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Don't Miss

A new committee, and a new commitment. **Find out what on page 2.**

The latest Land Use news. **Details are on page 4.**

A miracle at Sedgefield Middle School. **Get the latest school update on page 10.**

Santa's on his way! **View his Christmas Eve route on page 14.**

Mr. Whiteside's big bash. **Read about it on page 16.**

Changes are happening at Fran's Filling Station. **Learn more on page 18.**

It's not too late to donate to the *Share the Shade* fundraiser! **See page 22 for details.**

Security safety tips in the time of COVID. **Page 25.**

What's a Treasure Tree? **Find out on page 33.**

Trish Moody's Vision to Feed Neighbors and Save CMS Jobs

By *Nikki Campo*

When Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) announced the school year would begin remotely, parents and teachers scrambled to adjust. Trish Moody, mother of three, pediatric nurse practitioner, and tireless volunteer in the community thought about the kids who rely on school for meals.

Over the summer, CMS set up meal pick-up locations for families at designated schools in the district, free of charge. At the start of the remote school year, the district converted to a new program called "CMS Eats at Home." Through the program, boxes of ten meals each, or five days' worth of breakfast and lunch for one person, were made available for pick-up or bus delivery to anyone with a student at CMS, regardless of need. Government grants provided funding for the meals, so families didn't incur out-of-pocket costs.

The catch? Meals were made on demand. In other words, people had to sign up for meals, or the meals wouldn't be made. CMS dispatched communication about the program and provided instructions for online ordering, but Moody wondered if families would sign up. Some families might have missed the communication. Others might lack the technology to sign up even if they wanted to.

Moody worried that kids would go hungry, but she had another question too: How could the district's more than 2000 cafeteria workers and bus drivers remain employed with no kids to serve? Moody wasn't the only person asking the question, but she was among the first to



First delivery to Feeding Charlotte. From left, Trish Moody, Kim Aprill (Feeding Charlotte), Tate Moody (Moody's daughter), and Mendy Godman (Feeding Charlotte).

raise her hand to help. She reached out to CMS Executive Director of Nutrition Services, Catherine Beam, to see what could be done.

Recognizing an opportunity with a potentially short shelf-life, Moody then sent an email to hundreds of her own contacts. "This is going to sound a little odd, but hear me out," she wrote, and then explained the CMS Eats at Home program. She begged her contacts to sign up their children for the program whether they needed the meals or not. "I told them to sign up for delivery rather than pick-up, because we needed to keep bus drivers on payroll, too," Moody said.

With individuals signing up to retrieve and hand over their meal boxes, Moody needed a distribution plan. She first called Mendy

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Deadline for Next Issue:

Ads: January 15

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

Copy: January 25

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



The Dilworth Quarterly is written by volunteers and proudly printed on 30% reused and 100% recycled paper. It is published under the direction of the DCA and is mailed 4 times a year to over 5800 households and businesses in the Dilworth community. While we make every reasonable effort to verify the integrity of our advertisers, we do not endorse products or services unless specifically stated.

From the President

New Committee, New Commitment - and How You Can Help

Dilworth has always prided itself on being an inclusive community. Historically, it has been a very diverse neighborhood. Not anymore. Over time Dilworth has become a bit homogenous. This has troubled the DCA for a while, but the matter has never been adequately addressed. Sadly, this is an excellent example of how easy it is for a privileged class of people to overlook a problem that does not immediately affect them. As the brutal truth of inequality and injustice became so profoundly magnified this year, the DCA felt compelled to do some self-reflection, take a stand, and explore ways to leverage its privilege to drive necessary change. As a result, the Diversity & Inclusion committee was created.

The mission of the DCA stresses fostering an inclusive community. The D&I committee will expand upon that mission to help rebuild the diversity Dilworth once had by creating an environment where all people feel welcome, valued, and respected. This will be a long term, active process that involves all of us. The D&I webpage on the DCA website spells out their commitment and their objectives. You'll also find links to a variety of resources including Harvard's test to measure your own biases.

Educating, and re-educating, ourselves, is one important part of this mission. You may have seen one of the webinars produced by this committee. Dr. Tom Hanchett gave a presentation on Dilworth's history and the creation of segregation in Charlotte. He hosted a second webinar with an impressive panel that included Dilworth's own Ed Williams, author/journalist/former editorial editor at The Observer, and Sara Spencer, activist/former Planning Commission and City Council member. Judge Shirley Fulton and Dr. Willie Griffin were also on that panel. If you're not familiar with those names, Google them. It's worth it. If you missed these or the November webinar, the videos are available on The DCA Facebook page or



Valerie Preston
DCA President

through the links on the DCA website.

Just as important is learning from our neighbors. The Diversity & Inclusion committee is asking for your help with three things. First, they plan to celebrate the diversity that already exists in Dilworth. They need personal stories about special traditions, memories, and practices related to different cultures, religions, ethnicities, and more. Second, the committee wants to hear from neighbors who have experienced discrimination, oppression, and marginalization. This will help uncover changes needed specific to Dilworth and be a means to create understanding, empathy, and motivation for greater acceptance on a personal level. Finally, the D&I committee asks you to visit their page on the DCA website to submit constructive feedback and suggestions.

Not sure you want your name attached to a story or information? We can keep the source and identity of anyone who shares a story or information with the Diversity & Inclusion committee confidential

The D&I committee is excited about its work and looks forward to learning from you.

Valerie ■

Ho Ho Ho! Santa's on His Way!

Santa does his much anticipated ride atop Ladder 2's fire engine on Christmas Eve. Come out and greet Santa as he spreads cheer and candy throughout the neighborhood!



See Santa's Route
on Page 14

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Thursday, December 24

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Home Tour Committee

Mathew Demetriades and Dana Jodice
2020 Home Tour Co-Chairpersons

DCA Board Meetings

Stay tuned via Dilworth Express

Due to COVID-19, open DCA Board meetings have been suspended. Check the Dilworth Express for updates at dilworthonline.org.

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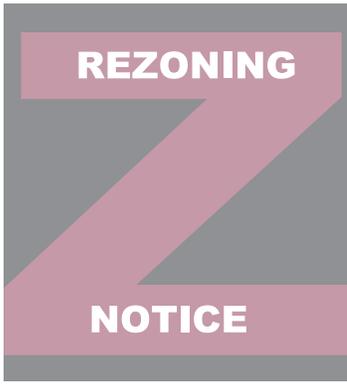
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Land Use

Dilworth Projects Update

By Ellen Citarella

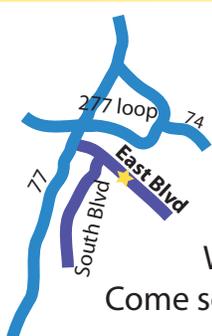
Atrium Update

- The groundbreaking for the replacement Carolinas Rehabilitation building occurred on September 24, 2020. The team anticipates a Grand Opening in the next 22-24 months.
- The new Florence Crittenton Home has completed construction, and residents and staff are moving to their new location, allowing the demolition of the old building and new underground infrastructure to begin.
- The four houses, apartment building, and campus parking areas located on the south side of Garden Terrace are scheduled for demolition beginning in November.
- Duke Energy recently completed some infrastructure work on Garden Terrace, which was part of necessary utility upgrades for the campus Central Energy Plant. This caused a temporary shutdown of that street.
- Atrium Health has announced plans to construct a new patient & visitor parking deck on the Kings Drive side of campus, to replace the Blythe visitor deck when it comes down in a few years to make way for the replacement bed tower project. (see renderings).
- Work is underway with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation



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Above: Atrium Health patient and visitor parking deck (view of Kings Drive showing park & living wall).

to formalize plans and communication regarding the timing and impact of greenway improvements and scheduled detours.

