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Dilworth Quarterly

March 2023

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Don't Miss

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Calling all student entrepreneurs. **Page 31**



The residents of Carlton Avenue collected books for Promising Pages.

Second annual Dilworth Cares "Street Challenge" a huge success

By Sarah Curme

Dilworth neighbors showed the spirit of doing good is alive and well and answered the call to support several area nonprofits. The generosity of our neighborhood is amazing.

Thank you to all who supported and donated to the following events:

Carlton Avenue

For the second year, Carlton Avenue collected boxes of books for Promising Pages. Through their marketing campaign, they were able to deliver over 540 books. Promising Pages collects new and donated books and

distributes them to students and organizations with the goal of eliminating the book desert and providing a free resource to those that need it the most. Through the generosity of neighbors this doubled the amount collected last year. Thank you all who make this possible.

East Worthington Avenue

Since 2018, East Worthington collected Thanksgiving Meal boxes for the Charlotte Rescue Mission. The need was especially great this year, as The Rescue Mission needed 4,500 meals and turkeys. Happily, they reached their goal. East Worthington, with help from the

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Deadline for Next Issue:

Ads: April 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.

Articles: April 22

Articles and ads received after 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.



The C-Word

Are you ready to celebrate Dilworth and all that our community has to offer?

We need you, our neighbors and business owners, young and old, new and veteran, your extraordinary variety of experiences, and most importantly, your voices. There's Latta Park, tree-lined sidewalks, our front porch lifestyle, and the walkability that allows us easy access to restaurants, food trucks, boutiques, bars, and more.

Let's bring those resources and our people together in new and engaging ways. Let's get to know each other again. Dilworth needs the power of an informed collective to support and sustain these amenities.

I hope you'll join me in planning, and participating in, new and exciting events this year. It's not all about fun and games, though.

Parties and events are a means to an end. The Dilworth Community Association (DCA) begs to reach all Dilworth residents. Communication and dissemination of important information is vital to preserving the sustainability of our neighborhood and quality of life. Many of you feel the effects of Charlotte's growth – construction, storm water, traffic, street closures, parking problems.

Yet, most of you don't understand the critical changes taking place in how the City handles development and rezonings. The DCA gets many questions and multiple complaints related to these topics. We need the ability to effectively educate and inform all residents about significant issues.

More importantly, we want you to know how to be proactive, have a say, and make a difference.

How can we reach all of our neighbors? How do we privately gather accurate contact information? What is the best way to communicate?



Valerie Preston
DCA President

Parties and events bring people together. They give us the opportunity to build a greater and more inclusive community, answer questions about what the DCA does, and gather feedback from the neighborhood.

Parties and events are also fun. Our goal is to increase engagement and interest, in addition to solving the communication challenge.

Back to the fun stuff. The Dilworth Jubilee is in the works, bigger and better than ever. We're reintroducing the Social Meetings with speakers at The Morehead Inn and webinars on various topics of interest, but we need more.

We need events and activities that are welcoming and inclusive, some that are family-friendly, and some for adults only. Again, this starts with you. We want your ideas, we ask for your support, and we need your participation.

Are you a party or event planning maven? Can you convince even the most frugal to donate? Are you a logistical wizard? Would you just like to help, get involved, be part of a team, meet new friends, share your ideas, or get out of the house?

We need you!

Opportunities to improve life in Dilworth are not limited to social events. Reach out. Let me know where your interests lie. Be a part of the solution.

With that, I'd like to welcome and thank our new DCA Board members for volunteering: Amanda Blackburn, Matthew Loveland, Chrishon McManus, and Theresa Rosa.

The DCA gives much gratitude and appreciation to Nathan Leehman for his mindful leadership throughout a year of uncertainty and transition.

As we continue to transition, accommodate, and acclimate, let's do it together and do it well. ■

Valerie Preston
president@dilworthonline.org

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Liz Lewis	Sis Kaplan	Theresa Rosa
Sarah Curme	Thomas Walker	Valerie Preston
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	Cindy Zakary	

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

Sarah Kuljevan + Sarah Ritzer *Co-Editors*
Mary Beth Sensabaugh *Advertising Sales*
TM Petaccia *Design*

Thanks to this issue's contributors:

Brandi Williams	Kelly Hofstatter
Charlie Fenstermacher	Liz Lewis
Cindy Kochanek	Marcy Basrawala
Cindy Zakary	Michelle Reeder
David Mildenberg	Nancy Williams
Debra Glennon	Paige Olson
Franklin Keathley	Sarah Curme
John Fryday	Shauna Powell
Jonathan Olson	Valerie Preston

Neighborhood Environment

Spicebush: a shrub for all seasons

By Michelle Reeder

Dilworth neighbors are continually working to restore the natural habitat at Latta Park, including several hidden gems such as our native Spicebush. An easily overlooked woodland shrub, its attributes can be subtle, but in nature, it is the subtle which can be most delightful.

Individual bushes are either male or female, and in December the male round flower buds with just a hint of yellow become noticeable,

giving promise of a haze of sunny yellow flowers all along the branches as one of the first flowers of spring.

Female flower buds aren't as noticeable, and the flowers aren't quite as showy. It can be challenging to tell the female plants from the males if they don't have buds or berries on them, so it was disappointing that five out of the six spicebushes originally planted on the stream bank in Latta Park turned out to be male.

