



Trinity Park news



It's March Membership Madness!

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

Trinity Park Neighborhood Association 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.

Join or Renew Now

For as little as \$15 per year, your dues keep TPNA going.

- **Join or renew online at trinitypark.org**
- Go to TPNA → Membership
- Check your membership status online (we all forget sometimes!)
- Pay online or via check to TPNA, PO Box 725, Durham NC 27702
- All memberships received by April 30 will be entered into the drawing for a Cloche Coffee gift certificate
- Questions? Contact tpnamembership@gmail.com

1 year = \$15

5 years = \$50

2 years = \$25

Lifetime = \$200

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MADNESS

Join or renew* your TPNA membership in March (or April) for a chance to win a

\$25

gift certificate to
Cloche Coffee
on Broad Street
www.clochecoffee.com


**CLOCHE
COFFEE**

*We have 1 prize for first-time members, and 1 prize for all other current members.

Check your membership status (send a note to tpnamembership@gmail.com) and renew now if needed. Whether you're new or renewing, **get your membership dues in by April 30 to be entered into the drawings.**

*If you renewed recently or are a life-time member, you'll be automatically entered to win, too!

President's report

2022 in Review

By Karalyn Colopy, TPNA Past President

In 2022 was a good year, getting back on track after adjusting to Covid. As in 2020 and 2021, the TPNA continued to meet virtually, grateful for the convenience and flexibility that Zoom allows. But we also missed the richer interaction of in-person gatherings. Fortunately, we were able to resume all of our regular community events this year. For the first time since 2019, we held the Spring Egg Hunt. For the first time since 2018, we held the Home Tour. Some more highlights of the year:

Guest speakers at our monthly meetings.

May - Durham Police Dept. Lt. Nick Cloninger on crime and safety concerns; Aug - Rickie White of Ellerbe Creek Watershed Assoc. on "Why Urban Nature Matters"; Sep - John Tallmadge of Bike Durham on working for safe, affordable, sustainable transportation for all.

Hundreds of neighbors at in-person community events.

Spring Egg Hunt (Apr 16), National Night Out (Aug 2), Halloween (Oct 31), Luminaria (Dec 18). Thanks to **Waugh Wright** and **Steve Falzarano** for organizing! Sadly we could not find a date for the Durham Symphony Pops in the Park. Maybe in 2023. Stay tuned.

Clean-up events and initiatives.

Hazardous waste pick-up with Jerry Reese (July 24), and adopt-a-block trash pick-up program (which could still use a few more volunteers). Thanks to **Julia Borbely-Brown** for organizing!

Community meeting on June 8 to discuss the pros and cons of Local Historic District designation. Thanks to the 50+ participants and our esteemed panelists for lending their professional insights, including neighbors **Tony Sease** and **David Berger**.

Home Tour on Oct 16.

Thanks to the 9 homeowners, 75 volunteers, 19 local business sponsors, and 800 ticket-buyers who made it all possible! The event raised about \$20,000, to benefit Families Moving Forward and the Trinity Park Foundation.

Monitoring developments

in local traffic, crime and safety, wetlands development, Northgate re-development, and the Bullpen, the new downtown social district.

Successful March membership

drive with 2 raffle winners selected from all eligible members. We're grateful to all who join TPNA, any time of year! Thanks to all members for your support. Membership dues keep us going.



Looking forward to 2023, we'll be meeting in person more often, figuring out the best combination of convenience and connection for us. We plan to hold all our regular community events and hope to find some new activities to bring us together in new ways, too.

We encourage all to get involved.

Here are a few ways:

- Volunteer to help maintain our website
- Help with a community workday like Earth Day clean-up or gardening in the Park
- Volunteer at the Spring Egg Hunt or on Halloween
- Write a newsletter article on a topic you care about
- Attend a traffic committee meeting
- Attend monthly Board meetings and share what's on your mind

Goodbyes and Hellos!

At the TPNA Annual Membership meeting on January 11, 2023, we said goodbye to several long-serving members as they completed their terms. To fill their shoes, we elected 4 new board members and 2 officers.

THANK YOU to out-going Board Members **Diane Amato, Caroline Black, Beth Sheppard, and Waugh Wright** for their years of service.



