



Dilworth Community Association
 PO Box 36023
 Charlotte, NC 28236-6023



Dilworth Quarterly

March 2024

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Fifth graders at the Whitewater Center on a team-building trip. Dilworth Elementary's Tip the Scales campaign provided the funding for this and for the science education they receive there as well.

Dilworth Elementary: one school, once again

*By Amy Brown
 2023-2024 Dilworth Elementary School PTA President*

Dilworth Elementary School is grateful to be a part of the Dilworth community. Many of us who call the Dilworth neighborhood home have had or will have children at Dilworth Elementary School.

Many of you have heard about the changes coming to Dilworth Elementary beginning this fall. We will be one campus, "again," this coming August at our Latta Campus location. This move will allow staff to support each other and our community to connect. For a school that is already doing tremendous things, this consolidation will only allow for increased collaboration.

Park Road Montessori will relocate to the current Dilworth Sedgefield Campus when our campuses combine. Additionally, beginning in the fall of 2024, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools will start construction of the new school building for Dilworth Elementary at its future site (current Park Road Montessori - 3701 Haven Drive, Charlotte, NC).

Once we have moved to our new home, the current Dilworth Elementary Latta Campus will transition into a magnet middle school. At this time, we do not have any additional details regarding the programming that will be offered at that site.

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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 msensabaugh15@gmail.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.



Celebrating milestones

Like many of the folks around us, my wife and I moved to Dilworth ... from Dilworth. It's a pretty familiar story of neighbors upsizing or downsizing and doing what they can to stay in the neighborhood. We stayed because we love the tree-lined streets and green space, the walkability, the access to restaurants and other parts of town, but most of all, the personal connections we've made with our neighbors.

The environment of our Dilworth neighborhood encourages you to meet your neighbors, go for a walk or a ride, and stop in somewhere local for a bite or a sip. As the Dilworth Community Association sets its goals for 2024, we look forward to celebrating a few milestone events to help create even more of those connections, provide volunteer opportunities, and work to improve and protect the environment that makes it all possible.

The 50th Dilworth Home Tour

The home tour committee is already hard at work preparing for the 50th anniversary of the event, whose proceeds help both the neighborhood and this year's Dilworth Cares recipient.

The Dilworth Home Tour started over 50 years ago with a mix of businesses and neighbors like Sandy Rogers and her artist husband, Frank, showing off bold mixes of old and new. The Rogers' 1974 den featured walls covered with purple felt and matching shag carpet as they balanced a historic renovation with raising two toddlers. While the styles may have changed, the neighborhood still relies on the wonderful volunteers and generous neighbors that make the event a success.

Dilworth Jubilee

This year's Jubilee marks the 133rd anniversary of Charlotte's first electric streetcar, which began operation on May 18, 1891. Two days later, Edward Dilworth Latta brought the streetcar down to Latta Park on Meck Dec Day for a celebration of the ages to mark the opening of Charlotte's first streetcar suburb. The Jubilee has been moved back to a Saturday this year, and while there will not be a balloon drop with a hidden deed to a lot in



Franklin Keathley
DCA President

Dilworth like in 1891, committee chair Chrishon McManus and team have a fantastic day planned (more details inside).

Tree Canopy Committee and Latta Park

Many thanks to Liz Lewis, chair of this year's Tree Canopy Committee. Her team again exceeded fundraising goals this fall with the help of so many of you throughout the neighborhood. Liz is also the point of contact for the neighborhood e-newsletter. Sign up with the QR code on the back of your Dilworth Quarterly and find out about volunteer opportunities in Latta park and throughout the neighborhood this spring and summer, as well as this fall's Share the Shade campaign.

Streetscapes and Pedestrian Safety

Cindy Zakary will be leading the Pedestrian Safety committee as we team up with Sustain Charlotte and CDOT for a walkability audit this spring. The committee secured a commitment to lower the speed limit to 25 mph on East Boulevard and continues to work with neighbors and the city to make our neighborhood a safer place to live.

Land Use

Charlotte Center City Partners reports that approximately 8,000 residential development units and over 4,000,000 square feet of retail and office space are planned, under construction, or recently completed in Dilworth and South End. Ellen Citarella chairs the DCA Land Use Committee. The committee will work with neighbors and the City of Charlotte this year in the community planning process. Find out more from committee member and former planning commissioner John Fryday inside.

A big welcome to new DCA Board member Jennifer Flynn — and thanks to the current Board, committee members, and community-at-large for all the hard work that goes into making Dilworth a great neighborhood. If you would like to get more involved, sign up for Dilworth Express (our e-newsletter), come to a community meeting, or reach out to me. ■

Franklin Keathley
president@dilworthonline.org

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<i>Term Expires 2025</i>		
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

Jody Jones • Sarah Kuljevan • Sarah Ritzer *Editors*
Mary Beth Sensabaugh *Advertising Sales*
TM Petaccia *Design*

Thanks to this issue's contributors:

Amanda Blackburn	Liz Lewis
Chrishon McManus	Luke Tillitski
Dina Khentigan	Nancy Nicholson
Franklin Keathley	Ruth Ann Grissom
Jennifer Baehr	Shauna Powell
John Fryday	Tom Bradbury

47th annual Dilworth Jubilee returns May 18

By *Chrishon McManus*

What started as a fun way to bring the Dilworth neighborhood together, way back in 1972, has turned into an annual gathering of food, fun, friends, and neighbors. Now here we are 52 years later about to celebrate our 47th annual gathering. The math may be off as we had to skip a few years, but we are on our way to celebrating the big 50!