The distinct beauty of the shrubs fade a little in the summer as the flowers drop and the leaves emerge.

During this season you can break off a small twig or leaf, scratch it, and take in the spicy aroma for which spicebushes get their common name.

You can also be on the lookout for enchanting spicebush swallowtail caterpillars in folded-over leaves where they both hide from predators and feed.



Photo by Ruth Ann Grissom.

"A couple of years ago, as I was walking in the woods, I was drawn to bright spicebush berries by a shady trailside. I collected about 20 seeds, rubbed off their fleshy coating and put them in a pot with some potting soil. I covered the pot with leaves and wire fencing to keep out the critters and left it in the shade over winter. Most of the seeds sprouted, and I transplanted them to individual pots this past spring. I was able to bring about a dozen one and two year old seedlings to Latta Park to join the mostly male spicebushes already planted. Hopefully, several of them will be female so they can provide food for the songbirds."

-Michelle Reeder

continued on page 21



Unified Development Ordinance goes live on June 1

By John Fryday

As Charlotte continues its explosive growth, your DCA Land Use committee works to influence the plans of the city and developers impacting Dilworth.

Members have been deeply involved over the past several years in the development of the new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), which will direct the zoning and project requirements for years into the future.

The Committee's involvement strengthened in the UDO the required height transitions into neighborhoods like Dilworth, as we worked to tweak the adopted Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map that accompanies the UDO.

Educating ourselves and the neighborhood while staying engaged with city staff and City Council is one focus of Land Use. The UDO will replace the current ordinance on June 1. It focuses significantly on 'form'- building height and width, how close to the street, first floor relationship to the sidewalk, etc. It also allows, as was widely reported, duplex and triplex 'houses' in what were single-family districts.

What was less discussed is that for the most part duplex and triplex units have the same form restrictions as its 'single family dwelling' neighbors.

Visit CharlotteUDO.org to learn more about the UDO.



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Land Use



UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Growth around us is another focus of the Land Use committee, requiring constant dialogue with those who propose development in and around Dilworth. As the UDO is being phased in June 1, negotiation around the intent, transition, and translation has become key. Members maintain continuous dialogue during a rezoning with developers, city staff, and neighbors, attend community meetings, and stay engaged with City Council and other neighborhoods. The purpose is to use the tools at hand to ensure projects transition and fit into our ever-changing neighborhood. Many neighborhoods are blindsided by development. Due in large part to the work of this committee, Dilworth is not. The DCA and Dilworth can be proud of the reputation and work of its Land Use committee.

Visit dilworthonline.org/land-use to learn about active projects going on in Dilworth. ■

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Dilworth Cares

continued from Front Page

Dilworth community, was able to collect and deliver 169 meal boxes that contained nine food items for a meal, as well as \$954 in donations to purchase turkeys. The block is so appreciative to all Dilworth neighbors who donated and to Therapy Hair Salon for their \$500 donation to purchase turkeys.

Charlotte Drive

Residents of Charlotte Drive held a lemonade stand to raise money for The Relatives. Thank you to all who helped make this a success.

East Kingston Avenue

Neighbors donated and delivered 47 pounds of canned foods for Loaves and Fishes.

Mt. Vernon Avenue, Dilworth Crescent, and Lexington Avenue

Three streets came together and held a very successful Ladies Wine Night to benefit Pat's Place and The Dilworth Soup Kitchen. We thank everyone who contributed to make a huge difference in the support of these Dilworth nonprofits.

Pat's Place coordinates the investigation, treatment and prosecution of the most serious child abuse in Mecklenburg County. Neighbors collected \$2,790 in donations that will help them continue to provide hope and healing to children and



Charlotte Drive neighbors sold lemonade to raise money for The Relatives.

families who have experienced abuse.

Dilworth Soup Kitchen on East Boulevard provides 400 hot, homemade, nutritious takeout lunches every Monday and Friday of the year to Charlotte guests. They also provide fresh produce and groceries each Friday. Additionally, through generous donations they offer a food pantry consisting of a wide array of canned foods, fresh breads, vegetables, and fruits. ■

Dilworth Resident



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DILWORTH market snapshot

Q4 HOMES SOLD

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\$1,341,818

DAYS ON MARKET

34

PRICE PER SQ FT

\$439

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



Home & Garden

Creating a flex space within a Dilworth home

By Jonathan Olson

When we moved into our home in 2019, it had three bedrooms. With two children, there was no extra space for guests. During the pandemic, we spent more time at home than we ever could have planned or expected and like many Dilworth families, we turned inward and looked for creative ways to use our space.