2023 TPNA Board Members, pictured left to right: Karalyn Colopy, Tim McNulty, Jill Wright, Annie Ambrose, Mollie Flowe, Missy Crawford-Smith, Bill Brown, Laurie Williamson, Tiffany Florestal, Susan Jakes, James Dobbins.
Not pictured: Scott Doron, Mimi Kessler, Steve Unruhe



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WELCOME to these new Board Members and Officers:

Mollie Flowe (President) served as Vice President of the TPNA Board in 2021-2022. Mollie and her husband Adam have lived in their home on Urban Ave. since 2003. Their three kids all loved George Watts and continued on the Lakewood Middle to Riverside High School route. The whole family has made dear friends among neighbors on the block and throughout the neighborhood. Mollie loves both Trinity Park and Durham and enjoys volunteering with Habitat for Humanity so that more Durham families can share in stable neighborhoods. She is a nurse in Duke Regional's Emergency Department. Her background in nursing means that she gets asked some pretty wild questions, including about animal ailments, but she does not know what is wrong with your chicken.

Annie Ambrose (Vice President) served as a TPNA Board member in 2022. She has lived in Trinity Park since 2010, with her husband Jarrod, kids Owen and Sadie, and rambunctious 1 year old dog, Maisie. She grew up in Chicago, went to Cornell for college, and then made her way south via a two-year stint in D.C., followed by a master's in city and regional planning at UNC. She loves being able to walk/bike/bus to her office downtown at Self-Help Credit Union, where she works on a national affordable housing mortgage program.

Jill Wright (Board member) grew up in Georgia and then lived 20 years in California and Switzerland, where she met her husband, Patrick. A desire to

be closer to family brought them to the east coast when they moved to Chapel Hill in 2010. After their two daughters grew up and left home, they moved to Durham in 2020 and in 2021 bought a house on Buchanan Blvd. Jill has worked for Habitat for Humanity of Durham for almost eight years. She's looking forward to getting to know more Trinity Park neighbors.

Susan Jakes (Board member) has lived in Trinity Park since 2007 when she and her husband, Phil, bought their house at 805 Watts St. and did an extensive renovation. Susan served on the Trinity Park Board around 2010-2013 and has been involved in almost every home tour since 2009. She works at NC State leading Community and Rural Development with the NC State Extension. Phil works for Lenovo in RTP. They have loved raising their children in Trinity Park, and love the neighborhood's walkability to schools, local restaurants and parks, shows at the DPAC, Bulls games, etc. This year they look forward to their home turning 100!

Eager to be closer to their daughter and two granddaughters, **Tim McNulty** (board member) and his wife, Anne, moved to Durham in 2017 and bought their house on Watts St. After almost 20 years of condo life in Lincoln Park, near downtown Chicago, they wanted a house again, a walkable neighborhood, and a porch where they could sit outside and wave to neighbors. Anne is from a farm outside Atchison, Kansas; Tim grew up in Philadelphia and Detroit. During

their 50-plus years of married life, they have lived in Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, Beijing, Jerusalem, and Washington, DC. Tim was a national and foreign correspondent for the Chicago Tribune before becoming an editor. After retiring from the newspaper, he taught journalism at Northwestern University. Anne is a clinical social worker. Their daughter, Katherine, is a nurse at Duke Hospital. Her older daughter Lucy is on a break year from UNC and working as an AmeriCorps volunteer on the west coast. Georgia, her younger daughter, is a Junior at DSA. Tim and Anne also have two other children. Their older son Devin is a plaintiff's lawyer and lives in Houston with his wife, Jenny, and their two children, Palmer and Fiona. Their younger son, Brendan, is a business consultant in Austin.

Steve Unruhe moved to Durham in 1982 to join Jennifer McGovern. They are the second owners of a 100-year old house on Minerva (Annie Johnson lived in the house for 64 years - we are still relatively new). Steve taught many Trinity Park children over the course of 29 years at Northern and Riverside High Schools, after which he served a term on the school board. Steve and Jennifer raised two girls who walked to George Watts and DSA. They enjoy five grandchildren, three in San Antonio and two here in Durham. Steve and Jennifer are members of Trinity Ave Presbyterian Church, and Steve is on the board of Reality Ministries on the corner of Lamond and Gregson.

Earth Day April 22

Earth Day in Trinity Park! Clean-Up-Palooza Beautification Extravaganza

SATURDAY APRIL 22, 9:00 AM - NOON

By Julia Borbely-Brown

Earth Day is April 22. Mark your calendar NOW to help with our neighborhood Clean-Up-Palooza Beautification Extravaganza! We need volunteers of all ages. Look for sign up opportunities at trinitypark.org and via the listserv starting in late March.

