

Trinity Park 11CWS

WINTER 2016

Home Tour a Great Success on Perfect Fall Day in Trinity Park

By Mimi Kessler

This year the Home Tour was on Sunday October 16, 2016 from 11am to 5pm. We had spectacular weather which always helps with attendance. Our theme was "A Place for Everyone" and accordingly there were 11 homes on the Tour ranging in size, style, and location all through the neighborhood from Club Blvd to near Main Street. The Home Tour Team worked feverishly both before and on the day of the tour to make it successful. We achieved another record in advertising sales and tickets sold briskly. It was a very successful tour! We have some booklets left for anyone interested in the details of the homes and the advertising. Please contact us if you would like to pick one up. We also had the Street Festival which adds a festive atmosphere to the day. Twenty-five businesses/organizations participated, including artists, retail businesses, real estate, and service businesses.



Many of the beautiful homes included on this year's tour

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We could never do this kind of thing without the help and kindness of others! Many thanks to...

The Homeowners who made it all possible:



- > Susan and Elliott Schaffer
- ➤ Laura Benedict and John Morris
- Charlotte Chapman
- > Jenny French
- > Jeff and Marci Porter
- Courtney Sava and Rudy Goldschmidt
- Hank Majestic
- Doug and Can Dickerson
- Annette Adamska and Aaron Whittier
- ➤ Ilene and Jim Hadler

Supporters who made it all possible:

- An anonymous contributor
- Measurement Inc. for booklet printing
- TROSA for assistance with the Street Festival
- ➤ Bulldega for sponsoring the Wine Tasting Raffle
- ➤ 10 Toes Tours for helping visitors get around to the homes
- Wine Authority for giving us a great discount on wine for the wrap party
- Rose's Meat Market and Sweet Shop for in-kind munchies
- Classic Treasurers, Morgan Imports, and The Regulator for advance ticket sales
- Captain Poncho, Shirba Shirba, and JAM Ice Cream food trucks for coming to keep our visitors going
- ➤ And for Cover Design, Alison Gatherum of Research Triangle Graphics.com

The <u>Home Tour Team</u> who made it all possible:



Chair - Mimi Kessler Co-Chair - Linda Wilson Co-Chair - Pam Swinney Booklet Coordinator - Mike Schram Booklet Contributor - Wendy Hillis Booklet Layout - Derek Jones Copy Editor - Ron Gallagher Graphic Artist for Ad copy - Sarah Law Homeowner/Volunteer Party - JC Swansey Photographer - Laura Wessel Photographer - Brit McInnis Proof Reader -Ron Gallagher Publicity Lead - Diane Amato Sponsor Advertising - Philip Azar - Stephanie Wilson Sponsor Advertising Sponsor Invoicing/Treasurer - Andrew Stark Volunteer Coordinator - Jody White

And 45 volunteers who were docents or helped with the festival the day of the Tour.

And it is not too early to get on the team as we are looking for people to join the committee for 2020! If you would like to participate, please contact Linda Wilson at 919-264-7395.



Pre-Kindergarten Class Fees Coming in 2017 to George Watts Montessori

By Thomas Wenger

Both George Watts Montessori (GWM) Magnet School and Morehead Montessori (MM) Magnet School offer free pre-Kindergarten (pre-K) for children who are 4 years old by August 31st of the school year. Our schools are the only two schools in the Durham public school system that have free pre-K for all children, regardless of special needs. The Durham Public School (DPS) Board made the decision to offer free pre-K around 20 years ago to attract applicants to GWM and MM and to allow combined 4- and 5-year old Montessori-style primary classrooms. Both schools had been traditional neighborhood elementary schools, and were made Montessori magnet schools to attract students, with entry based on a community-wide lottery. Priority in the lottery was given first to siblings, then to families in the priority zones near the schools. For much of the past 20 years children outside the priority zones filled more than half of the seats. In the last several years, however, as both the schools and the neighborhoods in the priority zones became more popular with parents, children from the priority zone neighborhoods have sometimes filled most of the pre-K slots.

Many parents outside of the priority zones for George Watts and Morehead would also like their children to have pre-K, and the School Board worried that it was unfair that parents inside the priority zones for Morehead and George Watts have relatively easy access to this advantage while parents outside the priority zones do not. All other public pre-K programs in Durham are for low-income families and families with special needs, and there are many more applicants for these pre-K positions than available positions.

