



JUNE 2020

PARADE

THE WATTS-HILLANDALE AND OLD WEST DURHAM NEWSLETTER

“All Public Gatherings PROHIBITED including public schools, church services, and Sunday schools” — ORDER OF THE N.C. BOARD OF HEALTH, OCTOBER 1918

ON JULY 4 WE WILL CELEBRATE!

WHHNA BOARD

IN AN UNBROKEN TRADITION since 1950, neighbors in Watts-Hillandale and Old West Durham have celebrated the Fourth of July with a parade along Club Boulevard. The event has never been canceled or postponed. It has been rained on but never rained out. The Watts-Hillandale board has determined that in spite of the coronavirus pandemic, the neighborhood tradition will remain unbroken. The question is what form will the celebration take? As determined as the board is to hold this year's celebration, they are equally determined to hold it in a way that is safe and conforms to the orders and recommendations of our state and city governments. At the time of this writing in mid-May, we are uncertain what may be allowed or advisable in the way of public gatherings in early July.

Watts-Hillandale President Dot Doyle, July 4 event chair Tom Miller, and the event's committee of volunteers will work with city officials to develop a meaningful plan for the neighborhood's July 4 celebration. It is unlikely that we will be able to hold our usual parade. But rather than hold no parade at all, we will solicit a handful of volunteers to march the original 70-year-old parade flags along Club Boulevard at an appropriate social distance. We will attempt to share video of this parade via social media. Rather than hang hundreds of flags in Oval Park on the Fourth, we will sponsor a “patriotic flag hunt” of flags all around Watts-Hillandale and Old West Durham during the week of the Fourth. We cannot congregate safely in Oval Park, but families can recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing This Land is My Land at 10:30 a.m. on the Fourth in their own yards.

These plans are subject to change. We will announce final arrangements on neighborhood websites (check whhna.org), email lists, and social media during the days leading up to the Fourth. The annual Fourth of July celebration is not to be missed and this year will be no exception.

For those of you who are new to the Watts-Hillandale or Old West Durham neighborhoods and have not experienced our famous July 4 celebration, here's a little about its history: The event started on July 4, 1950 at Alice and Tom Walker's house at the corner of Virginia Avenue and Club Boulevard when a handful of kids decorated bikes and marched twice down the block and back again. Returning to the Walkers' yard, they recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang songs, including ‘America the Beautiful.’ Alice was a distant cousin of Katherine Lee Bates, the woman who wrote it. The proceedings closed with a cold soft drink.

BUY NEIGHBORHOOD T-SHIRTS AND HATS

How will anyone know you've been there and done that unless you've got the T-shirt to prove it? With an expenditure of just \$15, you can demonstrate to the whole world you're a bona fide Watts-Hillandaler or Old West Durhamite. And we have hats too, embroidered with the Watts-Hillandale logo. Watts-Hillandale Ts and hats can be acquired by emailing Tom Miller at tom-miller1@nc.rr.com. For Old West Durham shirts, email Vicky Welch at vickyw1961@gmail.com.

JULY 4 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need about 20 volunteers to make our July 4 event run smoothly. As we get closer to the Fourth we will develop a clearer picture of what our volunteer jobs will be. We anticipate we will need a couple of skilled videographers this year. Interested? Please email Tom Miller, this year's emcee at tom-miller1@nc.rr.com.

WIN A TOP-QUALITY U. S. FLAG

We have a number of 3' x 5' U.S. Flags to give away — just in time for the Fourth of July. To enter the drawing, email tom-miller1@nc.rr.com. Put the word “FLAG” in the subject line and include your name and address in the body of the message. The drawing will be held on July 1 and the winners will receive their flags in time to display them on the Fourth!