Trail & Creek Clean-up

- 9:00 am: Meet at the Ellerbe Creek Greenway trail entrance on the 800 block of Green St.
- Bring work gloves if you have them.
- We'll pick up trash along the Greenway trail, remove invasive plants (multiflora rose, privet, stiltgrass and English Ivy), and weed the pollinator garden.

Street Clean-up

- 9:00-11:00 am: Come to the corner of Watts St. and Dacian Ave. to be assigned a territory for picking up litter.
- Bring work gloves if you have them

Hazardous Waste, E-cycling, and Textile Drop-off:

- 9:00-11:00 am: Collection station open at the corner of Watts St. and Dacian Ave.
- 11:00 am: Triangle e-cycling will examine collected electronics to see if any can be used in its work with training HS students in electronics repair.
- 11:00 am: Remaining materials hauled to Durham's Solid Waste collection site.



Thanks to TPNA's Earth Day

Partners:

- Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association
- Key Club of DSA
- Duke-Durham N'hood Partnership
- Trinity Park Foundation
- Keep Durham Beautiful
- Riverside HS Nat'l Technical Honor Society
- The Recollective
- Triangle e-cycling

Can't attend on Earth Day but still want to help?

Contact Julia Borbely-Brown (juliaborbelybrown@yahoo.com) for a litter pick-up assignment to do on your own or to donate volunteer snacks.

Neighborhood News



Getting ready for Mardi Gras with the Society of the Sacred Bull Krewe

Farewell to the Float

by Katy Barron

For seven years the Society of the Sacred Bull Krewe has pulled a float carrying Trinity Park children in downtown Durham's annual Mardi Gras parade.

Trinity Park residents **Walt and Katy Barron** founded the krewe after a boomerang move to New Orleans in 2012. The move only lasted seven months, but, as the saying goes, "New Orleans grows on you like mold."

Infected with the Mardi Gras spirit, they recruited neighbors to don beads and masks and head downtown every year on a (often chilly) school night.

The float was built with muscle and love by neighbors **Steve and Vann Fugikawa** and **Will McDow**, and more

recently resuscitated (multiple times) by **Jeff Porter**. It has carried dozens of young Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses from the Major the Bull statue down to Geer Street for many a Mardi Gras Night. Many of those same "kids" are now in middle school, high school and college.

The Reale-Barja family, whose three children were regular parade participants, remembered how the tradition marked the passage of time for their family in Durham. "As chubby cheeks now give way to cranky, digital-obsessed teens, we will always remember the Society of the Sacred Bull Krewe with warmth in our hearts," said **Brian Reale**.

And while the original krewe members now exceed the float's weight limit, the magic will live on. A few members of the Krewe of Mischief - including TP neighbors **Missy Crawford-Smith** and **Chris Butz** agreed to take over the duty and honor of maintaining the float.

Did you see it on Mardi Gras night, Tuesday, Feb 21st in downtown Durham?

Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler, now and forever!

Meet My Neighbor



Emily and Brady Dennis

Interviewed by Susan Jakes

NAME AND FAMILY MEMBERS:

Emily and Brady Dennis and kids James and Clare

ADDRESS:

Watts Street

OCCUPATION: Emily works (remotely) for the federal Administration for Children and Families, and has worked there for the past 14 years. But she's about to leave to start a new role (also remote) at a small woman-owned research firm. Brady works (remotely) for The Washington Post covering climate and environmental issues with a focus on the southeast. James and Clare attend E.K. Powe Elementary.

WHY DID YOU MOVE TO TP? Emily and Brady lived in central Washington DC and were looking for somewhere that had a similar walkable, urban lifestyle. Brady grew up in Hickory and went to UNC-Chapel Hill, so knew the area. They moved to Durham in the summer of 2022.

WHAT SURPRISED YOU ABOUT TP?

Emily: "I have been pleasantly surprised by how easy it has been to meet people. Everyone is out and about or sitting on their porches."

IF YOU SEE THE DENNIS FAMILY OUT AND ABOUT IN TRINITY PARK, BE SURE TO SAY "HI!"

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Tree Cover

Tree Planting Opportunities

By Shelley Dekker

I have been researching the history of city tree planting in Durham and found a lovely opinion piece in a Durham newspaper from 1888 that called on city authorities “to devote a certain sum of money each fall to setting out shade trees on our streets.”

