

# Town still waiting for funding for proposed construction projects

Plans for pedestrian and bike paths not altered after Elon professor is killed in bicycle accident

Andie Diemer  
Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Elon's long-term project to add miles of pedestrian and bike paths has not changed after chemistry professor Eugene Gooch was struck and killed by a motorist while riding his bicycle on University Drive on April 3.

The plan has a 2030 finish date. Part of the reason for such a lengthy project completion is because of funding issues, Elon's Town Manager Mike Dula said.

At a Town of Elon meeting Sept. 9, the Board of Aldermen unanimously voted to pass the new Bicycle, Pedestrian and Lighting Plan.

The project aims to create 20 more miles of bike paths, five miles of walkways with pedestrian lighting and another five miles of paths for multiple uses. Construction was set to start within six months after being voted on, Town Planner Sean Tencer said at the meeting.

Currently, the town is waiting until next month to hear back about a grant they applied for. They are also hoping for stimulus money through North Carolina's Department of Transportation, Dula said.

He said if money starts flowing, projects could start to take shape this summer. But for right now, the plan is still waiting for funding from multiple grant programs, tax revenues and stimulus money.

The plan has gotten tighter as sales-tax revenue continues to fall, and the town will also lose around \$40,000 from their budget as a result of Smithfield Foods' plant closing this summer as part of a restructuring program.

Dula said there has been some confusion, since the intention of the plan was to have a guide for pedestrian and bike path priorities when the opportunities become available, acting as an inventory of possible projects.

Who would fund what and how it would be supplied was never decided, Dula said.

"We wanted to be able to know what our priorities were if grants or partnerships came available," Dula said. "So there was never any idea that we would do that plan in the next few months. It was just something we could use as a reference to what we'd like to see done in town."

A 6-foot-wide sidewalk costs \$50 a foot to build, according to the Piedmont

Triad Council of Governments, which is overseeing the project and is taking input from local residents, including Elon students and Twin Lakes Retirement Community residents.

Dula said the town wants to tackle projects on Lebanon Avenue, Trollinger Avenue and Oak Street, but that depends each on grant money.

The projects on Trollinger Avenue and Lebanon Avenue will definitely wait until the tunnel under the railroad track near the intersection of Trollinger Avenue and S. O'Kelley Avenue are complete later this year.

"We're just trying to be timely with when we decide to do something and when we find a resource available," Dula said. "The plan was not put on hold, it's the same dynamic that it's always been."

Dula said the town never planned to implement projects on University Drive, since it's a state road and would receive state funding.

He also said Gooch's death has not impacted the plan since it is technically state territory.

Instead, Dula said they would promote and encourage the idea of widening University Drive after Cook Road is widened.

"We are actively looking at resources and hopefully in the next little while we'll have some announcements about some of these priorities being addressed," Dula said. "We consider the plan in place."

## TOP PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED

Sidewalks along Williamson, Lebanon and Haggard Avenues

Multiple-use paths for both pedestrians and cyclists along Williamson Avenue, connecting Beth Schmidt Park and Ball Park Road, and a shared-use ramp leading from Twin Lakes to the multiple-use path