- A new email address has been established to handle questions/concerns regarding campus construction: constructionfeedback@atriumhealth.org
- A website/landing page dedicated to providing community members with important updates and information about the project will be launched in December.

What's Happening at the Epicurean Lot?

The hearing for rezoning petition 2020-052 for the former Epicurean lot was scheduled for October, however the petitioner requested a deferral until mid-November. The extra time allows the petitioner to work with the community on concerns about the lack of specificity for a project in such a prominent location in the neighborhood.

More information regarding the building façade, the streetscape and the wrapping of the parking garage is needed and the land use committee will continue to have discussions with the developer and planning in order to ensure that the building proposed is appropriate for that highly visible intersection on what is effectively Dilworth's Main Street.

Duke Energy Reliability Project

- The major upgrade to the Kenilworth substation that serves Dilworth, South End and the surrounding area is nearing completion.
- Now underway: a project to deliver improvements to the electric grid system that delivers energy to your home or business.
- This project supports future growth and development in Dilworth, improves overall reliability of service to customers, strengthens the grid against power outages from severe weather, and provides smarter options to restore power faster using self-healing technologies.
- The full project is slated for three years and will be completed in phases. Phases of the project include the installation of the new underground routes along Scott Avenue, Garden Terrace and East Boulevard, installation of new reinforced concrete poles adjacent to the Kenilworth substation, installation of smart, self-healing technology to better serve customers in Dilworth, vegetation management, and pole and line upgrades in the area. Future plans for the area include several other reliability improvements such as upgrading equipment, installing self-healing, backfeeding capabilities and replacing older equipment – all which mostly apply to overhead lines.

continued on page 6

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- Please feel free to reach out to the project’s Public Engagement Manager, Erin Boggs Lee at 980-373-1865 or Erin.Lee@Duke-Energy.com with questions or concerns throughout the duration of the project.

Charlotte Storm Water Projects

Myrtle/Morehead Project Construction Updates

- Primary storm drainage tunneling operations: Tunneling operations will progress toward Templeton Avenue through February 2021 .
- Lexington Avenue tunneling and installation of 84” stormwater pipe was anticipated to have been completed in November.
- Secondary storm drainage installation progress:
 1. Euclid Avenue is complete.
 2. Rensselaer Avenue is mostly complete.
 3. Cleveland Avenue at Park and Kingston Avenue intersections began in November and is anticipated to be complete in late January.

Water and sanitary sewer

1. Cleveland Avenue at Park and Kingston Avenue intersections began in late October and is anticipated to be complete in late December

2. Templeton Avenue waterline and sanitary sewer service connections were anticipated to begin in November
3. Lexington Avenue controlled blasting for sanitary sewer line installation was anticipated to begin in November, progressing to Myrtle Avenue, and is anticipated to be complete in mid-December.

Additional Land Use Updates

Lexington Avenue:

- Sewer installed November /December
- Sewer services will be connected in April/May of 2021
- Final connections of the sewer at the Lexington/Oriole intersection will be late June – Late August 2021
- Water line installation timeline is to be determined.

Mt. Vernon Avenue (near Euclid Avenue): Curb and gutter was anticipated to be complete in November.

Euclid Avenue: traffic improvements are anticipated to be complete in mid-December.

Cleveland Avenue: road paving will take place after the winter months.

Kenilworth/Romney Project Construction updates

- Stormwater box culvert and headwall installation adjacent to the Little Sugar Creek Greenway is complete.
- Storm drainage system and sanitary sewer installation between Little Sugar Creek Greenway and Romany Road is complete. Work continues along Romany Road within Atrium Health Carolina Medical Center campus.
- Work will progress up Romany Road toward Kenilworth Avenue over the next few months. During this period, Romany Road between Kenilworth Avenue and Morehead Street will be closed to through traffic. The contractor will maintain access to Atrium Health’s facilities and the neighborhood, with signs assisting motorists.

New Development “Centre South” to Break Ground in 2021

Centre South is the new name for the 16.2-acre planned development formerly known as Strawn Cottages. It will be comprised of 750 residential units, 330,000 sf of commercial office space, community-oriented retail, public amenities and open space. Phase I, which will include housing and an approximately 310,000 square-foot office building, will break ground in 2021. The rezoning petition for this project (2010-022) was approved by city council in 2010.

Centre South will feature 145 affordable residential units

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Above: Office building views from South Boulevard.

available to households earning 60 percent and 80 percent of the area median income (\$45,120 to \$60,150 for a family of three, as of April 2020). The affordable units, identical in quality and evenly dispersed throughout the project, will serve the community in perpetuity as deed restricted housing.

The design work for the office building shown is progressing and permitting is expected to occur in June of 2021 for a construction start of December 2021. The two-year construction phase concludes in December of 2023. The team has begun design work for the first residential building which will be located at the intersection of Templeton and Caldwell. Permitting for the residential building is expected to occur in the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2021 with construction commencing in the 4th quarter of 2021. According to the current schedule, these units are projected to be ready for lease in March of 2023.

Please contact landuse@dilworthonline.org with question or concerns about any of the above information. ■



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Atrium Health Brings New Care Options to South End

By Atrium

Coffee. Groceries. Visits to the doctor. Dilworth offers walkability to pretty much everything – including new options for medical care.

Atrium Health has opened two new facilities in our neighborhood: an urgent care and an OB/GYN office. Both are near the intersection of South Boulevard and Tremont Avenue. This puts medical care around the corner, giving us easier access to the best-ranked health system in the area.

Atrium Health **Urgent Care - South End** opened this summer, and Atrium Health **Charlotte OB/GYN - South End** opened this fall. Both facilities are part of an expansion by Atrium Health into the South End/Dilworth area to meet patient demand.

“These locations fill a need for people who live in Dilworth. This allows existing Atrium Health patients to receive care even closer to home – and hopefully, for new patients to join us,” says Michael Staples, assistant vice president of urgent care practice operations at Atrium Health. “Whether you come to our office to receive preventive care, to manage chronic conditions, or to visit our urgent care facility, you’ll find that Atrium Health is close to home.”

How They’re Keeping You COVID-Safe

With pandemic concerns and the extra time at home, there’s peace of mind knowing medical care is this close. Even so, people across the country are delaying doctor’s visits out of fear they may be exposed to COVID-19. Rest assured: Like all Atrium Health facilities, our neighborhood’s new Charlotte OB/GYN office and Atrium Health Urgent Care offer something called COVID-Safe care.

This means locations undergo extensive cleaning, patients receive appropriate PPE for their visit (such as masks), and COVID-positive patients receive care in separate areas. “We follow strict measures to create a COVID-Safe environment that makes our patients feel comfortable and protected. We want to provide our patients with the best care, and we want to make it convenient and safe, too,” says Staples.