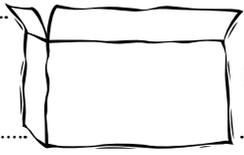
JULY 4 FEATURES FLAG HUNT

Neighbor Jennifer Wood came up with the neat idea of a neighborhood flag hunt to celebrate the Fourth of July. Here's how it will work: participating neighbors will display the U.S. flag or the flag of any country or state on their front porches from Sunday, June 28, through Saturday, July 4. The flag should be at least 3' x 5', must be easily visible from the street, and should ideally have some personal significance to you. If you display a flag, please register it by emailing Tom Miller at tom-miller1@nc.rr.com. To play, make a list of the flags you see (including the addresses). Please view the flags from the street and do not enter people's yards. Submit your list to Tom's email by noon on July 5 (please submit your whole list at one time). Prizes will be awarded to the participants who correctly identify the most registered flags. Only Old West Durham and Watts-Hillandale residents are eligible to win. If you want to borrow a flag to display, ask Miller by June 24 and he'll rummage about in his collection.

The event quickly grew. The Pledge, the singing, and the cold drinks moved to Oval Park. Tom asked people to bring not only their U.S. flags, but also flags from their home states and home countries. He wanted to stress the idea of *e pluribus unum* — from many, we are one.

The neighborhood's annual July 4 celebration, intimate and friendly, represents patriotism and America at its best. It is the oldest continuously observed July 4 event in Durham. Because of the coronavirus this year's event will be different, but we will figure it out and we will celebrate at a safe distance!

PARADE is the newsletter of the Watts Hospital-Hillandale and Old West Durham Neighborhood Associations. It is delivered quarterly to 2,000 households in the neighborhoods. Membership is open to every adult who owns property or resides in the neighborhoods. Editor: Brandee Gruener, ParadeEditor@gmail.com. Designer: Amanda Shurgin. Advertising: Reid Shaffer, PARADEads@whhna.org. Distribution: Catie Shaffer for WHH, catietschaffer@gmail.com; Vicky Welch for OWD, vickyw1961@gmail.com. Web Site: Dot Doyle, Jamie Gruener and Chris Church. To subscribe to your neighborhood association's mailing list, please go to whhna.org/list or to www.oldwestdurham.org/living/listserve.html.



Comings & Goings

Are you a new neighbor or do you have good news to share? Email Brandee Gruener at ParadeEditor@gmail.com.

QUINN HOPKINS of Pershing Street graduated from Durham School of the Arts and plans to attend Appalachian State University in the fall. His proud parents are EILEEN REYNOLDS and CHRIS HOPKINS.

CY NEFF graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts in Peace, War and Defense with a minor in Creative Writing. He was born in Durham and raised on Club Boulevard, where his proud parents JOE and KAREN still live.

CASSIE LILLEY graduated from Hollins University in Roanoke, Va. with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Cassie will be heading to N.C. State for Veterinary Medicine in the fall. Cassie is currently locked-down with her proud parents and brother, DAVE, TONIE, and BENNY, on Sunset Avenue.

FLETCHER BROOKS graduated from Guilford College with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. His proud family, GINNY, TOM, and JIA, live at 2029 Wilson St.

DANIE OZOLS graduated virtually from Syracuse University with a bachelor's degree in Public Health and will likely continue on to pursue a master's degree. Her proud aunts, GALIA GOODMAN and MEREDITH EMMETT, and her grandmother, LIZ EMMETT, are on Alabama Avenue.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES OF 2020!

Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings and Events

- Jun. 28- Jul. 4** Neighborhood flag hunt, details on front page
- Jul. 4** July 4th celebration, details to be announced
- Jul. 6** Virtual WHH Neighborhood Board Meeting, 7 p.m., details to be announced
- Aug. 3** WHH Neighborhood Board Meeting, 7 p.m., details to be announced
- Sep. 7** WHH Neighborhood Board Meeting, 7 p.m., details to be announced

This summer look for announcements of impromptu, socially-distanced Old West Durham events on the listserv. Not subscribed? Join at oldwestdurham.org.

