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Dilworth Quarterly

December 2023

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A Home for the Holidays

By Katelyn Donnelly

Teresa and her husband, Bill, traveled to Charlotte from their Rutherfordton home seeking specialized care that was unavailable in their hometown – a situation all too familiar to many families who turn to Hospitality House of Charlotte (HHOC). For two months, they called HHOC their home away from home, as Bill underwent his life-changing treatment.

Though far from home, they found comfort, and something truly remarkable – community.

“My husband and I are so grateful for Hospitality House of Charlotte. We would not have had the option to pursue his cancer treatment if we had not been able to stay close to the hospital. Hospitality House made our ‘home away from home’ experience as positive as it could be.”

Teresa's words capture the very essence of what Hospitality House of Charlotte stands for: ensuring that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, has access to the medical care they need. HHOC aims to create a community that supports both patients and their caregivers on their medical journeys. It's not just a place to stay; it's a haven, providing all the comforts of home during one of the scariest times of their lives.

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Deadlines for Next Issue:

Ads: January 15

If you are interested in advertising in the Quarterly, email Mary Beth Sensabaugh at msensabaugh15@gmail.com. Rates and sizes can be found on dilworthonline.org.

Articles: January 22

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

Dilworth Quarterly is written by volunteers and published under the direction of the Dilworth Community Association. It is mailed four times per year to nearly 6000 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.



'Tis the season

Happy Holidays Dilworth. I love this time of year. The weather is brisk and there is excitement in the air. Our streets are aglow with all varieties of holiday lights. The aroma of cinnamon, cookies, and firewood drifts through the air.

Best of all is the gratitude and introspection that this season often elicits. We are grateful for our families, our health, and our homes, but we are also cognizant of those who lack our privilege.

'Tis the season of giving and the Dilworth neighborhood does this in earnest. Children sell cookies and hot chocolate to raise money for a cause, others collect coats and blankets for those in need; some parts of the neighborhood band together to collect food donations for holiday meals. This fills my heart.

I am grateful to live here and I am proud of Dilworth's enthusiastic altruism.

Speaking of gratitude, and with much appreciation, the DCA welcomed four new board members in 2023 - Amanda Blackburn, Matthew Loveland, Chrishon McManus, and Theresa Rosa. Each and every one of them brought fresh ideas, insight, and experience that we desperately needed. This group didn't hesitate to hit the ground running and I look forward to watching their ideas come to life.

I must say, the DCA Board and committee members went above and beyond this year.

Despite a few hiccups, the 49th Dilworth Home Tour was outstanding, and the committee has some exciting surprises in store for the 50th anniversary.

Our Events Committee, chaired by a brand-new board member, unbelievably put together the Dilworth Jubilee in an incredibly short period of time.

I can only imagine how spectacular it will be in 2024.



Valerie Preston
DCA President

As always, our Land Use Committee worked around the clock to preserve Dilworth's quality of life and promote thoughtful and sustainable growth as indicated by the City of Charlotte's Unified Development Ordinance.

This committee studies site plans, proposals, policies, procedures, and ordinances. They know their stuff. Land Use works closely with the City Staff, City Council, developers, land use attorneys, and neighbors.

Land Use works tirelessly and thanklessly. To Land Use- many, many thanks and much gratitude.

Throughout the past year, the DCA floated several exciting projects, events, and ideas. Our biggest hurdle is that we are a small volunteer organization and many members of the DCA also work full-time jobs.

We need your help to make things happen. In this season of giving and gratitude, perhaps you might consider volunteering on one of our committees or simply for one event or project.

This is my final letter as President. With gratitude and appreciation, I wish you all the happiest of holidays. ■

Valerie Preston
president@dilworthonline.org

Scan this code to learn what's going on in and around our neighborhood every week with Dilworth Express.



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DCA Board Meetings

Stay tuned via Dilworth Express
DCA Board Meetings are open to the public, 6pm, the first Wednesday of the month at the Tom Sykes Recreation Center, with time allotted for Q&A.

Dilworth Quarterly Staff

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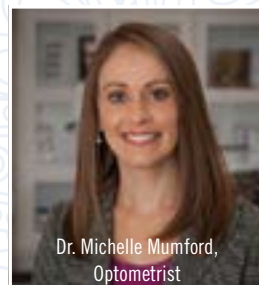


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Hospitality House

continued from Front Page

Hospitality House is open whenever the hospitals are, offering support, warmth, and care around the clock, even during the holiday season.

While many people are preparing for time spent at home surrounded by family, guests of Hospitality House are facing medical uncertainty. Cancer treatments, cardiac care, and organ transplants do not take a break during the festivities of the holiday season.

"We could not have pursued treatment without Hospitality House's affordability and proximity."

At Hospitality House of Charlotte, guests have a safe and affordable place to stay in the heart of Charlotte's medical community. Like Teresa, many appreciate that HHOC goes the extra mile to create a "home away from home" atmosphere, especially during the holiday season. Dedicated volunteers decorate the House, make festive treats, and prepare meals to help spread holiday cheer.

