



Dilworth Community Association
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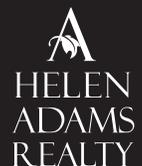
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Don't Miss

Dilworth Cares benefit students and teachers. **Find out more on page 5.**

Need a house sitter this summer? **Connect with local help on page 6.**

Volunteer for the 47th Annual Home Tour! **Details on page 11.**

Grass vs Turf? **Learn more on page 15.**

If you didn't make it to the Dilworth Spring Party, **see what you missed on page 23.**

DCA Survey results are in! **See page 25.**

Elections are coming. Get out the Vote! **Find out how on page 27.**

Want the latest, most up-to-date news of the neighborhood? Then we need your email! **Go to page 35 for directions on how to sign-up.**

Update from the Charlotte Historic District Commission

By Cindy Kochanek

The Historic District staff is excited for the warmer weather, as I am sure many of you are in Dilworth. I wanted to update you on recent changes to our staff for the Charlotte Historic District Commission (HDC). John Howard has moved on to another position with the city and Wanda Birmingham retired last May. Kristi Harpst has been promoted to the Program Director for Historic Districts and new staff has been hired to fill the open positions. Candice Leite started in October 2018 as the Planning Assistant for Historic Districts. Candice is most recently from Savannah, GA and is a preservation mason. My name is Cindy Kochanek, and I started in February 2019 as the Principal Planner for Historic Districts. I'm from southeast Michigan and I previously worked for a smaller city as a Preservation Planner. Linda Keich remains the Clerk to the Board for Historic Districts.

The HDC and its staff work with property and business owners within each of the six local districts to guide projects to ensure that changes are compatible with the character of the districts. We are charged with the protection of important historical, architectural, and archeological features that are part of the City's heritage. The HDC staff and commission can answer questions and provide technical guidance regarding historic preservation.

As a reminder for those of you with properties in the Historic District, any exterior change to a building or property within a designated Local Historic District requires a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA), prior to beginning work. Minor projects, such as fencing, accessory

structures and patios, may be reviewed by staff while major projects require full commission review. Ordinary repair and maintenance projects do not require review and approval, provided the work does not result in any change to the design or material. A reroofing project utilizing the same materials that already exist on the roof will not require review by the HDC or staff while an addition to the rear of a structure will require review by staff or perhaps even the full Commission, if the planned work is outside the scope of what staff can approve. If you are uncertain as to whether your project will require review feel free to contact staff and we will be more than happy to discuss your project.

As a resident of Dilworth, your role in the HDC process is vital and your input is valued by the Commission. Residents are encouraged to attend the HDC monthly meetings to speak for or against proposed projects. The HDC meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. A workshop is held at noon and the public hearings for new projects begin at 1:00pm. All meeting agendas, meeting packets and the Historic District Design Guidelines are posted the city's website. Look for our Facebook (Charlotte Planning, Design & Development Department) and Instagram (@CLTPlanning) posts for relevant events, informational articles and all things Planning and Historic Districts.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to HDC staff with questions. We welcome conversations with property owners. Contact the HDC via phone at 704-336-2205 or email at charlottehdc@ci.charlotte.nc.us. ■

Table of Contents

- 5 Dilworth Cares
- 6 Summer Connections
- 8 Land Use
- 12 Dilworth Eats
- 15 Home and Garden
- 17 Neighborhood Environment
- 20 Empowering Extraordinary
- 21 Neighbors to Know
- 22 Merchant News
- 23 Dilworth Ladies Party Recap
- 25 DCA Survey Results
- 29 Tom Sykes Rec Center Summer Programs

Deadline for Next Issue:

Ads: July 15

If you are interested in advertising in the Quarterly, email Mary Beth Sensabaugh at msensabaugh@carolina.rr.com. Rates and sizes can be found on dilworthonline.org.

Copy: July 23

Copy and ads received after the deadline may be held for a later issue.



The Dilworth Quarterly is written by volunteers and proudly printed on 30% reused and 100% recycled paper. It is published under the direction of the DCA and is mailed 4 times a year to over 4500 households and businesses in the Dilworth community. While we make every reasonable effort to verify the integrity of our advertisers, we do not endorse products or services unless specifically stated.

From the President

Together we can do so

This is my favorite time of year in Dilworth. The lushness of the trees and flowers, the (mostly) inviting weather, and seeing everyone outside on porches or taking walks makes me happy and reminds me how lucky I am to live in a true community. There is something else, though. There's renewed energy and growing sense of engagement.

I witnessed this at our April DCA Social meeting. Attendance was high and people, including some brand new to Dilworth, brought their interests, concerns, and questions. I was most excited to see so many people expressing a desire to be more involved in the neighborhood by helping with one of our initiatives or creating an entirely new one.

Beyond the April meeting, our community survey returned very informative results and more offers to join our efforts to serve Dilworth. We are especially grateful for the respondents who took the time to give feedback and point out issues that weren't included in the survey, and thankful for those who offered to help.

Charlotte is a dynamic city that is growing rapidly. Dilworth is feeling the effects - from streets being closed to allow new drainage for large buildings to fending off would-be developers trying to purchase your property to an increase in traffic on our streets. Many of you expressed concern about this in our survey. Now more than ever, we need to band together and collaborate as a community to preserve our neighborhood and our quality of life.

A community depends on the interaction and participation of its members. Dilworth has dozens of opportunities for you to connect and get involved. For example, the DCA has committees working on the Home Tour, the Jubilee, Land Use, Neighborhood Environment, the Latta Park Initiative, Dilworth Community Garden, Community Engagement, the Express, Dilworth Quarterly, and Dilworth Cares. There's a new Dilworth Mommies group created by a mother who saw a need for it. If you'd like to start a new group or committee, we'd be happy



Valerie Preston
DCA President

much!

to help. Check our website and read the Express for more information on committees or reach out to me at president@dilworthonline.org.

If you can't commit to a committee or volunteering here and there, join us at a Dilworth event. The Yiasou Greek Festival is coming up September 5-8 and the Dilworth Home Tour is September 13 and 14. Mark your calendar for the Dilworth Jubilee on October 12. These are all wonderful Dilworth traditions. I look forward to seeing you there! ■

Want to volunteer in the Home Tour homes?

See page 11.

Dilworth Express

Do you want to know what's going on in and around your Dilworth neighborhood each week?

Sign up for the *Dilworth Express*, a free weekly email that connects you to all things Dilworth.

Q: How can you get connected? **A:** Send an email requesting the *Dilworth Express* to: express@dilworthonline.org.

