you need cake!

Why did you choose Trinity Park to open your business?

I am a home-based business, and I live in Trinity Park :)

What has been the biggest surprise and unexpected result since you opened for business?

Probably the biggest surprise is how quickly my business has grown just through word of mouth and a little help from social media and the neighborhood listservs. Friends, neighbors and other businesses in Trinity Park have been terrific customers and publicity agents. I appreciate y'all immensely!

Are you planning any changes to Yellowbird Baking in the future?

I recently started selling my cupcakes at Reed's Coffee and Art, a great little cafe/art gallery in adorable, downtown Mebane. On any given day there are cupcakes and cakes all over my kitchen and dining room table, pot of jam simmering on the stove and fresh fruit purees filling up my freezer. Frankly, I am running out of space.

I really love what I do and have lots of ideas I'd like to explore, so I'm beginning to think about expanding to a commercial space nearby, preferably somewhere close enough to be able to ride my bike, where I can spread out a little, experiment some, bake more, and return the house to my family.



Update from The Trinity Park Foundation

by Julia Borbely-Brown

The Trinity Park Foundation, Inc. ("The Foundation") is continuing to make improvements to the neighborhood. We have targeted four areas of focus for the expenditure of funds and the deployment of volunteer effort, and this activity will persist in 2016.

The Park – The newest addition to The Trinity Park is the gate at the alley. Thanks to Foundation Board member Shelley Dekker for working with Ben Sheehy of BAMPRO on the design and installation. Special thanks also goes to Gil Wheless on The Foundation Board, who was a strong and persistent advocate for this gate to help protect park users, especially little ones, from traffic in the alley. Look for more changes in the coming months. With the help of The Blossom Garden Club and the donation of a number of plants, a professional landscaper will make improvements to the large bed along Watts Street. The hot summer was hard on some of the new plantings in the bed behind The Little Free Library. We will explore ways to improve the looks of that bed, as well as the one near the gazebo. The Foundation will coordinate the installation of a Durham History Grove on the Trinity Avenue side of The Park in 2016. We also hope to work with the City to trim trees or to receive permission to hire a professional. We had two successful work days this fall, and we will organize two more to deal with the huge volume of leaves. Look for listserve messages or contact juliaborbelybrown@yahoo.com, if you want to help. One hour of your time can make a huge difference!

Trees – The Foundation provided extra funds to Alex Johnson, City Arborist, to purchase larger replacement trees to be planted along Gregson Street, between Minerva and Lamond. We will work with the City and the TPNA Tree Committee to organize volunteers for a planting day in early winter. We hope to replicate the success of the 2015 event. The Foundation also provided funds to purchase materials for banding trees in The Park and beyond to continue our neighborhood war on cankerworms. Special thanks goes to Cavett and Barker French for their help with this.

Art – The Foundation's Art Committee has met a few times with good results. We have commissioned a new sign for the Main Street median, and we look forward to seeing a sketch from artist Al Frega soon. The plan is to move the current sign to a new location and to reinstall the Marie Austin memorial art work, which has been in storage for several years. We have also received permission from a north end neighbor to place an artistic sign on his property. The Art Committee will meet again to select the artist for this new sign. Going from idea to final installation will take time, because we must obtain the necessary permission and clearance from city departments.

Medians - Two workdays were held to beautify the three circles in the north end. This is becoming an annual event for The Foundation. We also hired a professional to prune the crepe myrtles in all three Watts Street circles. Please drive by and see how the circles look. We are in discussion with the City about how to enlarge the Markham Avenue median. One requirement is that we hire a civil engineering firm to design a plan and provide an estimate of the cost of the project. There might be grant possibilities available if we obtain all levels of City approval to make this change to the median. Removing impervious surface and having pervious surface with plantings would be a benefit to the neighborhood, the City, and the watershed. The Foundation remains fully aware of the need to improve the large median on Trinity Avenue. As time, energy, and funding permit, we will turn our attention to this project.

If you are have ideas or hopes for the neighborhood or are willing to help with any of these endeavors, please contact Julia Borbely-Brown at juliaborbelybrown@yahoo.com.



Halloween in Trinity Park

by Steve Falzarano

Wow, what a wonderful Halloween in the Park we had! This year's Trinity Park Halloween festivities were one of the best ever! We had a few hundred neighborhood kids, pets, and adults turn out all dressed up in their wonderfully creative costumes! A great time was had by all, and it was a great way to see friends and neighbors in a safe and fun environment. Events like this are what make Trinity Park such a great place to live!

Kids enjoyed a craft table where they could decorate and personalize a Halloween bag. This was a big hit! We also gave away almost 500 glow light necklaces and bracelets.

All of this was possible with the support and help from our Trinity Park neighbors, volunteers, and local businesses! Very special thanks goes out to Ted Snyderman for his tremendous help and support in organizing and planning the event. Special thanks to our decorating and craft table volunteers: Janene Tompkins, John Dagenhart, Phillip Dismukes, Sarah Wright, and Rebecca, as well as other, last minute volunteers who stepped up to help out. Special thanks to our costume contest judges, Philip Azar, Ilene Handler, and Caslin Gilroy.

