



PARADE

"The only people who listen to both sides of an argument are the neighbors next door." —Proverb

CALLING ARTISTS & LANDSCAPERS

WEST CLUB BLVD-OVAL PARK MEDIAN ART PROJECT (MAP)

The Watts Hospital-Hillandale Neighborhood Association - Centennial Celebration Committee requests "Median Art Project" (MAP) proposals from WHH residents, neighbors, friends, artists, landscape architects, botanists, or other interested parties to design, produce and install art, landscape or other beautification for the Oval Park median on West Club Blvd between Oakland Ave and Oval Drive ("Median Art Project" or "MAP"). The dimensions of the median is 145' x 13' (at center) tapering off to 5'.

The suggested goals of MAP are to welcome visitors and newcomers to WHH, celebrate WHH's unique history, architecture, streetscape, and character, and to embellish the newly constructed median. The project budget, including art design, production and installation, is between \$10,000 - \$25,000. Consideration for award will be based upon design, production and installation criteria to include quality, enduring value and safety, and the proposal cost. Design must be authentic to and consistent with WHH and its surroundings.

The City of Durham has provided the following preliminary specifications: art should not include anything 30 inches above the ground that might penetrate the windshield of a passing car; anything above 30 inches should be made of light, flexible material; and mass below should not weigh more than 300 pounds (i.e., mass should not stop a passing car). If taller art is placed in the center of the median behind items such as brick fence/wall or shrubs (i.e., that would slow or deflect a speeding car), foregoing restrictions could be relaxed.

Proposals will be accepted until 2pm on Saturday, September 27, 2008. The final selection will be announced by noon on Saturday, October 18, 2008, followed by the dedication of the artwork on July 4, 2009.

Please submit inquiries and/or proposals to Alice Thacher, 1112 Georgia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705 or via email at HYPERLINK "mailto:athacher@nc.rr.com" athacher@nc.rr.com. Please include the following information in proposals: contact information; a detailed budget; description of theme, style, medium, materials, and colors; dimensions; and a proposed schedule for implementation and installation. Whenever possible, please also include a drawing or illustration(s). All costs related to the preparation of proposals are the responsibility of the artist and/or team. Submitted proposals will not be returned.

FOCUS

Fall means Fest Oval

It's almost Fest Oval time again. This year's event will be Saturday September 27 in the newly renovated area of Oval Park. With a special emphasis on art, festivities will begin at 2 PM and continue to 4PM. Once again, we will include lots of lawn games, and in addition, we will also include activities and materials from the Scrap Exchange and face painting. There will be art-making stations present for people of all ages that will hopefully result in the creation of some semi-permanent artwork that can adorn, with color and texture, the now empty median on Club Boulevard. Of course, the ever-popular bounce house will again provide the neighborhood with childrens' smiles, screams, and laughter. Watts Busters will be sponsoring a "Slo Flo" event with learning stations and opportunities to purchase CFL bulbs and other tools to lower your energy bill; read more about the event on page 3. The park will be alive with things to learn about and do! There will be cool edible treats available throughout the afternoon. The potluck dinner will begin at 5 PM, accompanied by music and the opportunity for dancing. Bring your favorite dish to share with neighbors, as well as a lawn chair or two. Durham Jazz, an 18-piece swing band, will generously provide music again this year. Enjoy the neighbors you know and meet new friends al fresco. We are looking for volunteers to help organize and facilitate this wonderful community festival. The invaluable expertise of those who have volunteered in the past is especially desired, but we have room and opportunities for people of all ages and skills. We hope to

Continued on Page 8)



If you know a new neighbor or are one yourself, please contact Dean Michaels (286-2601), or Karen Stark (286-9895)

Board Members, 2008

MEMBERS

President

Meredith Emmett meredith@thirdspacestudio.com
1301 Alabama 286-0084

Vice-President

Currently vacant

Treasurer —temporarily filled by

Marilyn Butler mkbutler@mindspring.com
2110 Englewood 286-3584

Secretary

Steve Cohn stevec@duke.edu
1406 Pennsylvania 286-3672

DIRECTORS

Joshua Allen allen.joshua@gmail.com
2417 W. Club 286-0190 (home) 225-8914 (cell)