Bicycle lanes on Williamson, Haggard and Westbrook Avenues

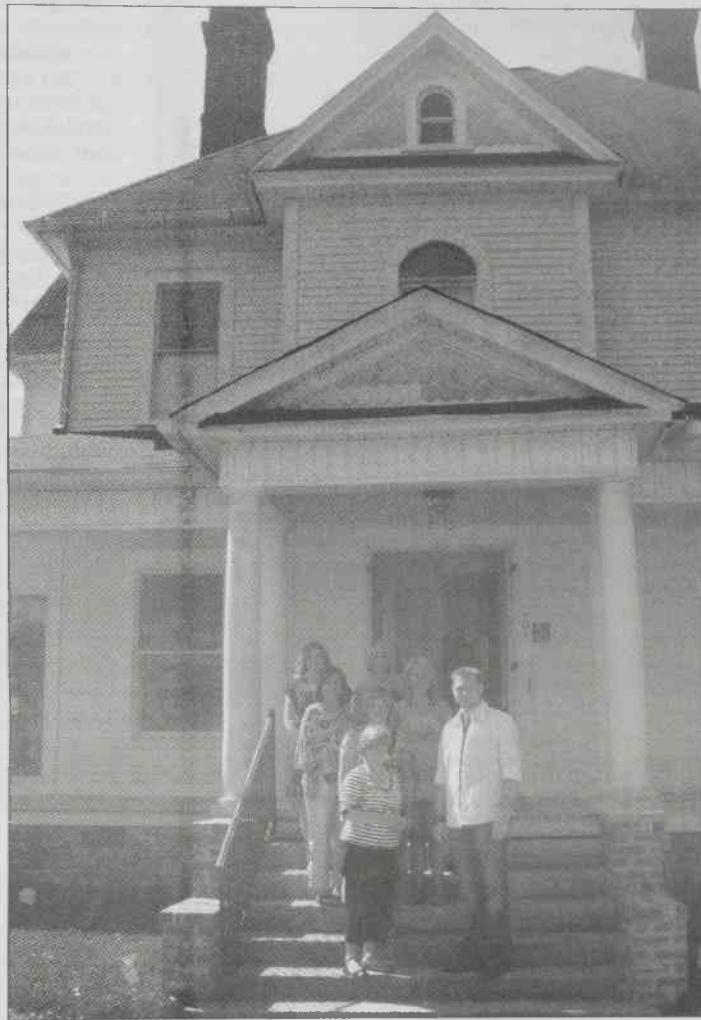
Intersection safety improvements at six locations

Lighting improvements in various corridors, especially University Drive

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Design Forum co-owners Della Faucette, left, and Polly Smith purchased the Victorian home on East Trollinger Avenue from a friend.



The staff is excited about the move and believe the new location will be a fun place to work.

SARAH CARIDEO | Photographer

## Design Forum relocates to familiar Victorian home

Sarah Carideo  
Reporter

On April 28, Design Forum Salon and Spa will be open and ready for business at their new location at 105 E. Trollinger Ave. in Elon.

The salon was originally located on South Church Street in the West End Shopping Center. The owner of the white Victorian home next to the Elon Post Office was a friend of co-owner Polly Smith and approached her about buying the space for the spa.

Smith and Design Forum's other owner, Della Faucette, could not resist the opportunity.

The house and central location made it an ideal site for the salon, Faucette said.

Faucette grew up in Elon and said the town, "makes everybody feel good."

She said she looks forward to having the salon established closer to the town and university to be part of that positive atmosphere even more.

The salon has always been involved in the community by hiring locals and Elon students.

She also said local clients and students and faculty at Elon University have always had "positive responses" to the salon, so she is very excited to increase their clientele as a result of the walking distance.

"I was not aware of the move, but that's really great and convenient because many students do not have

cars, so it is hard to go to salons in the area," sophomore Evelyn Frederickson said.

Design Forum is a full-service salon that has been in business for more than 20 years. Salon and spa treatments are provided for both men and women.

The staff provides services such as haircuts, styles, dying and extensions, as well as hair removal, manicures and pedicures, facials, massages and body wraps.

They also use and sell products like Bumble and Bumble, Goldwell, L'Oreal and Dermalogica.

Additionally, the salon will rent out rooms to local merchants, which will feature jewelry, clothing, small gifts and upscale dresses and handbags.

There is still one room available to rent.

Faucette describes the combination of the salon and spa with the shopping opportunities as being a "boutique house" that can function as a "one-place service."

She said she does not anticipate any negatives result from the move and said it's just "a real good thing," so she will not miss the old location.

Faucette also said she hopes Design Forum's fun atmosphere will make the customers feel welcome.

For more information about Design Forum Salon and Spa, visit: [www.designforumsalon.com](http://www.designforumsalon.com) or call (336) 585-1919.

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