The 2024 Dilworth Jubilee will take place on Saturday, May 18, from 12-5 pm. The Jubilee has brought together the Dilworth community and the City of Charlotte for a day of celebration, live music, and local vendors almost every year since the first Jubilee in 1972. Jubilee provides a great opportunity for neighbors to meet each other, catch up with friends one may not have seen in a while, and have a grand old time. This year's Jubilee is again sponsored by our neighbor Atrium Health. The Dilworth Community Association is also partnering with the Charlotte Dilworth-South End Rotary to bring this gathering to you.

Last year's Jubilee included performances by local bands Jamora & Shorty and the Jolly Lollies, a favorite of all the kids. Food trucks and other goodies included Taco Truck, Tin Kitchen, and King of Pops. And we couldn't have food trucks without local brewery Triple C Brewing serving up some of their best beers.



DCA Board Members enjoy the Dilworth Jubilee fun.



Dilworth neighbors of all ages enjoyed last year's Jubilee musical performances.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Bring lawn chairs and blankets to this free event.

Noon – Jubilee begins and the Beer Garden opens

1pm – Jolly Lollies Perform

2pm – Pet Parade and awards ceremony (sponsored by Farm Hounds dog treat company)

2:30pm – The Angie Rikard Band begins live music

5pm – Jubilee ends

Visit DilworthOnline.org and the DCA Facebook group for up-to-date information.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Chrishon McManus at chrishon.mcmanus@icloud.com. Volunteers will be asked to help with crowd and traffic control, pet parade coordination, and answering questions from attendees. ■

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And since we're a pet-friendly neighborhood, we had the cutest pet parade with some adorable pups and their proud humans. At the beginning of the day, it appeared we would be rained out. However, 150-plus people decided a little rain wouldn't stop their fun. May rain didn't hold us back from a successful gathering.

If you've been to previous Jubilees, you may recall this gathering always being in October. In 2023, the decision was made to move the gathering to May to coincide with the weekend of Meck Dec Day - May 20, 1775, reportedly the day the people of Mecklenburg County declared freedom from Britain with the reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

May 20, 1891 is the date Charlotte's new suburban streetcar town of Dilworth was launched in grand style. The event in 1891 included a grand fireworks show, a championship baseball game, free lunch, and auctioning of Dilworth lots ranging from \$350 to \$500. The event drew in people from all over the Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia, and Virginia. Thanks to Tom Bradbury's "Dilworth, The First 100 Years," we have a book full of historical information on Charlotte's first streetcar suburb.

Do you have pictures or stories of previous Dilworth Jubilees? The Dilworth Community Association would love to hear and see those and share with our friends and neighbors.

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Land Use

Your Land Use Committee - a Dilworth guardian

By John Fryday

The DCA Land Use Committee oversees development in and around the Dilworth area — including offering feedback to developers, City Planning, and the City Council. The Committee advocates for projects that transition well into the neighborhood through size, scale, and massing, in how traffic is accommodated, and how the myriad regulations of the city are addressed. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan adopted by the City in 2021 shares that advocacy.

Everyone has witnessed the significant increase in development and redevelopment in our neighborhood. Dilworth is fortunate to have the respect of those who influence and guide development, acknowledging the extensive work of the Land Use Committee over the years. But the role of the Board and Land Use Committee has changed over time.

In the 70s and early 80s, Dilworth was a challenged inner-city neighborhood, seeking development and redevelopment of properties to ward off being swept up in urban renewal. The Board worked on proposals of concern as it worked to implement the City's first Small Area Plan and pushed for the Historic District. By the 1990s, development proposals increased dramatically with more complicated issues and more complex City regulations. Dilworth was one of the first to have a dedicated 'land use' group focused on achieving neighborhood-appropriate development and re-zonings. Dilworth's expressions of concern often also reverberated through all Charlotte's inner-city neighborhoods.

Since the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) adoption, 'land use' is no longer the thrust of zoning/planning in Charlotte. Separation of 'use' on the land has been blurred as UDO regulations focus primarily on development form. Regulations look at size, scale, massing, transit connections, and relationship to the street and surroundings. Your DCA Land Use Committee provided community input on the 2040 Plan and UDO. This work is in addition to advocating for a positive outcome on each project proposal in and around Dilworth.

Currently, in addition to the normal 5-8 small projects in Dilworth, there are over 19 mid- to high-rise projects underway.

The established dedicated group of neighbor and Board member volunteers invest their time to remain educated in planning and the UDO and work to stay visible to decision makers. By remaining current, responsive, and visible, the Land Use Committee's goal is to ensure proposed developments and changes offer opportunities for neighborhood input and that the Dilworth community is well-represented in all discussions.

Stay abreast of the development in Dilworth at dilworthonline.org, and by signing up for the weekly Dilworth Express. ■

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Neighborhood Environment

Why we volunteer



By Nancy Nicholson & Ruth Ann Grissom

Eight years ago, we (Nancy Nicholson and Ruth Ann Grissom) met to talk about our beloved Latta Park and our interest in making it more beautiful for us humans and more of a resource for birds and animals.

We were aware of the limited resources of Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation, the increased use of the park due to the lack of nearby green spaces, the increasing erosion, the loss of some of our oldest trees, and the out-of-control invasive plants, some literally pulling down trees.

We also know the physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits of green space for ourselves and others. We decided we would try to get other neighbors and interested volunteers to help us to do what we can to improve the park while educating our visitors and advocating for increased funding for all parks and preserves.