The health system stresses that it’s not only safe to receive medical care during this time, but it’s important to do so. That includes keeping up with the care you need from your primary care doctor or specialist, which could help prevent a medical emergency in the future.

“We understand everyone is juggling many roles right now, all amid the pandemic. But maintaining good health can’t wait,” says Allison Bell, MD, a doctor at Charlotte OB/GYN - South End. “If

you’ve been hesitant to schedule an annual exam or to come in for a visit, this is the time to do so. Keeping up with your care is essential to your long-term health.”

Home Is Where The Health Is

Though the OB/GYN office and urgent care are new to Dilworth, this level of care and convenience is not. Dilworth has close access to medical offices that offer everything from annual physicals to complex heart surgeries. And we’re surrounded by exceptional care from Atrium Health, the region’s only health system to be nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report. Just a few miles away, Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center and Atrium Health Levine Children’s Hospital are both recognized as best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report – which also names Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute one of the nation’s best for cancer care.

With so many Atrium Health facilities close by, world-class care is just down the road. Better yet: It’s blocks away.

Atrium Health Charlotte OB/GYN - South End is located at 1901 South Boulevard. To make an appointment, call 704-468-8884.

Atrium Health Urgent Care - South End is located at 2041 South Boulevard, Suite 100. Go online to reserve your spot or call 704-304-0140. ■



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Our Kids

Sedgefield Middle School: An Update from Principle Miracle

Motivated. Innovative. Flexible. Relentless. Sedgefield Middle School students, staff, and families have entered a unique school year demonstrating these characteristics. Sedgefield Middle School reopened on August 17th in a fully remote setting. Throughout the summer the Sedgefield leadership team worked to ensure that regardless of the entry plan, face-to-face or remote, our focus would be relationships, social-emotional well-being, and academic support to maximize each student's achievement.

As we have concluded our first quarter, these components have remained the center of our work and our students are experiencing success in the remote environment. We are thrilled and feel certain this success will continue with the return to campus, where we will continue to expand their academic, social-emotional, and holistic growth.

Instruction and classes have looked very different than in previous years. As a school we have implemented co-taught



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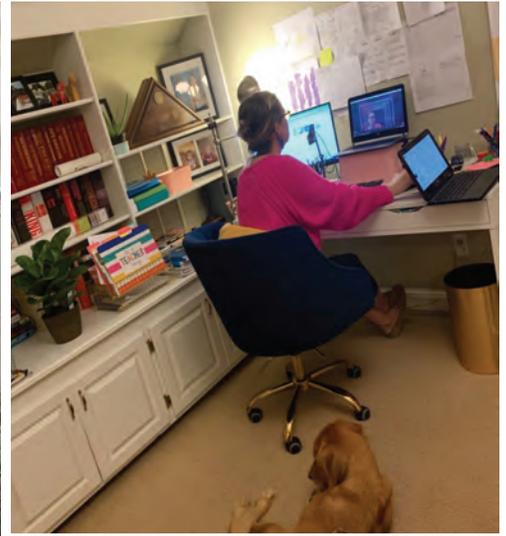
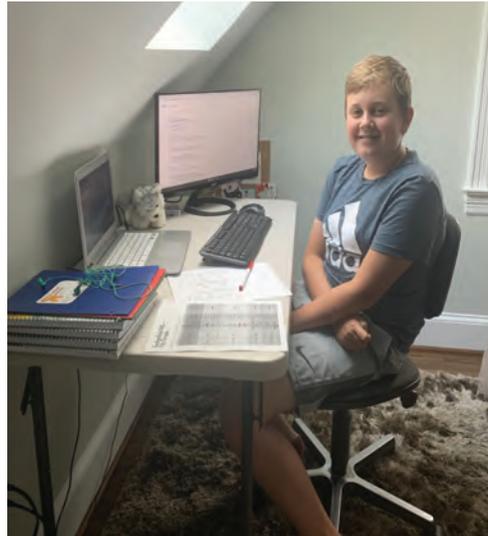
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Above: Spartans doing remote learning.

classes (classes taught by a minimum of two licensed teachers) since August. This allows students to build relationships with two staff members during their daily synchronous and asynchronous learning. Students are also able to collaborate with more of their peers during remote instruction, which is critical for the social and emotional wellness of middle school students. By implementing this model, we have supported teachers with professional growth and learning, as well as supported students with learning and mastery of new material. This model also allows teachers to support students individually or in small groups during office hours and small group instruction held in the afternoon. As we move into Plan B (Plan B is a hybrid where students will attend in a combined face-to-face and remote learning model) students and teachers will be able to maintain these relationships and receive direct instruction, whether they are in remote learning or in the building learning face-to-face. When in the building, students will be in groups with an average group size of 7! Students at home will continue to receive direct, live instruction from a teacher with whom they are already familiar. This unique model has allowed us to support both our students' and teachers' social-emotional needs as well as meet their academic needs. As a result of the success of our school, Sedgefield has been able to maintain 93% of our original enrollment from July and are continuing to add new students weekly.

Being proud to be part of the Spartan Family runs deep in the Sedgefield Community and is felt daily by our Sedgefield staff and families. Our community partners, faith-based partners, and PTO have advocated and supported the school throughout the summer and beginning of the school year. Community partners have provided school-supplies, teacher resources, technology supports, and positive energy to encourage students, families, and staff to overcome challenges associated with this academic year. PTO has graciously supported the school in obtaining additional safety



supplies to ensure that the safety of students and staff is the top-priority as we return to campus in upcoming weeks. PTO has also concluded the Empowering Extraordinary capital campaign. Through family, community and corporate donations we exceed our goal by over \$25,000 to raise over \$100,000 for Sedgefield Middle School. The funds will be utilized to support athletics, creative arts, teacher development/training, unique student needs, additional technology supports, and campus beautification. Sedgefield Middle School is well on its way to becoming a premier middle school and we could not do it without the generosity and support of our community.

As an integral part of the community, we look forward to the return of our students on campus and have focused on protocols and procedures to ensure safety remains a top priority. The Sedgefield leadership team has designed an entry plan that is supportive and approved by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Students will experience limited capacity in classrooms, organized transitions, frequent hand sanitizing, and socially distanced activities throughout the day. In compliance with CMS expectations, visitors will not be permitted at the time of return in November. Campus activities and athletics are also not permitted. As we know there is a high desire to engage with the students and staff as we have historically but we must ensure safety remains at the core. At Sedgefield we do not see it as a limitation but an opportunity to be innovative and provide engagement opportunities virtually! Follow our social media accounts to look for such events or announcements about future opportunities. If decisions are made in the future to begin to allow visitors and access to campus, we will update stakeholders through social media. While it will be different in a classroom, our goal is to maintain the focus on targets set forth at the beginning of the year, and leverage the face-to-face time to differentiate

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instruction to maximize student growth.