2019-2020 NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

OLD WEST DURHAM

PRESIDENT:

Fred Broadwell
ffbroadwell@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Beth Dray
elidray@yahoo.com

DIRECTORS:

David Eklund
deklund@gmail.com

Emmet Furlong
emmetfurlong@yahoo.com

Charles Kacir
charleskacir@gmail.com

Chelsie Mitchell
chelsiemitchell@outlook.com

Beth Plonk
bewellnownc@gmail.com

Cathy Saylor
cathysaylor@gmail.com

Vicky Welch
vickyw1961@gmail.com

John Wood
johnw@clinedesignassoc.com

WATTS HOSPITAL-HILLDALE

PRESIDENT:

Dot Doyle
919-286-3306
dot.doyle@whhna.org
2311 Woodrow St.

VICE PRESIDENT:

Heather Gudac
919-696-4535
heather.gudac@whhna.org
2307 Alabama Ave.

SECRETARY:

Jerri Plummer
jerri.plummer@whhna.org
2322 Stroller Ave.

TREASURER:

Jennifer Wood
919-597-8027
jennifer.wood@whhna.org
2400 Tampa Ave.

DIRECTORS:

Kevin Crofton
kevin.crofton@whhna.org
2311 Wilson St.

Chris Flannagan
chris.flannagan@whhna.org
1404 Oakland Ave.

Rubén Gonzalez
919-699-0991
ruben.gonzalez@whhna.org

Jamie Gruener
919-624-9760
jamie.gruener@whhna.org
2410 W. Club Blvd.

Patti Harding
patti.harding@whhna.org
2206 Woodrow St.

Bo Harriss
919-931-2853
bo.harriss@whhna.org
2206 Wilson St.

Tom Miller
919-599-7618
tom.miller@whhna.org
1110 Virginia Ave.

Kokou Nayo
773-316-1466
kokou.nayo@whhna.org

Perry Whitted
919-323-7523
perry.whitted@whhna.org
1705 Maryland Ave.



Community News

MUTUAL AID IN WHH UNDER WAY

RACHEL HOLTZMAN AND ASA EGER

AFTER THE COVID-19 pandemic hit, Durhamites sprung into action. Within a few weeks, 15 neighborhoods across Durham formed local mutual aid responses. Collectively, these groups have been sharing strategies and resources with one another as part of the broader Durham Mutual Aid Network.

By March 21, eight of us gathered on a lawn (6 feet apart) to talk through next steps for mutual aid in Watts-Hillandale. The next week, the WHHNA board endorsed the effort. Since then, we've been sending out reminder posts, and putting up flyers on telephone poles around the neighborhood directing folks to an intake survey with questions about anticipated needs and ways people can help.

The intake survey also asked if WHH residents would be willing to volunteer as block coordinators — local leaders who help coordinate support between neighbors on their block. While some block coordinators work alone, others work alongside a co-block coordinator. And while some block coordinators cover one block, others cover more. This work looks differently block by block. It's all about finding what works for the people on that block to provide support to one another in the most helpful way possible. No matter what the effort or strategy, we are so incredibly grateful to these volunteers.

Of 116 blocks in Watts-Hillandale, we have roughly 64 (55%) covered by one or two block coordinators, and 52 (45%) that are not yet covered. Most of the streets that are not yet covered are on the edges of Watts-Hillandale, which makes sense — some families along the edges may identify more with one of the surrounding neighborhoods. WHH block coordinators meet for bimonthly check-in calls. During these calls, we share resources and ideas from other neighborhoods' mutual aid efforts, questions and suggestions and just generally get to know one another as we figure out how to weather this storm.

In addition to the block-specific work, we are holding an ongoing food and mask drive for the Believers United for Progress community food pantry in Hayti, the historically black neighborhood south of downtown Durham. This drive was started when some physicians at Lincoln Community Health Center asked for food for their patients, many who live in Hayti. Watts-Hillandale quickly responded, and we've delivered around \$1,500 worth of food to the food pantry. Director Kasib Abdullah has been incredibly grateful for the support when food insecurity is higher than ever.