It continues, “In the course of a few years, we would have well shaded streets, instead of the hot, sunny thoroughfares we now have. This ought to be done by all means. It would add to the beauty of the city and to the comfort and pleasure of the citizens. Think about it, gentlemen, and see if you cannot do something in this direction for the benefit of the city.”

Well said!

And now, Trinity Park citizens, we call on you to help continue the City’s tree planting efforts. With so many of the mature willow oaks that shade our sidewalks and streets being removed every year, it is imperative that we continue to plant new trees in their places. The best way to ensure new trees take the place of old ones or to add additional trees to our canopy is to request one from the City.

Simply google “Durham Urban Forestry” to get to the City’s Urban Forestry page, then click on the link for the TREE REQUEST FORM. This is a quick and simple form for requesting a tree to be planted in the right-of-way in front of or beside your house or apartment. Tree planting takes place in the fall and winter, so it may not be until

late 2023 or early 2024 that your request is fulfilled. But you have an empty spot, the City should fill it.

In addition to City tree planting efforts in the rights-of-way, the Trinity Park Foundation will soon be offering tree planting matching grants to neighbors who would like to plant new shade trees in their front yards. More information will soon be available at trinityparkfoundation.org. Stay tuned.

Coming Soon: Trinity Park Tree Trail to Highlight Diversity of Urban Trees

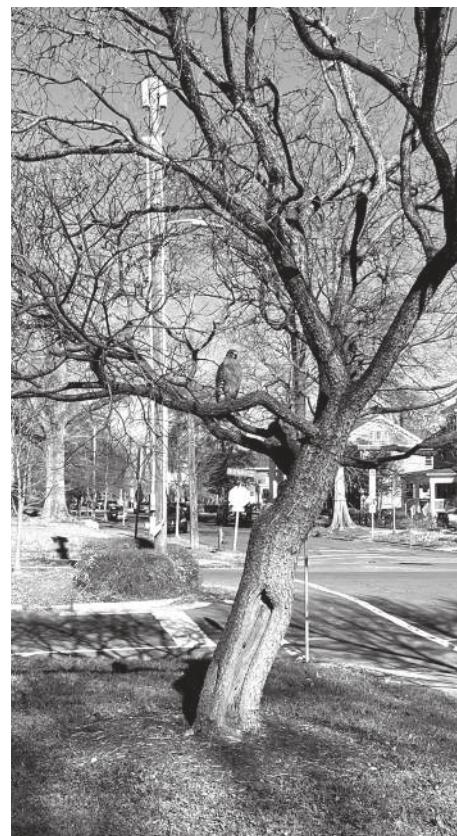
By Shelley Dekker

In 2023, the Trinity Park Foundation plans to develop the Trinity Park Tree Trail to highlight the diversity of trees in the urban arboretum that is Trinity Park! The trail will likely be designed to be used with an existing mapping app, though it will also be available on our website. We will tag various street trees (only those owned by the City) with labels showing their species, but we would like to have as many species as possible on this trail, including trees on private property that can be seen from the sidewalk.

If you have trees of an unusual species, please consider allowing us to list them on the trail. Send a note to trinityparkfoundation@gmail.com with

your address and what kind of trees you have that are visible from the sidewalk.

Note that we will not tag them, and they will only be mentioned on the trail map if they are of an unusual species not found among the City’s street trees. For instance, I will be listing an American smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*) in my front yard, and I hope to list a weeping cherry (*Prunus pendula*) in a nearby front yard. Please write to us about your interesting trees! Thank you from the Trinity Park Foundation and TPNA Tree Committee, working to keep Trinity Park cool and green since 2003!



American smoketree in Trinity Park

Local Developments

Community Response to Northgate Mall Redevelopment Plans

By Karalyn Colopy

Northwood Ravin bought Northgate Mall in 2018 and has been working since then on a plan to redevelop it. Meanwhile, leaders from the Walltown Community Association have also been working collaboratively with surrounding neighborhoods to develop a vision for a redeveloped Northgate, focusing on four main priorities: affordable housing, affordable retail, accessible community and green space, and environmental sustainability.

On February 16, in an empty storefront near the former Macy's, Northwood held a community meeting to present updates about their current plan, which has evolved from luxury housing and retail, to lab space for life sciences with some retail and a small park. Prior to requesting a rezoning of the property, they are required to hold such meetings and provide an opportunity for community members to offer feedback.