Just \$50 a night provides guests with private accommodations, access to complimentary laundry facilities, daily meals, shuttles to and from the hospitals, and a heartfelt community of staff,

volunteers, and fellow guests who understand the challenges of their medical journeys.

Hospitality House has 20 guest rooms, which often leaves patients and their families on the waitlist for lodging. To provide support to those in need, and to allow caregivers to stay by their loved ones' side in the hospital, HHOC offers a Day Guest Suite. This free, two-hour appointment option provides guests with access to a private room with a shower, washer and dryer, and seating area. This service allows guests to briefly step away from the hospital for respite before returning to their loved one with renewed strength.

Living in Dilworth, it may be easy to take for granted the world-class healthcare right down the street. For guests like Teresa and Bill, accessing vital medical care often means traveling far from home, creating both physical and financial burdens. These burdens become even heavier during the holiday season.

Hospitality House exists to alleviate barriers to accessing life-saving medical treatment, ensuring that zip codes do not dictate health outcomes. Contact the Hospitality House of Charlotte Team at info@hhocharlotte.org for a tour to experience the mission firsthand. Visit hospitalityhouseofcharlotte.org for more information. ■



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Historic District Commission

Why the Fuss Over Painting Exterior Brick?

By Jenny Shugart

As many of you already know, painting brick is a huge no-no — not just within the historic districts of Charlotte, but within the historic preservation community nationwide.

Why is painting brick so frowned upon? Here are four reasons:

Painting brick changes the original design and look of a building by obscuring architectural details and textures. Painting brick is also a style trend, and trends pass, but maintaining painted brick is often more cumbersome and costly than one might think.

Bricks, and all forms of masonry (brick, stone, stucco, plaster, and concrete), are very low-maintenance building materials in their natural state. Once painted, the materials are no longer low maintenance and will need to follow a routine maintenance schedule — both a costly nuisance and time crunch for those with busy schedules.

Without being able to see the natural brick, the buyer will have a difficult time assessing how cracks or deterioration may be impacting the structural integrity of the building. Painting brick can cover up unsightly issues like cracks and deterioration, creating a “buyer beware” situation.

Brick is a naturally porous material that needs to “breathe”. Once a coating like exterior paint is applied, it doesn’t allow



Waddell Street – before and after paint removal.

the brick to breathe, dry out, and expel impurities such as salt. When moisture gets trapped, it becomes a source for the growth of mold and mildew, causing the paint to blister, bubble, and peel off. But even worse than peeling paint is the inability of painted brick to breathe, and in return, this eventually leads to the structural failure of the brick itself.



Kingston Avenue – before and after paint removal.

Knowing the effects of paint removal is also important. The wrong paint removal procedure can damage brick. Sandblasting is often suggested as a way to remove paint from brick, but doing so is guaranteed to destroy a masonry building. Sandblasting removes the exterior layer of the brick, exposes it to the elements, and causes it to quickly fail.

In Oaklawn Park and Wilmore Local Historic Districts, two brick homes were recently painted without prior approval from the Commission. The owners worked with Candice R. Leite, HDC Staffer and masonry expert, to find a product that would safely remove the paint from the brick and stone without causing further damage.

The paint removal worked quite well, keeping the structural integrity of the brick and stone intact. While there are still some remnants of paint, eventually these remnants will disintegrate. So, before you paint, think about the maintenance, the cost, and your weekends.

Contact HDC staff if you have any questions on specifics relating to the above topic or any other questions or concerns regarding the Dilworth Local Historic District. HDC staff can be reached via email at charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov.

Check out our social media posts on Facebook and Instagram @cltplanning. ■



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Get ready for Santa!

On Christmas Eve in Dilworth, Santa will take his much-anticipated ride atop Ladder 2's fire engine.

Dilworth Fire Department's Santa Shift is a special group of firefighters, currently led by Captain Bill Shick. Regardless of regularly scheduled duty or time off, the same loyal Santa Shift returns each year to escort Santa as he spreads cheer and candy through the neighborhood.

A gentle reminder: Santa's 10-mile route lists projected times of

arrival. Please understand that Santa's arrival might not be on time due to requests for pictures and such.

PLEASE DO NOT call the station or dispatch to ask Santa to return to your location. This interferes with their ability to respond to emergency calls. Fire Station 2 could use your help with candy donations, so if you've got Halloween leftovers, bring them over before Christmas Eve.

Follow the route online at goo.gl/maps/zEZ33PjUoKSBjAsv9 ■

Neighborhood Environment

Be on the lookout for treasure trees

By Brett Dupree

As you walk through our beautiful Dilworth neighborhoods, look for identification tags installed on newly recognized Treasure Trees. Use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code on each tag to learn more about each tree including environmental benefits and measurements.

Each Treasure Tree has its own web page, hosted by TreesCharlotte.

The Treasure Tree Program germinated back in the late 1980s through the efforts of Tom Martin and Joe McLaurin. They began to identify superlative trees by species in Mecklenburg County, comparing them against North Carolina state champions. Tree measurement standards calculate a total points value from the tree height, circumference, and average crown spread.