Additionally, Watts-Hillandale is holding an ongoing reusable bag drive for the Iglesia Emanuel community food pantry. An entire car full of reusable bags (cloth, paper, and plastic) have been brought over already, which the food pantry is using to distribute food to clients.

We have also come together in other ways. Health care professionals in the neighborhood have put together a guide explaining COVID-19, and mental health professionals in the neighborhood have offered to talk on the phone with people in need of mental health support. (We're working to develop a community-based mental health line using our Watts-Hillandale Google voice number — stay tuned!) Neighbors with knowledge and expertise have put together resource guides around young children, spiritual/religious health, unemployment benefits, housing supports, and

the stimulus check. Each of these resources is, or will be, on the WHHNA website, with the goal of providing credible sources of support.

Overall, it's pretty clear: Watts-Hillandale is full of engaged residents who are supporting one another across the neighborhood and across Durham. We hope that these relationships and sense of community will only strengthen in years to come.

If you live in Watts Hillandale and would like to get involved, reach out to Asa and Rachel at WattsHillandaleMutualAid@gmail.com or 919-695-3524. If you haven't already, fill out the intake survey: <http://bit.ly/whmutualaid>. Find more information at www.whhna.org/covid-19 and durhammutualaid.org.

MUTUAL AID EFFORTS IN OWD

EMILY LEVY

OLD WEST'S MUTUAL AID group aims to facilitate communication and aid within blocks. Approximately half of the blocks in the neighborhood have block coordinators. We are still looking for more people to join us as block coordinators and organizers! Along with WHH, we are participating in the food and mask drive for the Lincoln Community Health Center and several Durham families. We haven't yet met our goal for mask and food donations and are encouraging folks to donate soon for our next drop-off. Our goal is five bags of donated staple groceries per week. Please drop off donations at 1020 Oakland Ave.

If you live in Old West Durham and would like to get involved, reach out to Fred Broadwell (president of the OWDNA board, which has endorsed the Old West Durham mutual aid effort) at old.west.aid@gmail.com or 919-886-5152. Find more information under the COVID-19 update on the OWD website at www.oldwestdurham.org.

PORCH-DURHAM PROVIDES CRITICAL FOOD SUPPORT

KATHY CARTER

PORCH WAS STARTED in Chapel Hill-Carrboro in 2010 by a group of women concerned about food insecurity. Chapters have been created in multiple other communities in the Triangle and state. PORCH-Durham began monthly food collections in 2011 in support of the Backpack Buddies program that was sponsored by the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (IFFS).

My first experience participating with PORCH-Durham was years ago, when our former neighbor Helen Compton collected food donations for E.K. Powe's Backpack buddies program on her porch on West Club.

PORCH-Durham and its many volunteers plan monthly food collections and, over the last decade, these collections have amounted to over \$500,000 of hunger relief. PORCH-Durham supports multiple programs including: Backpack Buddies, School Pantry, Community Pantry Support and Summer Camp for At-Risk students. The Backpack Buddies program supplies food for backpacks at seven elementary schools and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Durham. The School Pantry program supports up to 250 students

(continued on page 4)

Community News

(continued from page 3)

every week in three elementary, four middle, four high schools, Durham Technical Community College, Durham Teen Center, Healthy Families of Durham, and the Durham Literacy Center.

Although schools are closed, PORCH-Durham continues to provide food to those in the BackPack Buddies program. The need is greater given that the children were eating breakfast and lunch at school. Our food collections do continue, but we are taking food donations directly to Inter-Faith Food Shuttle at the Child Food Hub, 2436 S. Miami Blvd. We will return to our regular monthly food collections as soon as it is a safe option.