We are pleased so many people have responded to our request for volunteers, that we have over 250 people on our mailing list, that neighbor Keely Edwards designed our educational signs, and that people from other neighborhoods have been interested in replicating what we are doing. We asked for a few volunteers to share why they give of their time, energy, and labor in Latta, and these are their responses:

Mark Kelsey

Latta Park is our park, right in our neighborhood, full of history and people who made it happen and continue to live for 100+ years. We can continue the same work to keep it alive and beautiful. I walk the dog through the park and enjoy the mature trees, plants, and the paths. But I can also tell people that I cleared or planted or trimmed “that” tree or bush, cleaned that part of the stream or path, and moved that branch.

Liz Lewis

I am in Latta Park every day, taking in the beauty, enjoying the canopy in summer, the beauty of tumbling/swirling leaves in fall, the views in winter (with maybe a bit of snow), and the colors of spring in the park. Because the park gives me so much joy and peace, I feel the need to give back. To help work on issues like erosion control, removing invasive plants, protecting natives, and replacing downed trees with new plantings and more.

I want to make sure the Latta Park that I love is in good shape, maybe even better shape, for the next generations. I so appreciate Nancy Nicholson and Ruth Ann Grissom taking the lead and advocating for this park, organizing the monthly volunteer workdays, and promoting all Charlotte parks through hard work and 8 years worth of efforts.

Kelly Hoffstatter

I so love our precious Latta Park. Getting a chance to clean her up a little bit and enhance her beauty is a privilege.

John Brewer

I have enjoyed the camaraderie, learned a lot about native versus nonnative invasive plants, the physical work outdoors and a real sense of accomplishment and giving back to my community. Such lovely people.

Melissa Murray

Latta Park is our - yours and my - extended back yard. As larger cities say, their parks are “the lungs of the city”. The ratio of Charlotte parks to unbridled growth in our region means our lungs are shrinking. Anything we can do will help our immediate neighborhood and the region.

Nancy and Ruth Ann have made Latta Park their cause. This means untold YEARS wrangling with the city/county officials who have experienced nothing but cutbacks. What little I can do to help, shows them how much I respect their efforts.

Michelle Reeder

I moved to Charlotte from a 14-acre property where I worked to remove invasive plants and to add beneficial species. The educational signs and obvious effort at the park led me to volunteer, even though I live in another part of Charlotte and only come to the park on days when I help.

I’ve enjoyed seeing the progress and also appreciate the effort to educate homeowners and city, county and park officials on care of land to support native plants, which in turn support insects, birds and other wildlife. I enjoy getting to know others and learning more about native and invasive species and look forward to the workdays.

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22nd Annual Dilworth Ladies' Party reflections



By Amanda Blackburn

On December 7, 2023, over 100 neighbors and friends celebrated the twenty-second annual Dilworth Ladies' Party. The law office of Tin Fulton Walker & Owen, again, graciously opened the doors of the Villalonga-Alexander House for partygoers to eat, drink, and dance in this gorgeous historic building.

The party was full of music and amusement indoors and out. Michael Byrnes, a former Dilworth resident, provided live entertainment inside where guests enjoyed food, fun, and the raffle/auction. A DJ was on the front porch along with two bars. Erin Finnen, a Dilworth neighbor and mortgage banker with American Security Mortgage, provided the open bar.

Another addition to this year's event was "shots for Sedgefield." Each year the funds raised from this beloved Dilworth tradition support a local charity chosen by the Dilworth Cares Committee. For 2023, the funds supported Sedgefield Middle School.

Local businesses donated raffle and silent auction items, including a full set of braces from Sacksteder Orthodontics and a GLO Whitening system from Kalons, Glidewell, & Grewall.

Items and experiences were donated by Made by Kippen, Charlie on Park, clothing designer Renata, personal training by Jeff Garner, Stretch Lab, Bad Daddy, Kid Cashew, Snooze, a photo shoot by Julianna Jones, swim lessons by Jessica Jones, Paper Skyscraper, Sloan, Monkees, Charlotte's, and Woo.

The Dilworth Ladies Men returned this year serving food and beverages to the ladies. They also helped raise funds by selling "shots for Sedgefield."

The food was catered by Dahlia Grove, a non-profit social enterprise seeking to empower and employ women survivors of human trafficking, violence, and abuse. This enabled partygoers to support two causes at once. For more information about this non-profit, visit dahliagrove.org. One can also support this organization by attending the Community Café for lunch on Fridays from 11:45 am-1:15 pm at St. Stephen UMC.

It takes a village to bring this party to life. The holidays are such an incredibly busy time of year yet so many neighbors work diligently to make this party happen. The Dilworth Party Hostess tradition was revived in 2023. These hostesses worked overtime to ensure this evening would be memorable.

To many, the annual Dilworth Ladies' Party is the start of the holiday season — just one of the many things that makes Dilworth so special. ■



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Dilworth Eats

Revvng up the BBQ experience at Mac's Speed Shop



By Dina Khentigan

Nestled on the southern edge of Dilworth, Mac's Speed Shop is more than just a restaurant; it's an experience. Founded by two BBQ enthusiasts, Wynn Davis and Hall Johnston, Mac's Speed Shop has redefined what it means to combine barbecue, beer, bikes, and even family-friendliness. With a touch of Southern charm and a whole lot of passion, this spot has become a favorite among locals and tourists alike since its doors swung open on May 5, 2005.

When Wynn and Hall set out to bring their dream to life, they may not have known how to run a restaurant, but what they did know was a deep love for the trifecta of BBQ, beer, and bikes. They took over a rundown motor shop, and with the help of friends and a dedicated team, Mac's Speed Shop was born.

Mac's is a place where everyone is welcome, whether you roll up on a Harley, arrive in a minivan, or bring the whole family. That's right; Mac's is kid-friendly too. They've got a special kids' menu that's sure to please even the pickiest of young palates.