They came up with a metal tagging system and proceeded to identify 123 trees by the early 2000s. Volunteers later added four more trees. In 2007, the program went dormant.

Dilworth is home to a few of the original Treasure Trees, recognized during the early years of the program. A European Sweet Chestnut (tree #28 — added in 1995) still stands in a front yard on East Park Avenue.

One of the largest Ginkgo trees in the entire county (tree #56 — in 1989) stands just down the street at the corner of East Park Avenue and Cleveland Avenue. The Chestnut still bears its original tag, and the Ginkgo is due to get a new one soon.

In 2023, after a great deal of effort by new volunteers to bring the Treasure Tree Program back, twenty new trees were added.

Three of the new trees are within the Dilworth neighborhood. Near the very center of Latta Park, you can find the giant American Sycamore (tree #135). This tree stands right on the north bank of the small creek that bisects the park.



At 300 total points, this large tree is around 82% as big as the NC state champion. You can find this tree, the Chestnut, and the Ginkgo on a short walk from the park up East Park Avenue.

Over on East Tremont in the block between Springdale and Winthrop stands a beautiful Southern Catalpa (tree #136). The Catalpa is very unusual, easily identified by large heart-shaped leaves that can be nearly a foot long. That big tree on East Tremont is very recognizable by its large wound right in the middle of the trunk, very likely from an old lightning strike.

The third new Treasure Tree in Dilworth is a massive American Elm (tree #128) that stands in the back yard of a private home on Atherton Street. The program doesn't publish street addresses for trees on private property, but you may be able to spot this Elm with its big 14-foot trunk circumference from the street.

Many of the trees within the Treasure Tree Program fall within protections of the new Charlotte Tree Ordinance, passed by the City Council back in March. The ordinance protects Heritage Trees defined as "any tree native to North Carolina per the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service Plants Database with a DBH of 30 inches or greater." In terms of circumference, that means any native trees which measure about eight feet around. The Sycamore, Catalpa, and Elm all meet those criteria.

You can find out more about the Treasure Tree Program at treescharlotte.org. From the home page, just click on



"TREASURE TREES" at the top right of the page. The program is always looking for new Treasure Tree candidates. Look for the "Nominate A Tree" link on the website to recommend a tree.

Program volunteers will visit and measure nominees during the year. For a tree to be accepted into the program, it must be within 70-80% of the total points of the NC state champion tree of that species. ■

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Share the Shade: It's more important than ever

By Liz Lewis

Not a News Flash: Dilworth is surrounded by development projects. And with growth comes less green space. Charlotte City Council met earlier this year to discuss potential threats to Charlotte's tree canopy and heard some grim statistics on what the future might hold.

Yet efforts are underway across the City - and specifically in Dilworth - to make our area leafier, healthier, and our canopy more robust.

In Dilworth, our historic "look" includes a significant tree canopy. While individual property owners have a big impact on our overall tree count, the DCA's Tree Canopy Committee and a dedicated number of volunteers are working to advocate for Dilworth's public trees.

By way of definition, public trees are "street trees," the trees typically located in the median between the sidewalk and the street. They are managed and administered by the City of Charlotte.

HELP PLANT TREES

To learn more about Share the Shade, and our year-round Tree Tribute Program, visit dilworthonline.org. It's easy to add your financial contribution online and help us plant more trees.

To be most helpful and effective in protecting, preserving and planting more trees in Dilworth, we needed to know more about our public trees. So volunteers fanned out across the neighborhood to specifically identify gaps in our street tree canopy - where public trees had either fallen, been removed or were never planted - in order to identify opportunities for additional tree plantings

We found over 125 possible sites, as well as some trees that need to be removed (typically dead) and stumps that require grinding. This Tree Mapping, or Street Tree Gap Identification Plan, clearly shows the need for more tree public plantings.

Dilworth's Tree Canopy Committee works with the City, and makes sure the potential sites meet the City, utility, and Charlotte Department of Transportation requirements.



The City will review the information and ultimately determine what spots are viable for planting.

But budgets of course are tight. The City plants street trees throughout the Charlotte area, some in Dilworth. But our need is greater than what the City can do with budget constraints and that's why the DCA's Tree Canopy Committee has been raising money through the Share the Shade campaigns. This enables more trees to be planted along Dilworth's streets.

It's our hope that you've heard about Share the Shade, but if you have not, it's a fundraiser that ends this week (late donations, of course, are accepted - go to dilworthonline.org to donate) that raises money to supplement the number of trees planted in our neighborhood this season.

Throughout the year, Dilworth's Tree Tribute program also raises money for tree plantings in our neighborhood.

With the need for more trees quantified through the Tree Mapping done this summer, the Share the Shade tree fundraiser is focused again this year on adding trees throughout the Dilworth community. Please give. This fundraiser helps the Dilworth neighborhood and supports trees in another inner-city neighborhood with fewer funding resources. This year 20% of funds raised will go to TreesCharlotte and their McCrorey Heights tree project. ■

Another Fall Season and Another Festival in the Park



By Frank Whitney

The 59th Annual Festival in the Park brought good music, good art, good times, and loads of fun to Freedom Park. From September 22-24, 2023, over two hundred visual artists and five hundred performing artists displayed their talents around the Park’s lake.

