



Trinity Park news



Outcomes of TPNA Meeting on Local Historic District Designation

By Karalyn Colopy

TPNA's June board meeting was held at George Watts elementary school on June 8 and was largely devoted to questions about Local Historic District (LHD) designation, a complex issue that we have struggled with as a neighborhood for many years. Approximately 45 neighbors attended, either in person or via Zoom.

The TPNA's last in-person meeting before Covid, in March 2020, was focused on the same subject and did not conclude whether LHD designation was something the TPNA would pursue or not. The June 8 meeting was intended to give more room for the discussion. Prior to the meeting, the Board solicited questions from Trinity Park neighbors and spoke with a variety of residents and leaders in other historic Durham neighborhoods.

The meeting featured a panel of 5 invited speakers:

Karla Rosenberg, planner with the Durham City-County Planning Department and staff liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission

Matt Bouchard, construction lawyer; currently serving as the Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission

Tony Sease, Trinity Park neighbor since 2006, architect, civil engineer, planner, urban designer; currently serving on the Durham Planning Commission

Sara Lachenman, serial TPNA guest speaker on LHDs, historic preservationist and owner of Four Over One Preservation and Design Services

David Berger, Trinity Park neighbor since 2019, economist at Duke with expertise in housing markets

Comments from the meeting:

It's about trying to ... achieve a healthy balance between the desires of homeowners ... and the common good of preserving our ... heritage to give our great city a sense of place. —Matt Bouchard

What I worry about most for Trinity Park is that the little houses that create diversity within Trinity Park are the things that are going to go.

—Sara Lachenman

... Even expensive houses are being sought for teardown

—TP neighbor

No matter what we do, prices are going up because of our location.

—David Berger

A 1-year delay [on a tear-down] won't change certain individuals from making their decisions.

It's a speed-bump —Tony Sease

Article continued on page 6

Congratulations, Graduates!

Alex Gayer, Durham School of the Arts High School *Congratulations Alex!*

Alexa Chambers, Durham School of the Arts *Well done! Enjoy your adventures at William & Mary and St. Andrews! Whoop!!*

All the 5th grade graduates of George Watts: Lauren, Nazomi, Will, Grayson, Dot, Samira, Teddy, Annabel, Hazel, Asa, Beatrice, Simone, Caleb, Lex, Jireh, Riva, Jaden, Naelley, Daniel, Kaliyah, Charlotte, Stella, Sally, Phoenix, Jack, Charlie, Yesenia, Solei, Sophia, Isla, Adalie, Isabella, Mason, Natalie, Orion, Raegan, Ricardo, Violeta, Ashley, Esther, Christopher, Sara, Emely, Sadie, Yosaya, and Jacobo
Congratulations from the teachers and staff!

Andrew Wilson
Congratulations to Andrew for graduating 5th grade. You are the most creative and ingenuitive person I know. Plus, the perfect nephew and partner in puppy rescues!
- Aunt Stephanie

Asa Dismukes, George Watts Montessori Elementary *We are so proud of you!*

Charlie Flowe, Lakewood Middle *Yay! On to Riverside!*

Charlotte Miller, George Watts Montessori Elementary *We are so proud of you!*

Cora Williamson, DSA Middle *Congratulations to our fun loving, creative Cora for her 8th grade promotion! It's hard to believe she's high school bound. Go Bulldogs!*

Daniel Weiner, George Watts *Hard to believe you are finished at George Watts but we know you will take Lakewood by storm!*

Dot Barron, George Watts Elementary *Congratulations on seven years of fun and friendships at George Watts, Dot!*

Elle Morris-Benedict, DSA *Goodbye DSA. Hello UC Berkeley. We're so proud of you!*

Erin Dickerson, Cary Christian School *Congratulations to Erin, who will be attending Duke University with ROTC scholarship-Air Force*

Gwyneth Bernhardt, Lakewood Middle *Congratulations! Moving on to Riverside!*

Hannah Bernhardt, Riverside High Engineering *Congratulations! Heading to Williams College in the fall!*

Hazel Bock, George Watts Elementary *We're proud of everything you've learned and become at George Watts, from that first walk to preK with Ms. Zehr to the wonderful 5th grade graduation celebration you planned!*
XO, Mom, Dad and Ada

Hazel Baumgart, Lakewood Middle *Congratulations, Hazel!*

Isabelle Abadie, Lakewood Middle *Congratulations Isabelle! We are so very proud of your hard working spirit and your kind heart and can't wait to see what is next for you! Love Mommy, Daddy, Eleanor, Catherine, Skittles & Dory*