Find out more on page 35.

See page 25 for DCA Survey Results

NOTE: The Dilworth Community Association will never sell or share the your email to any third party. ■

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DCA Board meets in the
on the fi st Wednesday of
each month at 6:30 p.m.

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By Cortney Varzandeh

2018-2020 recipient of Dilworth Cares

Dilworth Cares Partnership with the new Dilworth Elementary School is off to a Great Start

On February 6th, 2019, the Dilworth Community Association in conjunction with Dilworth Cares presented its first donation to the new Dilworth Elementary School. Principal Hall was thrilled to receive more than \$11,000 for the new school. In a letter to Dilworth Cares, she stated, "Please know that your financial support is truly appreciated by Dilworth Elementary. We will always be grateful to community members that see the benefits of investing into our students and teachers."

Principal Hall went on to explain that the school's resource needs have changed significantly due to the shift in student enrollment. Here are some examples of how these funds have and will continue to help Principal Hall and our neighborhood elementary school thrive at both campuses.

1. The media and book collections at both campuses were outdated. The process of weeding out and replacing has begun, but temporary gaps remain in what resources are available. To determine appropriate book purchases, our media specialists rely on state guidelines as well as teacher and student surveys.

2. The leveled reading libraries at both campuses have been reorganized to match the needs of the students assigned to each campus. These books are a critical piece of our literacy instruction. Securing leveled book packets helps ensure that teachers have the resources necessary to meet the varied needs of all students.



Principal Terry Hall (center) with the Dilworth Cares Committee.

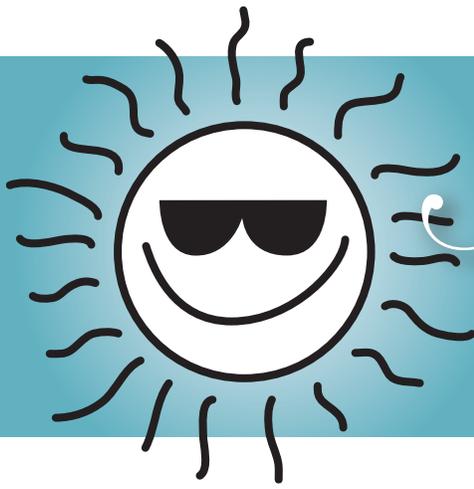
3. We hope to send four girls to the Dottie Rose Arts and Technology Camps this summer. The candidates have demonstrated leadership qualities, academic work ethic, and an interest in the STEM curriculum. Without financial assistance, these students would not be able to participate.

4. The Annual 5th grade field trip to Charleston is scheduled for May. Historically, we have had a few children who are unable to pay for

the trip, and they have received assistance through scholarships. This year, the number of students requesting assistance has increased. It is our goal to ensure all students can participate in this educational experience.

The DCA and Dilworth Cares are delighted to be able to help make these requests a reality. The community can support Dilworth Cares and Dilworth Elementary throughout the year by attending community events: The Annual Dilworth Home Tour, The Dilworth Ladies' Holiday Party, The Charlotte Art Collectives' Fall and Spring Shows (at Avondale Presbyterian Church), and The Dilworth Ladies' Spring Party.

Mayor Vi Lyles and several City Council members attended the April DCA meeting. Speaking for Charlotte, Mayor Lyles commended the DCA and the Dilworth Cares committee for its commitment to supporting and promoting neighborhood non-profits. Dilworth is the only neighborhood with a dedicated philanthropic committee. Thank you, Dilworth Cares committee!



Summer Connections

Meghan Holland Looking For a **Babysitter/Dog Sitter/Plant Waterer?** I am a rising 9th grader and a lifelong Dilworth resident. I attended St. Patrick Elementary School in Dilworth; finishing 8th grade at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. Red Cross Babysitting certified, member of National Junior Honor Society, can work with children of any age (infant+). References available upon request. Mobile Number: 980-257-9858, email: mmholland17@gmail.com.



Lauren Wood I am a rising sophomore. I am a Red Cross certified babysitter and am fluent in **Spanish**. I love children and am available for **babysitting** and **tutoring** this summer! I charge \$10 per hour. I will also be leading a **Summer Fun Camp** for ages 4-11 the weeks of 6/24-28, 7/15-19 and 7/29-8/2. Please contact me at 704-650-2007 for more information.



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Jake Wood My name is Jake, and I am almost 13 years old. This summer I can help you out with **jobs around your house and garden**. I am also open to **walking pets**. I have experience helping neighbors **water their plants** and take care of their dogs, as well as small jobs for my own family. I am a 5th year Boy Scout and very dependable. I charge by the job and rates are negotiable. Contact:704-516-5573 or hollyboowood@gmail.com.



Heidi Ruckterstuhl Hello! My name is Heidi and I am available this summer to **take care of your home and pets** while you are away. I am a rising sophomore at Myers Park who loves plants and animals. Please text me if you are interested at (980)-240-2241.



Marguerite Stouse I'm a rising freshman at Myers Park. I play field hockey and I love baking too! I enjoy **babysitting, petsitting, and watering plants**. If you are interested just call, text, or leave me a voicemail at 704-778-7952.



Cecile Stouse I am 17 years old and am a rising Senior at Myers Park High School. I have been **babysitting** and **nannying** around Dilworth and Charlotte since I was 12, and adore kids of all ages! I have completed the Red Cross Babysitting Program and am CPR certified. I can help with **driving and picking up kids from school or sports, pet sitting, watering plants, and collecting mail**. My number is 704-347-9136 and my email is acstouse@icloud.com.



Ella Bumgardner I am a 14 year old rising Freshman at Myers Park next year. I currently live in Dilworth on Diana Dr. I am a great **babysitter** and **dog walker**. I have two younger siblings I help daily along with two dogs. I have also taken the baby sitting course with CPR. \$9-\$10 per hour. (704) 989-8482.



Evelyn Stouse My name is Evelyn Stouse (19), I'm a graduate of Myers Park High School and have just finished my first year at NC State studying engineering. I'm looking to **babysit, dog sit, or nanny** for the summer. I have been babysitting for the past six years and worked at St. Patrick's after school program during my junior and senior years. I love to be outdoors and play games and will have a car. Call or text me at (704)724-9971.



Caroline Owen Hi! My name is Caroline Owen. I am 14 years old and will be a rising 9th grader at Charlotte Country Day this year. Throughout the summer, I will be offering non-regular **babysitting, tutoring, and pet sitting/walking**. You can reach me by emailing beanowen2004@gmail.com. Thank you!