The Festival was free to attend, bringing Charlotteans from all walks of life together.

The grandfather of local festivals, this year’s Festival included something for everyone. Parents and grandparents pushing strollers around the lake, enjoyed watercolors, pastels, oils, photography, jewelry, sculpture, and glass.



Art-enhanced photo of the 2023 Festival in the Park by Deborah Young Studio.

Artists came from up and down the eastern seaboard, Florida to Massachusetts.

Music fans listened to performers on three separate stages: the main stage featuring the group Chain performing a Fleetwood Mac tribute and the Youth Orchestras of Charlotte; the We Rock youth stage for up-and-coming performers; and the Charlotte Folk Society stage. Kids played in the Family Fun Zone, enjoying carnival-like amusements.

In addition to art, the Festival also showcased thirty food vendors serving classic carnival food, craft beer, and wine.

Although it rained on Saturday, attendance at the Festival was still great with approximately 140,000 people attending over the three day event.

Sunday was particularly well-attended because of wonderful weather – partly cloudy with mild temperatures.

The Festival’s mission is to bring Charlotteans together through appreciation for the arts. Judging by the thousands of smiling faces at Freedom Park, the Festival once again succeeded in fulfilling that mission.

The Festival in the Park, Inc., is a North Carolina not-for-profit corporation and an IRS section 501(c)(3) charitable organization. ■

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DILWORTH *market snapshot*


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Data provided from Canopy MLS. Data is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

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Dilworth Ladies Christmas Party set for December 7

By Amanda Blackburn

The Annual Dilworth Ladies Party is a long-standing tradition spanning over 20 years. It is a fantastic start to the holiday season that brings the ladies of Dilworth together to celebrate while raising money for local causes. This year, the recipient is Sedgefield Middle School.

After several years' absence, this year marks the return of the Hostess Party prior to the main event. The Hostess Party is a way for women who are interested in getting involved to meet, eat, drink, and be merry while planning the main event.

Originally, hostesses discussed the menu and signed up to bring an appetizer for the Annual Dilworth Ladies Party. But in today's world of full-time jobs, soccer carpools, being a short order cook, chauffeur, and personal assistant, to name a few, volunteering has been made easier and more fun by incorporating the help of local businesses.



Dilworth Ladies Jennifer Bouchard, Amanda Blackburn, Paige Lanier, and Allison Bumgardner. Photo by Katie Smith Photography.

The 2023 Dilworth Ladies Christmas Party will take place on Thursday, December 7, at the Law Office of Tin Fulton, Walker & Owen, located at 301 East Park Avenue.

Festivities will begin at 7:00pm with entertainment provided by the acoustic guitarist Michael Byrnes. Food will be catered by Dahlia Grove which will consist of various finger foods, sliders, and desserts.

Dahlia Grove is also a non-profit organization, dedicated to helping those affected by human trafficking which is very prevalent in Charlotte and surrounding areas. Cocktails will be sponsored by Dilworth's own Erin Finnen, mortgage banker for team Lending By Design of American Security Mortgage.

Back by popular demand, the "Dilworth Ladies' Men" will return to serve food and beverages, including a special signature cocktail.

Although tickets sales provide part of the event's fundraising efforts, a live auction of items donated by various Dilworth businesses is a vital part of the process. Tickets for the auction can be purchased at the event.

For more information about donating or volunteering this year, please contact Amanda Blackburn, ablackburn@dickensmitchener.com or Marcy Basrawala, marcybasrawala@dickensmitchener.com.

From your ugliest holiday sweater to your festive finery – whatever you wear is all good. Come spread holiday cheer while raising money for Sedgefield Middle. Advance tickets are \$50 and are preferred. Tickets are available at the event for \$55. Pay through Venmo to @Treasurer-DCA. ■



Photo by Katie Smith Photography.

49th Home Tour a complete success



By Fran Miller

The 49th Annual Dilworth Home Tour was a resounding success. This highly anticipated event is the primary fundraiser for the non-profit Dilworth Community Association’s (DCA) charitable arm, Dilworth Cares. This year the homes represented the vast architectural styles of Dilworth living from a classic Bungalow to a Craftsman to Colonial and more.

Crowds came out during the beautiful weather on the Friday night and Saturday of the event — experiencing the homes throughout the neighborhood. Each home brought such varied and different things to the table. Patrons talked about the elegance and flow of the home at Mt. Vernon. Crowds were wowed and stunned with the beautiful kitchen/family room renovation and outdoor covered porch of 917 Romany.

The quintessential Dilworth bungalow at 501 East Tremont Avenue with its amazing origin story was a real treat to tour. The calm and serene porches of 2015 Dilworth Road West welcomed all. One couple said they felt they could move in and live forever in the stunning interior of 605 McDonald Avenue. Finally, at 500 McDonald Avenue, the crowd was overawed with the stunning details and amenities of this accurately recreated Craftsman.

