

Trinity Park

SPRING 2019

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Trinity Park Responds to Expanded Housing Choices (EHC) Initiative By Diane Amato et al.

Over the past few months, many Trinity Park residents learned of the Expanding Housing Choices initiative, an effort to address affordable housing and increase housing supply by creating additional housing opportunities in the high demand neighborhoods around Downtown Durham. The project is led by the City-County Planning Department under a directive from the Mayor and City Council who have identified affordable housing as a priority issue for the city.

Following recent neighborhood meetings to understand and discuss the EHC initiative, and the formation of an Urban Planning Subcommittee to explore the issue, the following letter (beginning on page 2) was sent to Patrick Young, Director of the City-County Planning Department, on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019.

To find additional information about the initiative, please visit the City's website for more: https://durhamnc.gov/3679/Expanding-Housing-Choices. continued on page 2



On Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, close to 100 Trinity Park neighbors met to hear the City-County Planning Department discuss the Expanding Housing Choices initiative.

ATTENTION NEIGHBORS:

Planning Commission Meeting

City Council Chambers, 101 City Hall, First Floor Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

On March 12, the Expanding Housing Choices proposal will be presented by the City-County Planning Department for consideration by the Planning Commission. This event is open to the public and all neighbors who would like to voice their opinion on the issue or hear the conversation are encouraged to attend.

If you can't make it to City Hall, you can watch live on the Durham Television Network (Spectrum channel 8, Google Fiber channel 8, Frontier channel 70, and AT&T U-verse channel 99) or via live-stream at: https://durham.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2. The recording will also be available after the event.

Letter dated February 20, 2019

To: Patrick Young

Subject: Trinity Park Feedback to EHC Proposal/Suggestions for Potential Revisions

We sincerely thank you and your staff for the time and attention you have given to us: coming to the neighborhood on February 3rd, answering emails, meeting with individual neighbors, and with our Urban Planning Subcommittee representatives. There is no doubt that you are earnest in your efforts to accept feedback and we appreciate it.

Trinity Park wants to be a partner with the City to address the diverse housing needs for present and future citizens, advocating for the shared needs of all downtown neighborhoods, and saving what is great about the "Bull City" while welcoming newcomers. Trinity Park is a neighborhood with widely diverse housing choices. A significant proportion of our residences are multi-unit dwellings, including duplexes, four-plexes, six-plexes and large apartment buildings, a bed-and-breakfast and a hotel, many of which already have higher density than what is proposed in the Expanding Housing Choices (EHC). In fact, Trinity Park is almost completely built out and has very few undeveloped lots, so we are sensitive to the redevelopment and infill impacts which will affect both ours and other neighborhoods across the City.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY ON THE EHC INITIATIVE

Following the February 3rd information session presented by you and Mike for residents of Trinity Park, the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA) Board created an Urban Planning Sub-committee to assess neighborhood reactions to the Expanding Housing Choices (EHC) initiative and to rapidly come to understand the initiative details.

The Sub-committee conducted an online survey from February 11 to 16th to gather reactions from residents. Paper notices were hand-delivered to households within Trinity Park, directing neighbors to the online survey. More than 200 individuals completed the survey, which assessed residents' familiarity with the EHC initiative and asked for comments on perceived benefits and possible concerns. From survey creation through result tabulation, the Urban Planning Sub-committee has worked hard to create a fair, non-biased survey and a summary of qualitative, not quantitative, results.

The survey results demonstrate widespread support for the larger idea of accommodating population growth by thoughtful increases in density in the Urban Tier, but also deep concerns for how some provisions in the current draft of the EHC could have negative impacts on the livability of the neighborhood. A significant finding was that more than 75% of the respondents had only learned about the initiative since January and there is a prevalent feeling that the process has seemed rushed.

PROGRESSIVE UPZONING INITIATIVES IN OTHER CITIES

In addition to the TPNA survey, the Sub-committee has studied similar initiatives in other cities, such as Portland and Nashville. We have talked with experts both outside Durham and within our city, as well as within city governments and in the private sector. Our team has met with urban planners, architects, and developers, as well as a diverse array of Durham residents. An interesting finding in Portland was the effort to enable development of historically small lots, without encouraging teardowns and splitting of full-sized lots into multiple skinny lots.