Carson Whitlock My name is Carson Whitlock and I am offering **babysitting, dog walking, mail/newspaper gathering, and plant watering services this summer**. I'm 14 and I will be a Freshman at Myers Park High School this fall. I am happy to provide references. You can reach me at (704) 560-2717.



Camden Whitlock My name is Camden Whitlock and I am offering **babysitting, dog walking and plant watering** services this summer. I'm 16, I go to Myers Park High School and I have plenty of prior experience. You can reach me at (704) 999-5981 or at camdenwhitlock3@icloud.com.



Mac Norvell My name is Mac Norvell. I am a rising 11th grader at Myers Park. I am a great student and very responsible. I can help you when you are out of town by **taking care of your pets, watering your plants, getting your mail**, etc. I can also help when you are in town with all sorts of **miscellaneous work**. I am a hard worker and a quick learner. Contact me at 704-609-0752.



Nella Rouse My name is Nella Rouse and I am a rising junior at UNC. I will be doing an internship in Charlotte this summer for 20 hours a week and looking for to fill in the rest with **nannying, driving and other jobs**. My internship schedule is flexible so I can be open to any hours for the other work. I have worked as a camp counselor for 3 years (seafarer) and tutored young children as well. I have my own car and available from the first of June until early August. 919-475-9623 rprnella@live.unc.edu.



Jack Dorsch Hi I'm Jack Dorsch and I am 14 years old and will be a freshman at Charlotte Catholic in the fall. I **babysit and pet sit** and will be around most of the summer. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to call or text me at 704-502-5766. I have experience sitting for babies through elementary school age kids.



Ella Dorsch Hi, my name is Ella Dorsch and I am 12 years old. I will be a 7th grader at Northwest School of the Arts in the fall. I **babysit, can be a Mother's Helper, and pet sit**. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to call or text me at 704-612-3699. I have experience sitting for babies through elementary school and I also have taken babysitting classes at the Red Cross.



Anne Koloski (19): I just finished my freshman year at App State and am home for the summer beginning the week of May 13th. I am available for **babysitting, petsitting, and housesitting** and have a Landcruiser for cruising kids around or running errands for you! I can be reached at akoloski@icloud.com or 704-941-4538.



Caroline Koloski (17): I am a rising senior at MPHS and am available for **babysitting, petsitting or housesitting** after June 7th. I have a car for cruising kids around and running errands for you! I can be reached at carolinekoloski@icloud.com or 704-941-4586.



Emma Hinson Waple My name is Emma Hinson Waple and I am a rising 8th grader at AG Middle School. I am available this summer and would love to **babysit** your kids. I charge \$8/hour and can be reached at 704-777-5880.



Sophia Gagnier My name is Sophia Gagnier, I'm 17 and a rising senior in high school. I'm happy to care for children of all ages, and have experience **babysitting**. I'm also available to **take care of any pets** throughout the day including walks, feeding or just letting them out for a while so they're not alone. I'm also happy to **housesit** during days where anyone is away! Please contact me at sophiagagnier@shum.net for any services!



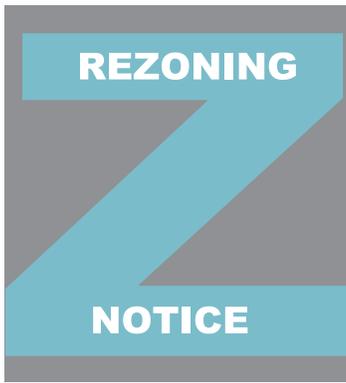
Mary Owen My name is Mary Owen I am available to **babysit** this summer, for any ages. I am a rising 7th grader, and am about to turn 13. I am Red Cross CPR certified, and have had 1.5 years of prior experience. Contact me at mary.owen2006@gmail.com.

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Land Use

What is TOD and how does it affect Dilworth?

By Franklin Keathley

The City of Charlotte has invested billions of taxpayer dollars building its rail transit system over the past decade. With plans to spend over \$8 billion more on additional rail lines in the next few years, residents and city leaders want to maximize the return on everyone’s investment. A quick look down South Boulevard

shows that the city has squandered much of this opportunity by approving parking garages, storage units and apartment buildings with little to no active ground floor uses. Many of these auto-centric uses are incongruous to local area plans, physically unattractive and do little to enhance the urban landscape. As the City began the long process of creating a Comprehensive Plan and overhauling decades-old zoning regulations, they realized that our transit corridors could not wait. On April 15 2019, City Council adopted a text amendment creating new Transit Oriented Development (TOD) districts within a half-mile or mile radius of all transit stops.

For two years, planning staff and stakeholders met to develop the TOD districts. Their goal was to take zoning decisions out of the hands of City Council and force developers to abide by development standards centered on form-based code. The ordinance requires developers to activate a higher percentage of ground floor uses, eliminates parking minimums for most uses and creates stricter parking maximums for others. The new standards also include greenspace requirements, bigger setbacks, and in some instances, “amenity zones” or perimeter planting strips.

The ordinance’s greatest strength is its consistency. Light rail development should now follow area plans without conditional zonings popping up along the way.

Amongst the stakeholder group, height became the most contentious issue in the ordinance besides parking. The new rules allow more height in most TOD districts, but still sets a limit of 130’ in the densest district. Planners encourage developers to build higher, but only if they provide some form of public utility.

The stakeholder group created a “bonus menu” of options for developers to choose from. The menu includes on-site affordable housing, public open space, streetscape and capital improvements, sustainability initiatives or a fee in lieu (paid into the housing trust fund). For perspective, on the same night the ordinance passed, City Council approved Portman Holdings to build a 250 ft. building on the Shook Kelley site beside Sycamore Brewing. Had the developer applied for a rezoning after the ordinance passed, not only would the building look different, they would have had to pay millions into the affordable housing trust fund.

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Phase 2 of the project is now underway and it is designed to reduce street and structure flooding, replace deteriorating and failing infrastructure and undersized culverts throughout the neighborhood. The project is located within a drainage area of approximately 230 acres and streets include Lexington Avenue, Myrtle Avenue, Templeton Avenue, Euclid Avenue, Caldwell Street, Cleveland Avenue, Rensselaer Avenue and Mt. Vernon Avenue. The project began in February 2019 and is estimated to run through 2021.