Working with Durham FEAST, the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle has been providing thousands of nonperishable bags to families each week. Food is also distributed to groups like Durham Headstart and provides food to adults in need through the Mobile Market. Durham FEAST is currently scheduled to run until mid-June (when the regular school year would have ended) and we are preparing to work with any summer feeding sites or programs as they are created.

Please remember there is NO DONATION TOO SMALL! To make food donations to PORCH-Durham, the collection site in the neighborhood is still 2321 W. Club. Drop off non-perishable food anytime. Visit durham.porchcommunities.org for more information about PORCH-Durham, including how to make monetary donations.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT POSTPONED

THIS YEAR, due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, National Town Watch has advised participating communities to postpone their events to Oct. 6. Accordingly, the neighborhood NNO event has been tentatively rescheduled to that date, but whether and how we celebrate NNO even then will depend upon the public safety advice we receive from state and city authorities at that time. More information will follow in the September issue of PARADE.

FISH KILLS ON ELLERBE CREEK

ON MARCH 12, a build-up of grease in a sewer line caused an overflow of sewage from a manhole at Hillandale Golf Course. The sewage spilled into Ellerbe Creek and killed fish downstream through the 17-Acre Wood Preserve. Neighbors spotted dead fish and notified city authorities. City crews responded immediately, unclogged the line and stopped the overflow. They dammed the creek, pumped the wastewater back into the sewer system and flushed the spill by pumping clean water into the creek. Despite these efforts, the damage to aquatic life in the creek was substantial. The city estimates that nearly 5,000 gallons of wastewater flowed into the creek. Members of the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association water quality team counted at least 150 dead fish near the spill. Even pollution-tolerant fish species were killed. On the weekend of March 28, neighbors observed more dead fish in the creek from another sewage spill that had happened in the same area. By Monday, March 30, city crews were again at the site and pumping clean water into the creek to dilute the pollution.

Although normal water flow in the creek was soon restored and there have been no further spills, by mid-May very few fish were observed in the creek along the trail in Watts-Hillandale. Some mosquito fish have been

observed, but very few of the larger sunfishes that usually inhabit the upper reaches of Ellerbe have been spotted.

Rickie White, Watts-Hillandale neighbor and ECWA's executive director, observed that these spills teach a couple of lessons. First, Ellerbe Creek's neighbors are its first line of defense. If you see something that looks wrong in the creek such as changes in water color or dead animals, please report it immediately by calling the city's illicit discharge hotline at 919-560-7946 or Durham One Call at 919-560-1200. The spills would have been much worse had they not been spotted and reported by neighbors. Also, it is clear that Durham's century-old sewer infrastructure needs to be repaired and upgraded. Since the first of the year, there have been a number of sewage spills along different parts of Ellerbe Creek. The city is spending \$500 million over the next five years to upgrade water and sewer infrastructure, so let's hope that helps.

We suggest that neighbors get involved in ECWA, which is working to protect the creek and improve its water quality. Strong advocacy can make a difference. For more information, visit www.ellerbecreek.org.

BELMONT PARK DESIGN UNDER WAY

JAMES UMBANHOWAR

PROGRESS CONTINUES on plans to improve Belmont Park after voters approved the project in the first round of participatory budgeting in the city. The improvements include a pump track and a play area for toddlers. Pump tracks are circuits of humps and banked corners that are designed for bicyclists to ride without pedaling, but they are also used for other purposes, such as riding scooters and driving remote control vehicles.

More than 30 interested people gathered at the park in late February to learn about the project from park officials and provide feedback on the plans. Most attendees expressed enthusiasm and provided constructive feedback for the next phase. Concerns were expressed about the potential for increased parking and noise, and safety issues from interaction between toddlers and pump track users and in the nature-play oriented toddler area.

Based on this feedback, Durham Parks and Recreation will start the design process by reaching out to potential contractors for design bids. Like much city work, this process has been slowed by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we expect some progress to occur over the summer. After the first round of design, we expect another meeting where DPR will present their preliminary designs.