BENEFITS OF PROPOSED CHANGES

Through the survey, some Trinity Park residents noted value in increasing housing diversity to the "missing middle": having a greater range of housing size (and commensurate value) including more onsite rental options for consumers as well as those on a fixed-income who need to realize rental revenue or to be able to "age-in-place". Some also felt that increased density might lead to a more walkable neighborhood.

letter continued on page 3

CONCERNS WITH PROPOSED CHANGES

Trinity Park residents also expressed a number of concerns. Below is a list of residents' top concerns along with proposed ordinance text revisions of the Enhanced Housing Choices documents provided by the Planning Department.

1. Teardowns: The greatest concern among Trinity Park residents is that the proposed text amendments would encourage tearing down otherwise viable residences that define the physical fabric of the neighborhood, including historic structures. Smaller minimum lot sizes, increased density, and the fact that the newly proposed category of "Small House Lots" is exempt from density cap calculations all incentivize the redevelopment of existing properties to maximize their revenue-generating potential.

Suggested solutions involve Eliminating or revising Small Houses/Small Lots provisions:

- a. Small Houses SHOULD count towards density caps.
- b. Do not permit ADU's on Small House Lots.
- c. Second floor cantilevers, protruding bays or other spatial projections shall not extend more than 2' beyond the perimeter of the first floor level (similar to permitted roof eave/gable extensions).
- d. Garages on Small House Lots should be considered part of the allowable built square footage.
- e. Houses on Small House Lots may not have garage doors facing the street yard.
- f. Street yard driveways shall not be more than 9' wide.
- g. Small House Lot houses may only be built on parcels that have been vacant for five or more years or historically small lots.
- 2. Parking: Residents are concerned that the changes do not adequately address parking issues resulting from the increased density. A 35' wide lot, for example, does not have adequate street frontage to park the minimum required two vehicles. This will result in either a street facing garage (very out of character with the neighborhood fabric) or a 42% higher rate of driveway cuts than is currently found in the neighborhood. Residents would like clear parking requirements that will not negatively affect existing neighborhood fabric (disallowing street facing garages and new curb cuts, and requirements for front yard landscaping and/or street trees, etc).
- **3. Infrastructure**: Residents are concerned that increased density will result in increased traffic congestion and that City / County infrastructure and resources are not designed to accommodate additional demand.

The Planning Department should clarify the capacity of all neighborhood infrastructure including traffic, water, sewage, storm water, schools, public safety, and so on. If the capacity is not in place already, please clarify how this will be addressed as demands increase.

letter continued on page 4



ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

The Urban Planning Sub-committee of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association has studied the available EHC documents and have generated the following additional concerns and recommendations.

- **A. Building Size and Density**: Establish a suitable Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to control the scale of new construction to be in proportion with the adjusted lot sizes in the proposed amendments. We would recommend a generous FAR = 40% which is in keeping with the scale of typical Trinity Park properties and would also make way for increased density on lesser developed lots. If Small House Lot homes are permitted, they should not follow the FAR. Rather, Small House Lots should be governed by a special set of rules as noted above.
- **B. In-Fill Standards**: Block face should be better defined to include all houses in the block which face the street (not just the two adjacent houses). The "block" shall not extend past an intersecting street (whether or not it crosses), or 1,000 feet from the intersection of the subject lot's corner with the street (whichever is the shorter distance).
- **C. Accessory Dwellings Units**: ADU's should not be larger than the primary residence. We recommend that ADU's be limited to 800sf or 60% of the principal dwelling, whichever is smaller. Regarding the issue of density, ADU's should not be permitted on properties with a duplex.
- **D. Implementation Timeline**: Based on the mixed and controversial impact of similar upzoning measures enacted elsewhere across the country, we recommend a sunset clause after five years so that the effects of the zoning amendments can be evaluated for adjustment, continuance or any other subsequent action.