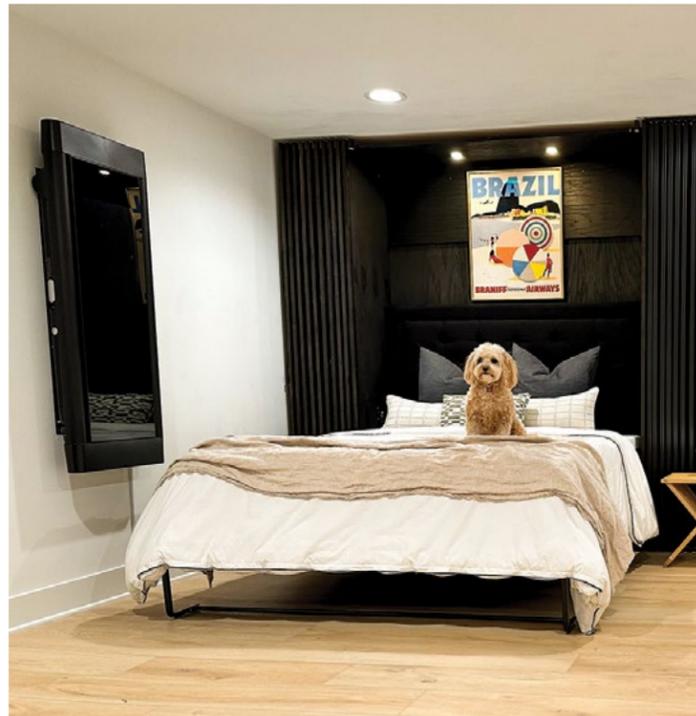
We did not want to add on to the home. There was a partial basement, but it was unfinished and only accessible from the outside. We wanted it all: a guest room, gym, and entertainment space, but had only one cinder block-walled room to work with.

The best solution to maximize utility was to create a flexible multi-use room.

We decided to finish the basement and add a bathroom off the far end. There were three challenges to overcome—access to the basement, joining the bathroom to the existing house, and ensuring the finished basement matched the style of our home.

Gaining access to the basement was the biggest challenge. Fortunately, we were able to add interior stairs by giving up a closet in the master bedroom and using a winder configuration for the stairs to fit the limited space.

Reclaiming the space under our deck for a bathroom required a unique solution for waterproofing and preserving head height. After the decking was removed and the bathroom framed in,



a rubber membrane was poured in place over the addition to make it waterproof, and the deck was relaid. In keeping with the theme of multi-use space, the bathroom is large enough to have a separate room for the shower, so it can function as an en-suite for guests and a changing room for the backyard pool.

The renovation was entirely inside the existing envelope of the house, yet permission was still required from the Dilworth Historic Commission.

We incorporated their feedback on the style of the outside doors and brick for the outside wall, which helped the addition feel cohesive with the rest of the home.

In the basement, open space was a priority. We opted for a Murphy bed to provide the comfort of a real mattress with the ability to fold it away. During construction, the wall where the bed would sit was reinforced and lined with oak-veneer plywood.



The bed cabinet was custom built, also from oak-veneer plywood, and deep enough to incorporate a headboard and built-in storage. The side of the cabinet functions as open storage for gym equipment.

We wanted the bed to be invisible when stowed, so a vertical slat wall was built from pine to make a seamless facade. All of the wood, including the backing wall, was stained a translucent black to give a homogeneous look while allowing the grain to show through and provide some warmth. The slat wall acts as a

focal point and design element to match the style of our home.

The bed is safely tucked away most of the time and we enjoy the open room, which primarily functions as a gym, since dropping our regular gym membership was another effect of the pandemic. With a Peloton and a Tonal, it is nearly full-featured with limited equipment.

The final product is now the most-used room in the house: for exercise, play, and relaxation, with a quick conversion to a guest suite when needed. ■



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Our Kids

Dilworth Hobbies and Hobbyists Reflect Life

By Charlie Fenstermacher & Paige Olson
(interviewing each other)

Dilworth. It's a community where the breeze flows through the canopy of oaks lining nearly every street. It's a happy place for children to grow and thrive; from the historic houses on hilly Rensselaer, to the slope of mighty Lennox where families take sunny strolls, to the walkable businesses of buzzing East Boulevard.



Map maven and overall geography enthusiast Charlie Fenstermacher.

Tucked away beyond the mossy sidewalks, many children call this neighborhood home, including us: two Dilworthian 6th-grade friends with unique interests and hobbies.

We start on Tremont Avenue at the house of geography aficionado and aspiring writer Charlie Fenstermacher. Walking into his room, you will see walls lined with maps, subway routes, and GIS view print-outs. There's even Kazakh currency used as bookmarks.

"I like to see what kinds of spaces make up our cities," Charlie says. "I have large whiteboards dedicated to geography – creating cool new lands, looking at how they work."

For years he has been obsessed with the concepts: How does one live on the other side of the world? What can one do to

better the world? As a North Carolinian, he says you will see this too. "North Carolina is a large swath of cities, mountains, and beaches and the urban population is growing rapidly. It's perfect for observation!", he exclaims. "I love places, generally!"

Charlie's bedroom is truly a geography lover's haven, a perfect reflection of someone who loves exploring and trying new things.

Heading to majestic Mt. Vernon Avenue, we feast our eyes on ... hang on ... what are we looking at? You may need to look a bit closer to see the vast collection of assorted miniature items, like food, toys, and accessories – as if hamsters are playing house.



Paige Olson has a huge love of everything tiny.

Paige Olson is proud to say she owns most likely Dilworth's largest collection of tiny things. A self-described hoarder and mild agoraphobic, Paige has been collecting miniatures and mini brands for the past few years.

"The cool thing about collecting tiny stuff is that it takes up so little space," she says. Paige loves tinkering, and if you need something (in a very, very small size) then Paige has it.

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Dilworth Church's 125th anniversary: a celebration of past, present, and future



Charlotte historian Tom Hanchett highlights the history of Dilworth at Dilworth United Methodist Church's 125th anniversary celebration.

By Kelly Hofstatter & David Mildenberg

From dinner on Friday, November 18 through worship service and luncheon Sunday, November 20, Dilworth United Methodist Church welcomed new and old church members, visiting Methodist dignitaries, and its Dilworth neighbors.