James Black, Central Park School for Children Elementary *Moving on to middle school! Woohoo!*

Juleah Somers, Lakewood Middle *Good job, Juleah! We are proud of you!*

Quentin DuVal-Smith, Riverside High *Heading to UNC in the fall. Congratulations, Quentin!*

Julian Steinmeyer, Riverside High Engineering Program *We are so proud of you! Wir sind super-stolz auf Dich! - Mama und Papa*

Julian Weiner, Lakewood Middle *We are so proud of you as you graduate from Lakewood, and can't wait to see what passions you pursue at Riverside!*

Justin Marban, Durham School of the Arts *Felicitaciones! Estamos muy orgullosos de tus grandes logros.*

Katie Concannon, Middlebury College (Environmental Studies and Theater) *Congratulations, Katie!*

Lex Pollard Leypoldt, George Watts Elementary *Congrats to the best son in the world! I could not be more proud of you. Oh the places you'll go!*

Lily Dean, Lakewood Middle *Great work this year. I am so proud of you!*

Olive Bridgers, Lakewood Middle *Congratulations! On to the engineering program at Riverside!*

Owen Ambrose, DSA Middle *We're so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad*

Riva Sease, George Watts Elementary *Congratulations Riva! You're an amazing, creative human being and you see the world in such beautiful ways! Mom, Dad, and your three brothers*

Sadie Ambrose, George Watts Elementary *We're so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad*

Xalvador Colopy, Lakewood Middle *Good job, Xalvador! What the dog doin'?*

Our Neighborhood

Update on South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands Restoration

By Scott Doron

Neighbors have noticed stirrings at the South Ellerbe Restoration construction site at 808 W. Trinity Ave. If you are new to the neighborhood, you have probably only seen vacant land at 808 W. Trinity Ave. across from Duke Towers Hotel and Condominiums. The site was previously the location of the Durham YMCA and then the Duke Diet and Fitness Center.

The vacant land will be transformed into “a constructed wetland and stream restoration that will filter polluted stormwater from part of downtown and nearby neighborhoods. This restoration will benefit the community and the environment by increasing green space, improving water quality, and improving aquatic life in South Ellerbe Creek.” The plan includes a 4.3-acre wetland, a loop trail connecting to the South Ellerbe Creek Trail and to the future Beltline trail, and a plaza along Trinity Avenue, with a lawn, wetland views, educational signage, and public art.

Phase 1 of the project—demolition of the original building on the site—was completed in late 2018. Phase 2—removing reusable soil to the Mist Lake Facility Expansion project site and the closed City of Durham landfill—is currently underway. Phase 3—final construction—should start in 2023 and take 12-18 months. So, with luck, we will start enjoying a beautiful park in 2024!

Public Art Survey

A team of artists has been selected to create the public art for the South Ellerbe Restoration Project. They are currently seeking public input via an online survey about styles, themes, and methods for the artwork at the Scan the this QR code to take the survey:



Did you know that the Neuse River waterdog (*Necturus lewisi*), a rare salamander which can grow up a foot in length, is found only in local river basins? These areas that filter storm runoff and improve water quality are essential for the survival of the waterdog and many other species.



Meet My Neighbor: Cathy Carinder

Interviewed by Charlie Flowe

Name and family members:

Cathy, Jude (husband), Abby (daughter), Lizzie (daughter), and Mac (dog)

Occupation: Upper Elementary teacher at George Watts

Address: 1411 N. Duke St.

Why did you move to TP? I grew up here, then after I got married, we moved back because it was close to George Watts. I started teaching there in 1982! I'm proud that the school is my home away from home. I graduated from there in '69, and my daughter Abby was class of 2001 and Lizzie 2002.

The thing that surprised me most about TP is... There is so much variation in housing styles

If I could improve one thing about TP, it would be... I wish there were more affordable housing options.

Our Neighborhood

East End Connector - The End in Sight

By Mollie Flowe

According to NCDOT, the East End Connector, a stretch of highway that will connect NC 147 with US 70, is expected to open this summer. In fact, WRAL reports that the connector will open to the first cars after a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 30. Signage denoting the new I-885 designation is being installed, and several exit numbers on NC 147 and US 70 are changing. This project was planned to help travelers from North Durham travel to RTP and beyond without having to cut through downtown. For more than 20 years, we've been anxiously anticipating its completion, hoping it will reduce traffic on Duke and Gregson Streets. Now we shall see.