GOLF COURSE IS FOR GOLFERS

WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES for recreation in recent months, The Hillandale Golf Course is an inviting place for neighbors to go to walk, run, toss a Frisbee or relax under the trees that border the course. However, as was pointed out by Karl Kimball in emails to the listserv in April, neighbors and other Durham residents are prohibited from doing those activities on this city property. The course is intended for fee-paying golfers and others who are on the property are trespassing on city property. More importantly, it is dangerous to be on the course when golfers are playing and golf balls are traveling at high speeds. Please help the staff at Hillandale golf course by refraining from using the property for anything other than its intended use.

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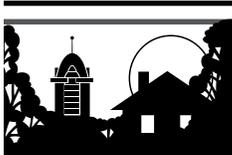
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Development Roundup

SOON AFTER the newsletter was delivered in March, COVID-19 was a deadly world-wide pandemic and stay-at-home orders shuttered all but essential businesses. Now, in June, some businesses have reopened under social distancing rules.

In March we reported that Blake's Grill had opened in the old Wimpy's building on Hillsborough Road. Now, after an ownership shuffle, the restaurant has become **THE DURHAM FILLING STATION**. The Filling Station is take-out only and features many of the same biscuits and burgers that made Wimpy's famous.

On Ninth Street, **MONUTS'** owners used their closure as an opportunity to repair the brick façade of their building. A little further south, in the Ninth Street North building on the west side of the 800 block, the **IMERY NICOLE** salon closed. It is not clear whether this closure was related to COVID-19. Across the street, the opening of **SECRETS**, the new pho noodle bar in the space that was last Saint & Co., has been delayed for months. In the historic 700 block of Ninth Street, the **WAFFLE HOUSE** that opened not long ago closed abruptly in February. Though Ninth Street's business culture is changing to national and regional franchises, somehow the Waffle House never caught on.

A little further south, the space that was Jin Cleaners and then briefly Rush Bowls is being transformed into a new locally owned nanobrewery, **FLYING BULL BREWERY**. Owners Joel Miles and Anna Bloch will make IPAs and Belgian-style brews and sell other local beers in addition to their own from 24 taps. The century-old Ninth Street shop front has been stripped back to its original brick and the interior is being completely renovated for a mid-summer opening.

Two longtime independent Ninth Street businesses have closed and a third is closing, none directly related to the coronavirus. In the 700 block, **NATIVE THREADS**, the counter-culture shop offering clothing and gifts from Asia, Africa, and the Americas, has closed. Over three decades, the little shop with the giant metal frogs was a Ninth Street icon. Across the street in the Shops at Erwin Mill, **THE DUCK SHOP** has closed permanently. The Duck Shop originally

opened in 1989 and specialized in selling Duke University sportswear. Then, back on Ninth Street, **ZOLA CRAFT GALLERY** is closing. The shop in the space above Bruegger's Bagel Bakery was opened nearly 25 years ago and has been owned and operated by Watts-Hillandale neighbor Sidney Cruze since 2014. The shop is known for jewelry, pottery, and other crafts made by local artisans and artists.

The closure of so many businesses along Ninth Street has left more than half a dozen shops empty. What will the new Ninth Street be like?

Bull City Commons to Break Ground

DAN SINGER

THE BULL CITY COMMONS cohousing project will break ground this June after a couple of years of planning and sales. The cohousing community will be located at 610 Trent Ave., across the street from Monkey Bottom Collaborative. The project will have 23 living units in a five-story condominium building. It will include several common spaces, ground-level parking, and a glass "storefront" lobby on the street.