Friday night included a succulent smoked barbecue with chicken bog with Sunday being an old-fashioned potluck lunch. The best part of the weekend was connecting with friends and sharing stories.

The evening started with a virtual walk down memory lane with local historian Tom Hanchett. His Dilworth tour spanned the humble beginnings of a small wood-framed church in 1896 that supported a mill village to today's vibrant cosmopolitan neighborhood.

Tom's presentation showed how inextricably intertwined Dilworth Church has been with its community over the decades.

The story that best illustrated the connection was of the Dilworth Child Development Center. The childcare center's history was shared, while we honored its staff. They include Anita Burris Shoffner, Assistant Director, who has been with the center for 43 years since its inception in 1978, along with Sharon Hoke, a 42-year staffer; Wanda Richardson, 39 years; and Pam Freeman 36 years. All have poured their careers into making the DCDC one of highest quality early education centers in town.

A story about Terry Chapel tied its past to a vision of Dilworth United Methodist Church's future. After a 1958 fundraising goal to raise \$150,000 for its construction was achieved in two weeks, the building was dedicated in 1960.

This "can do" attitude has persisted at Dilworth Church throughout the years. Terry Chapel continues to serve the community well by offering a place for small weddings, funerals, and services that would be dwarfed if held in the church's sanctuary.

Given Terry Chapel's limited use in recent years, it is in need of a facelift. An updated facility is planned which will serve the church and community for many decades.

Friday evening concluded with a performance by the Dilworth Players community theater group. They shared a medley of tunes from plays performed at the church over the past decade.

The audience swayed to the renditions of "We Got Trouble" from The Music Man; "Go, Go, Go Joseph" from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; "Belle" and "If I Can't Love Her" from Beauty and the Beast. The finale, "Some Enchanted Evening," was the Players' reveal for its 2023 play, South Pacific, scheduled for May 18-20.

Sunday welcomed Bishop Kenneth Carter, who leads United Methodists in central and western North Carolina. His message best characterizes the Dilworth Church ministry:

"Blessed are those who plant trees knowing they will never sit in their shade."



Dilworth Child Development Center Director Kelly Roney (center) is flanked by staff members Anita Burris Shoffner and Pam Freeman at the anniversary dinner.

Members of Dilworth Church stand on the shoulders of the generations past who have brought it and the Dilworth Community to a glorious present.

It continues to be an integral part of Dilworth and Charlotte – striving for social justice and inclusion – planting those trees for our children and children's children. ■



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Ladies Holiday Party resumes after two-year hiatus



Photo by Katie Smith Photography.

By Marcy Basrawala

After a long two-year hiatus, more than 100 neighbors gathered in December 2022 to celebrate the twenty-first gathering of the Dilworth Ladies Holiday Party. Thanks to the Law Office of Tin Fulton Walker and Owen, partygoers were able to attend the event at the historic building in the heart of Dilworth.

Live entertainment was provided by Michael Byrnes, a long-time past resident of Dilworth. The open bar was generously sponsored by Erin Finnen, both a Dilworth neighbor and Mortgage Banker with Lending By Design.

Professional photos were taken by Dilworth's own Katie Smith. A full gallery of downloadable pictures can be found on the Katie Smith Photography website: katiesmithpics.pixieset.com/dilworthladiesparty2022-1/.

Local vendors were incredibly generous this year in donating items for the exciting raffle and live auction.

Funds raised from this long-standing tradition always support a local charity in Dilworth and are distributed by the Dilworth Cares Committee. Donations included a full set of braces from Sacksteder Orthodontics – plus a variety of items and experiences from Made by Kippen, Charlie on Park, Supperland, Clothing Designer Renata, Orange Theory, Personal Training by Jeff Garner, plus several others.



Photo by Katie Smith Photography.

Attendees were equally generous as they gave in both admission and raffle ticket purchases over \$5,000 this year.

The Dilworth Ladies Men also made a return this year to serve the ladies food and beverage.

The absence of the party for two years made the return this year particularly special.

This event is a time to meet and connect with old and new neighbors and a wonderful reminder of why we have all chosen to live in this heartwarming community.

It is truly inspiring to see so many neighbors spring into action to make this party happen – especially when everyone is so busy during the holiday season.

However, at the conclusion of the celebration, guests are always so thankful for the opportunity to gather together for this uplifting event.

This ongoing tradition is just one of the many unique things Dilworth has to offer. ■

Charlotte Art Collective Spring Show arrives April 29

By Nancy Williams

Springtime in Charlotte will soon be here. Mark your calendars for a delightful event! The Charlotte Art Collective Spring Show returns to the Dilworth/Freedom Park area on Saturday, April 29.

Held in the spacious Family Life Center at Avondale Presbyterian Church, from 10am to 4pm, this lively event will showcase a wide variety of distinctive handcrafted art made by artists who live and work in the Charlotte area. Parking is ample and free.

The show provides an opportunity to explore both functional and decorative art – as well as find special gifts for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, graduation, and other occasions – or even treat yourself to art that enriches your own life and home.

The Charlotte Art Collective seeks and offers a mix of high-quality artwork produced by artists who like participating and help make CAC shows enjoyable and inspiring. The upcoming show features painting, printmaking, mixed media art, photography, pottery/ceramic art, a wide variety of handcrafted jewelry, wood art, handmade books, handmade papers, glass art, hand-milled soaps, crafted essential oils, whimsical sculptures of all sizes, and more.