Larry Chapman larry.chapman@pgnmail.com
1400 Alabama 416-4455

Wendi Gale wgale@nc.rr.com
1612 Maryland 286-9993

Deb Kelly debrakelly@hotmail.com
1105 Alabama 286-3621

Ned Kennington nkennington@juno.com
1415 Pennsylvania 286-9519

Tom Miller tom-miller1@nc.rr.com
1110 Virginia 286-3730

Gene Moser
1813 Forest 286-0321

April Walton awalton@duke.edu
2122 Edwin 286-2060

To contact the board members as a group, please email:

WHHNA_Board@googlegroups.com

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- Sept. 16** Neighborhood Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
at the home of April Watson
2122 Edwin Ave.
- Oct. 21** WHHNA Annual Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
ST. LUKE'S Episcopal Church
Hillandale Rd.
EVERYONEWELCOME!
- Nov. 18** Neighborhood Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
at the home of Joshua Allen
2417 Club Blvd.
- Dec. 16** Neighborhood Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
at the home of Meredith Emmett
1301 Alabama Ave.

All meetings are held the evening of the third Tuesday of the month. If you need a ride, please call one of the board members and she will be glad to pick you up and take you home.

The WHHNA Board would like to thank Marilyn Butler who is reprising her role as long-time Treasurer to help us to keep our books and accounts accurate and up-to-date.

Thank you Marilyn!

Sixth Annual Watts Hospital Neighborhood Artwalk

**Sunday November 9th
noon – 6 pm**

Mark your calendar for the sixth annual Watts Hospital Neighborhood Artwalk. The Artwalk offers a chance to enjoy the talents and personal company of your creative neighbors, and to truly shop locally by purchasing crafts and artwork. Dozens of artists in homes across the neighborhood will be selling jewelry, stained glass, weavings, pottery, paintings, photographs, and much more. Watch the neighborhood listserv for more details. Maps will be made available in the neighborhood and also online.

If you are an artist who wants to participate in the Artwalk, please contact Galia Goodman at galiag@mindspring.com or 286-4463. She will provide you with all relevant information and an application. All creative neighbors are welcome!

Calendar of Events

SEPT 27 - FestOval, Jazz & Potluck 2008. Contact April Walton: awalton@duke.edu

SEPT 27 - "SLOW-FLOW AT FEST-O" Energy Conservation Fair at FestOval

SEPT 27 - Median Art Project (MAP) Proposal Deadline. Contact Alice Thacher, 1112 Georgia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705, athacher@nc.rr.com

SEPT 28 - Energy Star Home Products Meeting, 3 PM at Lowes (Roxboro Rd.). *Thanks to Watts Busters*

OCT 18 - 1st WHHNA 5K Run & Walk. Contact Clare Adkin: sadkin@nc.rr.com

OCT 21 - WHHNA Annual Meeting at St. Luke's, 1737 Hillandale Road. Contact Steve Cohn via phone or email 286-3672 or stevec@duke.edu

NOV 1 & 2 - Tax-Free Weekend Of Energy Star Products. Contact Mig Hayes mhayes7@nc.rr.com or 416- 0922

NOV 9 - Sixth Annual WHH Neighborhood Artwalk. Contact Galia Goodman galiag@mindspring.com