A special thank you goes to the homeowners who graciously opened their homes to support the Dilworth Community – Nelia and Michael Verano, Courtney and Rex Reynolds, Ashton and

Pierre Molster, Ryan and Stephanie Atwood, Melody and Edward McCutcheon, and Devon Delaney.

The Home Tour Committee, chaired by Amanda Blackburn and Fran Miller, who shouldered the lion’s share of making the tour happen included Keely Edwards, Courtenay Buchan, Cindy Zackery, Mary Helen Tomlinson Davis, Erin Murray, Kelly Thomas, Mathew Demetriades, and Sis Kaplan.

The Home Host Docents coordinated volunteers, opened the homes, and managed the crowds as they viewed each of the featured tour stops. Courtenay Buchan and Kelly Thomas coordinated the visitors at 901 Mt. Vernon while Mathew Demetriades hosted 917 Romany Road. Keely Edwards and Tiffany Noah greeted visitors at the elegant home at 2015 Dilworth Road West. Nathan Leehman informed guests with the great origin stories of 501 East Tremont Avenue. Erin Murray and her mom, Helen Murray, managed the large home at 528 Iverson Way with amazing grace. Cindy Zackery guided tour-goers at the at 605 McDonald Avenue.

Altogether, the 49th Annual Dilworth Home Tour was the result of hundreds of hours of effort by a handful of volunteers contributing to the vibrant neighborhood that is Dilworth.

Who’s ready for the 50th anniversary home tour in 2024? Reach out to the DCA to volunteer. ■



Left: 900 Mount Vernon Avenue

Right: 501 East Tremont Avenue

Below: Tour hosts Courtenay Buchan and Kelly Thomas



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Home & Garden

A tale of twin houses



By Allen Brooks

To really tell the story you must begin in 1998 when the asbestos-shingled house behind the YMCA on Morehead was moved to the opposite side of Dilworth on Euclid Avenue just beyond the local Historic District boundary.

The National Register district boundary was expanded to accept its new place, state tax credit was achieved to help defer construction cost, and the local Historic Landmark designation was achieved to defer annual property tax.

These were milestones in the credentials for the circa 1899 Queen Anne Victorian Free-Classic Revival as the historic Helms-Bell House punctuated by the VCR-filming of the house move, a HGTV Restore America television series filming, and three-time Dilworth Home Tour feature.

The 1998 moving of one 1899 house from the corner of Lexington Avenue and Caldwell Street behind the Dowd YMCA precipitated the moving of another already on the lot at 2021

Euclid Avenue between East Tremont Avenue and McDonald Avenue. The Victorian house was placed in front of one of almost-twin circa 1950 cottages.

Both Victorian and cottage house were attached as a single-family home, and the 2025 cottage remained until the year 2021 when it was removed to make way for a new house, a twin to match the 1899 Victorian.

The two houses had always shared a driveway and majestic willow oaks in the backyard of 2025. Those elements survived.

The new twins are fraternal though, not identical and a full-spanned century apart in age. The new twin is a two full-story structure but with the front gable balcony done in an octagonal rather than a semi-circular arch.

The new front porch is twice the depth and has wooden, square columns on brick piers paying homage to the full brick columns

continued on page 35

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Celebrates 100 Years

By John Shelton
Director of Communication
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

What is a community?

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the term as “a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society.”

There is a unique and distinct community that calls 600 East Boulevard home. In 1923, the Greek Orthodox community received a charter from the newly created Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America and was formally known as “Holy Trinity.”

Fast forward one-hundred years. Not only has the community survived but Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral has certainly thrived. Some thirty families in 1923, who wanted to preserve their faith and heritage, toiled and labored to establish themselves in the Queen City as proud Greek Americans.

To honor and celebrate one-hundred years of ministry, Holy Trinity Cathedral planned and executed a twelve-month long celebration, beginning in August of 2022 and culminating with



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. Photo courtesy of Helen McGinnis/Holy Trinity Cathedral.

both the 45th Yiasou Greek Festival during the second weekend in September and a gala weekend two weeks later to coincide with the actual anniversary on September 23. Two major festivities separated by two weeks provided a lot of excitement in Dilworth as the neighborhood came alive to join the Holy Trinity community in the celebration.

The 45th Yiasou Festival welcomed returners and first-time festival goers to experience Greek cuisine, music and dancing, the history of Orthodox Christianity, and much more. This year’s festival was kicked off with a special ceremony featuring remarks from our Dilworth Community Association President Valerie Preston, and District One Charlotte City Council Member Danté Anderson. Known as “the biggest block party in Charlotte,” the 45th Yiasou Festival brought the “kefi” that Charlotteans, and visitors, look forward to each September.

The Centennial Gala Weekend began on Friday, September 22, with a private reception in the courtyard of Holy Trinity where parishioners and visitors listened to stories of Holy Trinity from two hierarchs with ties to the community. On Saturday the 23rd, the anniversary of the Cathedral’s Charter, over eight-hundred and sixty guests gathered at The Revelry in Camp North End for a night of celebration in honor of Holy Trinity’s Centennial.