The event introduces new artists along with favorite ones returning – all chosen by a jury of fellow artists.



Attendees to the Charlotte Art Collective Spring Show will be greeted by Amy Hart's unique garden art sculptures.

CAC Spring Show participating artists include:

Amy Hart – garden art sculptures

Celena Burnett – ceramic mugs and wall hangings

Eva Rizzardi – prints and etchings

Gena Van Dyke – decorative and functional pottery

Hilde Deprez – wooden hand-painted Lazy Susans

Janet Borchardt – fused glass

Janie Jones – handmade glass jewelry

Nancy Fuller – honey hand cream

Nancy Williams – Charlotte photographic notecards and prints

Patrick Robertson – detailed mixed media miniatures

Renee Calder – found art vessels

Rosemary Peduzzi – handmade paper and books

Other artists to be added by exhibition time.

As a continuing tradition, show visitors can participate in a raffle to benefit a local nonprofit organization. This year, the beneficiary is the Youth Group of Avondale Church which will help to further the mission efforts of these young people.

Since 2014, Charlotte Art Collective's raffles have raised over \$9,000 for area charitable causes, including The Relatives, Dilworth Soup Kitchen, Dilworth School, Freedom School Partners, Charlotte Family Housing, Friendship Trays, and Pat's Place.

The prizes are baskets full of artwork made by CAC members and participating show guest artists.



Hand-painted wooden Lazy Susans by Hilde Deprez.

The Charlotte Art Collective came into existence in the early 2000s as an informal group for artists to gather, socialize, and present their work. The original collective consisted of seven artists. Today many of the 25 CAC artists are full-time professionals – some of whom are represented in galleries, some of whom teach – and all stay extremely busy working in their own studios.

All CAC members are committed to making art and offering it for sale whether that be one-to-one sales, gallery/retail sales, online sales, or a combination of these avenues. Many CAC members have received commissions, some have also received awards in numerous art shows, and some have sold their works to national and international collectors.

continued on page 26

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Sarah Martin

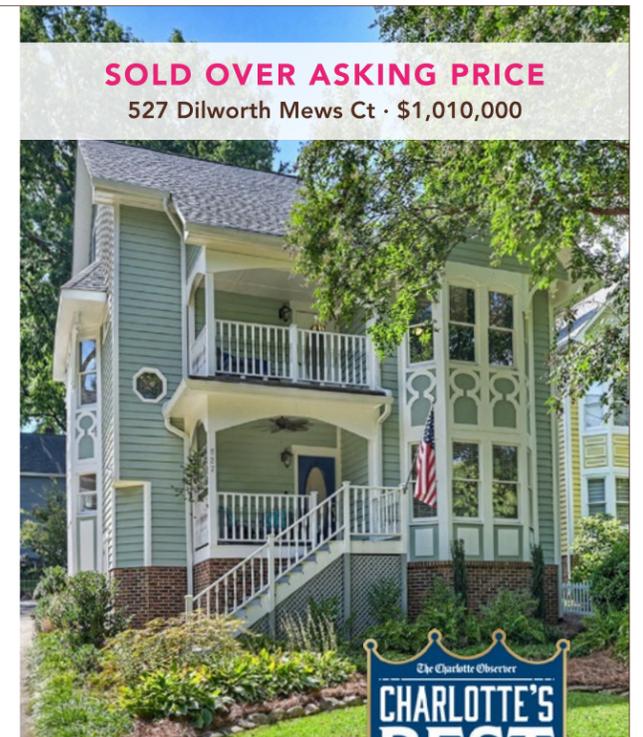
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Historic District Commission

Early architectural styles & types in Charlotte

By Cindy Kochanek

Do you ever wonder about the different house types and styles and how they all came about? Dilworth includes a variety of architectural styles and house types.

This should come as no surprise since the neighborhood originally started in the 1890s. In this last article of the series on architectural styles and types, focus will be on the early and turn of the 20th century styles. While there were other styles and types prior to this period, most were not widespread in Dilworth or Charlotte's historic districts. Like many regions around the country, some architectural styles and house types may have been built in Charlotte outside the stated date ranges.

Early and turn of the 20th century architectural styles and types include the American Foursquare and Queen Anne. Queen Anne style houses are more of a true architectural style. The American Foursquare is a building type. As a reminder, a house or building type refers more to the plan or layout of the structure, including its shape, the number of stories, and if there is a specific floor plan that defines the type. Architectural styles mainly refer to the special characteristics of the building or applied ornamentation.

The American Foursquare (1900-1930) is defined by its layout; four-over-four rooms covering two floors. This house type is easily identifiable – just look for its boxy, square shape and usually hipped roof that almost or does come to a point to create a pyramid shape. Deep overhangs and a full or almost full-length front porch further define this style. Dormers are often found, especially on the front. This style was often not heavily ornamented but if there was applied ornamentation or details, style queues were taken from earlier and concurrent styles like Italianate, Craftsman and Colonial Revival. Often found in catalogs as a kit house, the Foursquare was a popular house throughout the United States. 1616 Euclid Avenue and 416 E Kingston Avenue are examples of this house type.