Your little ones can choose from a variety of options, including junior pulled pork, grilled cheese, corn dog, cheese quesadilla, chicken tenders, junior cheeseburger, shrimp, and mac 'n' cheese. And if you're planning a visit on a Tuesday evening, you're in for a treat. Kids Rule Tuesday Nights at Mac's, where you can get a kids' meal for just \$2.49 with the purchase of an adult entree starting at 5 pm. Please note that this special offer is valid for dine-in only, so it's a perfect opportunity for a family dinner out.

But what truly sets Mac's apart is its dedication to crafting everything from scratch daily, including their mouthwatering BBQ sauces and dressings. The culinary team at Mac's takes comfort-food favorites to a whole new level. From the cheesy delight of Mac 'n' cheese to the soul-soothing brisket chili, they've mastered the art of BBQ-infused comfort cuisine.

Now, let's talk drinks. Mac's Speed Shop boasts an extensive beverage menu designed to complement their scrumptious food offerings. If you're a craft beer enthusiast, you're in for a

treat. With over 50 draft beers and 100 different bottles and cans, you'll find the perfect brew to pair with your BBQ feast. And if beer isn't your thing, Mac's Speed Shop has you covered with a selection of wines and an impressive liquor menu that specializes in cocktails, bourbon, and scotch whisky. So whether you're a beer connoisseur or a cocktail enthusiast, you're bound to find a pour decision that suits your taste.

One standout feature of Mac's Speed Shop is its commitment to being dog-friendly. Not only do they welcome your furry companions, but they go the extra mile to make sure they have a great time too. On a recent visit, one delighted diner reported that their server provided fresh water for their dogs and that there were plenty of umbrellas to keep those four-legged friends cool in the North Carolina heat. A furry patron was spotted enjoying the hush puppies that are available from the starters menu. All proceeds from the hush puppies are donated to the independence fund to support wounded veterans.

If you're gluten-free, you'll be pleased to know that Mac's Speed Shop has more to offer than just salads. Their menu includes an array of gluten-free options, from brisket burnt ends and tacos on corn shells to wings, BBQ platters, and select sides. The hickory smoked shared platter is an excellent option for the indecisive dinner; included are four proteins such as bone-in chicken, St. Louis ribs, pulled pork, pulled chicken, sausage link, sliced brisket, or chopped brisket.




On a recent visit, patrons raved about the gluten-free brisket burnt ends and collard greens, showcasing Mac's commitment to catering to all dietary needs.


Live music enthusiasts will find themselves right at home at Mac's Speed Shop. The restaurant offers a vibrant live music scene that keeps the atmosphere lively and entertaining. Even on Sunday afternoons, you can expect to enjoy some fantastic live performances while you savor your meal.

Mac's Speed Shop is more than a restaurant; it's a celebration of BBQ, beer, bikes, and family-friendliness. With its welcoming atmosphere, dedication to quality, and a commitment to catering to all dietary needs, Mac's has become a beloved staple in Charlotte's culinary scene. Whether you're a local looking for your next go-to spot, a visitor in search of an unforgettable dining experience, or a family in need of a place that caters to everyone's tastes, Mac's Speed Shop is where you want to be.

Rev up your taste buds and make your way to Mac's for a unique culinary journey that's sure to leave you craving more. And don't forget, Mac's Speed Shop is more than just a restaurant; it's a community partner, as they host an annual golf tournament to support The KP Foundation, a crisis fund designed to help hospitality industry workers facing personal hardships. So, by dining at Mac's, you're not only treating yourself to a fantastic meal but also giving back to the local community. ■

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Speaking for the trees

By Liz Lewis

The Dilworth Community Association's Tree Canopy Committee has been working to protect, preserve, and help replant Dilworth's tree canopy over the years, and we've got positive news to share with you.

Over the past four years, we have raised funds through the fall Share the Shade fundraisers and our Tree Tribute Program to supplement the City of Charlotte's street tree plantings in Dilworth. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of neighbors, we have been able to plant almost 125 good-sized street trees throughout Dilworth.

On top of that, we worked with the City to advocate for our street tree canopy. As part of that, the City has planted almost 190 street trees in the neighborhood over the past four years. Combined we added a total of more than 300 new trees to our canopy.

It seemed like we were making progress, but we didn't have any solid data that would help us understand how our efforts were impacting Dilworth's tree canopy.

So, in the summer of 2023, the Tree Canopy Committee initiated a street tree mapping project. Volunteers walked each (hot) street in Dilworth and assessed how many street trees could be planted or replanted to fill in all suitable spots. Volunteers used City guidelines and CDOT rules when determining potential planting sites. The results of that survey showed that our tree-planting efforts over the past few years had significantly reduced what felt like huge gaps in our street canopy, and that with regular replanting going forward, we'd be in pretty good shape.

It's not just about the number of trees. It's also about the health and beauty of our canopy. While Dilworth was originally planted with a uniform species - the willow oak - that helped define the aesthetically unique character of the neighborhood, things have changed.

The best practices today include selecting tree species that grow and survive/thrive in tough conditions and using a variety of tree species to reduce susceptibility to disease and pests. Power lines and utilities also impact site and tree selections.

In 2011, the Committee worked with governmental groups to create a Master Street Tree Plan for Dilworth, which is used to guide the planting and replanting of our street trees.

The Tree Canopy Committee continues to work with the City to keep this Plan in place and to strengthen it collaboratively as needed to reflect climate change and the City's experiences with tree viability.

Good news and good progress.



Here's where you come in. We're asking that you take some ownership of any street trees in front (and side if you're a corner lot) of your home.

All trees need some care. There are three things you can do to help support Dilworth's tree canopy that is enjoyed by all:

Water — when we have dry spells, please take it upon yourself and give water to "your" street tree, especially if it's a recently planted tree (in the past five years).