Attendees included parishioners of Holy Trinity and other Greek Orthodox parishes in the area, as well as former parishioners and clergymen. Many ecclesiastical and civic distinguished guests were also in attendance, including the leader of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambrianidis), Metropolitan Alexios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta (Panagiotopoulos), former



Mayor of Charlotte and Governor of North Carolina, Pat McCrory, Consul George Fostiropoulos from the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Washington D.C., Mecklenburg County Sheriff Gary McFadden, and others. Following a program of speeches, special presentations, and a multi-course dinner, a Greek band provided music for dancing that lasted late into the night. On Sunday, the community again gathered in Dilworth for worship to end the weekend. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy featured four hierarchs, eight priests, and three deacons.

A memorial service for the benefactors of Holy Trinity was offered and at the conclusion of the Liturgy, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini, Dean of the Cathedral, was elevated to the rank of “Protopresbyter” in honor and recognition of his ministry.

Following the services, a luncheon was sponsored for all in attendance that focused on and featured the youth of the community. The Master of Ceremonies, a high-school senior, spoke about the lessons he has learned growing up in the Church. Two students from the Greek Afternoon School offered a welcome exhortation in Greek to the guests.

The program set the tone for the future of Holy Trinity as it looks to its young people to take up the mantle of their ancestors and the founding families to lead the community into the next one-hundred years. ■

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Compiled by Shauna Powell

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Ages: 5-12 years

Pricing: \$9.00 per class

Registration Deadline for Spring: February 1

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Please call for specific dates.

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I would like to express my deepest thanks to the Dilworth community for your continued confidence, support, and most importantly, your friendship throughout the year.

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SMS: A school built on partnerships

By Molly Bilderback and Meredith Murchison
Sedgefield Middle School PTO Co-Presidents

In just five years, Sedgefield Middle School has grown into a thriving, walkable neighborhood middle school for Dilworth families. As the school continues to grow, so does its partnership with parents, local businesses, corporations, and a strong set of community partners. This has led to exciting news.

Five years ago, SMS was classified by the state as a low-performing middle school. Thanks to years of support and dedication, SMS was officially moved off the low-performing list. The school expects to continue this momentum as the school continues to grow stronger each year.

Dilworth families have directly impacted this success by contributing countless volunteer hours supporting teachers, students, and athletics.

In addition to time, there has been an outpouring of financial support for the SMS PTO Empowering Extraordinary Campaign providing financial support above and beyond CMS budgets.

This campaign pays for resources that enrich, remediate, and support instruction and teachers in the classroom, including the following academic support programs:

- **iReady:** a digital program to support students in re-teaching skills.
- **Digital Platforms:** increase teachers' opportunity for unique resources and engagement.
- **Enrichment Resources:** clubs, seminars, school-led trips, and speakers all provide students the opportunity to connect and deepen their understanding.
- **Department Supplies:** each department is provided funding for additional resources such as novels, science lab materials, computers, and calculators to enhance the learning for each student.

- **Professional Development:** staff learning experiences enhance knowledge in targeted areas to contribute directly to successful student outcomes.
- **Field Trips:** free to all students.
- **Spartan Fund:** supports families and teachers who have faced a crisis and need immediate assistance or scholarships.

Sedgefield Middle School continues to rely on the strength of corporate partners to enhance each student's experience. SMS is excited to thank our partners Charlotte Soccer Academy (CSA), Dilworth Little League, Lowe's Home Improvement, and the Dilworth Neighborhood Association for their incredible support.

The new partnership with CSA has provided an upgraded football/soccer field with lights for players as the fall days shorten. CSA will continue to improve the field with significant upgrades next summer including regrading, irrigation, and reseeding.

Dilworth Little League has been a longstanding athletic partner. The SMS baseball field is one of the best in CMS thanks to the Dilworth Little League's maintenance and attention.

This summer Lowe's Home Improvement donated paint and supplies to refresh the school and relandscape. They continue to look for opportunities to partner with SMS and the school anticipates a long-lasting relationship to develop.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Dilworth Neighborhood Association for selecting Sedgefield Middle School for the Dilworth Cares Grant. Principal Miracle plans to use these funds to support a long-term development plan for a new courtyard space that will provide outdoor seating for lunch as well as outdoor classroom opportunities for SMS students.

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor or contributing to your neighborhood school.

Visit smspto.org/fundraising/ to donate. ■



Bethany Callaway Photography

Our Kids

The making of *The Adventures of Amazing Grace*

By Erika Ferrari Lopez

Meet Sophia Lopez, age 11, who lives in the Freedom Park area of Dilworth. Sophia loves to draw, sing, dance, do gymnastics, and create stories. And now Sophia is also the co-creator of a published children's book.

It all started one night two years ago when Sophia asked her mom for a bedtime story. The previous night, Sophia's mom, Erika, had dreamt that her late mom had flown high in the air and taught Erika to fly, too. Inspired by the dream, Erika began the bedtime story, "There once was a girl named..."

"Grace." Sophia interrupted.

"And Grace could fly." Erika continued. The story of *The Adventures of Amazing Grace* was born.