In March, water line relocations began and as of the end of April tunneling is underway to install the trunk line for the storm drainage system. The corner of Lexington Ave. and Oriole is the entry point to install a huge pipe 7 feet in diameter at a depth of 25 feet using a tunneling operation along Lexington, Myrtle, Templeton and Euclid Avenues. At the same time, work is being done on the Charlotte Housing Authority (Strawn) Site to get the top end of the storm drainage and new sewer trunk line installed there. With so much work to be done on that side of the neighborhood Stormwater Services is running two crews around the clock to get the work done while trying to minimize (as much as possible) traffic impacts to residents.

Information and updates on the project can be found on the StormWater.CharMeck.org site by clicking on the Myrtle/Morehead Phase 2 project or by going to <https://charlottenc.gov/StormWater/Projects/Pages/MyrtleMoreheadPhase2.aspx>.



Construction on Lexington

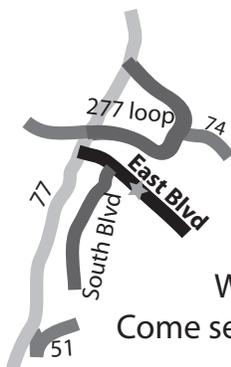
Kenilworth Substation Expansion Update

The screening wall installation is almost complete and the I-beams have been installed for the metal panel along Kenilworth Ave. The wall should be completed in May with the exception of the metal panel along Kenilworth. Expect to see the substation expansion components installed over the summer, followed by DCA task force designed landscaping in the fall. The concrete work consisting of sidewalks along Scott and Hemlock, curb and gutter along Ordermore and the DCA task force negotiated road diet along Kenilworth should happen in late fall. After the concrete work is complete the metal panel will be installed



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along Kenilworth. Project completion is still scheduled for the end of 2019. Check <https://kenilworthexpansion.weebly.com/> periodically for updates. ■

DCDA Land Use Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month in the DCDA meeting room at the Tom Sykes Center (lower level) at 6:15pm, to review rezonings, planning guidelines, and other actions affecting our neighborhood. For more information on Land Use topics, contact Nancy Nicholson at nancynicholson@gmail.com or Ruth Ann Grissom at ruthgrissom@bellsouth.net

47th Annual Dilworth Home Tour

Save The Date to Volunteer!

September 13-14, 2019

Please join this annual neighborhood event by volunteering to staff one of the beautiful Dilworth residences on tour this year. Proceeds from the tour benefit the non-profit Dilworth Community Association and its efforts to preserve the integrity and community of our neighborhood with such events as the fall Dilworth Jubilee.

A portion of Tour proceeds support the DCA's giving arm, Dilworth Cares. Dilworth Cares designates a local charity to receive funds from several neighborhood functions throughout the year. This year's recipient is the New Dilworth Elementary School – Sedgefield Campus and Latta Campus.

Volunteer shifts are Friday, Sept. 13, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, and two shifts on Saturday, Sept. 14, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

For more information, contact volunteers4DHT@gmail.com. To sign up to volunteer, visit our Sign-Up Genius page (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F45AEA62DA7F58-dilworth2>).





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Meet me at The Comet Grill

By Tom Ferber

I went to The Comet Grill expecting to write a story on fried pickles and hamburgers. The food really is good, but the story of The Comet is much more compelling. The Comet is embedded in our community and if you haven't been there yet, you need to go. Get through the door and you will be thankful.

While Dilworth has changed since The Comet Grill opened in 1996, very little of what is inside The Comet has. Sure, it's got new HVAC, a new ventilation system, a renovated dog friendly patio (with stones from the original of course), but the rest is mostly what was there 23 years ago when John and Jeanie Wicker created and opened The Comet a week before Halloween.

Tommy Noblett, the current owner, is the heart of The Comet. Growing up, he was deeply influenced by his father who had muscular dystrophy and was in a wheelchair. His dad worked every day though and instilled the work ethic that in part has made Tommy a success today. He went on to attend Johnson & Wales in Charleston and came to Charlotte to work for the Hilton.

A coworker lived on Kirkwood Avenue and they met for a drink at The Comet. Tommy was 19 and that day would change his life. He had never seen anything like it before. The dark wood paneled walls, the live music, the upstairs seating, the feeling you get from being in a welcoming community bar. He was hooked.

He started picking up some shifts in the kitchen and later became the bartender. There were only a dozen things on the menu, but quality was important. One person behind the bar and one at the grill was enough. It was fun. Quick. Fast-paced. By day Tommy would be uptown at the Hilton serving the blue suit white shirt clean shaven bankers from Wachovia and by night he would be at The Comet slinging shots and opening bottles of PBR.

Tommy went on to manage The Comet Grill and in 2004 he left his job at the Hilton. In November 2007 he wrote a proposal to John and Jeanie to buy The Comet Grill. All of his sacrifice up until now paid off and on May 12, 2008, Tommy became the owner. Later that year, things got bad for Tommy and The Comet.

The economy was in the tank. People didn't have money and the ones who did weren't spending. Making matters worse, the supermarket that shared his parking lot started a 16 month renovation that left the entrance a mud pit. Tommy put his house on the market but he remained committed. He served \$1 PBR's to keep people coming in. Being the owner of The Comet Grill was in his DNA and by 2010, he started to turn the corner. The supermarket re-opened, the parking lot was restored, and the economy was recovering.

I asked Tommy what kept him going when many people would have failed. It was the community, his customers, the regulars, the folks that parked elsewhere and walked across the mud



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parking lot to drink the \$1 PBR's. If Tommy is the heart of The Comet, the neighborhood is its soul. It is what makes The Comet Grill, it defines the experience, and it is why Tommy is still the owner today.

That sense of community is one reason he hosts fundraisers. Every spring for the last seven years he supports Ovarian Cancer awareness and Rock to a Cure for Atrium Health. For the last 13 years on the Sunday before Labor Day The Comet hosts an event to benefit the Holy Angels in Belmont, a charity near and dear to the Wickers' heart. And sometimes there are events to help someone local, like the fundraiser they had in April to pay for treatments for Edward, a local dog with canine lymphoma.

Tommy is as humble and genuine of a person as you could meet. There is a great deal of sacrifice in his past but no doubt a great deal of success in his future. His love for The Comet and for the community is evident. He doesn't want to open a new Comet Grill in another neighborhood. He doesn't want to expand and open a bigger Comet Grill. And he sure isn't going to redecorate.