I would also like to thank our supporters and sponsors, whose help made our craft table and costume prizes possible: Joan Austin and Marie Austin Real Estate, The Play House on Ninth Street, Morgan Imports, and Northgate Mall. Please support these and other local businesses during the Holiday season and all year long!

Lastly, and on behalf of TPNA, thanks to all the neighbors who attended the event—you all helped to make this a wonderful time for the kids and the community! We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Tree Talk

by Shelley Dekker, Trinity Park Tree Committee

The Trinity Park Foundation has once again given \$1000 toward tree planting in the neighborhood for this winter's planting season, as well as an additional \$2000 toward planting along Gregson Street adjacent to Durham School of the Arts. This money goes toward the cost of the trees themselves, and the City provides the funds to select, order, ship, and plant the trees. It is a win-win situation, but one that may not be sustainable due to the heavy burden of tree removals being placed on the City's urban forestry department. While the urban forestry budget has remained stagnant over the last several years, the number of tree removals has continued to soar as the City's willow oaks age and decline. As the pace of removals accelerates, it leaves the department with little time or money to replace the trees they remove, leaving the future of the City's tree canopy at grave risk. On one street alone in our own neighborhood (Minerva Avenue), this fall and winter will see the removal of 12-13 street trees. Eight mature trees on the 1100 block were removed in October so that a storm water pipe could be replaced, and 4-5 large oaks on the 1000 block will be coming down soon due to age and disease. This heightens the importance of the Trinity Park Foundation's commitment to tree replacement in our neighborhood, and compels us to seek out other areas of the neighborhood, where we might be able to help make an impact as well.

Mark your calendars for February 13, 2016! Love your Neighborhood -Plant some Trees

Last year we had a very successful tree planting day on Valentine's Day. This year we will show love again to the neighborhood by working with Alex Johnson (City Arborist), Keep Durham Beautiful, and others to plant a number of trees in Trinity Park. Several church and school groups also worked with us last year.

If you as an individual or your church group, youth group, school club or scout troop would like to participate, please send an email to juliaborbelybrown@yahoo.com.

We will work on Saturday, February 13, from 9:00 am until noon. If we have an excess of volunteers, that would be wonderful—we will put them to good use in The Park in Trinity Park!

Trinity Park Community Yoga Class: All are Welcome

by Michael Dennis

The word *yoga* comes from the Sanskrit root *yuj*, which means *to yoke*. Pretty much to tie your oxen together with a wooden beam. Historically in yoga, that meant hitching yourself to the Divine. For me, it can also mean to connect to one's breath, one's body, one's past and future—or one's community.

As your neighbor and certified yoga instructor, I'm pleased to announce a weekly yoga class for the Trinity Park community. No experience is required for the class. I teach basic yoga and sometimes meditation techniques. There is a suggested \$10 donation, but all financial abilities are welcome; no one will be turned away. A limited number of mats are also available to be borrowed.

The class will be held at the gymnasium of George Watts Elementary School, where we will be joined by some of the school staff. The class will likely be weekly on Tuesday or Wednesday from approximately 7:00-8:00 pm—pending confirmation from school administration. The time should be confirmed in the coming weeks—so likely by the time this newsletter is printed. I will also announce it on the TP listserv. If you are interested in the class, please email me at michael@friendlymountain.com for details. Again, no experience required, and all are welcome.

I also would like to offer each TPNA member a \$15 discount for one private yoga, Thai yoga therapy (a combination of massage and assisted stretching), or Reiki session. I would like for you to instead use that \$15 for your annual TPNA membership to help support the great work they do for our neighborhood! Please visit my website http://friendlymountain.com for more information or email me to schedule an appointment. I am excited to meet you all and to help facilitate this opportunity for my neighbors to breathe and "flow" together.

Holiday Safety Tips

by Steve Falzarano

As we enter our Holiday season we want to make sure our neighborhood remains safe and secure for all. Whether staying at home or travelling, it is incumbent upon each of us to help ensure that our homes and property are secure. The best deterrence to crime is vigilance and denial of opportunity. Some helpful tips to remember are:

- Don't leave anything visible in your car. Lock doors and use off street parking if possible.
- Ask a neighbor to retrieve any delivered packages that are left at your door. There are always folks walking the neighborhood looking for delivered packages to steal off your doorstep.
- Ask a neighbor to collect mail if you are going away or arrange for the post office to hold your mail.
- Let your neighbors know if you will be gone over the holiday and ask that they watch for anything unusual.
- A maintained yard, bushes and shrubs trimmed from windows and doorways is a deterrence to would be thieves.
- Don't leave anything in your yard that would encourage someone to want to steal. Lock yard gates if possible.

- Install and maintain motion lights. Set multiple timers for lights to come on at different times in your house.
- Draw blinds and drapes so anyone on the street cannot see into your home.
- Check all window and door locks after having workers or others in your house. If you see something or someone unusual, take a picture if possible and call the police. If comfortable, make eye contact and let the person know they have been seen.
- Don't post your vacation pictures on Facebook until AFTER you have returned. No need to advertise an empty house.