Thank you for your careful consideration. The proposed text amendments to the Urban Tier residential zoning are 50-year decisions that will have tremendous impact on the future growth and transformation of evolving and established neighborhoods and as such it is paramount that we move forward thoughtfully and collaboratively. The Trinity Park Neighborhood sincerely hopes that your team will consider folding in these above recommendations to the final EHC proposal scheduled to be finalized by February 25th.

Timeline of Recent Events Related to EHC

- Jan. 23 TPNA Annual Meeting EHC update sparks conversation.
- Feb. 3 Planning Department staff presents EHC initiative to Trinity Park Neighborhood, responds to feedback and questions.
- Feb. 6 TPNA Monthly Meeting EHC follow up conversation; after discussion with neighbors in attendance, board passes resolution to request 90-day delay, form Urban Planning Subcommittee and conduct neighborhood survey, and work with other neighborhood stakeholders.
- Feb. 13 TPNA sends letter to request 90-day delay.
- Feb. 14 Requested 90-day delay is declined.
- Feb. 11-16 Urban Planning Subcommittee distributes survey to Trinity Park.
- Feb. 19 TPNA board and Urban Planning Subcommittee meet to review survey results.
- Feb. 20 TPNA sends feedback letter and suggestions based on survey (last day to submit feedback on EHC).
- Feb. 25 Planning Department releases updated version of EHC proposal.
- March 6 TPNA Monthly Board Meeting - review/discussion of updated EHC proposal; discussion of further actions.
- March 12 Planning Department presents EHC proposal to Planning Commission (meeting open to public).

To find additional EHC updates and related documents, including the recent survey results, visit:

http://trinitypark.org/board-and-committees/expanding-housing-choices/

Respectfully,

Diane Amato President Trinity Park Neighborhood Association

CC: Mayor Schewel, City Council Members, Wendy Jacobs, County Commissioners, Planning Commission, Mike Stock, Scott Whiteman





TPNA Board Update

Every year one set of TPNA Board members complete their service to the neighborhood and another group of Trinity Park residents step up to take their place. This year we thank our Past President, Don Ball, and Director Ted Snyderman for their contributions to Trinity Park and the City of Durham over the past 3 years. From traffic issues and development projects to annual events and communications, they've contributed to building our community and keeping us connected to each other and the city at large.

At the Annual Meeting on January 23rd, a quorum of TPNA members accepted nominations and then elected the following Trinity Park residents to the Board:

Diane Amato (former VP) was elected as President Beth Emerson was elected as board director

Phillip Azar was elected as Vice President Kevin Kearns was elected as board director

Marc Phillips (former president) was elected as past president Bunmi Matory was elected as board director

Steve Falzano will fill out two years as board director

Learn more about our newest board members:

Beth Hickman Emerson

Beth, her husband Rob, and their two daughters live on Gregson Street, at the top of the sledding hill. In 1998, they moved to Trinity Park after spending a year in Cary. Beth has a background in transportation and civil engineering and presently works for Duke Health in the Facility Planning Design and Construction group. Beth grew up in New Jersey, but is now firmly rooted in Durham... she loves Trinity Park for her awesome neighbors, the mix of homes and, of course, it's proximity to all things tasty!

Bunmi Fatoye-Matory

Bunmi moved to Durham from Massachusetts with her family in 2009. She and husband, James "Randy" Matory, a Professor at Duke University, bought a house on West Markham Avenue, which they spent two years renovating. They lived in the West Village Apartments during the renovation and moved into their home in 2011. Their house was featured in the 2012 Fall House Tour. Bunmi is a writer and weekly columnist with Premium Times, a Nigerian online newspaper. She was a board member at TPNA in 2013 and initiated the let's-know-our-neighbors column for Trinity Park Newsletter, which gave her the opportunity to interview many Trinity Park residents. She lives with her husband and daughter, Ayo, in their West Markham home. Ayo was recently accepted to medical school at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Adu, her brother, is doing graduate studies in Computational Neuroscience in Berlin, Germany.