What the Wickers started in 1996, Tommy has perfected. The Comet Grill still has live music 6 days a week and John Wicker plays there every Friday night with the Lenny Federal band. If you have been to The Comet, you already know it's a special place. If you haven't, the dark wood paneling that Tommy fell in love with when he was 19 is still there. Go there and fall in love with it today. Go now. I'll meet you at The Comet. ■



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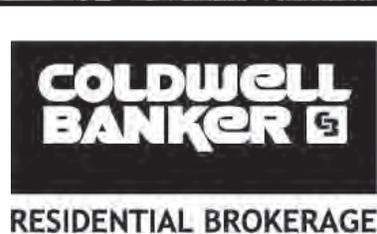
This contemporary home in the heart of Dilworth is just what you have been waiting for. Amazing light fills the home with views of the private back yard oasis with tiered deck and mature landscaping that leads to Freedom Park! The oversized master suite provides a perfect getaway. Secondary building currently used as a gym but perfect for studio or office. Walk to greenway, shops and restaurants!



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Full Market Summary
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	2017	2018	% Change
New Listings	161	138	-14.29%
Sold Listings	108	97	-10.19%
Median Listing Price	\$764,950	\$875,000	14.39%
Median Selling Price	\$759,500	\$860,000	13.23%
Median Days on Market	23	16	-30.43%
Average Listing Price	\$817,345	\$897,198	9.77%
Average Selling Price	\$800,809	\$882,998	10.26%
Average Days on Market	48	43	-10.42%
List/Sell Price Ratio	97.8%	98.3%	0.49%



Home & Garden

Grass vs. Turf

By Rene Shuford

Do you wake early on Saturdays to mow the lawn? Do you pay a substantial amount to have someone mow it for you? You may want to consider a lawn with synthetic turf.

We have had an abundance of rain over the past year, which in natural settings can cause mold, increased bacteria, and depletion of soil. Turf is a useful antidote here. In times of drought or minimal rainfall, turf is a water conservationist's dream. **Every square meter of natural grass replaced with synthetic saves thousands of gallons of water per year.**

Synthetic Turf eliminates the need for harmful pesticides and fertilizers which not only cause water pollution, but can also lead to a depleted oxygen supply. This can harm both wildlife and plants. Turf can also help reduce emissions from maintenance equipment and mowers. Charlotte has a large tree canopy that requires large amounts of water to thrive. The turf acts as a large French Drain: it leaves water available to nourish tree root systems because there is no real grass to deplete it.

Consider these areas where synthetic turf works well:

- Large mowing areas
- High shade areas
- Areas where weed control is challenging
- Pet areas (safe for pets)
- Backyard play (safe for children)



- Pool side (no muddy grass near the water)

Worried about pet odor? Science has shown that turf interrupts the bacterial process that turns pet urine into ammonia odor. Turf dramatically decreases stains and odors (up to 99%).

With natural grass, the recovery time for an area after rainfall is approximately 48 to 72 hours. With turf, there is no recovery time. That means it's ready to use 24/7 every day of the year. In addition to schools and businesses, we are beginning to see turf in community common areas and individual residences.

Synthetic turf has a measurable, positive impact on the environment. It assists in reducing our carbon footprint by allowing more oxygen to remain in the air and decreasing water usage. Spend Saturday mornings with the family. Instead of mowing, have a picnic on your new turf lawn. ■



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Neighborhood Environment

Sweat Equity in Latta Park

by Mary Alice Holley

This summer, keep an eye out for a group of teens working diligently to improve Latta Park.

Conservation Corps North Carolina (CCNC), a joint program of Conservation Trust for North Carolina (CTNC) and Conservation Legacy, provides teens with a paid summer job and a life-changing experience. Thanks to funding from the Women's Impact Fund, CCNC is partnering with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation and Charlotte's Youth Employment Program to harness the power of local youth to address high-priority maintenance needs in several parks and nature preserves.

CCNC will deploy two groups, or "crews" of youth to work for four weeks each to address trail maintenance needs and remove invasive species such as ligustrum and autumn olive, plants that displace natives which provide better habitat to birds and other wildlife. Youth learn job skills, environmental stewardship and personal responsibility through service work in their neighborhood parks.

CCNC seeks to empower young adults through meaningful outdoor work that benefits North Carolina's land and water and creates healthy communities. CCNC engages motivated young adults, ages 16-27, to complete challenging and impactful conservation service projects across the state.

"We have seen the great work Conservation Corps North Carolina crews have accomplished throughout North Carolina, and we look forward to seeing that sort of impact in Latta and other parks and nature preserves in the county," said Ruth Ann Grissom. "Plus, we're thrilled to support the development of future environmental leaders in the Charlotte region."

CTNC has delivered crews to Charlotte and the surrounding region since 2016 and has plans to continue connecting youth to



Latta Park Conservation Volunteers

conservation and restoration projects through the fall.

"North Carolina's young people are becoming more urbanized and less connected to their environment, and we welcome this opportunity to offer the Conservation Corps North Carolina experience to young people of Charlotte,"

continued on page 19

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said Chris Canfield, CTNC executive director. “The collaborative partnerships we have established with Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, and the Women’s Impact Fund is integral to our efforts to expand this program to enhance Charlotte’s local parks and open spaces for all community members to enjoy.”

CCNC crews preserve and expand public access to parks, trails, and other protected natural lands. CCNC is newly expanded under the joint leadership of CTNC and Conservation Legacy, a national organization dedicated to supporting locally based conservation service programs across the country. ■



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Empowering Extraordinary at Sedgefield Middle School

By Nikki Campo

In April 2017, the Dilworth neighborhood was re-assigned from Alexander Graham Middle School to Sedgefield Middle School (SMS). This change will take place in the 2019-2020 school year and is part of Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education's goal to break up schools with increased concentrations of poverty. Next year, the first class of Dilworth sixth graders will begin at SMS as part of a three-year phased transition to the new neighborhood school.

SMS will truly be a neighborhood school with Dilworth children able to walk and ride their bikes to school. It is a small school that offers tremendous opportunity for the children to have smaller class sizes and greater involvement in sports, clubs and other activities.

The Dilworth community has a long-standing tradition of building strong neighborhood schools. The smooth transition of Dilworth Elementary to a neighborhood school 8 years ago and the recent success of the 2018-2019 Dilworth-Sedgefield



Sedgefield Middle School

Elementary pairing, illustrates the strength of the Dilworth community's commitment to support a thriving neighborhood school.

The Empowering Extraordinary Campaign has been launched in an effort to provide financial support to fund the PTO and capital needs of SMS. Campaign proceeds support academic offerings, provide enrichment programming and fund extracurricular activities.