Thank You to Our Newsletter Deliverers!

By Carol Anderson

A big thank you to **Emily Daly** and **Annie Ambrose** for their kind and dedicated years of neighborhood newsletter delivery. Emily has been delivering for nearly a decade of volunteering and Annie has close to seven years! Welcome to the folks replacing them: **Tiffany Florestal** (and her son **Cyrus**) and **Katie Crowe**. And as always a huge thanks and much appreciation to all the folks who get the newsletter to your doorstep.



Acanthus Construction

Est. 2005

Specializing in old home renovations in Durham.

Renovations. Additions. Built-in Cabinetry. Custom Carpentry.

1109 Huntington Ave., Durham, NC
jonfish@acanthusconstruction.net
919.308.3393
Living Wage Employer

Crime and Safety

Police Update from Lt. Cloninger

By Ron Gallagher



Lt. Nick Cloninger, deputy commander of the Durham Police Department's District 2, which covers Trinity Park, joined the May TPNA meeting to talk about crime and safety in the neighborhood. He covered several topics.

Larcenies and burglaries: On April 8, the DPD apprehended a known youth offender who lives nearby with his grandfather. A rash of home break-ins and similar crimes had been happening in the northern part of the neighborhood in March and early April. After April 8, these types of crimes fell off precipitously.

Inactive property crimes: After checking on some other property crimes that had been reported in Trinity Park, Lt. Cloninger said some of them turned into inactive cases because victims did not return investigators' phone calls. Sometimes, Cloninger said, people appear to want a police report filed to back up an insurance claim, but aren't interested after that's done.

Shooting near Watts Street Baptist Church: According to Lt. Cloninger, this shooting late on April 1 involved people in two cars who knew each other and happened to encounter each other there, but had no connection to the neighborhood. Neither side was willing to file a complaint against the other, and police cannot take any action on their own initiative because no felony-level crime was involved, he noted. Too often, he said, someone who is a victim of street violence one time was an attacker in another incident, and no one is willing to help police prosecute anyone.

Street racing: Lt. Cloninger said police have not yet come up with workable options to break up the street racing of groups of unlicensed off-road four-wheelers and motorbikes. He reported two factors: 1) the motorcycle/car groups like to intimidate neighborhoods all over the city (not just Trinity Park). If police are in the area and try to intervene, that is really what these groups want: videos of themselves that they take via Go Pro-style cameras and post to social media, showing them escaping the police. DPD has a strict "no chase" policy, except for violent crime, because chases can too easily lead to crashes or other incidents. This street racing is not in the violent crime category. 2) Police do try to seize and tow vehicles when they can, but that does not seem to be a deterrent. City police, the county sheriff's office, and the State Highway Patrol are trying to come up with strategies to break up the racing. They are following similar issues in other cities and looking for solutions that have worked elsewhere.

Package theft: Lt. Cloninger was asked about porch package thefts and his thoughts and recommendations regarding the placement of decoys by residents. He said they sometimes put decoys in parked, unlocked cars or on porches to see if someone takes the bait, but he does not recommend that residents do that.

Marie Austin
REALTY COMPANY

*Serving Durham
since before it
was cool!*

est. 1960

1204 Broad Street
Durham, NC 27705

919-286-5611

Gardener's Corner

For the Birds

By Sarasvati Ishaya

Last fall, TPNA invited a presentation from the New Hope Audubon Society about the “Leave Your Leaves” Campaign, advocating leaving fallen leaves in your yard as a way to reduce pollution from gas-fired blowers and to increase habitat for beneficial insects over the winter.

I asked Barbara Driscoll, New Hope Audubon Society President, for more eco-friendly yard advice, and she suggested: 1) reducing the size of your lawn; you’ll have less mowing to do, and more worms, which the birds will thank you for! and 2) removing nandina, whose red berries are poisonous to birds.

I asked other local experts for more information about removing and replacing nandina. Pana Jones, Master Gardener Coordinator at the Durham County Extension Office, suggested azalea as a good replacement for nandina.



At a local garden center, I learned native rhododendron and blueberry are also

good options. They gave me a cutting of blueberry to try rooting, with the suggestion that a mixture of honey and cinnamon works just as well as rooting hormone. I was excited to try this out, but then I learned that blueberries need (amended) acidic soil and that young blueberry plants are spindly, so not very decorative. They are, however, great for birds because it is almost guaranteed that the birds will get the fruit before we humans will!