DEC 21 - Night of Lights. Contact Gus Beck gusbeck@mindspring.com

WHHNA Annual Meeting October 21st

Come Meet Your Neighbors And Share Your Ideas

You and your family are invited and encouraged to join your neighbors and the WHHNA Board of Directors in attendance of the Annual Neighborhood Meeting on Tuesday October 21st at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (1737 Hillandale Road). Current board members and committee chairs will present brief overviews of current and ongoing activities and issues related to community based parks and traffic, trees and streetlights, neighborhood safety, and much more. This is your opportunity to express your ideas and opinions about making Watts Hospital Hillandale neighborhood an even better place to live and play, and to find out how you can be a part of this year's WHH Centennial Celebration! Election of WHH Board of Directors will also take place at the annual

meeting. Neighbors are invited to nominate themselves or others for the board at or before the meeting. If you submit your nominations to Steve Cohn before October 1 via phone or email (286-3672 or HYPERLINK "mailto:stevec@duke.edu" stevec@duke.edu), it affords the current board ample time to communicate with you and to answer questions you may have, and for us to personally introduce you as a nominee. However, nominations are also taken from the floor during the meeting. All members of WHHNA are welcome to serve on the board. Please join your neighbors on October 21st for a fun, democratic, non-partisan Annual Meeting! The Board of Directors will provide delicious refreshments and multiple opportunities to win door prizes.

The Heart of the

Visit Watts Hospital-Hillandale on the Web at <http://www.whhna.org/>

A Century Ago

So what did Watts Hillandale look like back in 1908-1909? Well to tell the truth, there wasn't too much out here back then. None of the streets were paved, but the streetcar ran up Broad Street as far as E Street, er, that's Club Boulevard today, where the then new Watts Hospital stood. Although the golf course was in place, or at least nine holes, it was nearly three more years before the Durham Country Club opened up at the far end of E Street, thereby inspiring the renaming of the street to Club Boulevard. In 1913, the Boulevard lots, called "Club Acres," and the lots along Englewood, were laid out. The most striking difference about the area then compared to today was the total absence of trees. Photos of the neighborhood in the late teens show open vistas with just a house here or there, a reflection of the once open farmland and rural look of that area.

The first houses in the neighborhood were mostly speculative houses and rental houses built as part of the village that grew up around Erwin Mills to the south. In addition, there was the occasional new home that a rural or northern home owner built to be closer to the city of Durham. The two oldest houses still standing in the neighborhood are the Coleman house at 1119 Iredell and its neighbor, the Maggie Rose house at 1121. The Coleman house was probably built around 1909 and the Rose house is even older. It is the only house in the neighborhood that displays genuine Victorian millwork. Sadly, its two unique tall corbelled brick chimneys were recently removed. Next, in 1910, the three gable-and-wing houses on the west side of Ninth Street in the 1100 block were built. The Knickerbocker family owned two houses on Maryland Avenue beyond Sprunt Avenue that may also have been standing when the neighborhood was new. Oddly, a cluster of small houses in the Stroller-Drake area may also be of early vintage. The records of homes standing in this part of the county for the early 20th Century are murky at best.

One other house that deserves mention is the old house that once sat at the north end of the dirt street that is now Georgia Avenue. This was the homeplace of members of the Hester family who once farmed portions of the neighborhood. Neighborhood legend has it that this house was the oldest in the neighborhood while it stood.

Zoning Update

Hilton Garden at Erwin Square - In the last issue of PARADE, we reported that the city was considering a change to zoning regulations governing Erwin Square that would potentially triple the maximum height of buildings there from 50 to 145 feet. Since then, intense negotiating among members of the planning staff, the developers of a Hilton Garden Hotel proposed for the southern third of the "grassy field" at Erwin Square, and representatives of the Old West Durham and Watts-Hillandale neighborhood associations resulted in a compromise adopted by the city council in June. Under the new regulations, the height limit for most uses in the Erwin Square area remains 50 feet. Certain uses, including hotels, however, can go as high as 95 feet. Office buildings can now go as high as 75 feet. This will allow the hotel project to get underway, but saves the larger planning issues for the Erwin Square area for determination in the coming Ninth Street Plan.

Ninth Street North - The developers of this massive project proposed for the Ninth and Iredell property between Hillsborough and Green Street originally announced plans to build 220 condo units and some retail space. Later they changed their plans to include about half that number of units but more retail. Both concepts included a parking deck under the main building. To get the project moving, the developers have applied for a rezoning allowing more intense development. Their application included a blank development plan. The last we heard, traffic analysis for the project has delayed consideration of the case. The developers have informed

neighborhood representatives that plans for the project have undergone further refinement, but at the time of this writing the developers had nothing to show their residential neighbors. This is another project that has jumped in front of the Ninth Street planning process.