Bunmi and her family love the Trinity Park neighborhood because of its proximity to Duke, restaurants, and downtown. She and her daughter take evening walks downtown and her husband rides his bike to most places, including work. Also, it's been a great place for her to meet many wonderful people and make good friends.

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Kevin Kearns

Kevin and his son Humphrey (almost 12) moved to Urban Ave just over a year ago from not-so-far-away Duke Forest and love it. Kevin is an art director in marketing and advertising for Duke development, and has taught as an adjunct at UNC-Chapel Hill for over 11 years. You may see him walking his 3-year old Irish Terrier, Eva, in the neighborhood or around East Campus each morning. He loves to play tennis, go for hikes, and meet all of his new neighbors in Trinity Park.

Trinity Park Foundation Update

Don Ball now serves as the new Trinity Park Foundation president and provided the following updates at the annual meeting:

- ➤ In 2018, the foundation accomplished a lot with much thanks to many neighborhood volunteers. A dedication was held for the History Grove at Trinity Park, and the free library was maintained. Beautification efforts included mulching of public areas, planting of 200 lilies and irises in the Trinity Avenue median, adding gravel in the park, and painting of the water fountain. After much coordination with the City, the Al Vega sign was installed at the Buchanan and Main Street median, while the original Francis Vega sign was moved to the Buchanan and Markham median, where it was restored to its original finishes.
- ➤ In 2019, the foundation will focus on painting fences and railings in Trinity Park, completing the Insect Sidewalk at the park to lead all the way to the gazebo, installation of the Michael Waller sculpture at the Markham median, and addition of informational signs to display with the art pieces.

Celebrate Cinco de Beethoven with the Trinity Park Salon Series!!

By Para Drake

Save the Date! Come Celebrate Cinco de Beethoven Sunday, May 5 at 4pm. Come hear "chamber music as it was meant



to be heard" in an all-Beethoven program by professional musicians Artistic Director and cellist, Marc Moscovitz, and pianist Larry Todd. You will be greeted by Salon Series volunteers, with a bubbly reception to follow. \$20 minimum entry includes the

concert and reception. For more information, visit www.salonseries.org

This is the last of four concerts of the season; next season begins in the fall. Watch for more information!







Got reappraisal questions? Get answers from the Durham County Tax Office

TPNA Monthly Meeting | Wednesday, April 3 at 7 p.m.

George Watts Elementary School Media Center

Earlier this year, homeowners received a 2019 general reappraisal notice from Durham County. Join us for the April TPNA monthly meeting to hear from Ryan Vincent from the Durham County Tax Administration who will talk a little bit about the new appraisals and the appeals process.

Be Kind to the Honey Bee: Tips from a Beekeeper

By Janice Thomas of the Durham County Beekeeper Association

Spring is right around the corner...time for your lawn to come back to life, flowers to bloom and honey bee activity to increase! What small change can you make to help our little flying friends?

Here's a few suggestions:

- ❖ When choosing plants for your landscape, choose pollinator friendly native plants whenever possible to help honey bees make honey!
- Buy plants from local nurseries that avoid using pesticides so plants are more bee friendly!
- ❖ Consider planting for all seasons especially late summer and fall when natural sources of food for honey bees decreases.
- Limit the use of chemicals in your yard, especially pesticides, whenever possible. Pesticides can't differentiate between beneficial insects such as honey bees and the problematic ones.
- Opt for natural mosquito control techniques such as eliminating standing

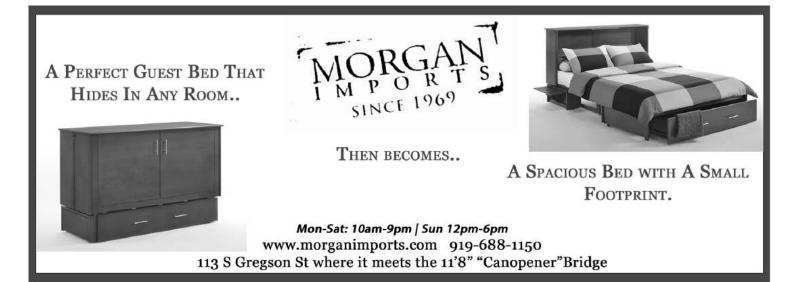
 water



A honeybee swarm that a beekeeper will gladly rehome in their apiary. Photo courtesy of Matthew Yearout