Today in Trinity Park I responsibly disposed of....

by Jody White

Old prescriptions and expired medications: Do you have any of these lingering in your kitchen drawers, the medicine cabinet, or hidden in the dark corners of your bag or satchel? Did you know there is a way to dispose of them that is safer than placing them in your curb trash? Some medications can be fatal with just one dose, and to protect against accidental ingestion by humans or animals, we should dispose of these medications properly. Not far from the neighborhood is a collection bin in the lobby of the Durham County Courthouse. Durham residents may take expired or unused medicine to this bin after removing or blacking out personal information (name, telephone number). There is a parking garage attached to the building, and the parking fee is nominal for a short visit. The area of the lobby where the bin is located is just before the formal screening check in (with scanners and deputy sheriffs), so this does not take more than a few minutes. The courthouse itself is a beautiful building and worth the trip. If you would prefer an even

more convenient solution, some medications can be flushed down the drain. For a list of flushable medications please visit the FDA webpage: http://tinyurl.com/TPmedflush. If neither of these options appeal to you, at the least follow FDA guidelines* for disposing of meds in household trash:

- Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unpalatable substance, such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds;
- Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;
- 3) Throw the container in your household trash;
- Scratch out all personal information on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or empty medicine packaging to make it unreadable, then dispose of the container.

*http://tinyurl.com/FDAdisposalguide



Luminaria

by Rebecca, Kayla, and Julia Daniels

Trinity Park's annual Luminaria event is coming up, and we're looking forward to seeing your walkway lit with candles. Join your neighbors for a pre-lighting/supply-buying event on Sunday, December 20, from 4:00-6:00 pm at The Trinity Park. There will be fun festivities for everyone: warm beverages, crafts for kids (and kids at heart), food trucks, and even a surprise visitor from the North Pole. Bring a children's book to help stock The Park's Little Free Library and get a special "thank you" treat. You are also invited to take a book home with you, both at the event or anytime all year round! Head home after the event to light your luminarias. Information will be distributed via The Trinity Park listserve about getting your Luminaria supplies before the 20th. This year's event is being hosted as a fundraiser for Girl Scout Troop 3799. For more information, please contact Rebecca Daniels at rebeccaLdaniels@aol.com.

About the Girl Scouts: We are 8th and 9th graders in Troop 3799, and we are raising money for an international trip. We have been saving money from our cookie sales for two years now. We have just started fundraising in the last few months, including banding more than 35 trees in the Trinity Park neighborhood against cankerworms. We are planning our trip for 2018, and



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919-383-5578 www.westsideanimal.com although we do not know where we are going, it will be awesome! Our troop is thinking about going to Italy, England, Ireland, or Iceland. (by Kayla and Julia).





TRINITY PARK NEWS

TRINITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter Events

December

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TPNA BOARD MEETINGS

First Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm. Monthly TPNA board meetings, typically held on the first Wednesday of the each month in the George Watts Montessori School Media Center.

LUMINARIA

December 20, 4:00-6:00 pm. Join friends and neighborhoods at The Trinity Park to help raise money for charity and celebrate the Season of Light!

TPNA SPECIAL MEETING

January 27, 7:00 pm. All neighbors are encouraged to attend a special meeting to vote on new board members and discuss issues important to Trinity Park.

BLOSSOM GARDEN CLUB

Second Tuesday of the month, 10:00 am. Come learn and share gardening ideas. Details on page 1. Contact Elisabeth Stagg, at elisabeth.stagg@gmail.com for more information.

TREE PLANTING

February 13, 9:00 am-noon. Help plant trees in the neighborhood. Contact juliaborbelybrown@yahoo.com to volunteer.



TPNA Board and Committees

Officers

President, Don Ball Vice President, Marc Phillips Treasurer, Janene Tompkins Secretary, Deb Dobbins

Board Members

Joan Austin Kevin Davis Steve Falzarano Derek Jones Elizabeth Parish Ted Snyderman Paul Stinson Pam Swinney Jennifer Valentyn

Past President

Jody White

Newsletter Editor, Elizabeth Parish

Business Sponsor Liaison Dan Jewell

Committees

Finance Janene Tompkins

Communications Marc Phillips

Community Building Jody White

Membership Paul Stinson

INC Representative Philip Azar

Urban Planning Julia Borbely-Brown Para Drake Linda Wilson

Traffic Martin Steinmeyer

Trees Shelley Dekker

Safety Steve Falzarano



Membership Form and Volunteer Information

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: <u>http://www.trinitypark.org</u>

If you have questions about your membership status, email tpnamembership@gmail.com.

Name(s):			
Address:			
Durham, NC 27701			
Phone:Email			
Select a Membership Payment Option	Please contact me about volunteering – check all th	hat a	apply:
$\Box \text{Two Years} = \25 $\Box \text{Five Years} = \50	 Association Membership Urban Planning 		Safety/Neighborhood Watch Finance/Budgeting
$\Box \text{Lifetime Membership} = \200	□ Traffic/Pedestrian Safety		Newsletter Delivery
	 House Tour/Garden Tour Communications (newsletter, website, social media) 		Contact me as needs arise