Whole Foods Project - Speaking of jumping in front of the Ninth Street planning process, it is no secret that Whole Foods is planning a new store in the block of Broad Street immediately to the north of its current shopping center location. The property is now occupied by the old Crum and Forster Insurance building which Duke uses for offices. This Summer, Duke asked the city to close the east-west running alley that divides the block in half. This would give Duke title to most of the block and would remove a major impediment to the development of the site as a new Whole Foods. The Old West Durham Neighborhood Association and certain Ninth Street merchants objected to the alley closing on the grounds that the city shouldn't give away a public right-of-way without making sure that the proposed development of the site was consistent with community planning objectives, i.e., the Ninth Street Plan currently under public review.

The Ninth Street Plan - At the June meeting of the Durham Planning Commission, the commission voted 7-6 to approve the proposed Ninth Street Plan and send it to the council with a favorable recommendation. The version that passed was supported by our neighborhood association and our allies in Old West Durham. The neighborhoods did ask for a number of important changes. Of these, more stringent height limits for the historic buildings in the Ninth Street commercial district and for future buildings in the proposed Ninth Street North project were the most important. The Planning Commission did not approve the requested changes. The Ninth Street North and Erwin Square developers opposed the Ninth Street Plan and asked for more relaxed height regulations for their project and at other places

Neighborhood

**NOTABLE
HAPPENINGS
IN OUR NECK OF
THE WOODS**

throughout the planning area. The commission also turned the opponents down on their request. The planning department is attempting to broker a compromise between the competing interests. The neighborhood representatives are interested in finding a consensual solution, but so far the developers have been reserved about the idea. At the meeting, several planning commission members stated that they thought the neighborhoods were being generous.

The City Council held a public hearing on the plan on August 18. At the hearing WHHNA representatives urged the council to adopt the plan, but Erwin Square developer, Terry Sanford, Jr., opposed it. He complained that he should be able to build tall buildings along the west side of Ninth Street and in the grassy field opposite the Station 9 apartments. As proposed, the plan would allow a significant intensification of land uses on the grassy field, but would limit buildings in the Main-to-Markham block of Ninth Street to 35 feet to match the existing buildings on the east side. The compromise proposed by the Planning Department included a provision which would allow buildings in the historic business district to go as high as 45 feet with special permission. The neighborhoods gave the proposal their O.K. Sanford, however, wouldn't consider it and asked for a delay to negotiate with the plan's proponents.

The council voted to allow the delay and the neighborhoods expressed their willingness to listen to Sanford's demands. It's too bad that he waited so late in the game to get involved. Let's hope the two-year effort to create the plan doesn't come undone.

More next time.

WHH Neighbor's Help in City Funding Greenway Extension Design

The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (ECWA) would like to thank the many

WHH residents who advocated this past spring and summer for the City of Durham to fund the design extending the West Ellerbe Creek greenway. The trail currently runs along the creek from Indian Trail Park down to Westover Park where it ends. ECWA has been advocating that the City extend the trail all the way along the creek, under I-85, past Home Depot and Costco to the corner of Broad Street and Stadium Drive, where it would meet up with the North-South Greenway and the rest of the steadily developing Durham trail system. The hard work paid off and the 2009 City budget includes funds (\$285K) to begin the design and planning phase for extending the West Ellerbe Creek greenway.

Last year the Durham City Council cut the funding for this project from the budget, in part because there was no organized voice advocating for it until very late in the budget process. With that in mind, ECWA got busy much earlier in the 2009 budget cycle, and in January we partnered with the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission and the Watts-Hillandale Parks Committee to organize various neighborhood and community leaders and meet with key officials.