The Queen Anne style (1880-1910) was a popular style from the Victorian era. While considered an architectural style, there



are two local versions: the Queen Anne house and the Queen Anne cottage. The major difference between these two being the number of stories; the Queen Anne cottage is typically only one story, and the Queen Anne house is typically two or more stories. The style was often highly ornamented with complex roofs and vertical proportions. A tower or a turret and tall ornamental chimneys were often features of this style. Decorative sawed millwork was utilized for the brackets, balusters, and other trim work on Queen Anne buildings. Entrances were highly decorated and typically found under a full width porch. 329 E Kingston Avenue, 400 E Kingston Avenue, 307 East Blvd, and 321 East Blvd are all examples of Queen Anne houses. Queen Anne cottages can be found at 1912 Springdale Avenue and 329 E Worthington Avenue.

As always, please feel free to contact HDC staff if you have any questions on specifics relating to architectural styles and building types 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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Spicebush

continued from Page 4

Come autumn, the fairly small leaves turn a buttery yellow and shiny lipstick-red berries are present on the female bushes if a male bush is nearby.

The berries, which are nearly 50% fat according to the Audubon Society, attract robins, wood thrushes, blue jays, and tanagers helping them fuel up for fall migration.

Spicebush is a great shade to part sun shrub for homes as well. It thrives in damp soil, and can grow to be 8 to 15 feet tall and 6 to 15 feet wide. Several of them clumped together could make a hedgerow, or even one as a specimen plant can be helpful to native animals.

It can be an alternative to bushes and shrubs like privet, forsythia, burning bush, or nandina which either don't provide for our insects and birds, or which take over our parks and prevent native plants from flourishing.

Without the removal of privet by the Latta Park volunteers, the newly planted Spicebush would not have the space to become established and hopefully spread along the stream banks. Latta Park walkers and birdwatchers should be able to see and appreciate the swath of spicebushes along the dappled shade of the creek. ■



Photo by Ruth Ann Grissom.



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DCA Committee *Spotlight*

The Streetscapes & Pedestrian Safety Committee is looking out for you

By Franklin Keathley & Cindy Zakary
Committee Co-Chairs

Do you feel safe walking, biking, or driving in Dilworth? Development from South End, Midtown, and Uptown is no longer coming to Dilworth. It's here. While growth is exciting, it also brings challenges. Over the next five to ten years, Centre South (the former Strawn site), a new medical school, a senior living community, and multiple high-rise apartments will bring even more foot, bike, and vehicle traffic into our neighborhood. Your Streetscapes & Pedestrian Safety Committee is working to

How Neighbors Get Around Dilworth

Walking - 98%

Driving - 90%

Biking - 57%

Running - 47%

Rolling - 10%

Neighborhood Traffic Survey - November 2022

voice neighborhood concerns to City Staff on current pedestrian safety issues in a unified front and make sure future street design includes direction from the folks living in Dilworth, not just driving through it.

Dilworth neighbors have a long history of working together with the goal of pedestrian safety. Lew Powell wrote in 1975 in The Charlotte Observer about the City's surprise when the neighborhood banded together with a "counter proposal" to city revitalization efforts focused on changes to curb and gutter. The changes would widen some of Dilworth's streets, but the group worked instead to prioritize saving trees and to introduce neighborhood traffic-calming measures. The Observer in 2006 would quote Dilworth Community Association President John

Fryday, Council Member Pat Mumford, and CDOT's Dan Gallagher in support of a controversial plan to add bike lanes and give East Boulevard a road diet.

Launched in November, the Neighborhood Traffic Survey shows overwhelmingly that Dilworth residents want to continue making our neighborhood a safer place. Over 36% of the respondents said they had already reached out to the City about traffic issues.

The goal of the committee is to work as a conduit between the neighborhood, city staff, and elected officials to improve pedestrian safety and better define the Dilworth neighborhood as a walkable and bikeable community through signage, traffic-calming initiatives, and street design. Committee co-chair Franklin Keathley and his wife Paula have lived in Dilworth for eight years. They started out in a bungalow on Park Road before moving onto Kingston in 2020. Co-chair Cindy Zakary grew up in South Charlotte and lived in South End before moving to Dilworth in 2019. The walkability and sense of community is largely what brought them both here. Nothing brings people in Dilworth together like pedestrian safety.

Neighbors also prioritized concerns such as speeding, street crossings, traffic volume, or bike lanes. 77% of all respondents felt least safe between 5-7pm. The final survey results will be released in the Dilworth Express. Also of note were opinions about on-street parking and suggestions for changes in overall street design for more effective traffic-calming.



Next steps are to review the data and follow up with a presentation and second round of feedback at an in-person community meeting. We will then present a list of all requested improvements to the City staff and work with them to determine which ones are viable, as well as receive possible alternative solutions that meet the priorities of the community. Some larger projects involving street design may be segmented into separate stakeholder groups.

If you have interest in getting involved further, e-mail neighborhood@dilworthonline.org. ■



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Tom Sykes Recreation Center

Compiled by Shauna Powell

Facility Staff

Shauna Powell	Facility Manager
LeCharleston Ross	Recreation Specialist
Tim Lewis	Recreation Specialist
Geraldine Williams	Recreation Assistant
James Wylie	Recreation Assistant
Monique Reid	Recreation Assistant
Natalie Johnson	Recreation Assistant
Wyvette Staton	Recreation Assistant

Pre-registration is required for all programs.