For these reasons, and also because the cost per student at the Montessori schools is higher than many of the other elementary schools in Durham, the Durham School Board voted in October 2016 to begin charging a fee for the pre-K classes at GWM and MM, starting in August 2017. Families with low income will not be charged, but wealthier parents will be charged an increasing amount, depending on family income and family size. This is called a sliding scale fee. The School Board is eager not to reverse the gains made at our schools, and believes that charging for pre-K classes based on ability to pay is the least disruptive approach to equitable distribution of public school resources. Some have voiced concern regarding the proof-of-income requirement discouraging some in the wider Durham community from

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Ī	\$ 130,000	\$ 5,200	\$	4,550	\$ 3,900	\$	3,250	\$	2,600	\$	1,950	\$ 1,30
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I	\$ 140,000	\$ 5,600	\$	4,900	\$ 4,200	\$	3,500	\$	2,800	\$	2,100	\$ 1,40
Ī	\$ 145,000	\$ 5,800	\$	5,075	\$ 4,350	\$	3,625	\$	2,900	\$	2,175	\$ 1,45
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-	\$ 155,000	\$ 6,200	\$	5,425	\$ 4,650	\$	3,875	\$	3,100	\$	2,325	\$ 1,55
1	\$ 160,000	\$ 6,400	\$	5,600	\$ 4,800	\$	4,000	\$	3,200	\$	2,400	\$ 1,600
Ī	\$ 165,000	\$ 6,600	\$	5,775	\$ 4,950	\$	4,125	\$	3,300	\$	2,475	\$ 1,650
1	\$ 170,000	\$ 6,800	\$	5,950	\$ 5,100	\$	4,250	\$	3,400	\$	2,550	\$ 1,70
1	\$ 175,000	\$ 7,000	\$	6,125	\$ 5,250	\$	4,375	\$	3,500	\$	2,625	\$ 1,750
Ī	\$ 180,000	\$ 7,200	\$	6,300	\$ 5,400	\$	4,500	\$	3,600	\$	2,700	\$ 1,800

As proposed in Oct. 27th DPS Board of Education meeting agenda

applying at all, but the Durham School Board has decided to move ahead with this plan for schoolyear 2017-18.

Based on the information presently available, families with total family income less than twice the Federal poverty level (presently around \$30,000) will receive free pre-K. A family of eight with a family income of \$30,000 per year would pay a total of \$75 for a school year of pre-K, whereas a family of two (one parent and a 4-yr old) earning \$180,000 per year would pay \$7,200. The proposed fee scale is posted above and can be accessed at dpsnc.net; Board of Education Meetings, Agendas and Minutes; October 27 Agenda pages 141, 142.

The Durham Public School Board would also like to increase the number of pre-K positions in Durham, eventually to make public pre-K available to all parents in Durham who want their children to attend. This is called universal pre-K. Because there is not enough money in the DPS budget to expand to universal pre-K, it is likely that sliding scale pre-K fees will be instituted City- and Countywide to help fund this larger program. An Early Childhood Education Task Force is working now to define a plan for universal pre-K in Durham City and County, to be implemented over the next 7 years. The sliding scale fees at GWM and MM will thus serve as a pilot program for implementation of expanded pre-K in Durham.

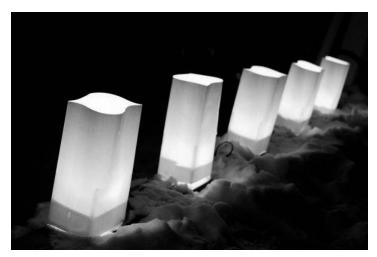
Luminaria upcoming!

By Rebecca Daniels

It's almost time for another Trinity Park Luminaria! Join our neighbors on Sunday December 18 for the neighborhood's annual tradition of lighting your walkway. Stop by The Trinity Park between 4:00-6:00 pm to pick up your supplies, join the pre-lighting festivities and warm your fingers with a steaming cup of hot cocoa. There will be crafts for kids (and kids at heart), food trucks, warm beverages, and even a surprise visitor from the North Pole. 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 18th. 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 Girl Scout Troop 3799: We are high school freshmen and sophomores, and we are raising money for an international trip. There are 9 girls in our troop, with a per-girl average time in Girl Scouts of 9 1/2 years! In summer 2018 we are going use our cookie money to travel to either Germany or Greece. We are hard at work fundraising for our trip and had a fantastic time last year hosting Trinity Park's Luminaria. Thank you to the TPNA board for choosing us to host Luminaria again this year too!