If you're interested in supporting our new neighborhood middle school in its first year, you can participate in the following 3 ways

through August 31, 2019:

- Checks made out to SMS PTO (and mailed to Sedgefield Middle School, Attn. PTO President, 2700 Dorchester Place; Charlotte, NC 28209)
 - Online by visiting <https://smspto.org/fundraising>
 - Via PayPal by pointing your phone's camera to the QR code.
- (No app required) Please be sure to put your email in the PayPal notes section for an electronic receipt.

The Sedgefield PTO is a registered 501 (c)(3) and donations are tax deductible.



If you have any questions regarding your participation in the Empowering Extraordinary Campaign, please contact our campaign chairs Meredith Murchison or Lindsay Jones at smspto-fundraising@gmail.com.



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Making A Difference

The Beat Behind the Badge

By Valerie Preston



Officer Jim Gilliland

Many children play the game of cops and robbers. Jim Gilliland was no different. A high school internship with law enforcement reignited that interest and set him on his ultimate career path. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Jim moved from Kentucky to Charlotte with his wife in 1999.

Officer Gilliland is a familiar face in Dilworth. CMPD selected him to be a member of their new unit of Community Coordinators in 2007. Officers in this unit act as a liaison between their assigned area and CMPD. They follow up on police matters, solve problems, watch trends, and help prevent more crime. Furthermore, they are a resource for the neighborhood in matters involving city government. In short, CMPD Community Coordinators help maintain the quality of life in their assigned area while still policing their CMPD home division.

This is not just an assignment for Officer Gilliland. He is fully invested in Dilworth. His in-laws live here and his children play in our parks and on our streets. Jim has participated in Dilworth Community Association meetings for 12 years, probably more than anyone else. He has watched the behind the scenes efforts required of the DCA to protect our neighborhood in land use issues and produce events like the Jubilee and Home Tour.

There is a fine line between what Jim does and who he is. Jim cares deeply about the people he encounters. He can talk about the risks of his job and the intricacies of life or death decision making, but his face lights up when he talks about the rewards. Seeing someone's relief when he arrives at their call gives him the gratification that they know he cares about them and that they now feel safe. Being able to help someone on their worst day, to offer comfort, reassurance, and hope, is what Officer Gilliland

finds most meaningful about his job.

The role of the Community Officer for Dilworth is Jim's ideal job. Engaging with neighbors and teaching about safety are highlights. He is especially pleased when he gets a big wave and "Hi Officer Jim!" from a student who recognizes him from a school visit. This appreciation of community might be why the Jubilee is his favorite Dilworth event. Despite being on duty, Jim is always delighted to see old and new neighbors of all ages having a great time together.

Off duty, Jim immerses himself in his family. He and his wife have three active children between the ages of 6 and 11. Jim is

continued on page 27



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Merchant *News*

By Mary Beth Sensabaugh

Fight Back Performance and Recovery

They are ecstatic to join the Dilworth Community! Fight Back opened its doors in the 1200 E. Morehead Building at the beginning of March 2019. We are a multi-disciplinary clinic comprised of Physical Therapists, Personal Trainers, a Dietician, and a Lymphedema Massage Therapist. While we do see a lot of people with orthopedic and sports injuries, we first opened our doors to work with Cancer Survivors working to optimize their quality of life.

At Fight Back, we offer a One-on-One Individualized treatment approach with our team of experts who work closely together to meet your needs. Please give us a call to schedule your appointment today and let's take the Fight to whatever physical struggles you are dealing with.

Fight Back Performance and Recovery, 1200 E Morehead St, Suite 190, Charlotte, NC 28204, (980) 209-0656, www.fightbackpr.com.



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Paper Skyscraper

Paper Skyscraper, Charlotte's best-known local gift shop, is under new ownership: Native Charlotteans, Sybil and Bill Godwin. Sybil and Bill are working closely with Paper Skyscraper's founders, Tim Hamilton and Ron Wootten, to transition to new ownership without disrupting the distinct culture of the shop.

Art purveyor Sybil Godwin also owns nearby Shain Gallery on

continued on page 33

Dilworth Spring Party Wrap Up

By Cindy Miller

A big thank you to Fran Scibelli, owner of Fran's Filling Station, for the exceptional hors d'oeuvres at this year's Spring Party! Her delectable spread included lobster salad bites, tuna tartare in wonton cups, goat cheese pistachio grape truffles, and lemon rosemary shortbread. As always, flawless presentation complemented her scrumptious fare.

Thank you as well to Theory Design Studio for hosting – what a beautiful space! Everyone was impressed with the gorgeous decor, gifts for every occasion, and accommodating staff. Guests enjoyed browsing the studio and admiring the raffle items.

We were grateful to have so many local businesses participate. This year all the proceeds from the party will go to the Dilworth Elementary School Campuses, by way of Dilworth Cares.

Our sponsors provided wonderful donations as well, and we hope to support them in return with our business. This year, they are: Theory Design Studio, Fran's Filling Station, The Center for Women's Aesthetics, Innovative Eye, Sumwalt Law Firm, Dilworth Dermatology, Pasta & Provisions, Bonterra Restaurant, Massage Heights, Anthropology, Woo Skincare, Lewis Fitness, Idolize Brows & Beauty, 300 East Restaurant, Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, Carolina Sports Massage, & the Salon, Peoples Market, Charlotte Yarn, and Green Brothers Juice. ■



Some of the delicious food from Fran's.



Left to right: Tawnya Stommel, Cindy Miller and Malisa Coleman

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Enquiring Minds Want to Know: DCA Survey Results

In the first quarter, the Dilworth Community Association (DCA) created a survey to find out how the DCA can be more effective and better meet and serve Dilworth's needs. 150 people responded and the results are as follows:

When thinking of Dilworth and the neighborhood, respondents ranked the following concerns in order of importance, with #1 being the most important:

- 1 - Pedestrian and bike friendly neighborhood
- 2 - Green space and tree canopy
- 3 - Land Use
- 4 - Neighborhood schools
- 5 - Historic preservation
- 6 - Noise
- 7 - Community events and festivals

What wasn't a survey option, but which came up repeatedly in the feedback section was a concern over traffic, speed and street issues.

Over 40 people expressed interest in volunteering in some capacity and where contact information was given, the DCA has reached out to them. For those interested in being a part of a committee or in other ways helping our Dilworth neighborhood, please contact Valerie at president@dilworthonline.org.

The survey asked people to rate how they would best like to be communicated with regarding what's going on in our neighborhood. 45% of people liked getting information from the Dilworth Express, 25% from the Dilworth Quarterly magazine, with social media and meetings rounding out balance.