The turning point this year was likely when more than 80 trail supporters, the majority from the Watts-Hillandale neighborhood, showed up at the Coffee with Council in force, holding green signs stating "I Support Greenways." When this item was called up on the agenda, over 60 additional people filed into the meeting space to join those trail supporters who were already in the room, until two whole walls of the large meeting space were lined with trail advocates. Several speakers then provided the City Council members in attendance with facts about the project, benefits to our community, and testimonials about the value greenways bring to our neighborhoods.

Before the Coffee with Council meeting, only two Council members (Diane Catotti and Mike Woodard) had provided verbal commitments to support the gre-

enway funding. Following the meeting, three more Council members (Farad Ali, Eugene Brown, and Howard Clement) made verbal commitments to support keeping the needed funds in the 2009 budget. As a result of new information and knowledge he gained at the meeting, Eugene Brown stated, "As for the trail extension, this is a slam dunk"; Howard Clement in a subsequent phone conversation stated, "You can count on me"; and Farad Ali said in an e-mail, "This is an important issue for Durham and I plan to be a voice for this issue."

Once the actual design is completed, the Council must be convinced to provide funding for the actual construction of the trail in a subsequent budget cycle. If the greenways are important to you and you would like to be kept abreast of this issue, and/or are willing to "advocate" again in the future, please e-mail Larry Brockman brockman.larry@gmail.com.

Finally, please consider joining ECWA as a member and/or financial supporter to help ensure our ability to advocate strongly on important issues related to land preservation, water quality, and connecting people to the outdoors. To donate to ECWA or join as a member go to www.ellerbecreek.org.

Tree, Lawn, and Perennial Flower Planting

When the hot summer temperatures finally break, humans, animals and plants all give a sigh of relief. It is the same for the many large trees that we enjoy today in the WHH neighborhood (planted 40-60 years ago).

Fall is the best time to plant trees or other perennial plants, or to re-seed lawns, for your own enjoyment, and that of future neighbors. Best of all, many garden centers and tree nurseries run fall specials so that you can buy trees and shrubs at reduced cost. These centers and many other local or online resources are also

Continued on Page 8)

THESE BUSINESSES ARE SPONSORING THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SUPPORT THEM AS THEY SUPPORT US.
PLEASE SEND YOUR AD GRAPHICS TO CANDY WEBSTER , CANDY@PROPID.COM



I live in the Watts Hospital Hillandale neighborhood and I live it! I also live my job — Real Estate! I will work for you to provide the best service with the highest level of integrity. Call me, email me, or check out my website!

Anne Moscrip — REALTOR®
Phone: 919-475-0795

anne.moscrip@prucarolinas.com
www.annemoscrip@prucarolinas.com



Composed Life Services, PLLC

MARIAN R. PLACE, LCSW

PSYCHOTHERAPY & COUNSELING

*Offering a safe, respectful environment
in which to heal and grow*

Durham, N.C.
919-286-3060

www.composedlife.com

Neighborhood T-Shirts for Sale

Boy Howdy do we have a fine selection of Watts-Hillandale T-shirts for you. We have new and old designs - something for everybody from young children to not-so-little adults. This year we have even ordered shirts cut especially for women who want to avoid the underwear look. All shirts are 100% cotton and cost just \$12. They will be on sale at Oval Park during our July 4 celebration and by appointment any other time. Just call Tom Miller, 286-3730 or e-mail him at tom-miller1@nc.rr.com.

Sanders Florist

1100 Broad St ~ Durham

ROSES • CUT ARRANGEMENTS • CANDY
PLANTS • FRUIT • FRESH FLOWERS
BALLOONS • STUFFED ANIMALS

*“Serving the Duke/Durham Community
for Over 57 Years”*

286-1288

Steve Bradley-Bull, LPC, MEd, MA

Founder & Counselor



Center for | **All Seasons**

caregiving • end-of-life issues • grief • life transitions

center4allseasons@hotmail.com

919.286.5770

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

December's newsletter will feature an interview with WH Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods) member Kathryn Herzog to catch us up on Durham CAN's important environmental justice work. For more information on CAN, please e-mail neighbor Kristin Bradley-Bull: kabull@mindspring.com.

