

## LET'S TALK TREES!

Our last monthly memo was about winter birds, so it seems appropriate now to address something those birds relish about our neighborhood—our fabulous tree canopy! We are fortunate to enjoy shade cast by hundred-year old oak trees. Many of the oldest and largest are willow oaks, though several other oak species are also present. They are interspersed with mature sweet gums, sycamores, maples, pines, and more. We also have a variety of understory trees, including flowering dogwoods and redbuds. You can use apps like iNaturalist or LeafSnap to identify trees in your yard. It can be harder to use photo-ID apps in winter when many trees have no leaves, but bark, buds, and branching patterns can help, as can fallen leaves. Woody, deciduous trees drop their leaves in winter in response to decreasing light and moisture, entering a dormant period. Now is the time to remove dead or diseased wood and to prune for a healthy, attractive structure. This pruning calendar can help you know when to prune trees and woody ornamentals: <https://polk.ces.ncsu.edu/pruningcalendar/> Wondering how to prune your plants? You may want to consult this guide, also published by NC Cooperative Extension: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/pdf/general-pruning-techniques/2014-09-29/general-pruning-techniques.pdf>.

Keep in mind that Raleigh has rules about preparing yard waste for collection. If it will fit in your yard waste container, fill it up. I often have more than will fit, though, and I cut it to about four or five feet long and tie bundles with jute twine. The City will not collect branch sections over six inches in diameter. Such large material will need to be hauled to the yard waste center or removed by a paid service. Here are the answers to some FAQs regarding yard waste collection in Raleigh: <https://raleighnc.gov/landfill-and-reuse/services/solid-waste-common-questions/yard-waste-collection-frequently-asked> Take care of your trees now and enjoy their benefits in the coming years!



We thank Rebus Works for providing space for our Boylan Heights association meeting. Please check out their upcoming events.

**Thursday, January 18 - Vinyl Night**  
6-8pm

**Friday, January 19 - Trivia Night**  
6:30-8pm

**Thursday, January 25 - Ambient Thursday**  
6-8pm

## ARTWALK WRAP-UP

A wholehearted thank you to all who contributed to the success of the 31st Boylan Heights ArtWalk on December 3, 2023! From a record pool of 230 applicants, we showcased **140 artists**, including **24 from the neighborhood**, across media including Clay & Ceramics, Glass, Fiber Art, Painting, Wood, Jewelry, Metal, Multimedia, and Paper & Photography. Turnout was one of the highest, based on artist feedback and record food sales, and Mother Nature graced us with favorable weather. We introduced three delightful coffee and dessert vendors—*The Left Hook Coffee*, *Red Bird Baking Co.*, and *A+O Hot Chocolate*. One unique aspect of the ArtWalk is that artists are generously hosted on neighborhood porches, lawns, and in local studios. A **big thank you to the 58 hosts** who opened their spaces this year.

**Cheers to the 31<sup>st</sup> Artwalk Elizabeth Dunbar Award winners:**

- Best returning artist: Mark C. Blanchard, Digital Blended Collages

- Best new artist: Jennifer Harkey, Recycled Glass Designs

- People's choice: Nadia Bevegni, Fiber Art

- Best neighborhood artist: Claire Ashby, Metalsmith

- Best display: Wendy Werstlein, Wrenn Pottery

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, including **Rebus Works, Spring & Mulberry, and CLEAN Advertising**. CLEAN Advertising also generously hosted artists and designed all event ads and images free of charge. Thanks to donations of food and time from Jim and Leslie Kellengerger, the tradition of the Boylan Heights Neighborhood Association food concession continued for a remarkable 31st year; all proceeds from their booth go directly to the BH Association. A **big shout-out to the many volunteers** who were concessions cooks; liaisons for artists, artist jury, and judges; information and concessions stand hosts; helpers with signage, set-up, and tear down; and social-media coordinators.

**Special thanks and appreciation for our ArtWalk Committee** who worked for months to make this event happen: Suzanne Botts, Laura Brown, Lyman Collins, Janet Cowell, Don Davis, Patrick Fitzgerald, Ann Green, Robert Mayhew, Jeff Mason, Kathy Phillips, Anna Smith. **And finally to our Boylan Heights Association** for their incredible support: Mike Motsinger, Margaret McEndarfer, Amy Marschall, Laura Brown, Jane Barabash, and Don Davis.

Mark your calendars for ArtWalk 2024 on Sunday, December 8th.