Written comments and feedback from the survey fell into several categories:

Traffic, speeding, parking and streets: People felt that there were too many cars and too much speed with too little enforcement of stop signs and speed. Safe biking and street repaving needs were also highlighted.

Land Use: The concern was that Dilworth was in danger of being over-developed and that traffic issues around development need to be addressed. Additionally, it was urged that development should meet neighborhood goals.

Trees and Latta Park: Park space in general is a top need in Dilworth, and numerous people applauded the volunteer efforts to improve Latta Park and urged it to continue. With many of our (street) trees nearing the end of their natural lives, making street tree replacement and the tree canopy a major focus for the DCA is suggested.

Crime and Safety: With growth comes added concerns about safety.

Events: The Dilworth Jubilee was mentioned as an event that has historical significance but which should be rethought.

Noise: A general thought of keeping the noise level down. ■

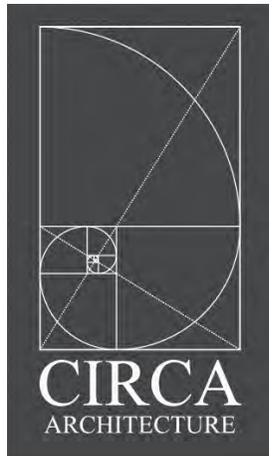


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devoted to coaching his son's baseball team but admits he has a few things to learn before helping his daughter with soccer. Creatively, woodworking and the pursuit of perfecting true barbecue are his passions. Surf fishing on the Outer Banks, however, is Jim's escape and well deserved vacation each year.

Police officers see the best and worst of people. In between, there are those situations that they remember and laugh about. The next time you see Officer Gilliland, ask him about his James Bond foot chase to the Rail Trail or pursuing (and catching) a car while on bike patrol. More importantly, be sure to thank him for his devotion to people and dedication to keeping Dilworth safe. Jim Gilliland, Dilworth loves you and is grateful for all you do! ■

Get Out the Vote!



Leigh Altman

Hello Dilworth Neighbors! Every day Charlotte welcomes new residents to the Queen City and we want to be sure everyone is ready to vote in the City of Charlotte Primary on September 10, 2019. If you have moved to a new address, you need to update your voter information. If you have a child who has turned 18, be sure he or she is registered and understands the importance of voting in every election.

Registration is easy. Go to the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections which is just 1 mile away from Latta Park at 741 Kenilworth Ave. For more information, go to www.mecknc.gov/BOE. Alternatively, if you e-mail me at leighaltman@gmail.com, we will deliver a voter registration form to you which you can mail directly back to the Board of Elections.

If you have any questions or would like to join our Get Out the Vote team, please contact me at leighaltman@gmail.com

Leigh Altman, Precinct 9 Chair, Democratic Party of Mecklenburg County. ■

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Summer Calendar

Pre-registration is required for all programs.

You can register online at www.parkandrec.com, by calling Tom Sykes Recreation Center at 980/314-1113 or by stopping by the center. For more information about all of Tom Sykes Recreation Center programs contact TomSykesRecreationCenter@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

Facility Staff:

Gabe Hackney, Facility Manager
Shauna Powell, Recreation Specialist
David Santos, Recreation Specialist
Breanne Horne, Recreation Assistant
Reggie Mobley, Recreation Assistant
Sherrie Nelson, Recreation Assistant
Kayla Price, Recreation Assistant
Bryant "BJ" Robbins, Recreation Assistant
Hannah Rondina, Recreation Assistant

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Music Together of Charlotte

Music Together is children and their grownups joyfully sharing songs, rhymes, movement, and instrument play, both in music class and in their daily lives. A pioneer in early childhood music and movement education, Music Together offers classes in which parents and caregivers actively participate.

When: Mon-Sat

Ages: 8 months-5yrs

Contact: musictogetherofcharlotte@gmail.com

SUMMER CAMP 2019

Registration for Summer Camp: February 8th

Days: Monday - Friday Time: 9:00am - 5:30pm

Ages: 5-12

Cost: \$100.00 per week

Week 1: June 17 - June 21st

Art Week

Say "Yes!" to the Mess! This is the quintessential arts and crafts week! A literal hodgepodge of activities and mediums that include crayons, pottery, clay, duct tape, the sky is the limit! We'll use all the good crafty verbs guaranteed to inspire: Sketching, blending, carving, molding, sculpting, pasting, painting!

Week 2: June 24th - June 28th

Nature Week

Come take a walk on the WILD side! Participants will have fun engaging in the natural habitats of animals through everyday summer camp experiments and hands on activities. Get up close and personal with some of your favorite mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians!

Week 3: July 1st - July 5th (No Camp July 4th)

Swim Week

Jump into this week for unique swimming experiences with pool games and splash parks. Our daily activities will include classes on basic first aid and water safety skills. We will also learn pool and splash ground safety, and proper pool and park etiquette. There will be plenty of splashing and having a blast too! Don't forget your sunscreen and bathing suit!

Week 4: July 8th - July 12th

Performing Week

Calling all superstars! It's time to step into the spotlight and showcase your talents. Through skits, games, dance, music and creative arts your child will discover their inner diva (or divo) while we ham it up all week long.

continued on page 31

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Week 5: July 15th – 19th**Fitness Week**

Learn about what it means to live a healthy lifestyle and apply them to your yourself! A focus on healthy eating and fitness activities to keep you moving will be emphasized to each camper!

Week 6: July 22nd – 26th**Science Week**

Come and discover what it's like to be a real scientist in our Mad Science week of camp! Each day campers' will experiment with different chemicals and tools to see what kind of interesting and crazy reactions they can create!

Week 7: July 29th – August 2nd**Sports Week**

Sports week will offer a variety of traditional sports. Discipline, Sportsmanship, and Integrity are some character development traits that will be presented in this fun and positive environment. Camps are designed for all ability levels (no experience necessary).

Week 8: August 5 - August 9th**Builders Week**

Your creative builder will have a chance to test their best building techniques building LEGO and KNEX projects and use their imaginations to build their own projects. Campers will learn hands on techniques that will allow them to become creative thinkers, problem solvers and effectively work in organized teams.

Registration is required for all Summer Camps

YOUTH PROGRAMS**Youth Volleyball – Private/Group Lessons**

Whether your player(s) is new to the game or is looking to work on specific skills and techniques to enhance their volleyball game, private and group lessons at Tom Sykes Recreation Center will help them achieve the goals they set!

Ages: 8 - 17yr

Pricing: \$10.00/hr

Call 980-314-1113 to schedule an appointment today!