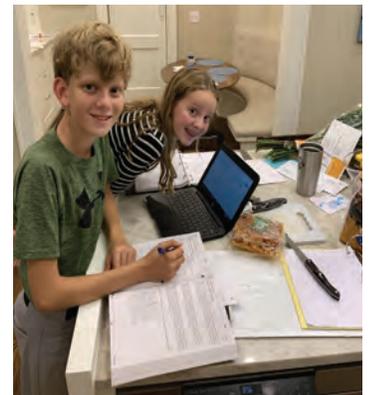
At the beginning of our school year, we identified the idea of #SpartanStrong for having strength in mind, heart, and service will help us overcome these challenging circumstances. Our success in these unusual times is a result of the Sedgiefel Community at-large. For this, as the leader of Sedgiefel Middle School, we are beyond grateful. #SpartanStrong

Sedgiefel Middle School PTO would like to thank our 2020-21 Empowering Extraordinary Corporate Sponsors

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In February of 2020, Sheena Miracle was named principal at Sedgiefel Middle School. Prior to joining SMS, she had served since 2018 as principal at Cabarrus Charter Academy in Concord. Miracle worked as as director of Advanced Studies for CMS from 2014 to 2018 and as a talent development teacher/Advanced Studies coordinator from 2012 to 2014. Miracle was a teacher at Bruns Academy from 2010 to 2012, Elizabeth Traditional Elementary from 2007 to 2010 and Trent Park Elementary in Craven County Schools from 2005 to 2007. She has degrees in elementary education and psychology from Queens University of Charlotte and a Master of Special Education: Academically Gifted and Talented from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. We're thrilled to have her leading our neighborhood middle school! ■



Above Far Left: Principal Miracle and Dr. T in the empowering ordinary challenge **Right:** Spartans doing remote learning.

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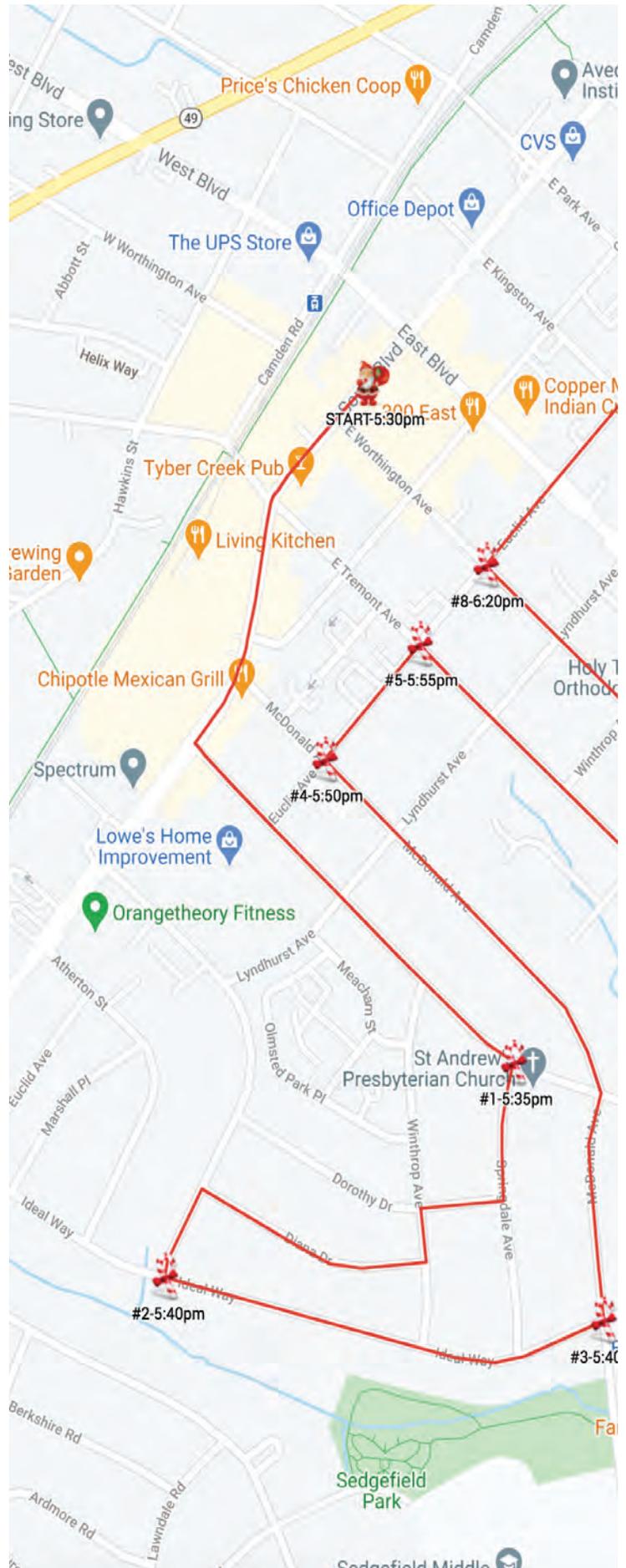
Santa's On His Way!

Ho Ho Ho! That's a familiar sound on Christmas Eve in Dilworth when Santa takes his much anticipated ride atop Ladder 2's fire engine. Dilworth Fire Department's Santa shift is a special group of firefighters. Capt. Bradey has been at the helm for over a decade, but the tradition started well before his time at Company 2. 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. Hats off to Captain Chris Bradey and the dedicated members of Ladder 2's Santa shift for their service and enthusiastic community engagement!

Gentle reminder dear neighbors, Santa's route lists projected times of arrivals. Please understand that Santa's arrival might not be on time due to requests for pictures and such. More importantly - 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. If you plan to wait for Santa with your neighbors, please be mindful of social distancing.

At Right: The map is slightly misaligned to allow greater visibility of the route.



Dilworth Express

The *Dilworth Express* goes out weekly to residents and Dilworth businesses who have signed up to receive it. The challenge today is that email filters can channel this type of communique to your SPAM folder.

So for those of you that aren't seeing the *Dilworth Express*, check your Spam folder as you may be actually be receiving it! If it's still not there and you'd like to get this weekly summary of what's going on in Dilworth, send an email requesting the *Dilworth Express* to: express@dilworthonline.org.

NOTE: We have changed the address used to send the *Dilworth Express* from mathesond2002@yahoo.com to express@dilworthonline.org. So regular readers may also need to look in their Spam folder and "ok" the new email address. ■



Neighbors
to
Know

Making A Difference

Mr. Whiteside's Big Bash

By Stuart Watson

Rachel was as nervous as one of her kitty cats. "He's here all the time," she said again and again, punctuating each word desperately. "ALL. THE. TIME." She wanted my help in getting her husband out of the house. After almost a quarter century of service teaching in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, Eric Whiteside was retiring. Rachel was planning the surprise party of a lifetime in a time of quarantine. She needed three more hours. I bought her two. She took what she could get.

I sent Eric Whiteside my 45,000 word manuscript for a forthcoming memoir. That'll occupy him, I thought. Wrong. It

took him only a few hours to devour it, and far less time to sum up his scribble (He liked it - but with a number of reservations). We met up in Latta Park, a couple of masked desperados at opposite ends of a picnic table. He wouldn't accept lunch. He wouldn't get take out ice cream from Jeni's Splendid. He wouldn't drink coffee outside Sunflow . He doesn't do strip bars. (Besides, Leather & Lace on South Blvd. is closed. RIP) This man is impossible. I dragged it out as long as I could. Rachel made the most of her alone time.