Mulch — add mulch this spring around the base of your street tree (and PLEASE, no "volcano" mulching. Instead, spread organic mulch around the tree in a donut shape. Check proper mulching tips online).

Protect the soil around your tree from compaction — tree roots need to breathe, and dirt that's been parked on, or had heavy loads placed on it, hardens up and ends up impacting tree health.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~Dr. Seuss. ■

Meet our next DQ Editor: Jody Jones

We're excited to welcome Jody as the next editor of The Dilworth Quarterly!

During her 30-year career as an editor and digital media executive, Jody has held senior content positions, including Vice President of Digital Editorial at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia; Senior VP of programming for Food Network, HGTV, Discovery and others; plus SVP of digital at Time., Inc. — including brands such as Real Simple and Southern Living.

Jody moved to Charlotte two years ago and currently works for Lowe's Companies corporate as a content strategy lead. She lives on Salem Drive with her sweet but saucy dogs, Janey and Junebug.

In her free time, you can catch Jody swimming laps at Dowd YMCA, enjoying a glass of wine at Foxcroft, or finding something else she has to have at Paper Skyscraper.

Have any ideas for the DQ? Would you like to contribute? Contact Jody at quarterlyjody@gmail.com. ■



Incoming DQ editor Jody Jones.

Neighbor To Know

Coming home with the Yale Whiffenpoofs

By Luke Tillitski

My family's 2001 Honda Element was the first stage I ever graced, and my mother was the first audience I ever commanded. Even in diapers, there was nothing I loved more than to sing along with the radio, whether it was "Puff the Magic Dragon," "The Yellow Submarine," or Eminem's "Business" (an early indication of my refined and erudite taste, of course).

Now, twenty-some-odd years later, I am taking a year-long leave of absence from college to sing professionally with the Yale Whiffenpoofs, the world's oldest and best-known collegiate a cappella group. This year I will perform all across the globe — from Taiwan to Tanzania, China to Chile — but my most meaningful spot will be back home in Charlotte. It was a bit of a winding road from a car seat to a cappella, though.

I traded the car for the shower when the shame of early childhood struck. My love of music remained a private affair for a bit, but after some coaxing from my parents, I auditioned for my elementary school choir. With an official channel to direct my love for singing, I was off to the races. By the end of middle school, I had racked up all-county, all-state, and national honors. This early success did not come because I was some musical prodigy — the opposite, in fact.

My love of music but my dearth of natural talent (I lack perfect pitch, natural rhythmic gifts, or any of the other ingredients that make a Jacob Collier-esque aficionado) inspired me to work incredibly hard to perfect my voice.

In further insatiable pursuit of honing my vocal abilities, I transferred to Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts' Vocal program for high school. It brought me incalculable joy to sing for hours a day. However, in October of my sophomore year, my family decided to move from South Florida to Charlotte, Dilworth specifically. I struggled in my new high school's underappreciated choral program and decided to give up singing entirely for competitive debate. This turned out to be a rather fortunate decision, as I finished my senior year the



Dilworth resident Luke Tillitski will make a stop in Charlotte to perform with the Yale Whiffenpoofs as part of a world tour.

national champion and one of five members of the US National Debate Team at the World Championships, where we finished 5th, and I was the 11th best individual. While I will forever be grateful for my debate experience — I largely attribute my acceptance to Yale to it — it never brought me as much fulfillment as singing did.

For this reason, I was relieved to find out the Ivy League is not merely filled with pretentious trust-fund babies and overworked overachievers. In fact, I have never been somewhere that values joy and the creation of art more than Yale, which allowed me to return to my singing roots.

continued on page 29

Dilworth Resident



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Q4 HOMES SOLD

2

AVG SALES PRICE

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AVG DAYS ON MARKET

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AVG PRICE PER SQ FT

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DILWORTH market snapshot

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

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Are your pets ready for Spring?

Spring is a wonderful season filled with vibrant colors, blooming flowers, and a sense of renewal. As the weather warms up and nature comes back to life, it's essential to adapt your pet care routine to ensure the health and happiness of your beloved cats and dogs.

Here are some tips on how to take care of your pets during the spring season.

Flea and tick prevention: With the rise in temperature and humidity, fleas and ticks become more active during spring. Make sure your pets are on a reliable flea and tick prevention regimen recommended by your veterinarian. Regularly check your pets for any signs of these pesky parasites, especially after outdoor activities.

Allergies: Just like humans, pets can suffer from seasonal allergies. Keep an eye out for symptoms like excessive itching, sneezing, and watery eyes. If you suspect your pet has allergies, consult your vet for appropriate treatments or medications.

Grooming: As your pets shed their winter coats and prepare for warmer weather, regular grooming becomes crucial. Brush your dogs and cats regularly to remove loose fur and prevent matting. This also helps reduce the amount of hair your pets may ingest, decreasing the risk of hairballs in cats and potentially harmful digestive issues in dogs.

Fresh water and hydration: As the temperatures rise, it's essential to keep your pets well-hydrated. Ensure that they have access to clean, fresh water at all times. Carry a portable water bowl during outdoor activities, and be aware of signs of dehydration, such as excessive panting or lethargy.

Seasonal diet: Adjust your pet's diet as needed. Some pets may become less active during the warmer months, so monitor their weight and adjust their food portions accordingly. Consult your veterinarian if you're unsure about your pet's dietary needs.

Spring cleaning: When cleaning your home, be cautious with chemicals and cleaning products. Ensure that your pets do not come into contact with potentially toxic substances. Keep cleaning supplies out of reach, and use pet-safe alternatives when possible.