News from The Trinity Park Foundation

By Julia Borbely-Brown

The Trinity Park has two new additions, thanks to the generosity of the Trinity Park Foundation and neighbor Gil Wheless. The Foundation hired local stonecraftsman Brooks Burleson to construct the first phase of a decorative stone walkway from the old granite steps along W. Trinity Avenue to the gazebo. The initial segment was completed in October and consists of a dragonfly medallion surrounded by Tennessee sandstone (to right). Burleson used river stones from Mitchell County in western North Carolina, clam shells from Carteret County along the coast, as well as Delaware River rocks, Mexican beach pebbles, and slate from old roof shingles to create the dragonfly medallion. Burleson, who does much of the stonework at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, did all work by hand and on site.

Also new to the park is a beautiful Cedrus libani 'Pendula,' commonly known as a weeping cedar of Lebanon, which has been planted near the gazebo. The sculptural tree was given by Gil Wheless in memory of Doug Nelson (1942-2016) and is a striking accent to the park gardens. This ornamental conifer is known for its slightly drooping bluish-gray branches and its showy cones which sit upright on its branches.





dragonfly medallion



Exciting Volunteer Opportunities with The Trinity Park Foundation, Inc.

by Julia Borbely-Brown

First, thank you to the many neighbors who have volunteered in the past twelve months. As the recruiting messages often state – even ONE hour of your time is valuable.

With your assistance we were able to clean up almost every block in our wide neighborhood prior to the October House Tour. We also worked together on several raking and cleaning days in The Park and had several events to tidy up the medians. The most recent Park day (in November) included banding the trees in The Park to prevent cankerworm damage. The Park itself continues to benefit greatly from the dedicated work of the Blossom Garden Club and we are grateful. Please show your appreciation for all these efforts by staying out of the garden beds and picking up litter in The Park.

In the next two months we have additional exciting volunteer opportunities coming up! Well, maybe not exciting – but they will be beneficial to Trinity Park and even beyond.

We have set another raking day in The Park for **Saturday**, **December 17**, from **2 PM until 4 PM** in preparation for the Luminaria event to be held on December 18. Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, gloves and brooms. Older children are welcome to join us with a parent or grandparent.

Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 1 PM to 3 PM we will help Alex Johnson, City Arborist, plant trees in Walltown, the neighborhood west of Trinity Park. This year we will not require additional tree planting helpers IN Trinity Park, so let's take that energy and commitment and assist our Walltown neighbors. Look for more details closer to the date. If you are a new gardener, or just a tree lover, this will be a great way to learn the best practices for planting trees.

We will schedule another Park cleanup in late January and a median workday in March. Look for more details as the dates are firmed up.

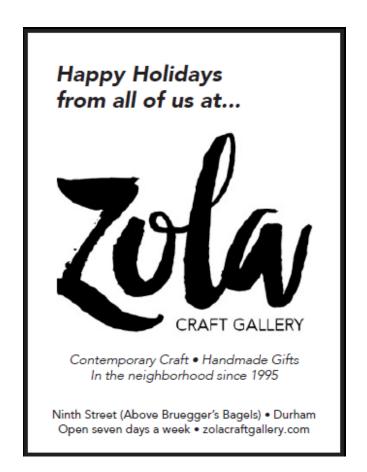
If you have other ideas, or are willing to assist with any of our endeavors, please contact Julia Borbely-Brown, Foundation President, at juliaborbelybrown@yahoo.com

Some may wonder why you are asked to help. There are two main reasons, beyond the altruistic, good-neighbors ones on which I could expound at length. The first is that the City of Durham does not have the budget to handle the

on-going maintenance of The Park (which The Foundation owns and leases to the City) and our medians. The second is that The Trinity Park Foundation Inc. has "official" responsibility for neighborhood capital projects following reassignments from the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association. The Foundation focuses on four important neighborhood assets: The Park, our six medians, public art and trees.

The Foundation Board includes the five officers of TPNA (Don Ball, Marc Phillips, Andrew Stark, Ted Snyderman and Jody White) and six at-large members (Julia Borbely-Brown, Linda Wilson, Shelley Dekker, Raya Sagdejeva, Gil Wheless and David C. Smith).

In addition to your important volunteer assistance, tax-deductible donations to The Trinity Park Foundation, Inc. are gratefully accepted via mail or personal delivery to 1013 Watts Street. Your donations are used wisely to make improvements to the neighborhood.