When he logged onto the Zoom party for the big "SURPRISE!" echoing across time zones and around the planet, he was amazed first at the sheer numbers of former students and colleagues, then he began paging through one-two-three-almost four pages of 25 smiling faces each. As he saw students from a quarter century ago and students from this year, the shock gave way to tears.

People love E. They admire the E man. They ADORE this man. It is impossible for me to overstate this. Former students now in New York, Chicago, California, Australia, China, all could not wait to gush over this man, to crack inside jokes, to relive fond memories. Pretty soon, he wasn't the only one welling up with tears. No one apologized. No one felt like a stranger. Generations of students and faculty were united around one man.

Minutes before the call, the news broke: RBG had just died. People were in shock. We agreed to focus on E, to celebrate his (first) career.

Poems were read. Poetry was recited. Poetry was created.

Whiteside's niece and former student Becca O'Neill acted as MC. She was gracious and generous. She gave everyone a chance to speak. The whole shindig lasted three and a half hours including a one HOUR video tribute assembled by former Dilworth resident Lyndsay Burch, knitting together tributes from all corners of the globe. A webcam party for once gave a forum for Big E fans who never would have made it for a face to face party: new parents holding up little babies and Phd's doing research and plain old workaday schleppers rounding out the end of a workweek.

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Just like old times: Mr. Whiteside waves gesticulates wildly for his retirement party participants

Whiteside taught Theory of Knowledge to International Baccalaureate students at Myers Park High. He taught English at Hough. He taught both my older girls (ahem, women) at Northwest School of the Arts. He introduced my daughter Erin to David Foster Wallace. Before I knew it she was unwittingly doing biceps curls toting a fifty pound copy of Infinite Jest from home to school and back again. She became an English major. She invited Rachel and E to her wedding in Chicago. They came. He's that teacher. And not just to her. Whiteside inspired students to go into teaching. He inspired others to go into academia or the creative arts. His legacy just ripples out on and on. I kid you not. It'll last generations.

I'm told that before the end of the party (I had to get to bed y'all) there was a special guest appearance by one Jeff Joyce (who left CMS to work as a principal of an English speaking school in Beijing). Joyce is a former Whiteside colleague and devotee who once invited me to speak to his class at NWSA because he wanted them to hear from a misguided liberal. I spent the whole class asking them what they thought the word "liberal" meant. We broke it down. We looked at origin. Derivation. We used it correctly in a sentence. Joyce and Whiteside got in a shouting match in the back corner of the classroom, desks pulled face to face. The students told them to shush. Keep it down. The men are still friends. They respect each other. And I have the utmost respect for them - and for what they have done for a whole generation of students.

I let the students talk at the Big E Bash on Zoom that night. But if I had been able to speak without losing it, here's what I'd say: Once in a lifetime you may be lucky enough to have a teacher like Whiteside, more holy man than civil servant. The only privilege greater than being instructed by this savant is to be able to huddle around a screen on a Friday evening somewhere in the world and tell him how much you love him.



Stuart Watson is the author of *WHAT SHE SAID & WHAT I HEARD*, a brand new memoir available now. He also created the podcast *ManListening*. He does not live in Dilworth but he occasionally loiters there in the park. ■



Big changes on the way for Fran's Filling Station

By Laurel Nakkas

Fran Scibelli, owner of Dilworth favorite Fran's Filling Station off of Park Road, is not one to shy away from adventure. In 1994, after years of happily working as a criminal defense attorney in Washington, D.C., she packed her bags, moved to Charlotte and dove headfirst into the restaurant business, with only a couple of summers of waiting tables under her belt. Her passion and willingness to adapt to change has gotten her far, with three separate restaurants over the years, including 11 years of success and counting for her eclectic American eatery Fran's Filling Station.

That's why it comes as no surprise that she's once again jumping into something entirely new: a complete rebranding of Fran's Filling Station as well as a brand-new doughnut business.

Though she says she's thought about doing doughnuts for quite some time, Scibelli realized now is the best time to make it a reality after she re-partnered with her old baker of many years, someone she knows and trusts to carry out her vision.

"I'm going to say [the doughnuts] are not like anything Charlotte has seen," said Scibelli. "I think there are some good doughnuts here, but I just want to do it the way that I think is the best way."

Scibelli's vision is a doughnut window attached to her existing restaurant, but set up as an entirely separate business, with a different name and earlier hours. As for the doughnuts, she plans to make both filled and cake doughnuts, in a multitude of flavors, appealing to traditional and experimental eaters, kids and adults, alike. Flavors she's tested include: strawberry



Left: Bavarian Cream Berry Compote Right: Chocolate Malted Coffee

milkshake; red velvet; chocolate malted coffee and caramel; carrot cake; cinnamon bun; peanut butter and jam; and, for the more adventurous eaters, beet and goat cheese, made with beet powder.

“They’re certainly going to be kid-friendly, but I want to do things that just, you eat it, and you feel like you got a mini vacation,” said Scibelli.

Plans are already in Scibelli’s mind for the long term, with hopes to someday cater her doughnuts at weddings, and possibly even open a standalone doughnut shop in SouthPark.

“I just want to go in whatever direction it takes me,” Scibelli said.

As if that wasn’t enough, her other undertaking is the total remodel of her restaurant, including a new name. Though nothing structural is changing, the restaurant will receive fresh, livelier paint in orange and blue tones, new tabletops, new lighting and new booths in the back. In addition, she also plans to replace and paint the bar, add a granite or concrete top and install a more noticeable bar back, showcasing the liquor bottles in a ladder design.

Scibelli wants to get back to the restaurant’s roots, with the ultimate goal of creating a space with a neighborhood feel that’s casual and fun.

“When I first opened, it was way more casual. In fact, I had sort of envisioned it as a Texas Roadhouse. And, unfortunately, I shouldn’t have bended, but I had a lot of my old customers say, ‘Oh Fran, it doesn’t feel like you.’ Around five years [ago], it gets a

little beaten up. I remodeled and got a little fancier,” said Scibelli. With this current remodel, she says she plans to do away with the white tablecloths and make it an environment appealing to all ages, including kids.

“It’s not that kind of environment where people should worry if their kids cry or make a scene. It’s not like that. And it certainly won’t be like that going forward. We get it,” Scibelli said.

The area’s continued growth of new, trendier businesses is further proof that the restaurant refresh comes at the right time. With Taco Mama, which opened a little over a year ago, and PlantBar, which opened in October, as well as Inizio Pizza and Not Just Coffee down the road, Scibelli says the area is much livelier than when she opened.

“I think [the remodel] will be a great fit with the center going forward,” she said. “I just think it’s almost a better fit than this place for what’s happening.”

And as for the food, the specialties everyone knows and loves, such as the meatballs and the burgers, aren’t going anywhere. There are plans, however, to take some of the more formal dishes off the menu, to expand salad and chicken sandwich offerings and to start making all buns in-house.

“I hope that people who didn’t know what Fran’s Filling Station was or had been here and it wasn’t their cup of tea, I really hope they come and try it,” said Scibelli. “Just come and have fun, and be open-minded.” ■



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Did You Know?