Outdoor safety: Spring is a great time for outdoor adventures with your pets, but it's important to be aware of potential hazards. Keep your dogs on a leash during walks to prevent them from chasing after wildlife or getting into trouble. Ensure your yard is secure, with no gaps or openings where pets could escape. Also, be mindful of spring blooms and plants, as some can be toxic to pets if ingested.



Springtime hazards: Be cautious of chemicals used in gardening, such as fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. These can be harmful to pets if ingested. Store these products securely and away from your pets' reach. Also, be aware of wildlife that may carry diseases, such as rabies. Ensure your pets are up-to-date on vaccinations and keep them away from unfamiliar animals.

Springtime exercise: Take advantage of the pleasant weather to increase your pets' exercise routines. Longer walks, outdoor playtime, and interactive toys can help keep them active and engaged. This can also be a great way for you to bond with your pets.

Regular veterinary check-ups: Schedule a spring check-up with your veterinarian to address any specific concerns related to your pets' health. Ensure that vaccinations are up-to-date, and discuss any seasonal issues or preventive measures with your vet.

Spring is a time of renewal and rejuvenation for both pets and their owners. By following these tips, you can help ensure that your cats and dogs enjoy a safe and healthy spring season, full of outdoor adventures and plenty of love and care. ■



Historic District Commission

HDC back to full staff

By Jennifer Baehr

Up until recently, the Historic District Commission team was running on a skeleton crew and now, for the first time in several years, we are back up to full staff with the additions of planner Jen Baehr, project coordinator Elizabeth Lamy, and administrative assistant James Faucette. With these recent changes, we would like to introduce our new team members.

Jen Baehr, originally from Maryland’s eastern shore, first came to Charlotte in 2010 to attend UNC Charlotte. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from UNC Charlotte and a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Clemson University. Before starting with the City of Charlotte, Jen was a planner for the City of Lake Forest, Illinois, a community about 30 miles north of Chicago. Jen has always been interested in how buildings are constructed and what they can tell us about the people that built them.

She looks forward to spending time in Dilworth and the rest of Charlotte’s Historic Districts in the coming months and hopes to meet many of you.

Elizabeth Lamy is originally from Asheville and moved to Charlotte in 2003 to attend architecture school at UNC Charlotte. Elizabeth first started working for the City of Charlotte 10 years ago as a housing inspector for Code Enforcement, and for the last seven years, she has been rehabbing houses for low to



Jen Baehr, Elizabeth Lamy, James Faucette return HDC to a full operating staff.

middle-income households with the City of Charlotte’s Housing and Neighborhood Services. During her time with Housing and Neighborhood Services, Elizabeth managed several major rehabs of homes that were built between the 1920s and 1950s. She is excited to join the HDC team and work with residents to improve their properties while maintaining the vibrant character of Charlotte’s Historic Districts.

James “JT” Faucette was born and raised in Charlotte. In 2021, he graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Bachelor’s in Political Science and Public Policy. He first started working with the City of Charlotte in 2022 as an Office Assistant for CATS Rail and ended up supporting every branch of CATS before starting with the Planning Department in November of 2023. He is excited to see how the City works with property owners to preserve some of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the area.

As the weather gets warmer, many people start thinking about making updates to their homes and yards.

If you live within the district, remember some work affecting the exterior of your home or yard may require review by the HDC.

Any exterior change to a property within a designated local historic district requires a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). Certain minor projects, including new garden sheds, fences, driveway changes, and tree removal, may be approved by HDC Staff. Larger projects such as painting previously unpainted brick, major additions, and the removal of healthy trees are reviewed by the full Commission at meetings held each month.

Ordinary repair and maintenance projects do not require review and approval, provided the work does not result in any change to the design or material. If you are uncertain whether your project will require review, contact us and we will be more than happy to discuss the details with you. It is much better to check first.

As a resident of Dilworth, your role in the HDC process is critical, and your input is valued by the Commission. Residents are encouraged to attend the HDC monthly meetings to speak for or against proposed projects. Please keep in mind that comments made during the public HDC monthly meetings should be limited to how a project does or does not meet the Historic



Any exterior changes in a local historic district requires a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA).

District Design Standards (the Standards can be found on the HDC website). HDC meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. A workshop is held at noon and the public hearings for new projects follow at 1 pm.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to HDC staff with questions. We always welcome conversations with property owners. You can email us at charlottehdc@charlottenc.gov. ■




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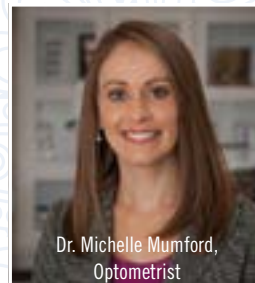


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Home & Garden

Time to start planting those Spring veggies



Here's a short list of when and what you should be putting in the dirt over the next few months.

For more information, including planting tips, go to the NC Cooperative website at ces.ncsu.edu. ■

Spring Planting Guide

Crop	Planting Date	Days To Harvest *
Arugula	Now-Apr 15	40-50
Basil	May 1-Jul 31	14-34 (transplants)
Beets	Mar 1-Apr 15	55-60
Broccoli	Now-Apr 15	70-80
Cabbage	Now-Apr 15	40-50 (transplants)
Carrots	Now-Mar 31	75-80
Celery	Now-Mar 31	60-70 (transplants)
Collards	Now-Jun 30	60-100
Kale	Now-Jun 30	40-50
Leeks	Now-Jun 30	120-150
Lettuce (head)	Now-Apr 30	70-85
Radishes	Now-Jun 30	20-25
Spinach	Now-Jun 30	50-60
Turnips	Now-Jun 30	55-60

* From seeds unless otherwise noted

If your home garden is more about what you can eat than what you can look at, the NC Cooperative Extension, a joint venture of NC State and NC A&T, has recommendations on what you might want to plant this spring.