Basketball Lessons – Private/Group Lessons

Whether your player(s) is new to the game or is looking to work on specific skills and techniques to enhance their basketball game, private and group lessons at Tom Sykes Recreation Center will help them achieve the goals they set!

Ages: 5 - 17yr

Pricing: \$10.00/hr

Call 980-314-1113 to schedule an appointment today!

Pre-Pointe and Beginner Pointe

This program is available for students who have begun training towards developing classical ballet knowledge and technique and will be

scheduled for students who have studied ballet for a minimum of 3 years and are 10 years old or older. The program will begin with pre-pointe conditioning and when deemed strong enough, will progress into the iconic shoe work of the classical ballerina. This is a fabulous addendum to any training program and is not intended to replace or compete with any private training elsewhere.

Pricing: \$15.00/hr

Dates: Scheduled around instructor/participant availability

Intro to Dance!

Intro to Dance is a program for children 5-11 years old that introduces elements of classical ballet, modern dance, choreography, tap, and hip hop.

Pricing: \$10.00/hr

Dates: Fridays from 4:15-5:15pm

Summer Book Club

Summer Book Club will meet every Thursday from 5:30pm-6:30pm and discuss the chapters read. Crafts and fun activities related to the book will be available for youth during the duration of the program.

Ages: 8 to 12 (3rd through 5th grade)

Starting: June through August

Cost: Free

ALL AGE PROGRAMS**Badminton Lessons**

Experience "real" badminton! Learn proper footwork, defensive and offensive stance and racket grip, effective court positioning and more. After all the drills and hard work, enjoy a friendly match to see how much you've improved. All ages and skill levels welcome!

Cost: \$10.00/hr

Please call 980-314-1113 to schedule a lesson!

Biking Lessons

Get rid of those training wheels! Whether you are a child or an adult, experienced or a complete beginner, we can help you to accomplish your personal goals. Thinking about getting into road biking? Let our certified cycling instructor show you the safest way to maneuver the streets. How about mountain biking? Allow us to help you improve your skills to make your trail rides safer and a lot more fun.

Cost: Free! Please call 980-314-1113 to schedule a lesson!

Fitness Defense

Multi-disciplined approach to defensive disciplines. Footwork, strikes and kicks are just some of the new skills that a beginner will learn in this program. Intermediate and advanced students will also benefit from the program as we work together to refine and add to your skill set. Not to mention it's a beast of a workout!

Cost: \$10.00/hr

Please call 980-314-1113 to schedule a lesson!

continued on page 33



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Open to anyone and everyone willing to work hard to achieve their personal fitness goals. We will tailor workouts according to your current goals and abilities. A variety of workouts such as body weight training, interval training, flexibility workouts, etc. will be employed to ensure a well-rounded workout.

Cost: \$10.00/hr

Please call 980-314-1113 to schedule a lesson!

Guitar Lessons

Want to learn how to play your favorite song on a guitar? Let us show you the way. Discover the fundamentals of playing notes and chords. Learn techniques such as strumming and plucking. All ages and skill levels welcome!

Cost: \$10.00/hr

Skating Lessons

From skating for fun and fitness, to skating for sport such as hockey, speed skating or even skiing, we've got you covered! Skills learned in this program are transferrable from pavement, to ice and even on snow. All ages and skill levels welcome!

Cost: Free!

Tennis- Private/Group Lessons

This program designed for all levels of play. We breakdown tennis techniques, skill building, singles play, doubles play, mental toughness, and fun strategies to win on the tennis court. Rackets available in limited amounts for use!

Cost: \$10.00/hr

Please call 980-314-1113 to schedule a lesson!

Garden Club

Garden Club will begin Saturday April 6th and is open to all ages and free to the public. We will transform the Tom Sykes Courtyard into a beautiful garden to house pollinators, grow food for our community, and experiment with ideas of urban conservation.

Music: Piano Lessons

Piano lessons available for all ages and skill levels!

When: Monday and Wednesday

Time: Beginning at 4:30pm

Cost: Half Hour Lesson - \$23

Contact: Amouel Brackett at amouel@aol.com or 704-965-1235. ■

Selwyn Avenue. "Through my 15 years in art gallery experience, I have developed not only an eye for what sells, but also an eye for talent," says Sybil, one of the youngest gallery owners in Charlotte. According to Bill Godwin, who has a background in retail and financial relationship management: "The opportunity to own and operate another Charlotte retail establishment has been a dream of ours, and we could not be more thrilled for it to be Paper Skyscraper. It is everyone's intention to maintain the integrity, feel and culture of the shop as the institution that it is."

- Taken from the press release CHARLOTTE COUPLE ACQUIRES POPULAR LOCAL INSTITUTION, PAPER SKYSCRAPER, Krissie Nuckols, 4/26/19. ■

All businesses new to the Dilworth Community in the past year are welcome to send in some copy to promote themselves. This information will appear one time free. Article content must not exceed 100 words. E-mail your submission to Mary Beth Sensabaugh at msensabaugh@carolina.rr.com.

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Our Design Team Works with you to generate creative options to achieve your goals. We help you balance wants with budget.

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The scope of work, detailed pricing and construction agreement are generated and presented.

WORKING PLANS

Engineering and construction plans are completed as needed. Plans are submitted for county approval and permitting.

PRECONSTRUCTION

Our design department will assist you in the selection process and cataloging as well as filing for building permits.

START OF CONSTRUCTION

You will be assigned a project manager to coordinate the daily activities on your project.



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... and finally



We Want You!

The Dilworth Community Association (DCA) wants to get to know you better.

How can we do this? It's free, fast, and easy. Simply sign up for the weekly Dilworth Express emails. Please visit www.DilworthOnline.org, click on the "Subscribe" button under "Dilworth Express" and populate the email address, first name, last name, phone number, and address fields. Doing so will also help us insure all Dilworth residents are receiving the *Dilworth Quarterly*.

What is in it for you? You will know about all of the great events in Dilworth and South End before they happen so that you can add them to your calendar. You will learn about new restaurant openings, new stores and new businesses in our neighborhood. You can find out who our new Dilworth neighbors are and read about the accomplishments of some of your current neighbors. These are just some of the articles you will find in the weekly Dilworth Express and *Dilworth Quarterly*. Also, once online, check out our new Website.

And that is not all. In the Dilworth Express and *Dilworth Quarterly*, you can learn how and sign up to volunteer for neighborhood events like our awesome Home Tour, learn about Dilworth Cares charitable activities, neighborhood parties and so much more.

We look forward to receiving your information, and getting to know you! ■



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