Dilworth and Latta Park get their names from Edward Dilworth Latta.

Edward Dilworth Latta was born in 1851 near Pendleton, SC. He attended Pennington Seminary in New Jersey after the Civil War and graduated as a valedictorian in 1867. After a year at Princeton University, he entered the clothing business in New York.

Latta came to Charlotte in 1876 and established a men's clothing store, E.D. Latta and Brothers. In 1883 he founded the Charlotte Trouser Company. In 1890 he formed the 4Cs, the Charlotte Consolidated Construction Company, with a group of associates and began the activities that would help propel Charlotte from 11,500 people to more than 46,000 over the next 30 years.

Among his achievements: electrification and extension of the streetcar line (later sold to James B. Duke's Southern Power Company); development of Dilworth and Latta Park (with the park deeded to the city in 1920); and construction of Latta Arcade on South Tryon Street in 1915.

In 1877, he married Harriet Nisbet in Macon, GA, and they had three children: Marion Nisbet Latta, Edward Dilworth Latta, Jr., and Janet Acton Latta. Harriet Latta died in October, 1910. Reported the Charlotte Observer: "On the stroke of 11 o'clock, the hour of the funeral, every car on the system of the Charlotte Electric Railway Company, of which Mr. Latta is

president, stopped wherever it chanced to be and remained motionless for three minutes, as a silent tribute to the one departed."

In 1918, Latta was married again, to Jessica Lea of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

He left Charlotte in 1923 after a dispute over a real estate investment. He had agreed to buy \$50,000 of stock in the Charlotte Hotel Company. But when the directors chose to build on West Trade Street rather than on his South Tryon Street property, he withdrew his offer. The company sued, and in March 1923, Latta lost in court.

Two months later, he sold his grand mansion, a Neoclassical Revival-style house at 600 East Boulevard (pictured below, around 1924. The house was torn down in 1967). Leaving Charlotte, he transferred his attention to Asheville and it was there that he died on July 14, 1925. He is buried with his wife and three children in Charlotte's Elmwood Cemetery. Their mausoleum sits on a rise (pictured here, with the city skyline as a backdrop.)

Excerpted from "*Dilworth: The First 100 Years*" by Tom Bradbury. ■



Above Left: The Latta-Jones mansion, East Blvd, about 1924. **Right:** Charlotte's 1992 skyline rises above the Latta family tomb.



Historic District Commission

HDC Update: End of the Year

By Cindy Kochanek

While COVID-19 has meant some changes in the way that the City of Charlotte HDC and staff have been operating over the past several months that has by no means meant a slowdown. The HDC and staff have remained hard at work in order to maintain application reviews, complete final inspections, site visits, and hold pre-application meetings. While there is still a delay on larger, full commission review projects, staff has worked diligently to make sure that all cases are heard. Staff reviews have remained on pace with pre-COVID review timelines. In 2019, the 365 total applications that the HDC reviewed represented a 23% increase from the year prior. For 2020 it appears that the HDC will either meet or exceed that total number of applications. So far this year, the HDC and staff have approved over 300 applications, much of that processed after the transition to work/stay at home.

Outreach and Education has also continued during COVID-19. The HDC staff has continued to post to Facebook and Instagram, including details on architectural styles, tips for disaster recovery, and things to do while staying at or near home. HDC staff has also continued writing articles for neighborhood newsletters, including the Dilworth Quarterly. The HDC and staff have also been involved in a few events hosted by the Charlotte Museum of History, including most recently the virtual Preservation Seminar Series about state and local preservation in North Carolina that covered topics on how to identify community character, what local governments can and cannot do to protect historic properties, the Historic Landmarks Commission’s revolving fund, preservation easements, and tax incentives.

The HDC and staff were also involved in the Charlotte Museum of History’s annual Charlotte Preservation Awards held in August 2020. The ceremony went virtual this year. Two winners of 2020 Preservation Awards were from within the Charlotte Local Historic district boundaries. Those include the winner for the Neighborhood Infill- residential category at 208 Grandin Road in the Wesley Heights local historic district and the winner for the Preservation-Residential category at 429 W Park Avenue in the

Wilmore local historic district. Nominations for next year will be here before we know it! Start thinking about projects that deserve recognition in Dilworth and stay tuned to the Charlotte Museum of History and Charlotte Planning, Design & Development Department’s social media pages for announcements about open nominations, typically held in the spring of each year.

The HDC and staff are looking ahead with plans to complete this year with virtual meetings for the remaining scheduled HDC meetings and any HDC retreats, upcoming social media posts, and work on revising and updating the HDC Design Guidelines. We are committed to maintaining our customer service levels while keeping up with an increased number of applications. We look forward to the new year with the hope that we may be able to transition back to in-person meetings sometime in 2021.

Feel free to contact HDC staff if you have any questions on specifics relating to these topics 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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- Contribute using PayPal or a credit card via the DCA website dilworthonline.org
- Use Venmo by scanning the QR code to the right



By Liz Lewis

The Dilworth Community Association, with its Tree Canopy Committee, is just about to wrap up its *Share the Shade* tree planting fundraiser with a goal of raising \$20,000 in 2020. If you have already contributed, thank you!! and if you haven't had a chance yet, you still can. Every donation counts - the deadline is December 15th.

Why are we doing this fundraiser? We've lost a lot of trees this year, and stand to lose even more - from storms to street trees

marked for removal to development and just plain old age. With your help, we can be proactive and work to replace fallen trees and improve the health and beauty of our neighborhood. It also gives us an opportunity to help others.

The *Share the Shade* proceeds from the fundraiser will be split 80 percent toward planting street trees in Dilworth and 20 percent will support equity through sponsorship of a TreesCharlotte tree planting event with neighbors living in a nearby community with fewer funding resources.

Background

Street trees are the public trees typically found between the street and the sidewalk which are managed by the City of Charlotte. City Arborists are charged with trimming the trees, removing diseased/damaged trees, and for selecting and planting new trees. The City is also responsible for funding all of these projects. However, with tight budgets and stretched resources, funding falls short of replacing all lost trees.

Last year, DCA's Tree Canopy Committee raised funds to supplement the City's street tree plantings in Dilworth, and had a successful first year campaign. Thanks to the generosity of neighbors, the December 2019 fundraiser for planting more trees in Dilworth got us off to a good start. With all of the contributions we received we were able to plant 23 good sized street trees throughout Dilworth. On top of that, the City of Charlotte planted 65 street trees in the neighborhood, which combined to add a total of 88 new trees to our canopy last year.

But with all the success we had last year, we're working from a deficit position and have more planting spots than current funding can fill

This Year's Fundraising Effort

This year we are looking to build on last year's success and broaden our efforts with the second annual fundraiser, Share the Shade. Our mission is to raise \$20,000 for 2020 in order to plant more street trees in Dilworth and to support equity by adding trees to a nearby neighborhood with fewer funding resources.

Dilworth Trees: This year the City is expecting to plant only 40

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street trees in Dilworth. Given the years of canopy loss, this is not enough. A UNCC Urban Institute Study showed that Dilworth lost 12% of its total tree canopy over a recent 6 year period. If we meet our goal, we would be able to plant an additional 27 street trees this winter, increasing the street trees planted in Dilworth by 67% for this next planting season.