For now, I think the best way to go is to clip the berries off your nandina bushes and compost them. Then try planting native rhododendron or azalea to replace your nandina when you decide to dig it out.

Continued from front page

We established some background facts - what a Local Historic District is, what Durham’s Historic Preservation Commission is, what a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is, which other neighborhoods in Durham have LHDs, and the process a neighborhood follows to designate an LHD.

We talked more broadly about the value of historic preservation, elements that form the character of our neighborhood (diversity of architectural styles and housing forms and sizes, walkability, a sense of our “story”), and larger forces and trends

that have tremendous impact on us, such as the current affordable housing crisis, Durham’s rapid economic growth, and changes to Durham’s Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

Our panelists addressed neighbor concerns and questions on topics such as the kinds of property changes that require a COA; whether modern environmentally-friendly upgrades such as front-facing solar panels are permitted in LHDs; and how LHD designation might affect the pace of teardowns, as well as the design of new construction (ADUs, in-fill or

replacements for teardowns).

For a more complete summary of the meeting, including Q&A, links to relevant City documents, and a video recording, see <https://trinitypark.org/historic-designation-meeting/>

The TPNA Board is not currently planning to pursue LHD designation. The issue is complicated and requires significant research. Several neighbors have expressed interest in continuing the research process to determine the best course of action. If you would like to participate in this group, please email info@trinitypark.org

Trinity Park Foundation

Do you love clean & cool air, birds, and beneficial insects? Help maintain our trees!

By Shelley Dekker, Trinity Park Foundation President

We are fortunate to have a fairly healthy tree canopy in Trinity Park, but it takes ongoing effort to replace the many old trees that continue to be taken down due to age, as well as to maintain the newly planted and maturing trees.

It is easier than you might think to get involved with helping our trees:

1. You can request a new tree to be planted in the City-owned right-of-way in front of or beside your house. Simply google “City of Durham Urban Forestry,” go to their website, and click on the link to the “Tree Request Form.” The City will contact you about planting a new tree adjacent to your property. Tree planting takes place in the fall and winter months.

2. You can become a Durham Tree Keeper after taking a short workshop to learn how to prune City trees and keep our sidewalks clear. Scott Schuett, a neighbor on Gregson Street, has been a Tree Keeper for five years. He used to be one of a few Tree Keepers in the neighborhood, but now he is the only one, and he would love some assistance! Scott says, “It’s best to start out with the four sides of a city block and make 1-3 rounds each year. If this seems easy and doable, you can always add more blocks!” Scott has been primarily focusing his work along Gregson, Watts, Buchanan, Markham, and the 900 block of Minerva. If you

are interested in becoming a Tree Keeper, contact **Dawn Keyser** at Keep Durham Beautiful (dawn@keepdurhambeautiful.org). It would be great to have a full crew of Trinity Park Tree Keepers!

3. You can also help immensely by simply maintaining your own property. If you live on an alley, help the Solid Waste workers by keeping the trees and shrubbery along your alley cut back. Walk along the sidewalks by your house and make sure your trees, shrubs, and other plantings do not block the way. Part of the mission of The Trinity Park Foundation is to encourage tree planting within our neighborhood. We have worked directly with the City over the years to fund the planting of new City-owned trees along our sidewalks. We are now looking into establishing a matching grant program for residents to plant shade trees in front of or beside their homes.



We also hope to create a “Trinity Park Tree Trail” to highlight the incredible diversity of trees within our urban neighborhood.

If you have ANY tree-related questions, please email me at trinityparkfoundation@gmail.com. Thank you for caring for our trees!





The
**TRINITY
 PARK
 HOME
 TOUR**
 is Back!

**Fresh Ideas in an
 Historic Neighborhood**

By Karalyn Colopy

The Trinity Park Home Tour is coming! Sunday October 16, 12 noon to 5 pm.

Join us for a stroll through recently renovated homes, learning their history and seeing fresh ideas put into action.