Community News

On the summer solstice, June 21 (the first day of summer), a lovely group of people met at Honey's Restaurant to reminisce about their experiences and memories growing up in Watts Hospital-Hillandale. Gordon Perry graciously invited twelve of his friends to share their childhood memories while enjoying fresh brewed coffee and pancakes, muffins, eggs, toast, and oj. It was a beautiful way to welcome the new season and rekindle old friendships while also meeting new friends. In particular, it was great fun for them to mosey down Memory Lane and for me to hear what it was like to live in WHH in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

Worth Lutz, Jr. lived in **FIVE** different houses in WHH - one on each of Wilson, Club and Oval Drive and two different homes on on Oakland Avenue!! He lived in the houses located at 2005 Wilson, 2020 Club, 1206 Oval, 1502 Oakland, and 1503 Oakland!

Charles Byerly and **Carolyn Byerly Sasser** lived in **FOUR** different houses in WHH - 2400 Club, 2414 Club, 1809 Club and 2315 Sprunt!

Each of **Clyde V. Umphlett, Jr., Jim Arena** and **Jack Schrader** lived in **TWO** different houses in WHH. Clyde lived in the houses located at 2115 Englewood and 2118 Englewood; Jim lived in the houses located at 1917 Club and 1214 Carolina; and Jack lived in the houses located at 2208 Woodrow and 2414 Club.

And, finally, each of **Carolyn Styron Thomas, David A. Reed, Delona (Dee) Lloyd, Gordon Perry, Charles Andrews,** and **Richard Citrini** lived in **ONE** house in WHH. Carolyn lived in the house located at 2106 Wilson; David lived in the house located at 2203 Englewood; Dee lived in a house located on Georgia Ave; Gordon lived in a house located on Delaware; and Richard lived in the house located at 1105 Georgia.

All of these wonderful and former WHH neighbors still live in Durham. They love to visit their children and grandchildren (and I'm sure we had at least a few great-grandchildren represented at the gathering!) all over the United States, but they can hardly imagine moving too far away from here.

If you live, or have lived, in any of the houses listed above, please think about being a part of the Summer 2009 WHH Documentary Project. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Debbie Kelly at debrakelly@hotmail.com or 286-3621.

The Summer 2009 WHH Documentary Project is a collaboration with the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. You'll read more about this very exciting oral history and videography project in the next few newsletters. If you would like more information or would like to find out how you can get involved in the project, please contact Debbie Kelly, April Walton, Meredith Emmett, or Mig Little Hayes. We would love to have as many WHH neighbors involved as possible! The project will be a great way to get some documentary, oral history or videography experience. We're also eager to involve experienced photographers, videographers, audio technicians, oral historians, historians, writers, researchers, film editors, and other helpers. So, if you are interested, and have lots or no experience, don't hesitate to contact one of us.

Watts Busters News

WATTS-BUSTERS JOINS WHHNA ON SEPTEMBER 27!

"SLOW-FLOW AT FEST-O"

An energy conservation fair for all!

Here's your chance to check out....rain barrels, composting methods, designer recycled bags, low-flow water devices, compact fluorescent bulbs, clothes lines, push mowers and more.

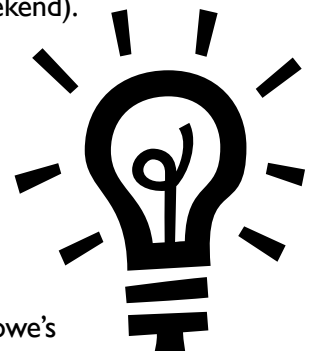
Want to share your eco-know-how? Please join us! Contact Mig Little Hayes mhayes7@nc.rr.com/416-0922

More exciting WATTS-BUSTERS news!! Have you heard about the tax-free weekend of Energy Star products—first weekend in November? Watts-Busters is partnering with Lowe's to add significant discounts on a combined purchase (all WHHNA residents who want to buy Energy Star products that weekend).