Support Equity: 20 percent of the funds raised will support equity by helping sponsor a TreesCharlotte Neighborwoods program of planting trees in a less economically advantaged Charlotte neighborhood.

Every tree planted “leaves” a positive legacy for future generations.

For more information and FAQs on the fundraiser, visit DCA’s website dilworthonline.org. ■



Thank you to the Dilworth community!

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

I’ve been helping buyers and sellers in Dilworth for over 11 years, and I understand that every home is unique.

If you’re wondering if now is a good time to buy or sell, have questions about today’s real estate market, or simply want to chat, give me a call today. I’m here for you!

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A matter of Safety

Avoid Coronavirus Scams

By Officer J.R. Gilliland



Officer J.R. Gilliland,
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Greetings Dilworth, It's been an interesting year to say the least! We've seen a decrease in our normal property crime numbers, such as burglary and larceny from autos. One of the benefits from everyone being at home I guess. We've seen a slight increase in package thefts, a product of weeks of quarantine. Remember to collect those deliveries as soon as possible or have a neighbor

collect them for you. The holiday season will be upon us soon, be extra vigilant when out and about. The criminal element can be very brazen now that they can legally conceal their identity with a mask. Be aware of your surroundings. And lastly, watch out for online scams, criminals will be looking to take advantage of your good nature. The Federal Trade Commission suggests the following:

Avoid Coronavirus Scams

- **Learn how to tell the difference between a real contact tracer and a scammer.** Legitimate tracers need health information, not money or personal financial information.
- **Don't respond to texts, emails or calls about stimulus checks from the government.** Only use irs.gov/coronavirus to submit information to the IRS.
- **Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits.** Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.
- **Be wary of ads for test kits.** Most test kits being advertised have **not** been approved by the FDA, and aren't necessarily accurate.

■ **Hang up on robocalls.** Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from low-priced health insurance to work-at-home schemes.

■ **Watch for emails claiming to be from the CDC or WHO.** Use sites like usa.gov/coronavirus to get the latest information. And don't click on links from sources you don't know.

■ **Do your homework when it comes to donations.** Never donate in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money.

Source - ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams-consumer-advice
Stay Safe, Jim ■



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Merchant *News*

By Mary Beth Sensabaugh

Arivella

The Hill family, who moved to Charlotte from Colorado 4 years ago, started their business online but stumbled across the old Handpicked space on Kenilworth Ave. and fell in love. COVID delayed the opening process but they finally celebrated their grand opening in November. Arivella is a whole family project – with Natalie’s initial vision for a women’s clothing boutique and Greg’s help in sorting out the logistics of starting a business to daughters Kenzie’s fashion sense and Jill’s marketing and management of the store. Arivella offers a unique mix of statement pieces and wardrobe staples that any woman can wear and feel beautiful in. They showcase their Colorado roots with some boho inspired pieces, but also stay on track with current fashion trends. They have a few accessories like necklaces and hats but the focus is on clothing with everything from leather skirts and chunky sweaters to crop tops and denim, all at an affordable price point. Open Mondays and Wednesday through Friday 11-7, Saturday 11-6 and Sunday noon-5. Closed on Tuesdays.



ISI Elite Training

ISI Elite Training is a 50 minute function training workout designed for all fitness levels. Each session is led by a certified coach and is designed to burn fat, build muscle and increase strength. ISI prides themselves in building a community who believes that Iron Sharpens Iron and through accountability will support you in getting the results you deserve!

ISI is expecting a late fall opening in their facility located in Park Square Shopping Center. They are celebrating by offering FREE outdoor workouts 4x per week and offering lifetime founding member discounts! You can reach them at 704-274-2383.



Lucky Fish Seafood and Meat Market

Lucky Fish has served several of Charlotte’s Saturday Farmers Markets for the past 10 years and has now opened a Tuesday through Sunday storefront at 1427 South Blvd. They source the freshest local seafood available. Lucky Fish offers

fine dining, restaurant quality products from the Carolinas, Virginia, Florida, and other regional coastlines, as well as direct import opportunities for Alaskan, Hawaiian, and European specialties. They also offer a line of specialty meats. After 15 years experience with these sources, Lucky Fish is confident in their product to be the most valuable seafood option in the local market. Please stop by and visit them or check out www.luckyfishnc.com



Sara Saxton, Yoga Instructor

Need to limber up mentally or physically? Yoga is a great way to do both! Sarah Saxon is a yoga teacher who lives right here in Dilworth. If you’re new to yoga and don’t know where to start, or if you aren’t quite ready to head back into a studio, private lessons are a great, safe option. To Sarah, yoga is about practicing mindful movement and breathing on the mat, to help navigate life off the mat with greater ease. Sarah earned her 200-hour yoga teacher training certification at Charlotte Yoga, the Queen City’s original power yoga studio. Sarah offers 1x1 lessons and is available to teach small classes, flexible locations. To connect with Sarah, email her at sarahcsaxon@gmail.com.



West Kept Secret

West Kept Secret, a female-founded, female-owned high-intensity interval-based workout that fuses together cardio, strength training, and Pilates, recently opened its first 2,200 square foot brick and mortar studio at the Berkshire Dilworth luxury apartments across from Little Sugar Creek Greenway. West Kept Secret’s “machine method” is a trademarked workout unlike anything else offered in Charlotte or across the country. The method - which counts Miss Universe Olivia Culpo as a devotee - includes a treadmill, Pilates reformer, Pilates springboard, TRX straps, barre and a boxing bag and can be modified for any age and fitness level. West Kept Secret was named “Best Cardio Class” by Charlotte Magazine in the 2020 Best of the Best (BOB) awards. And co-owners Marissa West, a former Carolina Panthers Topcat, and Heidi Hillman were finalists for Charlotte Agenda’s 2019 Small Businessperson of the Year. ■



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 Contact Fran Miller at 704.488.0288



704 Templeton Avenue
 \$774,500 | 4 Bed - 2 Bathrooms | 2,114 sqft
 Contact Wayne Honeycutt at 704.576.2476



824 Brookside Avenue
 \$674,900 | 3 Bed - 2 Bathrooms | 1,859 sqft
 Contact Michael Nester at 704.408.3468

dickensmitchener.com | Phone: 704.342.1000



Godman, Founder and Executive Director of Feeding Charlotte. Feeding Charlotte connects local organizations with excess food to nonprofits that serve Charlotte’s food insecure and homeless populations. During the pandemic, many of Feeding Charlotte’s food donors, like restaurants and catering businesses, closed their doors. With CMS meal boxes available, and Moody’s willingness to coordinate, Feeding Charlotte had a new avenue to provide meals to the community.

By mid-November, Godman’s team at Feeding Charlotte, had provided more than 6,000 meals through the CMS program. Beneficiaries included individuals and families as well as Learning Help Centers of Charlotte, Aldersgate, Families Forward Charlotte, Battered Women’s Shelter, What’s Next Ministry, OurBridge Kids, and Faith Liberation Church. Godman described her team’s work with Moody on the CMS meal bundle project as “a beautiful partnership and a reminder of true community.”