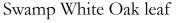
Trinity Park Tree Update

by Shelley Dekker

The Trinity Park Foundation is continuing to partner with the City of Durham to plant trees along our neighborhood streets and will be signing another 3-year contract to that effect soon. Each year, the Foundation gives the City \$1000 toward the cost of tree planting in the City-owned right-of-ways in Trinity Park. Partnering with the City for over a decade has made Trinity Park a pioneering neighborhood in tree replacement and tree diversity within Durham. While the urban forestry crews face a backlog of service requests to take down the aging willow oaks, urban forestry manager Alex Johnson has continued his commitment to tree planting, and he and the Trinity Park Tree Committee are striving for greater tree diversity and tree planting throughout the neighborhood so that we might keep our tree canopy intact. This year the City's Landscape Services and Urban Forestry staff will plant some larger 2-inch caliper trees, including bur oaks, swamp white oaks, and pond cypresses, in addition to a great variety of container- and field-grown trees, including American linden, American hornbeam, 'Merlot' and 'Kay's Early Hope' redbud, American hophornbeam, and Persian ironwood. Planting will take place December through March, and sites to be planted will be marked with flags prior to planting.









Persian Ironwood

Halloween in The Park Recap

By Steve Falzarano

WOW! What a spectacular Halloween in the Park we had this year! On Monday, October 31st, over two hundred of our neighborhood kids and parents gathered in Trinity Park to show off their costumes and to participate in fun activities. We all enjoyed a festive Halloween Themed Park, decorating of Halloween bags, glow sticks, and the always popular Costume Parade and Contest. Fabulous weather also contributed to a wonderful afternoon and an evening of Trick or Treating!

The kids all had some wonderful and creative costumes this year... and some parents and pets as well! It was great to see so many of our neighbors come out for an afternoon of fun and socializing. I don't think I have ever seen the Park so busy! Truly a community event!

Our judges had a particularly challenging time deciding our Costume Contest winners this year. All of the costumes were spectacular and many of our contestants went all out in their costume creativity. The winners of this year's costume contest and prizes are:

Grand Prize: Trinity Park Voyagers First Runner Up: The Scream Second Runner Up: Day of the Dead

We also held a children's drawing for 7 additional prize giveaways. All prizes and donations were provided by local Durham businesses and organizations.

A special thanks and appreciation go out to The Duke Lemur Center for providing a Grand Prize gift certificate for a Lemur Center tour for up to 15 friends! Additional special thanks also to Northgate Mall for providing wonderful gift packs, Morgan Imports for gift certificates, Sky Zone for Jump Passes, and to Joan Austin of Marie Austin Real Estate for funding gift certificate prizes as well. Please remember to thank and support our local businesses who have donated such wonderful prizes!

And most of all, I would like to recognize the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association for supporting and funding the Halloween in the Park community event. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped make this happen as well:

Ben Andrews Diane Amato
Sarah Wright David Atwater
Julia Borbely-Brown Rebecca Daniels





And another special thanks to our Costume Contest Judges:

Philip Azar

Rachal & Douglas Campbell

Looking forward to and can't wait for Halloween 2017!

Kids Activities for the Holidays

By Steve Falzarano

I know many of our parents are looking for activities for kids to do during the holidays and when school is out. Sometimes it is difficult to find new ways to entertain kids of all ages. Here are a few very local activities sure to keep kids of all ages entertained!

One unique (this side of Madagascar) idea is the Duke Lemur Center. This is a fantastic organization dedicated to the study and conservation of Lemurs. The Duke Lemur Center is the world's largest and most diverse collection of lemurs – Earth's most threatened group of mammals – outside of Madagascar. The center regularly conducts individual and group tours. Reservations are required. lemur.duke.edu

Another local activity is Sky Zone Trampoline Park, another way for kids to have fun! Sky Zone is a family entertainment center, located at the Shops at Northgate Mall. www.skyzone.com

There is also the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science. Over 84 acres of indoor/outdoor activities to explore, 60 live animal exhibitions, and the always popular Butterfly House.

www.lifeandscience.org

Other things in the central North Carolina area include:

NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh www.naturalsciences.org
NC Museum of History in Raleigh
www.ncmuseumofbistory.org



Marbles Kids Museum/IMAX in Raleigh www.marbleskidsmuseum.org
Greensboro Science Center in Greensboro www.greensboroscience.org
North Carolina Zoological Park in Asheboro www.nczoo.org



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Auld Lang Syne

By Don Ball

As we look ahead to the year 2017, we pay tribute to the year past - and it's been a great year for Trinity Park due to the commitment of many tireless TPNA board members and volunteers who share their love for our neighborhood by working to improve our quality of life.