The bedtime story lasted for weeks. Sophia insisted her mom write it down. Sophia would listen as her mom read the chapters out loud to her. Together they would rewrite and edit the story.

Sophia and her mom created Grace and the other characters using details from Sophia and her big brother Christian's lives. Events and locations in the book came from Sophia's experiences, including the fall festival inspired by the same event at her elementary school, St. Patrick's.

The climactic scene in the book takes place on a field trip to a



swimming quarry inspired by Christian's fifth grade trip with Dilworth Elementary to Carrigan Farms.

Once the full story was complete, Sophia eventually asked her mom to make the story into a "real book." She continued to encourage her mom to prioritize the story and her mom put other writing projects on hold to dedicate herself to fulfilling this ask.

Sophia was able to share the book's journey with her friends in and around Dilworth, asking them to be beta readers of early drafts of the book, providing their thoughts and comments on drafts of the story. Later dubbed the official "Grace Launch Team," this group of both boys and girls gave valuable insights and suggestions, most of which were incorporated into the final manuscript of the book.

When the time came to choose an illustrator for the cover of the book, Sophia had full approval rights and helped her mom select an up-and-coming Latina artist based in Boston. As the illustrator provided drafts and sketches of Grace and the cover's background, Sophia and her friends gathered on the porch of the family's house to provide their opinions. After many iterations, the cover design of Grace was finalized, and the book was ready for publication.

The Adventures of Amazing Grace launched in late August 2023 with a lunch at Sophia's house, where beta readers and their parents enjoyed Latin food from Sabor and cupcakes from Renata's Kitchen, both local to Charlotte with international flavors. Proudly donning their "Grace Launch Team" buttons, the group headed to the launch event, a talk and signing at Park Road Books. The independent bookstore proudly features local Charlotte authors and hosted a lovely event in their children's section where Sophia and her mom shared about the book's creation and signed personalized copies to attendees.

The book's themes include overcoming fear to listen to your heart as well as the importance of positive friendships and parental support of children's special gifts. The middle grade adventure novel includes details from Sophia's multi-cultural Latino heritage, foods, and customs. Spanish words and phrases are woven throughout the story with accompanying footnotes and glossary and the book was published in a dyslexic-friendly format and font for accessibility for all readers.

Sophia, now a 5th grader, says she is proud to have been part of the creative process of writing and publishing a book. Erika says she probably would have never gotten Grace to the finish line without Sophia's persistence and encouragement.

Since the launch, Sophia has joined her mom for signings at the independent bookstores, The Twig, in San Antonio, and at The Little Shop of Stories in Atlanta, and joined her mom at Dilworth Elementary's Culture Night in October.

She's excited to see her and her mom's work being shared and loved by other children.

Sophia has her eyes set on the next book and is helping co-create the storyline and adventures in the sequel. But she's also creating stories and songs of her very own. Like the gift of flight in *The Adventures of Amazing Grace*, it looks like creativity and storytelling may run in the Lopez family. ■



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Did you Know?

"Who Put That There?"



By Franklin Keathley

When something seems out of place, it might just be. Dilworth and its residents have a rich history of historic preservation, even if it means moving a house to save it. If you take a closer look, you'll find examples of both successful rescues and lost treasures, like the story of Allen Brooks saving a house on Euclid Avenue and the unfortunate fate of the old McManus House at 317 East Boulevard.

Love at First Site: In 1982, Roger Lovelett never intended to move a century-old house to the 500 block of East Kingston when he purchased an empty lot. This house had been willed to

the Catholic Diocese, which desired the land but not the historic structure on it. The house's fate caught the attention of M.E. Weibler from the "Historic Properties Commission," who reached out to Berryhill Preservation, Inc. The Berryhill Corporation formed from the Charlotte Junior League's efforts to save homes in Fourth Ward.

They often sought partnerships with organizations like the Dilworth Community Association (DCA) or individuals to relocate historic homes. Weibler contacted the Loveletts, and Roger agreed to undertake the formidable task of moving the home.

With great care, Lovelett and his crew disassembled the house for its journey, even taking the time to listen to stories from neighbors who stopped by along the way. The house still stands on East Kingston, almost 40 years since its move.

The Bar at 316: If you've ever wondered why the beautiful Victorian behind Einstein's Bagels seems somewhat out of place, it's because it hasn't always been there. The structure has served as the Amber Rose restaurant, Bar 316, and several other event and food venues over the years in its current location since the early '80s. Fire maps and local historians, however, tell of it being in another location, closer to the street.

The Young Lawyers: In 1982, two young attorneys, Channing Richards and Kenneth Essex, paid \$86,000 to relocate the Taliaferro House from 808 College Street in Uptown to East Boulevard. The building was slated to be destroyed in the construction of I-277. This building once housed some of Dilworth's bright young attorneys early in their practices before tragically perishing in a fire. Essex Richards now occupy another building on South Boulevard.

The Center: In 1931, walking by the Blossom Shop on Park Road (then Avondale Avenue), you'd have seen the brand-new lake that the shop owner's family had constructed amidst acres of flowers, a Japanese sunken garden, and terraces illuminated by electric lights. Overlooking Avondale, beside the shop, stood the main "Parker House."