Like Moody, others in the community stepped up to connect food supply to those in need. One group of families from Dilworth Elementary School coordinated meal order, bus-stop gathering, and donations of boxes as well. Over a five-week period, that group delivered 800 meals to The Relatives Youth Crisis Center on East Boulevard and The Relatives On Ramp Resource Center in Uptown. Another group delivered boxes to Faith Hope and Love



Moody’s car, filled with 40 boxes from Dilworth families to those in need. Moody offered to pick up and deliver food on behalf of the families who wanted to donate their bundles.

Afterschool mentoring program, which operates out of Grace Covenant Church at the corner of South and East Boulevards.

Should you see Moody working at OrthoCarolina, around the neighborhood with her husband, Clif, volunteering at Sedgfield

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Telitha Johnson, cafeteria director at Sedgefield Middle School, has been a huge resource for Moody, always ready with a smile and her readiness to load up Moody's car with meals each week. Johnson also sends dozens of bags of food pantry donations for delivery to families in the area.

Middle School where her sons, Beckett and Brooks are 7th graders or at Myers Park High School where her daughter, Tate, is a freshman, be sure to thank her. Thank her for keeping families fed. Thank her for keeping cafeteria and transportation employees on payroll. Thank her for spotting a problem and pouring herself into a solution for our city.

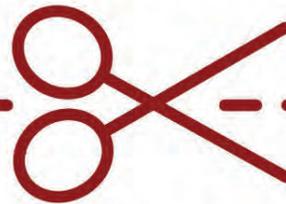
And if you're one of the many other people who helped feed our community through this effort or one of your own, thank YOU.

Need meals or want to help? As of November, free meal boxes are available for pick-up on Wednesdays from 10AM-1PM at several locations throughout Charlotte, including Sedgefield Middle School. Check the CMS website to view a list of pick-up locations. No pre-order is required. Call Nutrition services at 980-343-6041 with any questions. If you don't need the meals, but want to help, sign up to pick up a meal box each week and bring it to a local nonprofit. Just call ahead to make sure they can take the fresh food. To learn more about Feeding Charlotte, visit feedingcharlotte.org. ■

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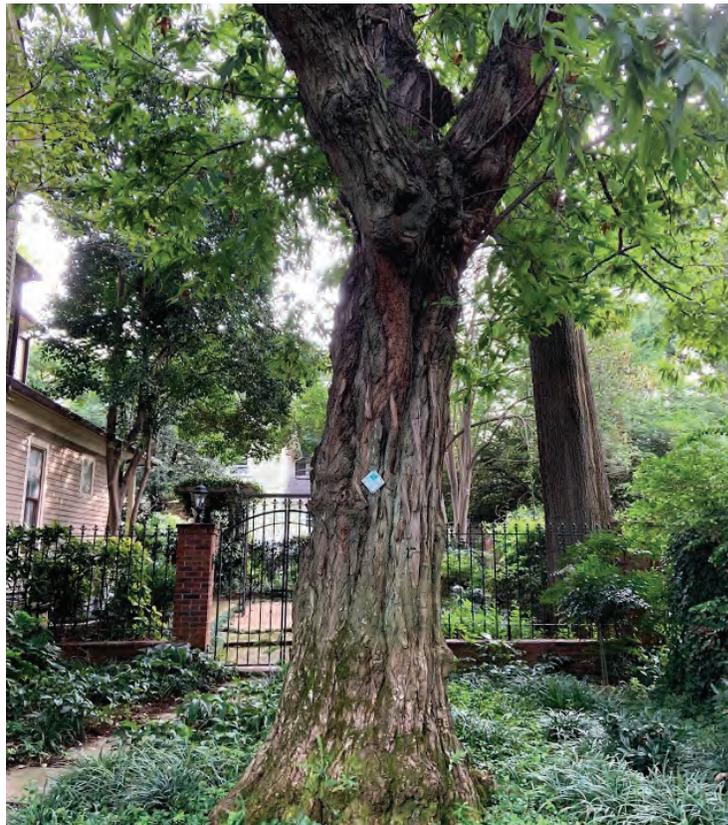


Treasure Trees - Our Living History

By Brett Dupree

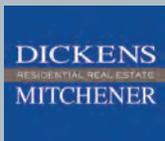
In the late 1980's, the Treasure Tree Program was created by Tom Martin and Joe McLaurin to identify and document trees in Mecklenburg County that were of ecological or historical significance. They took nominations from people around the Charlotte area and identified many trees they already knew about for consideration in the program. From 1989 through 2000, the program recognized up to three trees of the same species as Treasure Trees if they were the largest of their species in the county or if they were within 80 percent points total of the state champion.

They formed a committee of local professionals, naturalists, and enthusiasts to run and maintain the program. New tree nominations were reviewed every year, including measurement and photographs documenting potential Treasure Trees. Once a year, they would announce newly recognized trees. There were annual banquets to formally announce the new trees and recognize tree owners. Each owner was presented with a certificate and a stamped metal tag indicating the numeric place their tree held on the list. You can still find many of the original green and white metal diamond tags on trees around Charlotte,



Added in 1995, Treasure Tree #028. A European Sweet Chestnut on East Park Ave.

continued on page 35



Happy Holidays

Sarah Curme and Amanda Blackburn are your trusted Dilworth experts. Both are proud Dilworth residents and REALTOR®/Brokers selling and renovating homes in the neighborhood, and will be there for you every step of the way throughout your next real estate transaction.

Let Amanda and Sarah wrap-up your home buying or selling needs this year. Contact them today for help with all your real estate needs!

Amanda Blackburn
REALTOR®/Broker
704.516.9309

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some hanging in place for almost 30 years.

The original Treasure Tree Program eventually recognized 123 trees. Even with all the grand trees around Dilworth, only four trees were recognized by the committee in Dilworth proper. Since the program faded away in the early 2000's, several people in Charlotte have continued to work on keeping the original list alive. Patrick George of Heartwood Tree Services created the Queens Crown non-profit to continue celebrating the original trees.

In the last couple of years, the group led by Patrick George and his daughter Julia began expanding its reach into other organizations in Charlotte. Erin Oliverio became involved from the City of Charlotte's Tree Management team, and Jen Rothacker came on board from the Trees Charlotte non-profit organization. I found the group in the summer of 2019 just as I had started out my own quest to locate every one of the original 123 trees on the list.

Thanks to the new committee and a lot of help from Tom Martin, we have been able to bring the original program back to life. We have been able to verify all but about half a dozen of the original trees, living or dead. Trees Charlotte generously helped to stand up new web pages for all of the original trees, so we can now tell the story of this program and begin looking for new Treasure Trees. Most importantly, we want to draw attention to the important ecological significance all of the trees around Charlotte



Added in 1995, Treasure Tree #028. A European Sweet Chestnut on East Park Ave.

play in our environment.

Do you know a good Treasure Tree candidate? We encourage everyone to visit the new web pages. We will be accepting nominations for new Treasure Trees through a form on the website and should be announcing new recognitions by spring of 2021. You can also look at the self-guided tours, one of which loops around Latta Park with stops to see two of the original living Treasure Trees.

Visit the website: treescharlotte.org/treasuretrees. ■



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