Cohousing is a form of intentional community. Resident-member interaction and participation are fundamental. There are currently at least eight other cohousing communities in the Triangle. The Bull City Commons project is the second cohousing project in urban Durham and the first on the west side of town. The project is being developed by its members with a project manager, an architectural firm and a general contractor. Its organization is based on "sociocracy," a system of governance that seeks to facilitate harmonious business and social interactions. In the development phase, the members are organized legally as a limited liability company, but that will transition to a homeowners' association after move-in.

Each member household will own their own condo and an undivided share of all common spaces, including a kitchen for community activities and meals and a laundry facility. Everyone will have their own kitchen and bathrooms. All members are expected to participate in the planning, construction, and living phases. We already feel like an extended family—the good kind! We embrace diversity, respect and kindness.

As of mid-May, members had claimed 20 of Bull City Commons' 23 units. The members who have signed on (29 adults, two teens and many four-legged companions) come from all over the region and the U.S. What they share in common is a deep desire for community. Bull City Commons members look forward to living and participating in Old West Durham. Already they've had a representative at several OWDNA board meetings, and have helped improve landscaping at Monkey Bottom. For more information, plans and elevations, visit www.bullcitycommons.com.

COVID-19 Impacts Northgate

TOM MILLER

AT ITS VIRTUAL MEETING on April 6, the Watts-Hillandale Neighborhood Association Board invited Northwood Ravin, the new owner/developer of Northgate Mall, to discuss plans for redeveloping the shopping center. At the first of the year, Northwood had announced plans to redevelop the 60-acre Northgate property. The company advised that the old mall would probably be demolished and replaced by a mixture of multi-story buildings including major residential and hotel components. The company expressed interest in open spaces, gathering places, walkability, local restaurants, community clinics, and affordable housing. The new Northgate would be a far cry from a traditional shopping mall. Company officials avoided questions about specifics.

At the same time, the Walltown Community Association began outreach with area residents to develop and promote a community vision for the new Northgate. Walltown leaders are concerned about gentrification and displacement. Walltown's vision includes developer commitments to job training and employment for Walltown residents, 30% affordable housing, a community grocery store, cultural and education spaces, gathering places, pedestrian accessibility, environmental sustainability, and a neighborhood seat at the table for the future governance of the project.

These competing visions of the project have been overshadowed by the pandemic. At the April WHHNA board meeting, Vice President Jeff Furman and the Northwood Ravin team explained they have put plans for Northgate on hold while the

Neighborhood

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company focused on the residential management of their business. They said there was no chance they would abandon the property, but they were unsure when work on Northgate would begin again.

The coronavirus' impact on the availability of financing might result in a scaled back Northgate project. Instead of demolishing buildings and rebuilding from scratch, they might save and re-purpose parking decks and other mall structures. Instead of one unified project, the property might be developed bit-by-bit. Instead of including affordable housing, Northwood might include some "workforce housing" at lower market rents. They might simply offer the city a cash contribution to its affordable housing fund in lieu of including affordable housing in the project.

While he once considered open space for the new Northgate, Furman said that even 10% open space might be expensive for a scaled-back project. Furman noted that in Northwood's initial meetings with city officials, the city was asking for commitments to affordable housing and other concessions in exchange for changes to zoning rules to allow greater development height at Northgate. Furman said they might now have to look for financial incentives from the city to get even a scaled-down version of the project built.

From the beginning, Northwood Ravin has been reserved about whether their vision would require zoning changes. Under current zoning, the height limit for much of the property is 50 feet. This matters because zoning changes can occur only after public hearings and a decision by the city council. If no change to the zoning is required, Northwood could build what it wants under the 50-foot limit with no public input. The city would lose its leverage over the project and the public would lose its political influence over the city.

Not long after the meeting, in response to the stay-at-home orders, Northwood closed down all remaining businesses in the mall itself. Only a few tenants with direct exterior access remain. What Northgate will become is uncertain.