Warm regards,

Emily, Sabrina, & Susan, ArtWalk Co-Chairs

# BOYLAN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Happy New Year!!

We are grateful for the good things of 2023 and look forward to an even better 2024. May you be joy-filled and prosperous. Since my last letter, we had a wonderful 31st Annual ArtWalk. Thanks to Susan Thompson, Sabrina Percher, and Emily Rombald for stepping into the co-leadership role. With the help of seasoned past leadership, fantastic cooks, and lots of neighborhood volunteers, they pulled the event off flawlessly. You might have heard the angelic voices of the holiday carolers who graced the Heights with holiday songs to lift our spirits. Special thanks to our talented (and spirited) singers. Special shout-out to Kaitlin Ward for hosting us at Hartwell to warm up. We will have a special presentation at the January 16 BH Association meeting at 7 P.M. given by Sarah Shaughnessy, Raleigh City Planner, regarding the Western Corridor BRT Station planning. Come listen and give your suggestions—all residents are welcome, both homeowners and renters.

Peace and best wishes,  
Mike Motsinger, President

Boylan Heights Association Meeting  
November 21, 2023  
Location: Rebus Works

**Welcome and Meet Your Neighbors:** In person: Mike Motsinger (President), Don Davis, Amy Marschall (Secretary), Will Hooker, Suzanne Botts, Rob Allen, Corny Motsinger, Lyman Collins, Rosemary Ritzman, Ethan Hyman, Officer DiCello; Virtual: Margaret McEndarfer (Treasurer), Laura Brown (At-Large Board Member), Kris Troost, Jay Spain

Approval of Agenda/Minutes: Mike moves to add Financial Report—moved and seconded. Minutes from October—moved and seconded.

**Police Report:** Uptick in motor vehicle theft; that's happening in the city, too. We've gone from 1 to 4—the percentage is high but the actual numbers are low. Lock, take, hide: lock your car, and take your things or hide them. Don't leave your car running in the morning—people look for this. New captain of downtown district: Captain Wood has been replaced by Captain Van Antwerp. Protests are a major concern now. Question: Is the increase in crime real or perceived? Answer: It was up before COVID, it went down and then back up a bit; there's a lot of attention and pressure on downtown; since September there's been a swat team in the transit mall and everyone involved in illegal activity has been arrested. This initiative ends in two weeks. It has quieted things down. Question: uptick in businesses hiring private security guards—these are police but their jurisdiction is limited to the building they're privately hired for. Lots of logistics are involved with private security—do they bear arms? Can they make arrests? It's complicated.

**Financial Report:** Income: Participation payments for ArtWalk—\$7,975 (artist fees). Expenses: PayPal fees—\$284.62.

## Old Business:

**Development update:** (Don Davis)— plans for the property next to Union Station (originally 40 stories plus a 30-story hotel) changed to 23 floors. Blue Heron Asset Mgmt. is trying to buy “the pit” (corner of S. Saunders and South St.). They are asking for 7 stories. It takes 6-8 weeks for zoning approval, and then a year for city approval. There will be a public meeting in Jan or Feb and we'll know more then. There won't be a building there for about two years.

**Beautification project:** (Lyman Collins)— two dozen artists have applied to help with our work to beautify the bridge. There is a dedicated group raising money and they've gotten a grant. There will be an event to celebrate in April— Friends of the Boylan Bridge Association, Inc. Donations welcome.

**New Business:** Newsletter editor and distribution: Michelle has stepped down and Susan Thompson stepped back in on an interim basis. Noe Roark, Enloe student, will take over.

**Dix Municipal Service District (MSD):** Blue Ridge Corridor Alliance, an infrastructure group, has proposed an MSD including land for commercial development around Dix Park, largely because the City Council believes Dix is of high value to developers on the Dix Edge. MSDs receive additional support from the city to fund public areas, but homeowners may be additionally taxed. There is concern that our designation as a historic district won't protect us from being included in the MSD, making Boylan Heights residents subject to tax increases. This is still preliminary in the City Council, but Mike recommends we stay alert and get involved early.

**Western Blvd BRT:** (Bus Rapid Transit) community meetings: Dec. 4 in the Chapel on Dix, 5:30-7:30 and Dec. 6, 4-6 at the Powell Drive Community Center. Representative Sarah Shaughnessy will be at our January meeting to discuss. There was a move to tear down the fence between Dorothea and Western Blvd. but our neighborhood involvement (thank you, Allison) kept them from doing that.

## BOYLAN HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

January 16, 2024 7:00-8:00pm

Zoom meeting joining info:

Meeting ID: 849 7149 4819 Passcode: 277861

- I. Welcome and Meet your neighbors
- II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- III. Police Report—Officer DiCello RPD
- IV. Guest Presentation—Sarah Shaughnessy, City of Raleigh—Western corridor BRT Station Visioning
- V. Financial Report
- VI. Old Business
  - a. ArtWalk final wrap-up - Susan Thompson
  - b. Neighborhood caroling wrap-up - Mike Motsinger
  - c. Development beat - Don Davis
  - d. Boylan Bridge - Lyman Collins
- VII. New Business—Progressive dinner - Donna Futoransky