Mimi Kessler attended the meeting and reports:

There was a very large (80+) group of residents. Various neighborhoods were well-represented. The leadership of the Peoples Alliance and Affordable Housing and Transit were there. And I am told several Council members were also there.

The development team gave a short presentation, with little detail. They

then wanted to break up the group to look at drawings on easels, but the residents instead insisted on a Q&A. The developers' responses to residents' questions and concerns seemed dismissive. Despite their community engagement through prior meetings, their proposal reflects nothing of what the community wants. It got pretty contentious.

Residents showed they will not be silent and will oppose the rezoning that the developer intends to ask for.

After the meeting Audrey Mitchell, President of the Walltown Community Association and Brandon Williams, Chair of WCA's Northgate Mall Committee, emailed neighbors to encourage all to contact Durham City Council to support Walltown's alternative redevelopment plan for Northgate, saying: "...Walltown's updated alternative design merges the

developer's plans for a life sciences campus with these community priorities [affordable housing, affordable retail, accessible community and green space, and environmental sustainability]. The plan reflects over four years of input from Walltown, the other six neighborhoods proximate to the mall (Northgate Park, Trinity Park, Duke Park, Trinity Heights, Watts-Hillandale, Old West Durham), and the wider Durham community."

See Walltown's alternative plan at <https://www.walltown.net>

Wetlands on W. Trinity Ave.

By Mollie Flowe

No official updates have been announced since last spring, but we continue to monitor progress at the South Ellerbe Creek Restoration project at 808 W. Trinity Ave.

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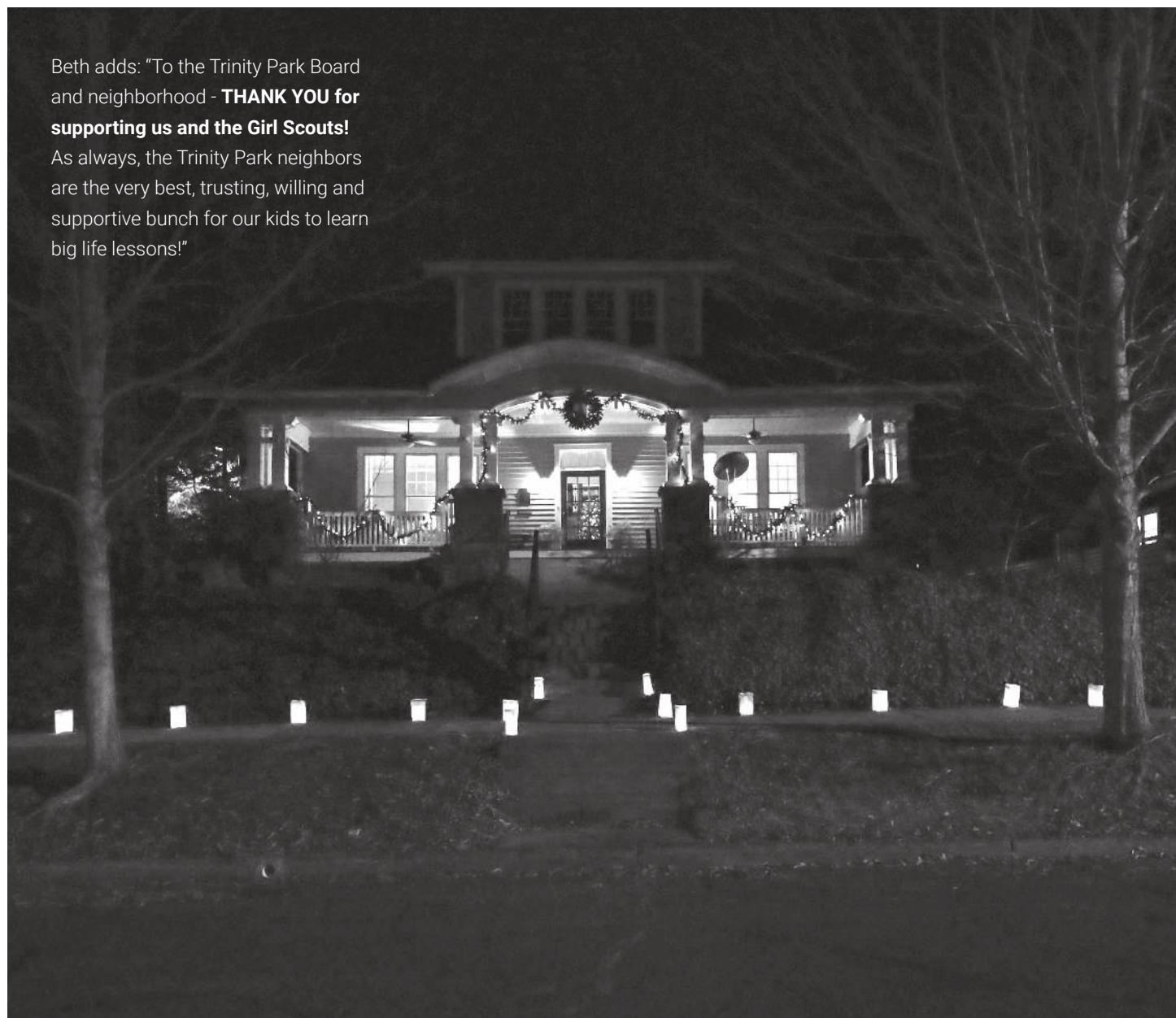
Luminaria Night