Hillandale Development Under Review

TOM MILLER

IN THE LAST PARADE, we described the agreement struck earlier this year between the

Watts-Hillandale neighborhood and Jim Anthony and George DeLoache, developers of the proposed multi-family residential project on 12-acres on the east side of Hillandale Road between Indian Trail and I-85. Currently, seven houses on the site face Hillandale and will be demolished if the project is approved by the city.

The agreement with the neighbors limits the project to no more than 85 dwelling units which can be single-family homes, townhouses or apartments built to look like townhouses. The units will be built in an architectural style compatible with the Watt-Hillandale neighborhood with no more than six units in a building.

Just as the developers and the neighbors were putting the finishing touches on their agreement, concern about the spread of the coronavirus caused the city to all but shut down the development approval process while arrangements were made to set up virtual public hearings. At the same time, the developers were required by the state to commission a study analyzing how traffic generated by the project would impact Hillandale Road. The study showed that the project may be expected to produce as many as 600 automobile trips per day on Hillandale and that 40 to 50 of those trips will probably occur during peak hours on morning and afternoon weekdays. Peak-hour traffic on Hillandale was a source of concern during negotiations with the neighborhood. As a result of findings, the NCDOT asked the developers to limit access to the project to one connection on Hillandale Road and to construct a 75-foot-long southbound turn lane into the project.

The developers agreed to the DOT's requested improvements and added them to their submission to the city Planning Department. The project is now in the queue for consideration by the Planning Commission and ultimately the City Council, which must make the final decision. The WHHNA and the neighbors living nearest the project support it. The case could be heard by the Planning Commission as early as mid-summer.

The Other Pandemic

TOM MILLER

IN 1918, the world was rocked by a particularly deadly viral pandemic — the Spanish flu. It is

estimated that between one-third and one-half of the world's population came down with the disease and that between 18 million and 100 million people, or 1% to 5% of the world's population, died from it — more people than were killed in World War I, which was raging at the time. It was called the Spanish flu because neutral Spain reported the mounting death toll in that country while combatant nations treated the disease as a close military secret. The spread of the disease was facilitated by the massive movement of soldiers to and from nearly every corner of the globe.

In North Carolina, around 14,000 people died of flu in a population of around 2.5 million. Then, as now, governments used emergency powers to try and stop the spread of the disease. The North Carolina Board of Health forbade all public assemblies, closed shops and schools, and stopped church services. People were encouraged to stay home and to wear masks. Because the country was at war, however, troops continued to move about and industries remained open.

In 1918, the population of Durham County was only 40,000 with half that number living in the city. Some 2,700 Spanish flu cases were reported, but many cases missed official notice in mostly rural Durham County. How many died is difficult to determine, but death certificates issued just during the last three weeks of October 1918 reveal that at least 112 Durham residents died of flu. That was more than three times the deaths from all other causes combined during the same period.

Many Durham flu victims appear to have died at home, but some received treatment at Watts Hospital on Broad Street. Opened in 1909 for white patients, the hospital could treat about 60 people. More than 20 people died of Spanish flu there in the last weeks of October 1918. African-American flu victims were sent to Lincoln Hospital on Cozart Street. Founded in 1901, the hospital was a wood-frame building that could treat only a handful of patients. Both hospitals were overwhelmed. Health officials set up overflow wards in the West Durham Graded School on Ninth Street (where E. K. Powe School is now) and in the African-American Whitted School, then a small building on Ramsey Street

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The Heart of the Neighborhood

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one block from Lincoln Hospital. One death in each facility was recorded during October.

Throughout the Spanish flu pandemic, the heroes were the frontline healthcare workers with little in the way of drugs or equipment. One was Stamey Thompson, a resident nurse at Watts Hospital. Thompson was among the first registered nurses in the country. While treating her patients at the hospital, she contracted the flu and died one day later on Oct. 20, 1918. Engraved on her modest stone in Maplewood Cemetery is a facsimile of her nurse's pin — a cross poignantly surrounded by the words "Watts Hospital" and "Heal the Sick."

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