At our next annual meeting on January 25 we will celebrate the accomplishments of our retiring board members:

Jody White: TPNA president, past president, membership

chair, community building chair

Kevin Davis: South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands committee

Paul Stinson: membership chair

Jennifer Valentyn: at-large board member

Elizabeth Parish: newsletter chair

Dan Jewell: business ad liaison, urban planning

Mimi Kessler: home tour

Date: Wednesday, January 25th of 2017

Time: 7pm - 8:30pm

Location: Media Center of Watts Montessori School

The TPNA board will conduct a traditional business meeting with year-end summaries presented by your president Don Ball, treasurer Andrew Stark, and home tour chair Mimi Kessler. A slate of nominees will be presented to the membership and voting will take place on the new board members and executives. All community members are invited and encouraged to attend. Nominations from the floor are allowed. To conclude the meeting, suggestions for TPNA focus and goals in the coming year will be sought.

Open Positions for 2017 include:

- ➤ President (2 year term)
- ➤ Vice President (2 year term)
- Secretary (one year vacancy)
- ➤ One at-large member 2017 (1 year vacancy)
- ➤ One at-large member 2017-2018 (2 year vacancy)
- Three at-large members for 2017-2018-2019 (three year term)

Committee participants sought for:

- ➤ Membership
- ➤ Community Building
- > Newsletter
- ➤ Safety
- ➤ Communications



TRINITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter Events

December

Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

January

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February

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26	27	28				

TPNA BOARD MEETINGS

First Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm. All Trinity Park residents are invited and encouraged to attend monthly TPNA board meetings, typically held on the first Wednesday of the 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. Special Annual Board Meeting is scheduled for January 25th. See Page 10 for more details.

BLOSSOM GARDEN CLUB

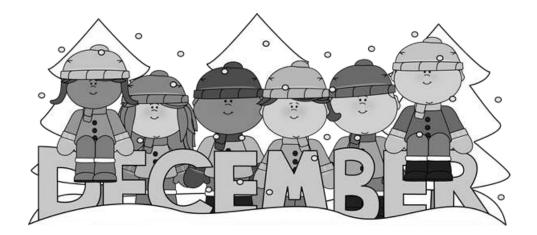
Second Tuesday of the month, 10:00 am. (September through May). Come learn and share gardening ideas. Contact Elisabeth Stagg (elisabeth.stagg@gmail.com) for more information.

LUMINARIA

Sunday, December 18th, with pick-up from 4:00–6:00 pm. See page 4 for more details.

CLEANING AND PLANTING DAYS

The Trinity Park Foundation is sponsoring upcoming dates to help beautify the neighborhood. On Saturday, December 17th from 2pm to 4pm we will be raking in The Park. Then, on Saturday, January 14th from 1pm to 3pm we will be helping plant trees in Walltown. Additionally, there will be another Park cleanup date in late January and a median workday in March. For further information on all of this, please see the article on Volunteer Opportunities on page 6.



TPNA Board and Committees

Officers

President, Don Ball Vice President, Marc Phillips Treasurer, Andrew Stark Secretary, Ted Snyderman

Board Members

Diane Amato

Joan Austin

Philip Azar

Kevin Davis

Steve Falzarano

Elizabeth Parish

Paul Stinson

Anne Stoddard

Jennifer Valentyn

Past President

Jody White

Newsletter Editors

Ted Snyderman Elizabeth Parish

Business Sponsor Liaison

Dan Jewell

Committees

Finance

Andrew Stark

Communications

Marc Phillips

Community Building

Jody White

Membership

Paul Stinson

INC Representative

Philip Azar

Urban Planning

Julia Borbely-Brown

Para Drake

Linda Wilson

Traffic

Anne Stoddard

Ted Snyderman

Trees

Shelley Dekker

Safety

Steve Falzarano

South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands

Paul Cardille

Kevin Davis



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: http://www.trinitypark.org.

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

Name	e(s):				
Addr	ess:				
	Durham, NC 27701				
Phone	e:Emai	l:			
Sele	ct a Membership Payment Option One Year = \$15	<u>Plea</u> □	se contact me about volunteering – check all to Community Building (Event organization)	hat a	apply:
	Two Years = \$25		Association Membership		Safety/Neighborhood Watch
	Five Years = \$50		Urban Planning		Finance/Budgeting
	Lifetime Membership = \$200		Traffic/Pedestrian Safety		Newsletter Delivery
			House Tour/Garden Tour		Contact me as needs arise
			Communications		
			(newsletter, website, social media)		