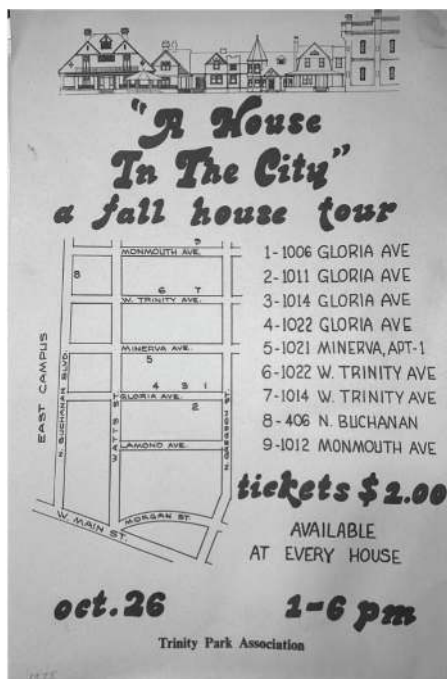
Every two years, TPNA hosts a neighborhood historic home tour. Proceeds will support community events and the maintenance of and improvements to public spaces.

Advance tickets (\$20) are on sale now at <https://trinitypark.org/home-tour/>

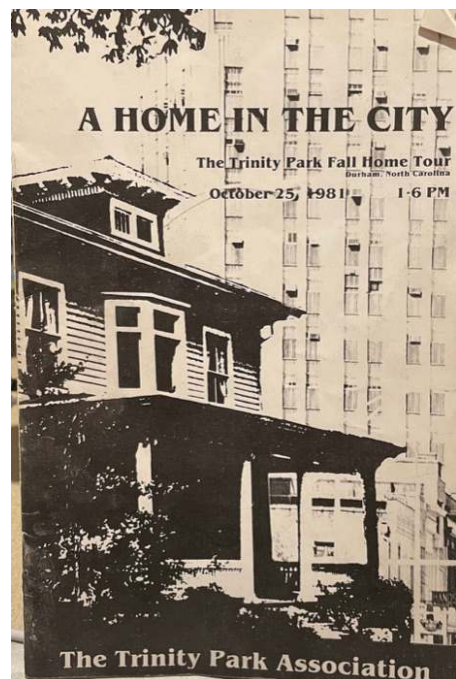
Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the tour (\$25).

Want to volunteer? Contact Karalyn at karalyncolopy@gmail.com

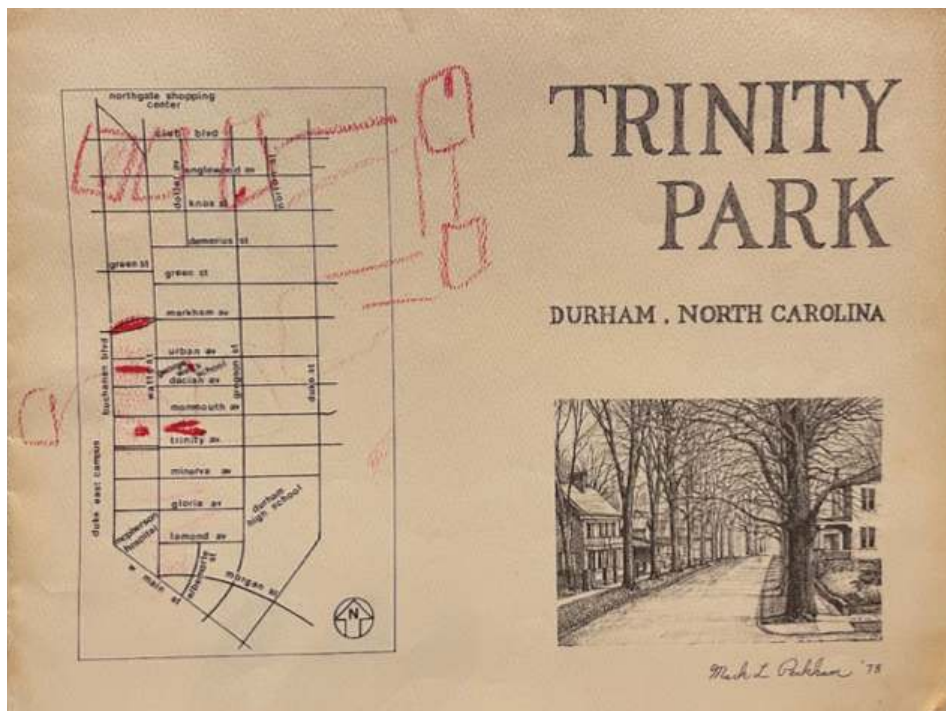
Check out some of the brochures for tours from TPNA's early years:



Poster for Trinity Park's first home tour, 1975, courtesy of Nancy Scott



1981 home tour brochure, courtesy of Claire Wilcox



1978 home tour brochure, courtesy of Claire Wilcox

Blast from the Past: 125 years ago



SOUTH ENTRANCE TO TRINITY PARK, SHOWING TRINITY COLLEGE IN THE DISTANCE.