- Consider keeping a 'natural' lawn with clover and dandelions which provide additional sources of nectar for honey bees.
- ❖ If you see a large, calm, dark cluster of bees gathered in a tree or on another surface, don't be afraid. Swarming is a natural behavior of honey bees they are not interested in you, but are trying to find a new place to live. If you think you see a swarm bees, please contact our Swarm Team at 919-627-3405/yearout@gmail.com for assistance.

Want to learn more about honey bees? The Durham County Beekeepers Association is a local not-for-profit organization that exists to support local beekeepers, improve the health of honey bees in Durham and to educate new beekeepers as well as the public on all things honey bee related! Join us for our monthly meetings at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm – all are welcome! www.durhambeekeepers.org



South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands Project Update

By Paul Cardile

The City's Stormwater and GIS Services Group acknowledges that they, along with the environmental/engineering consultant, are in the beginning stages of the permitting process. They stated the process should take about one year with an expected completion date near the end of 2019 or early 2020. Permitting and approval is an onerous process as it requires submissions to various agencies at the county, state, and federal levels. The City staff is looking at advantages and disadvantages of separating out some of the utility relocation prior to securing all permits required for the wetland and how that impacts costs and schedules. No changes have been made to the concept plans for the wetlands at this time. The City staff will be conducting meetings for several small focus groups but as yet they do not have a schedule of dates. As a side note, there are banners featuring artwork from area schools on the fence along the Trinity Avenue side of the project. Also a reminder that entering South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands on your internet browser will provide details and some concept plans of the completed project.







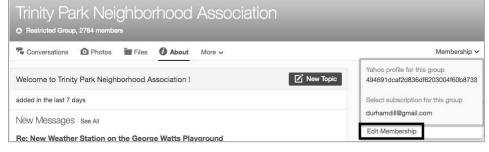


Stay in the Know in the Neighborhood

By Katy Dillard

Listserv Tip: The Trinity Park listserv continues to be one of the most active channels to share information. Worried about getting too many emails? There is a way to control that. After you join at groups.yahoo.com/groups/TrinityPark/, select Membership > Edit Membership and set your subscription to daily digest vs. individual emails, or choose no email updates if preferred.

Step 1:



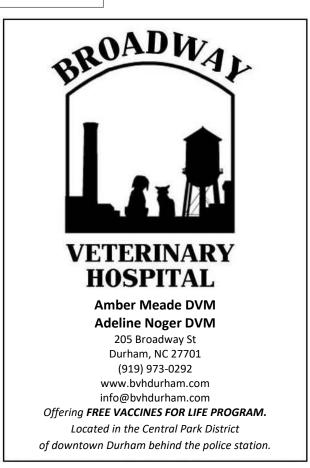
Step 2:

Subscription	
Message Delivery:	 Individual Email
	Daily Digest
	Special Notices
	○ No Email
	Save Cance

If you are new to the Trinity Park neighborhood or looking to stay in the loop, below are several additional ways to connect with your neighbors.

- Join the Trinity Park Durham NC Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/Trinityparknc/
- Like and follow the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/trinityparkdurham
- Visit the neighborhood website at trinitypark.org
- Send your ideas or feedback to editor@trinitypark.org
- Attend a Trinity Park Neighborhood Association (TPNA) board meeting the first Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at George Watts Montessori (open to all)
- Look out for the quarterly printed newsletter distributed to households in the neighborhood
- Attend or volunteer at neighborhood events throughout the year like the upcoming Egg Hunt
- Consider joining the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association

The groups and social pages above were started by friendly neighbors looking to create engagement in the community, and continue to be managed and monitored by volunteers. Thank you for this effort to help us all connect!



Hop on the Annual Spring Egg Hunt!