The power in numbers....
the power of community.

So if you can hold off on buying Energy Star home items, do so, and join us in this great neighborhood opportunity.

There will be a meeting at Lowe's (Roxboro Rd.) on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 3:00 to learn more about this event and qualifying Energy Star products. Call or email for more information: mhayes7@nc.rr.com/416-0922



FOCUS — continued

keep volunteer shifts fairly brief so one also has plenty of time to mingle and enjoy the event as well as to work. This festival is a true neighborhood event, and we are the ones who make it happen. Set up will begin the morning of September 29 at 9 AM. If you would like to help any way please contact: April Walton at 682-1190 or aprilrosswalton@aol.com.

The Glorious Fourth of July

BY TOM MILLER

Wasn't our 59th annual parade and celebration just a pip? Although this was the first time the celebration took place on the south side of the park, it worked out great and everybody had a swell time. Hundreds of neighborhood residents, young and old alike, turned out to march and sing. Dignitaries in attendance included Paul Luebke of the North Carolina General Assembly, Diane Catotti of the City Council, Becky Heron of the Board of Commissioners, Chief Lopez of the Durham Police Department, historian John Hope Franklin, and parade founder Alice Walker.

A special thanks goes to Ned Kennington, Debbie Kelly, and the many other volunteers who worked for hours to pull the whole event and celebration off. Amy Tornquist of Watts Grocery served up delicious homemade cupcakes, and for yet another year, Mr. Holmes served up his wonderful Ideal Sundry lemonade. Neighbor David Dodson invited the O.K. Chorale to sing the national anthem and other patriotic songs, and Will Miller and his buddies beat a lively cadence on their drums as paraders marched. The crowd was estimated to be over 500 folks this year.

I don't know about you, but I am convinced that our Watts-Hillendale Fourth of July Parade and celebration is the best and most attended holiday event of the year.

Tree, Lawn, and Perennial Flower Planting — continued

available for information and instructions on how to best plant your specific ball-and-burlap or container grown plant. In general, it is recommended that you dig the hole for your plant just slightly deeper than the root ball or container depth, but two to three times wider. You may want to fork up or break up the soil at the periphery of the hole, particularly in clay soil, as another way to encourage roots to spread out and not just circle the hole itself. Resist the temptation to enrich the soil that you refill into the hole with humus or compost, as compared to soil it was originally surrounded by - a little bit of amendment will do. Otherwise, you may inadvertently create a situation where the plant roots "reject" the surrounding soil and only slowly mature in its little familiar refuge.

Remember that planting a tree, shrub, or other perennial in the "right spot" is the answer for successful maturation, growth, and survival, and most of the trick to getting beautiful, healthy plants that require minimal care. Pay special attention to the recommendations for light and water requirements for any particular plant. For example, some shade plants need moist conditions, and will not thrive in the shade of a live oak, since the tree canopy is likely to create dry conditions. For that spot, look for plants that do well in dry shade. Similarly, watch the particular conditions of each garden spot to decide where new plants should go. If you plant tall plants pointed south, you will transform even your 'sunny' bed to one that includes some shaded conditions.

When transplanting or planting anew, most fall plantings require regular watering during the fall and winter months to encourage healthy roots, even while the plants remain dormant above ground. If there is inadequate natural rainfall you will want to supplement with slow watering. Resist the use of a sprinkler system since, in sun, this water tends to evaporate almost as quickly as it falls.

The Durham County Cooperative Extension office is a great resource for answers to questions and other information about gardening, transplanting, and caring for garden plants, including water requirements. Fall is also a good time to take soil samples to the Extension office for testing to determine if your soil needs amendments that might include compost, humus, lime, or nitrogen. Applying these nutrient supplements in autumn ensures time for maximum benefit of soil enrichment before it is needed to encourage spring growth. To contact Cooperative Extension, call (919) 560-0525, or visit the office at 721 Foster St., near downtown Durham. Their website is found at www.ces.ncsu.edu/durham/.

- Happy Gardening, Sherri Zann Rosenthal