Our area is blessed with a climate allowing food to be grown year-round. With the right kind of planning, you can enjoy the bounty of your home garden - no matter what the season. And it's family friendly!

Growing your own fruits and vegetables offers a multitude of benefits, both for your health and the environment. Home gardening results in better flavor and preserves essential vitamins and minerals often lost in transit during commercial distribution. It also reduces your carbon footprint by eliminating the need for transportation and packaging associated with store-bought produce, promoting a more sustainable lifestyle — not to mention lower grocery bills. And it's fun!

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Tom Sykes Recreation Center

Compiled by Shauna Powell

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.

Preschool Programs

Music Together of Charlotte

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

When: Monday - Saturday

Ages: 8 months - 5 years

Contact: musictogetherofcharlotte@gmail.com

All Age Programs

Badminton

Three courts available at a time. All ages and skill levels welcome. Pre-registration or walk-ins accepted up to 24 players

Wednesdays • 6-8pm

Saturdays • 10am-noon

Pricing: \$2.00 Adults • Free for youth

Biking Lessons

Child or an adult, experienced or complete beginner, we can help you to accomplish your goals. Thinking about road biking? Our certified cycling instructors can show you the safest way to maneuver the streets. Mountain biking? We can help you improve your skills to make trail rides safer and a lot more fun.

Call 980-314-1113 to schedule a lesson

Pricing: \$10 per lesson

Adult Programs

Instructional Ping Pong

Staff-led sessions cover the fundamentals of basic ping-pong and with numerous drills to help everyone improve.

Ages: 18+

Registration: Ongoing

Dates: Fridays

Time: 12:30-2:30pm

Pricing: \$2.00

Pickleball Open Play

Three courts of fun! Balls and paddles available if needed.

Ages: 18+

Dates: Mondays • Jan-April

Time: 7-8:30pm

Pricing: \$2

Intermediate Pickleball League

Games are played to 11 in the "Round Robin" format. There will be a minimum of 3 matches per night. Points will accumulate each week until Week 6. This will begin the single elimination playoffs until a champion is crowned.

Ages: 18+

Skill Level: 3.0 and below

Pricing: \$50 per team

Dates: March 4-April 8

Time: 7-8:30pm Thursdays

Senior Pickleball League

Games are played to 11 in the "Round Robin" format. There will be a minimum of 3 matches per night. Points will accumulate each week until Week 6. This will begin the single elimination playoffs until a champion is crowned.

Ages: 55+

Pricing: \$50 per team

Dates: Mondays • March 4-April 8

Time: 7-8:30pm Mondays

Summer Camp Programs

Days: Monday - Friday • 8am-5:30pm

Ages: 6-12

Pricing: \$130.00 per week

Ten Themed Weeks

6/17-6/21: Superhero Week

6/24-6/28: Sports Week

7/1-7/5: Happy Feet (Dance Week)

7/8-7/12: Circus Week

7/15-7/19: Culture Week

7/22-7/26: Engineering Week

7/29-8/2: Showtime @ Tom Sykes (Talent Show Week)

8/5-8/9: Art Week

8/12-8/16: Lights, Camera, Action (Acting Week)

Registration Begins March 6 at parkandrec.com

Youth Programs

Basketball Lessons – Private/Group Lessons

Whether your player(s) is new to the game or is looking to work on specific skills and techniques to enhance their basketball game, private and group lessons at Tom Sykes Recreation Center will help them achieve the goals they set! Call 980-314-1113 to schedule an appointment today!

Ages: 6-12

Pricing: \$15.00/hr

March Madness • 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Ages: Three Divisions: 8 & under, 10 & under, 12 & under

Date: Saturday, March 9, 2024

Time: 10am-1pm

Price: \$30 per team (up to 4 players)

Youth Volleyball – Private/Group Lessons

Whether your player is new to the game or is looking to work on specific skills and techniques to enhance their volleyball game, private and group lessons at Tom Sykes Recreation Center will help them achieve the goals they set! Call 980-314-1113 to schedule an appointment today! Availability based on gym schedule

Ages: 8-17

Pricing: \$15.00/hr

Youth Track & Field

Dates: April 13-May 18

Games: Saturdays various locations

Practice: Tom Sykes Soccer Field #5

Pricing: \$70 5-6 year olds (\$84 non-residents)

\$80 7-12 year olds (\$96 non-residents)

Youth Pickleball Clinic

Dates: March 7, March 14 & March 21

Pricing: \$40.00

Ages: 6-12

Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Facility Staff

Shauna Powell

Tim Lewis

LeCharleston Ross

Emmesha White

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Did you Know?

The man who gave Dilworth & Latta Park their names

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

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

He came to Charlotte in 1876 and established a men's clothing store, E.D. Latta and Brothers. In 1883 he founded the Charlotte Trousing 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.



The Latta-Jones mansion on East Blvd, circa 1924.

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 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. ■



Charlotte's 1992 skyline rises above the Latta family tomb.

CHARLOTTE Art COLLECTIVE

Charlotte Art Collective Spring Show tapped for May 4

The Charlotte Art Collective Spring Art Show brings fine art and crafts to the Dilworth on Saturday, May 4, from 10am-4pm at Avondale Church, 2821 Park Road.

Just in time for Mother's Day, graduation, and Father's Day, the annual show features top, local artists: glass, original paintings and prints, mixed media, handcrafted jewelry, fiber, functional and decorative pottery, wood arts, handmade books, artisan chocolate, whimsical sculptures of all sizes, and more.