Community Events

Spring Egg Hunt

By Waugh Wright

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Trinity Park Spring Egg Hunt returned to the neighborhood on April 16th.

In order to reduce the size of the crowd, organizer **Steve Falzarano** coordinated a rotating system of egg hunts, with a cohort of young volunteers hiding eggs throughout the grounds of Trinity Park for even younger egg seekers. Bags of candy were handed out to all the participants, for them to snack on as they drew beautiful chalk designs on the sidewalk and blew bubbles through the park. Many neighbors walked by and joined along with Duke students enjoying the park, helping to make it a true community event.



Membership

You love Durham. You love Trinity Park. Join TPNA.

By Beth Sheppard

Thanks to all who helped make the March Membership Madness contest a success! 30 neighbors joined TPNA or renewed their membership during March and April: 13 first-time members and 17 renewals, bringing TPNA's current membership to 212 households.

Big congratulations to **Kimberly Hernandez** (renewing member) and **Tom Clarke** (new member)! These lucky raffle winners each received a \$40 gift card to Miel Bon Bons on Main St.



Kimberly Hernandez, raffle winner for renewing members



Tom, Liam, and Lindsey Clarke, raffle winners for first-time members

Why join TPNA?

TPNA brings the neighborhood together for activities and initiatives that improve our community and make living in the heart of Durham so wonderful. One of the oldest and most active neighborhood associations in Durham, TPNA has been integral in preserving historic architecture and open space, working with the city on smart development, and most importantly, building community. Your membership dues and active involvement make all this possible.

TPNA is for all Trinity Park residents. Our urban neighborhood is a diverse mix of ~40% homeowners and ~60% renters. We encourage ALL residents, homeowners and renters alike, to contribute to our vibrant community by joining TPNA.

One year membership....\$15

Two year membership....\$25

Five year membership....\$50

Lifetime membership....\$200

How to join TPNA?

Online via Paypal:

<http://trinitypark.org/wordpress/membership/>

Prefer to send in a check? No problem. Print and mail the Membership Form found at the above website and a personal check to TPNA at:

TPNA Membership Chair
PO Box 725
Durham, NC 27702

Tips for Choosing Child Care & Afterschool Programs

We Can Help!

Referrals to programs
Financial Assistance Information
Tools to help with your search

Call
1-855-327-5933
childcareservices.org

Child Care Referral Central
855-327-5933
a program of
Child Care Trust Fund
Smart Start
a state county collaboration between
Durham County
Wake
Caldwell
Franklin
Granville
Harris
Person
Randolph
Wayne
Partnership for Children

Upcoming Events

**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

National Night Out Tuesday Aug 2
Trinity Park Home Tour Sunday Oct 16
Halloween in the Park Monday Oct 31
Luminaria Sunday Dec 18

TPNA MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st Wednesdays @ 7pm

AUG
3

SEPT
7

OCT
5

NOV
2

DEC
7

*All Trinity Park residents are invited and encouraged to attend.
Look for confirmation of meeting details, including zoom link, on the
Trinity Park listserv and Facebook*

STAY CONNECTED!

Listserv: <https://groups.io/g/trinityparkdurhamnc/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/trinityparknc>

Website: trinitypark.org

Email: info@trinitypark.org

TPNA Board and Committees

OFFICERS

President, Karalyn Colopy
Vice President, Mollie Flowe
Treasurer, Bill Brown
Secretary, Missy Crawford-Smith

BOARD MEMBERS

Annie Ambrose
Caroline Black
James Dobbins
Scott Doron
Tiffany Florestal
Mimi Kessler
Beth Sheppard
Laurie Williamson
Waugh Wright

PAST PRESIDENT

Diane Amato

COMMITTEES

Finance
Bill Brown

Communications
Scott Doron, Bill Brown

Community Building
Steve Falzarano

Listserv Owner/Moderator
Mimi Kessler

Membership
Beth Sheppard

INC Representative
Mimi Kessler

Social Media
Missy Crawford-Smith

Traffic
Mollie Flowe

Trees
Shelley Dekker

Safety
Ron Gallagher

South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands
Scott Doron, Mollie Flowe

Urban Planning
Derek Jones



*Your neighborhood
plumber since 1947*

636 Foster St. Durham, NC 27701
(919) 688-1348

ACMEPLUMBING.COM