Register online at parkandrec.com, by calling Tom Sykes Recreation Center at (980)314-1113, or stop by the center. For more information about all of Tom Sykes Recreation Center programs contact TomSykesRecreationCenter@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

CMS School Day Out and Early Release Days

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Early Release Day Camp

Noon-6pm • \$13.00 per child

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Pickup games weekday nights from 5:30-7:30. Three courts available. All ages and skill levels. Call for availability.

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Adult Programs

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Charlotte Observer 2020 Real Estate Rising Star Award Recipient



Gena Van Dyke crafts decorative and functional pottery.

CAC members are excited to make their art accessible to the public through its lively, upbeat, and enjoyable shows. Numerous show visitors have commented that the Charlotte Art Collective Show is one of the best high-end art and craft shows around and not to be missed.

Learn more about the group, the individual artists, and the CAC mission on its website: charlotteartcollective.org and via @charlotteartcollective on both Facebook and Instagram. ■

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Street tree master plan: working with history

By Liz Lewis & Debra Glennon

Street trees are an integral part of any neighborhood, and particularly in the historic look that is “Dilworth.”

Many are nearing the end of their life span, but fortunately there’s a plan in place to help keep our tree canopy healthy and vibrant - the Dilworth Street Tree Master Plan.

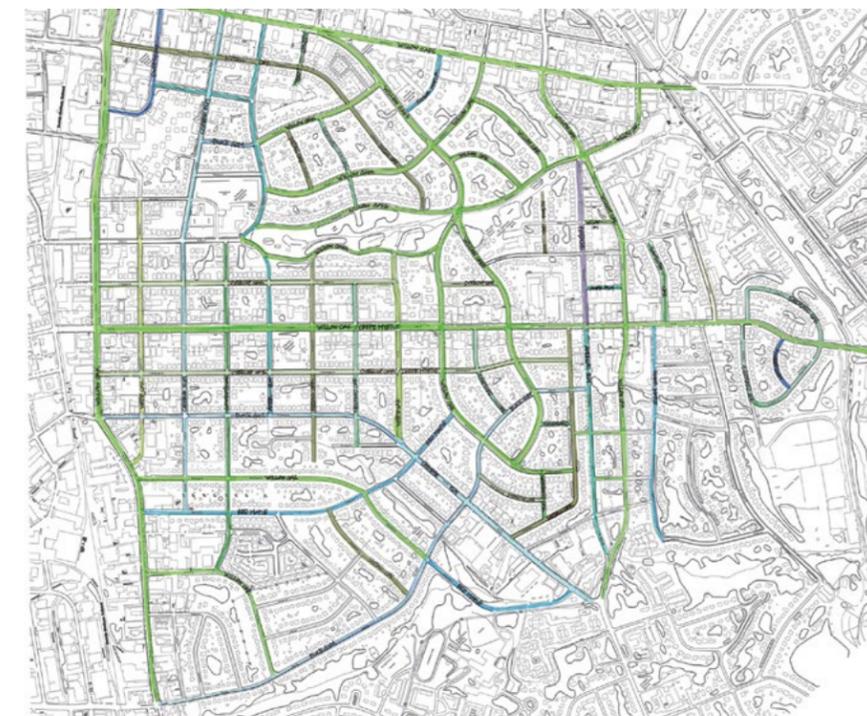
Originally, each of Dilworth’s streets was planted with a uniform species, adding to the aesthetically unique character of the neighborhood. However, the first planters depended heavily on one tree, the willow oak. While a beloved and durable tree, we’ve learned over time that a monoculture has its dangers (cue the canker worm issues of the 2000s). Add climate change and increased development, and it’s clear life as a tree on the streets can be tough.

Best practices today include selecting tree species that grow, survive, and thrive in tough conditions. A variety of tree species reduces susceptibility to disease and pests. Power lines and utilities also impact site and tree selections.

In 2011, the DCA’s Tree Committee addressed these issues, developing a plan to replant street trees with the goal of creating an historically appropriate and sustainable tree canopy. Committee members walked the entire neighborhood, street by street, and came up with a proposal for what large and small trees could be planted on each street. This was then presented to and negotiated with the neighborhood and the City of Charlotte, and together a blueprint for future planting efforts in the form of the Dilworth Street Tree Master Plan was born. The plan increased tree diversity of the canopy, emphasizing large shade trees over small ornamental trees wherever possible.

You can view the plan’s details on the DCA’s website, dilworthonline.org.

Wonder how street trees get planted? The City is responsible for the planting, maintenance, and removal of street trees throughout the city. Storms, old age, development, and disease had taken their toll in Dilworth, leaving a growing number of gaps in our tree canopy. The City was



Dilworth Street Trees Preliminary Master Plan

TREE SPECIES KEY

■	OAK, NUTTALL
■	OAK, OVERCUP
■	OAK, SPURWARD
■	OAK, SAWTOOTH
■	OAK, WHITE
■	OAK, WILLOW
■	BLACK GUM
■	ELM, AMERICAN
■	ELM, CHINESE
■	MAPLE, RED OR SUGAR
■	SWEET GUM
■	ORNAMENTAL TREE

replanting trees, but funding was tight and it couldn’t replace all the lost trees. Beginning in 2019, the Tree Canopy Committee began fundraising, via the *Share the Shade* and *Tree Tribute* programs, working with the City to play catch up and add even more trees to Dilworth each year. To date, the trees selected for our streets have been guided by the Dilworth Street Tree Master Plan.