The show supports the community through the giveaway of two baskets of participating artists' work with proceeds going to the Avondale Church Youth Group to further their mission efforts.

Since 2014, the shows have raised over \$10,600 for local charitable causes. It's one of the best high-end art and craft shows around and it's not to be missed!

Learn more about the group and CAC artists at charlotteartcollective.org and @charlotteartcollective on Facebook and Instagram. ■



The Yale Whiffenpoofs will be performing at First United Methodist Church on Friday, April 5.

During my first three years in New Haven, I sang casually with The Society of Orpheus and Bacchus (cheekily and affectionately known as "The SOBs").

Some of you may have even attended our lowkey show in Latta Park last January. My experience in the Society of Orpheus and the Whiffenpoofs are a significant upgrade in seriousness and professionalism, though. Every year, 14 senior Yale students are selected to be in the Whiffenpoofs. Founded in 1909, the "Whiffs" began as a senior quartet that met for weekly concerts at Mory's Temple Bar, the famous Yale tavern.

Today, the group has become one of Yale's most celebrated traditions, with over a century of musical excellence.

The Whiffenpoofs perform more than 200 concerts each year across all six continents. Recent performance venues include Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the White House, the Rose

Bowl, and Lincoln Center. The Whiffenpoofs have reached a television audience of more than 175 million via appearances in NBC's The Sing-Off, The West Wing, The Today Show, 60 Minutes, Gilmore Girls, Jeopardy!, Saturday Night Live, and the Season 4 finale of the hit television show Glee.

And now the Whiffenpoofs are coming to Charlotte — my first "hometown concert!"

**April 5
7:30pm
First United Methodist Church
501 N Tryon Street**

It would mean the world if the Dilworth community showed up in force, and you'll be in for an awesome show.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or at whiffenpoofs.com/concerts. ■

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Dilworth Elementary continued from Front Page



Students Clay Schoeper and Jude Chandler in the Latta Campus Media Center for their first Lego League Robotics Club. TTS purchased the robot.

It's exciting to have our entire school on one campus and for the construction of our brand-new school building.

Our Dragon family of all grades will be together in one place again.

With this transition quickly approaching, we need our community's support. Each spring, Dilworth Elementary's PTA holds its annual capital campaign, Tip the Scales (TTS). TTS provides supplemental funding to our school, classroom, and learning enrichment. This means an investment in the TTS campaign today is an investment in future generations.

Tip the Scales donations support the additional needs of our teachers and staff, ensuring the best possible academic environment for all students at Dilworth. So far this academic year (2023-2024), these funds have provided field trips for approximately 700 students, grade-level reading books and online math subscriptions, and classroom supplies (tissues, disinfectant wipes, etc.).

TTS donations have also supported our Drama Club and their upcoming performance of Finding Nemo Jr. in May. Of the many clubs supported, we are proud to share that both of our Destination Imagination teams placed first in the North Carolina Tournament and progressed to the Global Finals in 2023. Throughout the year, staff participate in professional development and training funded by TTS.

TTS donations are used to show staff appreciation with breakfasts, lunches, and gifts throughout the year. These donations are an extension of Dilworth Elementary School's culture of excellence. It is this culture that supports educators and students in the opportunity to grow and succeed. It is all very exciting but not possible without TTS support.

Every year, the number of community members who have big hearts for public education is impressive — either by giving financially in honor of their past Dragons or donating monetarily because it is our neighborhood school. With all the changes coming in the next few years, we desire to create a seamless transition for all, creating an elementary school better for tomorrow. We cannot do this without your support.

While the school's physical address will be different, the reasons to support Dilworth Elementary remain the same. The leadership, staff, culture, families, and generous support from our community make this neighborhood school what it is today.

There is something special about one's childhood and the school's role in it. Dilworth Elementary has been able to provide our families with these precious memories and foundation. We will be forever grateful for it.

To learn more about Tip the Scale and how you can donate, visit qrco.de/bdXq9M. Please visit DilworthPTA.org to sign up for our weekly newsletter and find ways to volunteer. ■

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Why We Volunteer

continued from Page 9

Christie Benoit

I am a member of Mecklenburg Audubon Society and enjoy working on the Latta Park project. Years of effort led by a group of volunteers have made dramatic change – runaway invasives are being eliminated and new plants of native specimens run informally throughout. The trees, some over 100 years old, create important shade, cool the stream, and provide habitat for hawks. Migrating birds count on Charlotte’s parks to provide water, seeds, and berries allowing them to survive long flights. Parks offer safety from predators and a place to rest. One hundred and forty-seven species have been recorded in Latta Park, with the population changing throughout the seasons.

It is gratifying to protect this Charlotte icon which provides hope for the future of birds and joy for those who watch them. Natural areas are critical for biodiversity to ensure coming generations.

With canopy declining throughout the city and huge growth projected for the near future, it is important to help life flourish in parks, preserves, and refuges. Let us continue the vision and a plan for wooded, healing spaces with large populations of athletic, innocent birds. It is our heritage to have mornings of cheerful birdsongs, days of color and patterns darting among us, nights of owl songs, and the mystery of migration.



Anne Gray

A community is known by the green spaces it keeps. When relocating from Scottsdale AZ three years ago, we were drawn to Dilworth because of Freedom Park and Latta Park. Latta Park is a calm, beautiful neighborhood oasis. It allows the community to walk, gather and take in the natural world. Latta Park is a jewel, and we are happy to contribute to its upkeep and well-being.

It’s why we are here. ■



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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:

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 call for submissions is announced in the Dilworth Express in March to early April, reply to the email address given. Be sure to include in your email subject line: *Dilworth Quarterly - Summer Connections.*

Submissions MUST be received by Monday, April 15.

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