Thanks to all who lit up the night with luminaria on Sunday, December 18, 2022. This year the Emerson family organized the event to raise funds for their two daughters' Girl Scout troops. They created an online order form and offered customers an option to pay via Venmo and to request door-to-door delivery. Many liked these options, though some neighbors wished there were also an in-person gathering at the park, which we have had in previous years. **Beth Emerson** notes, "If we have another chance to sponsor Luminaria next year, we'd like to add... a gathering at the park. We'd also like to add some more Girl Scouts to help out!"

They raised \$645 for each Girl Scout troop, distributing more than 1500 luminaria kits. The neighborhood looked beautiful that night, with lots of people taking walks amongst the candles in the early evening.

Beth adds: "To the Trinity Park Board and neighborhood - **THANK YOU for supporting us and the Girl Scouts!**

As always, the Trinity Park neighbors are the very best, trusting, willing and supportive bunch for our kids to learn big life lessons!"





Trinity Park, according to ChatGPT

By Karalyn Colopy

ChatGPT is a chatbot that was publicly launched by OpenAI this past November. I tested it out at <https://chatgptonline.net/> to see what it can say about our neighborhood.

My question to ChatGPT: What is Trinity Park like?

ChatGPT: Trinity Park refers to many parks with the same name, so it would be helpful to know which park you are referring to. However, generally speaking, Trinity Park can refer to a public park that provides open green spaces, recreational facilities, and outdoor amenities for people to enjoy.

I guess I need to be more specific.

To ChatGPT: What is Trinity Park in Durham NC like?

ChatGPT: Trinity Park in Durham, North Carolina is a large public park that spans over 100 acres and features various amenities such as walking and bike trails, sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and a lake. It's a popular destination for outdoor recreation, exercise, and relaxation in Durham.

The park is also known for hosting events such as concerts, festivals, and sports competitions.

Well, that would be nice, but it's not entirely true. Let's try again.

To ChatGPT: What is the Trinity Park neighborhood like in Durham, North Carolina?

ChatGPT: Trinity Park is a neighborhood located in Durham, North Carolina, near Duke University. It's known for its tree-lined streets, historic homes, and close proximity to downtown Durham and Duke University. It is considered one of Durham's most sought-after

neighborhoods, offering a mix of urban and suburban lifestyles. The neighborhood features a mix of single-family homes, apartments, and townhouses, with a variety of architectural styles. Residents enjoy convenient access to shopping, dining, and entertainment options, as well as the park of the same name. Trinity Park is considered a stable and well-established neighborhood with a strong sense of community.

That's better. Readers, how do you think ChatGPT did? Should it write the next newsletter? Let us know at editor@trinitypark.org

Upcoming Events



Spring Egg Hunt Saturday April 8

Earth Day Community Clean-up
Saturday April 22

Look for event details as the date approaches at trinitypark.org, on the listserv, or on Facebook.

TPNA MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st Wednesdays @ 7pm

APRIL 5*	MAY 3	JUNE 7
JULY 5	AUG 2	SEPT 6
OCT 4	NOV 1	DEC 6

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

*May be moved to April 12. Stay tuned.

STAY CONNECTED!

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

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

Website: trinitypark.org

Email: info@trinitypark.org



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Susan Jakes
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Laurie Williamson

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