Trees have wide ranging community benefits. They provide cooling shade, decrease flooding, improve water quality, increase traffic safety, sequester carbon, increase property values, and extend the life of roads. This is why the City of Charlotte uses public funds to plant these trees on public land (the planting strip next to the street). Very much like sidewalks, street lights, and water lines, the street trees are a public good. Street trees are carefully managed by the City. They are our green infrastructure. In Dilworth, the City committed to planting trees according to the species indicated on the Master Plan for each street. No longer would they just plant whatever tree they had available. Just as Dilworth’s character has been shaped by required design guidelines and historic protection of the housing stock, our neighborhood has also reaped the benefits of careful tree canopy design.

The Tree Canopy Committee continues to support Dilworth’s trees. Proceeds from the recent fundraiser have resulted in more large shade trees being planted again this winter. Efforts are underway to strengthen the Master Plan even more. If you’d like to get involved, email express@dilworthonline.org. ■



Our Schools

Kent Academy: small school with a big heart

By Brandi Williams

Upon stepping onto the Dilworth campus that Kent Academy calls home, one will see students in a warm homeschool setting utilizing organizational tools while taking in the creatively facilitated standard courses of study shared by their teachers.

This small school with a big heart employs the community and workshop-style classrooms to help students succeed. Kent Academy prides itself on teaching to the individual student instead of to a standardized test.

Founded in 2011 by Dr. Jane Gardner, this private school that educates students in kindergarten through 12th grade carries



out its mission to provide a small school environment with an individualized and integrated curriculum at a more affordable price. The K-8 program is fully accredited. The High School Co-Op meets all required North Carolina standards and has served five graduating classes over the last seven years.

A native Charlottean, Dr. Gardner attended and graduated from the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system. She earned an undergraduate degree in education and became a teacher for CMS. While serving as a teacher, she earned an M.Ed, as well as founded and operated a tutoring business. She went on to earn an Ed.S degree and a Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education while maintaining her private counseling and educational consulting practice.

After almost 20 years in practice and as a mother to three CMS students, Dr. Gardner was drawn to create a new and different educational resource for this community. She noticed there was a shortage of schools geared toward the “2E,” or, Twice Exceptional, child. These students are typically average to above average in intelligence and also fall into a second exceptional learning category of some sort.

These categories may include ADHD, Anxiety (but able to operate independently in a classroom setting), reading or math disabilities, processing speed concerns, dyslexia, dysgraphia, and more. Dr. Gardner pursued the opportunity to provide an educational setting to meet the needs of these students who could survive, but not thrive, in the traditional public school classrooms.

Kent Academy’s experiential learning curriculum means that one might find scholars on a kayak, at a zoo, or in a theater as they take monthly trips designed to educate on a specific topic or theme. The first Friday of each month, students adventure into the community for a schoolwide field trip. Each individual classroom also engages in many other curriculum-driven field trips throughout the year.

Applications are accepted year-round. Check out the school website: kentacademycharlotte.com. Please stop by and/or attend an Open House if Kent Academy is the right addition to your family’s educational journey. ■

“We are so thankful to have found Kent Academy! The small, caring, personalized environment is exactly what she needs. The staff go above and beyond to nurture and support students, and the students are so supportive of each other as well. She actually looks forward to going to school again!”

– the Gately family

“It has been a relief and a joy to see how our son has rebounded from the bumps of the pandemic and online learning. Your tools, support, and encouragement have allowed him to get back on track and grow academically this year. Having him in a small space has given him comfort, confidence to speak up and out to advocate for himself and when necessary, others!”

– the Ashcraft family

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Calling All School-Age Entrepreneurs!



The June issue of the Dilworth Quarterly will feature our popular Summer Connections section.

If you are a student with skills and services to offer, this is your opportunity to advertise your specialty for free.

Your approximately 80-word submission should include your name, age, the service you are offering, and how you prefer to be contacted. Optional selling points such as years/types of experience, pricing, where you attend school, etcetera, are welcome.

To submit your listing:

Sign up for the weekly Dilworth Express emails. Visit dilworthonline.org and click on the "Subscribe" button at the bottom of the Home Page to register for the "Dilworth Express." When the Dilworth Express announces a call for submissions – late March to early April – reply to the e-mail address given.

or

Email your submission to Sarah Ritzer at saraheritser@gmail.com. Be sure to put in the subject line: *Dilworth Quarterly - Summer Connections*.

Submissions MUST be received by Sunday, April 16.

Our Kids

continued from Page 11

From laundry detergent to SPAM to a tiny violin, her collection is quite wonderful. This crafty connoisseur might collect small things, but it's actually quite a big collection!

It's fun to zoom in, far beyond the sidewalk, and explore the different interests that make Dilworth's young residents so unique, like the neighborhood itself.

The history of Dilworth is not lost on Charlie, with remnants of the streetcar line that once connected to the city center in the middle of East Boulevard and the steep walls of Latta Park that once held a boating lake occasionally doing double duty as sledding hills.

Paige's eclectic collection lets her focus in, while the historic neighborhood bustles around. There is always something new to discover in a place that is more than 100 years old. Who knows what you might find next?

If you are lost on an expedition to Asia and need travel advice, or possibly a very tiny map, you know that your fellow Dilworth kids have you covered. ■



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