By Steven Falzarano

The Trinity Park Neighborhood Association would like to welcome families with young children to join us for the Annual

Spring Egg Hunt, on Saturday, April 20th. The Hunt will take place at the Gazebo on Duke East Campus located near the intersection of Campus Drive and West Main Street. Please plan to arrive by 9:45AM for instructions before the hunt. The Hunt will begin promptly at 10:15 am, and thousands of eggs will be waiting to be collected. So grab your basket or bucket and come on out and hunt for some eggs!

There will also be many eggs this year containing Golden Tickets that can be redeemed for special prizes. Families from neighborhoods surrounding Duke campus, as well as Duke employees and their family members, are invited to participate in the springtime tradition.

10:15 am: Hunt begins for 0-4 year olds 10:17 am: Hunt begins for 5-10 year olds

We will also have other fun activities for the kids!

The egg hunt, which will involve over 2,500 "hidden" eggs, will be divided into two age groups: 4 years old and under, and 5 to 10 years old. Children are encouraged to bring baskets to carry their eggs. The eggs will be filled with candy and small trinkets such as erasers and toys. Children who find "Golden Tickets" will be able to swap them each for a larger prize.

All children are welcome to participate in the hunt, with younger and older children having separate areas to hunt in for their eggs. After gathering eggs, we ask that you empty the contents of your eggs into your baskets and be sure to return the plastic eggs to the bins near the Gazebo so we can re-use another year. We look forward to another fun filled morning of egg hunting

and festivities!

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Additional information and details will be provided on the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association website, <u>www.trinitypark.org</u>,



and on the listery.

TRINITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Spring Events

March

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May

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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. Got reappraisal questions? Get answers from the Durham County Tax Office at the **March 3rd** meeting. See page 7 for additional information.

EXPANDED HOUSING CHOICES - PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, **March 12**th at 5:30pm, location-City Council Chambers, 101 City Hall, First Floor. See page 1 for additional information.

TPNA EGG HUNT 2019

Saturday, **Apr. 20**th, begins promptly at 10:15am at the Gazebo on Duke East Campus located near the intersection of Campus Drive and West Main Street. See page 10 for more information. Also, look out for more details on the listserv and on Facebook.

TRINITY PARK SALON SERIES

Spring Salon Series event on:

• Sunday, **May** 5th at 4 pm. An all-Beethoven program by cellist, Marc Moscovitz, and pianist Larry Todd.

See page 6 for additional information.

DURHAM COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Join us for our monthly meetings at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm – all are welcome! See page 7 for more information.



TPNA Board and Committees

Officers

President, Diane Amato Vice President, Philip Azar Treasurer, Adam McClellan Secretary, Waugh Wright

Board Members

Can Dickerson

Katy Dillard

Beth Emerson

Steve Falzarano

llene Hadler

Kevin Kearns

Mari Mansfield

Bunmi Fatove-Matory

Stacy Murphy

Matthew Yearout

Past President

Marc Phillips

Newsletter Editor

Ted Snyderman

Business Sponsor Liaison

Kevin Kearns

Committees

Finance

Adam McClellan

Communications

Katy Dillard

Community Building

Steve Falzarano

Membership

Vacant

INC Representative

Philip Azar

Urban Planning

Derek Jones, Stacy Murphy

Traffic

Vacant

Trees

Shelley Dekker

Safety

Ron Gallagher

South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands

Paul Cardile

Matthew Yearout



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(s):			
Address:			
Durham, NC 27701			
Phone:	Email:		
Select a Membership Payment Optio		l that	apply:
$\Box \text{One Year} = \15	☐ Community Building (Event organization)		C. C. A. A. C. L. L. L. L. L. W. A. L.
 ☐ Two Years = \$25 ☐ Five Years = \$50 	☐ Association Membership☐ Urban Planning		Safety/Neighborhood Watch Finance/Budgeting
☐ Lifetime Membership = \$200	☐ Traffic/Pedestrian Safety		Newsletter Delivery
Effective Membership – \$200	☐ House Tour/Garden Tour		Contact me as needs arise
	☐ Communications	_	Contact ine as needs unse
	(newsletter, website, social media)		