In 1982, this house faced demolition to make way for a new Kroger grocery store. After a lengthy battle that some neighbors remember all too well, the house now stands safely tucked behind Food Lion, around the corner from Inizio Pizza Napoletana and Not Just Coffee.

No one wants a free house: In 1978, Jack Apple put out an ad in the Charlotte Observer for a Free House. The DCA had offered funds to help move the house and Jack would pay expenses up to the cost of demolition if someone could find a home for the 75-year-old McManus House sitting at 317 East Boulevard. Unfortunately, no one ponied up for the Victorian.

Jack opened a restaurant and office space beside the site, which is still a parking lot today.

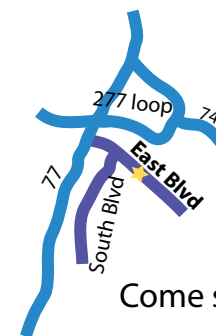
Allen to the rescue: Allen Brooks shared the details of moving the Helms Bell House (originally at Caldwell Street and Lexington Avenue) to Euclid Avenue in 1998.

The home, built in 1899, was attached to another house after the move and is one of only a few remaining Charlotte homes from that era to survive today.

The next time you take a stroll through Dilworth, pay attention to your surroundings. If a building appears out of place, it may have come from somewhere else. There's a good chance it has a remarkable story to tell. ■



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Home & Garden

continued from Page 21

of the bungalow next door. Pergolas facing the driveway repeat the same pattern and will offer veils of roses and neighbor chats. The siding and shingles vary as well as their window patterns. Both have an open carport with upper decks. The new house deck is fully open with a tree canopy ceiling and a spectacular uptown skyline winter view.

Inside floor plans are similar in layout with different space uses. Interesting to note is the amount of internal space dedicated to three fireplaces in the Victorian that are captured as new, open square footage in the new house. Not to be slighted, the “new kid on the block” has an exterior wall fireplace. The new twin is spacious and open with all amenities. A large bonus room faces the upstairs with the balcony. There is an upstairs kitchen to serve the rear deck.



The real story with these houses is history. A relocated original historic house fostered a respondent, new, simulated house with remnants of the past and an outlook to the future. The future has migrated this way also as evidenced by all the skyline lights of mid-rise development in progress in the nearby South End neighborhood. ■

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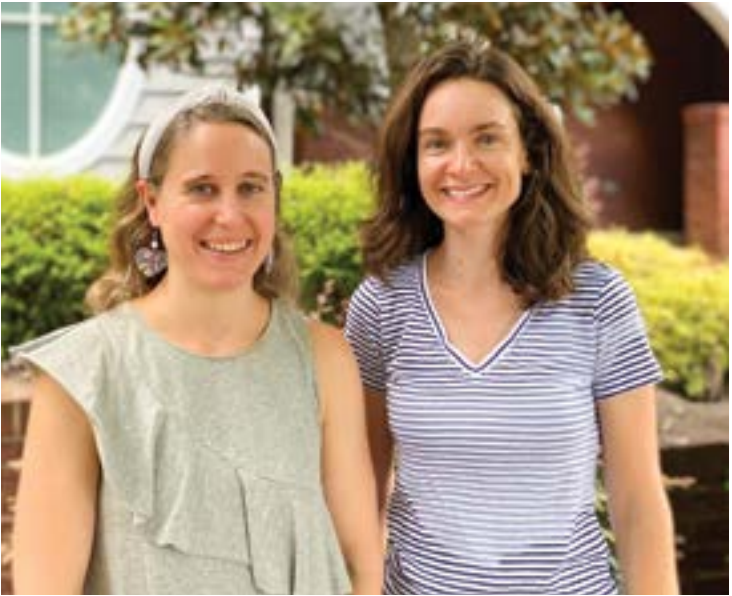
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Would you like to be DQ's next editor(s)?



Current Dilworth Quarterly co-editors (L-R) Sarah Ritzer and Sarah Kuljevan.

Dilworth Quarterly is seeking its next Editor or Co-Editors for this quarterly publication. The work for this volunteer role ebbs and flows with most of the concentrated hours consisting of contact follow-up and article editing around deadlines. Writing for the magazine is not required yet is welcomed.

Some specific responsibilities include:

- Meeting with Dilworth Community Association Communications Committee for quarterly planning sessions
- Collaborating with Co-Editor, Layout Editor, and Ad Manager on content collection
- Reaching out to Dilworth community for writers of timely, relevant articles and photographs
- Following up with writers to ensure deadlines are met
- Editing the text and proofing the publication

Although prior experience is not required, you should have competent writing and proofreading skills.

Currently, the Dilworth Quarterly is delivered to all house residences within the Dilworth neighborhood, totaling over 6,000 addresses.

Please contact Sarah Ritzer (saraheritzer@gmail.com) and Sarah Kuljevan (sarahkuljevan@gmail.com) to learn more about this role and to have your questions answered. We look forward to speaking with you. ■